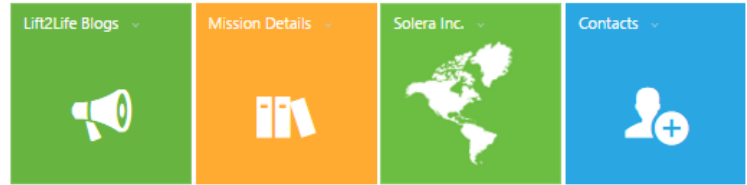


Ethiopia 2014

Mission Blog Andreas Wittig





Ethiopia 2014 Mission Blog Andreas




Solera LIFT to LIFE Mission

Enable Solera associates the opportunity to lead a LIFT to LIFE Mission supporting a cause they are passionate about. Our purpose for doing this is to make a positive contribution that is sustainable in the lives of those in need of a 2nd chance. This will be accomplished by leveraging the associates skills, introducing innovations and leveraging Solera's global footprint for marketing and awareness. We teach the 20 tools in order for recipients to learn and maintain the 80 at the end of our mission. LIFT to LIFE seeks to provide support and awareness to the localized causes of the Solera global family and help strengthen the overall LIFT movement.



- 2015-10-28 Goodbay // Abschied
- 2015-10-28 Work with the team // Die Arbeit mit dem team
- 2015-10-26 What else have we done with our donations? // Was haben wir noch mit unseren Spenden gemacht?
- 2015-10-27 Visit the families of the girls // Besuch der Familien der Mädchen
- 2015-10-26 Bahujan Hitaya gets professional support from friends and family members. //Bahujan Hitaya bekommt professionelle Hilfe von Freunden und Familienmitgliedern.
- 2015-10-25 Rotary Club and Disha
- 2015-10-23 The girls have beds now // Die Mädchen haben jetzt Betten

Andreas Wittig
Implementation Engineer
Audatex Germany




Mission: Be an Ambassador for Solera's LIFT to LIFE by enabling young adults with engaging education tools that will allow them a 2nd chance by furthering their education to facilitate access to jobs.

This will create sustainability by improving their economic and socio status and allow for self-help.

I will work with Global Care as a 20 to operationalize this Mission and create program retention incentives to sustain the movement.

Mission Blog

Olga Wolf
Order Management
Audatex Germany



A long period of time I have been looking for a challenge to give my life a new meaning. As a Solera Lift2life representative I want to spend a part of my lifetime and engage myself to help families, orphans and disadvantaged young people. Especially women in wide poor rural areas around Amravati, India.

I'm very grateful for this opportunity as this will not only allow me to help people in need but will also allow me to grow as a person. I am ready for whatever is waiting for me. I am prepared to be unprepared.

Mission Blog

4 missionary projects to give young adults a 2nd chance

Water



Water provisioning fails regularly. Rain water is collected - but the system is desolate.
Project: Build a well providing enough water.

Electricity



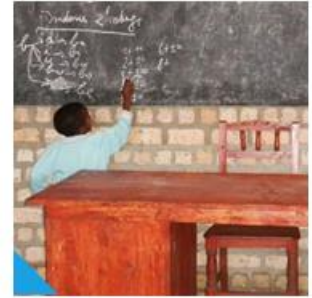
Power supply of the school is interrupted regularly, equipment fails.
Project: save energy, provide stable energy provisioning.

Internet



The school has only sporadic Internet availability. Reasons are manifold.
Project: Setup Internet connection for school.

Primary School



Support elementary school education for young children left alone in the world.
Project: Supply foundation.

Mission Environment

Pupils at Bischoftu School

About 80% of the pupils have no home; they live at the street. Neither the education center nor their private environment can offer daily meals. Much of them are day laborer. Inflation, child labor, prostitution and aids are daily life stories.

The school has capacity of 100 pupils per year. Starting 2010 225 young people finished the education - ALL of them got a permanent job.

[Global Care](#) set up an education center their for disadvantaged teenagers. The education center offers courses for needs of the local market. Currently this is cooking, waitress, electrician and woodwork. All courses include common sciences and computer skills.

The school is controlled by government officials, the young people attending are "delegated" from officials. To be allowed to go to that school the pupils need to be below a minimum income.



Corporate Social Responsibility der Audatex GmbH: Projekt Lift to Life

Zunehmend ist Corporate Social Responsibility Teil von Unternehmensstrategien mit Innen- und Außenwirkung. Die Audatex Deutschland GmbH aus Minden führt zusammen mit ihrem Mutterkonzern Solera das soziale Projekt Lift2Life durch. Dazu waren die beiden Mitarbeiter Olga Wolf in Indien und Andreas Wittig in Äthiopien.

Das Projekt wurde innerhalb des Solera-Konzerns weltweit ausgeschrieben. Jeder Mitarbeiter konnte sich mit einem sozialen Projekt seiner Wahl an einem Ort seiner Wahl bewerben. Weltweit wurden 5 Projekte ausgewählt. Andreas Wittig aus Minden hatte die Unterstützung der Global-Care Schule in Äthiopien vorgeschlagen. Dieses Projekt wurde dann auch akzeptiert.

Andreas hatte bereits privaten Kontakt zum Kinderhilfswerk Global-Care. Das KHW betreibt in Äthiopien eine Berufsschule für Jugendliche ohne jegliches Einkommen. Mit der Ausbildung in 4 verschiedenen Ausbildungsbereichen erhalten diese Jugendlichen ihre 2.te Chance auf eine Zukunft. Die Ausbildung ist 1-jährig. Seit Bestehen der Schule konnten 100% der Schüler in einen permanenten Job vermittelt werden.

Das Motto des Lift2Life-Projektes lautet „Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe“ wobei besonders auf Nachhaltigkeit geachtet wird. Die Vorbereitungsphase dauerte 6 Monate. Zusammen mit Global-Care wurde der Bedarf ermittelt, Planungen durchgeführt und nicht zuletzt das erforderliche Geld organisiert. Gemäß des Solara-80/20 Prinzips stellte Solera 80% der Kosten, 20% wurden in Form von Sponsoren und Fundraisings eingeholt. Folgende Projekte wurden dann von August-Dezember 2015 in Bischoftu / Äthiopien durchgeführt:

- Elektrische Beleuchtung des Schulgeländes: Das Schulgelände lag vollkommen im Dunkeln. Dies war insbesondere ein hohes Sicherheitsrisiko für die Wachleute, welche die Schule 24 Stunden bewachen. Da die Schule hochwertiges Material beherbergt ist nachts ein willkommenes Objekt für Diebe. Im Rahmen von Lift2Life haben wir auf dem Gelände und an den Gebäuden moderne LED-Lampen installiert. Dabei wurden die anwesenden Lehrer und Schüler integriert: sie selbst haben dies montiert und installiert.
- Wasserversorgung: In der äthiopischen Sommerzeit regnet es 6 Monate lang nicht. Die städtische Wasserversorgung ist unzureichend; regelmäßig gab es für mehrere Tage kein Wasser. In solchen Tagen musste der Unterricht abgesagt werden. Es bestand der Wunsch eines eigenen Brunnens auf dem Schulgelände. In 90m Tiefe wurde Trinkwasser vermutet. Im Rahmen von Lift2Life haben wir entsprechende Bohrungen vorgenommen, einen Trinkwasserbrunnen installiert und die Versorgung zu den Schulgebäuden gewährleistet. Dies war das anstrengendste und langwierigste Projekt in Äthiopien. Im Ergebnis besteht nun eine ständige Wasserversorgung für Küche und Sanitäranlagen.
- Internetversorgung: Die Schule hatte eine DSL-Leitung zu einem Büro-PC im Verwaltungsbereich. Für Schüler und Lehrer stand kein Internet-Zugang zur Verfügung. Im Rahmen von Lift2Life haben wir ein Netzwerk für die gesamte Schule installiert. Im Ergebnis ist es nun möglich, dass Lehrer und Schüler (häufig zum ersten Mal in ihrem Leben) Zugang zum Internet haben.

Das Lift2Life Projekt von Andreas endetet formal im Februar 2015. Ein besonderes Anliegen ist jedoch die Nachhaltigkeit: wie geht es weiter, wenn die Unterstützer nicht mehr vor Ort sind? Während des 6 monatigen Aufenthaltes haben sich viele persönliche Beziehungen, sogar Freundschaften ergeben. So wundert es nicht, dass die Zusammenarbeit mit der Berufsschule in

Äthiopien weitergeht. So ist es geplant, dass neben der Berufsschule auch eine Grundschule für die Klassen 1-8 erstellt werden soll. Außerdem ist es erforderlich, dass die Berufsschule nach Möglichkeiten sucht „Geld zu verdienen“, also Güter oder Dienstleistungen anzubieten, mit denen Geld von der Berufsschule erwirtschaftet werden kann. Die Planungen hierzu für die nächsten 2 Jahre sind aufgestellt.

2014 Apr 04 - Global Care Visit

Visit at Global Care at Fritzlar / Germany to discuss and clarify mission details.

