

AFRICAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Celebrating 40 Years of Resilience
2020 Annual Report**



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A B O U T A S C

40 years ago, Asfaha Hadera — an Ethiopian refugee — founded African Services Committee (ASC) in the basement of his apartment in the Bronx. Today, this Harlem-based agency now serves thousands of people every year in New York City and Ethiopia.

ASC is a multi-service human rights agency dedicated to assisting immigrants, refugees, and asylees from across the African Diaspora. Programs address the needs of newcomers affected by war, persecution, poverty, and other global health inequities. ASC provides health, housing, legal, social welfare, education, nutrition, and advocacy services to more than 12,000 people in New York City and Ethiopia. Staff representing more than 20 countries and speaking over 27 languages support this diverse and growing community.

Expanding access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment is central to ASC's mission. ASC has taken this work from Harlem to the frontlines of the global pandemic and now operates three health and community development centers in Ethiopia. The agency is committed to challenging stigma and discrimination at all levels and supporting the individuals, families, and communities most impacted by HIV. Combined with life-saving treatment, this care and support has transformed thousands of lives.



A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

I was forced to risk my life walking from Ethiopia through the Sahara Desert to Sudan. Although memories of that journey remind me of hardship, I became one of the luckiest of the millions of refugees who made their way to the United States through the Refugee Resettlement Program.

When I arrived in the United States, the absence of an African community-based organization gave me an opportunity to realize my dream of helping others. It has now been 40 years since I founded ASC. Assisting our clients with access to health care, housing, legal status, language classes, nutrition, and social welfare services is rewarding work. This work brings me immense joy, particularly in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why I am delighted to celebrate 40 years of resilience with you, ASC's community of beneficiaries, friends, family, colleagues, partners, donors, funders, and supporters.

— Asfaha Hadera, Founder



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The year 2020 was — in many ways — the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 disproportionately affects the health and human rights of the most vulnerable populations, which is why our work at ASC has never been more important than now. The year of the pandemic challenged us to continue to assist immigrants, refugees, and asylees from across the African Diaspora together, but separate. Despite these challenges, ASC innovated to provide health, housing, legal, social welfare, education, nutrition, and advocacy services seamlessly during the pandemic. The agency delivered meals at the homes of our clients in all of NYC's boroughs, built online ESOL courses, leveraged telehealth models for serving clients, and tested our community for COVID-19 in a mobile clinic outside of our office in Harlem. Additionally, ASC took advantage of a critical opportunity for development, sustaining the organization through different forms of fundraising.

The year of the pandemic also marked ASC's 40th anniversary. Please join us in celebrating 40 years of resilience. With your support, we look forward to the next 40 years of service.

— Uzoamaka N. Okoye, Chair



SERVICES

H E A L T H

ASC continued to offer a package of health care services to clients in 2020, a year shaped by COVID-19. With a combination of private, city, state, and federal funding, ASC administered 252 COVID-19 tests, developing a COVID-19 testing program from the ground up for the agency's community. ASC also administered 244 HIV tests, 120 chlamydia tests, 120 gonorrhea tests, 121 syphilis tests, 15 TB tests, 165 hepatitis B/C tests, and 10 pregnancy tests.

The Maternal and Child Nutrition Workshops — facilitated in English, French, and Spanish — educated 24 clients of reproductive age and their children on nutrition before, during, and after pregnancy. The Maternal and Child Health Workshops — facilitated in English and French — educated 35 clients of reproductive age in 90-minute sessions on safe sleep for infants, family planning, diabetes, hypertension, and nutrition.

The Engagement and Support Services Program, funded by New York State Department of Health Bureau of Community Support Services, provided case management and health education to single adults living with HIV. The T2 Program, funded by New York City Department of Health, included ASC in the City's COVID-19 test and trace initiatives and in the City's distribution of personal protective equipment. The Community Liaison Worker Program, funded by OneCity Health, reached users of Harlem Hospital's emergency department to

engage them in primary care. The Boca Pharmacy program, funded by Boca Pharmacy Group, ensured that clients living with HIV had access to their medication and other essential health items — regardless of their ability to pay.

