



Message from Amref Health Africa Country Director

It has been a pleasure joining Amref Health Africa and taking over from Dr. Florence Temu, who is currently our Country Director in Tanzania.

In the last six months, I have been engaged in learning about our program in MNCH, WASH, and non-communicable diseases, and developing relations with our partners and donors. Amref Health Africa brings a diversified program portfolio with an extended geographic reach that contributes significantly to the Federal Ministry of Health's (FMOH) health sector transformation plan.

During the 2016 FMOH's Annual Review Meeting, I was honoured to present on the role of partners in equity. For many years, Amref Health Africa has been reaching the most disadvantaged, poor and pastoralist communities, communities in inaccessible and remote geographic areas and most importantly, serving women and children. In doing so, we have honoured the importance of partnership at the community level, ensuring community ownership and engaging leaders; using existing government structures of the FMOH and the regional health bureaus and bringing on multi-sectorial engagements.

Our organization has a great potential to stretch even further. Expanding on our current approaches, applying technologies to enhance innovations and scaling up best practices will be our focus in the New Year. With this in mind, Amref Health Africa looks forward to a productive and successful year in 2017.

Misrak Makonnen, MPH, MBA

Photo by The Reporter

Responding to Needs of Cancer Screening and Treatment

Amref Health Africa donated a breast and cervical cancer screening Doppler ultrasound machine to Debre-Berhan hospital during a team visit led by Amref Health Africa's Country Director, Misrak Makonnen.

This initiative is part of the Access, Service and Knowledge for Women Cancer project (ASK4WCP), funded by Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation (BMSF) to raise community's awareness on prevention of women cancer; improve women cancer screening, early detection and treatment; take forward TB case detection rate and treatment outcome. The project is implemented in Afar, Amhara and SNNP regions and has been operational since March 2015.

Arbaminch hospital has earlier benefited with a Doppler Ultrasound machine and

also received Cryotherapy machines, which is used to treat Visual Inspection with Acetic acid (VIA) positive cases.

Amref Health Africa has provided training health workers on Visual Inspection with Acetic acid (VIA) and cryotherapy treatment; and comprehensive TB Direct Observed Treatment (DOTs) in order to deliver the necessary services

Widening its services and supporting integration, the project has also provided Integrated Refresher Training (IRT) to health extension workers on women's cancer, TB and HIV.

Amref Health Africa will continue to support the FMOH in cancer prevention and control as breast and cervical cancer are among the first and second illnesses with high prevalence rate among Ethiopian women with cancer.



has already put it into service for breast cancer screening.

This machine helps diagnose early signs of breast cancer and is expected to benefit thousands of women, who might otherwise be suffering from breast complications that often go undiagnosed.

Health centers in twenty woredas of the three targeted regions have

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Advocating for Better Support to Community Health Workers in Africa — A Learning Exchange Opportunity in Ethiopia

Amref has been a leading voice for community health and advocating for greater support for frontline health workers as part of its community health systems strengthening strategy. As part of this effort and to have a better understanding on how the Ethiopia Health Extension Program strategy works and begins to achieve the desired change, Amref Health Africa Health Systems Advocacy Team conducted a three-day visit to Ethiopia in August 2016.

This timely visit offered an opportunity to take a lesson and advance Amref Health Africa's initiatives to scale up Community Health Workers contribution and advocate for support to their roles in Africa.

Led by Dr Githinji Gitahi, Group Chief Executive Officer of Amref Health Africa, a team from other three African countries, met higher officials of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) including His Excellency Dr Kebede Worku, State Minister of Health and Dr Zufan Abera, Director of the Health Extension Program Directorate and held a productive discussion on the achievements of Ethiopia's Health Extension Program.

The exchange also involved visits to health facilities and communities in both urban and rural settings in Addis Ababa and in North Shoa zone of Amhara. Learning

forum with John Snow Inc (JSI), a non-profit organization implementing the USAID funded Ethiopia Urban Health Extension Program project which supports the Ethiopia government HEP, complemented the field visits.

In addition, as part of Amref Health Africa's efforts to engage the African Union (AU) in supporting the advocacy for community health workers to become part of the AU agenda, Dr Githinji, accompanied by Misrak Makonnen, Country Director of Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia and Dr Joachim Osur, Africa Regional Projects Director, had a successful discussion with Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, the Commissioner for Social Affairs at the AU Commission and his team.

