



imagine1day®

MEKENISA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

final report



Three years ago, we started working with Mekenisa Primary School to develop their teachers, strengthen their school management, and work with community leaders to enroll more children.

In 2015, thanks to your support, we took our partnership even further; with the opening of a brand new school.

New classrooms, latrines and a playground have given children a comfortable and enjoyable space to learn in. New books, science equipment and sports gear have made education engaging and more effective.

Enrollment rates are up and drop out rates are down. Classroom sizes are smaller, adult literacy classes are larger and the thirst for learning grows stronger every day.

None of this would be possible without you.



MEKENISA SCHOOL: BY THE NUMBERS

407
CHILDREN
ENROLLED,
UP FROM 307

1%
THE NEW DROP
OUT RATE, DOWN
FROM 41%

304
OUT OF SCHOOL
CHILDREN
ENROLLED OVER
THREE YEARS

97%
ATTEND SCHOOL
EVERY DAY, UP
FROM 41%

58
CHILDREN PER
CLASS, DOWN
FROM 102

91
ADULTS IN
LITERACY
PROGRAMS, UP
FROM 37

117
CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS
TO EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION. BEFORE,
IT WAS ZERO

From our baseline data in 2013, when we started working with Mekenisa School, compared with mid-2016.

Ten years ago, Mekenisa School was born. Just 20 students attended, taught by one teacher under the shade of a tree.

Mohammedhussein Mohammed, a Parent-Teacher Association member, was there in 2006 and remembers the history of the school.

"Our children were taught under a tree. The community raised money and constructed classrooms." These buildings, constructed of mud and sticks, let almost no light in, he recalls.

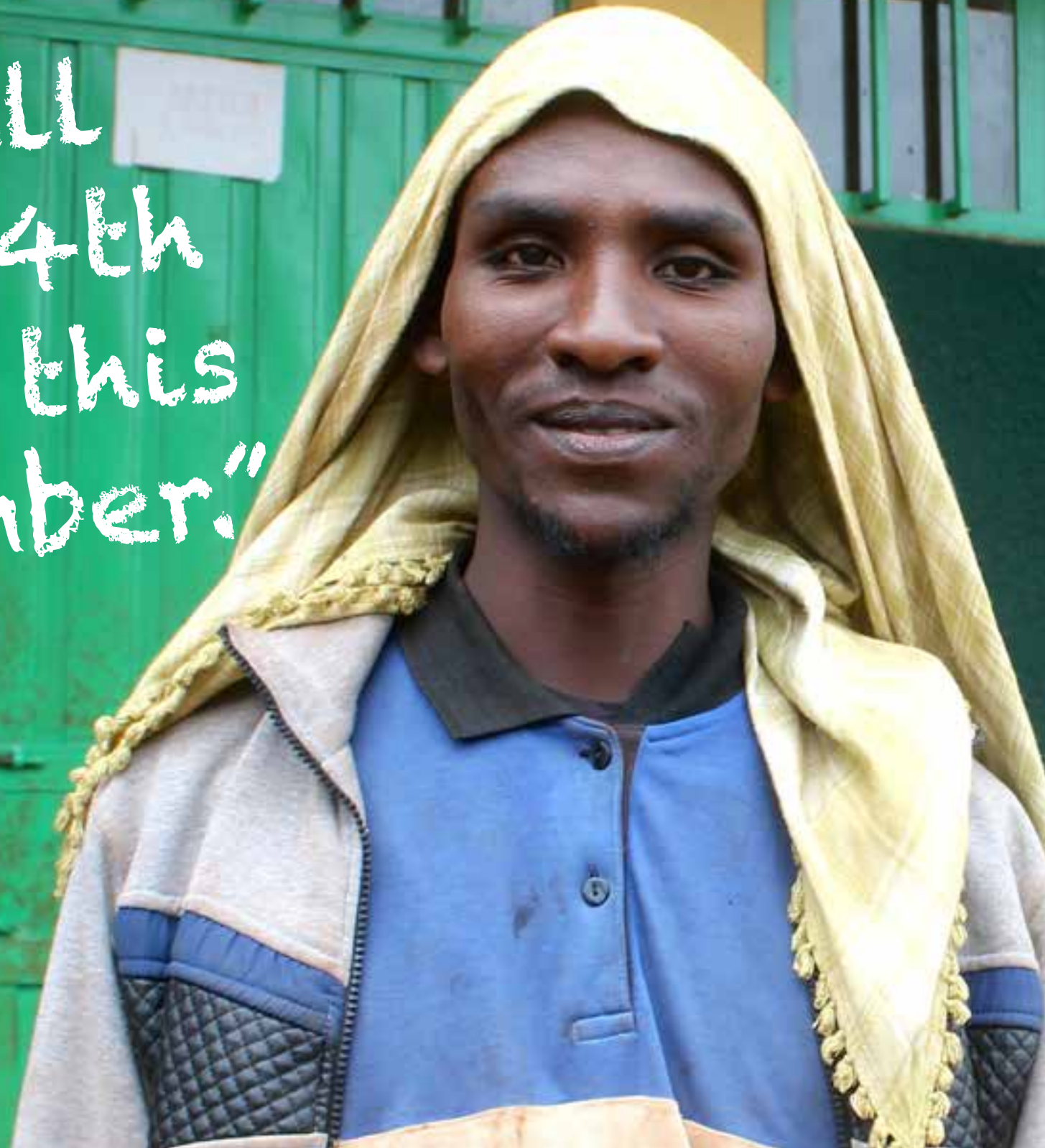
"When imagine1day came and saw our classrooms, it was so dark that they said this is like a jail cell, not a classroom. imagine1day supported us to build proper classrooms for our children.

