

# TABLE FOR TWO Site Report: Supplemental Information

## ～Vol.9 Ethiopia～

Dear TFT Partner:

Thank you for your continued support of TABLE FOR TWO. This document provides information from our recipient sites that we were unable to include in the one-page site report. Please feel free to use the content for your company's internal communications or for PR activities.

Sincerely yours,  
TABLE FOR TWO International

### <Overview>

In March 2011, we visited Ethiopia the regions we have supported through the program since September 2010. Previously, the conditions for children to have a satisfying meal were very unstable due to discontinued school meal programs. Ever since the implementation of school meal programs through Table For Two, conditions though gradually have improved. With this document we would like to provide you with information on Ethiopian elementary schools and the meals that are being offered to the children there.

#### 1. Koraro, Hawzen, Tigray Region

Table For Two (TFT) has provided school meal programs in Koraro, a village in the Hawzen district in the Tigray region, in Northern Ethiopia since September 2010.

This area is a semi-arid zone with the rainy season starting around the end of June until the beginning of September. With recent climate change, however, serious draughts have damaged agricultural production which is the main industry in the region. With most of the population being family farmers, yields affect the lives of children severely. In addition families live far apart and yet roads are poorly maintained, making it hard for transporting produce to the markets in the city or for children to go to school every day. TFT provides meals to the 13000 children in 22 elementary schools in this region.



#### 2. Elementary Schools in Ethiopia



Policies on education of the Ethiopian government shifted in 1994 when elementary education, from age 7 to 14, was to be provided for free. This has resulted in a remarkable rise in the attendance rate, and in 2007 the rate exceeded the average of Sub-Saharan African nations. In 2008 the number was reached 82 %.

► Costs for Families

Costs for textbooks and teaching have been paid for by the local governments. Families have to pay a yearly registration fee of 15 to 20 Birrs, which is about one US Dollar, but this can be waived for families who cannot afford to pay.

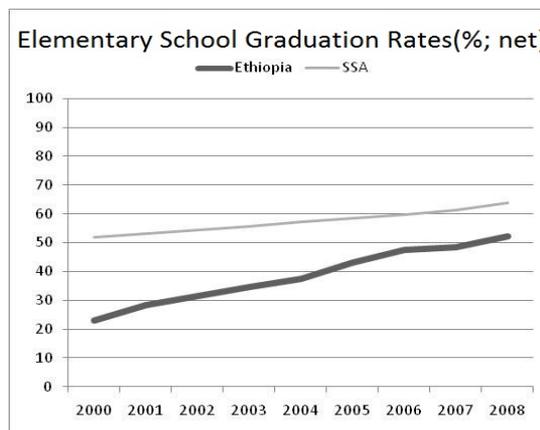
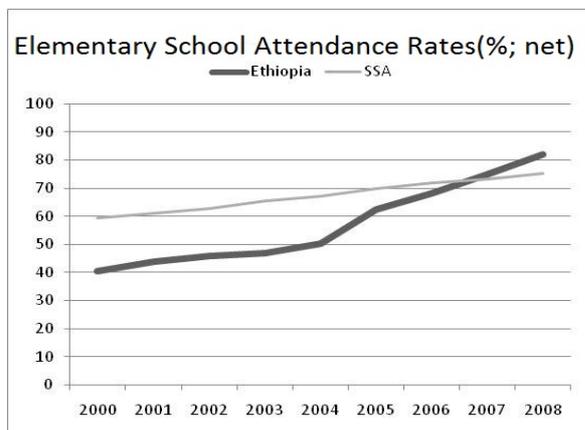
► Double-Shifts

As with many of the countries the TFT program supports, elementary schools in Ethiopia provide Double-shift Schooling where students attend either a morning or afternoon session. This is due to the amount of teachers and the amount of classrooms have not caught up with the increasing amount of students.

► Language

With Ethiopia, where no official colonization ever took place, classes are offered in the local languages. Amharic is the official language, but different dialects exist for different tribes. There are English classes in the curriculum, but with all the other classes done in local languages the percentage of people who can speak English is lower than other Sub-Saharan African nations.

When we take a look at the graduation rate we find that though there has been an increase over the past several years, it has only reached 52% in 2008, low compared to 64%, the average of Sub Saharan African nations.



What is the reason behind the low graduation rates? One is that many students in their final year of elementary school fail on their graduation exams. A nation-wide exam at eighth grade determines whether one can graduate elementary school and proceed to secondary school, but with many children having to skip school in order to help their family with farming or having a hard time concentrating due to insufficient eating, the environment makes it hard for students to study and pass the exam and result in having to spend another year in school.

Another reason is the high drop-out rate. Children may be forced to help their families by their parents,

or the family may become unable to afford their children to go to school. In addition for girls, marriage and pregnancy at early ages is still an issue in Ethiopia. A sustaining educational opportunity for girls remains as an important task for the educational sector.

### 3. School Meals by TABLE FOR TWO

TFT has provided school meals to 22 elementary schools in Hawzen district in the Tigray region since September 2010. The meals consist of CSB, or Corn Soya Blend, produced and processed within Ethiopia. They are provided as meals through mixing them with vitamin-infused oil in boiled water. Each meal is around 400 kilocalories, enough for the children to concentrate in their studies but insufficient for a healthy



CSB Meals Provided to Children

growth as it lacks menus rich in nutrients, i.e. vegetable soup. TFT is looking to strengthen the program to provide a healthier and more sustainable school meal program for the health and education of the children.



Where Meals are Provided



Children lining up for Meals

### 4. From the Representative of TABLE FOR TWO

The first time I visited Koraro as a part of TFT was in February of 2010. With serious issues of widespread drought, agricultural production was declining severely, and without support from outside nations the school meal program had been suspended. Children would wake up before the sun rose, help their families on their fields or by taking care of their livestock, walk for an hour to school without having any breakfast before getting to school.



According to one of the teachers who were in the classroom, some children would pass out during class due to extreme hunger and fatigue from getting to school. Children, though they had education, would be unable to concentrate in class; even during recess many children would simply spend time sitting on the ground. The strong concerns to this situation by the teachers struck us as well, and we truly felt the need to support the school meal program through TFT and improve the learning environment of these children. After a year, thanks to the understanding and support of

many corporations and organizations, we were able to resume the meal program and offer children something to eat. Though the meals are still not enough in terms of both nutrition and quality, the children were very delighted and happy during lunch. In the near future, we plan to add vegetables and fruits to the school meal by asking local farmers for support. TFT will be putting our efforts to what needs to be done in Koraro, until the day these children would be able to have the nutrients they need, to the level that the children in developed nations have.