

EPHA Signs Agreement for Construction of its own Complex Building



See on page 9

University of Gondar Celebrates its 60th Jubilee



The University of Gondar has awarded certificate of recognition to the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) in recognition of its valued contribution to the efforts exerted towards improving public health in the country.

The University gave the certificate of appreciation to EPHA at an award and recognition ceremony held as part of the

60th Diamond Jubilee of the University celebrated from 4-8 July, 2014 through assortment of events.

Dr. Filimona Bistat, President of EPHA and Dr. Hailegnaw Eshete, Executive Director of the Association, had attended the 60th Diamond Jubilee of the University.

Cont..10

Inside this issue

News	1
Role Model	2
Health Matters	4
Photo News	11

Strives to Enhance Public Health!!!

5th Cohort Field Epidemiology Trainees Graduated



The Ethiopian Field Epidemiology and Training Program (EFETP), which is coordinated by the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA), has graduated 14 health professionals who completed the two years' long post graduate courses along with field work activities on the 12th of July 2014 at the Addis Ababa University.

The program is aimed at producing professionals who are responsible to strengthen the Ethiopian public health emergency management system through employing epidemic investigation, emergency response and surveillance.

Since the launch of the program in 2009, a total of 65 health professionals have been graduated and deployed back to their duty.

The EFETP is a partnership program between the Federal Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa University School of Public Health, the Ethiopian Public Health Association and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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Sr. Zebider Zewdie



Sister Zebider was born in 1963 in Chencha, Gamu Gofa in a very poor family of ten children. Growing up in Chencha, she experienced many hardships. She went to a nearby elementary school, Dejazmach Wolde Mariam, and attended several schools before completing her secondary education. She spent many early mornings on the balcony outside her house studying, as Chencha was a rural woreda with no electricity. One of the most outstanding students in all her schools, she received great encouragement from her teachers who had faith that she would be somebody someday.

Unfortunately, Sister Zebider was not able to attend university, as she was not able to pass the national examination. But that did not stop her; she continued her education at Tikur Anbessa (Black Lion) Nursing School for two years and eight months.

She then returned to Arba Minch to work at Secha clinic and Arba Minch Hospital for almost two years. Then after, she moved back to Addis to work at Yekatit 12 and St. Paul Hospitals. At that time, she was living on the outskirts of Addis at a place called Asko. There was no hospital in the area offering childbirth care to women. Even worse, there was no transportation during night time. Many pregnant women faced complications because they were not able to get to a hospital in time for necessary care. At one point, three women died in the course of just one month. At that time, though she enjoyed the work, she found it difficult.

Cognizant of her problems, Vice chairman of the Kebele, encouraged her to open her own clinic. She hesitated for a while, until one day her own sister was in labor and was on the verge of death because of lack of transportation. Luckily, her sister was taken to the hospital and her life was saved; but Sister Zebider made up her mind then to open Asko Gabriel Clinic.

She received a house from the kebele for a nominal payment so that she could help those who could not afford to pay, especially pregnant women.

Most of the women who came to her clinic had no money and, whenever they needed to go to a higher hospital, she transported them there at her own expense.

She says she derived great satisfaction and happiness from her work, as the women she treated gave her blessings and gifts. Before she was able to give much thought to that, she discovered that she had a growth in her nose. Pursuing both medical and spiritual treatment, she made a promise to God that she would turn her clinic into a charity organization if she recovered her health. When she became well, she founded Mary Joy Development Association in 1994. When she started Mary Joy she began by helping 100 children in one kebele, using her own savings and funds borrowed from relatives. Today, the organization operates in 63 woredas and 8 towns, working both in Addis Ababa

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EPHA Organizes Retreat in Hawassa

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) organized and conducted a retreat program in the presence of Executive Board Members from August 28-31, 2014 at Haile Resort in Hawassa town.

Dr. Hailegnaw Eshete, Executive Director of EPHA, made a brief presentation on various activities of EPHA that were carried out from January- September 2014. Ato Mehari Getaneh , Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, also made a presentation on the ongoing EPHA's structural realignment process.