"In the past, our children sat on stone and wrote on their laps. Now, they are sitting and writing on proper desk. In the past, they could only learn up to grade 4, but now they can pursue their education up to grade 8. This is a big improvement."



"In the past, our children sat on stone and wrote on their laps. This is a big improvement."

"I will
be in 4th
grade this
September."



Abdulnasir Mohammedhusein remembers the classroom under the tree very well.

He was there - one of the first 20 children to study at the school.

Now, 10 years later, Abdulnasir is 18.

He's back in school.

"I learned in the old classrooms till grade 3 and dropped out of school for eight years. I enrolled back in school last year in grade 3. I am in 4th grade this year."



With your support, we didn't just build a school. We equipped a community with the skills and resources to manage and sustain their school well into the future.

It started with seed money of US\$675, which the community used to install 36 beehives to generate income for the school.

The first harvest is due soon, and with 21 of the beehives already occupied, they're expecting yields of at least 15 pounds of honey.

On current estimates, they'll earn US\$1300 a year - a 96% return on investment.

That money will be used for school repairs and supplies, and reinvested to continue to grow the school's financial reserves.

One day the money saved may even be used to build new classrooms as the school roll grows.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Job done? Definitely not, says the school management, at one of their regular meetings.

- Safi Mohammed, a religious leader in Mekenisa community, says there is still much more work to do. One of the main challenges facing the school is low female enrollment, with girls making up only 37% of students.”

“The culture still discourages girls from going to school. Early marriage remains a major problem in our area; they get married as early as 15 years old. I advise children to go to school and encourage them not to drop out. I also teach parents to send their girls to school.”

- Mekenisa is not alone: Many schools in the Dello Mena District suffer from lower female participation and enrollment.

While there have been dramatic improvements, at imagine1day, we say its is not enough. We’re providing additional support to Mekenisa and other schools in the district through our Girl Fund. These extra efforts will end the harmful, outdated cultural practices that devalue women and prevent them from getting an education.

- We will run female-specific enrollment drives to reach girls still out of school, develop community-based strategies to end harmful traditional practices including early marriage, and work more with influential community leaders on ways to promote gender equality.



YOU HAVE
CREATED A TRULY
TRANSFORMATIVE
CHANGE FOR
CHILDREN, A
COMMUNITY
AND A NATION.

THANK YOU.



imagine1day