The take-home lessons from Ethiopia was used as a reference and input for designing Amref Health Africa's Community Health Workers campaign which Amref Health Africa is currently gearing up to launch in March 2017 during the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC-2017) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

This campaign envisions everyone everywhere has access to a community health worker for lasting health change and toils towards achieving this across Africa. Most importantly, it advocates for Community Health Workers to be adequately remunerated and forming an integral part of the national health work force by 2022.

Amref Responds to Forced Migration Triggered by Recurrent Drought and El-Nino in North Shoa

To reduce the effect of El-Nino caused drought, and thereby minimizing irregular migration, Amref Health Africa, in partnership with Action Aid, launched the Social Service Improvement for Drought Emergency Response project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, in Tarmaber and Ankober districts of Amhara Regional State .

The launching event brought together donor representative, Ms Ginevra Letizia, Director for Italian Development Cooperation, Mrs Misrak Makonnen, Country Director of Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia, Ato Tefera Wondimagegnehu, Zonal Administration Vice Head and regional level partners, Roberta Rughetti, African Programs Coordinator, Amref Health Africa Italy, key stakeholders, sector office representatives, and media partners.

This ten months project aims to mitigate the negative effects of forced migration from Tarmaber and Ankober districts through income generation activities and improvement of sustainable access to essential basic services. Specifically, the project aspires to improve



From Left: Italian Development Cooperation Director Ms. Ginevra Letizia, Zonal Administration Vice Head Ato Tefera Wondimagegnehu, Amref Health Africa Ethiopia Country Director Mrs. Misrak Makonnen, Amref Health Africa in Italy African Programs Coordinator Roberta Rughetti at the launching workshop, Debreberhan

the resilience and food security of the poorest rural communities, women and children in particular.

The project is expected to reach 15, 268 people including those highly exposed to forced migration and trafficking. While 5,064 of the beneficiaries would participate in food security enhancement program, the remaining 10,204 are expected to benefit from access to drinking water through the creation of new provision points, the restoration of pre-existing structures and the distribution of chemicals for drinking water purification. Seven hundred forty-

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Amref Health Africa Ranked as Best Performing NGO in North Shoa

Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia stood first out of 46 NGOs competing for best performance in their areas of interventions at the Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations forum held in North Shoa zone of Amhara Regional State in July 2016.

Organized by the Zonal Finance and Economic Development Department, organizations were assessed using a transparent criteria including proper and better planning and achievements, performance, timely reporting, quality intervention and reaching out the beneficiaries. Accordingly, Amref Health Africa ranked first with a score of 88% making it a champion for the second quarter of 2016. In recognition and honor of this achievement, Amref has been awarded a certificate by the North Shoa zonal administration office.



Certificate of Recognition for Drought Emergency Response

On the same occasion, Amref Health Africa has also been awarded a certificate of recognition for its emergency humanitarian response towards El-Nino affected population in the zone, the Social Service Improvement for Drought Emergency Response project in Tarmaber and Ankober Districts of North Shoa Zone (See article on Page 2).

Amref Responds to Forced *continued from page 2*

five health workers, members of the Health Development Army, members of water management committees, civil societies and local authorities are to benefit from training and capacity building schemes of the project.

Speaking on the occasion Ato Tefera Wondemagegnehu, Vice Administrator of North Shoa zonal office, appreciated Amref and its partners which are diligently working to address the needs of the communities and working to support government initiatives in

closing the gaps caused by the drought.

Amref Health Africa values this recognition as it is the proof for its long standing endeavors to tackle the emergency and health challenges of the communities it works for.

Afar Emergency WASH Response towards El-Nino Affected Communities

With the support of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Amref Health Africa is currently implementing a drought emergency response in Delifage, Dewe and Telalak woredas of Afar regional state. These three woredas with a total population of 129, 969 are among the most affected communities by the drought.

In close collaboration with the Afar Regional Health and Water Bureaus, and in consultation with GSK, Amref Health Africa has identified these localities as key emergency related intervention areas. With this intervention Amref has reached a total of 4,666 people through community awareness efforts.

As part of the interventions, culturally appropriate health education materials that aim to create awareness have been developed and shared. This includes radio spots with personal, environmental hygiene and sanitation (including clean water

provision) messages, which promote prevention of acute watery diarrhea, malaria and of other epidemic prone diseases.

