



Hamlin Fistula UK

Newsletter April 2013

UK Registered
Charity
number
257741

The Only UK Charity Exclusively Supporting the
Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia

(Patients names in stories are changed to protect their identities)

Message from Dr Hamlin

Our main hospital in Addis Ababa is busy, we have new patients arriving and we are performing many operations weekly. I still operate once a week, ably assisted by Mamitu, our 'honorary' fistula surgeon and cured patient.

Despite the unfortunate coincidence of two of our eight surgeons having left our employment for health and personal reasons, we have already interviewed two new doctors. A further two surgeons who worked here a few years ago have contacted us and have asked if they can return.

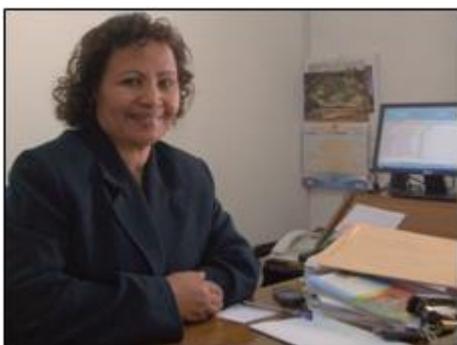
We have held a conference at our Addis site for doctors and senior staff from the five regional Hamlin Fistula Outreach Centres. They were able to spend time with Deputy CEO Feven Haddis, who is handling her multiple responsibilities with calm and good humour. We are glad to have Feven's well-tested abilities at Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. We all relaxed and enjoyed lunch in the garden on those conference days.



International Day for Obstetric Fistula : 23rd May

On behalf of millions of women and girls suffering the devastating consequences of obstetric fistula around the globe, the IOFWG (International Obstetric Fistula Working Group) has designated 23rd May each year as the official International Day for Obstetric Fistula. As the Campaign to End Fistula approaches its landmark 10th anniversary in 2013 this new International Day is a notable achievement and will be a wonderful opportunity every May 23rd to create significant awareness and hopefully much needed extra support for the prevention, management and eventual elimination of obstetric fistula.

Hamlin Fistula Finance Manager



Genet Kifle started working here at our hospital on 1st November 1987 as a senior accountant. She had first met Dr Reginald Hamlin five years earlier while she was employed by the National Bank. Initially a manual accounting system was in place and in 1993 she undertook a computer course at night school over a period of 4 months. In September that year the hospital bought its first computer using DATAEASY software. For a number of years after this, Clive Hewitt, one of our former UK Trustees became a regular visitor for several years, visiting 4 times a year and he introduced the Money Manager system as DATAEASY could not be used after the

year 2000 - it was not millennium compliant.

In 1995 Frehiwot joined as an assistant accountant and at this time Genet was also dealing with clearing imports of supplies, customs, permits, etc and collecting from the airport. She took a University Degree in Accounting and was promoted to Business and Finance Manager. The CEO who arrived in 2005 soon changed the accounting system to NAVISION as he believed that Money Manager was no longer able to cope with expanding requirements. This was upgraded in 2010 and now works satisfactorily. Genet is currently studying for an MBA and has completed 17 out of 20 modules.

On a personal note, Genet has three children. She said that while her children were young the Hamlins were like parents for her. Her two boys are Civil Engineers, engaged in road construction and her daughter is studying Medicine at Mekele Hospital. Genet has three brothers and four sisters.

Hamlin College of Midwives “Against the odds”

The story of a 1st year student midwife.

Mulu is aged 19 and comes from Tigrai region, Mekele town, which is 780km north of Addis Ababa and is where we have one of our outreach centres. She attended her elementary and junior high school in Hiwone and went on to Mekele for her high school education. Mulu joined the Hamlin Midwifery College in September 2012.

Mulu comes from a poor rural family whose livelihood is agriculture. She is the oldest child in the family and was married at an early age. Mulu had a baby when she was 14 and she suffered an injury causing her to be incontinent. One day, while at high school, she was listening to a local FM radio and she heard for the first time about fistula injuries and the Hospital in Mekele where women could go to get help. Mulu remembered the radio programme so when she realised her injury was a fistula she went to our Hamlin Centre in Mekele and received the required treatment. During her stay in Mekele she faced financial constraints for her education and life became very challenging for her. However, thanks to an individual’s support from abroad she completed her high school education. Now she is with us, all her educational expenses are covered by Hamlin Fistula, and the College takes this opportunity to thank the supporters of Hamlin Fistula for making this possible.



