



Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme



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 - Haile Gebrselassie
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 - Ulrich Mohr
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Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme



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- The Situation: Description of the Project -

Basic Ideas: Children's tennis project as a wide-ranging **social project**

Children with a very poor background in Addis Ababa get help for their future (road away from poverty)

Sports training must be done in a purposeful and disciplined manner

The project is supported by a food program and additional school lessons

After several years of training the children will have to be able to make their living on the basis of their sports activities

Why Tennis?

The idea of organising this **tennis project** has proven to be **particularly suitable**. The following reasons make this very clear:

Rebound techniques in the sense of coordinative ball training can be developed with groups of children on smaller sports grounds without investing too much money

At an early stage of children's development it will be possible to find new talents among children

Concentrated training of techniques and regular training will discipline the day

Additional food programs, medical care, supervision of the children's schooling and additional school lessons can easily be organized

A demanding technique training is equivalent to a vocational training (see text "From a tennis boy to international tennis player" à on Tariku, the coach)

Job opportunities for tennis coaches are increasing in number. In traditional tennis clubs (about 15 in Addis Ababa), also in hotels and fun parks new tennis courts are opened.

There is a lack of trained and qualified tennis coaches

Additional remark:

There are no supportive programs for children and youth work in clubs. The Ethiopian Tennis Association does not make any effort to change this situation.

Compared to other kinds of sports, in particular compared to athletics (see Ethiopian runners) tennis has the advantage that money can be earned within one's own country, in the case given in Ethiopia itself. It is not necessary to be among the very best tennis players in the world

Top players can also be employed in neighbouring countries (East Africa, Arab peninsula, even offers from China have been made

Program Planned

Construction of 3-4 tennis courts (renting land, buying land from...) Information on the Development of the „Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project Addis Ababa

Additional facilities (changing rooms, showers, training and educational rooms)

Management by a highly qualified senior coach (Tariku Tesfaye) and two or three talented and committed junior coaches

Project to be run independently from the Ethiopian Tennis Association:

- social project

- not a project for wealthy people within Ethiopian society

Long-term project aiming at sustainable results (see training and educational concept of the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar)

Specific and comprehensive school education

Co-operation with foreign partners

The concept can be expanded into related sports activities in the future

The Project – Does it Offer More than a Vision?

Background:

German “Lautenschlaeger-Foundation” – “Lautenschläger-Stiftung” (Germany)

Racket-Center Rhein-Neckar near Heidelberg (Germany)

German Embassy and German Embassy School Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

GTZ (“Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit” - “International Cooperation Enterprise for Sustainable Development”) (Germany and Ethiopia)

European Union

Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium Sandhausen – „FEG High School“ (Germany)

Private sponsors (Germany and Ethiopia)

Assisted by coaches from Germany and other European countries

Coaching programs in Europe

Bruno Böhler

Deputy Principal of German Embassy School Addis Ababa

Training for coaches in Addis Ababa from 04 March 2000 to 23 April 2000

24 Ethiopian male tennis coaches and one female coach; training program included: Children's tennis, search for new talents, support for talented players, teaching functional kinetics, teaching training, training for international players, two-week-course (5 days per week), two training periods per day.

Aim:

Support for the training of children and youth in co-operation with the Ethiopian Tennis Association. club work including specific training is not really well-known in Ethiopia. The training course was widely and intensely published in the Ethiopian media.

May 2002: Talks with the Ethiopian Tennis Association

Mr Klevenz, former Deputy Principal of the German Embassy School Addis Ababa took tennis rackets and balls from Germany to Addis Ababa. The idea of a large-scale project was discussed. In co-operation with the Ethiopian Tennis Association children's tennis projects were planned to be initiated in the tennis clubs of Addis Ababa. The Board Members of the Tennis Association were very interested in the project.

Additional Remark:

Unfortunately, the declaration of intent on the part of the Ethiopian Tennis Association were not upheld. The material from Germany never got through to the children's projects. In the following period in several discussions the Secretary of the Tennis Association kept on promising to try hard to establish a specific club training on the part of the Ethiopian Tennis Association.

à In the Greek Club (Olympiacos Greek Club) people started organizing the project in their own way.

Search for new talents: Foundation of the Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Project in the Greek Club, spring 2002

Teriku Tesfaye and his colleague Habtamu, both of them being tennis coaches at the Greek Club, searched for new talents among street kids and in the neighbouring schools. 12 children (six boys and six girls) were chosen. All children have a very poor family background. The Board of the Greek Club agreed on the training of the children on its premises.

A sports bag filled with used children tennis rackets which were given to me by Mrs Stoll from the German tennis club in Lomersheim formed the basis of the first few months. After some first initial resentments on the part of some club members the children got very soon accepted, last but not least because of their sports success. The Greek Club has become kind of home for the children.

As a result of the sports success on the part of the children very soon the project became an example for other tennis clubs.

The presidents of clubs got interested in the “secrets” that were hidden behind the walls of the Greek Club. It has become evident that the trainers Information on the Development of the „Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project Addis Ababa employed at other clubs are not willing in a similar way like the coaches at the Greek Club to show commitment in children’s and youth work. Occasional attempts on the part of coaches failed shortly after.

Fortunately, the project has kept on getting material and financial support from Germany. With the help of Mr Wennagel, coach of the Tennis Association of the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the Company “Wilson” donated rackets. The Rotary Club in Muehlacker/Germany donated a significant sum of money. Donations on the part of private people helped to overcome the most difficult challenges.

The enormous commitment on the part of the two coaches Tariku Tesfaye and also his brother Desda has been beyond any imagination up to the present day.

Tariku and the children get the new tennis rackets

Both coaches were also brought up in the poorest living conditions. However, they succeeded in working up their way from ball boys into international tennis players. Within the concept of developing aid the children’s tennis project shows exactly what has always been the aim: “Help for self-help”.

Initiated by Germans the Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project is now based on the initiative of the two Ethiopian coaches. There is no direct financial support neither for the children nor for the coaches, who invest a lot of time into the project. This initiative is not always without any challenges for the coaches because they personally suffer from a significant financial loss due to the fact that they spend a lot of time on the tennis project and cannot train other people for money in this time.

Spring 2004: Initiative “New Training Courses for Tennis Coaches”

Talks with Mr. Momber, Head of the GTZ Addis Ababa, on a new round of training courses for coaches failed as a result of the new orientation and reorganization of the GTZ. Micro projects cannot be supported any longer. Mr Wennagel, coach of the Tennis Association in Baden-Wuerttemberg, was Information on the Development of the „Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project Addis Ababa going to organize and provide training courses specialized in “children’s and youth’ training”. The Ethiopian Tennis Association signalled to pay for the flight. Although several meetings took place and phone calls were made an agreement on a specific date was never achieved in those days.

December 2005: Letter from the German Embassy to the President of the Tennis Association in the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg

The Ethiopian Association again signalled its deep interest in training courses for coaches in Addis Ababa. In a letter by the German Embassy (Deputy Ambassador Dr. Schauer) the President of the Tennis Association Baden-Wuerttemberg was asked to exempt the coach of the Association, Mr Wennagel, for the training period scheduled in January 2006. The Secretary of the Ethiopian Tennis Association promised a half-price ticket on a Lufthansa flight into Addis Ababa; she maintained she had agreed on this deal in talks with the chairperson of Lufthansa. However, this issue turned out to be a fake. The Ethiopian Association had never asked for a ticket and there had never been any promise for a cheaper ticket either. The efforts were taken in vain.

Spring 2006: Talks with the President of Region 14

Many a representatives of tennis clubs was asking for co-operation, in particular for training courses for coaches. The President of Region 14, a sub-organization of the Ethiopian Tennis Association in charge of the Region of Addis Ababa, was prepared to establish a talk.

