

# LABOR OF LOVE IN ETHIOPIA

The efforts of a number of sponsors and a dedicated group of missionaries in southern Ethiopia made the new Dubbo Maternity Center possible.



PHOTO 1

The Second World War marked the end of Italy's short-lived overseas empire. Italy has since officially asked the pardon of its former colonies, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Despite the colonial past, ties remain strong between the countries and Italy remains Ethiopia's largest trading partner.

## Helping hands

The so-called "civilizing mission" that was the subject of so much propaganda in the colonial era is actually being carried out today by the thousands of volunteers and missionaries who operate much needed schools and hospitals in Ethiopia. Among these are the Capuchin Missionaries who for over thirty years have been helping new mothers and their babies who are very much at risk in this part of the world. Infant mortality statistics here in the Horn of Africa are truly chilling: just consider the fact that when twins are born, one is left to die because there isn't enough food for both. This dramatic situation led to the opening of the Dubbo Maternity Center where a team of doctors and surgeons assists expectant mothers and newborns. The Maternity Center also coordinates ten medical clinics staffed by nursing sisters that provide basic health care and health education programs.



Italian firms donated the construction materials for this ambitious project including GranitiFiandre and Mapei, a gesture much appreciated by the Bishop of Soddo-Hosanna, Monsignor Domenico Marinozzi, who personally thanked the Center's sponsors.

## Ancient meets modern civilization

This corner of the world was home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, the Kingdom of Axum, which flourished from the first to the tenth century AD before it gradually lost its dominance of the surrounding populations. Today cultural and economic conditions in the region are so backward that it requires continual assistance.

Construction materials and techniques used in Ethiopia are outdated and badly suited to the country's difficult climatic conditions. In this sense the technologically advanced materials donated for the Dubbo Maternity Center represented a major novelty for local workers who are always eager to learn new techniques. ADESILEX P9<sup>®</sup> was used to install 60x30 cm (24x12") and 60x40 cm (24x16") porcelain tiles donated by GranitiFiandre on the hospital walls and floors. ADESILEX P9 is an easy-to-apply



PHOTO 2





PHOTO 3

Under the watchful supervision of Enzo Ceccarelli, local tile installers learn to use new products, starting with mixing (Photo 1). The Ethiopians, shown here installing porcelain tiles on the walls (Photo 2) and floors in (Photo 3), were eager to learn new techniques. The tile installation was given a brisk scrubbing (Photo 5) before snapping the finished job (Photo 6).

cementitious powdered super-adhesive with highly adhesive and thixotropic properties. As a result it can be applied on vertical surfaces without running or sagging, even when installing heavy tiles as in this case.

After a brief demonstration on the job site of how to install the tiles, the young Ethiopian crew continued without



PHOTO 4



encountering any difficulties until the job was finished. The results were excellent: a job well done today that will serve as a symbol of cooperation and brotherhood for tomorrow.



PHOTO 5

The Technical Data Sheets for the products mentioned in this article are contained in Mapei binder no. 1, "Ceramic Tile Installation products".



#### TECHNICAL DATA

Maternity center – Dubbo, Ethiopia

Built: 1997-1999

Architect and Project Manager: Antonio Carnevale

Contractor: Antonio Carnevale S.p.A. – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Materials: 60x30 cm (24x12") and 60x40 cm (24x16") GranitiFiandre porcelain tiles

Mapei product used for installing the tiles: \* ADESILEX P9

Training for crew: Adriatica Pittori e Restauri, Ancona, Italy

Mapei Coordinator: Gianmarco Felicetti

\*The products mentioned in this article are manufactured by Mapei in Europe.



PHOTO 6

Anyone wishing to contribute to this humanitarian project may contact:  
The Capuchin Foreign Missions  
P.le Cappuccini, 1  
62019 Recanati (MC) Italy  
Tel. ++39/071/7570505 - Fax ++39/071/7577387