



## Project Emmanuel and Association



Annual Report 2019

### **Dear Friends of Project Emmanuel, kind benefactors and foundations!**

With this 2019 Annual Report, I would like to thank you all for your support, your donations and prayers in the past year. Thanks to all those things, disabled persons in Ethiopia receive mobility aids and operations, work and incomes, a roof over their heads, appreciation and fellowship. Countless marginalized disabled persons thus receive **life-changing help, encouragement, hope and an outlook for the future.**



*Meeting at the men's workshop and visiting the shoe shiners (Visit October 2019)*

The Annual Report 2019 contains a summary of the events of the past year as well as an outlook on the activities of Project Emmanuel Ethiopia & Verein Emmanuel Schweiz for this year. Further information: see our website ([www.Project-emmanuel.ch](http://www.Project-emmanuel.ch)) & our newsletters. The 2019 financial report will be issued in the spring of 2020.

### **Retrospective 2019 Project Emmanuel Soddo/Ethiopia:**

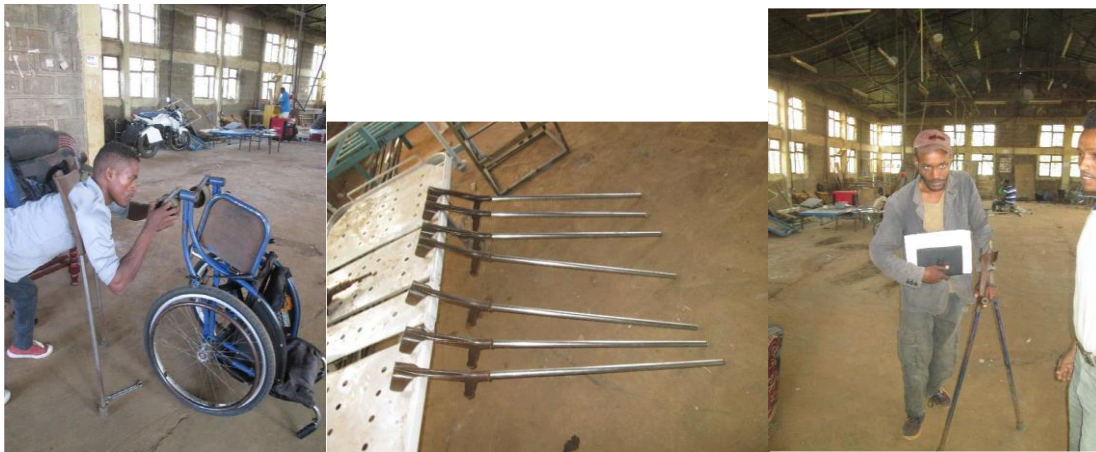
In the past year, our project activities were again focused on Project Emmanuel's goals.

#### **Our commitment to the disabled in Ethiopia**

- **providing mobility aids such as crutches, wheelchairs, leg braces and prostheses as well as orthopedic surgery**
- **creation of workplaces suited to disabled persons**
- **income, food, shelter for disabled persons**
- **providing acknowledgment and dignity, integration of disabled persons into the Emmanuel community, and integration into society**

**Activities 2019 Project Emmanuel Soddo/Ethiopia:**

- **Production of mobility aids (wheelchairs, crutches)** in Emmanuel's mobility aid workshop
- **Sale of mobility aids** to hospitals and NGOs (Soddo Christian Hospital, Otona & Hawassa Hospital)
- **Support Fund** (formerly BENEVOL FUNDS):
  - o For disabled persons without financial means: free mobility aids, operations, leg braces, prostheses
  - o For the Mother Teresa Hospital for the Poor in Addis: donation of 20 sets of crutches and 2 wheelchairs a month



- **Jobs:** mobility aid workshop (W1: 20 disabled men); food production (W2: 20 disabled women), small businesses (shoe shiners, street kiosk salespersons: 5 disabled men; 2 disabled seamstresses)
- A large fire in the **mobility aid workshop** in the spring of 2019 destroyed almost of the supplies, machines and tools and cost the life of one worker. Thanks to enormous solidarity and generous donations, the mobility aid workshop was rebuilt and was able to get back to business within a few months. Thanks to all of you.
- The mobility aid workshop received several large orders from hospitals and was able to sell mobility aids to them. Aside from this, mobility aids are given to needy disabled persons for free, funded by donations from the Swiss support fund.
- The women's workshop is running well, the food items are sold to different customers in the city and the business is self-sustaining. The small entrepreneurs are also working independently and on their own accounts.





