

The **HAMLIN** Newsletter is published quarterly by Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, and distributed to its members.

60 Years of Care

**ARRIVED IN
ETHIOPIA IN 1959**



INSIDE

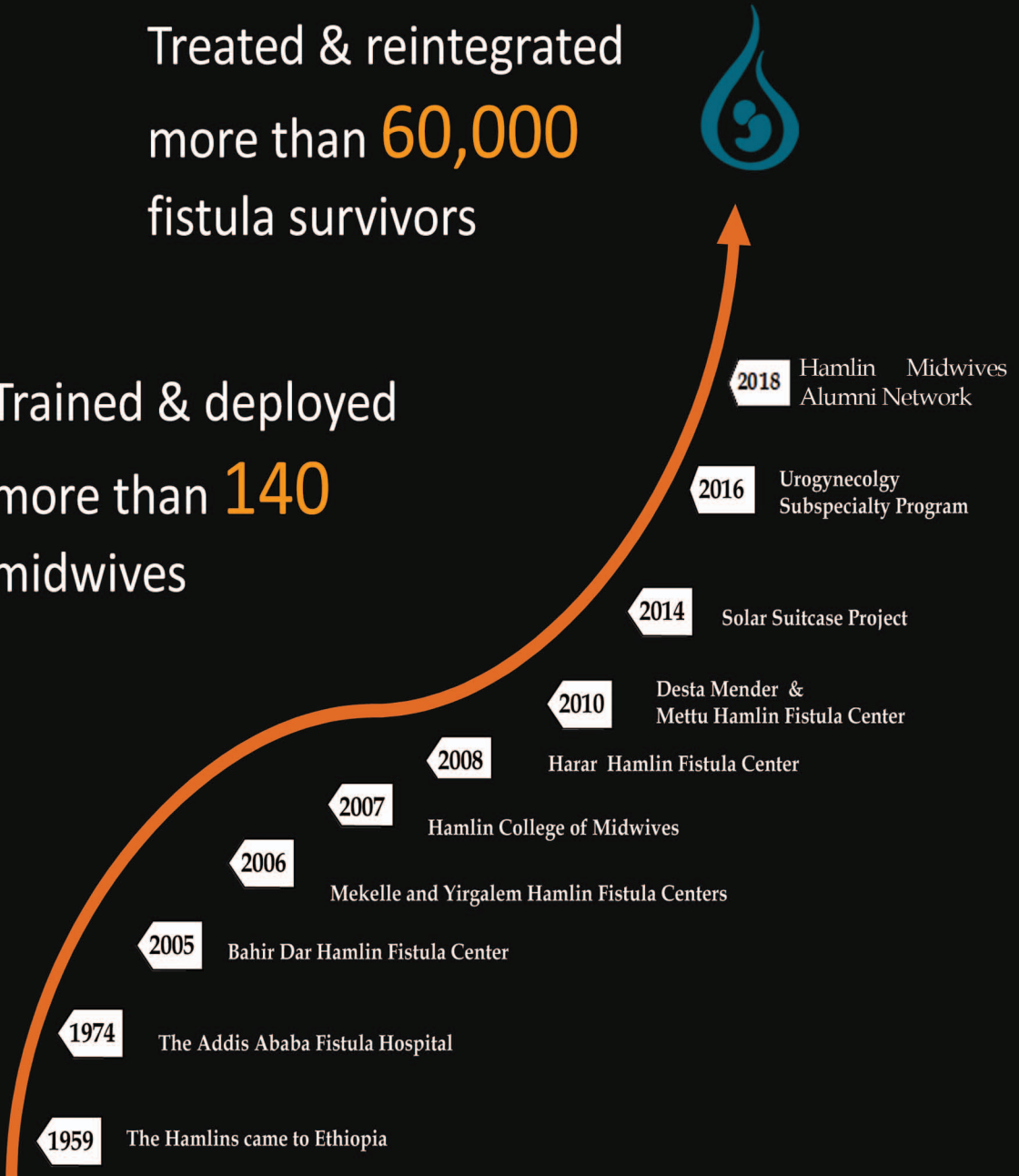
60th Anniversary	2
Graduation and 10th Anniversary	3
Partners International Meeting	5
Midwives Alumni Network	6
First Lady	7
Annual Review Meeting	8
Hamlin Tree Planting	9
My story	10

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CARE 1959-2019

Treated & reintegrated
more than **60,000**
fistula survivors



Trained & deployed
more than **140**
midwives



HCM Celebrates 8th Class Graduation and 10th Anniversary

The Hamlin College of Midwives (HCM) celebrated its 8th Class graduation and 10th anniversary on July 14, 2018 at Defence Force Officers Club's compound, Addis Ababa. This year the college graduated 20 midwives with BSc Degree in Midwifery, raising the total number of Hamlin midwives to 145 since 2007, the establishment of the College 10 years ago.



