



**Dear friends of Project Emmanuel, kind benefactors and foundations!**

At the end of the year 2017 I can look back on a many-colored path full of adventurous steps—so it is time for a **retrospective, determining our position and taking a look at the future** in the association and for Project Emmanuel.



At this point I would like to thank you all once again on behalf of Emmanuel for your committed support (donations, practical help, feedback, prayers). With those, you are giving disabled persons in Ethiopia **life-changing help, encouragement, hope and a perspective for the future.** You can find further details in the annual retrospective and the newsletters ([www.Project-emmanuel.ch](http://www.Project-emmanuel.ch)). The annual financial report will follow in the spring of 2018. In addition, the board of Verein Emmanuel is ready to provide any information you might require.

**Annual Retrospective 2017 Project Emmanuel Soddo:**

While I was preparing this year's annual report, I read the newsletters and previous annual reports and was very surprised—surprised about what has become of the beginnings and the first dreams of Project Emmanuel, despite all of the hurdles and challenges, with many small and large steps of development, thanks to the great support of very many individual donators, foundations and the friends of Project Emmanuel.

A personal highlight and precious gift for me (Rahel Röthlisberger) was this year's project trip. I was finally able to see all of the disabled project members again who had grown very dear to me during the previous years. I would like to select three specific encounters:



Tamirat and his family 10/17 \*\*\*\*\* Visiting Dibora’s foster family 10/17



Tamirat’s former toilet \*\*\*\*\* Dibora 2 years ago with her first prostheses ☺

- **Dibora:** In 2015, Melese told me about this small girl who had lost both feet after falling into a fire. A patient from the general medicine practice in Switzerland donated money for foot prosthetics. In the meantime, Melese found a loving foster family who takes care of Dibora because her own family is too poor. Dibora wears her foot prostheses and no one notices that she has no feet. She happily attends school! We visited her at her foster family’s home on the outskirts of Soddo.

- **Tamirat:** In 2015, I visited the highly disabled craftsman in his hut. He could hardly feed his family. Thanks to the Tagrow Bajaj taxi, Tamirat can now work at Emmanuel’s mobility aid workshop as a carpenter. He states joyfully: On payday, his two children each received an egg and he was able to procure a light bulb for his wife for the dark living room. The walls of his hut are now painted in a bright yellow ☺.

- **Zerihun:** For a long time, his family hid him in a dark room because they thought he was a disgrace. Today, he sits in a wheelchair and works in the mobility aid workshop, where he also has food, community, appreciation and dignity.

I am always very moved by how much the gift of a mobility aid means for a penniless beggar—the life stories in the attachment tell about this (the BENEVOL FUND is a valuable vessel that provides mobility and much thankfulness!).

**Taking Our Bearings—What is Project Emmanuel Today (Status December 2017)**

Project Emmanuel remains a **vision and commitment to benefit the disabled in Ethiopia**— providing **jobs, income, food, accommodations, community, appreciation and dignity.**

Project Emmanuel today consists of the following structures and work sectors:

**Workshop (mobility aids, food, clothing production), IGA (income-generating activities), transportation, “Home for the homeless”**



### Workshop 1: Mobility Aid Manufacturing:

- Workspaces for 20 disabled men and two women:
- Production: mobility aids (wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, Twikes (hand-driven bicycles for the disabled) custom-made implements, bed frames for hospitals
- Carpentry (wooden crutches, chairs, tables, furniture)
- Sewing (clothing, cloths)
- Customers: hospitals (Soddo Christian Hospital and other regional hospitals)
- Disabled persons: purchase or gifting of mobility aids (to penniless disabled persons thanks to the BENEVOL FUND)
- Info: The BENEVOL FUND is funded by donations from Switzerland. Destitute disabled persons receive crutches, wheelchairs, or urgent operations. The BENEVOL FUND also finances regular support of the Mother Theresa Hospital in Addis. Every two months, Project Emmanuel delivers 2 wheelchairs and 20 pairs of crutches to the 500-bed hospital for the poor "Sidst Kilo". In this "Home for sick & dying destitutes", Mother Theresa nurses provide medical care to the destitute beggars in the Ethiopian capital.



### Mobility aid workshop: food, accommodations, community for 20 disabled men and 2 women

- Workshop staff receive three meals a day and can sleep on mattresses in the workshop—that means belonging, integration, thankfulness and joy, and friends!