- The workshop workers receive free lodging and meals. The costs of room and board are covered by profits from sales and donations from Switzerland.
- The women's house (self-constructed) and the men's house (former staff lodgings of the SCH Hospital), which was acquired in the summer of 2019, are available as lodgings for Project Emmanuel. Individual disabled persons are housed in government social housing (= huts).



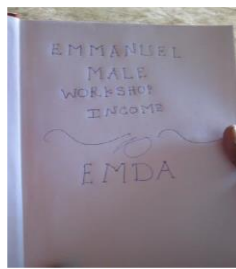
Photos above: Nighttime accommodations, people with their few worldly goods – Evening snack in the women's quarters (power failure!)

Photos below: Dormitory in the men's house – Mesfin & family in the Government Rent House (social housing)

- In the Project Emmanuel community, many rejected disabled persons from the street find a home, appreciation and dignity. There is much joy and thankfulness, thanks to all of you, who give them many new outlooks with your donations!



- Management & Organization of Emmanuel Soddo: Melese Eyob Heramo (a physiotherapist with polio) is the manager and is supported by a 5-person management team, who all are disabled.
- Their tasks include: project management (organization and supervision of the workshops, maintenance of the lodgings, information to hospitals, public officials, and disabled persons about what Project Emmanuel offers, outreaches = visiting villages and doing “assessments”; setting up lists of needy disabled persons who should receive mobility aids or surgery, thanks to the support fund; working with the SCH (Soddo Christian Hospital) and municipal authorities, and much more. Communications with Verein Emmanuel Schweiz, regular documentation and reports belong to the management team’s duties. In November 2019, Bereket was hired as an assistant and secretary.



DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	TOTAL
1.10.2019	SALES (MEN'S)	1000	1000
2.10.2019	SALES (WOMEN'S)	1500	2500
3.10.2019	SALES (MEN'S)	1200	3700
4.10.2019	SALES (WOMEN'S)	1800	5500
5.10.2019	SALES (MEN'S)	1400	6900
6.10.2019	SALES (WOMEN'S)	1600	8500

*Bookkeeping at Emmanuel: income and expenses are recorded in notebooks (l. to r. women's workshop, store, men's workshop)*

- Cooperation with SCH (Soddo Christian Hospital): Project Emmanuel receives lots of practical support from SCH: Orders for mobility aids for orthopedic Hospital patients; mobility aids are sold on the hospital premises at the Emmanuel Sales Shop. Hospital employees regularly support Project Emmanuel: Duane Anderson (Orthopedic surgeon at SCH, serves as a mentor and provides contacts to other hospitals); Gary Vanderkooi (bookkeeper for SCH, helps Emmanuel with accounting and reporting); Ato Abraham (lawyer at SCH, photo below r.) helps with legal issues and set up the lease contract for the men's house. In October 2019, I was also able to personally meet Kurt, the new CEO Assistant of the SCH Hospitals.
- The excellent cooperation with the cadres of the SCH Hospital is valuable for Emmanuel Switzerland in order to be able to develop projects.
- Transportation: the 2 vehicles we have had up to now (Melese's motorcycle and the Tagrow Bagaj minitaxi) are used daily; in addition, we use rented vehicles (e.g. to deliver goods to distant hospitals).





### Outlook 2020 Project Emmanuel Soddo: Goals and Activities

- **Mobility aid workshop:** Information on the mobility aids Emmanuel offers via media to hospitals, relief organizations and the disabled, expanding the customer base for the sale of mobility aids
- Village visits: compiling lists of needy disabled persons (already in 2019, different villages in the Soddo area were visited and hundreds of poor disabled persons were registered; thanks to donations from the support fund, these persons will receive mobility aids and operations.)
- Expansion of wheelchair and crutch production in the mobility aid workshop
- Expansion of the support fund (BENEVOL FUND)
- Expansion of cooperation with orthopedic hospitals and organizations:
  - o Soddo Christian Hospital SCH: orthopedic surgery for adult disabled persons; costs borne by the support fund (BF Emmanuel) for needy patients
  - o CURE Hospital Addis: free surgery for disabled children: costs for transport to and lodgings at the Hospital are covered by the support fund (BF Emmanuel)
  - o Arba Minch & Awassa Orthopedic Workshop: Leg braces and prostheses for the disabled: costs for treatment, transport and lodging covered by the support fund (BF Emmanuel)



*Village visits (outreach & assessment): needy disabled persons are registered for the support fund*

### Food Workshop:

- Expansion of customer base and the range of foods offered
- Taking on additional disabled female workers for the workshop
- Expansion of infrastructure: buying a second emergency power generator and a second small transport vehicle (Isuzu Bagaj) to increase production and transportation capacity
- Isuzu Bagaj offer, 2nd generator, future family house?



