



Dande Elementary School Construction Project

Tigray, Raya Azebo

September 2020

Background

- Dande is a small town located about 19 kilometers southeast of Mekoni and 5 kilometers east of Machare in Raya Azebo wereda, Southern Tigray Region in Ethiopia. Dimtsi Weyane (DW) from Tigray media first reported the issues about this school. Subsequently additional information was collected from regional administrators and individuals familiar with the region.
- According to the report, the school accommodates kindergarten (0 class) to grade 4. Upon further investigation, it provides basic education for about 144 children; 70 boys and 74 girls. However, its old stick-reinforced mud walls have deteriorated leaving large holes on the walls and exposing the students to wind and dust. The blackboards are riddled with holes with very limited space left for the teachers to write on. At the time of this documentation, it was not clear if bathrooms or running water exist in this school.
- The most dire situation that caught the attention of our Raya community here in North America was that most of the children, after completing grade four, have to choose either to quit school or walk 10 kilometers each day to the nearest town of Machare to resume their education beyond grade 4. The boys who are forced to quit usually go back to farming and herding cattle, as it is the natural transition for the boys in the area. The girls on the other hand are subjected to domestic services, helping out on household chores until they are married off to husbands who are, in most cases, much older than themselves and often subjected to childbearing at a very early age. Almost all of the children who quit the school never retain the basic language and arithmetic skills they learnt in grade 4. According to DW's investigative report, the girls who walk the 10 km trip through bushes and forests between Dande and Machare for further education are often exposed to abductions and disappearance.

Objective

- Even though, substandard schools and inadequate educational facilities are persistent problems in this area, the conditions that the children at Dande School are enduring require immediate intervention with the following objectives:
- A/ To reduce the illiteracy rate by providing education, at least up to grade six, to help them permanently retain what they learn if they are not able to continue beyond grade six
- B/ For those who want to continue education beyond primary education, the extra two years will help them to physically develop to be able to travel the 10-kilometer journey to the next town.

Project Site



Dande School Today



Dande School Today



The Plan

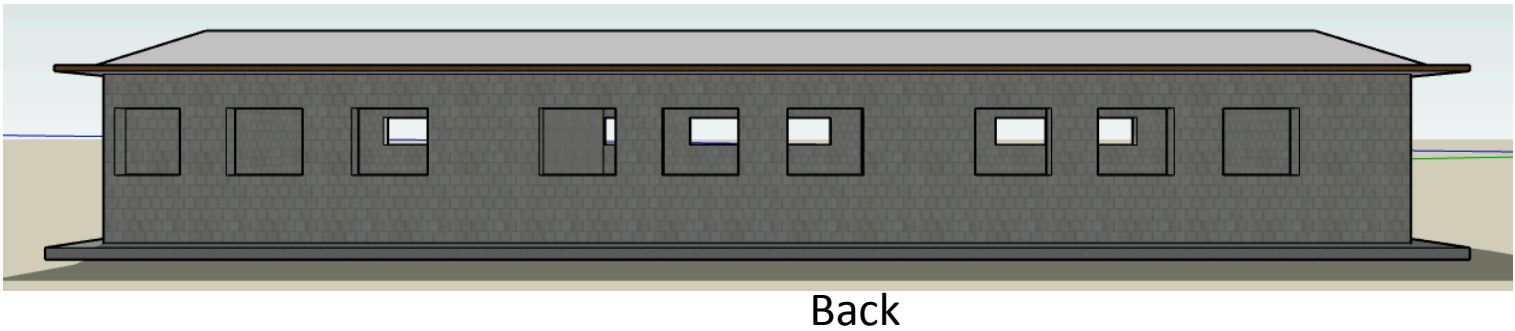
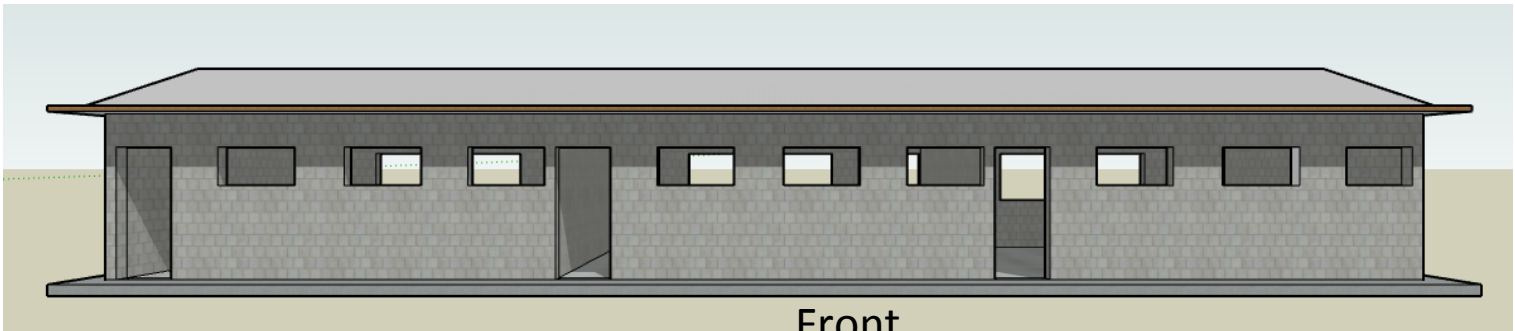
- Six Class Rooms
- Two offices for Teachers
- Two bathrooms for Boys and Girls