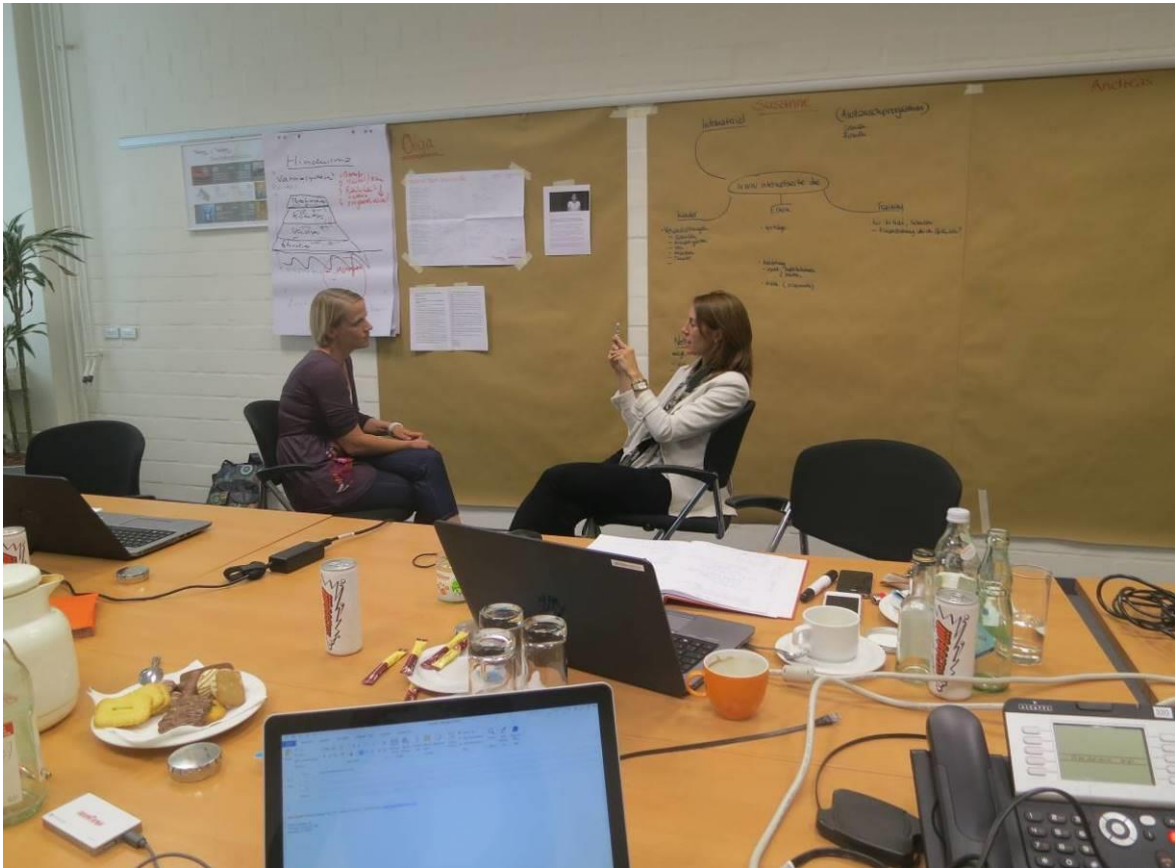




20014-06-24 – Visit of Katie Harvill



June 23 and 24 we finished a two day Lift2Life project session with Katie Harvill (Corporate at Dallas). We worked through all projects, our missions, timelines and budgets. Two nice interesting days. Resulting with new inspirations and fresh motivation to fulfill our enabling-missions.





2014 Jul 03 – Clarifying Electricity Details

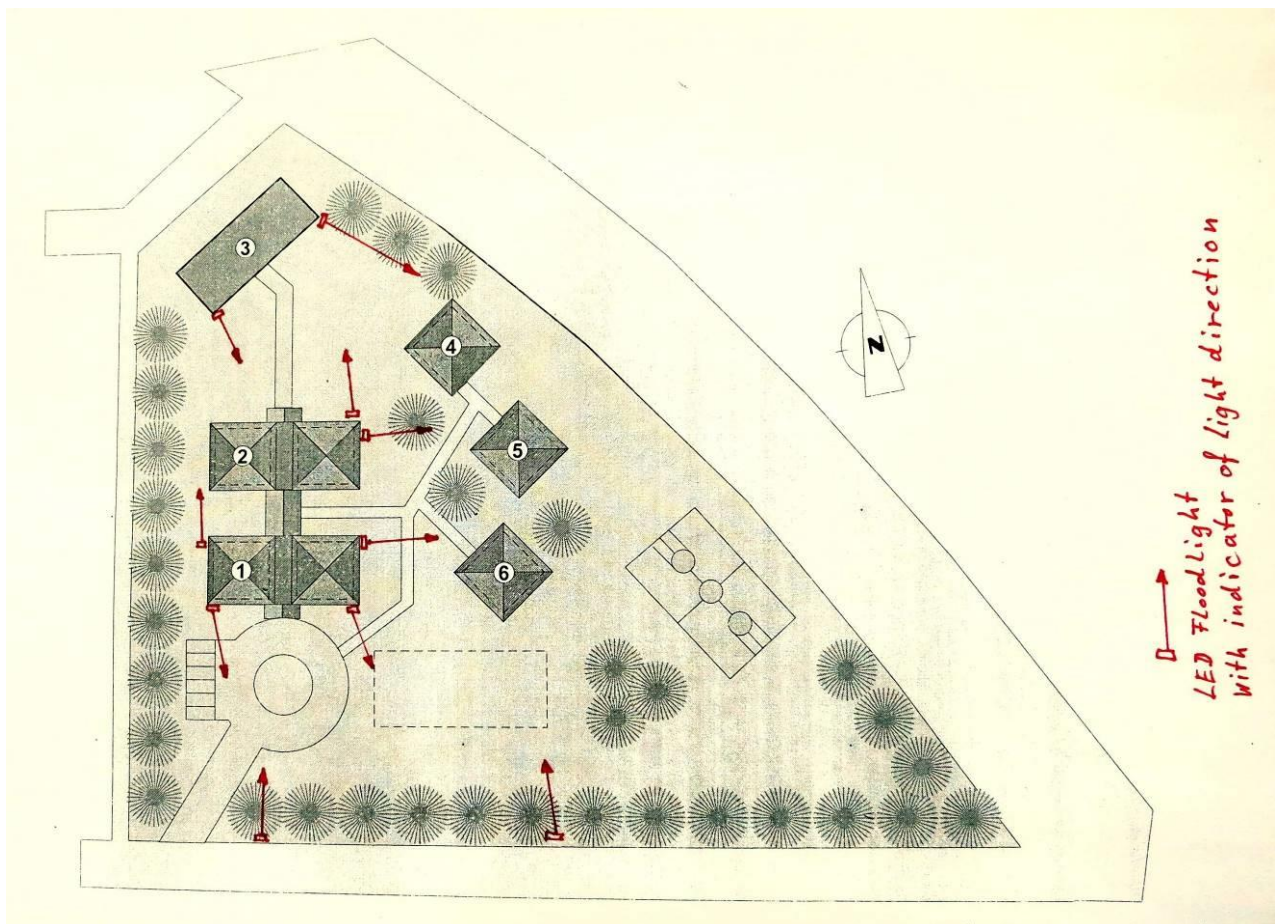
With electrical engineers discussing details of the power supply system at Bishoftu school.

One of our mission is to setup working electricity supply together with pupils of Bishoftu School: <http://lift2life.de/electricity>

These days I met near Hannover with two electricians who will support me by setting up the technical stuff: Gerd Krüger and Klaus Ladewig. Both are experienced electricians and did work in Africa for years.

We talked about lot of interesting details. It turned out that it is not a good idea to have hot water tube collectors and photovoltaic panel in parallel. These would be two independent systems which increases maintenance effort. Setting up only solar panels is the most meaningful and long lasting approach.

Our core interest is, that the system needs to be maintainable by the people at the location, they need to set it up, understand the construction and they need to be able to get spare parts at their location.





2014 Jul 05 – Immunization for Ethiopia



Just cared for immunization at Ethiopia. Turned out to

- meningococcal :: Meningokokken
- tetanus :: Tetanus
- hepatitis :: Hepatitis B
- diphtheria :: Diphtherie
- yellow fever :: Gelbfieber

2014 Jul 13 – Time Schedule for Ethiopia



This week Solera approved formally my charity mission in Ethiopia. The time schedule is maintained at <http://goo.gl/TbGSZ3>

Move to Ethiopia will take place beginning of August. Last week I cared for Pass and international driving license. The immunization is underway for the next 3 weeks.

2014 Jul 17 – Invitation from Ethiopia



Received the invitation from the Ethiopian Country representative. This document is necessary to get a visa at the embassy here in Germany. Have now all documents collected to get the Visa next week here: http://www.aethiopien-botschaft.de/visa_en.html

Kinderhilfswerk Global-Care Ethiopia

E-mail: kinderete1@yahoo.com or khwe_cr@yahoo.com]

Ref No KHW-GCE/200/15/14

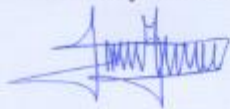
Date July 15, 2014

To Whom It May Concern

Kinderhilfswerk Global Care Ethiopia is legally registered organization with the aim to provide education and health care support for poor children through its child sponsorship program and provision of skill training to destitute and unemployed youth through its technical and Vocational training Institute. Which is located in Ethiopia at Bishoftu town.

Our organization invited Mr Andreas Witting bearer Pass port No. C7MRZNK28 to provide voluntary support to our projects at Bishoftu town from August 1, 2014 up to December 31, 2014. We deeply appreciate the cooperation rendered to Mr. Andreas Witting.

Sincerely Yours



ጌይ.ዳ ሙሐመድ
በኢትዮጵያ የክርክር ተጠሪ
Aida Mohammed
Country Representative

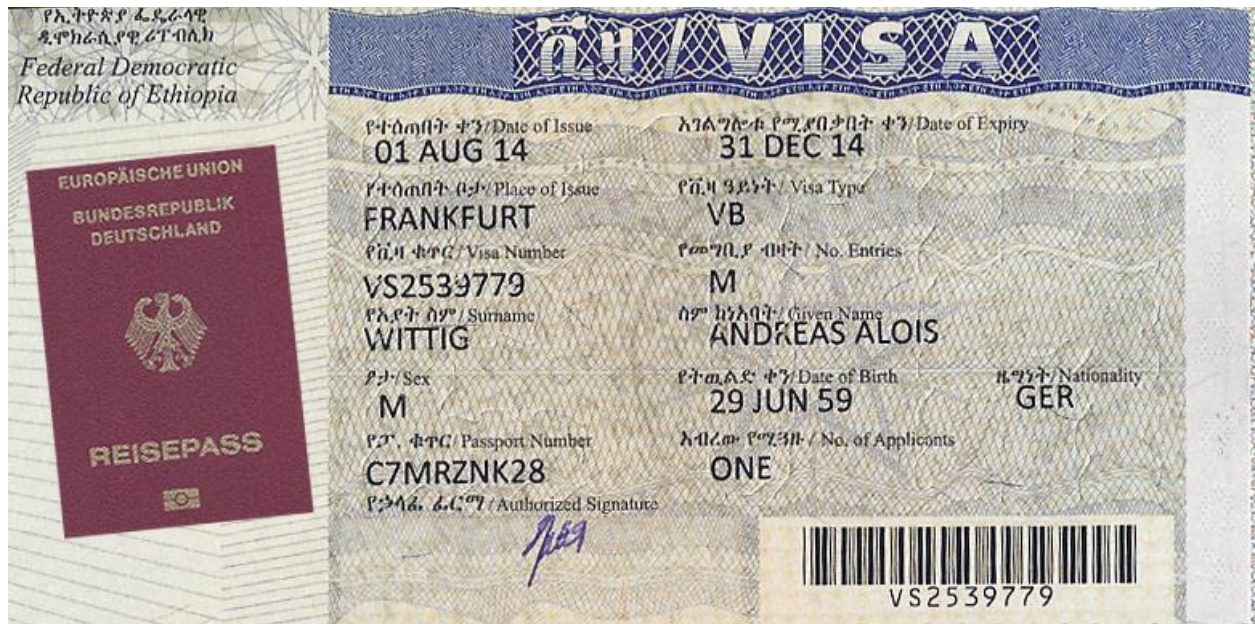


2014 Jul 20 – Doc Hendley

Just on the way to get in contact with Doc Hendley. DOC was man of the year at CNN, he was honored for its fundraising initiatives regarding water projects around the globe. Both videos are impressive. Maybe DOC can support the mission of Solera and Audatex, implemented by Andreas / Germany at Bishoftu School in Ethiopia.