At a meeting in Bole 19 Club with the President Teklemariam and some Board members it soon became clear what they were interested in. In return for a financial share in the flight ticket they expected rackets, tennis balls, etc from Germany. It seemed as if they were only marginally interested in the main idea, the support for the children and youth. The talk ended without any major result.

The training for the children in the Greek Clubs keeps on. It is admirable how persistently the two coaches pursue their aims. Again and again the project gets material and financial support by private sponsors in the form of used tennis rackets, shoes or children's clothing.

From May 2007 the Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium (FEG) Sandhausen (FEG High School) has been supporting the project financially

The Students' Council of FEG Sandhausen near Heidelberg (Germany) has decided to support the project. The "Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Project" has become a part of the social project "Ethiopia" at Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium. Normally before school begins, early in the morning at 6.30 am, the tennis kids will start their first practice lap. The monthly donation of FEG makes it possible to provide the children with a daily meal apart from their breakfast (milk, bananas and rolls).

Success Stories

Even when competing with significantly older players the boys and girls from the Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Project will make it to the winners' podium at tennis tournaments that are organized by all the leading clubs and the Ethiopian Tennis Association.

From 15 August till 25 August 2006 a training camp organized by ITF/CAT East Africa and two tennis tournaments took place in Dar-es-salam/Tanzania. Ten countries from East Africa took part. Together with other Ethiopian players two girls from the project, Meron and Semira, represented Ethiopia. Their successes were more than convincing. In the first tournament Meron and Semira got places 3 and 4 in the singles, Semira won the final doubles with the third Ethiopian girl, Meron got place 3 together with her partner from Kenya.

In the second tournament Meron won against Semira. In the doubles all three Ethiopian girls were in the finals. Meron was rewarded as the best player by the ITF representatives. Several children from the project (Meron, Semira, Samravit, Yonas) were invited to Burundi and Kenya. Meron was invited to take part in a tennis camp in South Africa for two weeks.

However, the successes do not have only positive sides. More and more it becomes clear that the ideas described in the target-setting, namely to give a kind of help to the Ethiopian Association in creating an infrastructure of its obstacles for the Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Project. The courage and energy of the two coaches Tariku and Desda are admirable. They vehemently try to pass on their ideas and their work. TV interviews, radio programs, discussions even on the highest ministerial level have only led to promises. Envy and jealousy are results and one even discovers deep corrupt connections which last but not least serve to keep the sphere of control and influence of individual persons.

This well-working, successful project obviously interferes with the network of connections. The Tennis Association does not hand on any information or does so too late. Other, definitely worse and less talented children will be enrolled for tournaments of the IFT but not the children from the Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Project; or no children at all will be enrolled for the IFT tournaments or training camps. Lists of placement for national tournaments are drawn the way that children from the project will have to play against each other and defeat the children from the project in the preliminary stages of tournaments. Despite these negative side effects the children are highly motivated. The participation in tournaments consequently depends on good achievements at school. At present it is not easy to compare their achievements with German children of the same age group. Video which have been presented to German coaches make it clear that the children are very good.

May 2008, Invitation by the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar

A trip for impoverished Ethiopian children to Germany, without any financial backing, even if flight costs were covered, could only be a dream. Visa regulations are simply too tough and restrictive. However, sometimes dreams become true. First, the invitation of the Racket Center Nussloch near Heidelberg (Germany) arrived in Addis Ababa. Mr Klevenz, then principal of the Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium Sandhausen had established contacts to Dr. Zimmermann, manager of the Racket Center.

First questions of whether visas could be obtained were answered negatively by the German Embassy in Addis Ababa. The Head of the Visa Department had expressed his serious doubts. It was feared that the four children chosen to go on the trip and their coach Tariku would make use of the trip and decide to disappear or ask for asylum. Deep disappointment and helplessness could be seen on the faces of people committed to the project. Time just went by without people knowing where. A trip for the group did make sense just that time of the year, at Pentecost. The children were to participate in tournaments.

Finally, “green light” was given!!

Early in the morning of Friday, 8th May 2009 the group made it on Yemenia Airways via Sanaa into Frankfurt International. Arrival Saturday 7 am. The first tournament started at this very morning. In Addis Ababa the group quickly packed their stuff, said good by to families and friends and welcomed a hint to get on a short sightseeing trip of the remarkable old part of Sanaa during a stop over there. And off they went. Would all of them come back? People had different opinions. For many Ethiopians it was clear: “No return to Ethiopia.”

Staying at the Racket Center becomes a big success

After 14 days of the group’s staying there it became clear that one stay was not enough. Apart from success on the tennis court also interpersonal relationships were excellent. The German coaches were surprised at the power of the children and they certified the Ethiopian guests an extraordinary level of playing ability. Both tournaments during which very good players were playing were won in both the boys’ and the girls’ group by the Ethiopian children.

Upon arrival in Addis Ababa on 25th May I could look into beaming faces. Loaded with sports bags, tired, however somehow glad to be back to Ethiopia, the mother country. On the way back to the Greek Club there was a somewhat tense silence in the car, then a merry reunion with friends and acquaintance. In the darkness when I took the children back to their parents I became aware of the conflict in the children’s heads. A couple of hours ago they had been guests in a world unknown to them, now they were on their way back to their corrugated-iron huts, would be confronted again with the daily struggle of their parents to support the family at least meagrely.

Nevertheless there is a big chance for these children to escape by their own strength from the trap of poverty one day. A chance this tennis project offers to them.

July 2008 – training courses for coach Tariku Tesfaye in the USA

By the arrangement of Dr. Matthias Zimmermann (Tennis Academy Rhein- Neckar) Tariku was invited by the PTR International Headquarters to take part in a training course in Hilton Head Island/ South Carolina. In July Tariku participated for our weeks in this training program at the Van Der Meer University. One year before he had travelled to Kenya at his own expense to take part in a program offered by the PTR.

December 2008 Orange Bowl Tournament in Miami/USA

Meron Getu (13 years old) and Yonas Gebre (12 years old), each of them number one in their age group, were invited to participate in the most important youth tennis tournament of the world in the US. Dennis Van Der Meer, founder of the Van Der Meer Tennis Center and the US Professional Tennis Registry (PTR), invited the children to prepare for the tournament in Hilton Head, South Carolina, for two weeks. Apart from financial challenges the question arose of whether the children would get visas. The training course in Germany helped a lot in this question.

New Orientation towards the Future

All people who have supported the project so far have realized that new structures are needed in order to be able to cope with the demands of the project in the future. The tasks have become more comprehensive and have increased in number. This is why it is impossible to bear the financial burden by spontaneous donations. The “Manfred Lautenschlaeger Stiftung” (“Manfred Lautenschlaeger Foundation”) (Im Breitspiel 9, 69126 Heidelberg, www.manfred-lautenschlaeger-stiftung.de) has signalled support provided a partner of the central government in Berlin or the state government in Baden-Wuerttemberg or another public partner will be won for the project. The Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar (Walldorfer Strasse 100, 69226 Nussloch, www.tennisakademie-rhein-neckar.de) will accompany the project as training partner. The continuation of school education for the children is as important as sports challenges.

Within the framework of their social work at school students from the German Embassy School Addis Ababa have started to teach English to the Ethiopian children. The CAS-Program (Creativity, Activity, Social Work) makes the seniors (International Baccalaureate) work for about 50 hours in social projects. A crash program supported also by private people who teach English wants to enable some of the children to pass exams in the 2009/2010 school year to be able to advance to better schools. Sports training, in particular at the weekend, in basketball, athletics and badminton in the gymnasium or on the wing at the German Embassy School Addis Ababa are to supplement the tennis training. Coaches at the Racket Center Nussloch have suggested these activities.

