

This report is a short summary of the activities of Rainbows4Children in the year 2013. More details on any specific issue are available by contacting Max & Kathryn Robinson at info@rainbows4children.org

Project Progress - Nicolas Robinson School

1. Building and equipment installed during 2013

At the Primary School we landscaped the grounds to reduce dust and improve drainage in the rainy season and also built an all-weather sports court for handball, basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton. As a result dust levels have been significantly reduced in the playground and in the classrooms.



Landscaping in the primary school



The all weather sports court

Early in January 2013 we installed furniture and equipment for the science laboratories consisting of workbenches, storage cupboards and a fume cupboard. We received great support from 4 visiting science teachers in the spring of 2013 to assist the teachers in setting up and preparing experiments for the students.

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



Secondary school laboratories



High school staff building

The eco-toilets which we built in the high school significantly reduce the use of water and use a composting technique to handle the waste. Odours are reduced by the sun-powered heating of the metal back wall of the toilets driving air through a ventilation chamber away from the toilets. During 2014 we will build similar toilets for the staff and construct a new classroom block to accommodate grades 11 and 12.

2. Students

In the school year 2013-14, the student registration was 246 students in the kindergarten, 780 students in the primary school (grades 1-8) and 180 students in the Secondary School (so far grade 9 and 10 only). Approximately 70% of the students come from the 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 and 2013, 100% of the grade 8 students passed the national

exams and the Nicolas Robinson School was ranked no.1 in Mekele out of more than 30 primary schools based on its exam results.



Grade 10 in class

KG learning by play

IT classes start at grade 1

3. Sponsorship programme

In 2013, 260 students were sponsored to go to school (thus giving them a chance that their families could not otherwise afford).

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 2013 more than 20 volunteers from Europe gave their time and skills to teach science, English, sport and music as well as a very experienced headmaster who helped by sharing his expertise in school leadership with the management team.

Fund raising activities in 2013

Our Swiss annual fundraiser raised about CHF 70,000

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) provided funds of about EUR 10,000 in 2012 but they have had to close in mid 2013 as the shop lease expired. Other major donors: Swiss Foundation, 2 US foundations, 3 company donations, many private individuals.

Legal and accounting

The statements of the 2013 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 have remained unchanged in 2013:-

Switzerland: Niklas Meintrup , Max Robinson, Kathryn Robinson.

UK: John Bateson , Lynn Petersen, Lynne Rees, Ken Rees, Kathryn Robinson, Max Robinson