



June 2023

Dear friends of Rainbows4children,

After three long years, we have finally been able to return to the Nicolas Robinson School in Mekelle. This prolonged absence was enforced upon us, initially by the Covid pandemic and subsequently by the Tigray conflict and the ensuing blockade of the region. As you may no doubt imagine, the delight we felt upon our return, reuniting with the staff and students, was immense and very emotional.

The children continue to be well cared for by our kind and hard-working staff. The school nurse is assisted by regular visits from local medical doctors, and together, they carry out checks on all children who show any signs of health problems.

As more nutritious food becomes available and affordable, we are hopeful that all of the children will soon return to full health. They have been traumatised to various extents by war and the fear of starvation, but as stability returns, we are confident that these traumas will slowly fade.

The school continues to show a great sense of social responsibility by accepting some extra children who live close to the school on a short-term basis. Transport in the city is still problematic and very expensive, and without the school's intervention, those children would have been deprived of any education. They will return to their own schools when they reopen later this year and transport becomes more accessible.

We are very proud of the school staff who have cared for the Nicolas Robinson School, protected it from looting and maintained it in surprisingly good condition, given the very limited access to materials during the past 3 years.

The war has destroyed many people's places of work – as a result, a large number of our students' parents are unemployed, or else they are working without pay. This means that we are urgently looking for more student sponsors to help the families continue to send their children to the Nicolas Robinson school. Please do spread the word in your networks - anyone who is interested in sponsoring a child can write to us at info@rainbows4children.org to find out more information.

Please consider, even a small donation, by buying a raffle ticket for our international prize draw. Here is the link: <https://rainbows4childrenannualraffle.rallyup.com/2023event/Campaign/Details>

On a final and very positive note, one of our previous students, Feven, graduated with a double major in Chemistry and Biology from Macalester College in the USA. She will now go to university in California to study for her PhD.

A huge thanks to Kay and her family for being Feven's "guardian angels" during the 4 years that she was studying in Minneapolis St. Paul.

Thank you for your great support and please enjoy the video showing some of the highlights of our visit to Mekele.

<https://youtu.be/bThLWnUSj4w>

Best wishes from

Kathryn and Max