

A world map where the landmasses are filled with the word "fingo" in a yellow, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in a grid-like pattern, following the contours of the continents. The background is white.

Experimental research on improving the health conditions for Yeworeda *kebele*/community, Ethiopia

By International Orthodox Christian Charities and
Orthodox Church Aid and Missions FILANTROPIA

fingo

Introduction

What is podoconiosis (podo)?

- Non-infectious elephantiasis caused by long-term exposure of bare feet to irritant soil
- 5–10% prevalence in areas of irritant soil and subsistence farming
- Chiefly affects people of productive age



Introduction

Why is podoconiosis important in Ethiopia?

- Contributes to 17.6% of the disabilities in Ethiopia
- The total estimated cost to Ethiopia is \$200 million per annum
- About 1.5 million people live with podoconiosis in Ethiopia



Introduction

What is the prevention and treatment of podoconiosis?

PODO IS BOTH PREVENTABLE AND TREATABLE.

- Prevention of podoconiosis
 - Wearing of appropriate shoes
 - Good foot hygiene
- Treatment of podoconiosis
 - Foot hygiene
 - Wound care
 - Lymphedema management



Introduction

- **Project Goal:** To help improve the health conditions for Yeworeda *kebele*/community members of Dembecha district through disease prevention and treatment so that the burden of podoconiosis in this community is reduced.
- **Objective 1:** To co-create a solution towards increasing access to hygiene supplies through the participation of a user community that is endemic to podoconiosis and trachoma
- **Objective 2:** To test the prototype with the user community and facilitate co-learning.

Results

SETTING THE SCENE

- Signing of an MOU with the local government
- Project launch through a one-day workshop



Results

IDEATION and CO-DESIGN

IOCC facilitations engaged with 24 end users and stakeholders with a focus on the identification of the following.

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Issues and challenges
- Risks
- Opportunities



Results

IDEATION and CO-DESIGN

- User Journey
- Interviews
- Bright Stars Idea



Results

CREATING A PROTOTYPE

- ➔ The group received training on how to make liquid soap.
- ➔ 200 liters of liquid soap was made and bottled by the group.
- ➔ The liquid soap was presented to the local community and sold at the local market.



Results

SALES WAS GREAT!



- The group is now locally registered.
- The project is handed over to the group.
- Our staff enhanced skills on community-driven innovation experimental research.

CHALLENGES

- Shortage of imported ingredients for making soap and plastic containers.
- The community is located in a remote area and have little or no access to these supplies.



Collaborations/partnerships

- ➔ The Woreda health office and health centers
- ➔ A local company that supplies chemicals for making soap
- ➔ A local company that supplies plastic container s



Feasibility for scaling

- We are planning to scale up the experiment with funds from other donors in three more districts.
- Learning will continue and used for any modification at scale up.



Thank you!