

## Seventh progress Report

To start with I would like first to announce good news before I reply to Lissi Hejberg's and John Engels' 3 main questionnaires regarding to the Orphanage Center's long range plan draft proposal.

The Japanese Embassy have already transferred the pledged amount of US\$96,993 to HAB's separate account number and Fikre is very busy with a contractor who won the bid to build the promised buildings to have them finished within a year according to the contract agreement with Fikre and the Japanese embassy here in Addis Ababa. I have already sent you a month and a half back by postal mail for your information. But I have not received acknowledgement of receipt.

The buildings to be built are: 3 more dormitories in addition to the existing ones, 2 monitoring buildings with two rooms in each building to be used by a man and woman social workers, 1 big store room and possibly 1 big tutorial class room in accordance with Fikre's request if there is money left from the above mentioned buildings. The reason behind building 3 more dormitories is The Japanese did not think it is good idea that more than one child should be sleeping in one bed as they are currently doing.

The septic tank is now constructed. I will bring with me a video film showing while under construction and after completion for bestyrelsen's information.

Now I would like to come back to the questionnaires of Lissi's and John's regarding future plans of the orphanage center. I have discussed the plan with Fikre and his staff members and the general agreements are as follows.

### **Question 1.**

In accordance with the current agreement Fikre says supported by his staff that he has submitted his original requirement for 60 children to receive 65,000 kr. every 6 months as from 2006. This amount has been raised to 75,000 Kr. and at present to 85,000 Kr. progressively thanks to the high value of the Danish kroner currency exchange rate compared to the Ethiopian Birr which has helped to compensate the cost of inflation problem of material and living conditions for the children for which Fikre and his staff are grateful.

The number of the children also has been increased from 60 to 70. This is because the only criterion Fikre used for admittance to the orphanage center was based only on children who lost both their parents. However after 2 more strict criteria have been added for orphan children's admittance to the orphanage center the number of the children is now reduced to 62.

In connection with this please see the Master list of the children in order to see the 10 children in there who have left the orphanage center because they have not fulfilled the following 3 criteria. The new criteria are the following.

- (a) Children who lost both their parents
- (b) Children whose parents have not left fortune for them
- (c) Children who do not have family relatives or any one else to help them

Therefore if Fikre is planning to expand the orphanage center in order to add more children in the orphanage center it is totally dependent on sustainable remittance of fund more than 85,000 Kr. every 6 months. In other words are we able to do that from the money collected from the present members and donors of our Association? Or are we hoping that the members and donors list will be considerably increased and get more contribution from them? Base on my experience working with Fikre I think his questions are understandable.

Besides the infrastructure of the orphanage center is not complete, such as conversion and renovating of the old cows house for offices spaces of staff members at the center, the library, building a tutorial class room which I mentioned above where the cooks are presently making food for the children acquiring means of transportation etc.

Even after the Japanese has built the 3 more dormitories, 2 monitoring buildings and one big store room, the 85,000 kr. is not enough to have more children to accommodate them. Because the reason why the Japanese decided to build more dormitories they did not think as I said before it is good idea that 2 or more children should be sleeping in one bed as they are currently doing.

### Question 2.

Regarding taking care of education and construction of a special building with college like rooms in the orphanage center for the present grown up children in order to avoid that they do not found themselves suddenly again on the streets of Mekele is also dependent on the availability of sustainable supply of fund in addition to what we are currently providing.

In accordance with the government’s policy all children are going to their respective schools in the city free of charge. While they are still living in the orphanage center, those who can make it to the university depending on their results after completing the 10<sup>th</sup> grade are sent to the various universities in the different regions of the federal government of Ethiopia, like Buzayehu Kapite who was sent to Haramaya University in Harar region to study psychiatric nursing and later got scholarship in South Korea to study biomedical engineering for 4 years at the Kyound Hee University. He is corresponding with Fikre and he is doing fine. Those who do not make it after the 10<sup>th</sup> grade they are sent to various vocational schools while they are staying at the orphanage center until they are finished their respective vocational training eventually employed and become self sufficient and integrated with the general public.

At present the following children who could not make it to the university and the 10<sup>th</sup> grade are going to different private colleges and schools by paying education fees from the 85,000 Kr. we are supplying every 6 months. For those who are going to the different colleges Fikre is paying 50% of the required amount per term the other 50% is given for free by the colleges. For those who could not make it to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade because they are not allowed to repeat in the same class for a second time by government policy, they are sent to private schools and Fikre is paying from the 85,000 Kr. 100% education fee for them until they reach the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and transferred to vocational schools. The school fee for both categories is 120-200 Birr per term per child. So as you can see this money is paid as I said from the same source - 85,000Kr. besides taking care of for food, clothing, school materials medical and other living conditions. On the table you can see who they are.

nr.	Names	Colleges/schools	Pay50-100%	grade	Remarks
1	Hailay Mess.	microlinkcollege	50%	10	
2	HabtomG/Am	Policollege	50%	10	
3	SolomonRedai	MiliniumCollege	50%	10	
4	NibretZewdie	“	50%	10	
5	MulugetaGT	“	50%	10	
6	G/MedhinSam	“	50%	10	
7	TigistAsnake	AxumAcadamy	100%	8	
8	AlemAraya	MiliniumSchool	100%	6	
9	ToshomeKala	“	100%	6	
10	BerhanuDomo	“	100%	4	

### Question 3

The possibility of enlargement of the orphanage center depending on self-supporting from self generating sources of income with corn from the farm, milk and milk products from the present cows and selling bulls and calves for meat by diverting considerable amount from the 85,000Kr. to other areas such as education or building more rooms is premature idea.

This can be envisioned only when enough and sustainable farm products are achieved based on bedding and winning the farm again and again or if it is permanently given to the orphanage center by the state authorities, and more cows are considerably added to the present number of cows in order to give more milk and milk products and/or selling more bulls and calves for meat (oeksekoed). The farm which Fikre won by bedding belongs to the state. It can be taken away from him if another farmer wins the bed next time. It is not dependable. The corns produced so far and the milk provided by the present cows are subsidizing a number of loopholes – not enough to replace the 85,000 Kr.(or a part of it) every 6 months.

At present the number one priority for Fikre is the proposed building for office spaces for the staff members in the orphanage center. The estimated cost in Project C (198,558.59 Birr) has already been sent by postal mail (also to be found in my 6<sup>th</sup> progress report). If KANA-fonden is remitted soon and if it is not enough to cover the cost it can be subsidized from other surplus headings like Fikre has been doing from time to time, perhaps from left over money of the Japanese project.

But now he has been repeatedly warned not to take big risks like he did with the farm and building Big Cows' House. He is very well aware of that not to do so prior consultation. Fikre has now employed to help him as chief accountant by the name of Rishan Mulu with a degree and 10 years experience in a big firm with financial accounting and other paper works. Her salary is 2,500 Birr. Another a man trained in sociology by the name of Yared Tadele full time employed and paid (salary 2000 Birr) by a big NGO Christian Relief Development Association (CRDA) in Ethiopia with its headquarters in Addis Ababa is assisting Fikre with children's social problems. Rishan and Yared have attended our meeting.

If I have not appropriately addressed all your questions we will have second chance to deal with them and others in detail after I come in June 2010. My comment for the moment is we shall deal with priority requirements

approach based on case by case problems instead of long range plans until Fikre's administration system is fully organized and appropriately established with clear chain of command and job description of each member of the staff members. With my best regards to all members of bestyrelsen who are working hard wholeheartedly to make things function properly. Abraham.