

News from the running team in Debark

GGRF Advisory Board members Marco Degasper and Helen Bradshaw were able to spend a few days in early November 2011 with the Simien Girl Runners and the extended teams. Helen brought Girls Gotta Run t-shirts for the girls (and some boys!) and Marco brought some running shoes for the neediest runners as well as bought dinner for the whole group, numbering some 72. Good news for the runners is that a new professional team has been funded by an Ethiopian businessman and three of our Simien Girl Runners qualified. Additionally, the other girls will be funded by money the Ethiopian government has granted to the local Youth and Sport Development office. Here are some photos of Marco and Helen's trip.



The almost complete group of 72 young athletes



Helen and Marco running in beautiful places



From left to right: Yirga with the 2 coaches Chilot and Melaku



Askal in the new dress of the Altimate Plan Athletics Club



Alem Tsehay is part of the Altimate Plan Athletics Club, too



Mhawit, the 3rd girl chosen for the Altimate Plan Athletics Club



Most of the runners still wear plastic sandals



Several athletes run barefoot, like Abraham here



Marco with sprinter Tigist



Helen with Tigist



With Setachew and Abraham



Marco with Mhawit



Yetnayet didn't run because injured



Shoes that Marco brought last year, still good



Totally 8 pairs of new and 3 pairs of used shoes for the ones who need it most



Receiving presents from Mr. Azanaw (the person who helps me to build the water well)



New shoes instead of plastic sandals



Mhawit, Tigist and Setachew



Helen with the girls in the new GGRF-t-shirts



Marco with the group that received the t-shirts



Showing photos on the last evening in Debarik



Setachew, Tigist and Mhawit having fun seeing themselves on the photos



Big group eating and celebrating together