



Visit
Food for the Hungry Ethiopia, Zeway District

20th of March 2009

Zeway, Ethiopia

© Copyright: ThreeLeftHands Foundation

Foreword

Not knowing where their donations to NGO's were precisely used for and questioning if Africa is really that bad as being told, three men decided to check out the continent for them self. These three men are us; Henk Rigter, Marten Mulder and Minne Bonnema, hereafter referred to as 'we' or 'the ThreeLeftHands', which also identifies the non-profit organization we founded to explore and to document the situations throughout Africa. While doing this, we help out people and organizations where ever we can and report about our activities to the Netherlands using various media among which our website ThreeLeftHands.com. Africa is a big continent and we cover all the distance in our easy recognizable 25-year old and orange minibus.

As being a supportive organization, ThreeLeftHands strive to improve other organizations that are being visited. To achieve this ambitious goal, the ThreeLeftHands posses a various skill set which are acquired through study and, mostly, excessive practice. Fields of expertise wherein TLH can excel are especially, but not limited to, internet and other computer applications, (mechanical) engineering and marketing / communication. In cooperation with the counterpart organization, one or more projects are appointed to the ThreeLeftHands and after completing the goals agreed upon, ThreeLeftHands moves on to the next organization that will hopefully also benefit from their visit. As long as an organization is serving the public, ThreeleftHands will not make difference between organizations and offer their services completely free of charge.

While the ThreeLeftHands are perfectly capable of taking care of their own, a donation or expense coverage is never expected, but always highly appreciated

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	2
Organization Profile.....	4
Introduction.....	5
1.0 Project details.....	6
1.1. Food for the Hungry Database.....	6
1.1.1 Objectives.....	6
1.1.2 How to achieve the objectives.....	6
1.1.3 Project limitations and recommendations.....	6
1.2 Repairing the chairs.....	8
1.2.1 Objectives.....	8
1.2.2. How to achieve these objectives	8
1.2.3. Project limitations and recommendations.....	8
1.3 Fixing the generators.....	9
1.3.1 Objectives.....	9
1.3.2 How to achieve the objectives.....	9
1.3.3 Project limitations and recommendations.....	9
1.4 Recommendations on the 2009 HIV/AIDS project proposal.....	10
1.4.1 Objectives.....	10
1.4.2 How to achieve the objectives.....	10
1.4.3 Project limitations and recommendations.....	10
2.0 Monitoring and Evaluation.....	11

Organization Profile

Name: ThreeLeftHands

Established: July, 2008

Mission:

To experience Africa by own hand, to report on situations throughout Africa from a different, sincere view and to help out people, communities and organizations where possible.

Vision:

Africa is often referred to as 'The Lost Continent' and news feed from this region often agrees with this negative alias. Whether is famine or war, dictators or rebellion, there's not much good coming from Africa. We don't believe that. We believe that there is more to a story, more to a continent then the media tells us. Also we believe that one man can make a difference and therefore we travel through Africa to make that difference and find out whats Africa about by our own experience. By our stories, we hope to inspire people to try to change the world as well.

This are the ThreeLefthands:

Henk Rigter, age 25

Fields of expertise: Communication, Marketing and Management;

Marten Mulder, age 24

Fields of expertise: (Mechanical) engineering and teaching;

Minne Bonnema, age 26

Fields of expertise: Computer applications, Internet solutions and Business Management

Contact details:

ThreeLeftHands Foundation

Wiardastraat 15

8934 AP LEEUWARDEN, The Netherlands

www.ThreeLeftHands.com

info@ThreeLeftHands.com

We prefer contact by email. That is, when we are not in the direct neighbourhood. When we are, you are allowed to speak to us.

