

Hope for Rural Children and Orphans (HORCO)

Report of the Distribution of Books Donated by Books For Africa – May 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

Hope for Rural Children and Orphans (HORCO) has distributed 1,254 books to one primary school, one secondary school and one public library in Holeta town in the months of August and September, 2008. Holeta is part of West Shoa zone of Oromia Regional State.



Visiting the school in Holeta, Ethiopia



Books arriving at the HORCO office

II. GENESIS OF THE PROJECT

Fortunately, in May 2008 Dr. Alice Butterfield came to Ethiopia and met with HORCO through consultation with the Oak Foundation representative to Ethiopia. Eventually, we arranged a site visit to one of our project site located in Holeta town. Dr. Alice, Richard Kordesh, Kay McChesney, and Richelle Haines from the Gedam Sefer Community University Partnership <http://www.aboutsweep.org> visited the school and were unable to hide their feelings of sorrow because of the shocking situation they observed. The school accommodated about 3000 students without a library or a single book for the students and teachers to refer to or to use to enrich their knowledge. Dr. Alice facilitated conditions right away for us to get books from Books For Africa. In the end, we received 40 boxes of books. All of the stakeholders were excited that this rare opportunity came true!

III. QUALITY OF THE BOOKS

As soon as we received the books, the management assigned groups of individuals with basic knowledge on education to sort out the books according to the subject and existing level. They arranged the books into three levels.

1. books for the primary level
2. books for the secondary level
3. books for the tertiary (delivered to public library)

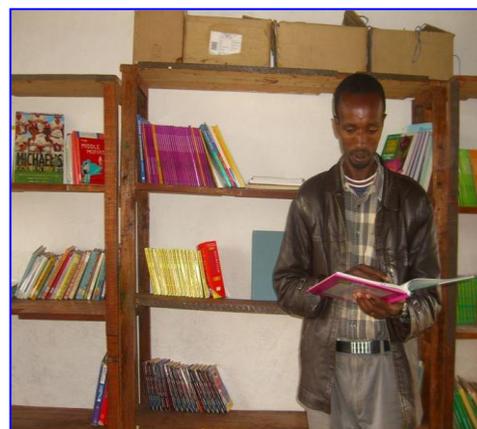


Teacher excited with the value of the books

While arranging the books for each level of education, they witnessed the quality and publication date of the books. Community representatives of the two schools and a representative of the town administration were also astonished by the high quality of the books, particularly the books recently published for general knowledge and academic subjects. Other reference books such as those on media and communication, medicine, computer science, English literature, and dictionaries were very recent publications. Most of the books were published between 1995 and 2007, so they contain up-to-date information and research results.

IV. BENEFICIARY SCHOOLS

As we already described above the books donated by Books For Africa delivered to two schools and one public library which are located in Holeta town that is west of Addis Ababa. The primary school had no library, and not a single book! The only books at the school were textbooks that the students receive at the beginning of the academic year and share—one book for every four students. The secondary school and the public library had some books which were insufficient and out-dated.



Books Displayed in the library of Holeta Primary School



HORCO staff with the School Principal after the delivery of the 40 boxes of books

	SCHOOL	NUMBER OF BOOKS	SITUATION BEFORE RECEPTION OF BOOKS
1.	Holeta Primary	493	No library
2.	Holeta Secondary	361	Library
3.	Holeta town Administration public library	400	Library
Total		1254	

V. OBSERVATIONS

The statements below show the feelings of some of the beneficiaries of the books.

- *“These books will help our students develop interest in reading and better uses of libraries in the future, moreover, equip our teachers. Mr. Getachew Dagne, Vice-Principal of Holeta Primary School.*
- *“We are indebted to HORCO and Books For Africa for this donation.” Mr. Shiferaw Bekele, Head of the Public Mobilization and Social Affairs office.*
- *“The books will help us explore the world and widen our brains.” Bethlehem Wondimu, grade 8 student of Holeta Primary School.*

VI. CONCLUSION

HORCO is confident that all the beneficiaries effectively utilize the books provided because it has observed enthusiastic interest on the part of the school principals, teachers, and students that have improved access to information and library books. We hope that these books are used and preserved for future generations, and that in this way, the schools that received the books will examples of education for nearby schools in Holeta town and the surrounding area.