



## Note from the Board Chairman

Dear STEM Synergy Community,

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2025, we are encouraged by the progress made in advancing STEM education and economic empowerment across Ethiopia. Through strengthened partnerships, women's empowerment through technology transfer, impactful STEM programs, and active participation in national initiatives, STEM Synergy continues to play a vital role in nurturing the next generation of innovators and problem solvers.

We commend the dedication of our team, partners, and supporters whose collective efforts are expanding access to quality STEM learning opportunities. Together, we are creating meaningful pathways for young minds to thrive and contribute to the sustainable development of our nation.

We thank you for your continued support and commitment to our shared vision and invite you to further strengthen our impact by donating today at [www.stemsynergy.org](http://www.stemsynergy.org).

Dr. Nate Woods (PhD, MBA)  
Board of Directors, Chairman  
STEM Synergy International

## Quarter in Review

*In the first quarter of 2025, STEM Synergy implemented STEM learning, capacity building, and sustainable technology programs that are empowering communities and driving progress toward our mission of inclusive development through education and innovation.*

*We conducted a STEM teachers' capacity building program in collaboration with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and launched a Girls' STEM Camp in partnership with Kotebe University of Education—both aimed at enhancing STEM learning environments and the later fostering gender equity in STEM education.*

*To support women's economic empowerment, we transferred three solar-powered bakery units: two to local entrepreneurs in Wolayita and one to Ras Mekonnen Elementary School in Harar. This clean energy solution now supports entrepreneurs to generate sustainable income and the school's feeding program to improve academic performance, improving both sustainability and operational efficiency.*

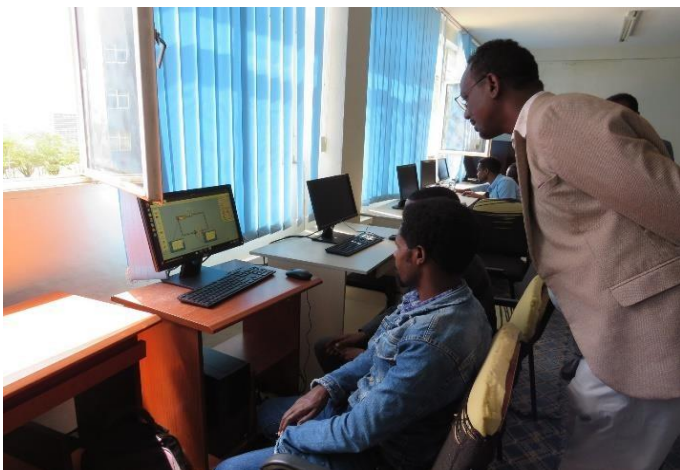
*These milestones reflect our continued commitment to inclusive, innovative, and sustainable development. As we look ahead, STEM Synergy remains dedicated to expanding its reach and deepening its impact across communities nationwide.*

## Conducted STEM Teachers' Capacity Building Program

*In a strong effort to strengthen STEM education in Ethiopia, STEM Synergy, in collaboration with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU), conducted hands-on STEM Teachers' Capacity Development Training in March 2025. The training benefited 75 secondary school teachers from 18 schools across Akaki Kality Sub- City (Addis Ababa) and Koye Feche Sub-City (Sheger City)*



*The training emphasized practical, lab-based teaching in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics, equipping participants with modern tools and methods to enhance student engagement and enhance learning outcomes.*



*This Training of Trainers (ToT) model not only empowered the selected STEM teachers with advanced skills but also prepared them to cascade their knowledge to their students and fellow teachers in their school, strengthening the program's impact at the school and community level.*



*The training concluded with participant reflections, expressing the skills and knowledge that they have gained, followed by a certificate award ceremony to recognize their dedication and achievement.*



*This initiative reflects STEM Synergy's ongoing commitment to advancing and expanding STEM education not only for students but also STEM teachers in primary and secondary schools across Ethiopia.*

## Launched Girls' STEM Camp at Kotebe University of Education

On March 29, 2025, STEM Synergy Inc., in collaboration with Kotebe University of Education, launched an ongoing eight-weeks Girls' STEM Camp, designed to address the gender gap in STEM fields.

The program is currently providing 25 secondary school girls with hands-on training in ICT, electronics, and robotics. Focused on equipping participants with practical skills and building their confidence, the camp aims to inspire the next generation of female innovators and STEM leaders in Ethiopia.



The opening ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Abiyot Lakew, Country Director of STEM Synergy Inc. Dr. Teshome Tolcha, Head of the President's Office and Dr. Tewodros Mulugeta, STEM Center Coordinator at Kotebe University of Education. Each speaker delivered insightful messages underscoring the importance of STEM education in empowering young women and promoting gender equity.



