

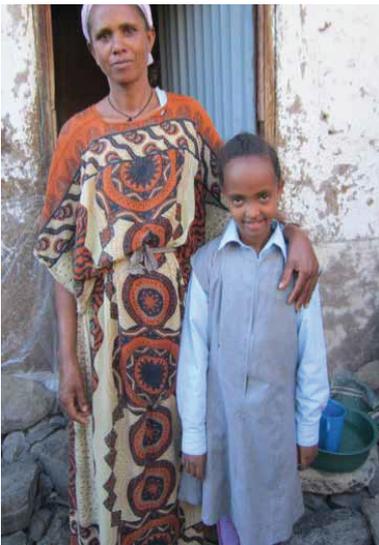
Samrawit's Story

When School Director Yared Wolde noticed that eight-year-old Samrawit Gebre-Tensay was taking small pieces of chalk home with her, he was intrigued to find out more.

One afternoon, Yared decided to walk home with Samrawit, and he was astonished by what he discovered: text and numbers scrawled all over the walls of her house!



When Yared asked Samrawit what she was doing, she sheepishly replied,



"My mother is illiterate. She has never gone to school. I am teaching her to write and read, and do maths."

Through her young daughter, Samrawit's mother learned enough basic skills to enable her to read and sign documents at the local government office.

Tensay says her daughter's education changed both their lives. Because of her afternoon lessons, Tensay has been able to set up a popular stall trading fruit and vegetables at the local market.

Tensay says she now feels independent for the first time, and that the extra money she earns will one day pay for Samrawit to go to University.