



International Institute
Social Medical
Anthropological Sciences
(IISMAS)



National Institute
for Health Migrants
and Poverty
(NIHMP)



Regione Lazio



Tigray Italian Human
Development Association



The social activities of NIHMP, IISMAS and TIHDA in ETHIOPIA

During the last 20 years the San Gallicano Hospital, now NIHMP, has been working in partnership with the no-profit Associations IISMAS and Tihda not only to improve the health status but also to guarantee social and economical opportunities for the population of Mekelle and the Tigray Region. Through this work the Institute aims at providing better chances for life and contrasting the push factors for migration in the region. Women and children are the main beneficiaries of these activities.

Giving women a chance

Since 2005 IISMAS and Tihda are giving assistance to young women and mothers of Mekelle through training and financial support for the development of income generating activities to promote their economic and social inclusion and reduce their vulnerability. Currently, in partnership with the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs of Mekelle, 14 vulnerable young women and mothers, who received vocational and business training, are being provided with financial support to start small hairdresser shops.

Supporting children for a better future

Through its partnership with IISMAS, the NIHMP is sponsoring a primary school located in the rural village of Metoghe, 30 kms away from Mekelle. The school has no windows, bathrooms, and lacks drinkable water and electricity. Thanks to the establishment of a twinning with an Italian primary school based in Gerbole di Rivalta (Turin), IISMAS has provided desks, writing material and notebooks to all pupils attending the school.

In 2005, IISMAS ONLUS opened in Mekelle a guesthouse for children in need of support for serious family problems or after being dismissed from hospital. "Casa Ersilia" currently hosts 12 children, looked after and cared for by 4 adults ("parents"). Educational support is provided by a teacher who regularly visits the guesthouse, and who contributed to the overall improvement of their performance in school.

Sustaining the future of the IDC

IISMAS, Tihda and NIHMP are currently implementing a project to sustain, in addition to the free medical assistance given by the IDC, also the provision of free food to the patients. In the area of May Duba, the Institute supervised the construction of a well (118 meters depth and 6 litres/sec capacity) to guarantee water provision to a 2 hectares plot of land, where a farm is going to be set up to breed animals and grow fruits and vegetables for the preparation of IDC patients' meals. Setting up of the farm is expected to be completed by summer 2010.

for info

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