UNFPA signed a funding agreement with the Embassy of Sweden on May 19 amounting to USD 7.2 million in support of its 8th Country Programme (2016-2020). The Country Programme which is implemented in 8 Regions of Ethiopia is responding to national priorities as articulated in the Second Growth and Transformation 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 of women and girls who survived gender-based violence.

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

(Cont. on page 3)

UNFPA handed-over ambulances to Somali Region

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 to voluntary family planning... 

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 in Africa. 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 government 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.
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-