



# Koka Children Project



~ Social and Environmental Development Organization ~

Dear reader,

It is time for an update about the Koka project.

## Child Centre

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, Rian Hamer, wife of late mr Herman Hamer, has officially opened the "Herman Hamer OVC Center" in Koka. It was a big happening with all the children, caretakers and many guests, including the family Hamer, a delegation of Florensis from The Netherlands, diverse dignitaries from the region, the Dutch ambassador and agricultural councillor. All guests enjoyed a lunch accompanied by speeches, music and dance. The children are fully using the new building and got a new yellow t-shirt as a present during the opening!



The garden of the Centre will be organised and equipped with a playground in the near future. We have received donations for this and will work on the development together with the SAEDO team.



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## Women empowerment

The injera bakery of the Women Empowerment Group runs at full speed. Every day the women bake 800 injera's for Florensis and for the meals of the project children. The loan we have provided is almost payed off and we are looking forward to the next project: the creation of a coffee – and tea house in the Jogo forest.

## Coffee- and tea house in the Jogo Forest

The land of the Jogo Forest has been assigned to Florensis a few years ago in regard to a reforestation project. Florensis is developing the land and meanwhile many trees and bushes are grown to decrease the erosion. It also has a positive influence on the employment in the region: the land is being guarded by guards living in the surrounding neighbourhood. Others would like to start a coffee – and tea house. We will assist them in the building of this project as well as provide a loan to start the business.



## Meskel celebration

On September 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 was the Meskel celebration. Meskel is a religious holiday in the Ethiopian Orthodox church which commemorates the discovery of the True Cross in the fourth century. We provided flour, oil, school materials and -uniforms to all the foster families.

## Vegetables and fruit

At the Child Centre a vegetable and fruit garden has been established. There are mango, avocado, and papaya trees and variable vegetable plants. The trees are growing well and in the future the fruits promise a good and new addition to the meals of the children.

## Special care

In the family of one of the project children there is a severely handicapped boy. During the last months he has been extensively researched by doctors in Addis Ababa under the guidance of the nurse of DümmeOrange. Due to oxygen deficiency and meningitis during the birth, the 5 year old boy cannot walk, talk or eat (solid) food. This is clearly very stressful for the mother. The project supports the family intensively: food and milk is being supplied, medical costs are financed and the mother is supported in the care of her son.





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## Ongoing activities

We continue providing breakfast and lunch, social and medical support and tutorial classes to 135 children.

## The plans for the coming months

The coming months we hope to provide money for:

- The purchase of library books
- Playground equipment for the outdoor space of the Child Centre
- Renovation of houses, in discussion with the community project commission
- The purchase of music instruments



If you like to sponsor the Koka project, contact Hilde or Marijke, so we can discuss the options and your preferences together to make practical agreements.

### Contact information for international sponsors:

Hilde Duns:

Marijke Westerman:

### Project coordinator SAEDO:

Dhr Nemewak Ararsa