



Koka Children Project



~ Social and Environmental Development Organization ~

Dear reader,

The year 2020 is coming to an end, and what a special year it has been. With this newsletter we would like to update you on the highlights of this year and the plans for the next year.

Food support

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school was closed for many months in 2020. During these months the OVC Centre was closed as well, as it was not allowed to gather in large groups. However, after a special fundraising program, we were able to supply all families in the project with weekly food support during the months of April to August. We distributed macaroni, spaghetti, flour, oil, rice and shiro. Since September the children have their meals in the OVC again.



Medical attention and personal hygiene

The children that needed medical attention were seen by the nurses of DümmeOrange. If necessary, they were sent to the local health facility or private health institution for medical assistance. A medical insurance was set up for 120 children and their foster families as well. The project staff gave awareness training to the children and their families on how to prevent the spread of the corona virus; how to wash their hands correctly, clean their home, personal hygiene, keep social distance, stay at home as much as possible and wear a mask.

Each child received a mask, body soap, hair oil and soap to wash clothes.

Meet: Tariku Eman

I am a child guard and OVC guard. I am working for more than 4 years with the children. I am happy to work with the children because before, the children were not getting food, but now they get food and clothes, shoes and other support. All children are very happy, and the happiness of the children makes me happy.



Celebration of Ethiopian holidays

We celebrated the religious holidays with the children, like Ethiopian New Year and Meskel.



Meet: Tunzer Belete

I am 11 years old and I am in grade 4. I like maths; I wish I would be a doctor because I would like to help a child who is sick. I love to help my aunt.



Ad hoc projects

A mother and a disabled child were given additional financial and social support. Another family received a mattress and night clothes. The project staff received a bicycle so it is easier to make home visits. A guardhouse at the entrance of the OVC compound was constructed.



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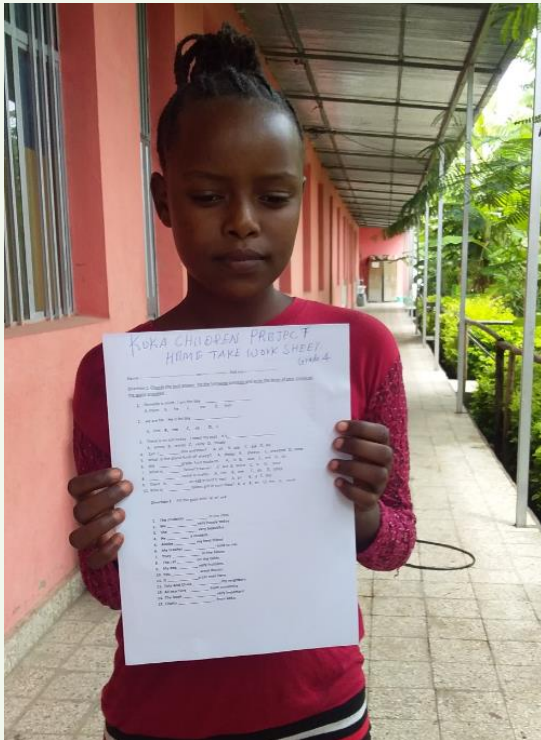
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The children received clothes, shoes and school materials. A few houses were renovated.



Tutorial classes

We gave tutorial classes in Afaan/Oromo, English, Math and computer skills. During the time the OVC was closed, the tutorial classes were put on hold, but the children received handouts so they could make homework and study at home.



Community Development project

The project staff actively participates in community development work. The Koka

Kebele office and community house are built with the joint support of the farms: DümmeOrange, Syngenta and Florensis Ethiopia.

Meet: Kuma Badhasa

I am 11 years old, I am in grade 4 and I like drawing. I want to be a good farmer. When I am at home I am working on what my parents tell me to do. And I love to play with my friend.



Women empowerment project

The injera bakery, where a number of the children’s family women are working, is legalized under the name of “Shalo gete and their friends - Injera bakery project” and they opened a bank account. Five new members joined the group. Together the women bake 750 – 950 injeras per day, partly for the children in the OVC and the larger part is sold to Florensis Ethiopia PLC.

The project is supported by the surrounding farms and SAEDO, both organizationally and practically. When for example help is needed to repair chimneys, to transport injera to the farm etc.

Meet: Yoredanos Fikadu

I am 6 years old. I am in grade 1 and I want to be a police because then I will protect children. I have no father and mother, I am living with my uncle. I like to play with my OVC children friends.



Jogo Gudedo

The construction of the coffee house in the Jogo forest reaches its completion; the building, fence, water tank and toilets are all in place.



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The organized women participate in a training program on how to run the coffee house. However, due to the pandemic the women were not able to start their business yet. The women will also receive awareness training about protecting the forest. We planted 3,330 seedlings in the Jogo reforestation area.



Three guards from the neighbourhood were hired to protect the forest and the coffee house.

Future plans

The Herman Hamer OVC center does not have a reliable electricity system. We face many power cuts in the area. In order to keep everything running, like refrigerators and the ICT equipment for the tutorial classes, we need to find a more sustainable way to ensure electricity supply. Ethiopia has perfect circumstances for solar energy, but until now it has not been used a lot.

Florensis NL donated the funds that were generated by selling hanging baskets, plus a gift from a partner, to invest in a 1000-Watt solar energy system, so computers, refrigerators, TV, lights and stoves can be operated at all times.

It is important to keep the center running in a sustainable way and costs can be saved by generating solar energy. If the solar system works this project can also serve as a model/show case for the area. The project staff in Ethiopia is working on the realization of this project and we hope to update you in next newsletters.

Meet: Shawu Demeka

I am working in the Koka OVC Center as the Canteen head, already since 2018. I am so happy to work for those children. Most of the children have no family and do not get enough food. But now they get food and they are happy. I am a mother of a OVC child.



More sponsors need to be found for the support of the children. Currently there are 135 children in the project and we have sponsors for only 119 children. More efforts will be undertaken to find local sponsors amongst the companies in the area. More international sponsors are also welcome of course.



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The children enjoy handicraft works. In future we would like to set up a programme with different handicraft activities.



On behalf of all the children and their families we thank you for reading our newsletter and supporting the project!



Project coordinator SAEDO and contact for Ethiopian sponsors:

Abinet Alemayehu:

Contact for international sponsors:

Hilde Duns:

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