



Letter to supporters - April 2021

Dear friends and supporters,

We know that many of you are very concerned about the situation in Tigray, where our school is situated. Because of the on-going war, information coming out of the region is still very limited and hard to verify. Communications are still limited to telephone only and all infrastructure is in a very poor state. There are frequent power cuts, and some parts of the city have still not been re-connected. Water is normally pumped from artesian wells around the city and so supplies have been severely limited. Most people have to buy water, even for personal hygiene, from trucks, travelling around the city. This is also a challenge as many families have no cash at all now. Businesses have ceased to operate and employees have not been paid. You will be proud to know that thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to continue paying all our staff and providing some food supplies as a humanitarian operation for them and their families.

Slowly we are getting students back to visit the school. We had hoped to be able to start classes, but there have been many interruptions to the plans, caused by uncertainty and security concerns in the city. The interim administration Education Bureau has stated that we should operate as we did during Covid (as this is still an issue). Therefore, we invite students into school with a parent. We feed them, conduct a health check, find out about their family situation and give them schoolwork to do at home as well as a food package of some healthy food as well as hygiene items. Most people have been living solely on carbohydrate for the last months and have not even been able to buy soap.

This humanitarian effort is helping about 10,000 people: the school staff and students and their immediate families.

Our staff are also busy in the garden, growing vegetables and older students are in school, playing football, basketball and other activities.

"Normal" is still a long way away, but we are trying to help the community as much as possible.

Thanks to the help of a friend who works for an international aid organisation and who was in Mekele, recently, we have been able to receive some video clips from the school and we have produced a short video where the staff express their thanks.

<https://youtu.be/CqnPn4QFcWI>

Appeal

We have lost almost all the income that the school received for the 300 children sponsored by a local company which has stopped operating due to the civil war.

500 students at the school are already sponsored by friends of Rainbows4children. Now we are looking to find sponsors for these 300 children of all ages. If you are willing to take on a student, or if you are already a sponsor and could kindly recommend us to a friend, please write to Kathryn at kwrlachen27@gmail.com or info@rainbows4children.org and we will send you the details.

Thank you to the many supporters who have already donated so generously to help support the food programme that we are running at the school.

Please continue to help us by sponsoring a student, to ensure the sustainability of the school which acts as a beacon of hope for the future for everyone in the region.

Many thanks for your great support