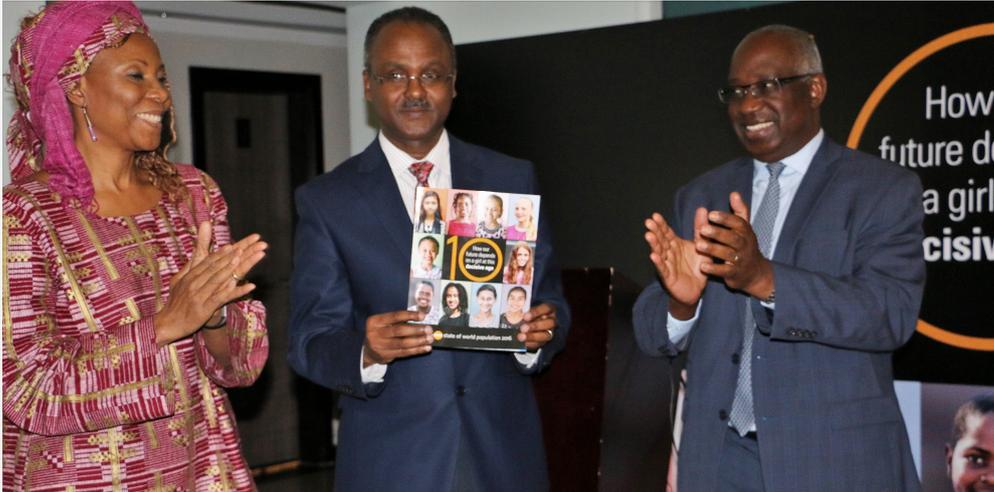




UNFPA - because everyone counts

A quarterly newsletter
produced by UNFPA
Country Office

UNFPA's flagship report highlights importance of investments in adolescent girls



Ms. Eziakonwa, Minister Abraham, and Mr. Yao (left to right)

UNFPA's flagship report – the State of World Population 2016 bearing the theme “10: How our future depends on a girl at this decisive age” – was launched at an event organized on November 22. The report notes that of the 125 million 10-year-olds today, 60 million are girls who are systematically disadvantaged at the global level as they move through

adolescence into adulthood. Forced marriage, child labor, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices undermining girls' health and rights threaten the world's ambitious development agenda, warns the report.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Dr. Abraham Tekeste, Minister of Finance

(Cont. on page 3)

Agreement signed on financing of a women's and girl's empowerment project

UNFPA signed a co-financing agreement with the Italian Government on December 2 on a project entitled “Economic and Social Empowerment and Protection of Women and Girls from Harmful Traditional Practices.” The project which is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation will be implemented in four districts in the Wolayta and Hadiya Zones of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples



Agreement signing ceremony

Region in a period of 16 months and will have a budget of 500,000 Euros.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, H.E. Giuseppe Mistretta, Ambassador of Italy to Ethiopia said that “Italy has always been greatly committed to promot-

(Cont. on page 3)

Inside this issue:

- Launching of UNFPA's flagship report 1
- UNFPA signs project agreement with Italian Government 1
- Norwegian delegation visits interventions supported by Joint Programme 2
- Validation of assessment on youth-friendly services 2
- Delegation from Swaziland on study tour to Ethiopia 4

Special points of interest:

- Investing on empowerment of adolescent girls to unleash their potential

Norwegian delegation visits interventions supported by UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme

A Norwegian delegation led by H.E. Ms Laila Bokhari, State Secretary, and H.E. Andreas Gaarder, Ambassador of Norway to Ethiopia, visited on November 28 the resource center for students with disabilities and the Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic set up at the Addis Ababa University. The center and the clinic are being run by the African AIDS Initiative International with the support of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Right-Based Approach to Adolescent and Youth Development funded by the Norwegian Government.



Norwegian delegation visiting resource center

During the visit H.E. Ms. Bokhari mentioned that improving access of students to gender sensitive Reproductive Health information and services was critical to enable them overcome challenges related particularly to HIV/AIDS and Sexual

and Reproductive Health issues.

Dr. Admasu Tsegaye, President of the Addis Ababa University, noted during the visit that the resource center was playing an important role in upgrading the capacity of the university and was

Workshop endorses assessment on adolescent and youth-friendly health services



Mr. Victor Rakoto making remarks

A workshop was held on October 27 to the assessment carried out in Ethiopia on adolescent and youth-friendly health services. The assessment was supported by the Eastern and Southern Africa Region of UNFPA, Regional Economic Communities and the Africa Regional Office of the International Planned Parenthood in collaboration with the UNFPA Country Office and the Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia.