Isuzu Bagaj



Offer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generator



Future family house?

**Lodgings:**

- Construction of accommodations for disabled persons with families; for cultural reasons, they cannot live together with unmarried men or women (land offer from city)

**Transportation:**

- Procuring a further minitaxi, type Isuzu Bagaj, to transport goods and people
- Continuing and expanding previous activities of Project Emmanuel, so that many more marginalized disabled persons can receive mobility aids, work, housing, appreciation and dignity, under EMMANUEL's own chosen motto: "Disability is not inability – GOD is with us".

**Verein Emmanuel Schweiz Retrospective & Activities 2019:**

- Aside from a comprehensive exchange of communication with Manager Melese, the local management team, bookkeeper Gary Vanderkooi, Coach & Mentor Duane Anderson (the last two are from the SCH Hospital), the fire at the workshop in the spring of 2019 and the reconstruction of the mobility aid workshop greatly challenged the committee.
- In October 2019, I was able to fly to Ethiopia with 6 other eager travelers. Aside from medical work with Bright Future (children's aid project in Addis) and at the Mother Theresa Hospital, we visited the disabled at Project Emmanuel! It is always indescribable for me to be able to hug all of my disabled friends, to visit the workshops and the shoe shiners, to enjoy the hospitality at the men's and women's houses and to meet many needy disabled persons who have been able to receive mobility aids thanks to the support fund (BENEVOL FUND). We would like to extend their great joy and thanks to you all.

**The previous year's highlights:**

- Giving Hope, a painting by Marina Mayr as a gift and encouragement for Emmanuel, exhibition of paintings at Casappella Worblafen
- Confirmation charity project Wynigen "höch use fürne guete Zwäck!" (climbing high for a good cause)
- IGET: Meeting of Swiss relief organizations with commitments to Ethiopia in Aarau in June 2019, with a talk about development cooperation of DEZA (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC) at "Cape Horn"
- Personal exchange and friendships with other aid projects (Selam Children's Village; Mission at the Nile, Leprosy Mission, Womens Hope International, Hope for the children/Kenia)
- Presentations about Project Emmanuel, sale of charity cheese and much more.

There would be lots more to report, so I am happy to tell you more if anyone is interested.

Finally, I would once again like to express **our heartfelt THANKS** to all of our supporters and benefactors on behalf of the disabled in Ethiopia! Friends, donors, sponsors, churches and foundations, Henriette Ludwig for the English translations, Jürg Roth for IT services and the website, the committee for countless hours of meetings, documentation, accounting and much more.

I look forward to the new year 2020 and to experience how Project Emmanuel will help provide new hope and a life perspective to more disabled persons, as well as mobility aids, work, housing and meals, dignity and fellowship. I thank you in advance for your steady and faithful help and support. And I fully endorse the motto that Project Emmanuel has given itself:

EMMANUEL- Disability is not inability! God is with us. Committed to people in need.

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

#### **INFO AND LINKS – SAVE THE DATE:**

- Annual Meeting Verein Emmanuel Schweiz 2020 Friday April 17, 2020, 19hrs at Esther Schaller's home, Rebhaldeweg 4, CH-3472 Wynigen, Switzerland. Members and interested persons are welcome!
- Presentations 2020: the committee of Verein Emmanuel is always available for lectures and presentations
- Sale of charity cheese: Email your order to: rahel\_medizin@gmx.ch
- Website Project Emmanuel: [www.Project-emmanuel.ch](http://www.Project-emmanuel.ch)
- Membership in Verein Emmanuel Schweiz: new members are always welcome!
- Donations: Postfinance account: Verein Emmanuel, 3472 Wynigen
- IBAN CH49 0900 0000 8971 0260 0 / Kto 89-710260-0 – Tax-exempt throughout Switzerland since August 15, 2015

#### **Attachment:**

- Flyer Project Emmanuel
- Payment slip for donations to Verein Emmanuel Schweiz
- Annual Account 2019 – will follow



GIVING HOPE – THE VISION & GOAL OF EMMANUEL