



Nazareth, Ethiopia

ElectricAid Site Visit to The Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady
ElectricAid Funded Income Generation Projects

Nov 2015

By Tina Pittock, Chairperson of ElectricAid



ElectricAid and the Franciscan Missionary of Our Lady (FMOL)

Since their arrival in Nazareth in the centre of Ethiopia, the FMOL sisters have focused their time and limited resources on the care and support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs), income generating activities for the OVC's guardians and better health care. ElectricAid has funded FMOL's projects 4 times since 2009 (c. €5k - €8k each time).

The following slides outline the 6 home visits that were made to the beneficiaries of ElectricAid funded FMOL projects.



Income Generating Activities

The Loan System

Beneficiaries for the income generation projects are carefully selected by the FMOL sisters, volunteer youth workers and leaders of the district.

For a loan to take place the beneficiary signs a contract and gets their photo taken. The first loan is capped at €100, however once this is repaid they can apply for a second round loan of €125. This process repeats itself once the loan is repaid.

- Round 1: Loan of €100
- Round 2: Loan of €125 subject to repayment of round 1 loan
- Round 3: Loan of €150 subject to repayment of round 2 loan
- Round 4: Loan of €175 subject to repayment of round 3 loan
- Round 5: Loan of €200 subject to repayment of round 4 loan
- Round 6: Loan of €225 subject to repayment of round 4 loan

Aster

Aster is a mother of 3. Her husband died from Aids when her children were very young, leaving her to provide for her family alone.



The loan she has received has allowed her to buy raw cotton from the local market. She spins this raw cotton into thread and uses it to make a cotton fabric which she sells in the market at a profit.



Aster is now on her 4th loan and her business has been very successful.

She has also used the ElectricAid funded loan from FMOL for transport into the countryside to buy alcohol which she sells from her rented one bed room at a marked up rate.



Beletu

Beletu's daughter, son in law and husband are all dead from HIV Aids. She is now the sole guardian of her grandchild, they both live in her little one room home which barely fits a single bed which they share.

The ElectricAid funded loan Beletu received from FMOL has allowed her to start three initiatives.

Firstly she bought her own cotton tree and grew it in the tiny space she rents. She spin's the raw cotton into thread and uses it to make a cotton fabric which she sells in the market at a profit.



Secondly, she uses the loan to buy the raw materials to make baskets used for storing local bread. These she also sells at the market.



Finally she uses the loan to grow her own vegetables.



Beletu is now on her 4th loan and her income generating activites are growing from strength to strength.



Mekiya



Mekiya's has three daughters and one son. Her husband left her seven years ago when her eldest daughter was a baby. The ElectricAid funded loan she has received from FMOL has allowed her to start her own little shop at the corner of her house.

Mekiya is now on her 4th loan and the profit she makes from the shop enables her to provide for her children and send them to school.



One of her three daughters on her way home from school



Mekiya's Shop

Agere



Agere is HIV positive, her husband died of aids a few years ago. She is now alone looking after her 4 children in her rented home which consists of one room with a single bed.

The loan she has received from FMOL has allowed her to start making injera which is the bread that is a staple food in Ethiopia. She makes this bread and sells it locally.

Agere is on her 2nd loan and she continues to supply her neighbours with injera while her health will allow.



Ama

Ama is living in very difficult conditions, she is HIV positive however the side effects of the anti-retroviral drugs have made her paralysed from the waist down. She moves around her rented single room on her hands. Her husband died of HIV Aids several years ago and both her children have abandoned her and married spouses from hundreds of miles away. She depends on an income of €9 per month from renting two rooms close by that she owns.

Ama is too unwell to start any income generation work. FMOL through ElectricAid funding provide her with bed sheets and toiletries. One of the FMOL volunteers brings her food and medicine weekly and carries her on his back when she needs to go to the clinic.



Ama and FMOL's community volunteer who brings her medication and food weekly.

Kelema



Kelema has two beautiful daughters, her husband died of HIV Aids. Sadly her youngest girl is also HIV positive and the antiretroviral medication has affected the movement in her arm and leg. Kalema works in the bean factory during the day trying to make money to support her family, she also looks after some animals for the landlord of the room she rents. FMOL via ElectricAid funding provides bed sheets and toiletries for this family.



Kelema and her daughter who is living with HIV



Kelema's beautiful daughter



KIDANE MEHRET ORPHANAGE

Kidane Mehret Orphanage



Kidane Mehret Orphanage cares for 150 children from new borns to 8 year olds. They are either orphans, children who were abandoned by their parents or children of parents who are both sick with HIV.



Some of the children have severe disabilities and diseases such as cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy and many are HIV positive. They need special care, attention and medication.



Little Elsa is 15 but looks so much younger. She has a brain tumour that has been operated on numerous times but to no success. Recently an American couple tried to adopt her but the doctors advised she wouldn't survive the flight. Funds raised by ElectricAid's special partner Gorta Self Help Africa have helped Elsa live out the rest of her life in as much comfort as possible.



With the right amount of care, love and attention it's amazing how happy the children can be and how fulfilled their lives can become.





Thank You To Our Members For Your Continued Generosity

Tina Pittock

ElectricAid Chairperson