



# Koka Children Project



~ Social and Environmental Development Organization ~

Dear reader,

The rainy season is at her peak, the fields are full with crops and the children are having summer holiday. It is time for our third newsletter, including an update of ongoing projects and plans for the coming months. Meanwhile, 130 children are part of the project and there is plenty of activity.

## Construction of the Child Centre

In our newsletter, of April 2017, we informed you that the construction of the Child Centre has been started. Now, 4 months later, the shape of the building and rooms becomes clear; the floor is constructed, the walls are almost finished and there is a 8 meter deep well for the outlet of the toilets. The outlines of the different areas (canteen, kitchen, sanitary spaces, clinic, library and the emergency housing) are visible. The builders continue to work hard since the planning of the opening of the Child Centre is still in 2017. The construction of the Centre is totally financed by Florensis via the gift for the 75-year anniversary of Florensis in The Netherlands.



## Women empowerment project

Thanks to the money received by the individual sponsors, we could give a loan to a “Women empowerment group”. This group is going to set up a business. At this moment they are working on their legal entity and we will hope to write more in a following newsletter.

## Medical support

Dümnen Orange is in charge of the medical support for the children. During the period from mid-April until the end of June 40 children have visited their clinic. They are examined and received medicines when necessary. In addition, first aid is granted and laboratory examinations have been conducted (blood, urine and stool tests on specific diseases as hepatitis and typhoid). The nurse has also given education about personal hygiene on infectious diseases and how to avoid these, on HIV/aids and sexually transmitted diseases. The children who received medicines have also been explained how they should take and store them.

## Summerschool

The summer holiday in Ethiopia is of long and takes almost 3 months. In order to strengthen the children in certain subjects and skills and to help them to keep structure during the summer holiday, SAEDO has developed the ‘Summerschool’ with help of our sponsors. During the summer holiday children are expected to be present at school in the mornings for extra lessons in English, Mathematics, computer and social skills. In addition, they do sport, play games and help with the cleaning of the school furniture and preparation of the lunch. After the lunch the children go home and can help on the land and the herding of cows and goats.





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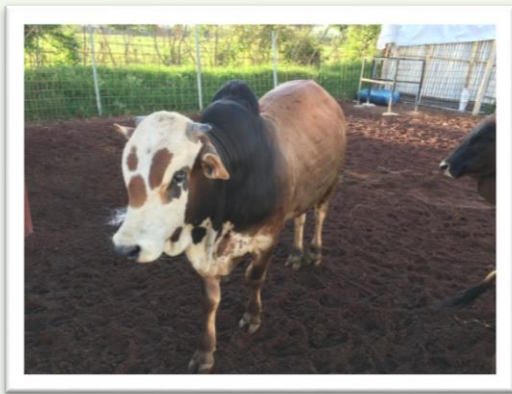
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The teachers of the Summerschool are students who are going to study at the college next year. By teaching the children they receive some income to finance their study materials. A win-win situation. It is obvious the children enjoy and learn from this. Even the little ones can already say the alphabet that they have been learning during the last weeks!



## Goats and chicken

On the compound of Florensis Ethiopia and Florensis Abyssinia chicken, sheep, cows and goats are raised. All the profit of the eggs and the sales of the animals goes to the project. The animals are popular amongst the employees, especially after a long period of fasting the tender meat is very tasty!



## Car

SAEDO now has her own car. This car is donated by an Ethiopian organization. It has been a real support to the project since the car gives flexibility for the staff; children can be brought to the clinic or hospitals further away and materials can be brought from Addis Ababa. The project is not depending anymore on the car of the companies.

## Renovation houses



The houses we selected for renovation earlier this year have been repaired. In our last newsletter we wrote that things run differently than planned. For one house we found out that the renovation was much more work and therefore more costly because not only the roof, but also the walls needed to be repaired. But, also budget was found to support these extra costs.

Now, in the rainy season, more houses are damaged, so the money in our "housing" fund will be well spent.



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## The SAEDO project team

Because of the growing project with broadening activities and already 130 children the local project team is very important. Besides the general management of the project there is a need for somebody taking care of the health of the children and their families. The project is searching for a social worker and a health officer who will support families on different aspects. Many families have health problems, problems with unemployment and housing. Besides that, they take care of a child, other than their own.

On the long term, when the Child Centre is ready to be used the project will take a graduate health officer in accordance with the Ethiopian law and permits but also as a valuable support for the children in the health care area. For the short term the project is looking for a social worker who supports families.

## The plans for the coming months:

The coming months we are aiming to make money available for:

- The purchase of school uniforms. At the beginning of the new school year (September) several children need new uniforms.
- The distribution action around the Ethiopian new year on September 11. We offer oil, flower, school supplies and clothing to all the children of the project and their caretakers.
- Renovation of more houses, there are at least two houses severely damaged during the rainy season.
- The purchase of library books. When the Child Centre is finished the library space can be filled. We want to supply the library with books, computer books and reading books in various languages (Amharic, Afaan Oromia and English).
- On the longer term we are planning to raise money for playground equipment that we can use at the new Child Centre.



If you want to sponsor the Koka project, please contact Hilde or Marijke, then we will discuss together the options, your preferences and we can make practical appointments.

### Contact information for international sponsors:

Hilde Duns: [redacted]

Marijke Westerman: [redacted]

### Project coordinator SAEDO:

Dhr Nemewak Ararsa [redacted]  
[redacted]