Additionally, ASC provided mental health care services as an adjunct to other housing, legal, social welfare, education, nutrition, and advocacy services offered to ASC clients. In 2020, ASC delivered mental health care services in English and French to over 40 clients in all of its major programs, including individuals identifying as LGBTQ. ASC offered a package of mental health care services to clients: mental health status assessments, diagnosis, treatment, ongoing emotional support, psychoeducation, problem-solving, and information and referral for more extensive psychiatric treatment, as needed.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged the team's ability to deliver in-person services. The counselor used telehealth models of care, including Zoom, FaceTime, SMS, and WhatsApp, in order to communicate as consistently as possible with clients. In addition, the team responded to somatic illness and psychological stress caused by anti-Black violence and the government's anti-immigration policies, which greatly affected the health of clients.

H O U S I N G

Finding long-term housing for a client is a proven first step to better treatment and a healthier life. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected the immigrant community, as well as people experiencing homelessness or people at-risk of experiencing homelessness. In 2020, about 60 families secured housing with the help of ASC's Housing Placement Assistance Program.

The team also arranged housing-related services for thousands of clients infected and affected by HIV — people who may suffer from a loss of income because they are too sick to work and often face discrimination and rejection from family, friends, and roommates.

"We were able to deliver services despite the fact that we were unable to meet clients in-person," said Aida Diallo Diagne, Director of Housing. "However, we were a lifeline for them, doing weekly wellness checks, ensuring that they had food delivered if needed, offering comfort for those who were worried about family members left behind in their home country."

**IN 2020, ABOUT 60
FAMILIES SECURED
HOUSING WITH THE
HELP OF ASC'S
HOUSING PLACEMENT
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

L E G A L

Immigrant Opportunity Initiatives, Ryan White/LSN Program, AIDS Institute's Legal and Support Services for Individuals and Families Living with HIV (LASSIF) Program, AIDS Institute's Benefits Counseling Program, Equal Justice Works Fellowship, and Healthy Families funded ASC's legal program in 2020. Throughout 2020, ASC's legal team organized services in a culturally competent, safe, and multilingual environment. The team educated and advocated for the community to dispel widespread uncertainty and fear created by the government's relentless attacks on immigrants and their families.

ASC served an influx of newcomers in need of legal services for immigration, engaging over 1,000 clients with a combination of legal information, advice, limited services, and full representation. The agency successfully closed 550 cases, and the team assisted nearly 100 clients with navigating the legal implications of the public charge rule on their ability to obtain a lawful immigration status.

"COVID-19 created major obstacles in our ability to provide legal services as we did before the crisis," said Franco Torres, Supervising Attorney. "It required more than a year of trial with different strategies and approaches to finally find the right tools, resources, and practices to once again provide services as well as we did before the crisis."

S O C I A L W E L F A R E

ASC's Family Case Management team determines clients' needs and offers counseling, linkage to care, translation, advocacy, and referral services. Service delivery often intersects with ASC's health, housing, legal, education, nutrition, and advocacy programs. The health, legal, and social welfare teams partnered to organize biweekly counseling sessions — in English and French — for clients experiencing domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, ASC's Family Case Management Program served more than 90 families — 60% of whom had children under the age of 10 — by helping them to learn to become their own advocate within a stable, self-sustaining family unit. With funding from Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, the team supported clients who are primary caregivers for their families and were diagnosed with a chronic medical condition. The team facilitated in-person meetings with clients twice per month until the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when ASC began facilitating these meetings with clients virtually.

E D U C A T I O N

Nearly one in four New Yorkers have limited English proficiency, according to NYC Office of Immigrant Affairs. In 2020, ASC's English as a second or foreign language (ESOL) program provided over 120 hours of free language and literacy lessons to the African immigrant community. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ASC built an online version of its ESOL program to meet needs for virtual learning. ASC organized more than 100 online classes for beginners two times each week with its partner, Berlitz. Using Zoom, a 60-minute tutoring session with a volunteer tutor followed each of these online classes.

"A significant challenge we faced with the virtual iteration of the program was a lack of basic computer literacy among many of the students," said Willa Murre, Program Coordinator. "For the most part, we were able to provide ongoing remedial IT support. Despite students and tutors forging positive relationships, it was no replacement for the more vibrant, engaging experience of in-person classes that I sincerely hope will return in the future."