2014 Jul 26 – Visum Ethiopia



Just received the business Visa for Ethiopia. Last Monday I was in Frankfurt to apply for it. Unfortunately the required money was not received at the Ethiopian Embassy account. So I had to leave my passport there and they promised me to send it via normal mail. I had not very good feelings about this idea. But anyway: today I received my passport back and the visa valid up to 31-Dec 14.

2014 Jul 30 – Internal Employee Information Event



Held an info event at Audatex Minden/DE just to get the colleagues and supporters informed. I talked half an hour about the Bishoftu school at all, mission details, time schedule, the surrounding in Ethiopia, introduced the role of Global-Care. I was blessed by lots of positive feedback.

Habe eine Info-Veranstaltung bei Audatex in Minden abgehalten um die Kollegen zu informieren. Es ging in etwa einer halben Stunde um die Berufsschule in Bischoftu, Details zum Projektinhalt, den Zeitplan, die Umgebung in Äthiopien und kurze Vorstellung von Global-Care. Ich habe mich über manche positive Feedbacks gefreut.

- Präsentation als PDF: [LIFT 2014 mission - AX-DE 2014-07-30](#)
- Zeitplan: goo.gl/TbGSZ3
- Projekte: <http://lift2life.de/andreas>

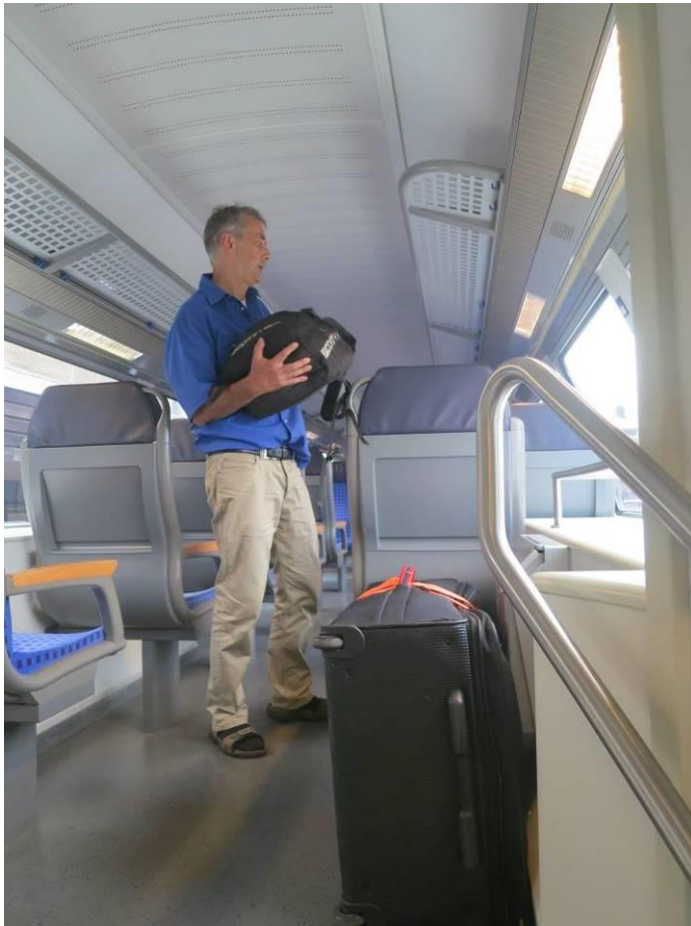




2014 Aug 06 – Travel to Ethiopia

Left from Minden to Ethiopia on 7th Aug at noon. Everything was nicely organized, my wife wished farewell at the train station. My package was 40kg; it included about 8kg of LED lamps which I bought it advance in Germany. Though I had a really huge checklist, at the train I noticed two things I forgot: a comb and a necktie. I got the Info that for formal events the Ethiopian people care for correct dresses. Preparation at the airport and flight were without any complication. I even got my luggage back in the original condition at Addis Abeba – what a luck. At arrival I had an appointment with Aida, she is the school lead at the Bishoftu School and will accompany during my complete mission. But – Aida wasn't there. I lost my first Euro after a foreign woman asked me whether she can help me, just Ethiopian kindness. I showed her the phone number of Aida, so we had a talk at the foreign woman mobile, after this she took 1 Euro for the support. Fine.





2014 Aug 07 – Welcome in Ethiopian reality



The day was hard. Though the plane landed 6am in the morning, I received at my room at 6pm in the evening. This was since Aida car was defect, but anyway she had the drill to welcome me at the airport. So she came to the airport with a taxi, we put my luggage to the hotel reception and then, so her plan, we drive to her car to fetch it and the he will show me some secrets of Addis – she achieved, but not the way as planned.

Since we both had no money even to pay a taxi, I needed to get some Birr first. This was not possible at the hotel, and this was not possible at a banks desk: they had no internet connection – and without Internet connection I cannot receive money at my credit card. After a quarter the banks employee found out that he had not the right software permission to get me the money ... and he showed me the ATM (automated cashpoint) that was positioned in the back office! I received 4.000 Birr / 150 €.

With the taxi we drove to Aidas car. It was parked at the ground of a church pastor in Addis. After he welcomed us it was impossible to leave without having a meal and a welcome tea. He served freshly baked Injera (Ethiopian pita bread made out of teff) with meat. I could not eat that much of it but honored the hospitality. After one hour of meal we than liked to get the car, but the engine didn't start. So we went to the next garage (they said garage to it, I had no courage to

take a photo of what I did see). Picked up a mechanist there and walked back to the defect car. Another hour was gone. The mechanist screwed at the car, but didn't get it run. He suggest to buy some fuel, could be the case that this is empty.

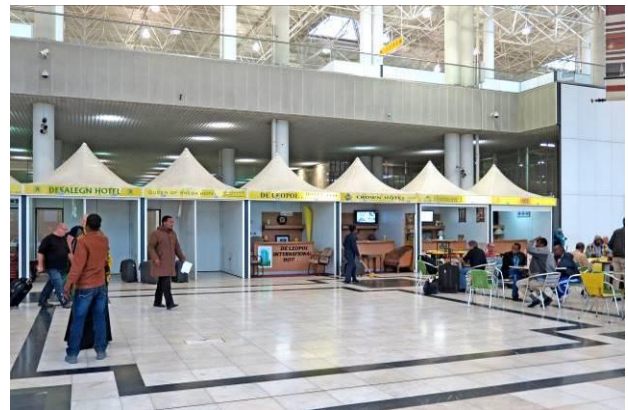
So walk to the garage again, get some empty oil-can to buy petrol, drive with the taxi to a gasoline station and all this back. Next 2 hours were gone. The mechanics did get the car running and so I was happy.

This was too early. The car crashed at the next upward slope within a huge dense smoke. We searched for the next garage, waited, waited, they screw something, they achieved nothing and sent us to some other garage. With 1st gear we drove around Addis, found a garage, but since it was late they told us that they can't do anything today.

Since my nerves meanwhile were blanked, and since all this happened without sleep after leaving Minden, and against hospitality rules I urged Aida to leave that car at that current garage overnight, look for some overnight stay in Addis for her and put me to my hotel now. So she can care for her car the next day. We did it that way.

Arriving at the hotel 6pm I needed to eat something. I chose something secure: Spaghetti Carbonara. I didn't take local rules in account: with a bang the power failed, no lights no cooking possible. The waitress tried to convince me that this is no problem, power will be back in half an hour, then I will get the meal. I comforted me with some bottles of beer meanwhile.

Meanwhile the Global-Care president in Germany (Reinhard Berle) was concerned since he didn't hear anything from me. So I SMSed the story in short. His immediate answer: "Welcome in Ethiopian reality."















2014 Aug 09 – Felt Strong Fear



So far I got no luck with Ethiopian culture. On Saturday I thought to take some walk at Addis Abeba city. Right after 10m behind the monitored and supervised outer wall of the hotel I get greeted by two Ethiopian students. As they told, there is just holiday at the university and they currently have no jobs and no income. But anyway they are very happy to find such interesting people like me. Mmhh, who didn't love to hear such nice words? After walking a while I noticed that there is no chance for me to get rid of them. The students in turn suggested me to lead me a little bit through the city. Since the city indeed is a strange moloch I agreed.



















Indeed they led me good ways through the city, showed and explained me this and that. Saw Addis' automotive spare part market by the way. My guides showed me a nice restaurant for dinner (need not to say here who had to pay). And they guided me through the Addis bus system – it's completely pointless to try to go by bus alone as tourist. Besides the streets have no name, the busses no numbers and no signed destination, besides that, the people are fighting to get into the small busses that there is no chance for foreigners to come into the busses.

Mercato is the biggest market in North-Africa. Every tourist guide suggests to visit this. So my two guides put me to the Mercato too. It's not only a market, it's rather a small city by itself only filled with market stands and houses. My guides led me to corners where I got strange feelings in my stomach area, partly it was really dark and narrow. And they led me from side lane to side lane ... but anyway everything went well so far. They told that they want me to have this experience.

After that they liked to show me a „Bar“. They called it the „Addis Facebook“ because it would be an exchange place of interesting people that have interesting ideas.

Being in the bar I began to get uncomfortable. It was not wished to take some photos; any way I shot some. They surfed some cabbage, looked like a flower bouquet. They convinced me that this is a medical vegetable which is healthy, partly it is stimulating like coffee. Even this cabbage is exported worldwide as some medical; but it is not approved for Germany that's why I cannot know it.

To fulfill local forms of hospitality it is necessary to eat 3 of these bouquets. After trying some leafs I decided rather to break hospitality rules. Since they put meanwhile also water-pipes in action the bar got that muggly and filled with smoke that I needed to leave the closed room. Doing this I broke hospitality rules a 2nd time.

