



Secretariat:
Prins Hendriklaan 14
1862 EL Bergen
06-53124680
www.schoolprojectethiopie.nl

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It's amazing to think that in November our Trust will celebrate its 15th anniversary! We've supported a growing number of children with their education each year. We started with 20 in 2007 and today the total is 434. But we will continue to grow further. A good proportion of them go on to get their degree. Yet sometimes pupils drop out, but we still hope that those few years of schooling will make a difference. We continue to work for the most underprivileged children, especially in these difficult times of the pandemic and the political unrest in Ethiopia. We hope that you will continue helping us in giving them the chance of a better future.

Education, the way to a job?

Our Trust provides funds for 12 years of schooling. After pupils have passed their final exams they go to University or to a vocational training college. It is the government that decides which subject they'll read at University; this may seem odd, but it is common practice in Ethiopia. Accommodation on the campus is free, but the students still have expenses like their bedding, clothing and course materials. We try to find financial support for some of these students, either from other charities and/or from private individuals.

Once the students have got their University qualification, they are employed for three years at a basic salary by the government to pay off their college debt. Then they can look for a job themselves, but this is difficult because unemployment is high in Ethiopia. Yet some of the young adults do succeed in finding a job; last year six students we supported achieved this. For example, Gazu Tadese works in a garage after he trained as a car mechanic; Dereje Hambisa became a vet and Tola Tsegay found a job in IT; Daniel and Belise Solomon, who both studied physics, found jobs too.

Sometimes it is not possible to find work in the field of one's study. Abraham Diriba for example is a PE teacher whilst he did Maths at University. We think this is OK because he shows that he is really well motivated. Who knows, maybe in the long run he'll be able to teach Maths as well as a PE.

Face masks

The participants of the sewing project in Ariajawi (see our last newsletter) will be producing facemasks.



Talking about facemasks: one of our donors makes them from sustainable, washable cotton. If you buy some the proceeds will go towards our work in Ethiopia. The facemasks can be ordered from:

- Junohof 26 Oudorp, tel. 072 5159523

- Prins Hendriklaan 14
Bergen, tel. 072 5814134



Ethiopian schools during the pandemic

Nearly 20,000 people have been tested positive in Ethiopia, but the testing capacity is not as comprehensive as in Western Europe. At the start of the outbreak the government took restrictive measures comparable with ours; their social distance rule is two metres.

All schools were closed. The government broadcast lessons via radio, television and the internet, but they were not available for each and every pupil. Our children come from the poorest families that live in remote villages and have no access whatsoever to any media.



The head teachers of 'our' schools did find a solution by distributing photocopies of the teaching materials to pupils from grade 6 on (NL group 8).

After consulting the head teachers, we decided to give an extra contribution of 10 euros per pupil to help meet the costs of their corona measures. This will allow the management to take action to prevent the risks of contamination now that the schools are opening up again in September.

At the start of the new school year the government cancelled the exams, except for grade 8 and 12 pupils. They will be offered a 45 days crash course. After that they'll have to do an exam which will - provided they pass it- either promote them to grade 9 or to a subsequent education after grade 12.

**100% of your donation will
be well spent!**

No visit to Ethiopia by the Board this year

Because of the restrictions and also because of the political unrest the Board decided not to make the usual visit to Ethiopia. Normally we take suitcases full of children's clothes, school materials and goodies like stroopwafels for the nuns and priests.



In the next months we'll try and keep in touch via the mail and WhatsApp.

Other projects

As you know our Trust pays the school fees and, where possible, we pay for a meal each day or at least a few days per week. As well as this we try to raise funding for projects that enhance the quality of education for the children, such as solar installations, water projects, sanitary facilities, allotments, computers, playgrounds, sport materials etc. The need is vast.

Please read our annual report on the homepage on our website for more details.

Foundation Schoolproject Ethiopia (KvK: 37117202)

secretariat: Prins Hendriklaan 14, 1862 EL Bergen

Tel.: 06-53124680 / info@schoolprojectethiopia.nl

NB IBAN number has changed!

IBAN: NL91 RABO 0135 0896 38 Stichting

Schoolproject Ethiopië

Website: www.schoolprojectethiopia.nl

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