On the capacity building front, Amref has trained a total of 33 health workers, who provide grassroots services at the health centres. The training focused on Federal Ministry of health (FMOH) strategy on moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition (CMAM). Malnutrition screening for out-patient and admission criteria and Severe Acute Malnutrition Assessment (SAM) and Management are among the key contents of the trainings.

In addition Amref has held nine task force meetings to mobilize woreda health and water bureaus and the communities to discuss drought and flood emergency interventions in the woredas targeted. Connected to this intervention, Amref has trained 63 WASH committees drawn from nine water schemes. Of the trainees 28 are females. It has also contracted out the rehabilitation of 10 water schemes.

Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia Recognitions Received

- * Best performing NGO in pastoralist regions of Ethiopia by H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, 2013 & 2014
- * Excellent contribution to 'Clean and Green Addis Ababa' by H.E. Mayor Diriba Kuma, 2015
- * Excellent contribution in building the capacity of HEWs through trainings, Directorate of Human Resource Development and Administration, FMOH

Amref's Sanitation Facility Transforms Lives in Urban Slum

Aynalem Bezu, 35, is a married woman who lives in Kirkos Sub-City, Addis Ababa. She is a mother of three daughters and lives with her husband. Her family's living depends on her husband's job as a tailor.

Kirkos is one of the innermost sub-cities of Addis Ababa where access to adequate sanitation facilities is very minimal. Aynalem was among those who suffered from the lack of adequate and safe latrine facilities that have led poor families and street children to open defecation practice in the area.

Lack of sanitation causes major public health problems which may result in morbidity and mortality. Residents of Kirkos Sub-City often face Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) related communicable diseases such as diarrhea, eye infection and other diseases. In addition, open defecation practice that is common in this area often deters the privacy and morale of people especially of the women. It exposes women to gender based violence by strangers as they go out in search of bushes to get privacy. Aynalem was among those needy women who experienced this dire problem every single day.

"It is not easy to understand the embarrassment and disgust if you do not have the experience of defecating in an open space"

"We requested our Sub-City to help us resolve the problem we were having with latrine facilities. Amref Health Africa collaborated with the Sub-City responded to our call and built us a communal latrine with a water supply for handwashing including a shower unit. In addition Amref trained WASH committee members on how they can be managing and administering the toilet and shower facilities," Aynalem said.

"We would like to thank Amref for its prompt response and generous support. We used to feel ashamed of defecating in the open space during day time; sometimes we had to wait till the evening to defecate and my family often fell sick. It is not easy to understand the embarrassment and disgust if you do not have the experience of defecating in an open space," Aynalem added "Thanks to God, my children and I are no longer wandering in search of an open place to defecate and get ashamed of being seen by people. We now have a latrine with a water supply that we can make use of at any time we wish to utilize. We are all happy and healthy now."

Aynalem is also delighted to see that the latrine is built in a way accommodating the needs of people with disabilities, who live in the neighborhood.



Mrs Aynalem washing her hands at the newly constructed WASH facility, Kirkos sub-city

"The health of the community is improving as a result of the newly constructed communal latrine," Aynalem affirmed. She hopes with a lead role by the WASH committee members, the residents of her district would take full responsibility to ensure appropriate utilization and maintenance of the facilities.

Members of the community members have already started saving money voluntarily on monthly basis for maintenance of the latrine. The two shower rooms, which have been built adjacent to the latrine help generate additional income for maintenance.

Through European Union funded Sanitation Daily Project Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia works to improve the hygiene and sanitation of three sub-cities of Addis Ababa, namely Kirkos, Lideta and Addis Ketema. In response to the gaps, the project has built one communal latrine that has six toilet seats and two shower rooms at Woreda 01, Kirkos sub city. Forty other are currently under construction. In order to encourage appropriate utilization and ensure sustainability, a WASH Committee has been set up, trained and made functional by the project.

Sanitation Daily project works in close collaboration and synergy with relevant government offices to specifically achieve the following results:

- ◆ Increased access to appropriate, affordable, safe and sustainable basic sanitation facilities among vulnerable and needy slum communities.
- ◆ Improved sanitation service delivery through improved technical and management capacities of Local Water and sanitation service providers, health authorities and communities.
- ◆ Improved living conditions for the urban poor through improved knowledge and awareness of sanitation services.

Liya Kebede Visits Women’s Health Targeted Intervention of Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia

According to World Health Organization report every day, approximately 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Almost all of these deaths occurred in low-resource settings.

