

ADDN Exchange

Report on Yaseen's Visit and Workshop Week with KATIM

Yaseen arrived on March 28. Upon his arrival, KATIM members went to the airport to welcome him and show appreciation. The next day was dedicated to introducing him to more KATIM members and getting to know each other on a personal level. Everything went smoothly, and the connection was warm and welcoming.

On March 31, the KATIM crew welcomed Yaseen in a traditional Ethiopian cultural ceremony, which he found fascinating. After introducing himself to the team and meeting everyone, he conducted a 90-minute workshop. In return, KATIM offered Yaseen a traditional workshop that also lasted 90 minutes. The exchange was fun, engaging, and meaningful.

On April 1, after completing a workshop that lasted over three hours, Yaseen attended KATIM's performance during the grand opening of a major bazaar. His feedback was very positive, and he was excited to witness KATIM's live performance.

April 2 featured another workshop, this time focused on contemporary dance. Most KATIM members found it highly engaging and helpful, expressing that they learned new ways to use their bodies and movement to express deep emotions. Later that day, we visited Betemihret to conduct a workshop for children with autism. The results were both impactful and heartwarming.

On April 3, we held another three-hour workshop, this time focused on combining learned techniques and rehearsing for the upcoming presentation to ADDN members. Afterward, we traveled about an hour outside of the capital to visit Cheshire Ethiopia—a center that provides valuable services to individuals with disabilities. There, we conducted a 45-minute workshop for children receiving treatment at the facility.

By April 4, we had gathered all the media and were ready for our final presentation to the ADDN members. We began rehearsals early in the day before our guests arrived at the training center. Among our invited guests were youth center staff, including the director, and our main guest, Lliane Loots—project leader of this exchange and a representative of ADDN. We connected with Lliane via WhatsApp so she could watch the final 18-minute presentation. Everyone, including the youth center staff, was pleased with the performance choreographed by Yaseen. After the presentation, we presented him with traditional Ethiopian gifts, including clothing and jewelry.

On April 5, we celebrated the closing of our five-day workshop. We treated Yaseen to a traditional Ethiopian dinner as a token of appreciation. He enjoyed various Ethiopian dishes

and drinks, and later, we all joined the stage to dance together—recreating what he had learned throughout the week.

The entire experience was unforgettable. We are incredibly humbled by Yaseen's character and contribution. Thank you to ADDN and Lliane Loots for making this exchange possible!