Aerial View of Plan



Location of bathrooms and offices may change due to the presence of gorge nearby

Architectural Layout



Cost & Schedule

Project Schedule and Estimated Budget

Phase	Start Date	End Date	BAC (Birr)
Initiation/Initial Payment	2020-09-01	2020-10-07	\$300,000
Planning & Substructure	2020-10-08	2020-12-07	\$900,000
Construction / Superstructure	2020-12-08	2021-02-28	1,200,000
Closing/Finishing	2021-03-01	2021-03-31	\$600,000
Total			\$3,000,000

Project Team

Dande School Construction Project Oversight Committee - Mekoni & Dande

	Title	First Name	Last Name	Local Role	Project Role
1	Mr.	Hayelom Tesfay	Abadi	Dande School Director/Principal	Bank Signatory/Project Manager
2	Mr.	Eyasu	Negus	Community Rep.	Bank Signatory
3	Haleka	Gebresilassie	Belay	Kushet/Village Administrator	Bank Signatory
4	Mr.	Redae	Mehari	Community Rep.	Bank Signatory
5	Mr.	Haftu	Gebrehiwot	Chairman / Community Leader	Member
6	Mr.	Guish	Negash	Dande School Teacher	Member

Dande School Construction Project Team - North America

	Title	First Name	Last Name	Local Role	Project Role
1	Dr.	Teka	Negusse	USA Project Leader	Project Sponsor
2	Eng.	Abraham	Beyene	Chariman, RDA Canada	Project Sponsor
3	Mr.	Abraham Haile	Haile Gebregzi	Public Relations, RDA Canada	Project Manager
4	Ms.	Hadas	Abay	RDA Canada	Coordinator/Fundraising
5	Mr.	Dawit	Abay	USA	Coordinator/Fundraising
6	Ms.	Zewdi	Redaey	RDA Canada	Lead FundraisingCoordinator
7	Mr.	Zealelem	Taddesse	USA	Coordinator/Fundraising
8	Mr.	Abayrga Koro	Hagos	USA	Coordinator/Liaison
9	Mr.	Tekalign	Atsbeha	RDA Canada	Coordinator/Fundraising

Donors - Thank You!