A good point in time to leave the complete scene at all. My guides accepted this so far, but noted that they need to present me the bill for their services. They told me already that they have no work and no money to pay rent for the flat. The bill comprised the guidance through the city and costs of the bar. I asked what they suggest as adequate amount, I got no answer. I offered 400 Birr (15€, \$21). This is rather a lot according local habits. A complete meal in upper-class restaurants is 150-200 Birr for example. My guides did not agree: ONE bouquet of the cabbage would cost 350 Birr – they consumed seven of them; additionally they ordered tea and bought some packages of cigarettes. Additionally they led through the city, additionally some gift for the flat, since we're Christians this is common.

Sums up to required 2.500 Birr (95€, \$130). I need to pay this since otherwise they are not let out of the bar. The fact that I'm at all had 700 Birr in cash did not irritate them. Even my very clear NO did not help me to get some result. Anyway I gave them 400 Birr, straight went onto the door to leave – but immediately a group of people locked the door and stopped me to go. Just like in a bad Hollywood thriller – unfortunately just reality for me here and now. If I would not have

enough cash-money this wouldn't be a problem: they offered me to guide me to next ATM (money machine) where I can get cash which I can hand them out. Very original and nice idea.

At this point my personal comfort-zone and point of tolerance was uniquely exceeded, I felt very uneasy and felt immediate danger; as in seldom times in my life. Already positioned at the exit-door I aggressively and with force pushed the guys away, unlocked the door (was locked meanwhile) and ran outside as good as I could. One of them followed me, but I run just flailing around me, stopped the very first taxi I saw on the street and jumped into it. That was a safe place.

I still believe in good things in the world, but sometimes it's harder. Lessons I experienced for this location:

- Ignore all people on left and right, ignore all calls of people. Go your way straight forward. This is rather hard, sounds like in-human, but is likely necessary to achieve anything.
- Don't believe any foreigner anything; completely independent what story is told. In their true need the people invent stories we cannot imagine.

Links DE

- Mercato; <http://www.lilies-diary.com/merkato-von-addis-abebe-in-athiopien>
- Kath: <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathstrauch>
- Kathauf spiegel.de: <http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/gesellschaft/aethiopien-ein-land-im-drogenrausch-a-606421.html>

Links EN

- Mercato: http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Africa/Ethiopia/Addis_Ababa-2025155/Things_To_Do-Addis_Ababa-Mercato-BR-1.html
- Kath: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khat>

2014 Aug 14 – Wine to Water talks



On Thursday we made good progress with the water story <http://lift2life.de/water> at Bishoftu School. Athin & Paulus from the Doc Hendley Wine-To-Water team visited us at the school area. They already did some explorations and suggested solutions how to dig the well and deploy the water at the school area.

School council (Aida Mohammed) and president of Global-Care were present to discuss requirements. After that Doc Hendley team now is specifying the concrete technical implementation plans as discussed.

The 30/30: Together with Bishoftu School we will present a report, why water is so urgent and vital for the school. This report will help Doc Hendley in turn to gather a part of the money.

Why water is important for the school?

Currently one 500L high tank is utilized to collect municipal water. At one hand this water is delivered by city – sometimes, and sometimes not. Besides that the water has no good quality – it is no drinking water.

At the other hand the school educates cooks (cooking with water) and the school is required to have clean and working sanitary equipment. These issues are controlled by municipal officials too.

So there is great conflict by getting no water and at the same time is checked the official hygiene requirements are full filled. It's told the school will be closed if requirements will not be full filled.

If the closing would occur, 100 young teenagers per year would not get their chance to get a education. All of the teenagers come out of the poorest families which are supported by Global-Care to give their kids a 2nd chance.





2014 Aug 19 – Started setup LED lightening



This week we started the setup of LED lightening of the Bishoftu school area. The plan is to setup 7 posts with LED lamps at the outer area and additional 10 small LED lamps mounted at the school building. The construction and installation will be executed by staff and pupils of the school.

We started with the school council and the team leads to discuss the activities and the outcomes.



LED lamps are not available in Ethiopia; just Chinese material what nobody wants to have. We bought the lamps already in Germany and took them together with our normal flight-baggage to Ethiopia. Thomas Greth from Audatex DE supported me here with a great job. Material for the posts, fittings and fundament needed to be bought in Ethiopia.





The work started immediately by digging holes for the posts fundament and constructing the posts. It came out that even basic things are not available or do not work:

- Shovel for digging hole. They use some metal for grabbing.
- A saw for cutting the lamp posts and its arming to required length. We used grinding discs which deliver not the required precision – but it works as a 80/20.
- Drill machine for drilling holes in the posts. We needed to hire an external resource.

Anyway the young teenagers here are very engaged and have much fun to experience new things, talking about the construction, discuss about alternate detail solutions if problems arise.







Why overnight lightening is important?

The school owns valuable equipment used for educational purposes. In average the Ethiopian people are rather poor. Especially overnight there is a high rate of criminality. For this the school area is guarded 24h a day by armed guards. Additionally the area needs to lighten fully overnight.

Why LED lamps?

Currently the school area is lighted partly by old fashioned, traditional street lights. Since Ethiopia is at the equator we have 12h day and 12 night every day a year. The power consumption for current street lights consumes 35% of the fiscal household of the school. With the LED there will be a reduction by 90% and having better light at the same time.

Why all this?

It's all about education of next generation. Bishoftu School originally implements this, Solealnc.com supports this.

2014 Aug 21 – Working during Power Breakdown



Power fails daily. Since I'm well prepared I got a rich set of LED pocket lamps with me. See a small impression of my Ethiopian workplace during power breakdown at the evening.



Did you know about planning?

The planning of Lift2Life implementation at Bishoftu School is transparently maintained at <http://goo.gl/TbGSZ3> The schedule is actualized continuously. The Solera way is to plan carefully, expect the unexpected, implement with 90/10 engagement.

Get the Connection

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lift2life>
- Twitter @Lift2Life
- The charity missions E-Mail Newsletter:

Email *

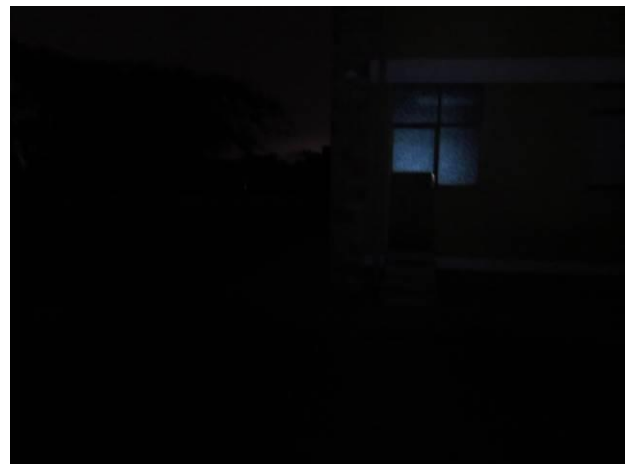


2014 Aug 25 – Wedding Day



At automobile manufacturing the chassis and the motor engine are manufactured in complete de-coupled processes. The event when the chassis and the motor are assembled is called the „marriage“.

Today at Bishoftu School we had a marriage: The posts set up last week met the first two LED lamps from Germany.





2014 Aug 30 – Condulith.de sponsors Lift2Life



Condulith.de sponsors Lift2Life by supplying craftsman tools for Bishoftu School.



Lots of equipment



Bosch Bohrhammer



Makita Akku-Schlagbohrschrauber



Bosch Winkelschleifer

Condulith.de is an engineering company highly specialized in providing floors for industrial. Condulith fulfills highest German and European standards in its business. Among them very popular projects: condulith.de/archiv

Condulith sponsored with over 1.000 Euro Lift2Life in Ethiopia by delivering professional craftsman tools hardly needed at Bishoftu School. By doing so Condulith faces up its corporate social responsibility.

The tools are for educating our next generation sustainable. It's all about education.

2014 Sep 05 – Internet connection advances steadily



One of Andreas' projects is some Internet connection of the Bishoftu school. The school has a DSL line, this is rather slow and is connected to exactly one computer. This Lift2Life sub-project targets are

- get a maximum speed out of the capacity delivered to the area
- setup a small sized signal distribution over the area; so that the teachers have connection for their computers

Michael Mahler from AUTOonline is here the strong 20 – in reality the 80. He signed to design and implement solutions and we had productive conversation about the options.





2014 Sep 06 – Short break here in Ethiopia

Yesterday, on Friday I received the message that my father in law died; he was 86 and gets releases from couple of sufferings. The question came up how to get this aligned with Lift2Life mission here in Ethiopia. After some helpful exchange with my wife and Jan I now go to the funeral in Fulda / Germany.

Challenge was to get this organized over the weekend. Anyway with my company available nearly 24h/7d I got strong support to get this managed.

MR. ANDREAS WITTIG

ABOUT FRANKFURT

✈️	ADDIS ABABA	9/8/2014	TO	FRANKFURT
	11:59 PM AM PM	ADD		06:20 AM AM PM
		TERMINAL 2		+1 day
				FRA
				TERMINAL 2
✈️	FRANKFURT	9/12/2014	TO	ADDIS ABABA
	10:20 AM AM PM	FRA		08:45 PM AM PM
		TERMINAL 1		
				ADD
				TERMINAL 2

Ethiopian Airlines | ET1580 confirmed

i **✈️ Check-in ▶**

2014 Sep 06 – Increasing the sponsors list



Just added KSR to the Lift2Life list of sponsors. KSR is a German engineering company working in the car damage business. KSR uses Solera products by doing this.

Every Lift2Life sponsor is promoted at the root of Lift2Life.de and gets listed at our Sponsors home: <http://lift2life.de/sponsors/> Latest at top. New sponsors with good ideas are always welcome by the way.

Beside this website: Visit AUTOMECHANIKA fair, Frankfurt, Sept 16-20, Hall 11.1 to get more direct Info about Solera Lift2Life.

2014 Sep 09 – Finished short break from Ethiopia



Last week I was required to have a short break from Ethiopia to be in Germany. My father in law gets released from couple of suffering and was buried on Wednesday. My company Solera/Audatex supported my very strong to get this managed. By this way I had a reunion with my family and I could even manage some organizational things for the Lift2Life which are hard to achieve in Ethiopia. Namely I collected complete baggage with tools and gifts for the school.

The upcoming week starts with detail work for the Water project: Supply fresh ground water to the Bishoftu School.

2014 Sep 18 – Wine to Water did a great move



Today we had a hot summer day in Addis Abeba – and we did a great step forward in the Water-to-Wine story for the Bishoftu School in Ethiopia. After times with technical and organizational exchange of issues today we signed the first contract for digging the well.