Liya Kebede, an accomplished model, designer, and maternal health advocate, visited Amref Health Africa supported maternal health programs in Debre-Berhan. As part of her foundation’s support to mothers in Ethiopia and other countries, Liya visited Tebase Health



Above, Liya with pregnant mothers and Right, Liya at Tebase Health Center standing in front of the motto ‘No mother should die while giving birth’

Center, which is located 10 km away from Debre Berhan town. This health center provides comprehensive health services, including maternal and child health services to a population of nearly 30,000 and supports five health posts.

Liya also attended one of the monthly pregnant women’s conferences, which deliberate on issues that affect their health such as danger signs in pregnancy, the need for delivering at health facilities, vaccinations and more.

These government led women’s forums, set up by the health centers with the support of Amref Health Africa, have been very instrumental in improving maternal and child health by creating an informal support groups and a learning platform for pregnant women who have limited access to information on the most important time of their lives – child birth.

Liya had a chance to talk to the pregnant mothers and shared her experiences of being a mother: ‘I have two children of my own which is how I became passionate about supporting maternal health in Ethiopia and other

countries through the foundation I established”.

Working in partnership with the Liya Kebede Foundation, a non-profit that aims to improve access to maternal health care in Africa, Amref Health Africa has been contributing to safe childbirth initiatives in Ethiopia through the training of mid-wives reaching more than 500 midwives nationally since 2011.



“Amref is making a real impact on the lives of thousands of women across Africa,” Liya said “I have spoken with several midwives who have been trained by Amref. Their dedication to pregnant women and their children and to the community as a whole is remarkable.”

Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia supports government efforts in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity across the country, particularly focusing on developing regional states. Its maternal and child health interventions in North Shoa zone expands to all the 27 health centers of the zone and the communities, providing training to health workers, strengthening youth friendly services at the health centers and engaging communities in reproductive maternal and child health.

Where	Selected Interventions Amref in Ethiopia
SNNPR	Pastoralist and semi-pastoralist health systems strengthening, youth sexual reproductive health, communicable diseases (TB, HIV & malaria), cancer prevention & treatment, WASH focusing on trachoma, nutrition, health and livelihood
Oromia	Community health system strengthening and making WASH every bodies business project
Amhara	Adolescents and youth sexual reproductive health with economic empowerments, and harmful traditional practice among youths, women cancer, and school focus WASH
Gambella	Preparedness and Early Response to Public Health Emergencies, and clinical and diagnostic programs
Afar	Maternal child health including nutrition, emergency drought response on nutrition and WASH, women cancer, midwifery training
Somali	Pre-service education training of Health Extension Workers
Addis Ababa	Urban WASH services to slum dwellers and emergency response for acute watery diarrhea
Benishangule Gumuz	Strengthening of the primary health care unit like construction of health posts and capacity building of Health Extension Workers
National Level	Capacity building of Health Extension Workers at all levels and clinical outreach programs

Interview with The Reporter: Engaging the Community for Better Health



Misrak Makonnen, Country Director Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia. Photo printed on the Reporter Newspaper

26 November 2015: *Misrak Makonnen is the Country Director for Amref Health Africa. She has a master's degree in public health and in business administration and has worked in public health for the last 18 years. During those years she has held several program director positions and worked as head of different international organizations in Ethiopia. In particular, she has managed various projects on health—mainly in HIV and maternal and child health areas here in Ethiopia and other African countries. As country director, she*

oversees all the health portfolios. The Reporter sat with Misrak to discuss issues regarding Amref's projects, maternal and child health and other pertinent issues. Excerpts:

The Reporter: What is the main focus area of Amref Health Africa and what are you currently engaged in?

Misrak Makonnen: Our main focus is on maternal and child health. We have 21 health projects on maternal and child health, water and sanitation, communicable disease and non-communicable diseases; so my job is making sure that all the projects are carried out properly—both technically and financially. I am supported by a multidisciplinary staff to meet my responsibility of ensuring proper delivery and accomplishment of all the projects. I am accountable in meeting the expectations of our donors. I represent Amref with our government counterparts, partners and donors. I also work in business development, looking for new opportunities for the organization, in alignment with the country's health priorities. If you see the 21 projects that we have, the majority of them are on maternal and child health. The areas that we focus on are in developing regional states like Afar, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella. These are highly vulnerable regions and so we give them more focus. What makes Amref different from other similar organizations is the fact that it goes to very remote areas and supports the regional health bureaus in meeting the needs of its people. We also have smaller projects in Addis Ababa, Amhara and Oromia, but most are in the developing regional states where the need is more critical.