The presentations were followed by group discussions facilitated by the Executive Board members. The groups discussed at length and presented the strengths and limitations of the association. The discussions and

recommendations made by the groups have been summarized to be used as inputs for future actions and interventions.

In addition, the current outbreak of Ebola epidemic was one of the major concerns raised on the occasion. Ato Alemayehu Bekele, Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Coordinator, briefed the history of the epidemic, mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, prevention and control measures and the role of EPHA in preventing and controlling the epidemic.

At the end of the eat program, EPHA awarded special prizes to three staff of the Association with outstanding performance. The awardees, transparently selected by EPHA's staff members are: Ato Awol Mezegebe, Administration and Finance Director, W/ro. Abebech Abegaz, Office Assistant and Ato Ashenafi Dereje, Publication and Communication Coordinator.



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Updates on Ebola

A total of 8399 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported in seven affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, and the United States of America) up to the end of 8 October. There have been 4033 deaths. Following the WHO Ebola Response Roadmap structure¹, country reports fall into two categories: 1) those with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone); and 2), those with an initial case or cases, or with localized transmission (Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, and the

United States of America). An overview of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where a separate, unrelated outbreak of EVD is occurring, is also provided.

I. Countries with Widespread and Intense Transmission

8376 probable, confirmed and suspected; cases and 4024 deaths from EVD have been reported up to the end of 7 October 2014 by the Ministries of Health of Guinea and Liberia, and up to the end of 8 October by the Ministry of Health of Sierra Leone (table I).

Table I: Ebola Virus Disease Cases and Deaths in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

Country	Case Definition	Cases	Deaths
Guinea	Confirmed	1097	598
	Probable	180	180
	Suspected	73	0
	All	1350	778
Liberia	Confirmed	943*	1072*
	Probable	1874	725
	Suspected	1259	519
	All	4076	2316
Sierra Leone	Confirmed	2593	753
	Probable	37**	142**
	Suspected	320	35
	All	2950	930
Total		8376	4024

**In Liberia, 129 more confirmed deaths have been reported than have confirmed cases. In addition, the total number of confirmed cases is a relatively small proportion of all cases in Liberia, compared with Guinea and Sierra Leone. Laboratory capacity for case confirmation is being increased. **In Sierra Leone, 105 more probable deaths have been reported than have probable cases. Data are based on official information reported by Ministries of Health up to the end of 7 October 2014 for Guinea and Liberia, and 8 October 2014 for Sierra Leone. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.*

Cont... 5

Health Matters Cont'd

2. Countries with an Initial Case or Cases, or with Localized Transmission

Four countries, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, and the United States of America have now reported a case or cases imported from a country with widespread and intense transmission. In Nigeria, there have been 20 cases and eight deaths. In Senegal, there has been one case, but as yet there have been no deaths or further suspected cases attributable to Ebola (table 2).

Table 2: Cases of Ebola Virus Disease in Nigeria, Senegal, and the United States of America

Country	Case Definition	Cases	Deaths
Nigeria	Confirmed	19	7
	Probable	1	1
	Suspected	0	0
	All	20	8
Senegal	Confirmed	1	0
	Probable	0	0
	Suspected	0	0
	All	1	0
Spain	Confirmed	1	0
	Probable	*	*
	Suspected	*	*
	All	1	0
United States	Confirmed	1	1
	Probable	*	*
	Suspected	*	*
	All	1	1
Total		23	9

Data reported are based on official information reported by Ministries of Health. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results. *No data available.

Source: WHO Global Alert and Response (GAR), *Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases, Ebola virus disease situation reports: Ebola response roadmap*

National HIV/AIDS and TB Workshop Conducted



The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) in collaboration with its close allies has conducted HIV/AIDS, TB and related disease summary and surveillance dissemination workshop in Bahir Dar town from September 16-18, 2014.

The workshop was officially opened by Ato Ayelegn Mulualem Head of the Amhara Regional Health Bureau followed by welcoming remarks by Dr. Amha Kebede, General Director of the EPHI, Ato Birhanu Feyisa, Director General the Federal HIV Prevention and Control Office (FHAPCO) and Prof. Afework Kassu representing EPHA.

