

11 December 2022

Dear reader,

The year 2022 is almost over, time for an update from Desta Foundation and the OVC in Koka, Ethiopia.

### Activities in 2022

In 2022, Desta Foundation sponsored 38 children, so that they could go to school in their school uniform, they received daily breakfast and lunch in the OVC center, medical care if needed and social support for them and the families that take care of them.

Thanks to our donors, Desta Foundation was able to ensure that all children of the project received soap to keep themselves and their clothes clean. Soap is distributed monthly. Soap has become very expensive in Ethiopia so this help is very welcome.



In addition, Desta Foundation has sponsored three large distribution campaigns in which flour and oil are distributed to the caretaking families during Ethiopian holidays. These campaigns take place on Ethiopian Christmas in January, Ethiopian Easter in April and Ethiopian New Year in September. With this support, the families can prepare something extra during the holidays.

The computers of the OVC have been checked and the conclusion was that most of them need to be replaced. The computers and software are old and have suffered from the unstable power supply. A plan has been made for the replacement and improvement of the computers.

### Bread bakery

In the previous newsletter we wrote about the wish of the women in Koka to set up a bread bakery. In recent months we have received quite a number of donations for this, in terms of finances we can make a start with this project.

Unfortunately, it turned out that the energy supply in the OVC building is insufficient to run the ovens. The power shuts down too often and there is insufficient capacity on the grid. Installing an energy supply with three phases is very expensive and cannot be realized at the moment. Other types of ovens that work on regular, one-phase electricity, or ovens that work partly on gas and partly on electricity, or the installation of a generator have been looked at, but a good solution has not yet been found.

We save the money that is intended for the bread bakery and we are working on alternative solutions, for example a different location for the bakery, or a power supply via solar panels. We will keep you informed of the progress of this project in the next newsletters.

### Meet: Negash Leliso



I live in Koka Negawo and I have been working in the Koka OVC center since 2016 as a teacher and education coordinator. I like working here because I like to see how the children grow and become wiser.

### Sponsor goals for 2023

In consultation with the project staff in Ethiopia, Desta Foundation has chosen the following targets for 2023, in addition to the normal sponsorship of the 38 children and the hygiene and education support:

Continuation of three distribution campaigns of flour and oil during Ethiopian Christmas, Easter and New Year, for which an amount of EUR 8,000 in total is required. With this we can finance three distribution campaigns. The campaign of Christmas in January 2023 has already been sponsored; we are still looking

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for donors for the other campaigns. The cost of one distribution action is approximately EUR 2,500.

The construction of an extra classroom on the OVC site. This room will be used for ICT education, the library and tutorial lessons. The classroom must be built, new computers must be installed, new software and a stable electricity supply are required. The latter is necessary to prevent the computers from breaking down quickly. A budget is also needed for library books.

The idea is to cover the roof of this classroom with solar panels so that the OVC can generate power for the computers in the classroom and for the rest of the OVC. If this works well, this could also be an option for the bread bakery.

Desta Foundation has budgeted EUR 8,000 for this purpose. We start with the construction of the classroom, and then focus on the interior and the solar panels.



*The current library*

The project staff also expressed the wish to place a better fence around the site. They thought of a stone wall, we are now going to discuss with them whether this can also become a green fence; consisting of concrete posts, wire mesh and a green hedge, for example of bougainvillea and passion fruit. The passion fruit can then be harvested and eaten.

#### **To donate**

As you can read, we have many plans and to realize these plans we welcome any donation. We are very happy with small and larger amounts, because the

children in Koka are in our hearts, we are happy to help them forward.

If you also want to contribute to the structural sponsoring of children, make a one-off donation for the bread bakery, the construction of the ICT room or the computers and library or the installation of the fence;

our account number is: NL85 RABO 0377 2837 11 at the name of Stichting Desta.

#### **Meet: Dadi Buli**



I am 17 years old and I am in grade 6. I like English best in school because this language will help me achieve my dreams. In the future I want to become a doctor because I want to help people and especially poor people. In my free time I help my foster

family and I do my homework.

#### **Thank you**

We would like to thank all donors who made our work in Koka possible in 2022. Thank you for your support and donations!

If you have any questions or ideas, we'd love to hear from you.

Warm regards, on behalf of the board of the Desta Foundation,

Marijke Westerman

**On behalf of all the children in Koka:  
Thank you for reading the newsletter, Merry  
Christmas and a happy 2023!**

