

Ethiopia Calling

The newsletter of *Partners in the Horn of Africa*

2005 has been a very busy year for **Partners!** We took on 10 new projects in Ethiopia this year, including the project featured in this newsletter — making and distributing fuel efficient ovens.

Partners has two distinct features:

- Donations to *Partners* are not used for administration. Our directors work voluntarily and cover all operating costs. 100% of donations go directly into projects.
- All *Partners'* projects have an Ethiopian "partner", usually a village or Ethiopian aid organization that contributes 15-20% of the project cost— in the form of labour.



Ethiopian women moulding new Injera oven

Injera Ovens: A Success in the

Azilda pats the cement mixture into one of the six moulds. Another of the women, Yelgathso, makes sure that the mould is filled and packed firmly enough so that the other women can remove the mould. Each mould is examined and checked for any cracks. Like a jigsaw puzzle, when the cement pieces are put together, they will form a new design of an injera oven — a simple thing which will transform these women's daily lives.

Injera, a pancake like bread,

is a mainstay of the Ethiopian diet and served with every meal. For centuries, injera has been cooked over an open fire requiring large amounts of firewood.

As the supply of firewood decreases, more trees are cut down, causing more of the topsoil to erode. Since 70% of Ethiopians live off the land, this erosion is having devastating effects on their ability to farm and raise livestock.

It also means much more

Special points of Interest:

- **Injera Ovens: A Success in the Making**
- **AWWA...Partners' "partner" in Ethiopia**
- **Vince Ready: Tribute Dinner/ Fundraiser ...page 4**

Injera Ovens cont'd



Ethiopian women carrying firewood.

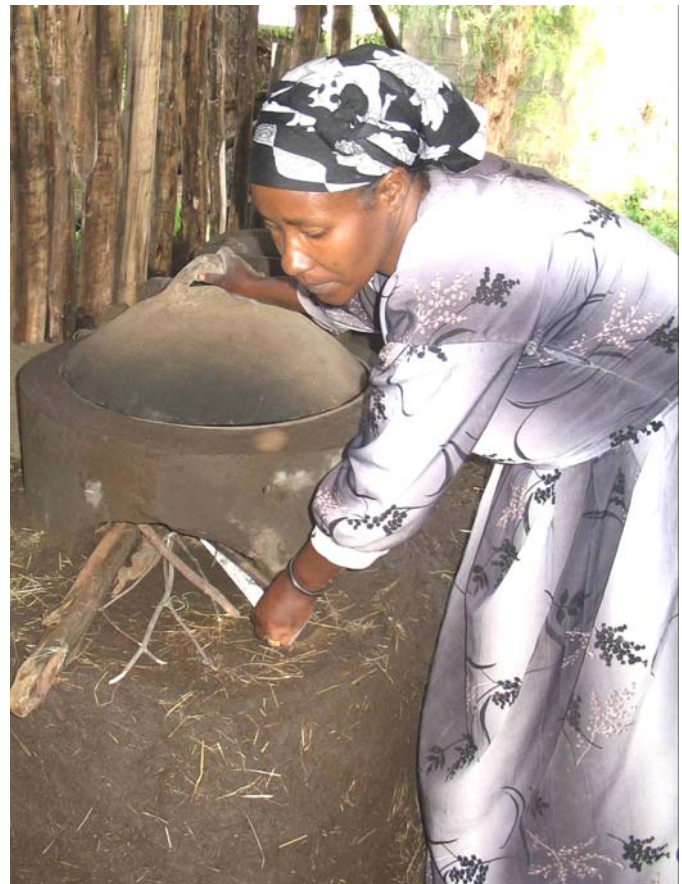
work for rural women who often go on foot as far as 25 kms. to gather firewood and then return carrying bundles of wood that weigh more than 30 kgs. It is literally back breaking work, with the women stooped over like question marks.

The new injera oven solves many of these challenges facing Ethiopians. The new design is a "closed" oven which uses about a quarter of the firewood required for an "open" fire.

Partners and AWWA, a grassroots Ethiopian charity that focuses on

the welfare of women and children, are now involved in producing and distributing these ovens. As with all of *Partners'* projects, the local community is directly involved. Local women, like Azilda, are employed making the ovens. Other women are selected from each village and brought to the manufacturing site to learn how to assemble and operate the new ovens.

The ovens are sold to rural households for a modest price...about \$5.00, paid for over time. There is no shortage of customers as local women see how these ovens can dramatically reduce their workload. This year's pilot project has produced and sold over 1000 ovens. Next year 4,000 more ovens will be manufactured and distributed.



Assembled oven in use

Meet *Partners'* "partner" in Ethiopia...AWWA

AWWA is a non denominational Ethiopian charity that works primarily with women and children. It is named after Archbishop Dioskorios, a mythic figure in Ethiopia whose life was devoted to caring for the poor and the sick.

AWWA is headed up by Ato (Mr.) Zenebe Mamo, a graduate in Social Work from Addis Abba University. For the past 25 years, Zenebe has worked on various social welfare programs in Ethiopia. Along with the Injera Oven project in Wollo, AWWA and Zenebe are involved in numerous projects including micro-financing for women, skills training of destitute youth and HIV Orphans, AIDS education, and building clean water wells.

Like *Partners*, Zenebe and AWWA insist that money for aid go directly to people in need. AWWA's offices are 4 modified shipping containers on the fringes of Addis Abba and Zenebe takes buses to visit the projects throughout Ethiopia. Many



Ato Zenebe on the right with his deputy, Ato Sisay.

of those trips are over 14 hours long and he stays with friends wherever possible to conserve funds.

Partners is proud to have such a visionary partner like Zenebe and AWWA on the ground in Ethiopia.

Partners' Projects for 2005

Some of *Partners'* new projects this year are:

1. Another HIV Information Centre and community education project in an area of high HIV infection.
2. Construction of new classroom blocks and supplying desks, chairs and books to rural schools.
3. An irrigation system for farmers in a drought prone area.
4. Two new micro-financing programs lending money to unemployed and underemployed women to help them start their own businesses.
5. A malaria prevention program in an area of high malaria morbidity.

Vince Ready Gets an "A" from Ethiopian Students



*Partners' director,
Vince Ready*

Vince Ready, Canada's foremost labour mediator and a director of *Partners*, was honoured this September in Vancouver by industry and trade union leaders. Although often in the public spotlight, Vince doesn't like this kind of attention and initially didn't want to participate. However, friends finally persuaded him to attend by combining the evening with a fundraiser for *Partners*. Speaker after speaker and premiers from three provinces praised Vince for the invaluable work he

has done in settling some of Canada's most difficult labour disputes.

Vince wanted all the monies raised to go to his favourite *Partners'* project, a rural elementary school in one of the poorest regions of Ethiopia. The evening was an incredible success. Not only was Vince honoured, but the event raised over \$25,000. This money will mean a huge improvement to the school, where currently the kids sit on stones to learn. *Partners* has now delivered over 1,000 desks to the students, their first ever! It's another example of *Partners'* commitment to work closely with communities to provide what they need.

Partners is having an impact in the Horn of Africa. The problems are immense but your donations do make a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians. **On their behalf we thank you.**

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Partners is a recognized Canadian charity and issues tax receipts for all donations.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~ Margaret Mead ~