

Dear friends and supporters of Rainbows4children,

We are sorry we have not written to you for a while about the situation in Ethiopia and in particular Mekele in Tigray.

We have been following the reported events in Tigray and the surrounding region as well as Sudan and Eritrea with increasing concern for the safety of the civilian population. Despite many appeals for negotiations, including from within Tigray, there has been none so far. We have had no direct contact with the school or anyone in the region since early November when all communications were cut off by the central government. We have since read that phone services have been partially resumed recently (but for local calls only). The damage to the local Tekeze dam, which provides most of Tigray's electricity had been repaired sufficiently to provide some power apparently.

Reporting is unreliable and very difficult for anyone to verify on all sides. As a charity with the focus on the education and associated welfare of the children at our school, we watch the situation with concern and we know we will have a lot of work to do to bring the school community back to its previous condition, but it is work we are determined to do.

Our priority is the children and their education and welfare. They, and the staff have become part of our extended families. Until we see a resolution, it will be difficult to know when and how we can return to take care of the children, and what will be needed, but we remain committed to the project and to the education of the children at the Nicolas School.

Stay safe and well and we will let you know when we have further news from the region.

Best wishes
Kathryn and Max