

This report is a short summary of the activities of Rainbows4Children in the year 2014. More details on any specific issue are available by contacting Max & Kathryn Robinson at info@rainbows4children.org

Project Progress - Nicolas Robinson School

I. Building and equipment installed during 2014

At the Primary School we completed the equipping of the all-weather sports court for handball, basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton. Further landscaping and improvements to the compound were carried out. Building work in the primary school is now complete.



Primary students sports lesson Landscaping in the primary school Volleyball competition

In March 2014 we started construction of the second classroom block for grade 11 and 12 students in the Secondary School. This construction was completed in September 2014 and equipped ready for use by the students when school started on September 20th.

Staff toilets, with an extra large cubicle for wheelchair users, were also completed and in use in September 2014. Finally to help our guards with our over 2 hectare compound, we built a guard hut with elevated views. Underneath we have provided a store and rest area for our secondary school cleaning staff.

We also constructed a staff building for use by the teaching staff of the Secondary School



The new staff toilets (top right) behind The new classroom block The guard hut overlooks one gate and the gardens

In 2015 our aim is to build informal eating areas for the students in the secondary school, similar to the successful area we have created for staff:



The shady eating area is a restful place for staff with good homemade food, every day from 6am to 6pm

2. Students

In the school year 2014-15, the student registration was 247 students in the kindergarten, 781 students in the primary school (grades 1-8) and 260 students in the Secondary School (grades 9-11). Approximately 70% of the students come from families where the parents have disabilities. The male:female ratio is approximately 50:50, and there is no discrimination on gender, politics, religion or race. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, 100% of the grade 8 students passed the national exams and 100% passed grade 10 national exams. The Nicolas Robinson School was ranked no.1 in Mekele after an evaluation by the Education Bureau. Only one other school achieved a 4* rating, but with fewer points scored.



Grade 10 in class

KG learning by play

IT classes start at grade 1

3. Sponsorship programme

By the end of 2014, 330 students were sponsored to go to school through the Rainbows4Children sponsorship programme thus giving them a chance that their families could not otherwise afford. We still need 600 more sponsors.

4. Supplementary food programme

Started in 2011, the supplementary food programme continued for all students at the school. Every day the students are given extra food to provide better nutrition (protein, vitamins) in the form of eggs, banana, milk, orange or other seasonal fruit. This program continues to pay dividends in the form of better health - especially elimination of anaemia, skin ailments and better levels of concentration and learning in class.



KG children enjoying their milk in the eating room

5. Volunteers

During 2014 approximately 20 volunteers from Europe gave their time and skills to teach science, English, sport and music as well some very experienced business managers who helped by sharing their expertise in effective management techniques, with the management team. We continually have a need for volunteers.

6. Care for the Whole Child

The school's student welfare director ensures the welfare of all the students in the school and she also provides home counselling when needed. At the end of 2014 the school and Rainbows4Children had to act quickly to save a young student diagnosed with leukemia. She had to be flown to Bangkok for medical care and treatment which is expected to last at least until the end of January 2016. A special appeal has been launched and is still on-going. The speed of reaction demonstrated a high



level of cooperation within the school and showed that we are able to provide care for the students which is second to none in Ethiopia.

7. Fund raising activities in 2014

Our annual Swiss fundraiser raised about CHF 60,000

Supporters in Southern France raised about EUR 1,000 through various functions and provided new child sponsors.

The charity shop in Stade, Germany (sales of second hand clothes and household items) has had to close, but they have kept their German registered foundation active to enable German tax payers to make donations through them and benefit from tax deduction.

Other major donors: 2 Swiss Foundations, 1 Rotary club, 1 Australian Foundation, 4 company donations, many private individuals.

8. Legal and accounting

The statements of the 2014 accounts for the UK Foundation and Swiss registered foundations will be submitted to the appropriate governing authorities after being audited. The trustees of both foundations during 2014 were:-

Switzerland: Richard Max Robinson, Kathryn Robinson, Jean-Paul Rigaudeau.

UK: John Bateson , Lynn Petersen, Derek Bird, Kathryn Robinson, Richard Max Robinson