Introduction

On the nineteenth of March 2009, while traveling towards Kenya, the ThreeLeftHands meet John Connelly, Country Director of Food for the Hungry International(FHI) / Ethiopia. After a short conversation, we decide to extend our stay in Ethiopia by visiting Food for the Hungry in Zeway(FH Zeway). Here we meet project manager Dawit Kessayi, who introduces us to the Zeway department of FHI and allows us to park our car, that we use to camp in, on the organizations compound. A brief meeting later, we agree that there are four projects that TLH might commence, being the following;

- The direct beneficiaries of FH Zeway count over more then 2,000 children, who are being monitored and guided by the organizations social workers. Collected data is mostly recorded on paper, to be inserted in an excel sheet later on. In agreement with Dawit Kessayi, TLH decided that FH Zeway will mostly benefit from a solid database that can be used to collect, store and analyze data. The database will be programmed in Microsoft Access, provided by FH Zeway. Besides the database, we will also write a proper manual in order to operate the system to its fullest capabilities.
- Next to the FH Zeway office building, around eighty broken chairs are collected on a big pile. When provided with a welding machine, TLH is capable of repairing all the chairs, so that they can be used in classrooms, where they belong.
- In the FH Zeway compound two diesel powered generators are being out of order with no particular reason. TLH does have the knowledge to repair these and will try to fix the machines so that they can used for what ever purpose necessary. Employees of FH Zeway, however, fear that the generators will be taken away as soon as they are in order again, but we feel that the risk should be taken; broken generators that are not being repaired, only occupy space.
- In 2009 FH Zeway, in cooperation with other investing stakeholders, will initiate the Comprehensive Community-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support Project. To guide the project, a Project Proposal is written. TLH will read, analyze and, when needed, comment on the proposal. Outcomes of this research will be bundled in the report 'A ThreeLefthands view on the 2009 HIV/AIDS program Project Proposal'.

We, Henk, Marten and Minne, sincerely hope that our stay in Zeway will positively contribute to FH Zeway and its beneficiaries.

1.0 Project details

1.1. Food for the Hungry Database

Priority: High

Duration: 10 days

1.1.1 Objectives

- A. To program a system that will allow FH Zeway employees to record, track and analyze beneficiary;
 - data collected during house or quick visits;
 - medical and health records;
 - educational achievements and stationary;
 - other stuff that might come in handy.
- B. To write a manual that will allow FH Zeway employees to fully comprehend the programmed database system.
- C. To fully instruct the system administrator appointed by FH Zeway in the proper usage of the programmed database.

1.1.2 How to achieve the objectives

The project managers laptop is being used to program a database system in Microsoft Acces. MS Acces is provided by FH Zeway. After completing the system, which we'll try to develop with the help of the system administrator, TLH will create a manual using a printer.

1.1.3 Project limitations and recommendations

- While we did use Microsoft products for this project, we strongly prefer and recommend the usage of the free and fully capable alternatives OpenOffice and other OpenSource programs or operating systems like Linux / Ubuntu. TLH did not implement this free software, because it needs a certain mindshift from the user. Also, a stable internet connection is preferred to fully benefit the advantages of the software. Find more information about, or download the programs from www.OpenOffice.org and www.Ubuntu.org.
- It is strongly recommended to install the database on a central server, so the system can be used from different locations connected to the LAN. TLH can install such a server, but a not used computer is needed to host the server. At this moment, this is not available.

- After completing the assigned projects, TLH will move to another location and will be hard to contact. This means that we are hardly available during the implementation and adaptive stage of the system. TLH will try to cover this by creating a proper manual and instruction of the people working with the system. Small problems will occur and some endurance is required to overcome these. MS Access knowledge can help too.
- FH Zeway appoints the person who will maintain the database. Besides this, all employees or social workers should be able to insert data to the system when necessary. Please do try to control this, otherwise the system will develop in a bunch of chaos.
- TLH designs the system to be self maintaining, but sometimes changes need to be made. If FH Zeway does not have the knowledge to implement these changes, an email can be send to info@threelefthands.com. Probably we're able to fix whatever you want from distance, as a copy of the database will be backed up to our own hard drive.

1.2 Repairing the chairs

Priority: Medium

Duration: 4 days

1.2.1 Objectives

- A. To repair and reinforce a total of 83 broken school chairs by the use of a welding machine provided by Kolleeyii Barnoota Fileenjii Tecknika Fi Ogumna Batuu, hereafter referred to as 'the school'.
- B. All the 83 chairs had the same fluke in common; an armrest unable to cope with the arms resting on it and broke as a result of that. To fix the chairs in a way that they can be used for years to follow, we will weld an extra piece of metal between the armrest and the rest of the chairs framework.

