

Sixth Progress Report

On my 7th trip to Mekele 13-19 December 2009, Fikre, his staff, and I had to revise and reprioritize the 6 points listed in sequence in my **Fifth** Progress Report posted in December 2009. These points were:

1. Construction of **New kitchen** was promised by the Japanese Embassy to be built in the Orphanage Center plus 3 additional dormitories and 2 rooms, one to be used by a social worker man, the other by a social worker woman, for 24 hours monitoring purposes of the children's situation and their daily activities. However, what the Embassy has promised has not yet materialized. Now it is discovered that a kitchen which has been used as a Store Room for food stuff and other things already exists attached to the Dining and Assembly Hall. Fikre will now have to ask the Japanese Embassy to build a Store Room instead of Kitchen as originally proposed.
2. The unfinished works of the **integral parts** of the New Cows' House which was funded by Erik Thunes Legat is now complete. The original amount was not enough due to the fact that Fikre has built a big Cows' House which can accommodate up to 80 cows instead of up to 30 cows in accordance with our agreement. Fikre has apologized for the mistake he has made.

His unacceptable reasoning for making this mistake was that he was thinking that it was a good idea to make a self generating income by having many cows and selling much milk and milk products as the main source of self generating income and earning enough money for the improvement of the children's future welfare, instead of asking later for money and constructing another building when the cows are multiplied.

Nevertheless, because of his unilateral decision, the New Cows' House has been behind schedule until now. But fortunately thanks to John and Henning who celebrated respectively their 60th birth days' recently and have pledged to donate their birth days' gifts (converted into kroner) to the children's welfare fund account number. From the money they got from their respective families, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances who were invited to the parties have now made it possible to finish the integral parts of the New Cows' House and the end result can be seen on a DVD film which I mailed by post. The cows are now accommodated in the New Cows' House.

2

3. The **conversion and renovation** of the new office building into office spaces in the Orphanage Center is now deferred indefinitely until adequate fund is available.
4. For construction of **septic tank** and sewage system Fikre has now given estimated cost of 43,390.00Birr=**17,356.00DDK** to bestyrelsen for consideration. Because the construction of the septic tank is very urgent, bestyrelsen is expected to decide and send the above mentioned amount when available.
5. The **Dining and Assembly Hall** floor will have to be renovated and cemented. Fikre will give estimated cost later to bestyrelsen if and when fund is available. This is not considered urgent.
6. The main structure of the **Library Hall** is already constructed. But its integral parts are not finished (roof cover, doors, windows etc., the floor needs to be cemented—and all related things to the library (computers,

tables, chairs, shelves for books and periodicals etc.) that are required to be in it. As reported before the library is taken care of by an Ethiopian man by the name of Asfeha Hadera, Founder & C-Executive Director of African Services Committee, Inc. whose headquarters office is located in New York. He has promised Fikre that his company will provide fund (he did not specified amount) for the library and its integral parts. We wait and see until it has materialized.

In addition to the New Cows' House, out of the above indicated 6 original priorities only 3 of them have now been considered as priority points. The fund for the New Cows' House (Project B) is now solved thanks to John and Henning. The money has already been remitted. Work on the integral parts is also now complete.

It is agreed that the fund for the septic tank (project A) will be remitted after the completion of the New Cows' House is confirmed soon. The fund for Project C is indefinitely deferred until adequate fund is available. The estimated cost of the 3 priority projects are as follows:

3

1. Project A: Septic Tank estimated cost 43,390.00 Birr=**17,356.00DDK**

To be remitted soon

2. Project B: Integral parts of the New

Cows' House estimated cost 72,617.81 Birr=**29,047.10DDK**

Has been remitted

3. Project C: Renovation & conversion of

Office spaces estim.cost 198,558.59 Birr=**79,423.44DDK**

To be remitted when available

The 80,000DDK Donated by Kana Fond when remitted may not be enough to match the estimated amount of 198,558.59Birr (already submitted by Fikre) when converted into Ethiopian currency at the time of remittance.

Good News: One of the bright children (you can find him on the Master List of the children Number 43), Bizayoh Kapite (student), age 19, got very high marks in all subjects and was graduated from Secondary School (Gymnasium) in Mekele last September 2009. He was accepted and sent to Haremaya University in Harar Region where he has been studying Psychiatric Nursing for the last 6 months, and now he has been fortunate and got scholarship at Kyoung Hee University in South Korea to study biomedical Engineering.

While Bizayoh was studying at Haremaya University Psychiatric Nursing, a university teacher and Dean of Sociology and Anthropology at the university of Mekele, by the name of Aklilu Habtu (a good friend of Fikre), has been corresponding with the above mentioned University in South Korea for the last 6 months to get scholarship for Bizayoh to study Biomedical Engineering (which is not available here in Ethiopia).

Bizayoh has now got passport and visa and he will be leaving Addis for South Korea on Wednesday 03/03/10. When he came from Harar I assisted him in arranging his trip to Korea. Since it is still winter in South Korea Buzayoh was advised by the South

4

Korean Embassy here to have warm military type jacket which I bought for him, price 500 Birr, before he left. When Bizayoh comes back from South Korea after 4 years of study he will probably be employed at the University of Mekele to start with. He promised and pledged to Ato (Mr.) Aklilu, Fikre and I to help Fikre and our orphan children with what he can. I have thanked Ato Aklilu for the important help he has done. I am sending you a picture of Buzayoh for your information. Abraham.