The ceremony was attended by higher government officials, representatives from the Ministry of Health, diplomatic communities, international partners, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE) Board members and Senior Management Team, members of the college community, honored guests from overseas, and families and friends of the graduates.

In his congratulatory speech, Ato Zelalem Belete, Dean of the college and Prevention Manager, said, "Your today's success is the result of cumulative efforts made by yourself, the government, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, our trusts,

individual donors, health care facilities and your families. You have chosen a novel profession, which saves the lives of mothers and children. I assure you that we shall be at your back wherever you are assigned and serve your commitment."

Ato Tesfaye Mamo, HFE A/CEO, also congratulated the graduating class, adding, "Your hard work has paid off. The sacrifices you have made and the hardships you have endured have not been in vain. Despite the challenges, I strongly believe you have enjoyed your learning experiences because, as someone has put it clearly, 'Education is not preparation for life. It is life'. You are also lucky that your graduation coincides with the college's 10th anniversary."



Ms Sonia Fenton (left) receiving certificate of appreciation from Guest of Honor, Ms Caroly Hardy. Ms Sonia, an Australian, sold her only residence and donated 1 million USD to HFE.

Speaking at the ceremony, HFE Board member, Dr. Mengistu Asnake, inspired the graduates to courageously and honestly accomplish the remaining tasks of their profession. “Congratulations to you and your families! You have successfully accomplished the first phase of your life as a midwife and the most important tasks are awaiting you. I am sure that you will be keeping on Hamlin’s dedication in preventing obstetric fistula and reducing maternal mortality and morbidity which is still a problem in Ethiopia’s maternal healthcare.”

Guest of honor, Ms Caroly Hardy, CEO of Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation, also congratulated the graduates and their families during the occasion, and thanked

all who have contributed to the successful realization of the program.

During the ceremony, certificate of appreciation was presented to Ms Sonia Fenton, an Australian who generously donated 1 million USD to Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia for the improvement of maternal and newborn health care in the rural communities of Ethiopia. Staff members of HFE, who exceptionally contributed to the renovation of partner health centers, were also provided with certificates of appreciation.

As part of the 10th anniversary, an exhibition, highlighting the college’s history, facilities, staff, curriculum, teaching-learning, and prevention and deployment activities, was displayed.

HFE Holds 2018 Partners International Meeting

Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE) held its Partners International Meeting on June 1 and 2, 2018 at Hilton International Hotel, Addis Ababa. The meeting was attended by Hamlin Trustees from overseas, representatives of partner organizations, and Hamlin Board of Trustees and Senior Management Team members.

Dr. Ephrem Tekle, HFE Board of Trustees Manager, addressed a keynote speech, highlighting that Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia has developed many innovative practice, achieving great results, over the years, in all its three programs-treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation and reintegration. “Behind Hamlin’s successes are its International Partners, to which we are truly grateful,” he thanked.

During the two-day meeting, participants discussed on the organization’s accomplishments during the fiscal year and proposed operational plan for the subsequent budget year. Despite some challenges, HFE exhibited a remarkable performance in all its three pillars and other supportive functions. The treatment program carried out a big number of

complex surgeries during the fiscal year. The prevention program succeeded, among others, in increasing the number of Hamlin supported government rural clinics. The Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program, to mention one, expanded its community support initiative.

HFE A/CEO, Ato Tesfaye Mamo, also presented the organization’s roadmap for discussion. Participants fully agreed on



HFE’s plan to build Women’s Specialized Hospital and launch MSc Program as part of its strategic direction. They also suggested that HFE should start considering domestic resource mobilization schemes.

Hamlin Partners International Meeting is held annually with the aim of reviewing the organization’s accomplishments over the year and plan for the subsequent fiscal year.

'Hamlin Midwives Alumni Network' Summit Kicks off

The Hamlin College of Midwives and GreenLamp collaboratively launched the "Hamlin Midwives Alumni Network" on July 28, 2018 at Elilly International Hotel, Addis Ababa. The summit was attended by more than 80 graduates of the Hamlin College of Midwives, representatives of GreenLamp, academic staff of Hamlin College of Midwives and Senior Management Team members of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia.



In his opening speech, Ato Zelalem Belete, Dean of the Hamlin College of Midwives and Prevention Manager, congratulated all Hamlin midwives for the successful realization of the "Hamlin Midwives Alumni Network" and thanked all who involved in the process. "GreenLamp is Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia's reliable partner

and has been supporting our college in so many ways, including the launching of this alumni network. On behalf of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, the Hamlin College of Midwives, and of course Dr Catherine Hamlin, I truly thank them for taking the initiative and making this network a reality," he said.