1.2.2. How to achieve these objectives

The chairs will be transported to the school, where TLH will use the schools welding machine to repair the chairs. The extra pieces of metal used to further reinforce the chairs are being provided by FH Zeway, the school or another external party. TLH itself does not have it, unfortunately. While repairing the chairs, we'll try to instruct the school personnel in the use of the machines it has that are not being used among which are the following: compressors, generators, a sanding machine, a folding machine, etc..

1.2.3. Project limitations and recommendations

- Local employees better pay attention to how we fix this chairs so that in the future they can fix this minor problem them self. This could also serve as an excellent practical assignment for the students attending technical classes.
- When extra pieces of metal are not provided, TLH will not be able to reinforce the chairs. The metal doesn't have to be new, as long its strong enough to support the framework.
- Its recommended that the machinery available at the school will be used. TLH found out that knowledge on how to operate these machines is mostly missing, which is a shame. Also, some of the machinery is not working anymore. Why its not being fixed remains a mystery to us. Learning how to fix stuff is mostly a matter of trial and error, failure is the first step towards mastery. So just give it a try.

1.3 Fixing the generators

Priority: Low

Duration: 3 days

1.3.1 Objectives

To repair the two diesel powered generators on the FH Zeway compound.

1.3.2 How to achieve the objectives.

The generators will be taken apart to trace the problem, thereafter repaired and cleaned and placed in order again.

1.3.3 Project limitations and recommendations

- Generators, and engines in general, are being known as pretty complex machines. While our mechanical knowledge is exceptional, we cannot see what's wrong with an engine without taking it apart. Therefore it's useless to say whether we're able to fix it, because the problem could be anything; maybe something small that we can fix in a day, maybe something big that needs a lot of attention, or can't even be fixed at all
- While we travel with a lot of tools, we can't cover everything. It's possible that we need extra materials to fix the generators. When so, we'll ask how to obtain these materials.
- As being stated in paragraph 2.2.3., we also recommend in this case to pay attention and try for yourself sometime. Really, the amount of stuff that's not being used in Africa while the solution is not really hard is incredible! If something doesn't work for a couple of years, and you can't pay for reparations, just take it apart and try. Even if you break it, at least you learned how not to fix it.

1.4 Recommendations on the 2009 HIV/AIDS project proposal

Priority: Low

Duration: 3 days

1.4.1 Objectives

To analyze and, where needed, comment on the Comprehensive Community-Based HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support Project Project Proposal, hereafter referred to as 'the project proposal'.

1.4.2 How to achieve the objectives

TLH will be spending two days reading and analyzing the project proposal, after which one more day will be spend recording the comments in the document 'A ThreeLeftHands view on the 2009 HIV/Aids project proposal', that will be handed over to the FH Zeway Program Manager.

1.4.3 Project limitations and recommendations

- TLH will comment on the project proposal, not on the project itself.
- We are well aware of the fact that officially the program has already started. Because of this, recommendations on the project proposal may be useless. TLH will write its comments regarding this fact.

2.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

Our relatively short visit at Food for the Hungry Ethiopia Zeway prevents us from proper monitoring and evaluating the project outcomes. This causes us to place these responsibilities at the FH Zeway staff. For two of the four projects this will not be a problem; the generators will, or will not work for a certain period of time and the recommendations on the project proposal are, or are not taken into consideration.

Monitoring the functionality of the machinery at the school is recommended, as is monitoring the knowledge on the various machines. When this this usage and/or knowledge decreases, measurements can be taken, e.g. inviting a mechanical engineer or acquire some proper manuals. Whether this responsibility lays with FH Zeway or the school is not for us to decide, but we advise to hand it to the school and have it checked by FH Zeway, as this organization is involved to most of the areas' progress.

Functionality of the database has to be monitored closely. We recommend that in the first year, every month a database evaluation is composed by the administrator in order to be able to quickly respond to problems or flaws. By email and internet, even slow and buggy Ethiopian internet, TLH will be able to answer most of the questions asked and even to adjust the database where necessary. Do not, we repeat, do not hesitate to contact us. The system created can be extremely valuable and is extremely costly when an organization actually has to pay for it. FH Zeway is donated this database and we would be grateful if the system is properly used. Equally, we would be very disappointed if the database becomes out of use after a short period of time. Therefore, the monitoring and evaluation of the database is not to be underestimated.