Mulu says: Now I am very happy. I want to thank Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia for the opportunity to be cured in the Mekele Hospital as well as the chance to be part of the system as a midwifery student. To be a part of this vision makes me happy and I am very grateful for the scholarship award from the organization. It is good to be part of the Hamlin Fistula prevention work because I know what fistula is and its main causes. This is why I am very interested to join this field. The training area is good and the tutors are very helpful, this makes me impressed. I believe after four years I will be equipped with skills and knowledge and after graduation I am going to serve the rural community where I come from with love and a heart full of commitment.

Midwifery challenges in Ethiopia:



For a fast-growing population of 100 million, Ethiopia has fewer than 2000 qualified midwives. The fertility rate in Ethiopia is 5.32 babies per woman.

1 in 7 teenage girls give birth every year in Ethiopia. 500,000 African women and girls die every year in pregnancy and childbirth and 93% of obstetric fistula sufferers give birth to a stillborn baby.

Here are some Hamlin midwives in training on the main ward in Addis. We love Sister Wude and the students love her enthusiasm for them and for midwifery!

Caesarean Sections

We have exciting plans to equip our main hospital to handle Caesarean sections. This is not a maternity hospital, but we encourage our cured fistula patients to come back to us when they are near to term so that they can stay with us for the rest of their pregnancy. Until now, when their time for delivery is near we have transferred them to the general hospital for a C-section. In future we will be equipped to handle C-sections at our hospital, thus putting less pressure on the government system. We will be able to share their joy when our patients deliver a healthy live baby.

This is vital work which requires much needed funding.



Go Team Hamlin!



Competing in the Great Ethiopian Run in Addis Ababa in the name of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia were hospital staff, Richard Hamlin, his eldest daughter Sarah and her husband Pete. It is brave to run 10km against tens of thousands of Ethiopians, the best runners in the world!

Our kitchens are always busy places.

The staple diet of Ethiopians is injera - a pancake-like meal made from a cereal called teff. It is made in all of our hospitals kitchens. These ladies know how to put on a feast for our patients.



Desta Mender

Our rehabilitation and training site near Addis Ababa, is as active as ever with its various activities to help longer term patients become socially and financially independent. If a patient cannot be cured and has to have a stoma, she needs access to clean equipment and ongoing medical care.



Desta Mender has market gardens, an orchard, dairy and chicken farm, (seen here are a few of our 400 + chickens) as well as Juniper Café where residents can learn hospitality skills. The conference facilities and café serving the public and staffed by patients are a great success, although the café is not quite so popular in the rainy season. The Manager at Desta Mender is Beletshachew, she has business and charity experience and a great vision to expand the facilities on that picturesque rural site adjacent to the Midwifery College.

Our New Dairy

We have officially opened our new dairy at Desta Mender. The cows were donated by our Dutch trust and the enterprise will be run by nine of our past fistula patients. The picture shows the opening ceremony of the Dairy.



Staff : Projects Manager.

Ato Kassahun has been the Program & Project Officer here for the last six years. He is in contact with all our International Partners on a regular basis and prepares all funding proposals and he tracks expenditure to ensure that it is in line with the original proposals.



Kassahun prepares monthly, quarterly and annual reports which are auditable and he has also helped with budget preparation.

Kassahun considers control of costs to be very important. He has job satisfaction, making things happen to help the patients. He says, "I am dedicated to this life changing work, this is my primary concern and the women patients are my top priority". He is married with two children: a son who works in IT and a daughter in High School.

Introducing Likelesh

She accepts hand knitted blankets from our supporters and distributes them to our patients in Addis Ababa and to our regional centres. She keeps the blanket storeroom ship shape and is an important member of the Hamlin team.



New CEO

We have appointed the new Chief Executive Officer to be based here in Addis Ababa to oversee the work of the main Fistula Hospital, our five regional centres and the Hamlin College of Midwives.

Martin Andrews is of Irish heritage and came to Ethiopia earlier this year with his wife Harriet and their three adopted Ethiopian children.



Martin has a very strong background in strategic business management in the health sector and has a decade's experience as a director of an African-based HIV/AIDS palliative care organisation. The recruitment process was an exhaustive one with 50 candidates considered from Ethiopia and abroad and with four of them travelling to Addis Ababa for interviews. I am most confident that Martin was the strongest candidate and will bring to our organisation the skills we need, balanced with a true heart for our patients. Among Martin's most important tasks in the first year will be stabilising our international support base. The running costs of our organisation are ten times what they were less than eight years ago.