Jahr	Meron Getu, 07.04.1995	Yonas Gebere, 13.12.1996
2010	Gold and Silver Medal in ITF East Africa Championship Winner Addis Ababa Club tournament, A.A. Winner Hilton Mercedes Cup tournament, A.A. Winner Bole 19 Tennis Club tournament, A.A. Winner Bole 23 Tennis Club tournament, A.A.	3rd place in Addis Ababa Club tournament, A.A. 3rd place in Hilton Mercedes Cup tournament, A.A. 3rd place in Bole 19 Tennis Club tournament, A.A. 2nd place in Bole 23 Tennis Club tournament, A.A.
2009	Winner Rhein-Neckar Junior Open, under 14 Representing Ethiopia in an international friendship meeting of Tennis in Singapore Winner Addis Ababa Club tournament, A.A. Winner Hilton Mercedes Cup tournament, A.A. Winner Bole 19 Tennis Club tournament, A.A. 3rd place in ITC Old Airport Tennis Club tournament, A.A. Winner Neckargemünd, Girls under 14 Quarterfinal Daxlanden, Girls under 18	Last 16, Rhein-Neckar Junior Open, Boys under 14 Winner Leimen Winner Addis Ababa Club 2nd place Addis Ababa Hilton Winner Bole 19 Club 2nd round Neckargemünd
2008	2 Gold Medals in ITF East Africa Championship 13 and under 2nd round of ITF All Africa Championship in Botswana 2nd round in Junior Orange Bowl in Florida	2 Silver Medals in ITF East Africa Championship 13 and under 2nd round in Junior Orange Bowl in Florida
2007	3 Gold, 1 Silver Medal in ITF East Africa Championship 13 and under 2nd round in ITF All Africa Championship in Botswana	2 Silver Medals in ITF East Africa Championship 13 and under
2006	1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal in ITF East Africa Championship 13 and under	
2005	1 Gold and 1 Silver Medal in ITF East Africa Championship 13 and under	

**The greatest success:
individual development of personality through sport**



**What would be my chance if I hadn't started playing tennis?
By Yonas Gebere**

"First of all in my opinion there are two alternatives of what I would be doing at this time if I hadn't started playing tennis. The first alternative is that if my family took care of me I think I would be studying and the other thing is that if they didn't and if they'd just let me do bad things I would be a very bad person like my friends are now.

The first alternative is that my family took care of me and wouldn't allow me to do bad things and to be with my friends. Then I would be studying and be a good student, because even before I started playing tennis I was a good student. So if they helped me with my school I would be studying.

On the other hand, if they just allowed me to do bad things and to be with some bad boys around our neighbourhood, I think I would be such a bad person who smokes, who steals money from others and I would be a person that nobody likes.

So in my opinion the day that I started playing tennis was the best day in my life."

What would be my chance if I hadn't started playing tennis? By Meron Getu

"If I hadn't started playing tennis, my discipline would be the worst, just like my childhood friends who didn't get this great chance. Most of them don't listen to or care for their parents, they fight in a group, they use bad and unpleasant words, over all they don't have a good discipline. But I don't think that I would be as bad as them, because my mom was so strict, especially when we were very young, because she knew the situation in our area. It was bad for kids, she always used to wish to have good and disciplined children and she was scared so she didn't let us out of the house without her or our father.

But most of my friends quitted school after the 8th or 9th grade and it is hard to find a good job after this grade. But the bad thing is, that they don't have anything to live with so they all depend on their poor family and most of the time the parents aren't able to feed all the children so in this time those children will be pushed to work.

But the kids may not have any education documents so they might try to work for a very low salary, but that salary may not be enough for that family so if it's a girl she has a very bad chance which is to "sell her body". She must do that to feed the family but besides it has a lot side effects. First thing, she might get the "HI Virus" in her blood and that would be so sad because after that she would be waiting for her death in her 20th or young age. The second effect might be having a baby in this bad situation, imagine. She was trying to feed her family but it wasn't enough and another one is coming over. So in this time the chance for this girl will be laying down on the street and begging for food and money, also for clothes for her baby. I am so lucky that I didn't have this bad chance.

If it is a boy, he might also try to work for a low salary because of his education documents, but if it is not enough his only chance will be stealing from shops, banks, some big houses and it's not good for him if he is caught by the police. So his last chance would be the same as the girl, to beg for money, food and clothes from people.

But it's much better now than before to change our life or to run away from poverty. Because Desta, Tariku and a lot of people are trying their best to help the project and planning for the future.

And the other thing is that I would not have gotten all of these chances like travelling to many other countries, playing big and famous tournaments, having friends from different countries and meeting or knowing very big, talented, wealthy and very valuable people.

And from this all different tournaments and great people I got a lot of knowledge. I learned a lot, people learn from people, no body was perfect when they were born. It is very important for me and my friends to learn something from each and every place and it's good for our future life we can teach others or others might follow our good part.

The main thing, though is the game. I am very happy that I know how to play tennis and I also learned quite a lot from the game, like to respect others and opponents, positive acting, to be fair, to fight in a positive way, to appreciate others and so on.

So that was the good part for me that I started playing tennis and I want to thank God, Tariku, Desta and every single person who is trying to help this project."

Support:

**Förderverein TRC e.V.
Volksbank Wiesloch
Bankleitzahl: 672 922 00
Kontonummer: 27936300**



Andinet International School

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



This certificate is awarded to

Yonas Gebre 12thB

The most outstanding student of the class

Nyabati Maheda
Head of School

Andinet
Principal

2012/2013 Academic Year



Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme

- The Vision: Development of the Project -

**A great Step forward:
The acceptance as a NGO – Non Governmental Organization**

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FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
CHARITIES AND SOCIETIES AGENCY

የምዝገባና ፈቃድ የምስክር ወረቀት

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This is to certify that TARIKU AND DESTA KIDS' EDUCATION THROUGH TENNIS DEVELOPMENT-ETHIOPIA has been registered and licensed by the Agency as an Ethiopian Residents Charity in accordance with the Charities and Societies Proclamation No. 621/2009.

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This Certificate bearing the number 1902 has been issued on July 22, 2010 and shall be valid until the date indicated below.

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Valid until: July 22 , 2013
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Approved by:

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BIZUAYEHU TEMESGEN WALE
የምዝገባ ኦፊሰር
REGISTRATION OFFICER

