



Annual report 2023

February 2024

Introduction

In the annual report of 2022 we mentioned serious problems in our board and supporting group. These still were present in 2023. This was one of the reasons that there was less progress in 2023 concerning the project of a supply chain for chicken meat in Ethiopia. Despite this SME was successful in the water project in Somaliland. The initiators for this project did most of the work, so it didn't much influence the mentioned problems in the board of SME.

The board of SME made up its mind at the end of 2023 and concluded that the activities in Ethiopia will be set on hold. The project in Somaliland will be continued under certain conditions (see below).

General steps and activities

The board had in 2023 four life meetings. Next to that that were some video meetings as the board, but also with partners in Ethiopia and Somaliland. The board attended workshops and video meetings of the foundation of Wilde Ganzen and people of the Dutch embassy in Ethiopia. The communication between SME and Bora was by e-mail, WhatsApp and a video meeting. For other steps in raising funds and the water project in Somaliland, see below.

The organization Fair & Sustainable advised SME in the project.

Fund raising

The in 2022 contracted fund raiser became ill and could not do her work anymore in 2023.

The foundation of Wilde Ganzen could only do anything if the leading party in Ethiopia would be a non-commercial organization. After some investigation the Ethiopian ngo Development Expertise Centre (DEC) was more or less prepared to play a role, but because of the above mentioned problems it was not possible to make steps in this eventual cooperation.

Funds for the water project in Somaliland were found in several ways:

- The fund raising office Charity Aubrain did good work to find four foundations which were prepared to support the project. About €16.000 was acquired.
- The network of SME and the initiators of this project was used for donations. About €12.000 was collected.
- Wilde Ganzen paid half of the costs of the project, about €23.500 was its contribution.

Water project in Somaliland

The project was started in 2022 and ended half of 2023. The foundation Farsamada Qodaalka (FQ) was responsible for the project in Somaliland (village of Arabsiyo). The did a great job. . The project was very successful. A borehole of about 100 meters depth was realized, solar panels and a pump driven by solar energy were installed, water taps for the inhabitants and drinking facilities for animals were build. The water was good for drinking water and irrigation. The community immediately started growing all kinds of vegetables. A new perspective was given to the community and the availability of water gave a boost to the people. (See the three newsletters which were published, also on the website of SME).

FQ asked for further and additional support for investments to build up their social enterprise for the longer time. The board of SME and the initiators, together with FQ , will investigate in their perspective for the coming years. FQ has to make a business case for, let's say, 10 years to make clear what their possibilities are to strengthen its social enterprise for the benefits of the community of Arabsiyo. In 2024 it must become clear what these possibilities are and what role SME can play in that. New funds must be found for that purpose.

The perspectives for 2024

The main activity concerns the cooperation with FQ in Somaliland.

Only new insights, connected to more capacity of the board, can change the 'on hold situation' of SME concerning project activities in Ethiopia. It's sad for our partners in Ethiopia, but it's a reality we have to deal with.