“Water to Wine” is an American charitable Org which cares for water in Africa. In Ethiopia it is represented by “Selam Awassa Water Drilling Works and Sanitation”. The special note here is, that “Selam” is a commercial company – but charitable activities are executed with 0% margin. And this in turn is supported and controlled by Water-to-Wine.

With the well in place 100 trainees at Bishoftu School can get fresh ground water. Currently there is no water at all or water provided by a tank which is not drinkable.



2014 Sep 26 – Green light for digging the well



This week we got final green light from [Wine-To-Water](#) for start digging the well at Bishoftu School. Wine-To-Water sponsored a honorable, so far missing amount of money to support Soleras Lift2Life project in Ethiopia.

The digging can now be prepared to start within the next 2 weeks. It will be executed by <http://www.selamawassa.org>

Wine-To-Water is a non-profit aid organization focused on providing clean water to needy people around the world. Nearly 1 billion people in the world today lack access to adequate water and sanitation. They are devoted to fighting this epidemic. Wine symbolizes fortune in our society. The goal of Wine-To-Water is to give the fortunate population an opportunity to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

Wine To Water was founded by Doc Hendley. Doc was selected to be "CNN Hero of the year" in 2009: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/US/04/30/heroes.doc.hendley>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wine_to_Water

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doc_Hendley

A world map with several blue dots placed on various continents, representing the global reach of the Wine To Water organization's projects.

*Wine to Water™ is a **MOVEMENT** dedicated to providing clean water and sanitation to people in need around the world.*

THE WATER CRISIS

AND POOR SANITATION AFFECT 2.5 BILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE- WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE AMONG THE MOST AFFECTED. AN ESTIMATED 200 MILLION HOURS EACH DAY ARE SPENT COLLECTING WATER THAT IS OFTENTIMES CONTAMINATED. WATER-RELATED DISEASE KILLS 1 CHILD EVERY 21 SECONDS. WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE. WITHOUT IT, WE CEASE TO EXIST.

2014 Sep 26 – Automechanika Frankfurt



The Lift2Life project was presented at the Automechanika in Frankfurt and was widely appreciated by the visitors of our booth.



2014 Oct 02 – Primary school Lift2Life support in Ethiopia



Besides the projects Water, Electricity and Internet I planned to care for a primary school in Bishoftu. This is a long running project (at least 5 years) but it needs to be initiated. This week I did some workouts:

The project is about building a primary school in Bischoftu / Ethiopia. The building needs to be newly built and equipped with educational interior. It is planned to have about 500 – 800 children in the age from 6 to 14 in the starting period. There is a great demand for private schools since governmental institutions cannot fulfil the demand. If the project is well prepared the "German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development" <http://www.bmz.de> sponsors up to 75% of the overall cost.

The primary school needs to have two stages:

1. Class 1-4: basic education (reading, writing, arithmetic)
2. Class 5-8: extended education with all basic sciences (detailed below)

Target groups:

- Sponsored children of Global-Care in the age from 6-14
- 300-500 additional children in the age from 6-14

Project targets are:

1. Provide a good quality primary school for sponsored children. By this, saving thousands of Dollars school fee for foreign schools.
2. Provide a good quality primary school for children in need. There is fee planned.
3. The income-amounts are required to finance the vocational school. The vocational school is driven completely by donations; it is complete cost-free for attendees. Only teenagers that have otherwise no chance to get an education attend it.

Attached are some pictures of the targeted sponsored children, mostly shot at their home environment.







2014 Oct 03 – German Unity Day at Embassy Addis Abeba



The German Unity Day is an important holiday for Germany: the re-union of West and East in 1989. This date finalized the cold war of Eastern and Western countries worldwide.

German ambassador in Ethiopia (Joachim Schmidt) invited Germans living in Ethiopia <http://www.addis-abeba.diplo.de>. So this was an event to have many talks with different people with different professions and interests: priests, foreign embassy staff, European commission staff, lots other charitable organizations.

For the Lift2Life at Ethiopia I could achieve contact to “Ethio – German Development Cooperation” (GIZ). They support implementation of German projects in Ethiopia. This will be helpful to get support at my “primary school” initiation in Bishoftu. Among others GIZ cares in Ethiopia for

- labor market-oriented education
- sustainable land management
- national quality infrastructure
- energy coordination

In summary this was a useful social event with couple of small talks, but also getting contacts which might be helpful in future.





2014 Oct 07 – Solar Subproject stopped



Regarding the Solar-Subproject we found out that solar-electricity is no option for Bishoftu School. Lastly we decided to stop this completely, giving the 80 into success tasks. This result is the outcome of 6 weeks research at the mission place.

To get this proved I had discussion with 2 Solar-Companies at the school area, exchange with solar-energy-foundation.org, deep look at the energy records of the school and discussions with Global-Care (driver of the school). Main issues are:

- **Solar panels** that are available here are about 6 times more expensive than expected; even they are hard to get at all.
- **Energy cost** and governmental energy politic: school pays max 600 Birr (\$32) per month for electricity. And, this is mainly the pure connection to the grid (having governmental electricity). There are very low costs for volume of usage. Electricity is subsidized enormously since it is regarded as base resource.
 - => With Solarpanels not one cent gets saved. The school just get additional cost for maintenance.
 - => At no time amortization takes place
- **The true issue** here is not saving energy; rather it is having energy at all. Namely coping with daily failing of it is a problem to get the school running. Accumulators were discussed that get charged by the grid. Anyway this is "green thinking" of the rich part of the world. The most practical and commonly used solution here is a Diesel-Generator.

The good things we achieved

- We found this out before putting money to foreign companies.
- I got a note from Global-Care that they are thankful for caring that deep direct at the location and preventing wrong investments

Interesting for Ethiopia

According my talks with the Solar Energy Foundation there is indeed one scenario where solar energy is applied in Ethiopia: These are governmental driven properties like schools or hospitals in area without any grid the next years. There Solar is an alternative to Diesel.





2014 Aug 08 – Ethiopian Magazines



Initiated publication of Solera Lift2Life stories in Ethiopian magazines. In contact with two magazines published in Addis Abeba: Ethiopian Business Review (EBR) and Echo Africa.

Chief Executive Editor of EBR already replied that the magazine due to policy reasons cannot report about single companies or single projects. They only report about mainstreams, markets in

general or issues that matters main sectors. So I'm now working on a contact of one of their authors: Management Director of Ethiopian Insurance Corporation.

Seeing forward now regarding Echo Africa to achieve some publication there.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/EchoAfrica-magazine/526578887358295>

<https://www.facebook.com/EthiopianBussinessReview>

In Ethiopia there is no developed newspaper and magazine market. At my mission place – Bishoftu – there is no newspaper available at all. In Addis Abeba there are some shops you can buy international newspapers. The above magazines are the ones you get on selected locations. And even: none of any of the magazine has a *working* internet presence.

2014 Oct 12 – Bishoftu School Business Plan



This week I worked out a draft of a business plan for the vocational school here in Bishoftu. The subject is, that the school currently is financed 100% by donations raised in Germany (Global-Care). In a midterm it is necessary and meaningful that the school is able to generate own

income. The income will be used to help financing the vocational school itself, but also the planned primary school project.

As business and solution requirements we worked out:

- Generate a stable, year by year increasing income
- Participate trainees of the existing vocational school
- Attract the area of the school
- The solution needs to be initiated fast with low initial requirements and low initial cost
- The solution needs to be start with existing equipment and minimal additional staff

Two business ideas including schedules for timetable, marketing, fiscal and risk analysis were drafted.

Idea 1: Cooking & Hotel

Provide a dinner meal for the public at the existing school location. Cooking trainees prepare the meal by supervising of the trainers. Hotel education trainees serve the meal by supervising of the trainers. There are two fixed types of meals served per day:

1. A fast food meal at low price (e.g. sandwich)
2. A complete menu including opener, main dish and dessert at medium price.

Guest can only choose between these two options. The type of meals change every day. To have a win-win for guests and trainees the offerings have the goal to be above-average quality. This regards to the meals itself, but also to the environment and serving service. The service will be provided from 12:00 to 14:00 only.

Idea 2: Construction

Construction department works primarily with concrete, stone material and iron. The idea is that the trainees produce different bricks and tools that are required for building houses or similar constructions (gates, roads, gardens). The easiest ramp-up is to build bricks and sell them.

Mostly all machinery is existent and used for educational purposes. There are even already bricks produced and stored at the area, but they are not sold due to legal issues.

Since well-educated trainers and above average machinery exists, the business has an advantage compared to similar offers at the market. The goal is to produce above average quality at low cost. There are two phases planned.

Phase 1: start with the existing equipment. Everything is present to start immediately.

Phase 2: produce different kind of blocks, different sizes and shapes. Do more than other providers in this area do.



hotel and serving training area



the guest training area can be used to serve real food



bar in the hotel training area



the kitchen is below the hotel education area



kitchen is fully equipped



the construction training area



bricks of different shapes can be built and sold Shape 2



These bricks are used for training purposes

2014 Oct 13 – Car for Bishoftu School



This is a story about uncommonness of Ethiopian economy.

For the Lift2Life mission we originally planned to utilize a rental car when some travel or transport is necessary. We assumed \$1,000 for this per month. After calculation we came to the idea not to rent a car, but rather buy a cheap, used car and sell that car after mission end. This will save money. There was another approach: not selling the car, but spending the car after mission end to Bishoftu School.

The story took a completely other path. First to say is, that there are no rental cars in Ethiopia available at all. It is possible to get a car, but only with driver. There is no company that give you a car for driving it by yourself.

So we looked for used cars. Any used car driving in Ethiopia is imported from Asia or Europe. The transport of the used cars is via ship, and then by truck from Djibouti to Ethiopia. In addition to the car cost, this adds transport cost, on top of this government raises import tax of about 100%. (This is to stimulate Ethiopian industry, but there is none).

What we found: a Toyota RAV4, built 2005, mileage above 100.000km; imported from Belgium, there was still the "B" at the rear. Cost: 32.000€, not joking.

Really in the same week the existing car of the school wrecked ultimately; the school needed another car. So some serious question arose: for me how to travel, and for the school where to get a car from.

Lastly we did in that way, that we took the Solera Lift2Life amount scheduled for the rental car, plus some extra and donated it to Global-Care organization. So this was a base for buying the Toyota for the school. In the result I had no car at all. We arranged that we share the school car now as best as possible.



looking for a used car



used cars imported from Europe



that's the new new car



first test by Aida, school lead



for any business it is a wise idea to care for guards

the Toyota at school ground

2014 Oct 15 – Margit Wittig in Ethiopia



Today my wife arrived in Ethiopia / Addis Abeba. She spent her complete yearly holiday to visit and support me at my Lift2Life mission.