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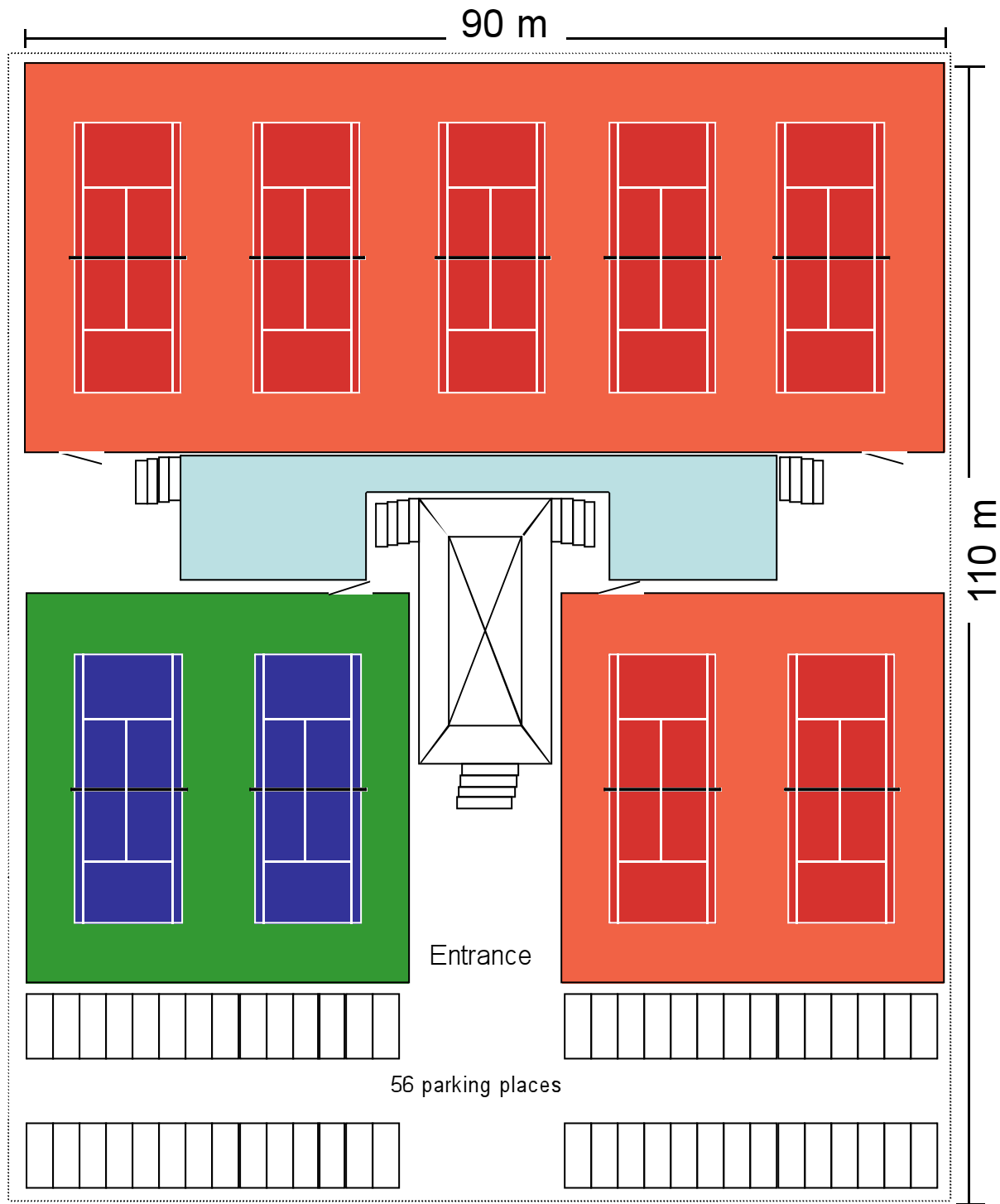


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The VISION...



Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Center

The Masterplan presented by



2010

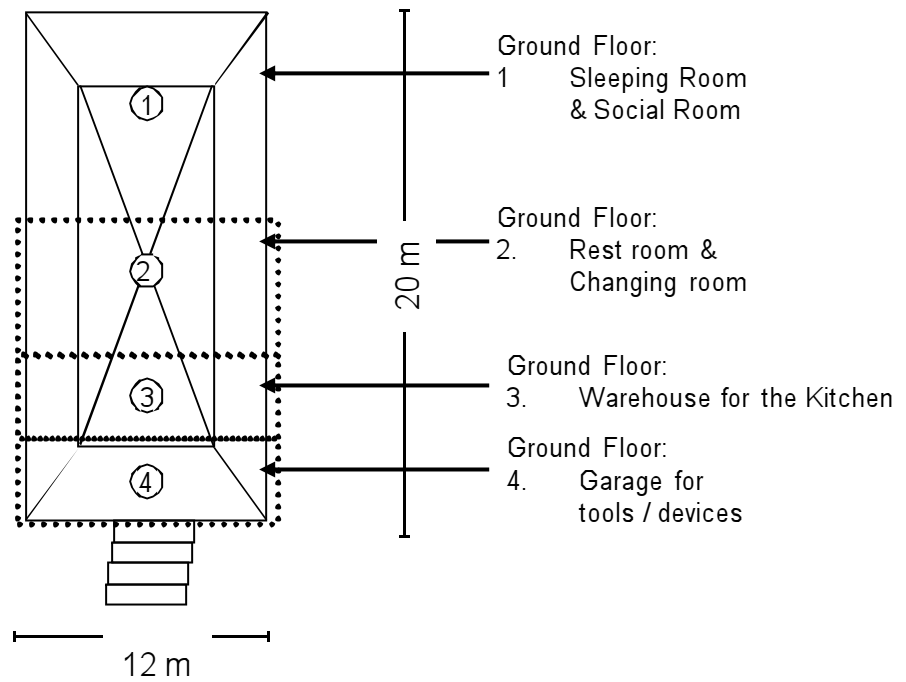
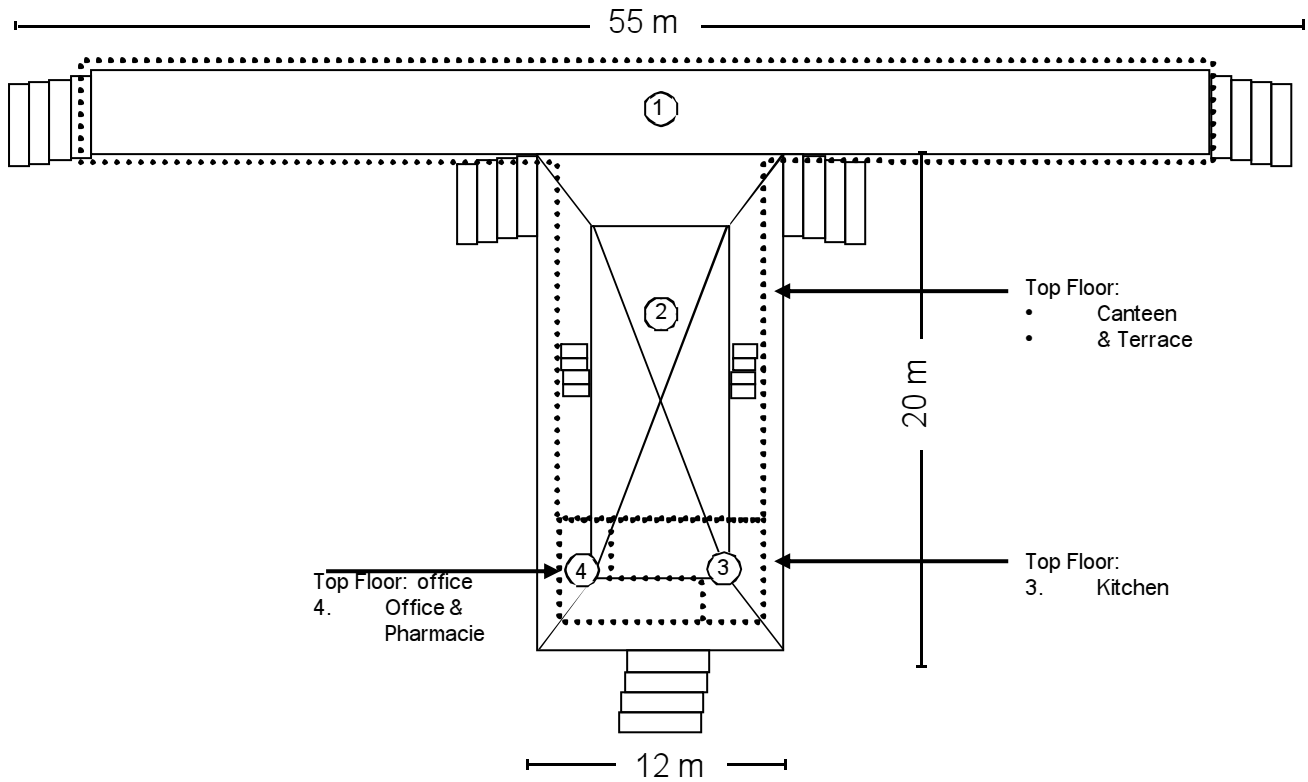
Courts for...