NUTRITION

ASC's food pantry served nearly 5,000 individuals and families in 2020. Funded by United Way and New York City Department of Social Services (EFAP, HPNAP, TEFAP), ASC provided supplemental nutrition to clients. Meeting the increase in demand posed the greatest challenge for ASC, as did ensuring that everyone who could not receive food directly from the pantry could still have food delivered to them. ASC never closed the pantry during the COVID-19 pandemic, and staff — such as Amanda Lugg, Director of Advocacy and LGBTQ Programming — distributed food to clients at their homes.

"I was overjoyed by the quantity and quality of food provided by ASC," said Fatoumata, a client of ASC's food pantry. "During COVID-19, my family and I almost starved due to my loss of income."

ADVOCACY

For the past two years, New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute has funded ASC to provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive space for addressing the unique challenges experienced by Black LGBTQ immigrants, refugees, and asylees. Like most of ASC's clients, the COVID-19 pandemic hit hard members of the Advocacy and LGBTQ Program. Many experienced a loss of employment, food insecurity, and mounting debts. To help mitigate people's feelings of fear and isolation, ASC transitioned the bi-weekly, in-person support group to a weekly support group on Zoom. ASC also offered weekly mental health counseling for over 30 individuals identifying as LGBTQ.

"We look forward to being able to meet again safely and in-person, but until that happens, we will continue to use whatever means possible to offer the care and support necessary for our clients' wellbeing and survival," said Amanda Lugg, Director of Advocacy and LGBTQ Programming.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE WHATEVER MEANS POSSIBLE TO OFFER THE CARE AND SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR OUR CLIENTS' WELLBEING AND SURVIVAL

— Amanda Lugg, Director of Advocacy and LGBTQ Programming



ASC

ETHIOPIA

A B O U T

ASC provides free HIV and TB testing and treatment, as well as nutrition, reproductive health, and income-generating support services, at three health and community development centers in Ethiopia. Since 2003, these centers — staffed entirely by Ethiopian doctors, nurses, lab technicians, case managers, pharmacists, administrators, and outreach workers — have provided free HIV and TB clinical services to nearly 200,000 of the most marginalized and educated approximately 1,000,000 people in HIV prevention. The centers are situated in the outdoor markets of Addis Ababa (Shola), Mekele, and Ziway, and ASC's four mobile clinics link the rural poor with health care services.

ASC Ethiopia has worked under contract with many institutions, including UNFPA, UNICEF, American Jewish World Service, PEPFAR, WHO, BGI Ethiopia, H. van Ameringen Foundation, and Harman Family Foundation, among others. ASC Ethiopia has been supported by our many partners over the years, including Vitamin Angels, TOMS Shoes, the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, Tigray Regional Health Bureaus, Mekdim, Ethiopian Midwives Association, and more.

C O R E C O M P E T E N C I E S

- Targeted outreach, health education, and condom distribution to vulnerable populations
- Pediatric HIV testing for children over 15 months of age. Capacity-building, data collection, lab services, and quality assurance
- Mobile HIV testing through ASC Seven Tents program
- Laboratory monitoring services (CD4, hematology, chemistry, serology, parasitology)
- Prophylaxis and treatment for HIV, TB, STIs, malaria, hepatitis, and opportunistic infections
- Sexual and reproductive health, contraception, and family planning
- Laboratory services are provided to patients from referral partners, including government hospitals and health centers
- Income-generating support for HIV-positive women
- Nutritional support for HIV-positive children and their siblings
- Voluntary HIV counseling and testing for individuals and couples

F I N A N C I A L S T A T E M E N T

	12.31.2020	12.31.2019
Support		
Grants & Contracts	3,054,001	3,142,147
Contributions	253,848	399,824
Total Support	3,307,849	3,541,971
Revenue		
Service Income	35,104	33,447
Miscellaneous Income	9,130	12,097
Pharmacy Services Income	1,708,490	1,433,031
Total Revenue	1,752,724	1,478,575
Total Support & Revenue	5,060,573	5,020,546
Program Services		
Health	2,334,187	1,506,102
Housing	373,943	399,866
Legal	961,425	1,128,478
Social Welfare	513,538	611,640
International Program	377,793	293,676
Total Program Services	4,560,886	3,939,762
Supporting Services		
Management & General	1,025,887	725,531
Fundraising	152,563	123,529
Total Supporting Services	1,178,450	849,060
Total Expenses	5,739,336	4,788,822
Change in Net Assets	(678,763)	231,724
Beginning of Period	770,206	561,954
Net Assets at End of Year	91,443	793,678



