

Winter Newsletter



Your Generosity Has Helped Us:
Save Lives, Educate a Generation
and **Restore Dignity**
to Broken Women

Uplifting Women: Fistula Treatment

The World Health Organization has called fistula “the single most dramatic aftermath of neglected childbirth.” In addition to incontinence, many women with fistula suffer severe nerve damage as well as psychological trauma. In Ethiopia alone, there are an estimated 9,000 new fistula cases per year, occurring largely in rural and impoverished regions of the country.

At the Fistula Hospital, women regain not only their health but also their self-confidence and dignity. Through the hospital’s holistic services, women are given the space and capacity to physically heal, emotionally recover, learn skills and build friendships. Last year, the hospital provided life changing surgery to over 1,500 women. The hospital also made important strides in fistula prevention. Recent graduates of the Hamlin College of Midwives were deployed to 17 Health Centres in remote areas of the country. This initiative resulted in more than 5,000 safe deliveries—an 86% increase from the previous year!



In 2014, Ethiopiaid Canada funded the comprehensive treatment of over 170 women suffering from fistula. With your continued support, we hope to provide this treatment to 170 more women in 2015.



Saving Lives: Maternal Health Care

Each year, an estimated 22,000 women and girls in Ethiopia die as a result of complications during pregnancy or childbirth, and more than 500,000 suffer from pregnancy-related disabilities. Most of these deaths and disabilities can be prevented with adequate medical care.

Through our partnership with KMG Ethiopia, we have improved access to life saving childbirth services in some of the poorest communities in Ethiopia's countryside. KMG's health workers map out the pregnant women in their communities and provide care before, during and after childbirth. In 2014, KMG health workers registered over 4000 pregnant women across 50 rural health clinics in Southern Ethiopia. Additionally, we provided delivery beds and reusable delivery kits to over 10 health clinics in the region. Your donations also allowed us to recruit ambulance drivers to transport expecting mothers to safe delivery centers. In 2015, we look forward to helping over 1000 women give birth safely.

Social Inclusion: Support for Disabled Children

Through our partnership with Cheshire Services, we have rehabilitated and educated hundreds of disabled children. Your donations go toward our project with Cheshire Services in Harar, which works toward social inclusion for children living with disabilities. This project includes physical rehabilitation, educational support, stigma reduction, and micro-loans for families.

In 2014, we were able to provide over 200 children with physical aids such as crutches, wheelchairs and hearing devices. With your support, we were also able to subsidize surgery for 10 children with severe disabilities. Additionally, we were able to construct three ramps and one adaptive toilet at local schools. Finally, your generosity has helped over 100 children with disabilities attend school.





Educating a Generation: Training Vulnerable Youth

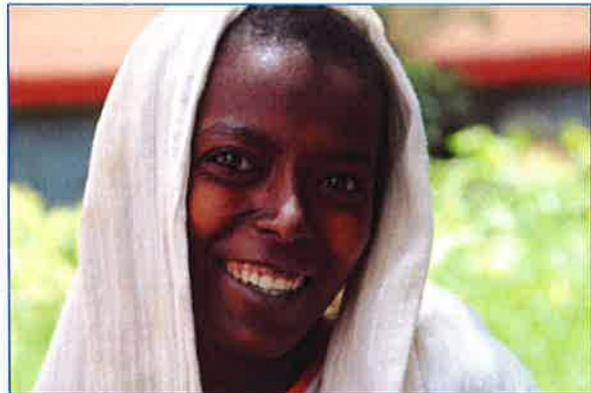
Hope Enterprises is a safe haven for children who have lived on the margins of society for most of their lives. Many youth enter Hope's system through the Street Children's Breakfast Program, eventually joining the Vocational Training Program in their adolescence. The Vocational Training Program trains youth in fields that are based on market needs, such as electrical engineering and international hotels and catering.

By supporting this program, your donations are truly working to break the cycle of poverty for a whole generation of young people.

With your support, we were able to provide vocational training to over 75 young people in 2014. We are also pleased to report that we achieved a 100% graduation rate. To date, 75% of these graduates have secured employment. We look forward to helping another cohort of bright young people graduate and secure employment in 2015

Success Story: Desta's Journey

Desta was only 16 years old when she was married, marking an abrupt end to her childhood. Desta recalls that prior to getting married, she had a joyful childhood and spent her time playing with friends in the field, fetching water with other girls in her village, and regularly attending church with her family.



Soon after marriage, Desta became pregnant with her first child. Upon going into labour, Desta received the support of her mother and elderly women in the community. After three days of labour, Desta finally gave birth and then fell unconscious. When she awoke, she learned that her baby had not survived. A few days later, she became aware of another nightmare—that her body was uncontrollably leaking urine. Looking back at that period of her life, Desta recounts that her days were filled with unbearable physical and emotional pain. Realizing that she was unable to participate in household or community activities, Desta explains "it was as if I was of no use; my life was ruined." Fortunately, Desta's husband, Mekonnen, stood by her side.

Mekonnen started asking people around the village about his wife's condition and learned from someone in the market about a hospital in the capital that treats women like Desta. Determined to get treatment for his wife, Mekonnen saved for three years before he was able

to afford the bus fare to Addis Ababa. By the time Mekonnen brought Desta to the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, she had developed severe nerve damage that left her unable to walk. After six weeks of treatment at the Fistula Hospital, Desta's fistula was cured and she regained some of her ability to walk.

Desta continues to receive physiotherapy and is on her way to full recovery. When asked about her journey to health, Desta expressed deep gratitude for both the hospital staff and her husband. "I have a very supportive husband who helped me manage my problem. I had asked him to leave me because I was cursed but he kept reassuring me that I was not cursed and that I would get help and be fine one day." Thanks to Dr. Hamlin's work, funded with your donations, Mekonnen's wish for Desta came true.



On behalf of the
thousands of people
who benefit from your
support, thank you!



Recovering fistula patients learn basket weaving, a new income generating skill



Alex Chapman from EthiopiAid Canada's Board of Directors visits fistula patients in October 2014

The complexity of Ethiopia's problems requires an innovative approach to aid. That's why we work in the way that we do. We partner with local organizations working on the front line of poverty – people who understand the problems faced by Ethiopians on a daily basis. In this way, we make a real and lasting difference for vulnerable people living in poverty.

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