



**BEKA PROJECT : Opening March 25<sup>th</sup> 2010**

This is exciting to report that the new education center in Gindo Town is finally ready to begin. During the February Expedition 20 children selected by the local kebele and regional governments were given in take medicals. The children selected ranged in age from 4 years old to 9 years of age.



Since returning to Canada, home visits by BEKA program managers have been done on each child, and registration in the education center has occurred.



As Canadian Humanitarian waits on funding to complete the building structures on the donated land for their permanent educational center, an interim house and compound have been rented to allow the children to meet. The children will come before and after school for tutoring, and to begin involvement in book, art and sports clubs.



Sports activities will be held at the donated 2.5 acre lot where there is lots of space.



Included with this education center are initiatives to begin gardening and poultry management on adjacent donated land for agricultural training. This will involve the guardians of the children, as a micro business project. Some of the produce from the gardens and eggs from the chickens will be used to supplement the hot lunch program offered at the center each day for the children.



Our goal is to expand this program to 50 children in the next year and to complete the building structures to a 5 classroom facility so that they can leave the rented site, and have the yard and classroom space best suited to this program.

We are excited to present the 20 children to Canadian and US families to sponsor. Funds from sponsorship fees can be utilized to pay for tuition, books, school uniform and costs for attending the local government schools. General donations and grants for the support of the agricultural initiatives and center operating costs are welcome and also being recruited.

This will be an exciting year as we increase the support and activities of BEKA in the Amaya region and Gindo Townsite.