FUNDING & SUPPORT

Government

Health Resources and Services Administration
New York City Department of Health
New York City Department of Social Services
New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute
New York State Department of Health Bureau of Community Support Services
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
OneCity Health

Corporations, Foundations, & Nonprofits

Boca Pharmacy Group
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS
Equal Justice Works
Kikkerland Design
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Network for Good
Oracle H&H
The David S. Howe Foundation
The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation
The Ford Foundation
The New York Community Trust
The Tyler Perry Foundation
United Way
Van Ameringen Foundation



FUNDING & SUPPORT

Individual Donors by Giving Level

\$25,000+

Julie Mehretu

\$10,000 - \$25,000

Linda Genereux
Ilfenesh S. Hadera

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Raselas Berhe
Wallace D'Souza
Ezana Gebru
Martin Gero
Asfaha Hadera
Molly Howard
Stephanie Kaplan
Mary Moran
Greg Nichols
Uzoamaka N. Okoye
Gerald Pambo-Awich
James A. Saks
Claire Thomas
Nyanquoi Yargawon

\$500 - \$999

Sarah Atsebha
Vea Mshana
Alexander Soroken
William Taft
Dana Ugwonal
Hella Winston

\$300 - \$499

Richard T. Corcoran
Nathalie Weeks

\$200 - \$299

Gary and Lori Cohen
John Gracey
Jessica Hooberman
Gregory Mann
Paul Mashikian
Elizabeth Selassie
Bruce Walker

\$100 - \$199

Demetri Blanas
Bob Bronzo
Jim Dougan
Megan Duffy
Laura Miller
Judy Rogers
William Saks
Mitchell Warren

Up to \$100

Aden Abebe | Chantelle Belic | Margot Bingham | Corina Bogaciu | Naomi Brussel | Maurice Cheeks | Carley and Ron Claghorn Koss | Kent Coleman | Antoinette Crowe | Craig Cumberland | Franklyn Dahzy | Carolina Dali | Nikhil Dharmaraj | Anita Doranth | Awetash Ebuy | Lanre Enilo | Rodrigo Esparza | Alexis Floyd | Stephanie Ford | Duncan Foulder | William Giacofci | Meredith Graham | Elizabeth Greenstein | Judith Greenwald | Semhal Hagos | Muna Hamouie | David Hanselle | Susan Harris | Paige Harte-Rivera | Chris Hessney | Howard Heyman | Richard Hodges | Josh Hopkins | Hos Hounkpatin | Dwayne Jangelly | Cory Johnson | Lana Kalaitzis | Mary Klein | Jen Krouse | Cass Lilley | Bar Malik | Mara Matteson | Joel Maxman | Brandie Maxwellbr | Cierra McFarland | Katelyn McKeman | Frances Merriweather | Klancy Miller | Emily Moore | Nelly Moudime | Michael Mounter | Jan Nesnow-elman | Kim Nichols | Mackenzie Nichols | Yves Njumbe | Ann Northrop | Rahsaan Nurullah | Mojisola Ojo | Raolat Omowarere | Josephinee Oshiafi | R. Owo | Jesse Park | Zachary Phan-Everson | Mason Plumlee | David Rabin | Eric Richman | Deborah Sack | Marisol Sacramento | Christina Sajous | Mary Sel | Chris Session | Lauren Sewell-Walker | Marguerite Sheehan | Timothy Smith | Shelley Solomon | Abner Taub | Eseye Tesfay | Rebecca Thompson | Alfred Tomaselli | Peeranut Visetsuth | Shelley Weinstock | Weston Wells | Pamela Wheaton | Shewit Woldegabrael | Meaza Yimmer | Barbara Zeller

