

Friends of the Hudad Inc.

Annual Report for AGM Dec 2019

ETHIOPIAN ACTIVITIES – Addis Ababa, Lalibela and the Hudad

Trips conducted by Foth Committee members and volunteers in October 2018, Feb 2019 and May 2019

There were 3 trips completed during the past 15 months, where FoTH Committee members continued to liaise with, and support, Lalibela office and staff as well as local Woreda government departments, and volunteers worked with the local community to continue building the Selimbiye Primary School as well as continuing the Water and Land Management component of the project.

1. October 2018 trip

ABLUTION BLOCK

- Foth President Madge Alexandra along with a small group of volunteers from Australia and America continued work on the School ablution block during the October 2018 Hudad trip. This included construction of the concrete floor slab, building timber wall frames and roof frame, and cladding walls and roof with corrugated steel sheeting.

SECOND CLASSROOM

- Stone was quarried for the 2nd classroom and the black basalt foundation stones were laid. At this stage it was not clear if the classroom construction would continue as HQ had issues with funding.

COMMUNITY MARKET GARDEN

- The first crops including beetroot, carrots, lettuce, cabbage that had been planted in June 2018 were being prepared for harvest when the volunteers arrived in October. The success of the crop was a big incentive to the local farmers to look after their investment. Further areas had been cultivated and the fencing had been adjusted to incorporate the additional crops. The water system was being used to full advantage.

WATER SYSTEM

- Ongoing employment of 2 female water monitors to check the pipeline each day and read and record water usage from the meters ensured the success of the water system.

2. Feb 2019 trip

SCHOOL BUILDING

- A small group of volunteers from Australia led by Committee member Dean McLaren met at the Hudad in February 2019 to continue work on the walls of the second classroom, after securing additional funding. Along with local labour they built the stone walls to the roof pitching height and installed the window frames. Stone had been quarried prior to the volunteers arrival, but had to be shaped and laid.
- Continued employment of 6 male guards to keep the school site secure with extended duties to tend the vegetable garden and maintain the grounds and classroom.

COMMUNITY MARKET GARDEN

- Harvested crops were sold to other communities nearby. Profits were made and cash was deposited in newly set up bank account in Lalibela, and administered by the community committee.

3. May 2019 trip and beyond

- 4 members of the Foth committee – Jacqueline Exton, Conrad Exton, Jodie Woolcock and Madge Alexandra - along with a number of volunteers travelled to the Hudad to finish the construction phase of the project.

ABLUTIONS BLOCK

- During this trip the ablutions block was completed by the installation of vent pipes, rendering the pits, and fabrication and installation of the pit covers. Initial training in the use of the composting toilet system was given to the students and teachers.

SECOND CLASSROOM

- The roof trusses were fabricated and installed, roof sheeting fixed in position, desks were made and carried up the mountain, polycarbonate windows were ordered from Addis and installed after the volunteers departed.
- Students were given socks, exercise books, pencil cases and pens and pencils.

REPORTING – ETHIOPIA & AUSTRALIA

1. Continued liaison with Ethiopian Education Department and Water office regarding all facets of School and water system construction and operation. A meeting was conducted at the Hudad with the community and representatives from the Education Dept and Water Office. The Govt representatives have given Foth the invitation to continue any involvement with the school and water project on an informal basis.
2. All local financial and activity reporting is up to date and submitted to relevant authorities.
3. HQ is waiting on final reports from Sisay regarding winding up of the project with the relevant Ethiopian Authorities.
4. Foth NGO has been terminated in Ethiopia and the Charity has been de-registered in Addis.
5. The Lalibela Office has been closed and all office equipment has been handed over to the Ethiopian Govt.
6. There is still some uncertainty about the tools and equipment belonging to Foth and currently in the possession of Sisay. This is a matter that has not been successfully resolved at this time.