



Koka Children Project



~ Social and Environmental Development Organization ~

Dear reader,

The rainy season is about to start and the children are at the end of the school year. It is time for a newsletter with updates about our project in Koka!

Child Centre

The construction of the Child Centre is finished. The walls are painted in bright colors, the toilets and showers are plastered, the floor is ready and the windows and doors are placed. The technical team is working on the outdoor area with trees and a nice playground.



'Community project committee'

A special project group is established which represents Koka town in discussions with SAEDO. Within this group the needs and requests from the community are discussed including options to make budget available for projects and materials like mattresses, kitchen equipment and the construction of kitchens and toilets.

Women empowerment

It took quite some time for the Women empowerment group to find a location to establish their injera bakery. Finally in March a building is constructed on the premises of the Child Centre. The women did



start eager and full of ambition. At the moment the biggest customer is Florensis Ethiopia in Koka; around 750 pieces of injeras are supplied every day. The target is to reach more customers and to expand the business with extra dishes like shiro, a chick pea sauce to be combined with injera.

At the start of the project the biggest challenge was to ensure a consistent quality of the injera with on time delivery for breakfast at the farm. A team focusing on the quality check enabled the upgrade in quality and supply for all employers of Florensis Ethiopia in Koka, we are very proud of this result!

Step by step the loan is payed off and the new available budget will be used to finance new initiatives.

Orthodox Christmas and Eastern

On special Holidays the families within the project are receiving oil and flour. In the beginning of January Orthodox Christmas was celebrated in Ethiopia. Sunday April 8 the children celebrated Fasika,



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the Ethiopian Orthodox Easter. After 55-days of fasting, a day full of food (goat meat, chicken and eggs in hot sauce) and local drinks was prepared. Fasika is in Ethiopia a more important festival than Christmas, since the Death and Resurrection of Jesus is more significant in Orthodox theology than His birth.

Florensis Ethiopia started in the beginning of last year with the production of fresh table eggs for the canteens of Florensis Ethiopia and Florensis Abyssinia. This Easter the spent hens were used to prepare doro-wot, a traditional chicken dish for the children.

Bananas

Small banana trees will be transplanted from the Florensis compound to the garden of the Child Centre in the upcoming rain season. Within a few months after planting fruits can be harvested and served to the children. A welcome source of vitamins to their current diet!

Ongoing activities

Next to the mentioned activities, serving breakfast and lunch for all 135 children, social and medical support and homework support are ongoing activities.

Plans for the coming months:

In the coming months we are aiming to plan a part of the budget to facilitate the following:

- Purchase of books for the library. Since the Child Centre is finished, we are ready to purchase books for the library like study books, computer books and reading books in different languages (Amharic, Afaan Oromia, English).
- Outdoor playground and toys for the Child Centre.
- Renovation of more houses. This in good communication with the community project committee to define the most urgent houses/families in need of help.
- Out of the 135, 10 children are HIV/AIDS positive and in 15-20 families other members of the family are. These people need special support (medical assistance, food, etc.) and it will be defined how the project can support each of them in the best way.
- Purchase of instruments to play music at the Child Centre.
- Some children do not have a long-term solution to spend the nights. More budget is necessary in order to give 24 hours care in the Child Centre. One part of the Centre is designed as bedrooms for these children but extension of the team and proper materials (beds, sheets, etc.) are needed to implement this in a proper way.
- Solar lamps. The idea is raised to supply solar lamps to the supported families in order to supply light in the houses which are not connected to the local electricity network. In this way the children are able to do their homework at home in the evening. Furthermore it will improve the living conditions of these families.



If you are interested to support the Koka project, do not hesitate to contact Hilde or Marijke. Together we can discuss about the possibilities, your preferences and (practical) appointments.

Contact information for international sponsors:

Hilde Duns:

Marijke Westerman:

Project coordinator SAEDO:

Mr. Nemewak Ararsa