With the school lead in Bishoftu we discussed what could be a meaningful task to look for in the next weeks. My wife came with some seed for flowers and [Moringa](#) trees. So the idea came up to setup an Ethiopian-German-American friendship garden at the Bishoftu school area. For the real implementation it needs some further ideas, creativity and good inspirations. Anyway: first steps are done.





2014-10-16 Current Safety Notice for Addis Abeba



This morning I received a mail from the German Embassy stating they got alerts for a terrorist attack at the Bole-area. This is where the international airport is located. They advised to avoid "restaurants, hotels, bars, places of worship, supermarkets, and shopping malls in the "Bole Area" until further notice.

So the eyes needs to keep open. <http://addisstandard.com/the-u-s-embassy-in-addis-abeba-issues-alert-on-potential-imminent-terrorist-arrack-in-bole-area>

2014 Oct 18 – Electricity for Well Rework



Regarding the well we have a delay. There is a new governmental issue which will hopefully resolved on coming Monday. Another issue is the concrete electrical installation and integration of the well-pump into the existing electrical circuit of the school.

In Ethiopia it is about every meter of cable, every screw, every dig. They look rather hard about every Cent, even if it is written there is discussion. If something is not written and explicitly clarified you will run in trouble for sure. Having this in combination with African culture and habits makes the things not easy to solve.

For today I succeeded with reply of the well company: "OK, you won". Digging will start coming Monday.

Currently my wife stays here with me in Ethiopia. We planned a 5-day outage to visit some place in the country. Currently it looks like we need to cancel this due to the delay – digging will overlap with my wife's stay here. This is 90/10: take 90 percent ownership.







2014 Oct 21 – Setup Drilling Machine



Today the setup of the drilling machine started. Worked the whole day to support this. Just for now a view photos and a video below.



Toyota car delivering equipment



start preparing the ground



the drill goes in the middle of a current bed



some fruits need just to be harvested ...



... among the fruits is garlic



workers dig a whole to circulate upcoming water



digging African style



check



preparing the diesel



helpers

2014 Oct 22 – Preparation for Exam



On this Thursday the training classes at Bishoftu School have their final examination. The exams are for the 3 classes concrete building, cooking and hotel operation. At the pictures you see how the areas gets cleaned and the trainees are recapping the questions and tasks.

Most of the teenager already found a permanent job in Bishoftu. The others will get additional support from the trainers for acquiring a permanent job. New classes will start about mid-November.

We supported them with small tasks, showed our interest for their future, they told us about their expectation for the exam and about their future. They take their chance and dig into life.







2014 Oct 23 – Expose Lift2Life in Bishoftu



We do a couple of valuable work within Soleras Lift2Life mission. So we like to tell about it and expose the story. This is not very easy in the rural Ethiopian outside Addis Abeba.

Anyway, in Bishoftu we have the Genesis Farm: <http://www.genesisfarmsethiopia.com> The Company cultivates vegetables, plants and flowers. I just initiated contact to them. I'd like to introduce our mission to them.

And let's see forward: maybe they will support us at our Ethiopian-German-American Friendship Garden here at the Bishoftu school area.





2014 Oct 23 – Final 2014 Exams at Bishoftu School



Today the classes 2014 of the vocational school in Bishoftu had their final examinations. We could not make pictures during the exam, but attached are some impressions after it.

We had good talks with the pupils; they are very lucky that all of them have mastered their task. And we're sure that all of them will get a permanent job.

It's good to know, that without support and sponsorship not anyone of the teenagers would have the chance for a vocational education. The pupils in turn realized this, they took their chance and take life into their hands. We're proud that we can put our cent here for lifting them to life #Lift2Life.



Cooking trainees...



I had a chance to taste what was cooked during the exam



hotel trainees awaiting exam results



cooking class happy to pass the exam



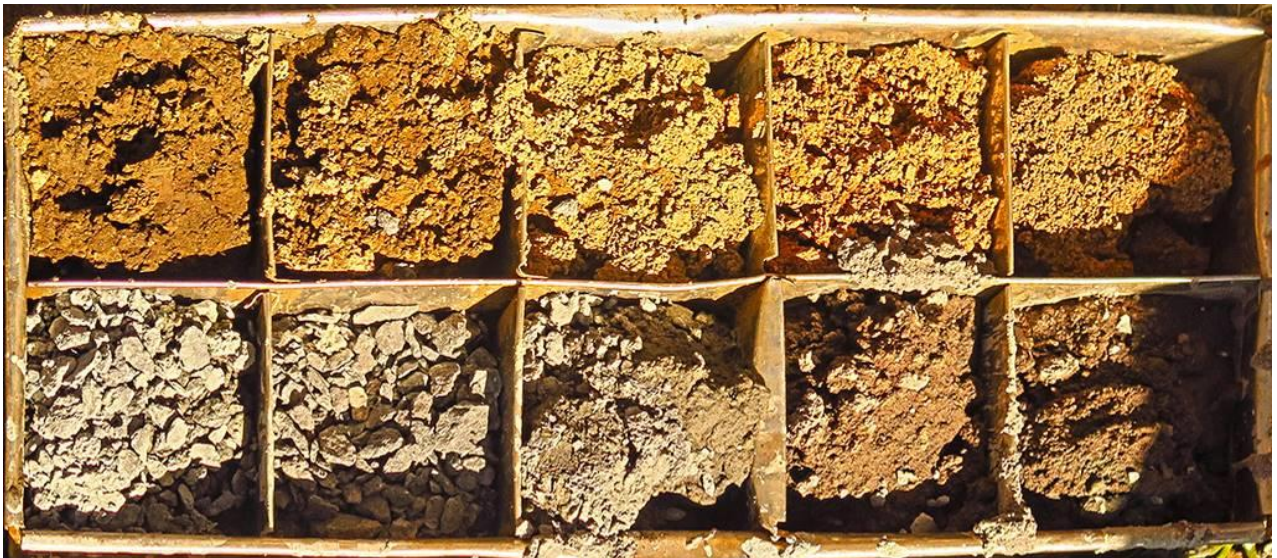
the hotel education class



the hotel class with their teacher Mekdes



2014 Oct 24 – Well Drilling Day by Day



Drilling now last on the whole week. We are at 32m depth. Look at the picture: every 2 meters the driller take a sample from the ground. By this system you see the depth and the type of material you have at this depth. Currently the last 16 meters were pure rock, so it goes on at unhurried speed. Let's see how this goes on.



2014 Oct 27 – Something unexpected happened



Ethiopians have another working culture, other working habits than we are used to. Telling a little bit exaggerated in this post, I experienced so far: If you want something done, then you have to ask for it, then again the next day, then again the next week. After this they start to explain why this or that does *not* work. So you turnover again.

The LED lightening of the area is not finished at some places, since the pump of the well needs to be included into the electrical circuit. Some temporary solution is required. I discussed the issue with the people here at the school last week.

The surprise for me: This Monday morning I looked out of my window and just noticed that workers setup the temporary lightening solution on own initiative. Without any further reminder or question. So I had a new experience this day.





2014 Aug 28 – Slow Advance Today



Well drilling delays due to very hard rock at 60m depth, discussion on how to go on, decision to go further at slower speed. Today only 2m were drilled, everybody is waiting and sitting in the hot sun.

So I used the spare time to initiate some contact to Ethiopian Online Magazines. More about this in later at this place.



2014 Oct 30 – Visit Family of Yoredanose



Today we visited the family of Yoredanose. The family is one of the poor ones in Bishoftu, so they even get the housing supported from the government.

The father of Yoredanose is a daily worker, that is, every morning he goes out of the house and looks for some work at the near market every day. The mother now and then cooks for foreign people.

There are 5 children of age 10, 15, 19, 20, 25 to care for. Yoredanose (19) got the chance for an educational place at the vocational school of Global-Care in Bishoftu. She just now finished the one year cooking course, she achieved "Level 1" and is now preparing the advanced "Level 2". Due to sponsorship of Global-Care the education is free of cost for the ones in need.

Within her education Yoredanose got the great chance to complete a hands-on training at <http://liesakresort.com> which is a famous and fine address here in Ethiopia. Since she passed all the tasks she has a very good chance to get a permanent job at the Liesak Resort.

We were impressed how the family stays together, helping each other and sharing the complete income. The family is very proud of Yoredanose. And we in turn are proud to supply help for self-help within the #Lift2Life project.







2014 Nov 07 – Few Days Off in Ethiopia



Since beginning of August I work at our #Lift2Life in Ethiopia. All planned projects working well. So I took 4 days off this week for a small trip around the country. Attached are some small photo impressions. The greatest challenge always is to put people into the picture. Most often respect forbids to take direct shots. If you provide money than a shoot sometimes is allowed, sometimes not.









2014 Nov 09 – Sunday Clothes Washing



On the weekends now and then I have to care for my household. This Sunday it was cleaning time for my clothes.

Washing is done manually. There is no other possibility here. As my wife heard this the first time she could not believe it; she just suggested to look for a washing service. After visiting Bishoftu she changed her mind. To give an idea how washing in the rural areas takes place I added one extra picture: a woman washing clothes in the lake. After the woman noticed me photographing she sprung away fast.







2014 Nov 10 – Water at Bischoftu School found!



The drilling of the well has finished! As expected first water was found at about 65m. Selam Awassa stopped the drilling at 77m depth after 6 days. Plenty and clean water sprung out – that was a great pleasure! See the attached video snippet.

Now we wait again: the water samples are in a governmental laboratory for checking the quality. If the water is drinkable we receive a certificate stating this. Only in that case we can supply it to the school. The next steps then will be to arrange power supply and setup a pipeline to the water tank. All this will be done manually – there is no usual machinery here.

If the water will not be drinkable we need to change the plan. So wish us the best!

Besides the video here is a nice view at the progress. During drilling every 2 meter a sample of the ground is collected in a box. As a result you see the 77m and the geological profile at the school area.

Thu 2014-10-23
16m



Fri 2014-10-24
32m



Sat 2014-10-25
46m



Mon 2014-10-27
60m



Thu 2014-10-30
77m





2014 Nov 11 – Internet



Coming week Michael Mahler from AUTOonline will arrive to setup Internet facilities for the vocational school in Bishoftu / Ethiopia. So far I heard this and that what he has planned, but I don't know details. So I'm pretty much curious and looking forward what will come. Great contribution!