Projects A, B, and C

After I arrived in Mekelle and went around the Orphanage Center the next day, I was shocked and surprised to discover the Real Kitchen which Fikre, his staff, and myself gave number one priority of the 6 priority list projects during my previous visit to Mekele (from 29 June to 5 July), has already been built before between the children's toilets and washing places at the far end, and the Assembly and Dinning hall at the opposite end. The Real kitchen's existence has been there since the entire section of that building block was built, never used as a Kitchen but as a Store room!

In other words it lies in the middle between the Assembly and Dinning hall and the children's toilets and washing places. Just behind the wall where bestyresen was sitting on the stage during your last visit from where we attended while the children were giving various performances, and speeches were being delivered. And there is a connecting door on the wall behind the stage connecting the Dinning Hall to the Kitchen behind the stage

where bestyresen and the invited guests from the governor's office were sitting. The door was covered by welcome pictures at the time. We did not notice the door during our visit but it was there as Fikre tells me now.

This entire building block (consisting of the children's toilet and washing spaces, the Real Kitchen itself in the middle , and the Dinning Hall are combined as one block which is separating the boys and girls dormitories.. I was not aware of the Real Kitchen's existence in the middle of this block. I do not think Neel also was aware of it during her stay there. You can ask her to confirm. I confronted Fikre why he did not tell or show me before when we were making the kitchen as number one priority on our 6 priority list last time I was there.

He was embarrassed and I was embarrassed for not knowing. He taught I knew its existence, also he taught Neel also knew. Again please ask Neel if she was aware of it. Fikre has been and is still using it now as a STORE Room for food stuff (including the newly harvested wheat and tef from the new farm are stored there) plus other types of food stuff for the children and other things. It means that now Fikre has to correct his mistake and tell the Japanese Embassy also which has promised him to build the 3 additional dormitories, the two monitoring rooms for a man and woman social workers, and a Store Room instead of calling it kitchen.

To be sure I now have taken video pictures by paying a video man of the Real Kitchen from the outside and the inside and the rest of the entire buildings in the Orphanage Center in perspective and put them all on a

DVD which I will send one copy for you to see by postal mail. I now have specified each building by putting written indication on each building/block in the compound plus the new Big cows' House on the other side of the compound which I now put as a project B following project A (the Septic Tank) which I e-mailed you earlier. The reason why project B is a second priority now, following the Septic Tank, is that the cows cannot be moved from where they are now to the New Cows House, before its integral parts (the main gate, the 2 big doors, cementing the floor, and installing wire sieves mesh on the 9 windows for ventilations) are finished.

The estimated cost for the renovation and conversion of the new office spaces for the staff at the Orphanage Center is now given by a contractor and it is designated as project C. In other words Fikre's new priority list will be reduced from 6 to 3. In sequence they are:

Project A Septic Tank

Project B Integral parts of the New Big House as indicated above, and

Project C Renovation and Conversion of office spaces for the staff.

In other words the estimated total cost of the 3 projects is as follows:

Project A: 43,390.00 Birr ca 17,356.00 DDK

Project B: 72,617.81 Birr ca 29,047.10 DDK

Project C: 198,558.59 Birr ca 79,423.44 DDK

Total 314,566.40 Birr ca 125,826.54 DDK

1. The library is taken care of by an Ethiopian man (Asfaha Hadera) whose headquarters office is located in New York. He is a founder and co-executive director of African Services Committee, Inc. He was on a visit in Mekele and he has visited the Orphanage Center while I was there. He has promised Fikre that Asfaha's company will provide fund for the library. We wait and see until it has materialized. I have met the guy and he has invited Fikre, his representative in Mekele, and me to dinner in Meklele Axum Hotel.

2. Fikre is still hoping the Japanese Embassy is going to build the 3 dormitories, a SIORE Room (which he misnamed Kitchen), and the two monitoring rooms for a man and a woman social workers, but Fikre does not know when work will start.

3. The smooth cementing of the Dinning Hall floor will have to wait until after an opportunity for securing available fund is forthcoming some time in the future..

The partially open air kitchen is located close to the main gate on the left side after entering the gate where the woman have been and are still making Injera and cooking food for the children, is intended to be a workshop in the future when the Real Kitchen I described before is put to function as Real Kitchen connected to the Dinning Hall after its contents are moved to the Store Room when the Japanese Embassy have finished what it has promised to do for Fikre.

In conclusion I would like to say that Fikre's over optimistic expectation from sources who promised to help him is some times back firing on him and hurting. But on the average he is doing his best in his performance of running the Orphanage Center in a dedicated and positive manner. He is becoming aware and regretting of his past inadvertent mistakes and promising to be cautiously optimistic in the future.

I have now returned to Addis. There is nothing I can do by staying there until the fund for each project or for all 3 is remitted and work starts. I will return when work progress has almost been made to take video pictures on DVD for documentation. In the mean time I will keep myself up to date by maintaining close contact with Fikre. By the time I am back in Denmark in April or May. It is my hope good results will be available to satisfy donor firms and our donors and members of our Association.

By the way the new farm is ready again to be sown by another type of corn (sorghum) as a second harvest in 2009/2010. That means there will be enough food for the children for almost a year says Fikre, and that he will be able to save money from the regularly remitted amount every 6 months for urgent requirements. Abraham.