It was stated at the workshop that following the decline in the magnitude of HIV incidence in the general population, HIV prevention and control programs have been targeting those segments of the population who are at higher risk of acquiring HIV. However, lack of data on the magnitude and behavioral risk factors of HIV in these groups of population remained a major challenge in designing targeted HIV prevention programs.

Cognizant of the above fact, EPHA, EPHI, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Ethiopia (CDC-E) and FHAPCO conducted the first national MARPs (female sex workers and distance drivers) survey to fill the information gap and inform evidence based HIV prevention and control activities. The survey on female sex workers was conducted in II regional capital cities and four major transport corridors and that of distance drivers in four major transport corridors of the country.

More than 200 participants drawn from different organizations including the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) regional health bureaus civic society

organizations, World Health Organization (WHO), international and local non-governmental organizations have attended in the workshop.

The participants stated that the findings of the survey will be widely used for planning HIV prevention and control programs on these segments of the population. It will also serve as a baseline data to establish surveillance systems to track the magnitude of the problem over time.

They also appreciated the initiative taken by the above-mentioned four organizations in conducting the national MARPs survey and called for similar surveys on other most at risk population groups.

Executive Board Members of EPHA

Dr Filimona Bisrat	President
S/r Fekerte Belete	Vice President
W/ro Hiwot Mengistu	Member
Ato Seyifu Hagos	Member
Dr Alemayehu Mekonenn	Member
Dr Takele Geresu	Member
Prof Afework Kassu	Member
Dr Hailegnaw Eshete	Executive Director (EPHA)

Trainees of the 12th Cohort of Leadership in Strategic Information Graduated



The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) jointly with the University of Mekele graduated 20 health professionals trained in Leadership in Strategic Information (LSI) on August 16, 2014 in Mekele town.

Trainees of the 12th cohort, who were recruited from hospitals, the Tigray Regional Bureau and zonal offices, were trained for six months.

During the graduation ceremony, which was held in Axum hotel, trainees presented and defended their research findings in three concurrent sessions.

Welcoming graduates and invited guests of the ceremony, Ato Teklay, representative of Tigray Regional Health Bureau, accentuated on the significance of the training in strengthening the research capacity of the region.

In his keynote address, Dr. Filimona Bisrat, President of EPHA, noted that the training is unique in that it targets health professionals with a first degree. This, he said, can be a half way motivation inspiring them to pursue their Post graduate studies.

Dr. Filimona also stated his concern over the issue of data quality that may pose difficulty to the development of research at the national level unless efforts are made at all levels by professionals in the health sector.

Dr. Filimona finally urged the graduates to translate the skill and knowledge they have acquired from the course into their practical duties and extend their modest contribution in the national efforts geared towards

enhancing human resource development in the health sector.

Out of the 23 health professionals recruited and enrolled into this cohort, 20 (87%) of them have successfully completed the course studying the full package of the training; including the three succeeding modules along with undertaking specific research projects with the use of secondary data on HIV /AIDS and related topics.

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, certificates were handed over to the graduates by Dr. Filimona and Ato Teklay. Seven of the trainees were females.

EPHA has been providing leadership in strategic information training since November 2006 with the aim to develop capacities of the public health sector in using strategic information to improve skills towards need assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluations of the full range of interventions and activities to combat the HIV AIDS epidemic and other public health problems at the sub-national level.

More than 200 health professionals drawn from various regions and health sector organizations have been trained and graduated from the LSI program since the program was launched in 2006.

This cohort of the LSI training has been provided by the Ethiopian Public Health Association in collaboration with the Mekele University and with the financial support from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

EPHA Forms Training and Research Advisory Group (TRAG)

The TRAG consists of 14 resource persons having extensive and practical experience in undertaking researches and managing training programs.

The TRAG was formed on June 6, 2014 where Ato Tesfa Demelew, the Research Training and Publication Director of EPHA, presented the existing status and future directions of EPHA's Training and Research Functions (RTF), and the steps taken in establishing the TRAG.

The presentation was followed by thorough discussions on a wide range of issues including the concurrence between EPHA's TRAG plan and FMOH's current initiative of institutionalizing all research and training activities, the existing capacity of EPHA to serve as a research and training center of excellence, the research thematic areas and the existing internal capacity of EPHA to meet the growing research and training demands.