Making remarks on the

occasion, Mr. Sintayehu Abebe, Maternal, Adolescent and Youth Health Team Leader the Federal Ministry of Health, indicated the government's effort to implement a contextualized Comprehensive Sexuality Education to address the Sexual and Reproductive Health information and service needs of adolescent and young people.

Mr. Victor Rakoto, Deputy Representative of UNFPA, stated on the occasion the need to give importance to adolescent and youth

health in the effort at reaping what is called the demographic dividend. "This requires an investment in human and physical capital that enables adolescents and young people to stay healthy, get educated, and find productive and income-generating employment," he noted.

The assessment was carried out to implement the commitment made by Ministers of Health and Education of 20 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to improve and expand comprehensive sexuality education and adolescent and youth-friendly health services. Ethiopia thirteen other countries in the region undertook an in-country assessment on adolescent and youth friendly health services.

UNFPA's flagship report highlights importance...

and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia, underlined the need to invest in girls education to empower and make them active players in the development endeavor of the country. H.E. Woizero Demitu Hambisa, Minister of Women and Children Affairs, said on the occasion that obstacles such as harmful practices impeding the progress of girls and women needed to be earnestly addressed and called on all partners to lend their unreserved support on this.

The report highlights that practices that harm girls and violate their human rights prevent them from

realizing their full potential. Without their contribution, the 2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying 17 Sustainable Development Goals may never be achieved, it indicates.

Ms. Ahuna Eziakonwa, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, stated in her remarks that "Investing in adolescent girls is one of the smartest ways to secure a better and more sustainable future for all." When a girl enjoys her rights, is able to stay in school, stay healthy and

is protected from child marriage and early pregnancy - she has a better chance of realizing her full potential by the time she reaches adulthood, noted Mr. Faustin Yao, UNFPA Country Representative in the remarks he delivered at the event.

The State of World Population 2016 highlights that 21 billion a year dividend for developing countries can be unlocked in the next 15 years if all 10-year-old girls complete secondary education.

Agreement signed on financing...

ing gender equality and women empowerment, since a sustainable, human, economic, social, environmental and inclusive growth cannot be achieved without recognition of women's rights and roles".

Mr. Faustin Yao, UNFPA Representative, said on his part that the project would contribute to the economic and social empowerment of most vulnerable girls and women and elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and child marriage in the country.

Ms. Ginevra Letizia, Head of the Addis Ababa Office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, underlined the continuous support of her office to the economic and social empowerment of women and the protection of women and girls from Female Genital Mutilation and early marriages. This initiative is in line with Ethiopia's second Growth and Transformation Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, she added.

The project will implement strategic activities on economic and social

empowerment of most vulnerable female headed households; school level interventions to empower girls; and community mobilization and awareness creation on harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health.

Three sector bureaus of the Region, a civil society organization and one higher education institution will be involved in the implementation of the project.

Norwegian delegation visits interventions ...

instrumental in fulfilling the information needs of disadvantaged students, especially those with disabilities.

The resource center for students with disabilities is equipped with 42 comput-

ers with internet connections and a reading room. The resource center is believed to contribute to lowering many of the barriers faced by students with disabilities and increase their capacity to

handle a wide range of activities independently.

The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme is in its second phase of implementation spanning the years 2014 to 2017.

UNFPA facilitates study tour for a Swazi delegation



A team of sexual and reproductive health and maternal health experts drawn from the Ministry of Health of Swaziland and UNFPA paid a five-day visit to Ethiopia to take lessons from the country's successful programmes on SRH and maternal health as well as Reproductive Health Commodity Security. The team visited and held discussion with officials at the Ministry of Health, Ethiopian, Food, Medicines, and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority and the Pharma-

ceutical Fund and Supply Agency.

During the field excursion organized as part of the study tour, the team visited Health posts, Health Centers and Primary Hospitals in both urban and rural areas to learn about the Primary Health Care Unit. They got the chance to observe that community involvement and participation was key at this level on SRH, and Maternal and Newborn and Child Health Service delivery.

They also saw innovative community engagement strategies and the strong referral linkage system in improving SRH and maternal health seeking behavior, increasing uptake of family planning, especially long-acting reversible contraceptives, and reducing maternal death.

The study tour was conducted between 14 and 18 November.

Upcoming events

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, February 6

International Women's Day, March 8



Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled
UNFPA – Because everyone counts

We're on the web <http://ethiopia.unfpa.org>