I have a fear: The Internet connection from the city does not work for 2 weeks now. It is rather common here, that something basic is mis-functioning always: electricity, water, telephone or internet. If the primary Internet-Input does not work at all up to next week then it will be hard for Michael to achieve meaningful results.

So let's see and wish us the best again!

Internet availability here in Ethiopia is still rather seldom and uncommon. Normal people (95%) have no Internet access; there is no "culture" for E-Mailing or simply retrieving information for anything. At the other hand it is known that Internet access and knowledge is a important key for future development.

As you might know [Mark Zuckerberg](#) is about to provide Internet connectivity for disadvantaged regions. Maybe this is an option for central Africa too in near future.

I'm convinced that our #Lift2Life efforts will provide a significant contribution for the school and the young pupils getting education here.



the internet distribution place of Ethiopian...



the one and only dsl modem in Bishoftu school



2014 Nov 12 – Things usually not talked about



The last 10 days I got serious trouble to receive cash money.

Here in Ethiopia everything is other than normally known or expected. I'm used to get money with my MasterCard all over the world. This is not true for Ethiopia.

At banks they cannot handle credit cards in general. The newest progress here is the setup of ATMs, a couple of them accepting Master and Visa. But the ATMs need:

1. electricity
2. network connection

It is a rather seldom occasion that both requirements are full filled at the same time. The last week even all the banks here in Bishoftu could not work at all because even the business network connection was not functional.

Not worth to say, that ONLY cash money is accepted at any location and from any person. And this is the problem: Everywhere cash is expected, but banks are not able to deliver it.

My luck today: After digging around over 1 week I found an ATM which was able to hand me out 150€. After that the ATM decided that this is enough for me.

Problem is, that this is even true for the #Lift2life project money. This is Africa: you need to look for unconventional solutions every day.



2014 Nov 15 – Genesis Farm Involvement



These days I tried 3 times to get an appointment with the manager of the local “Genesis Farm” direct at his office. Genesis Farm is a Dutch agricultural company which is one of the largest provider of jobs for local people (besides military). Our aim is to involve Genesis Farm in the #Lift2Life story by supporting the vocational school in Bishoftu.

There are not much companies here in Bishoftu. Even there are not much companies in Ethiopia at all: 2.600 manufacturing enterprises exists in whole Ethiopia. This about the amount of manufacturers a medium sized city in Europe has. In consequence there is a significant foreign trade deficit: Export is 3 Billion USD, Import is above 30 Billion USD.

Anyway, I try our luck here with the agricultural Genesis farm. 3 times I had no luck, next week – next trial.





2014 Nov 17 – Internet sponsored by AUTOonline



This week Michael Mahler from AUTOonline received here in Bishoftu. Besides the travelling costs [AUTOonline](#) sponsored the Lift2Life with Internet connection equipment for the vocational school. This is a couple of Powerline adapters, routers, a modern Fritz DSL box and accompanied by lots of cables and setup material.

This first day we got an overview about existing infrastructure, hardware and the school buildings at all. We found out different options for the implementation – so the chances are good to succeed.

One issue is the internet availability as provided by the Ethiopian Telekom. Partly there are several weeks where no Internet at all is available. This is currently the case. So our only chance is to go after the Telekom and ask them for caring. With some luck it will work these days.

We thank [AUTOOnline](#) for that great support. Internet availability will significantly enhance the prospects of the school, its trainers and in effect the students.



Michael Mahler



In the office



clarification with an electrician



In the office

2014 Nov 18 – Lift2Life Friendship Garden



With the visit of my wife Margit the idea came up to care for a friendship garden. This would be Margit's contribution to our #Lift2Life charity project. First the name "Ethiopian German American Friendship Garden" came up. A bit too long-winded wording. Lastly we named it

Lift2Life Friendship Garden

The foundation and ideas were already set up by the trainers of the vocational school. So we arranged a co-work, and did a great international teamwork here. In addition to seeds of student flowers and lavender we came up with [Moringa Oleifera](#). Moringa is a high-valued tree, we planted 7 of these trees.

And last not least, we achieved the nearby "Genesis Farm" to support the Lift2Life Friendship Garden with two nice Avokaria ornamental trees. We say thank you to Mr. Behailu Wolde, the manager of Genesis Farm, for supporting us.

The Friendship Garden will be a nice place to meet and relax. Next week an opening ceremony is planned, this will be the official opening.



planning gardening



beginning of the works



inspecting seeds



caring for flowers



students relax in the garden



Moringa seeds



seeding Moringa trees



Genesis Farms supported



Avokaria farming



transport trees to the school



Alemaju did the overall design



Avokaria tree in the Friendship...



Alemaju and Alemu



Behailu Wolde, manager of Genesis Farm



seeding lavender

2014 Nov 19 – Excellent Water Results



For the well at Bishoftu School we received the water quality results from the laboratory in Addis Abeba: WOW – the water will be drinkable! All physio chemical and bacteriological results are significantly below WHO limits. This is a great success.

Today the work continued with digging trenches for pipeline and cabling. It is expected to finish the well work within the next 10 days!





የውሃ ሥራ ለማዘጋጀትና ለማስተካከል ለሚያስፈልጉት ግብዓት የሥራ ህደት የሚገባው ነው።



Water Works Design and Supervision
Enterprise Laboratory Service Sub
Process
Water Quality Section
P.O. Box 2561
Addis Ababa

Tel: 251 - 116 - 19 55 1681 45 01
Fax: 251 - 116 - 61 53 7161 08 08
e-mail: w.w.d.s.a@ethiotionet.et

SELECTED PHYSIO CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER ANALYSIS RESULTS			
Client/Project: Selam Awassa Water Drilling and Sanitation PLC			
SOURCE OF SAMPLE	Well		WHO maximum allowable Concentration (mg/l)
LOCATION	Debra Ziet		
DATE OF COLLECTION	2/11/2014		
DATE RECEIVED	3/11/2014		
CLIENTS ID.NO.	-		
LAB.ID NO.	702/2007		
Colour (app)	-		
Turbidity (NTU)	Trace		5.0
Total Solids 105°C (mg/l)	378.00		
T. Dissolved Solid 105°C (mg/l)	366.00		1000.0
Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)	568.00		
pH	7.97		6.5-8.5
Ammonia (mg/l NH ₃)	0.36		
Sodium (mg/l Na)	39.00		200.0
Potassium (mg/l K)	3.90		
Total Hardness (mg/l Ca CO ₃)	256.00		500.0
Calcium (mg/l Ca)	80.80		200.0
Magnesium (mg/l Mg)	12.96		150.0
Total Iron (mg/l Fe)	0.005		0.3
Manganese (mg/l Mn)	Trace		0.1
Fluoride (mg/l F)	0.63		1.5
Chloride (mg/l Cl)	11.83		250.0
Nitrite (mg/l NO ₂)	0.011		
Nitrate (mg/l NO ₃)	6.45		45.0
Alkalinity (mg/l CaCO ₃)	300.00		
Carbonate (mg/l CO ₃)	Nil		
Bicarbonate (mg/l HCO ₃)	366.00		
Sulphate (mg/l SO ₄)	4.73		400
Phosphate (mg/l PO ₄)	0.26		

REMARK:- The test result can be compared with the WHO maximum allowable concentration (mg/l) indicated on the last column; but it is not sufficient to decide the suitability of water for drinking purpose based on these parameters only.

The water sample was collected and submitted to our laboratory by the client.

Tested by: [Signature] Processed By: [Signature] Checked by: [Signature] Approved by: [Signature]
Date: 10/11/14 Date: 10/11/14 Date: 10/11/14 Date: 10/11/14



2014 Nov 20 – Echo Africa Magazine



This Thursday we met editors of [Echo Africa](#), a modern magazine published in Addis Abeba and distributed over whole Ethiopia. They plan to publish an article about the Lift2Life mission of

Solera. During the visit we explained the courses of the school, students situation, talked about Global-Care which runs the school and we talked about the efforts within our Solera Lift2Life.



2014 Nov 21 – Internet Setup Finished



This week Michael Mahler from [AUTOonline](#) finished the Internet connection within the vocational school at Bishoftu. The task was to setup a local intranet, so that the computers in different buildings and class rooms reach each other. With this precondition the computers are now able to connect to the central DSL modem and accessing the internet by this.

The school has an external administrator Mohammed Hussein. Michael introduced the administrator in the new system and its logics within 2 lessons. So we gain sustainability.

Trainers of the school told, that this is a great step forward since they now have the possibility to access rich educational information. This was not possible that easy before. In consequence this will enhance the quality of the lessons and raise the schools standard.

AUTOonline
The Value Experts

AUTOonline sponsored the complete equipment installed at the school. We say THANK YOU for supporting Lift2Life.





2014 Nov 26 – Finalizing Well



We're just about finishing the Lift2Life mission in Ethiopia.

The well was the objective with the longest runtime. This week it will finish. After we got the positive message about the good water quality we did now the closing works: setup the pipeline to the tank, setup the control unit, do electrical cabling. At the pictures you see that all this is done by true handcraft.

I got a lot of feedbacks that the well is the most valuable, most useful and most sustainable task we did. I slowly learned the value by myself: if there is no water you cannot wash yourself, you cannot wash anything, toilets do not work. This is odd if you experience that by yourself.

We have to say THANK YOU especially to „[Selam Awassa Water Drilling Works and Sanitation plc](#)“, namely Atkelt and Paulos. It came out that doing this work in Ethiopia is a struggle every day from new – the unexpected happens every day. Selam Awassa managed it. Last not least at the end of the day there turned a gap of the planned money. Selam Awassa anyway did their work to the originally proposed amount. So they additionally SPONSORED the vocational school in Bishoftu within our Lift2Life mission.

This is my finishing week in Ethiopia. Stay tuned for a recap and outlook.



Atkelt and Paulos
Both managers from Selam Awassa



Josef and Yared. They managed all the work



ungarble the pipeline



ungarble the pipeline



Josef checking the cables



handling the cable



doing concrete works



pipeline from well to tank



pipeline from well to tank



Josef and Yared preparing the tank



Josef and Yared preparing the tank



Alemaju setting up a small control house within one day



Control house nearly finished

2014 Nov 29 – Farewell Ceremony



I'm am about to leave Ethiopia since the planned targets of our Lift2Life mission are implemented finally.

So Friday we had a nice farewell ceremony at the Bishoftu vocational school. The Ethiopians are known for their coffee ceremony: They decorate the floor with grass and flowers, at a stove they burn incense (Weihrauch) and view coffee beans. So it is a nice smell in the air. The strong and very tasty coffee is served in small cups. Additionally eating popcorn is very common.

