

This report is a short summary of the activities of Rainbows4Children in the year 2015. 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 2015

At the secondary school, landscaping around the classrooms and the staff room was completed to keep the compound clean and dry. Landscaping with the addition of many trees and bushes continues to keep a green compound. A donor enabled us to add 4 workshops for the training of practical subjects to get the students who do not go to university, into work quickly and effectively.



Landscaping in the secondary school

New training workshops

Technical drawing is taught (G12)

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, work started at the end of the year, once the



The shady eating area will also serve as a good viewing point for football and rugby matches on the adjacent sports field (once the bamboo shading is in place).

2. Students and performance

In the school year 2015-16, the student registration was 249 students in the kindergarten, 789 students in the primary school (grades 1-8) and 327 students in the Secondary School (grades 9-12). Approximately 70% of the students come from families where the parents have disabilities. The male:female ratio is 50:50, and there is no discrimination on gender, politics, religion or race. In 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, 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.



Grade 10 in class

KG learning by play

IT classes start at grade 1

3. Sponsorship programme

By the end of 2015, 410 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 500 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 2015 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 and thank those who visited in 2015 for their great support. They really make a difference.

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. In July she returned home to Mekele for maintenance of the programme and returns to Bangkok in January 2016 for her first check up and refreshment of her medicines. She will have 2 or 3 further trips to Bangkok over the next 2 years. A special appeal has been launched which has raised nearly \$40,000 to support her. We probably need about \$10,000 more to complete the programme. 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. We now have a few students who are suffering from a particularly bad diet or food supply issue due to family circumstances. If they are sponsored we have asked their sponsors for extra help. Otherwise we have supported them with extra food from the supplementary food programme.



7. Fund raising activities in 2015

Our annual Swiss 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) 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. Thank you all for your help

8. Legal and accounting

The statements of the 2015 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 2015 were:-

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

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