On the occasion, it was stated that EPHA has human resource potential as well as wide, enthusiastic and experienced membership that can be mobilized and engaged in research and training activities in collaboration with other partners.

It was also noted that EPHA is potentially one of the leading public health institutions to serve as a center of excellence in public health related researches and training.

Additionally, it was mentioned that the current FMOH's Continuing Professional Development program has enabled EPHA to act as both in-service training accreditor and provider, a huge potential for building the capacity of EPHA and its members.

On the same day, Prof. Mesganaw Fantahun was elected Chairperson of the TRAG; Dr Abraham Assefa and Dr Geremew Tarekegn as Co-chair for the research and the training wing respectively; and the Research Training and

Publication (RTP) Directorate as Secretary of the TRAG.

The RTF is intended to provide and facilitate short, medium and long term training, conferences, workshops and meetings, and serve as center of excellence in health related researches.

The structural facility of the RTF will be in the new EPHA building, Ato Shoandange Belete, research coordinator at EPHA stated. He also said that EPHA has attempted to undertake business plan preparations through consultants but the technical proposals were evaluated as unsatisfactory, and presented the issue to the TRAG for further direction on how to proceed. but the technical proposals were evaluated as unsatisfactory, and presented the issue to the TRAG for further direction on how to proceed.

List of Training and Research Advisory Group (TRAG) Members

1. Prof. Mesganaw Fantahun	Chair person
2. Dr. Abraham Assefa	Co-chair research sub-group
3. Dr. Nega Assefa	Co-chair research sub-group
4. Dr. Geremew Tarekegne	Co-chair research sub-group
5. Prof. Makonnen Assefa	Member
6. Dr. Frehiwot Eshetu	Member
7. Dr. Abera Kume	Member
8. Prof. Tilahun Teka	Member
9. Dr. Almaz Abebe	Member
10. Dr. Fitsum Girma	Member
11. Ato Fasil Tessema	Member
12. Dr. Liya Wassie	Member
13. W/ro Mekdes Alemu	Member
14. Dr. Yemtubezenash Woldamnuel	Member
15. Ato Tesfa Demelew	Secretary

EPHA Signs . . .

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) has signed a contract agreement with Giga Construction plc. for the construction of its complex building here in Addis Ababa.

Dr. Filimona Bisrat, President of EPHA and Ato Gebrehiwot Girmay, General Manager of Giga Construction plc. signed the contract agreement on behalf of their respective organizations on the 3rd of October 2014, at EPHA conference hall.

On the occasion, Dr Hailegnaw Eshete, Executive Director of EPHA, noted that EPHA went through a long journey in order to start the actual construction of this building. Now, he said, after many ups and downs EPHA is able to sign the agreement with Giga.

Ato Gebrehiwot on his part said that his company has over 18 years of experience in the construction sector and expressed the company's commitment to construct and complete EPHA's complex as per the required specification and standard.

During the signing ceremony, Dr. Tewabech Bishaw, Chairperson of EPHA's Advisory Council, congratulated the Giga construction plc. for being selected to construct such a historical building, which is expected to serve as a center of excellence for learning, training and research.

Dr. Tewabech added that the construction of the building is expected to immensely contribute to the efforts geared towards improving and upgrading the status of public health in Ethiopia and in Africa as well.

Dr Filimona finally thanked the Federal Ministry of Health, the MH Engineering Plc., the Resource Mobilization Committee as well as EPHA's Advisory Council, Board members and the staff in general for their valuable and continued support for the construction of the building.

Estimated to cost 100 million Birr, EPHA's building will be constructed on a total of 885 Sq. meter area.

EPHA Conducts Health Research Methods and Ethics Training

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) conducted Health Research Methods and Ethics Training from July 21-30, 2014 in Bahir Dar town.

Twenty-one health professionals have participated in the training. The trainees were recruited from Addis Ababa, Mekelle, Debremarkos and Debrebirhan universities, Amhara Regional Health Bureau, Gonder zonal health department, and the Red Cross Society.

The training was designed to assist health professionals to improve their capabilities in research designing, planning and implementation. As part of the training, the trainees developed a research proposal.