Throughout the program, participants will engage in real-world, project-based learning that encourages creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

The most outstanding projects will be recognized at the end of the camp, with top entries earning the opportunity to compete at the 10th National Science and Engineering Fair which will be held on November 2025 in line with UNESCO's Science week.



## Transferring two Solar Powered bakeries to Wolaita Entrepreneurs

*As part of our ongoing commitment to economic empowerment of youth and women and sustainable development, STEM Synergy has successfully deployed and transferred additional Two solar-powered bakery units in Wolayita, specifically in Dugna Fango Woreda following the successful installation of the first bakery unit on January, 2025GC. These units will directly benefit the entrepreneurs and communities of Qerchechie Town and Bobito Village.*



*Our technical team conducted hands-on training sessions, equipping local participants with the skills and knowledge needed to confidently operate and maintain the bakery machine. This ensures long-term sustainability and self-reliance within the entrepreneurs.*



*The solar-powered bakeries are affordable and eco-friendly technology that can be used for bread and pastry baking. The initiative specifically targets youth and women-led enterprises, providing them with the skills and opportunities to launch and expand their businesses.*



*By introducing innovative, low-cost renewable technologies, this project not only creates new pathways for income generation but also promotes environmentally responsible practices at the grass roots level.*

## Transferring a Solar bakery to School Feeding Program in Harar

*In February 2025, in response to a request from the Harari Regional State Education Bureau, STEM Synergy proudly donated solar-powered bakery to Ras Mekonnen Elementary School in Harar to support school feeding program. This initiative is part of our ongoing effort of introducing sustainable and eco-friendly renewable energy solutions.*



*The solar bakery is used to support the school's feeding program for providing fresh meals to its students, helping them to focus and properly attend classes.*

*By incorporating clean energy into the school's daily operations, the project serves as a practical demonstration of renewable energy solutions and a hands-on learning model for student.*



*To ensure long-term success, the STEM Synergy team delivered hands-on training to the group of dedicated women running the bakery operations. The training equipped them with the technical know-how to manage and maintain the solar bakery machine.*

*Through this initiative, STEM Synergy continues to demonstrate how innovation, education, and empowerment go hand in hand in building a brighter future.*



## STEM Synergy Board Chair Visited Harari STEM Center and School Feeding

On March, 2025, Dr. Nate Woods, Chairman of the STEM Synergy Board, visited the Aboker STEM Center, a center which was established by STEM Synergy in 2019 G.C. The center equips students with critical science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills and knowledge, preparing them for future careers in innovation and technology.



Dr. Nate met with Harari Regional State Education Bureau officials, STEM center coordinators, teachers, and students and expressed STEM Synergy's commitment to strengthen STEM education, renewable energy solutions, and community development in the region. The visit highlights the organization's dedication to empowering youth through STEM learning and sustainable technology.



During his visit, Dr. Nate also visited the school feeding program at Ras Mekonnen Elementary School, where STEM Synergy has donated a solar bakery machine to support the initiative. This sustainable energy solution ensures students receive fresh, locally baked bread while promoting environmental responsibility.



## Partnership and Networking

*As part of its broader mission to enhance and strengthen STEM education across Ethiopia, STEM Synergy has expanded its outreach and collaboration efforts in this current year, 2025. These efforts aim to deepen engagement with both local and international partners to build a more resilient, innovative, and future-oriented STEM education ecosystem.*

*Nationally, STEM Synergy continues to work closely with the Ministry of Education and public universities where STEM Centers are established. These partnerships support the implementation of structured STEM programs that improve student learning outcomes and strengthen teacher effectiveness. Key activities include advancing STEM outreach initiatives, promoting a culture of science through student competitions, and integrating hands-on, experiential learning approaches aligned with global best practices.*

*Internationally, STEM Synergy is working to strengthen partnerships with organizations such as Boeing Africa and Armath, creating new pathways for technical and institutional support. Boeing's global commitment to STEM has been instrumental in supporting outreach programs, particularly those that encourage youth, especially young women, to pursue careers in engineering and aerospace.*

*The emerging collaboration with Armath, a global STEM advocate and solution provider, holds particular promise. Preliminary discussions are underway to establish a formal partnership focused on knowledge transfer, introduction of Armath maker space, and capacity-building for educators. Once formalized, this partnership is expected to institutionalize joint efforts and significantly enhance the scale and quality of STEM education through the integration of international expertise and resources.*

*Together, these initiatives reflect STEM Synergy's strategic commitment to innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity, ensuring that Ethiopian students and educators are equipped to succeed in a rapidly evolving, technology-driven world.*