S T A F F I U S A

New York City

Chrystelle Ade Touvoli
Supervising Family Social Worker

Asfaha Hadera
Founder & Co-Executive Director

Eirik Omlie
Communications Director

Youvica Bazil
Housing Assistant

Maura Heron
Staff Attorney & Legal
Program Manager

Kyle Pearce
Senior Staff Attorney

Mulusew Bekele
Director of Program Operations

Ailsa Hoayek
Housing Placement Assistant

Zachary Phan-Everson
Staff Attorney

Bath Belvie Bilissalau
Legal Assistant

Wilkenson Joseph
Peer Worker

Prashant Puttagunta
Outreach & Testing Assistant

Ron Cerreta
Senior Staff Attorney

Halimatou Konte
Health Program Director

Paola Roche
Administrator

Shirley Chervil
Community Liaison Worker

Angeline Lagahi
Housing Placement Assistant

Aminat Sabak
Senior Immigration Attorney

Sarah Corsico
Legal Advocate

Paulina Leyva Hernandez
Intake Program Coordinator

Danney Salvatierra
Staff Attorney

Thandron Dadaille
Fiscal Assistant

Amanda Lugg
Director of Advocacy
& LGBTQ Programming

Michelle Sandhu
Fiscal Assistant

Lucia della Paolera
DOJ Accredited Representative

Adizatou Maiga
Family Case Manager

Ibrahima Sankare
Outreach & Testing Assistant

Aida Diallo
Supervising Family Social Worker

Erasmus Molano
Legal Assistant

Mada Sene
Family Case Manager

Aida Diallo Diagne
Director of Housing

Willa Mure
ESL Coordinator

Dree-el Simmons
ESL Coordinator

Bineta Diouf
Case Manager

Youma Nafo
Receptionist & Food
Pantry Coordinator

Sama Sisay
Equal Justice Works Fellow

Jules Charles Eloundou Atamba
Case Manager

Emmanuel Ndashuriye
Data Entry Specialist

Franco Torres
Supervising Attorney

Rabbi Gassambe
Receptionist & Food
Pantry Coordinator

Daouda Ndiaye
Supervising Patient Navigator

Adama Traore
Navigation to Care Coordinator

Emily Goldberg
Health Education Officer

Kim Nichols
Co-Executive Director

Laeticia Usungu
Temporary Family Case Manager

Ralford Goulbourne
Fiscal Manager

Abdoul Nikiema
Fiscal Assistant

Nathalie Weeks
Mental Health Counselor

Rokhaya Gueye
Testing Center Assistant

Christine Ogutu
Peer Worker

Danait Yemane
HBV Project Coordinator

Gabriel Guimaraes
Senior Staff Attorney

Issoumaila Zou
Testing & Outreach Assistant

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Head Office

Yokabel Abdo
Senior Accountant

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Finance and Administration Head

Genet Tsegaye
Office Assistant

Birhanu Alemayehu
Driver

Shewaye Hassen
Janitor

Hana W/Gebrial
Country Director

Addis Ababa (Shola)

Sr. Lelise Abebe
ART Nurse

Sisay Afwork
Janitor

Haregewoyn Asrat
Laboratory Technician

Demis Assefa
Guard

Masreshaw Birhan
HO/Site Coordinator

Abreham Gorfnehe
Guard

Netsanet H/mariam
Laboratory Technician

Shikur Kelifa
Guard

Sintayehu Merete
ART Case Manager

Sr. Kebedech Siyum
Counselor Nurse

Abel Teferi
Dispensary Technician

Yitayish Tsegaye
Janitor

Hana W/Semayat
ART Clerk & Data Manager

Mekele

Htekiros Ayene
Laboratory Technician

Alem Birhane
Guard

Hiwote G/Ananiya
Janitor

Habtamu Gebru
Guard

Yordanos G/Giyorgis
Dispensary Technician

Abreham G/Hiwot
Project Coordinator

Tsige G/Meskel
Junior Accountant

Genet Hayelom
ART Case Manager

Binyam Mekonen
ART Clerk & Data Manager

Sr. Birhan Tareke
Counselor Nurse

Kassu Tarekegn
Guard

Abeba Tesfaye
Health Officer

Hiwote W/Aregay
Janitor

Sr. Helen Worku
Counselor Nurse

Zeway

Desalegn Adebo
Guard

Sr. Meron Amede
ART Nurse

Abe Bentu
Laboratory Technician

Yeromnesh Fantahun
ART Clerk & Data Manager

Zebiba Habu
Health Officer

Tareke Lamboro
Janitor

Yenenesh Menberu
ART Case Manager

Aregaheng Mengesha
Outreach Worker

Sofonias Sefu
Dispensary Technician

Sintayehu Tekle
Janitor

Mengeste Tesfaye
Guard

Tesfaye Tsegaye
Project Coordinator

Mikahel Wedaye
Guard

Wogayehu Yosefe
Junior Accountant

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