What sort of work do you do with the regional health bureaus?

All our projects are done in partnership with Ministry of Health and the regional health bureaus. Starting from the planning stage to the implementation, we make sure that our projects are aligned with the needs and demands of the health bureaus. We look at the needs of the regional health bureaus and we try to plan our projects starting from how to meet these needs. When we work on the implementation, we try to look at health bureaus even at the wereda level and use content from the wereda planning as guidance. When we go out on our field technical support, we go out with wereda or zone health staff because we

are trying to build a sustainable system. We don't want all the work to be done by Amref since part of our mandate is to build the capacity of the health bureaus so that we can transfer technical knowledge and skills.

What is Amref's role in assessment?

We do assessments in collaboration with the health bureaus. That is how we make our baselines and reach our targets based on these baselines and the priorities set by the regional states.

What is the main problem with regards to maternal and child health and mortality here in Ethiopia?

I believe the first problem is the issue of access to basic health services and that is also what the government is focusing on. For instance, if we see the regions that we work on - like Afar, Gambella and the others, not every woman has access to the basic health services. The quality of health services is also another challenge. Qualities concerning the effectiveness of health trainers, health equipment etc are also some of the main issues. These issues are also the government's priorities so access and quality are the main issues that need to be addressed.

What is Amref doing in trying to solve quality and access issues?

In order to improve quality, we have a lot of trainings and mentoring initiatives particularly with projects we work on in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the regional health bureaus. Some of our projects provide financial support to train health extension workers, midwives, nurses and other health workers. We also directly provide trainings to health workers in collaboration with the regional health bureaus. So there is a huge capacity building work done by Amref. The other interesting thing that we do is clinical outreach services programs. This relates to Amref's history of providing clinical outreach services to those in need in very rural areas. The Ethiopia clinical outreach service links specialized physicians with remote hospitals that lack such professionals. There is also a training component where the physicians, who do the clinical outreach, serve as trainers to the facility level junior health professionals and remain in contact as mentors. This intervention targets both access and quality. In terms of access, we do some level of community mobilization to help create awareness in the society the services that are provided. We have also supported mobile outreach services to the communities directly.

I've learned that you hold conferences with pregnant women. Can you tell me what the conferences are all about?

What we try to do in these conferences is support the government's policy, which is dubbed "Home Delivery Free kebeles". This policy basically tries to encourage women to deliver their babies at health facilities. Amref supports the health facilities to create a support group among pregnant women. This is an initiative where pregnant women and health providers gather in the clinic in an informal setting and be in a comfortable and friendly situation where they can discuss the issues. Because all

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Engaging the Community for Better Health

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pregnancies are different, this platform gives them the chance to learn from each other on danger signs of pregnancies, preparations needed to be made before delivery, the importance of breastfeeding and the like. It is a kind of setting where they can discuss about their issues openly and without difficulty. It is in a way awareness creating as well educating the pregnant women by health workers while bonding with one another. It serves as a counseling and support group among friends while dealing with pregnancy, which is the happiest and in certain cases, the most difficult time in a woman's life because of the unknowns

What are the awareness creation works that Amref is doing?

We have a health communication group that is working with the weredas to support the community mobilization work of the health extension workers. Based on our health communication strategy, we have various approaches for transmitting the key message, which are print, mass media, group conversations and the like. And since we are an organization that works with the community, we have programs like community conversation conferences that we use to transmit messages to the community with different entertaining and educational materials. For example, when working with the youth on sexual reproductive health, we use creative awareness creation modalities by sending messages to the mobile phones of the youth willing to participate and discuss critical issues regarding their health. We also use interactive software that help students learn about sexual health education in their schools especially for pre-college and university students where they get the knowledge that they need in 16 weeks. There is also a call center that we support that helps in educating students on sexual health free of charge.

What is your partnership with Liya Kebede?

Liya Kebede has been an advocate for the World Health Organization for many years on maternal and child health issues. Since she is a very well-known African public figure, we asked her to be a partner of Amref Health Africa. When she was in the country, we visited Amref's sexual and reproductive health project in Debre Berhan. We went to two health centers supported by the project. We observed the pregnant mothers conference that was going on at one of the health centers to give Liya an idea of the purpose of these women support groups, which we believe are very important. This gave Liya an opportunity to see first-hand the exchanges among the pregnant women and share their stories. The content is close to her heart since she has been supporting maternal and child health initiatives for a long time. Hence, that is why we are engaging her.