Cooperation Project Emmanuel + Soddo Christian Hospital: Coaching for Project Emmanuel with hospital managers like Duane Anderson (orthopedic surgeon), Gary Vanderkooi (accountant), Temesgegn (Workshop & Technician) and Ato Desalegn Enaro (CEO SCH): daily joint orthopedic hospital visits (Duane Anderson/Orthopedics and Melese Eyob Heramo, Emmanuel Manager and former SCH physiotherapist and orders for mobility aids from the SCH Hospital to Emmanuel.



- Shop on the SCH Hospital grounds (run by Muse/Project Emmanuel): Sale of mobility aids, disinfection material and bandages to hospital patients and external customers

Below l.: in the shop: r. to l. Rahel, Melese, Muse (salesman) \*\*\* below r.: Exterior view of shop



**Challenges and Future Outlook for the Mobility Workshop:**

- Profitability: The mobility aid production is currently being subventioned by Verein Emmanuel Switzerland. The goal is a cost-covering mobility aid production (expansion of customer base with regular deliveries to hospitals in the area; expansion of the BENEVOL FUNDS to provide free mobility aids to destitute disabled persons)
- Creation of further housing for workshop employees, because the authorities want to prohibit any meals and overnight stays in the workshop in the future...



**Workshop 2: Food Production:**

- Workplaces for around 20 disabled women (and a few men):
- Meals, accommodations, community for around 20 disabled men and women: Around 20 disabled women work in the food production workshop. There, they receive at least three meals a day and sleeping accommodations (mattresses on the floor) and enjoy the daily working and living community. Some non-disabled men help with the physically difficult work (for example beating the dough).
- Production: traditional foods such as injera (flatbread), umbasha (white bread), Kukus (fried snack) and kollo (roasted grains).
- Sales in the workshop's own shop/snack bar and to private persons as well as external business customers such as bakeries, stores, hotels and the city market.
- Generator: we were able to get this going thanks to a dedicated donation in December 2017. The generator helps to compensate the regular power failures, prevent loss of prepared foods and make dependable deliveries to other large customers.
- Supply replenishment and deliveries to city customers are currently being made with the project's own Tagrow Bajaj mini taxi.

Strong men rolling out and kneading dough!



Frying master for Kukus



Umbasha oven with head baker



Food shop 😊



Laying out products \*\*\*\* Products offered: kollo, kukus, umbasha, injera...



A peek at the food workshop hall (below l.)\*\*\*\*\* (below r.) Kukus is cut into strips



### Challenges and Future Perspectives:

- Profitability: The food production is currently being subventioned by Verein Emmanuel Schweiz so that the special jobs for disabled persons can be maintained. The medium-term goal still remains an own independent, cost-covering and profit-generating food production (by adapting prices to the current inflation, compensation of power failures and food loss thanks to the generator, expansion of the circle of regular major customers (such as the university, government offices, hotels); we will soon be needing a larger truck for transports to the latter.

- Creation of further housing for the workshop employees, because the authorities want to prohibit eating meals and overnighting in the workshop in the future...see under "Emmanuel Center".



### Microcredit-based Income-generating Activities (MCA):

- Due to the construction and expansion of both workshops with over 40 workplaces equipped for the disabled, most of the former MCA program participants quit their independent income-generating activities (i.e. food salesperson, craftsmen) and became employees in one of the two workshops (mobility aid manufacturing and food production). The small incomes generated by the MCA were often not enough to pay for food and accommodations (the rents in Soddo are very expensive), not to speak of covering the very basic daily needs (soap, for example). On the other hand, the workshop employees not only have regular work but also three meals a day and the possibility of spending the night in the workshop in simple accommodations.

- The exceptions are the two shoeshine men and a few street kiosk salespersons who continue to work independently. Verein Emmanuel has therefore decided not to expand the MCA Project and to create more jobs at the workshops. See Workshop 3.

### Workshop 3: Garment and Leather Goods Production?

A third large workshop hall was offered to Project Emmanuel by the city authorities; the Project management team plans to start textile work there (manufacturing garments and leather items). Verein Emmanuel Schweiz will evaluate the equipping of this third workshop (machines, water and electricity, production material) as soon as the first two workshops are well established.