EPHA has been providing health research methods and ethics training with the objective of improving the understanding and skills of researchers and practitioners in designing and conducting operational research at different levels. Some 450 members of EPHA have been trained in health research methods and ethics since the training program was launched in 2006.

The Health Research Methods and Ethics Training has been conducted in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA), Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), and Regional Health Bureaus (RHBs), with the financial support from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



Gondar Cont'd . . .

One of the events marking the 60th Diamond Jubilee was this year's students' graduation ceremony that took place on July 05, 2014 in the presence of high ranking government officials, Gondar University community, parents of fellow graduates, alumni and invited guests. On July 06, 2014 a 1,000 bed referral hospital was inaugurated in the presence of dignitary officials.

On July 07, 2014 a Scientific Conference was convened at Tena Amba Health Science Campus of the University. Plenary/ concurrent sessions, panel discussions and exhibitions also took place at different times and places. EPHA was one of the exhibitors displaying its publications/ activities in one of the exhibition rooms to conference participants.

The first Public Health College in Ethiopia was established in Gondar in 1954 offering training opportunities to health officers, nurses, sanitarians and lab technicians. This was eventually expanded to the Gondar College of Medical Sciences, which gradually evolved to a University level in 2003. Since its establishment, the University has graduated over 35,000 students at different levels.

Currently, Gondar University has 5 campuses, 4 specialist research centers, 3 academic journals and over 4,400 staffs. The admission record shows that the university runs 56 undergraduate and 64 post graduate programs. The university presently has 21,363 undergraduate and 1,829 post graduates students.

EPHA is currently working in partnership with the University of Gondar on different health related issues particularly on Demographic and Health Surveillance System (DHSS).

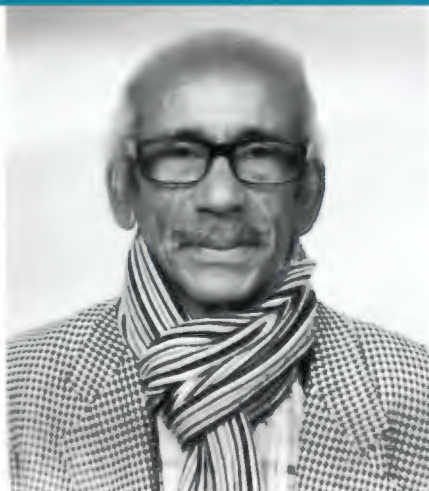
Role Model Cont'd . . .

and in Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State. Supported by more than 6,000 volunteers, and 85 permanent employees, the organization serves nearly 1.5 million people, including 50,000 children and more than 500 elders. Nine years ago, she launched a program called "Ethiopians for Ethiopians", a private-public partnership with the society, which has received widespread recognition both from the public and the government. Both Mary Joy and Sister Zebider have received numerous national and international awards.

When it began, Mary Joy only worked on child-centered programs and orphans. But it has evolved into an integrated community development program.

Sister Zebider's life principle, "Love others dearly without expecting anything in return", has guided her work for the last twenty years since she founded Mary Joy. She credits her mother as her biggest role model. Her mother encouraged her to pursue her education even though she was illiterate herself and sacrificed a great deal to provide a good life for her children. Her second role model is Mother Theresa and, indeed, she hopes to be remembered as "Mother Theresa of Ethiopia". She dreams of seeing Ethiopia free from poverty and hopes some day for Ethiopia to be a donor of aid rather than to be a recipient all the time.

Message of Condolence



Dr. Tamrat Reta
1936 - 2014

It was with great shock and sympathy that EPHA has learnt the passing away of Kidane Mekuria (EPHA's Staff) and Dr. Tamrat Reta (EPHA's Life Member).

Our hearts do go out for the loss of both our colleague and our life member. They were indeed valuable parts of our organization. We would like to extend our sincere and deepest condolence to their families and friends .



Kidane Mekuriya
1973 - 2014

Partial view of AFPHA and the Ethiopian Government Signing Ceremony for the Establishment of AFPHA Head Office in Addia Ababa



Consultative Meeting and Signing Agreement in Progress to Begin the EPHA Complex Building