What are the future plans of Amref?

Our future plan is to strengthen our work and grow with the demands and priorities of the Government of Ethiopia. We also want to strengthen the work we are doing in the developing regional states that most NGOs do not go to, and since we have a lot of experience there we want to strengthen that. We especially want to work more on

maternal and child health since it is also the priority of the government. We want to support communities in health service delivery. This is part of our strategic business plan. Even though our main focus is on maternal and child health we also work on non-communicable diseases. We also work on diseases like cancer that comes with the development of the country; we support the Ministry of Health by providing trainings on cancer screening, clinical mentoring and we are in the process of getting equipment for hospitals identified by the Ministry of Health. We will also push in expanding our efforts to improved access to and use of sanitation and hygiene facilities at the community level. Amref Health Africa has been working in Ethiopia since 1998 working in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and regional health bureaus, as well as other sectors such as water and education. We would like to continue to strengthen this relationship and contribute to the implementation of the ministry's Health Sector Transformation Plan.

Amref Health Africa Received NGO Leadership Award

Amref Health Africa and its Group Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Githinji Gitahi have been honored with the NGO Leadership Award presented by the World CSR Day and the Stars of the Industry Group in an event that took place in Mauritius in December 2016. Those who can make a difference to the lives of others are chosen, and the quality of their work, global reach and outlook and ability to contribute value of social change has been assessed. Amref Health Africa was also nominated one of the best employer brands in Africa among 56 organizations spanning across different industries.

Upcoming Event

Africa Health Agenda International Conference 2017
Towards a Healthier Africa: People, Systems and Innovations

What: A conference that brings together leading health experts in Africa offering a unique platform to deliberate on strategies, scientific approaches and investments needed in people, systems and innovations to enable Africa reach the Sustainable Development Goals

When: 7 - 9 March 2017

Where: Nairobi, Kenya

Organized by: Amref Health Africa

Contact Information: <http://ahaic.org/>

Meet the New Leadership of Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia

Amref Health Africa brings in new leadership to its senior management team. Misrak Makonnen replaces Dr Florence Temu as the Country Director; and Dr Yeshitila Hailu takes over Dr Awoke Tasew as the Head of Programs. Below are their brief profiles and we look forward in engaging them in bringing lasting changes in Africa.

Misrak Makonnen, MPH, MBA, Country Director

Misrak Makonnen previously served as the Country Director at IntraHealth International in Ethiopia where she oversaw the implementation of health projects focusing on maternal and neonatal child health (MNCH) and HIV prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). Prior to her appointment, she served as the Chief of Party in Ethiopia and as a Regional Program Advisor in Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda for AIDSRelief, a PEPFAR funded HIV care and treatment program led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Misrak also served as the Director of Programs at the International Training and Education Centre on HIV supporting the implementation of an HIV care and treatment program in Ethiopia. Prior to her work in Ethiopia, she worked as a Senior Program Officer for the Trachoma Control Program and as a Technical Consultant at the Carter Centre where she provided technical and program management support to the National Guinea Worm Eradication Programs in various African countries, including Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Nigeria.

Misrak holds a Master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Health Communications and a Master's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Organizational Management from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Yeshitila Hailu MD, MPH, PhD, Head of Programs

Yeshitila Hailu is a Public Health Specialist with more than 23 years in clinical & Public health experiences at various governmental and non-governmental institutions. Prior to joining Amref Health Africa, he worked as an executive director for Medical Association of Physicians in Private Practice-Ethiopia (MAPPP-E). In this position, Dr Yeshitila has developed and managed numerous projects in emergencies and development programs and engaged in business development.

Dr Yeshitila worked for Red Cross of Ethiopia in various positions including Deputy Director of National Blood Bank, Health Care Program, Department Manager as well as Deputy Secretary General for Programs. Other engagement included Human Resource for Health Development Director at the University of Washington's International Training and Education Center-Ethiopia; owner and General Manager of Tarmaber Health and Social Services consultancy firm, editor-in-chief of the Ethiopian Health Magazine published quarterly by EHIR PLC, and a Health columnist in a weekly Amharic newspaper-Addis Admass.

Dr.Yeshitila holds a Doctorate degree in Medicine from Addis Ababa University, Gondar College of Medical Science, an MPH from Hawassa University and a PhD in health services from Atlantic International.

Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia



*A parade at Global Handwashing Day 2016
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

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