



Construction of the Sona school Interim report October 2020

"STAY THE COURSE, HOLD THE HELM. »

Work is progressing, despite the difficulties

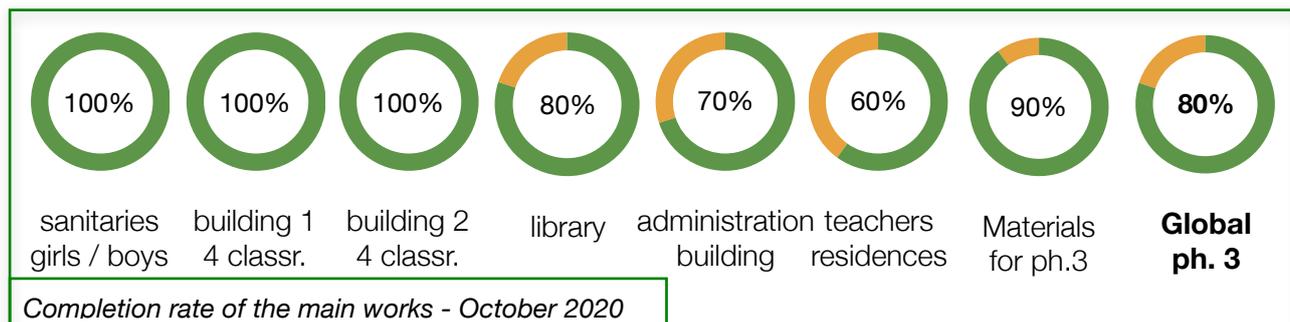
The health crisis at COVID 19, although it has so far not hit African countries and Ethiopia in particular too hard, is nevertheless having a strong impact on the progress of the work. Indeed, the traffic restrictions put in place by the Ethiopian government have made it difficult for artisans and contractors to obtain supplies of materials and access to the Sona school construction site. The social tensions that the country has been experiencing in recent months have not helped matters...

The pandemic has also forced us to cancel our spring trip and the fall trip seems to be in jeopardy. So we have to rely 100% on our team on the spot and in particular on its director Mihret Mitiku and his assistants Agere and Bayu. Fortunately, the team works perfectly well and manages to ensure an efficient follow-up, which we had already mentioned in our March 2020 situation report.

A moderate delay regarding the context

Supply difficulties, particularly in cement, have penalised the construction schedule and caused a delay estimated at three months to date. This means delivery of the completed buildings by the end of 2020 instead of the start of the school year in September. The addition to the initially planned programme of the construction of 15 housing units for teachers has also made the project heavier and more complex, but for good reason! Sona's teachers are following and supporting this project as much as possible!

In any case, the Board of the Foundation expresses its confidence and great gratitude to Mihret team, which knows how to face the difficulties encountered with professionalism and dedication. And with success, since this three-month delay is very reasonable - and did not generate any additional costs - given the magnitude of the challenges met and those to come. And let's not forget that, independently of the school's work, the local *Children in the Cloud* team managed the emergency food aid for Sona's families in difficulty.



Sona's school building site - visit from a distance!

Thanks to the photos taken by Mihret during his visit last week (from 22nd to 24th September), we offer you this virtual tour of the Sona school building site! As a reminder, let's recall that in 2019 2 buildings with a total of 8 classrooms and 2 toilet blocks for girls and boys were built. And that the current construction site includes an "administrative" building (teachers' office, infirmary, community hall), a study library and accommodation for 15 teachers.



More ambitious than ever!

These difficulties not only did not affect our morale, but also boosted our motivation and strengthened our determination! From a distance, we closely monitor the site to support our local team. In Europe, we have been working hard to raise funds - more than ever necessary - as for example with the great success of Ignacio Larrain's photo exhibition in Divonne-les-bains, the 1000 CHF allocated by the Ambassador Club of the Vaudoise Riviera and many other donors in France and Switzerland. We would like to thank them warmly!

New needs are appearing, whether linked to the crisis or not. In addition to food aid, the total and brutal halt in tourist activity has plunged the Simien into a severe economic crisis. The Foundation is standing by its employees and partners to provide them with the help they need for their simple survival. In addition, a sponsorship programme for the most deserving children will be set up to enable them to continue their studies in the town, in Janamora or Debark, in a boarding school. Similarly, the construction of buildings to accommodate high school students (grades 9 to 12) is being studied according to several hypotheses.

Having you on our side is a great opportunity and the good results we are measuring today owe you a lot. The entire Board of the Foundation and the Sona families would like to express their gratitude to you and hope to be able to count on you to meet the challenges ahead!

Montreux - Grenoble on October 30th, 2020,

The Foundation Board

