TOGETHER WOMEN RISE
Collective action for global gender equality

MEMBER GRANT SNAPSHOT
October 2026

Girls Gotta Run Foundation

Helping Ethiopian girls stay in school, build confidence, and strengthen their futures — through education, mentorship, and running.

MISSION ALIGNMENT

Girls need more than school fees to thrive — this program pairs education with nutrition, health information, running, and mentorship, delivered by local female coaches and community partners. It's a direct expression of Rise's commitment to helping women and girls build healthier, more secure lives.

GGRF scholars celebrate a podium finish at a community race in Ethiopia

$40K RISE GRANT FUNDED	**326** GIRLS & MOMS DIRECTLY SERVED
96% SCHOLARS FINISH SECONDARY SCHOOL	**98%** STAY UNMARRIED THROUGH PROGRAM

What We Funded

- **Full academic support** — tuition, uniforms, tutoring & school supplies for 200 girls in Bekoji & Wolaita Soddo
- **Daily nutritious lunch**, including higher-protein meals to fuel health and athletic performance
- **Weekly life-skills training** on health, leadership, personal safety & money management
- **Coached running practice** 4 days/week, sports kits, and local & regional races
- **Health & hygiene kits**, including urgent medical support
- **Paid work & savings training for 126 mothers**, building family financial stability

Total project: $115,000 | Rise share: 35%

Why We Love This Program

- **It works, and the data proves it:** 96% of scholars finish secondary school vs. ~20% nationally
- **It's built to last:** staff live in the communities they serve, and alumni return as mentors
- **It sees the whole family:** mothers earn income and learn to save, so support outlasts the grant
- **It listens:** safety training was added after mothers voiced concerns — feedback shapes the program
- **Running is the hook, education is the win:** it uses a beloved cultural sport to keep girls in school
- **Recognized impact:** official charity partner of the Grand African Run; its film won Best Documentary

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

"The director listened to my story, and I was given dignity. I was seen. Now, I raise my hand. I lead discussions. I run with pride."

At 16, Bethlehem ranked first among all Grade 9 students at her secondary school — a turnaround that began when she joined GGRF's Athletic Scholar Program. With school fees, meals, and a running club behind her, she's now dreaming of becoming a cardiologist, and her family has followed her lead: her father is now an advocate for girls' education, and her mother went back to school herself. ▶ **Watch Bethlehem tell her story**

Bethlehem, age 16
Athletic Scholar Program, Wolaitta Soddo

GO DEEPER ON GGRF

- Girls Gotta Run Website
- Watch: Bekoji 100 Film
- Follow on Facebook
- Read: The Moms Behind Our Scholars

THE ISSUE, IN CONTEXT

- UN Women: Ethiopia
- Ethiopia Gender Equality Facts
- UNICEF: Child Marriage
- 2024 Poverty Index