- Members
- Ballschool for Basic Sports Education
- Education for Tennis-Kids & Tennis Trainers

House with...

- rest rooms
 - Social rooms
 - sleeping rooms
 - kitchen and canteen
 - Pharmacy
- And for machines & tools**

The VISION...



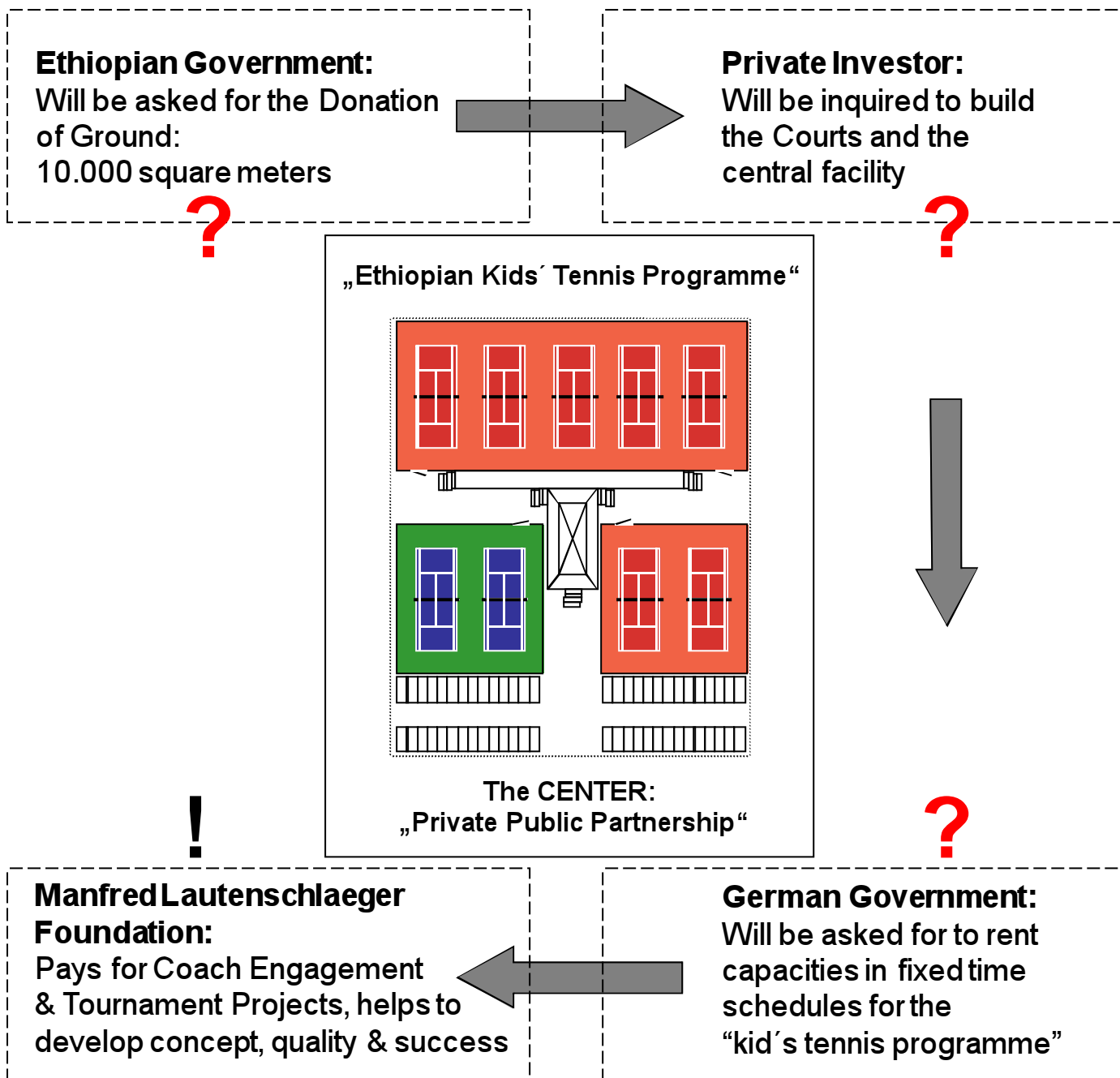
Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Center