(r.) The future third workshop for garment and leather goods production? \*\* A watchman



### Transportation: motorcycle and mini taxi Tagrow Bajaj :

- Melese's motorcycle serves as transportation for people (Melese, board members, the disabled) and material (crutches), the mini taxi Tagrow Bajaj is used to transport people and goods (purchases and deliveries). Both are used almost around the clock and we cannot imagine the work with and for the disabled without them anymore!
- The mini taxi is too weak for greater distances (for example procuring materials for mobility aid production in Addis, deliveries to hospitals in the surrounding areas) and greater volumes/weights. We are currently using rental vehicles and considering purchasing a cheap, used delivery truck.



### Organization, Structures and Coaching of Project Emmanuel Soddo:

- Since the summer of 2017, Melese Eyob Heramo has now been the full-time manager of Project Emmanuel Soddo, supported by the local leadership team of five other disabled persons. The project management of Emmanuel, close cooperation with SCH (orthopedics, accounting) and many other tasks are handled by Melese and the management team, supported by SCH managers (Duane Anderson/Coaching, orthopedics), Gary Vanderkooi (accounting) as well as Verein Emmanuel Switzerland.

THANKS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GREAT COMMITMENT!

Gary the accountant\*\*\*\*\* Diligent accounting \*\*\*\*\*Rahel and Duane the orthopedist



**EMMANUEL CENTER – Home for the Homeless?**

The need for further housing for (homeless) disabled persons continues: The construction of the EMMANUEL Center was begun in the summer of 2017 and we expect it to be completed in 2018. I am once again amazed: in the older annual reports I usually wrote about the dream for a “Home for the homeless”, with the remark that this “dream of own housing was probably a bit too ambitious” for Project Emmanuel. Barely two years later, the house is almost finished!

Status of the construction in October 2017... two years earlier, it was just a dream!



**Retrospective 2017 Verein Emmanuel Switzerland:**

Verein Emmanuel Switzerland can also look back on an active year with many activities, for example:

- Documentation (project flyer, newsletters, powerpoints, new website, English translations)
- Presentations on Project Emmanuel; fundraising events in groups, churches, groups of friends; applications to foundations for financial support; sales of charity cheese
- Joint project development with our project manager Melese and hospital cadres Duane and Gary
- Project trip and evaluation (Bernard Junod, Rahel Röthlisberger) in October 2017
- Networking and exchanges with other charity organizations (for the disabled) in Ethiopia



To symbolize being on the road with Project Emmanuel: a few photos of the adventurous trip overland through the bush (for more, see travel report 10/17!)

There would be so much more to write. But enough for today. At the end, I would like to express **many heartfelt THANKS** on behalf of the disabled in Ethiopia! So many friends and helpful "elves" are in the background, unnamed and anonymous benefactors, sponsors, churches and foundations, Henriette Ludwig for the English translations, Jurg Roth for his IT services and the website, the board for hours of meetings, documentation, accounting and so much more.

Together, may we continue to give hope and an outlook to people on the fringes of the (Ethiopian) community—EMMANUEL-He is with us. In everything.

**Project Emmanuel is: challenges, dedication, excitement, sacrifice, thrills, adventures with unknown ends, a great gift! Wishing you and all of us that EMMANUEL, He be with us.**

Rahel Röthlisberger, President; Esther Schaller, Vice president; Bernard Junod, Treasurer Verein Emmanuel

#### INFOS AND LINKS – SAVE THE DATE:

- **Annual General Meeting 2018:** Saturday, April 7, 2018 (as from 5 p.m.), Worblaufen: Members and interested persons are warmly welcome. The invitation will follow.
- **Presentations 2018:** the board of Verein Emmanuel is available for presentations
- Project Emmanuel has been chosen as the **annual charity project 2018** of AWC (American Women's Club Bern)
- Sale of **charity cheese:** Please email your orders to rahel\_medizin@gmx.ch
- **Website Project Emmanuel:** [www.Project-emmanuel.ch](http://www.Project-emmanuel.ch) with **forms and newsletters**
- **Membership in Verein Emmanuel Schweiz:** new members are always welcome!
- **Donations:** Payment slips (Postfinance account: Verein Emmanuel, 3472 Wynigen IBAN CH49 0900 0000 8971 0260 0 / Acct. no. 89-710260-0) tax exempt all over Switzerland since August 15, 2015 – THANKS!!!

#### Attachments:

- **Flyer Project Emmanuel**
- **Life Stories – Charity Recipients Tell Their Stories (BENEVOL FUND)**
- **Travel diary Rahel Röthlisberger October 2017** (in German only) & **Newsletter No. 7**
- **Payment slips for donations to Verein Emmanuel Schweiz**



Emmanuel-a close-knit crew greets you! Thank you very much!