#	Name	USD	CND	Pledged/Recievd
1	Sister Azenegash Hailu & Mr Abebe	\$ 5,000.00		Received
2	Dr Teka Niguse	\$ 300.00		Received
3	Bhefta & Abayrga	\$ 200.00		Received
4	Zelalem Tadesse	\$ 150.00		Received
5	Sisters Zewidi & Hadigu Canada		\$ 100.00	Received
6	Mehari Berihun	\$ 100.00		Received
7	Tola Robso	\$ 100.00		Received
8	Ashenafi Ale	\$ 100.00		Received
9	Tadele Abadi	\$ 100.00		Received
10	Dr. Gerezgiher Asheber	\$ 300.00		Received
11	Hailekiros Habtu	\$ 100.00		Received
12	Mengesh Kiros	\$ 100.00		Received
13	Selomon Tadesse	\$ 100.00		Received
14	Abraham Baraki	\$ 100.00		Received
15	Hailesilasse Godfay	\$ 100.00		Received
16	Dr. Zewdu Ayenew	\$ 100.00		Received
17	Kahsu Gidey	\$ 100.00		Received
18	Abraham Gebrezigi		\$ 100.00	Received
19	Tekaligen Atsbiha		\$ 100.00	Received
20	Ale Berwo Kiros	\$ 100.00		Received

Donors - Thank You!

#	Name	USD	CND	Pledged/Recievd
21	Mr. Haile Tsadik	\$ 500.00		Received
22	Kebede Kassa	\$ 100.00		Received
23	Seid Abdu Debesay	\$ 100.00		Received
24	Berhe Tadesse	\$ 200.00		Received
25	Kahsu Shambel	\$ 100.00		Received
26	Abadi Gidey	\$ 100.00		Received
27	Atsede Kiros Siba	\$ 100.00		Received
28	Dr. Solomon Abraham	\$ 200.00		Received
29	Eden Bisewer	\$ 100.00		Received
30	Tedi Sysay	\$ 100.00		Received
31	Hadas Raya		\$ 100.00	Received
32	Hareg Raya		\$ 100.00	Received
33	Kalayu Hailu & Amlesu Kahisay	\$ 100.00		Received
34	Mehari Kalayu	\$ 100.00		Received
35	Mulu Tadesse	\$ 100.00		Received
36	Abeba Kebede and Kahsay Tsegay	\$ 100.00		Received
37	Buru Niguse Shayine	\$ 100.00		Received
38	Luel Kebede		\$ 100.00	Received
39	Asefu Abay	\$ 100.00		Pledged
40	Gidey Amare	\$ 100.00		Received

Donors – Thank You!

#	Name	USD	CND	Pledged/Recievd
41	Weldu Adhana	\$ 100.00		Received
42	Fisum Berhane Gebre	\$ 150.00		Received
43	Mulugeta Gebru	\$ 100.00		Received
44	Getachew Mekonen	\$ 50.00		Received
45	Abraham Beyene		\$ 200.00	Received
46	Birikty	\$ 100.00		Received
47	ATO HAGOS	\$ 100.00		Received
48	Aregawi Tsegay	\$ 100.00		Received
49	Dr.. Tilahun Beyene	\$ 100.00		Received
50	SEYUM, MITKU	\$ 100.00		Received
51	Samuel Kiros Siba		\$ 200.00	Received
52	Atakilti Wubuneh	\$ 150.00		Received
53	Dawit Hadis (Wojig)	\$ 200.00		Received
54	Redae Tafere Kahissay	\$ 100.00		Received
55	MELES GEBRE	\$ 100.00		Received
56	ENGDAESHET, ERMIAS	\$ 100.00		Received
57	Gebrezgi Lema	\$ 200.00		Received
58	Weldu Tadesse Beyene	\$ 100.00		Received
59	Yare Amanuel (EthioAthletics)	\$ 5,000.00		Pledged
60	Raya Development Association in Canada		\$12,000.00	Received
61	Sehin G.Wahid and family	\$ 2,000.00		Received
62	Daniel Gebretsadik		\$ 100.00	Received
	Total	\$18,300.00	\$13,100.00	
	Total Received	\$13,200.00	\$13,100.00	
	Total Pledged	\$ 5,100.00	\$ -	
	Total from USA	\$13,300.00	USD	
	Total from Canada	\$13,100.00	CAN	
	EthioAthletics	\$ 5,000.00	USD	

Contacts

- Zeferu Mesele – Managing Director
- Teka Negusse – Project Sponsor
- Abraham Beyene – Project Sponsor
- Abraham Haile – Project Manager

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults” – F. Douglas

More info: [DW Documentary](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OZMjEABRWk&feature=youtu.be>