The Masterplan presented by



2010

The VISION... - Alternative 1

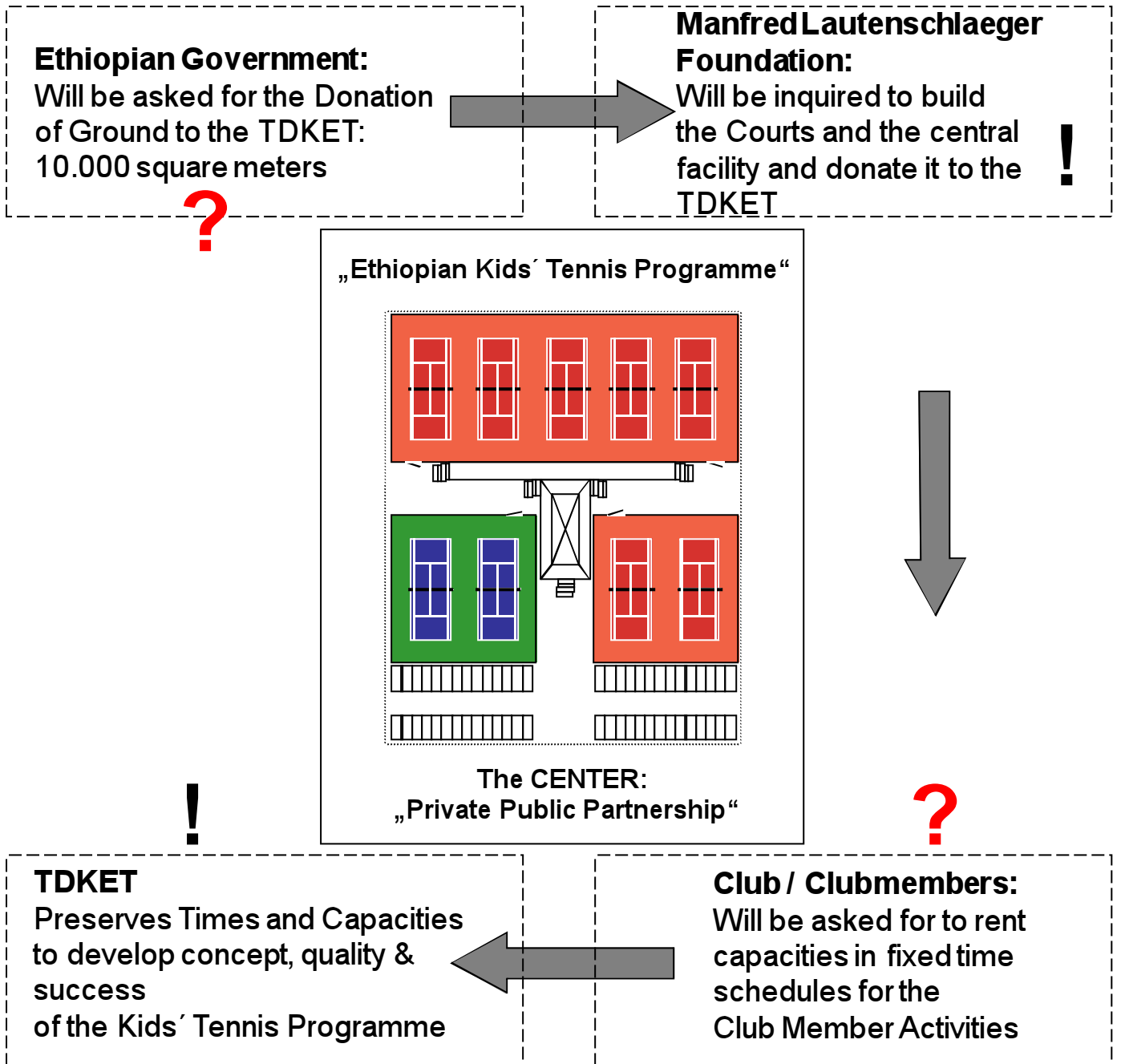


Ethiopian Kids´ Tennis Center

The Financial Model presented by



The VISION... - Alternative 2

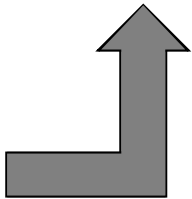
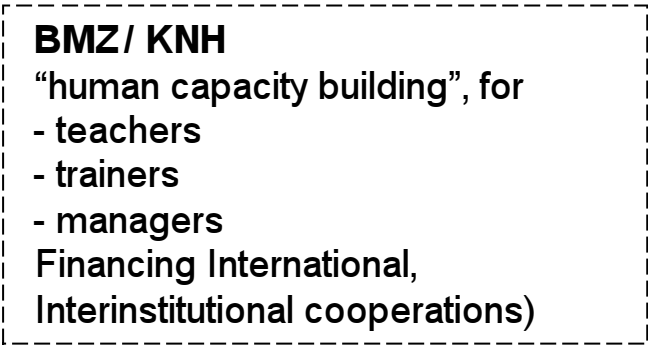
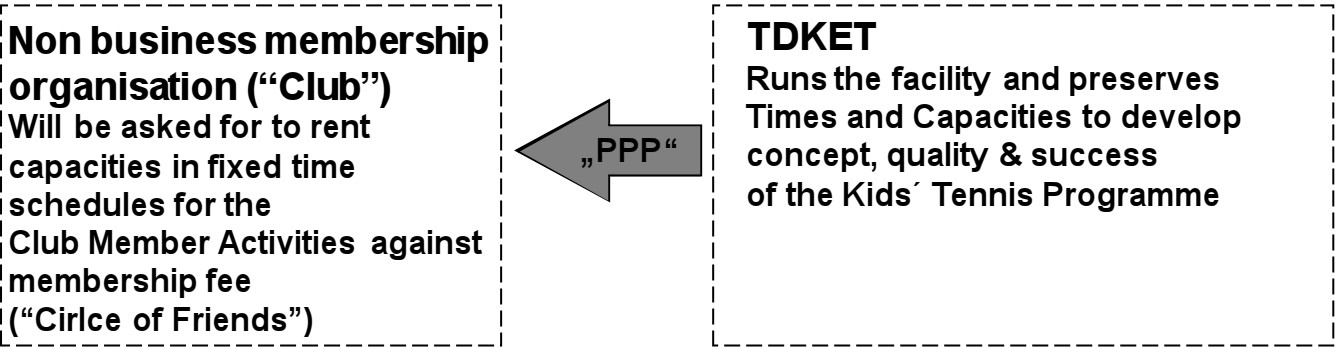
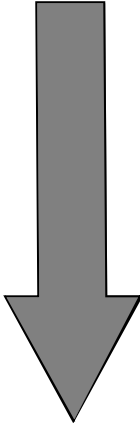
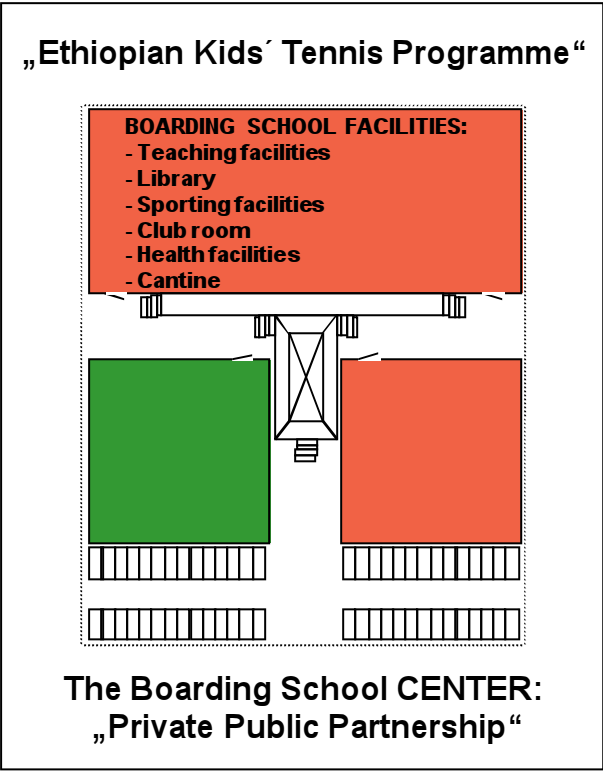
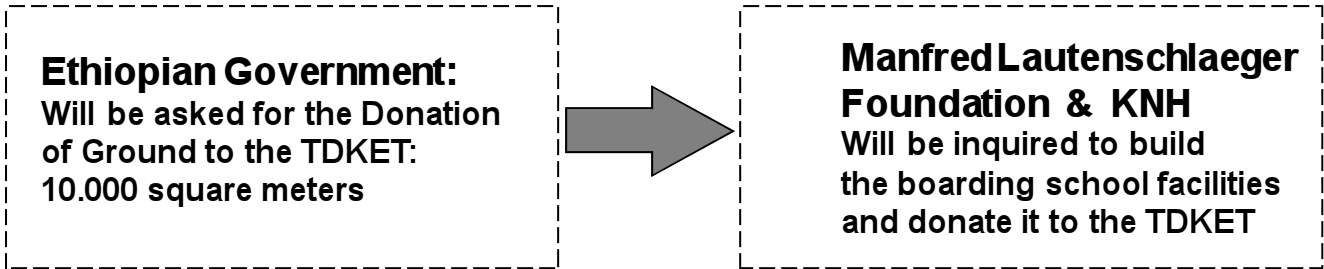


Ethiopian Kids´ Tennis Center

The Financial Model presented by



The VISION... - Alternative 3





Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme

- The Help: References & Recommendations -

The German Minister of Economic Co-operation and Development meets children and coach of the „Ethiopian Kids´Tennis Project“

„Another block building our edifice of hope“ explains Tariku Tesfaye, tennis coach from Addis Ababa/Ethiopia and head of the „Ethiopian Kids´Tennis Project, referring to the meeting with the German Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul.

The meeting was organized at a reception in the Generation House of the „Rudolf and Herman Schmid Foundation“ within the framework of the „One World Forum“ in Heslach near Stuttgart, the capital of the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Prof. Dr. Gert Weisskirchen, Representative of the Rhein-Neckar Constituency in the German Bundestag in Berlin, the Lower House of German Parliament had arranged the meeting.

The Minister was handed over a dossier by the delegation from Ethiopia and Dr. Matthias Zimmermann from the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar, the Ethiopians were staying with for almost four weeks in order to get backup in their excellent tennis performance. The dossier included a comprehensive description of the eight-year success story of the „Ethiopian Kids´ Tennis Project“ with all its development, challenges and perspectives for children and coach from Ethiopia, one of the poorest countries in the world.



Tariku Tesfaye: an Honourable and Appreciated Ambassador of Ethiopia!

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries on earth. Even more astonishing and commendable is the commitment of a young man who comes from an impoverished background himself and has developed a very special project by using his soundness and intelligence, his hard work and self-discipline. From an Ethiopian point of view, he would be able to lead a simple, but nevertheless acceptable life with his income as a tennis coach in the Greek Club in Addis Ababa. Instead he spends most of his time, his energy and also part of his little money on children of his city.