Highlighting the importance of establishing the network, GreenLamp's

President, Ms Christina Blecher, also spoke during the summit. "The network will connect alumni of the college and involve them in midwifery schemes for former, current and aspiring Hamlin College of Midwives' students. It is a career management tool as it enables them to stay connected and maintain relationships."

The daylong summit incorporated a number of activities, including presentations and discussions on successes, issues and challenges related to midwifery education and practice in Ethiopia and beyond.

H.E the First Lady of Ethiopia Visits the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital

H.E the First Lady of Ethiopia, W/ro Zinash Tayachew, together with H.E Minister of the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Amir Aman, visited the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital on May 31, 2018. During their visit, they were most cordially welcomed by Dr. Catherine Hamlin, Hamlin Board of Trustees, Senior Management Team, staff and fistula survivors.

Following their tour of the hospital facility, guided by Dr. Fekade Ayenachew, the Medical Director, they met with Dr. Catherine Hamlin, founder of the Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE), and attended a short briefing on the work of the organization by A/CEO, Ato Tesfaye Mamo.

Speaking during her visit, the First Lady promised to continue contributing to the very mission and vision of HFE. “I’ve a long personal attachment to Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. When I was in USA, I was contributing \$10 per month to support the organization’s fistula treatment and prevention activities. Now, perhaps with a higher degree and scope, I’m ready to continue contributing to the vision of the organization.”

H.E Minister of the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Amir Aman, also spoke during the occasion and expressed his commitment to support HFE’s ongoing efforts. “Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia is a model to the Health Sector in Ethiopia in many ways, and I hope it will continue becoming so. We’ve taken the Hamlin Sanitary Model and incorporated it into our health agenda. We know that the Hamlin College of Midwives, which has an uninterrupted history of 100% pass of its graduates in the National Midwife Licensing Examination, is recognized as a model college in the Ethiopian midwifery education, and there is so much we are expected to learn from that as well.”

Dr. Catherine gifted both the First Lady and the Minister of Health signed copies of her book, “The Hospital by the River: A Story of Hope”, and handmade scarves by fistula survivors.



2018 Annual Review Meeting



A team of 70 members, including A/CEO, management team members, center managers, mentors and midwives attended the meeting. In his welcoming speech, Dr Demissew Beyene, HFE Planning & Program Manager, thanked all Hamlin staff who had tirelessly contributed to the successfully realization of the organization's plans during the fiscal year. "With the new strategic direction, HFE will

continue making its impact in our communities, and I ask you all to remain committed," he added.

Every year in July, the end of Ethiopian government fiscal year, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia evaluates its accomplishments over the year and plans for the next fiscal period. This year's annual review meeting was held from July 26 to 27, 2018, at Elilly International Hotel, Addis Ababa.

During the meeting, program managers, center heads and mentors presented their annual reports for discussions, and prepared context-based-operational plans for the coming fiscal year.



Rehabilitating the Environment and Eradicating Fistula



Desta Mender meaning joy village is a big breathtaking green and bushy site located in the western outskirts of the capital, Addis Abeba, where Hamlin Reintegration and Reintegration Center and Hamlin College of Midwives are based.

The Rehabilitation and Reintegration Unit, based at Desta Mender, has been rehabilitating not just the poor fistula survivors, but its surrounding environment as well. Every year, in the rainy season, the team at Desta Mender organizes a tree plantation program. This year's event was held on Saturday, July 28, 2018 with

a theme "Rehabilitating the Environment and Eradicating Fistula."

A team consisting of HFE staff members, fistula survivors and volunteers have planted nearly 2 thousand trees on the hillside of the compound and vowed to keep involved in the fight against fistula. Mrs Beletshachew, HFE Rehabilitation and Reintegration Manager and organizer of the event, thanked all the participants, and said, "The event enables us to sustain our environment, and renew, at the same time, our promise of eradicating obstetric fistula from Ethiopia."

From Agony to Happiness

“With all your support, I regained my dignity, my confidence and my life. You changed everything and totally transformed my life. My deepest thanks to you all for your endless support.”

Yitaktu Zewede
28 years of age and fistula survivor

She got married again and is leading a happy life now

With the seed money she received from Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, she started vegetables farming, ox fattening and crafts making

Following the diversion surgery, she received training at Desta Mender and was reintegrated back into her community, Molalle, North Shoa

After 10 years of suffering from fistula, she received treatment at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital

At the age of 16, she became pregnant and subsequently became a victim of fistula

She was married at the age of 15





Get Involved

Join Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia's effort to END FISTULA. If you want to find out about ways of getting involved, or have any questions about Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, please contact us.

Editor's Note

The **HAMLIN Newsletter** is published quarterly for the staff, partners, volunteers and visitors of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome.

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