We end this newsletter on a note of sadness. We report the sudden death of one of the longest-standing staff members. Yeshi was Drs Reg and Catherine Hamlin's housekeeper who began working for them soon after they arrived in Ethiopia in 1959. Yeshi died of a heart attack on Ethiopian Christmas Day. (Jan 7th) She will be sorely missed by the staff and especially by Dr Hamlin and her son Richard who has known Yeshi since he was six years old.



Here are some of the ways in which your donations help Hamlin Fistula in Ethiopia:

- £7.50** buys 5 pairs of plastic shoes for patients who arrive barefoot.
- £20** buys a nightgown and bedding for one patient.
- £35** pays for long-term physiotherapy.
- £40** buys a high-quality cotton hospital bed blanket.
- £160** buys 100 metres of fabric to make a dress for each patient on discharge.
- £400** will pay for 1 standard fistula operation to restore a woman's dignity.
- £2600** covers the cost of training a midwife for 1 year-it is a 4year residential degree course.
- £23000** equips 1 rural midwifery clinic.

All at Hamlin Fistula UK thank you for your continuing support. Without your money and help in many different ways we would not be able to help so many women. For the women who receive our help, remember, it is you, our donors, who have helped to give them dignity, hope and opportunity to a better life. Without your help they would be in their humiliating condition for the rest of their lives. We can't reach all fistula sufferers but we are making a difference to so many each year.

Do you internet shop at Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, Next, and many more?

Register at: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and then put it in your favourites (Bookmark). Instead of going directly to Amazon, etc., find the retailer through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) click on it and go shop. Remember to say you are supporting "Hamlin Fistula UK" – every purchase makes a contribution to the Charity. Do investigate it.

We have merchandise for sale – please see below

There are many ways you can support us

A direct gift of cash

A regular gift by 'standing order'

A gift by CAF cheque

Payroll giving

A CAF Card or Credit Card through our secure website– just click on 'Ways of Giving'

There are special arrangements to give relief from Inheritance Tax on bequests, and from Capital Gains Tax on gifts of shares.

If you wish your contribution to be a Gift Aid donation, please complete and sign the form below and return it to the CEO at the office address

**Mr Laurence Parkes CEO
Hamlin Fistula UK
4 Parade Buildings,
Nimmings Road,
Halesowen,
West Midlands.
B62 9JJ**

Please accept the enclosed donation for the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital through the Charity **Hamlin Fistula UK**.

Cheque attached £.....

Title..... Forename(s).....

Surname.....

Address.....

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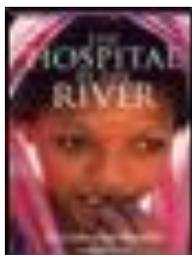
If you wish to Gift Aid this donation, please tick and sign below

Signature..... Date

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Merchandise for Sale

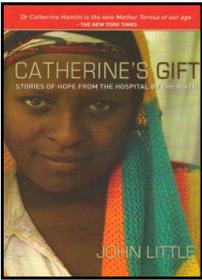
- Price (in blue) if collected from our Office. (Please telephone **0121 559 3999** to arrange time for collections.
- Price (in red) includes postal costs. (Orders by post will be dispatched on receipt of payment)



Dr Hamlin's first Book The Hospital by the River

£5 each

£8 each by post



Dr Hamlin's second Book Catherine's Gift

£5 each

£8 each by post



Logo Lapel Pin

£1.50 each

£7 by post in multiples of 4



Hamlin Fistula Key Ring (2.5cm diameter)

£2.50 each

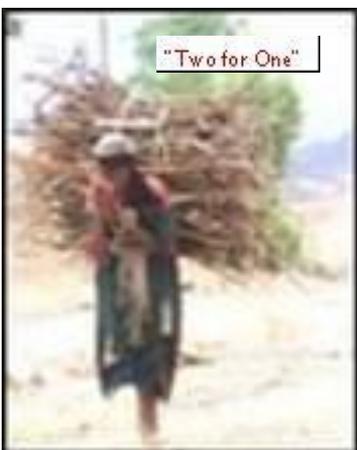
£11 by post in multiples of 4



Packs of 6 Notelets with envelopes (A6 size)

£2.50 per pack

£12 by post in multiples of 6 packs



A 16 page soft cover A5 booklet telling the story of the life of a fistula patient.

£1 each

By post: 3 copies £3.50