In 2001 Tariku Tesfaye founded the “Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project”. Many children from the area adjacent to the Greek Club were examined; out of them 20 children were chosen; 12 of them are so good now that they are able to compete in tournaments on an international level with children of their age group.

His achievement is unique in the whole world. The Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General for Development and Peace, Under Secretary – General Wilfried Lemke has taken over the patronage of the project. The Ethiopian Head of Government Meles Zenawi has personally honoured him for his voluntary commitment. This year the US Organisation of Tennis Coaches PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) has invited Tariku and “his” children for the second time to the Hilton Head Island to accomplish more training and training courses for tennis coaches. After this they will travel to Florida to compete in the “Orange Bowl”, the Junior World Championship. During this championship last year the two best players of his group qualified for the main stage.

With the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar in Nussloch near Heidelberg (Germany) Tariku Tesfaye has found a firm and reliable partner. Apart from invitations to tennis training and tournaments he is offered access into the top sections of politics. The President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Prof. Dr. Horst Koehler has been informed about the project. Even a meeting with the Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul has been organized.

The donor Manfred Lautenschlaeger is also convinced of the project - and Tariku Tesfaye’s personality. “He is a person who knows well how to make progress in life with hard work. The achievements the tennis coach Tariku makes for his children every day cannot be appreciated enough. He is also very much attached to his native country. Tariku Tesfaye is an honourable ambassador of Ethiopia. He can be sure of my support for his commitment.”



Manfred Lautenschlaeger, June 2009



SPECIAL ADVISER
TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON SPORT FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



Message by Mr. Wilfried Lemke

Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General
on Sport for Development and Peace

Under-Secretary-General

Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme 2009



© Keystone

The United Nations considers sport as a powerful tool to promote education, health, development and peace. Sport unites people of all social classes, cultures and religions in a fun and educational way.

As the Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, it is with great pleasure that I offer my patronage to the Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Arising from the efforts of Tariku and Desta Tesfaye, this programme represents an exemplary model of development aid leading to sustained assistance for impoverished youth. Established in 2002, the programme not only instructs children in tennis techniques, but also emphasises the importance of a balanced education through supplementary foreign language and social courses. Working with limited resources, the programme has successfully trained dozens of children, several of whom have been invited to international tennis tournaments. Through hard work and unrelenting determination, the programme has thrived for seven years and it is my hope that the programme will be able to build upon these monumental achievements with the assistance of other bodies or actors seeking to promote positive change in less fortunate communities.

I wish you continued success and all the best on the courts in 2009!

Wilfried Lemke



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

POSTAL ADDRESS Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung
10963 Berlin, Germany

**State Secretary
Erich Stather**

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FAX +49 (0)1888 535-2565
E-MAIL klasen@bmz.bund.de
INTERNET www.bmz.de
DATE 25 August 2009

To whom it may concern:

The primary objective pursued by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is the reduction of global poverty. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals provide significant guidance for the BMZ's work. In political and financial terms, the main focus is on bilateral official development cooperation, i.e. direct cooperation with partner countries.

I would thus like to express my support for the Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme.

It is thanks to young trainer Tariku Tesfaye that now, eight years after the project was launched in 2001, children are traveling from Addis Ababa to Europe and to the U.S. to take part in tennis tournaments, and have been proving remarkably successful. These children are setting an example to others by showing what can be achieved by hard work: they combine talent with untiring diligence and achieve outstanding results both at sports and at school.

Thanks to Tariku Tesfaye's tireless efforts, this project has found renowned partners and sponsors on the ground and internationally: the German Embassy School and the Greek Club in Addis Ababa, *Gymnasi-*

um Sandhausen (Sandhausen High School), Rhein-Neckar Tennis Academy and Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation in Germany, and the PTR (Professional Tennis Registry) Foundation in the United States.

With a view to giving this project a future and a chance to serve as a successful model of education, we support all efforts geared toward creating the requisite infrastructure on the ground. We feel that collaboration between the Ethiopian government and private investors offers potential for a successful PPP (public-private partnership) endeavor.

The Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme should be consistently enhanced and expanded, with due attention being given to all its impacts – relating to sports, cultural aspects and social aspects. Only in this way will it be possible to make its achievements last.

If as many children as possible are to be given a chance to enjoy that experience, the Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme needs a tennis court of adequate size. And to that end, the champions of that project, above all Tariku Tesfaye, require support from several quarters.

I request you to lend such support.

25 August 2009



Erich Stather
State Secretary of the Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation and Development



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Date: - July 31, 2009

Ref. No:- H/A/I/576/2009

Letter of Recommendation

I was impressed to read that the special Advisor to United Nations Secretary – General on Sport for Development and Peace Mr. Wilfried Lemke was offering his patronage to the Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Programme in Addis Ababa.

I visited this project that was established in 2002 by the two brothers Tariku Tesfaye and Desta Tesfaye at the Greek Club Olympiacos two years ago. I was impressed by their ambition and how they try to utilize the limited resources they have to coach young children from different backgrounds.

I believe the relationship they created with the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar in Germany and the GSM (Cooperation for Sports Management) will help the Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project to create young champions and sports men/women.

Their vision and hard work to develop this project and continue their good they need support from government and private sector and I personally happy to support them and invite other to do the same because I know the power of sport and what changes it can bring young children.

Best wishes,

ኃይሌ ገ/ረገሳ (አለቃ)
Haile G/Selassie (Major)
 ጥያቄ አስተዳዳሪ
 General Manager



Letter of Intent

The non-profit Manfred Lautenschlaeger Foundation („Manfred Lautenschlaeger Stiftung“) wants to support the direct improvement of people’s living conditions as well as the work towards a better life and a better society by research and innovation. The Foundation’s main focuses are a higher and better level of understanding between nations, health for children and youth and the support for Germany as a research location. Thus, the Foundation wants to promote the development of positive changes.

The co-operation between the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Foundation and the „Ethiopian Kale Heywer Church“ (EKHC) is a striking example of these objectives. The two institutions have been working together towards a developing project for four years. This co-operation is aimed at creating 80 new learning centers. In each of these centers teachers with special training and skills can teach 200 children.

In May 2008 a co-operation between Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium Sandhausen (FEG), the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar and the „Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project“ was initiated. The Manfred Lautenschlaeger Foundation assured itself of the eligibility of support of this new co-operation and decided to cover the costs for a visits to Germany by a group of young tennis players from Addis Ababa and their coach Tariku Tesfaye.

The group’s visit in Germany in 2009 has proved an immense and appreciable development and it has become clear that the group needs more support now. Without adequate sports and training facilities in Addis Ababa the dynamic development of the project will not continue. The necessary sustainability can be guaranteed only by appropriate infrastructural and conceptional qualifications and requirements. Various partners will have to co-operate in this project.

The Manfred Lautenschlaeger Foundation offers its partnership!

Hereby we announce our intent to set sustainable impulses to the „Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project“ together with the Ethiopian Government and the Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development of Germany. We intend to contribute to the dynamic development of the project. We are of the opinion that Tariku Tesfaye’s work and commitment deserve particular support. This our support will be concentrated on his work and commitment in Addis Abeba, his qualification as coach and his travels to tournaments. We consider these activities our duty.

In this context we very much welcome the cooperativeness that connects public institutions and private investors. We recommend the GSM „Gesellschaft für Sportmanagement mbH“ („Corporation for Sports Management with Limited Liability“). The counseling resulting from these activities which are aimed at the backup of the „Ethiopian Kids’ Tennis Project“ and its social framework will be given on a voluntary basis and in consultation with the management of GSM.

