

Project Report from Project Pencil Case for the BFSS (May 2012)

It is with sincere thanks to BFSS and the grant you provided, that Project Pencil Case was delighted to be able to provide Ezana Elementary School in Axum with classroom furniture/furnishings and pencil cases.

PPC was led to help Ezana Elementary School (named after an early Axumite Emperor and located in the historical northern town of Axum) through valuable local Ethiopian educational officials that knew first hand which schools needed specific help. The local education department is usually able to only basically fund and equip schools by providing land, basic school buildings and salaries for teachers. Other essential and standard western resources are often lacking such as chairs and desks, books, stationary and uniforms – it is then up to the schools to fundraise and seek community support to obtain these items. Project Pencil Case has been fundraising for schools in Axum since 2010.

The classroom furnishings we supplied to Ezana were produced locally within the region (Tigray) of Northern Ethiopia and delivered on two trucks to the school.

The pencil cases were produced in Addis Ababa by a woman's cooperative and each one had the embroidered PPC logo on one side with the BFSS laminated attached label on the other with the words "Funded by the British an Foreign School Society" It was not possible to purchase all the pencil case items in Axum however and so the contents: lead and coloured pencils, erasers, sharpeners, pens and rulers were all purchased in Addis Ababa in advance and transported in suitcases by PPC up to Axum where we then assembled each pencil case with the items ready for distribution to the students.

Many Ezana students were waiting in the foreground to greet PPC with a welcome ceremony which was then followed by the older students helping PPC and Ezana teachers carry the new furniture items into the classrooms. On day two we returned to Ezana to present the pencil cases to the students and ended our visit at the school with a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony. In order to accommodate as many local students as possible with existing facilities, the school operates a shift system with students attending mornings or afternoons.

PPC was very kindly presented with a certificate of recognition and appreciation from Ezana and the Education Department of Axum. On behalf of the department, Axum Educational Planner Tewodros expressed their genuine appreciation for our support (from a small UK grant last year we

were able to supply Ezana and another Axum school with books and shelves for their libraries). Providing material support and resources to help existing infrastructures in under resourced schools such as Ezana Elementary School is much appreciated and helps improve the level of education they can provide.

This very kind and generous donation from BFSS towards Ezana through PPC made an enormous and visibly appreciated difference to students and staff. PPC remains committed to raising ongoing funds for these schools.

Please click this Link to view an online photo album from start to finish of the implementation of your grant to Ezana Elementary School:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/arabellastewart1/PPCEzanaElementarySchoolAxumBFSSGrant?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCOeH-omIxZizCg&feat=directlink>

With Very Best Wishes and Many Thanks again from

Arabella Stewart

www.projectpencilcase.org



Further pictures may be viewed at the link below which also mentions the BFSS:-

<http://projectpencilcase.org/schools-in-axum/ezana-elementary-school/ezana-may-2012-update/>