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A quarterly newsletter
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Country Office

High Level Meeting highlights increasing access to voluntary family planning to reap Demographic Dividend



Late Dr. Osotimehin and Honorable Patel
tainable Development without ensuring
access to voluntary family planning to
millions of its women and girls. “If you
don’t have a working family planning
programme, it is unthinkable to reap the
demographic dividend,” he underlined.

At this high level event jointly organized
by UNFPA, DfID and the Federal Minis-

(Cont. on page 3)

A High Level Roundtable was organized
on January 29 in the margins of the 2017
Summit of the African Union to review
FP 2020 commitments. Speaking on the
occasion, the late Executive Director
of UNFPA, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin,
said Africa cannot attain the aspirations
stipulated in Agenda 2063 of the African
Union nor in the 2030 Agenda for Sus-

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Special points of interest:

- Increasing access to
voluntary family plan-
ning pivotal to reap the
Demographic Dividend

UNFPA signs funding agreement with Embassy of Sweden

UNFPA signed
a funding agree-
ment with the
Embassy of
Sweden on May
19 amounting to
USD 7.2 mil-
lion in support
of its 8th Coun-
try Programme
(2016-2020). The
Country Pro-
gramme which is
implemented in 8
Regions of Ethio-
pia is responding
to national priorities as articulated in
the Second Growth and Transforma-



Agreement signing ceremony

tion Plan of the country and various
sectoral plans. The funding provided
by the Embassy of Sweden will partly

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UNFPA supported safe house opened in Hawassa

A UNFPA supported safe house operated by the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) was inaugurated on May 13 in Hawassa, capital of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region. The safe house which will be supported with funding from the Kingdom of Netherlands Embassy seeks to revive the lives women and girls who survived gender-based violence.

The safe house provides a comprehensive service of psychological support, shelter, meal, medication



Inauguration ceremony of safe house

counseling, basic literacy education to survivors of violence. The survivors are referred to the safe house by law enforcement bodies and Women and Children Affairs Offices. The survivors spend up to a period of three months

in the safe house but depending on the severity of their case they could stay longer. During their stay in the safe house the survivors are given various skills and vocational training as well as counseling to enable them

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UNFPA handed-over ambulances to Somali Region



Handover ceremony of ambulances and kits

UNFPA handed-over a total of six ambulances and emergency reproductive health kits on May 4 to support efforts in refugee camps and surrounding host communities in Dollo Ado, Somali Region of Ethiopia, in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. The ambulances will be providing services in five refugee camps and one surrounding host community health center.

Five of the ambulances were handed over to the

Administration for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA) while the remaining one was provided to the Somali Region Health Bureau. Dignity and Emergency Reproductive Health kits were also handed-over at the ceremony.

The ambulances and kits were procured as part of the "Emergency Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence Responses to Somali Refugees in Dollo Ado refugee camps and surrounding host communities in Ethiopia"

project whose implementation commenced in July last year. In addition to its goal of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity, the project is also providing services on the prevention and response to Gender Based Violence.

The project is being implemented through partnership with ARRA, the Somali Region Health Bureau, UNHCR, NGO partners and local associations.

High Level Meeting highlights increasing access...

try of Health of Ethiopia, Honorable Priti Patel, Secretary of State for International Development of UK, lauded the progress made in recent years in increasing access to voluntary family planning through the implementation of FP2020 commitments. But she noted that a lot needs to be done in reinforcing a collective effort to reach the last mile in ensuring access to voluntary family planning to millions of women and girls in Africa.

The High Level event served as a moment to reflect on key achievements, challenges and opportunities for scaling up access

to voluntary family planning. It also explored the central role of increasing access to voluntary family planning in Africa's drive towards harnessing the demographic dividend. It was noted that voluntary family planning enables women and girls to complete their education, take up better economic opportunities and fulfil their potential.

Ethiopia's successful experience in ensuring access to voluntary family planning and the remarkable effect this had in preventing millions of unintended pregnancies and averting

maternal deaths was presented by its Minister of Health to illustrate the positive efforts being made in Africa.

The participants of the high level meeting agreed on the need to increase investment and make strategic decisions to increase access to voluntary family planning through tailored, evidence based, participatory and multi-sectoral programmes. A call was also made on all partners to lend their support in realizing the continental Roadmap on Demographic Dividend.

UNFPA signs funding agreement...

go to support UNFPA's humanitarian responses in Ethiopia.

Making remarks at the event, Ms. Annika Jayawardena, Head of the Section for Bilateral Development Cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden said her government highly appreciates the strong partnership with UNFPA. "Sweden is steadfast in its commitment to support

gender equality and every individual's right to sexual and reproductive health and rights with the aim of contributing to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," she noted.

Mr. Rakoto Victor, UNFPA Country Representative a.i., said on his part that UNFPA was grateful for

the contribution from the people of Sweden. He indicated that "the support will be very instrumental in realizing the various programmatic interventions stipulated in the Country Programme which in turn help the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, such as reducing maternal death, poverty and gender inequality."

UNFPA supported safe house...

cope better when they go out.

The four safe houses operated by AWSAD in the country – including the

new one opened in Hawassa – support hundreds of women and girls each year. The association also provides capacity building trainings to government

institutions like police and Women and Children Affairs Offices to provide quality services for women and girls.

High Level Meeting held on FP 2020...

sentative a.i. stated that enabling women to control the number and spacing of their children was essential to reducing maternal deaths. Mr. Victor indicated that UNFPA was planning to increase its programme resources to help the gov-

ernment buy family planning supplies.

Ethiopia is among the key focus countries for FP2020. The country has committed to add 6.2 million (currently 2.2 million) additional family planning users by 2020. Since 2012, when this

commitment was made in London, the country has managed to avert 8 million unintended pregnancies, 2 million unsafe abortions and 20 thousand maternal deaths as a result of protection provided by modern contraceptive use.

High Level Meeting held on FP 2020 commitments and progress



High Level meeting on Ethiopia's progress on FP2020 commitments

A high level consultative meeting was held on June 29 to review Ethiopia's progress on FP 2020 commitments. The meeting was organized under the theme "Acceleration of Action towards FP 2020 Goals in Ethiopia." The consultative meeting was aimed at supporting current and upcoming efforts towards the achievement of the FP 2020 commitments and the universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health target of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Speaking at the event, Dr.

Kebede Worku, State Minister of the Federal Ministry of Health said the Ethiopian Government had included the commitments the country made in London at the Family Planning Summit in 2012 in the Growth and Transformation Plan and the Health Sector Transformation Plan to increase accessibility of family planning services remarkably. He highlighted on the need to increase quality family planning services with a special target on adolescents and youth calling on all stakeholders to lend their support in this endeavor.

H.E. Susanna Moorhead, British Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, said on her part on the occasion that family planning was about women's empowerment and creating a better future for young people. She underscored the need to reenergize the London commitment and invest not only in supply but also in the system to make sure that women get family planning services.

In his remarks on the occasion, Mr. Victor Rakoto, UNFPA Country Repre-

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Upcoming events

World Population Day, July 11

International Youth Day, August 12

World Humanitarian Day, August 19



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>