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To whom it may concern

Jeff Curtis volunteered for Meketa from 10th December 2019 to 3rd March 2019

He worked with our fieldworkers who provide family sponsorships, individualised training programmes for low skilled workers, small loans to set up new businesses and other economic projects.

Jeff was asked to help train the local staff with better reporting systems and also to help them assess the base line conditions of local beneficiaries in order to check how our programmes improve their situation. In addition he worked with staff in assessing possible new projects and training. Bringing with him an enormous knowledge of Western business practise and a willingness to listen and learn about local conditions he was able to use his knowledge from broad travel experience to suggest projects such as a new tourism project that has worked elsewhere and had not been thought of locally. He showed great sensitivity to local staff when presented with cultural reasons why some projects they felt would not be suitable and he listened well to our request to empower local staff and not override them.

We were very impressed with his integrity and willingness to learn and submerge himself in local practises and restrictions – and his ability to cope with the frustrations of local government and banking inefficiencies and the difficulty of working in a less organised local environment. He listened well to the local issues of lack of education amongst the adult population and the need to find suitable employment for those with very low level skills and education.

He has left a team who are in a good position to continue with ideas he has planted and who are using reporting frameworks that he provided which are helping communication with the Trustees in England on a weekly basis.

We would highly recommend him as a volunteer from our experience with his work with the community in Gondar, northern Ethiopia

Do feel free to ask us further about his volunteer period with Meketa.

Hila Bram
Meketa Project and Volunteer coordinator