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ALL  
WE  
CAN

# STORIES OF Change

Hear the stories of lives transformed through your support



**Image:** Yitagesu inside his shop in Debrebirhan City, Ethiopia. Yitagesu was introduced to All We Can's local partner, HDPO, who not only provided him with a wheelchair but also business training and a supportive community of people living with physical disabilities.  
**Maheder Haileselassie/All We Can**

## Yitagesu

### HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ORGANISATION, ETHIOPIA

Every  
Person's  
Potential  
Fulfilled

All We Can's local partner, Help for People with Disabilities Organisation (HDPO), promotes equal opportunity, effective participation and inclusion of people with disabilities living in Ethiopia. HPDO utilizes the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) approach to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities in education, employment and community life, and strengthen their general wellbeing, self-reliance and physical capacity. HPDO also works with people with disabilities, their families and their wider community to overcome the stigma and prejudice surrounding disability and champions for their rights. Yitagesu reflects on how HDPO, with the support of All We Can, has removed barriers so he can transform his own livelihood:

'I was like every other child but I became physically disabled after a car accident in 2011' explains Yitagesu, 'After that I went through a very difficult period to accept my disability but thank God, I got to where I am today. Prior to that, I used to go to school and do business on the side... When the accident happened to me, I took it as defeat. You can feel when you're different from your friends... I quit school for four years.'



**Image:** Yitagesu inside his shop in Debrebirhan City, Ethiopia. **Maheder Haileselassie/All We Can**

'I applied at the Affairs for Women and Children Office and they introduced me to HDPO in 2018... I needed advice at the time. Even kind words are a big deal for a human being. I'm grateful for the Affairs Office and HDPO because they support you with ideas and guide you to have hope and light for tomorrow... They're polite, welcoming and are quick to take action. I needed a wheelchair to move freely and I was welcomed... I was introduced to many people. There are many people with even more difficult physical disabilities and supporting each other strengthens us.'

Thanks to your support, All We Can's local partners, like HDPO, have been able to work towards their vision of an inclusive and equitable society by supporting children and adults with disabilities to access education and employment.



**Image:** Yitagesu reading a draft of his novel that he plans to publish. **Maheder Haileselassie/All We Can**

'I once received business training. It was useful in that they trained us how to make money, save and create wealth... After I started working, started going out and making customers, it made me forget about the physical disability and the feeling of inferiority. I was very happy the first day I worked and got back home... It's unimaginable, like the sky and the earth, when I compare my life before and now... With HDPO's training, I learnt that whatever situation you are in, you can still make wealth and change yourself... I have a lot of plans for the future. I'm writing a book so I plan to publish that. I also have land from the government and am building a house... I also wish for others to follow my footsteps and accomplish greatly.'

**Image:** Yitagesu at the new house he has started to build. **Maheder Haileselassie/All We Can**

