Bahir Dar University: Supporting Local Communities during COVID-19 in the Context of a Learning City

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Ethiopia - Country Background

- **Name**: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- **Location**: 3 – 15° N. Latitude and 33-48° E. Longitude (Horn of Africa)
- **Size**: 1,1 mil square kilometres (426,372.61 sq mi)
- **Regions**: 9 Regional States and 2 City Admins
- **Population**: 112.08 million (2019) - the most populous landlocked country in Africa.
- **Politics**: Founding member of LoN, UN; Hq of O/AU
Ethiopia - Country Background

- **Languages**: 90

- **History**: Cradle of human being; Ancient Civilizations: Axum, Zagwe...; Not colonized/independent

- **Economy**: Dominantly agrarian, 85%; GDP = $951 (2019 est.)

- **Religion**: Christianity (4th C.); Islam (7th C.)

- **Calendar**: Ethiopian year starts on Sept. 11/12. Every month has 30 days; the 13th month with 5/6 days. It is 2012 Now.
Bahir Dar - info

- Distance - 565 Km NW-Addis Ababa
- Area - 28 square km
- Population – 300,000
- Home to Lake Tana – 3156 km²
- Nile River (the longest in the world) – 6650 km
Bahir Dar University

- Established 1963
- 8 campuses, 1 admin HQ; 8 staff accommodation sites
- 54,000+ Students; around 20k boarding
- 6,390+ Staff (academic and admin)
BDU Campuses:
1 - Peda (Main) Campus
2 – Poly (Engineering) campus
3 – Zenzelma (Agriculture) campus
4 – Gish Abay (Law & ILA) campus
5 – Felegehiwot (Medicine) campus
6 – Tana (Maritime) campus
7 – Tis Abay (Medicine) campus
8 – Selam (EiTEX)campus
9 – BDU-HQ

The 3-Red dots are Staff residence areas
COVID19

In Ethiopia:
• First confirmed case: March 13, 2020
• Total cases to date: 85
• Total deaths to date: 3
• Total recovered to date: 15

In Bahir Dar:
• Total confirmed case: 1
How is your university supporting the provision of learning opportunities for local communities during COVID-19?

– All classes have been halted
– Students have been provided with reading materials related to their courses
– Students and members of the community have been given information about COVID19 via leaflets
– BDU experts have been providing training for regional health professionals
How is your university engaged in the public discourse on COVID-19?

– BDU experts have been providing explanations on:
  • the nature of the virus,
  • prevention mechanisms,
  • countering rumors and false information ... on public media/TV, Radio, Social Media
Is your university supporting students' social engagement during COVID-19, and how?

– BDU is mobilizing volunteer students (health and textile engineering students).
Mental support in neighborhoods and families?

– Counseling service and other related supports are being given for 2300+ street dwellers
Coordination

– BDU is part of the regional command post and technical working group on COVID19
BDU’s Contributions

– Production of face masks. (EiTEX, teaching factory); more than 21k+ produced and distributed so far.

– Production of personal protective cloth for medical personnel; 45 produced so far.

– Production of hand sanitizers and distributed for those who cannot afford to buy it.

– Mobilized resources and acquired 10 Forehead Infrared Thermometers; distributed to local hospitals and the regional health bureau
BDU’s Contributions

– Two of the seven BDU campuses (with capacity of 7400 beds) have temporarily been assigned and used as quarantine centres.

– The University has assigned half of its health professionals to work in the hospital chosen to treat Covid19 cases. The rest are and will be serving in BDU’s Tibebe-Ghion Hospital.
BDU’s Contributions

– BDU’s Health Professionals have been providing Covid19-related training for health professionals under the regional Health Bureau.

– They have also been engaged in creating awareness for the community via loud speakers and leaflets.

– The university has provided food, sanitary materials and other supports for retired staff
BDU’s Contributions

– The City Administration has temporarily settled 2300+ street-dwellers in schools. BDU has been providing food for these citizens for the past 2 weeks.

– The university has donated 70 quintals of beans, 15 quintals of onion, 40 quintals of wheat flour, 20 quintals of wheat, 160 litres of bleach to the community

– BDU has assigned 2 buses for the city’s oldest hospital; 7 pick-up vehicles to be used during this Covid19 crisis by the City and Regional Administrations.
BDU’s Contributions

– BDU has also provided 5 buses to transport religious education students in different institutions in Bahir Dar, who were stack due to lack of transportation services

– BDU has also transported its regular students (nearly 20k) to their homes with 15 buses of its own and 47 rented ones, free of charge.

– BDU staff have contributed more than 150k Ethiopian Birr to the city’s initiative established to fight against Covid19