Ethiopia: School Meals – A Community-Wide Effort

Parents and the local community actively participate in the TFT-supported school meal programs in Ethiopia.

1. A community-wide effort
   The school meals are prepared every day by the parents of the students. In addition, local farmers supply water and firewood for cooking, and help with vegetable cultivation in the school gardens on a voluntary basis.

2. Yields increase in the school gardens
   The Ethiopian government dispatched agriculture experts to teach farming techniques to teachers, parents and older students. They also installed an irrigation facility and hope to have 2-3 harvests a year.

3. Local fruits for school meals
   Production of mangoes and guavas provide a source of income for local farmers. Recently, farmers have begun donating a portion of their harvests or income to the school meal program. This is a big step towards a sustainable school meal program.

“Before the school meal program began, I went from house to house trying to persuade parents to send their children to school. Now, children choose to go to school because of the school meals.”

Number of Meals Shared to Date:
18,997,606
(As of January 31st, 2013)