

# Voluntary Teaching Mission Ethiopia

## Background

Gidole is a small town with a population of around 20'000 people located in southern Ethiopia. It can be reached in around 1 hour from Arba Minch, which has a daily flight connection to the capital city Addis Ababa. The economic conditions of the town are challenging and infrastructure is basic. Many better-educated people have left the town in order to find work in bigger cities.

In 2016 a group of such people, who have left the town, decided to give back something to their place of origin and created a private school (kindergarten and primary school). Currently, the school has 21 local teachers, which educate around 200 pupils.

In order to improve the education standard, but also to offer opportunities for cultural exchange, the school would like to start accepting foreign volunteer teachers, who can work with the local teachers, the children but also on specific projects.

A first feasibility visit, which was carried out in March 2017 by a Swiss expert, showed, that such a project is generally possible and could indeed be beneficial for the school and the community. Especially at the beginning, the main challenges would probably be: basic conditions of living for the volunteers, communication (language barrier), cultural difference.



## Mission

We are looking for one or several teams of 2 volunteer teachers, who would like to work with the local school teachers and possibly also the pupils. It is important to understand, that we are at the very beginning. The mission is therefore also to find out, which are the needs and how to further develop the project. Flexibility and open-mindedness are therefore crucial. The main tasks will be:

- Set up a first teaching pilot project (ideally English classes with the teachers and set-up of a system of self-learning for the time after the mission. Other ideas can be discussed, too)
- First sporadic lessons also with children
- Observation of the whole environment from a pedagogic perspective
- Reflection of the whole experience together with the team in Switzerland in order to help preparing a long term concept
- Ideally collaboration on the project after the mission (concept, recruitment of other volunteers etc.)

## Duration and timing

As first step, we have foreseen short missions of around 3 to 4 weeks. The Ethiopian school year starts mid of September and finishes at the end of June. As local teachers are usually not available during the summer holiday (rain season), we have foreseen the first mission for autumn 2017 or the beginning of 2018.

## Desired profile

Ideally, we are looking for two personalities with the following profile:

- Pedagogic background
- Ideally English teacher or language teacher with a sufficient level in English
- Open-minded and communicative person, ideally with at least experiences to work in a different cultural environment
- Flexibility, ability to live in basic conditions
- Initiative and proactive, but with the needed cultural sensitiveness
- Life experienced personality with solid roots

There is a certain flexibility, as in a team of two the roles can be distributed depending on the profile. Furthermore, we are open to discuss other ideas or, within the realms of possibility, to adapt the pilot project to you profile.

## Your benefits

This is a voluntary, unpaid mission and we can currently not cover any expenses like flight costs etc. We are looking for possibilities to cover local expenses during the mission.

This mission offers you the possibility to do something out of the common and to have many, unforgettable experiences. At the same time, you can contribute to the start of a (hopefully) fruitful future cooperation. We offer you a good preparation before the mission including briefings about the country, the culture and your tasks. In Ethiopia/ Gidole, you will get an additional introduction by our local partner, who will at the same time serve as contact person for any unforeseen issues.

## Who is behind this project?

The initiative for this teaching mission comes from the local school in Gidole and its founding members. In Switzerland, the project is facilitated by the association “The Business Machine”, who wants to foster development using entrepreneurial approaches. We are convinced that cooperation on eye-level between people of more and less developed countries has a potential to change the living conditions of many people.

We are experienced in other projects in Ethiopia, know the country’s culture and other specific characteristics and have a solid network of local partners and cooperation partners.

## Next steps

If you are interested, please contact us for further discussions. If you have a CV at hand, thanks for sending it to us, too. Depending on the number and profile of applications, we will organise several individual or group meetings with the candidates, in order to give you all the necessary information and decide together about the details of the mission.

Contact details: Stephan Brun, [Stephan.brun@business-machine.org](mailto:Stephan.brun@business-machine.org), +41 76 545 96 32