Gaiberg, 2nd June 2009

Dr. hc. Manfred Lautenschlaeger



To whom it may concern



For the first time tennis coach Tariku Tesfaye and young players of the „Ethiopian Kids` Tennis Project“ were guests at our tennis academy from 9th May to 24th May 2008. The invitation had been initiated by Mr Norbert Klevenz and Mr Bruno Boehler who founded the tennis project in Addis Ababa in 2001. Through the support of the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Foundation („Manfred Lautenschlaeger Stiftung“) the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar was able to offer a two-week training program to the children and go with them to various tournaments. Their coach Tariku Tesfaye became integrated into the training program of the Academy and the project itself was evaluated and the following was stated:

The children are valuable players as far as their techniques, cleverness in playing, condition as well as commitment, discipline and focus level are concerned. They can compete with the best players of their age groups in Germany.

As a result of this we placed Tariku Tesfaye to Dennis Van der Meer Tennis University in Hilton Head Island. In November 2008 he was invited by the PTR Foundation (Professional Tennis Registry) and got numerous training certificates there.

From 22nd May till 10th June 2009 Tariku Tesfaye and his tennis kids were guests at the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar again. The young players were very successful in many tournaments.

We herewith declare explicitly and give our our formal binding:

We certify extraordinary performance to and see great success for the following children: Getu Meron, Michael Semira, Teklu Samerawit, Tameru Dinkenesh, Getu Robel, Gebere Yonas. By getting sustainable and top-quality training these children will be able to compete internationally. The Democratic Republic of Ethiopia can be proud of these talents. From our point of view, this tennis project definitely must be given the best support possible.

For this reason we give our binding promise:

The Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar will keep up its support for the project by inviting the Ethiopian tennis kids to Germany. We also provide our know-how to create a similar infrastructure in Addis Ababa. In order to guarantee top-quality training a sufficient number of tennis courts, catering facilities, health and medical care, overnight facilities for the children and coaches during training courses as well as fitness facilities are absolutely necessary.

The Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar also declares its willing to introduce the concept of its academy in Addis Ababa. It is also willing to send coaches to Addis Ababa to give adequate training to coaches there.

Nussloch, 10th June 2009

Rolf Staguhn

Head of the Tennis Academy Rhein-Neckar



Commitment

**The GSM Plc. – Society for Sports Management and Consulting,
evaluates, advises and assists
communicates and designs
stages events, and markets your ideas**

Beneficiaries of our expertise are investors and those who operate businesses in the service industries in the sectors of sport, leisure and events.

Mit unserem Know-How in der Konzipierung, Betreuung und Vermarktung von (multifunktionalen) Sportanlagen sehen wir uns als geeigneten Partner für die Entwicklung des „Ethiopian Kid´s Tennis Programme“ in Addis Abeba.

Wir haben den Projektverantwortlichen, Herrn Tariku Tesfaye, als außergewöhnlich engagierten, klugen und aufrichtigen Mann kennen gelernt, der über alle Voraussetzungen verfügt, um das Projekt inhaltlich und wirtschaftlich zu realisieren. Ihm gilt unsere volle Unterstützung.

Wir erklären uns bereit, ein „Private Public Partnership“ Modell zu konzipieren, das den Gegebenheiten und den Zielen des Projekts entspricht. Unsere Kontakte zu Stellen in der deutschen Bundesregierung und zu Stiftungen bringen wir ein, um in geschickter Verbindung zur Äthiopischen Regierung und zu Privatinvestoren die erforderlichen infrastrukturellen Voraussetzungen zu schaffen, um das „Ethiopian Kid´s Tennis Programme“ zu einem erfolgreichen Zukunftsprojekt zu entwickeln.

Nußloch, den 9. Juni 2009

**Dr. Matthias Zimmermann
- Geschäftsführender Gesellschafter -**

(Ulrich Mohr)

gtz Office Addis Ababa, P.O. Box 12631, Addis Ababa

German Technical Cooperation

To whom it may concern

Kirkos Sub-City, Kebele 18
German House
P.O. Box 12631
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

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Our reference	ADM/2414/09/UM/rb	Fax	011-5540764
Email	gtz-aethiopen@gtz.de	Date	July 7, 2009

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Erich Stather, State Secretary

Managing Directors
Dr Bernd Eisenblätter
Dr Hans-Joachim Preuß
Wolfgang Schmitt

As an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, the federally owned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH supports the German Government in achieving its development-policy objectives. It provides viable, forward-looking solutions for political, economic, ecological and social development in a globalised world. Working under difficult conditions, GTZ promotes complex reforms and change processes. Its corporate objective is to improve people's living conditions on a sustainable basis.

For GTZ the promotion of the youth is a key element to secure the future of our society all over the world. This is the reason, why GTZ appreciates very much the positive contributions of the two Ethiopians, namely Tariku Tesfaye and Desta Tesfaye.

It is very encouraging to see how the professional and dedicated work of Tariku and Desta creates a promising example of youth-promotion by sport activities in Addis Ababa. The example shows the positive results which can be achieved when young people receive a systematic support in their social and athletic development. This proves how young people can learn to set goals for themselves, to improve their performance and to work together successfully as a team.

Both Tariku and Desta Tesfaye have managed to support the young group of very successful Ethiopian tennis players. They have accompanied the group on various journeys to the US and Germany where the young players have shown their tennis talents and where they have improved their ability to cope with the challenges of international competitions. They have successfully improved their intercultural competences.

The work of these two sportsmen has sustainably improved the social competence of the group and their orientation towards self-sustained economic future. This is especially important because the youngsters all come from families of limited resources.

The journey of Tariku with 6 young tennis players in April of this year (2009) to Germany, the successful participation in different tournaments and the invitation for a meeting with the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, is the latest proof of the well orientated and appreciated work of Tariku.

We would like to thank Tariku and Desta Tesfaye very sincerely for their encouraging and successful promotion of young Ethiopian tennis players and we certainly will support both in their search for sponsors and supporters for their important project.

I wish all the best to Tariku, Desta and the young tennis players, especially I wish them success in their encouraging project to support much more young people in Ethiopia!



Ulrich Mohr

Country Director - GTZ Ethiopia





Ambasciata d'Italia
L'Ambasciatore

Addis Ababa, May the 11th 2009

To whom it may concern

Established in 2002, the Ethiopian kids' Tennis program is becoming one of the most interesting programs assisting the impoverished youth. Thanks to the commitment of Tariku and Desta Tesfaye the program takes care also of the personal development of the young athletes through social courses and the teaching of a second foreign language.

Personally I had many opportunities to meet these young athletes and their trainers. I have always admired their commitment and their capacity to establish positive relations with people coming from different backgrounds.

I am convinced that the assistance of local bodies as well as International organizations will be of paramount importance to motivate these less fortunate children to build a better future.



Raffaele de Lutio

Ethiopian Kids' Tennis Programme

- The Hope: ongoing Support and a sustainable project financed by members and by other donators



Steffi Graf und Boris Becker. Sie bringen...
Das Powerduo des internationalen Tennissports...
Was damals in Brühl und Leimen seine Anfänge nahm...
Welt mit einem Siegesrausch.

Steffi Graf (* 1969 in Mannheim): 377 Wochen lang ist sie die...
Nummer Eins der Weltrangliste der Damen. Als einzige Spielerin...
den Golden Slam (1988 Gewinn aller vier Grand Slams plus Gold...
Olympiade).

Boris Becker (* 1967 in Leimen bei Heidelberg): jüngster Wimbledon...
aller Zeiten! Insgesamt siegt er dreimal auf dem „heiligen Rasen“ der Briten.
Sechsmal gewinnt er Grand Slam-Turniere, viermal wird er zu „Sportler des...
Jahres“ gewählt.

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... geworden.

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... mit die US-Firma John Deere die Aktien-
... andort Mannheim die größte John Deere-

...en lernte
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... das erste
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...onstruktion
... die Welt h
...ung brach