

This report is a short summary of the activities of Rainbows4Children in the year 2018. 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 2018

Throughout the primary and secondary schools, we continued to build informal eating areas for the students. 2018 was also a year when some essential maintenances was carried out. Most notably for the toilets in the primary and kindergarten schools. The sanitaryware and doors were badly damaged and are now replaced. Thanks to a donation from Aqua Pura, we are now able to provide drinking water in our primary school, reclaimed from rainwater or well water, that has been stored in the 100,000L rainwater collection tank. At the end of 2018 a borehole was drilled in the secondary school, sponsored by the Relief Society of Tigray (REST). We will not be able to use it effectively until the well is properly capped by another department in the organisation, but then it will offer us opportunities to grow more crops on the land.



Borehole drilling in progress



Water purification, primary school Hand washing trough, secondary school



2. Students and performance

In the school year 2018-19, the student registration was 294 students in the kindergarten, 784 students in the primary school (grades 1-8) and 402 students in the Secondary School (grades 9-12). A total of 1480 students. 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. 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. Nicolas Youth & Adult Learning Centre (NYALC)

In February 2017 formal training started in hospitality in the Nicolas Youth & Adult Training Centre, and by the end of 2018, 4 cycles had completed their training, students, who chose to taken the test, all passed their Certificate of Competence exam and were able to gain employment in local hotels, restaurants and cafes. We also provided practical training for 2 weeks for students of Mekele



University Hotel Management Course. This will be repeated in 2019. In 2019 we will add training in ICT for managers and office workers and entrepreneurship training for all our students.

4. Sponsorship programme

By the end of 2018, 450 students were sponsored to go to school through the Rainbows4Children sponsorship programme thus giving them a chance that their families could not otherwise afford. In addition, 50 sponsored school students are also now sponsored in their University studies, after they left the school. We still need 400 more sponsors.

5. 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. We have a new sponsor since 2017, who has promised to continue to support the food programme.



KG children enjoying their milk in the eating room

6. Volunteers

During 2018 approximately 20 volunteers from Europe gave their time and skills to teach science, English, sport and teaching techniques. We continually have a need for volunteers and thank those who visited in 2017 for their great support. They really make a difference. PUM provided 2 volunteers for 2 weeks in 2018. Johan visited to train food preparation and Bram taught serving at table. Our training facility is appreciated as an excellent place for the training and we hope this will continue in 2019. In 2018, there was no budget for Farmer2Farmer volunteers, but later in the year it was confirmed we will have the opportunity again in 2019 and once the borehole is capped we will take advantage of this.

7. 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. We operate a "special fund" to cope with emergency care for critical cases and also to support families and our students who are experiencing difficulties in their lives at home. The successful intervention to save a young student diagnosed with leukaemia in 2014 was one success of the fund and our supporters.

8. Fund raising activities in 2018

Our annual Swiss fundraiser raised about CHF 80,000. This is the primary single fund-raising event of Rainbows4children.

A supporter who walked 111km to the South Pole with a sled raised £ 17,000 to provide new computers for the school (supplied by Computer Aid International, a charity that refurbishes computers)

The charity shop in Stade, Germany (sales of second hand clothes and household items) closed, but they have kept their German registered foundation active to enable German tax payers to make donations through them and benefit from tax deductions.



9. Legal and accounting

The statements of the 2018 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 2018 were:-

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

UK: John Bateson, Paul Reynolds, Philip Stockbridge, Kathryn Robinson, Richard Max Robinson.

Reported by:

Kathryn Robinson

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