The team of the school expressed a lot of thanks to our Lift2Life support. They acknowledged our engagement and help-for-self-help approach. By doing so I became acquainted with some new friends. Last not least they ask for continuation ... so let us see.





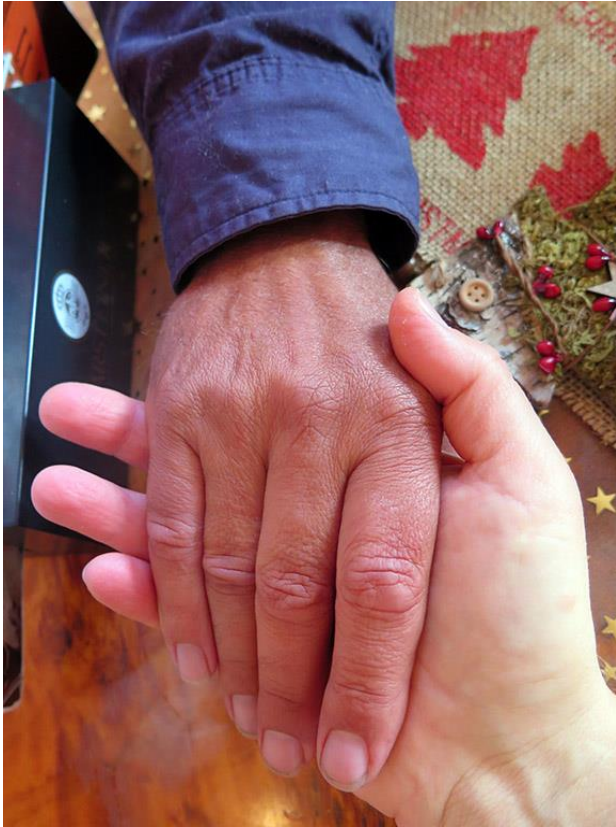
2014 Dec 7 – Returning to Minden



This week I received home in Minden with a very warm welcome. Already had some visits in my company, good talks with many colleagues there. Especially it is a great concern of me to express thanks to my Solera team that supported me in many aspects.

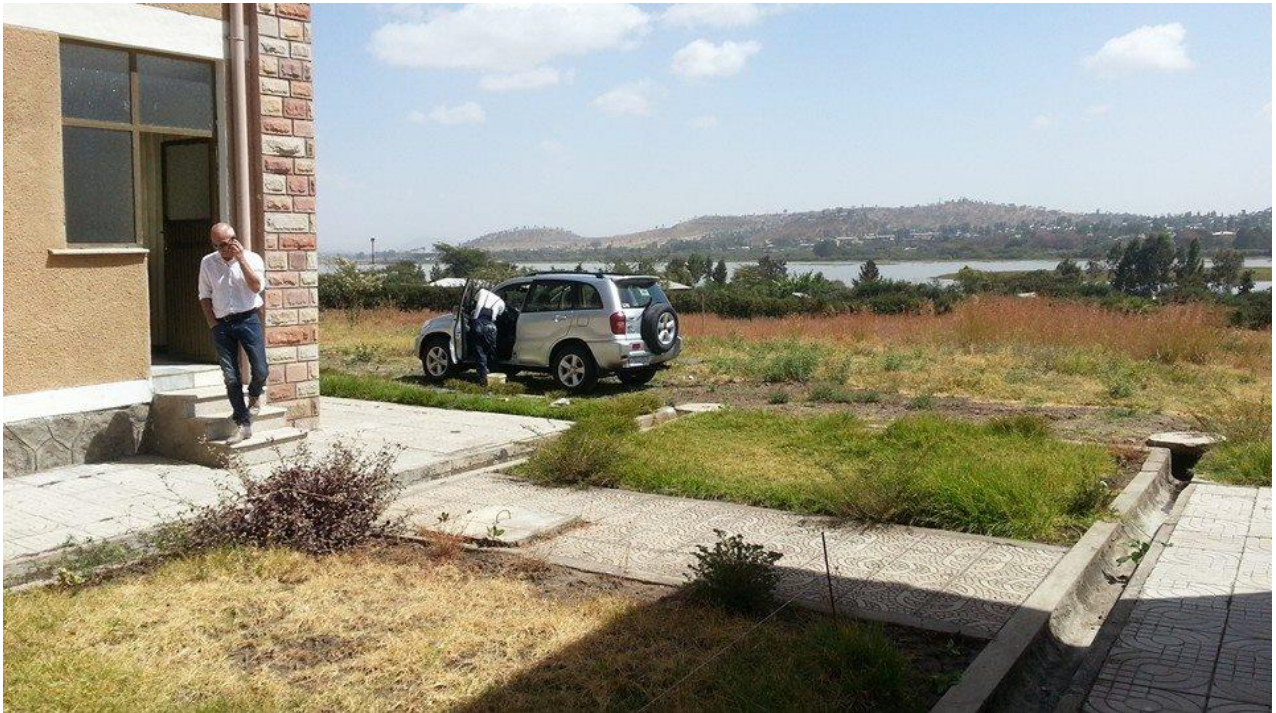
My Lift2Life effort did not finish. Coming days I will visit headquarters of Global-Care in Germany to discuss the outcome, the results and how to sustain our efforts. It is very likely that we take a visit to Ethiopia in January again.





The 2nd Travel in February 2015

2015 Jan 23 – Visit school with Jan van der Waart



Together with our Lift2Life operational lead and the Global-Care heads we visited the vocational school in Bishoftu. The school head Aida Mohammed lead us over the school area. She showed and explained what is done for the teenagers in need: Global-Care provides an education for the very poorest – for free. These are the ones who never would have a chance to get an education.

Solera supports this valuable work with its Lift2Life mission in 2014. The visit was about to respect the work of the whole team. Primarily we liked to assure sustainability: what is required, what is done, what can be done to sustain the work.







2015 Jan 24 – Care for Lift2Life Sustainability



Lots of achievements happened this week in our Lift2Life project in Ethiopia. Solera runs its mission in Ethiopia in cooperation with Global-Care. I'm here in Bishoftu again together with heads of Global-Care to discuss how to actually and effectively achieve sustainment for the coming years. This is challenging – but the original task at all: the story here is about the teenagers in need. To emphasize and strengthen our interest, the Lift2Life operational Lead Jan van der Waart came to Ethiopia too. We had a couple meetings and smalltalks. Some of the outcomes end of this week:

- The vocational school need to initiate a business to achieve additional income generation. For this a business plan is required. We acknowledged to support Global-Care in this subject.
- To get a business running a network is required. We arranged a meeting with a similar organization in Addis Abeba: „Selam Awassa Children Village“. We arranged an initial meeting with the Managing Director Zenebe Tesfaye. Primary questions was, whether and how Mr.Tesfaye can support this work in Ethiopia.
- We arranged a follow-up workshop with the „Selam Children Village“ on coming Tuesday. The aim is to settle up concrete steps and milestones to initiate all of the plans. This includes organizational changes. The target is to have the first step of a business running within one year – meaning end of 2015. Everything starts small, do the first step.
- To find a business we utilize the idea of „Quick Wins“: look what we have, look what is present and make a business out of it.
- Currently the vocational school is financed 100% by German donations. The long-term goal is, that the school generates all its fiscal requirements by itself.



2015 Jan 27 – Cornerstones for future of Bishoftu school



Today we did a good step forward to sustain the work of the Bishoftu vocational school. This turns out as a good step to sustain our Lift2Life efforts of Solera. We visited the Management of Selam-Children-Village. This is a charitable organization in Addis Abeba doing nearly the same work as Global-Care in Bishoftu. The ultimate difference: Selam-Children runs an own business generating own income! This is the target Global-Care needs to reach in Bishoftu.

With Selam-Children-Village we believe to have a strong and good partner within Ethiopia. We had meetings and talks with

- Zenebe Tesfaye, Managing Director
- Kassa Hailegiorgis, Director of business branch
- Nigatu Tadesse, Legal consultant and Attorney of Law
- Christoph Zinsstag, Manager selam.ch

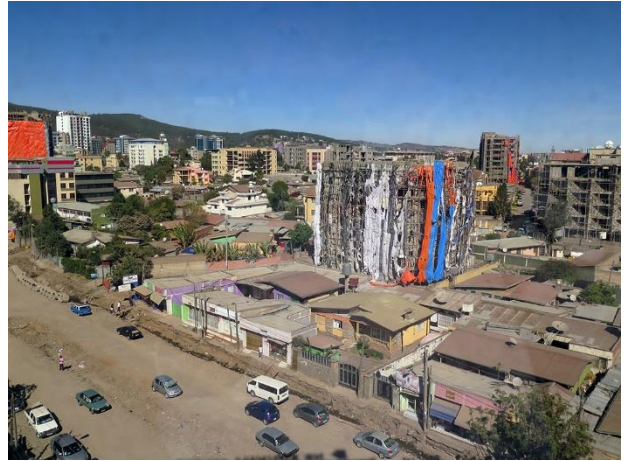
Our efforts in the Lift2Life is to support Global-Care in that process with our tools, our engagement and our heart. Among the things that needs to be done are

- change the organization structure of Bishoftu school to be allowed to run a business
- provide a working business plan
- find trustworthy network in Ethiopia to run a business
- raise additional money for initiating a business

All this is for the children in need. They are the cornerstone of our interest and efforts.



Nigatu Tadesse, Legal consultant and Attorney of Selam Awassa



Addis Abeba street view from lawyers office



Zenebe Tesfaye, Managing Director



Kassa Hailegiorgis, Director of business branch

2015 Jan 28 – Team Meeting shaping future of Bishoftu school



In the Bishoftu School we had a Team meeting with all teachers and school leadership team. Talks were about current status of the school, its work and some talks about the future. It was not an easy going. Anyway the target was to get the complete team onboard for future work. This we achieved.





2015 Jan 31 – Receiving back from Ethiopia – Engagement continues



The last 14 days we had couple of meetings and discussion at the vocational school Bishoftu. Top topic is how to successfully sustain and continue the education of teenagers at the school. Among the results are

- introduce cost recovery activities
- introduce income generation activities
- drive the long term plan for setting up a primary school

We talked about how Solera could accompany and support this process. Our Lift2Life effort will continue – to give a 2nd chance the children in need.

From heavy and hard sun in Ethiopian highland to snow in Minden within one day.



Random Impressions











Andreas Wittig
Customer Implementation
Engineer at audatex.de

