Three localities in the Afambo District in the Afar Region in Ethiopia publicly declared abandonment of child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at a ceremony held on August 6. The Integrated Programme on Abandonment of Child Marriage and FGM which UNFPA has been supporting with funding from the UN Association in Sweden over the past three years is being implemented in seven localities. This programme is the first of its kind in the effort to abandon child marriage and FGM in an integrated manner whose implementation is being coordinated by the Afar Region Bureau of Women and Children Affairs.

Delivering the message of Mr. Faustin Yao, UNFPA Country Representative, Tsehay Gette, Gender Programme Of-
World Population Day colorfully commemorated

The World Population Day 2016 was colorfully celebrated nationally on 14 July in Bahir Dar, the capital of the Amhara Regional State. The participants were comprised of Honorable Members of the Amhara Regional Council, members of the Population Council of the Region and other invited guests. The event was celebrated with the global theme “Investing in teenage girls.”

In his remarks on the occasion, Honorable Yirsaw Tamere, Speaker of the Amhara Regional Council, said that empowering and making young girls productive citizens was bolstering their contribution in the development endeavors of the country. He added that “the contribution of these sectors of society is critical to enable the country join the ranks of middle-level income countries in 2025.”

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abraham Tekeste, Deputy Commissioner of the National Planning Commission with the rank of State Minister, noted that by investing in women and girls we would have at our disposal the most significant and yet largely untapped potential for achieving sustainable development.

Delivering the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Faustin Yao, UNFPA Country Representative, said at the event that rectifying the inequalities faced by teenage girls “is critical for the success of (Cont. on page 3)

UNFPA receives prize at Regional Health Festival

During his stay in Tigray Region, Mr. Yao paid a visit to the Mekele University to see the progress of and challenges encountered in the implementation of the UNFPA Supported graduate program on Integrated Emergency Surgery and Obstetrics. He also saw the support being provided by UNFPA in primary and secondary schools in the Kola Tenben District to improve school attendance by female students.

UNFPA has interventions on maternal and reproductive health, education, and gender and economic empowerment in ten districts in the Region.

The Health Festival was held under the motto “Renew the promise, Realize Health Transformation” in the presence of more than 800 participants.

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UNFPA’s support has helped 2,400 adolescent girls open an account with a microfinance institution to enhance their financial literacy and encourage them to save money with the aim of empowering them economically.
Parliamentarian meet to discuss population and development issues

A three-day meeting of Asian-African Parliamentarians took place in Ethiopia 10-12 August under the theme “Enhancing the role of parliamentarians in the interlinkage between population issues and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Parliamentarians from several countries in Asia and Africa as well as one from the European and Arab Forum took part in the meeting.

In an opening remark on the occasion, Honorable Abadula Gemeda, Speaker of the House of Peoples’ Representatives of Ethiopia, noted that population issues were at the heart of sustainable development and that it would be unthinkable to realize the Sustainable Development Goals without their inclusion.

Mr. Faustin Yao, UNFPA Country Representative, said “supporting the health, rights and empowerment of women, girls and young people is central to sustainable development.”

The meeting deliberated on a number of issues including sexual and reproductive health, and rights in emergency situations; demographic dividend and investing in young; and food security and women’s empowerment.

World Population Day colorfully ...

the commemoration of the World Population Day was jointly organized by the National Planning Commission, the Amhara Region Planning Commission, and UNFPA.

Senior Officials meet development partners...

consolidation of democracy to improve the quality of life of citizens and affirmed that the Government was committed to make the whole process as transparent, credible and of the highest standard possible. During the occasion Dr. Abraham lauded the different forms of support that UNFPA is providing for the successful implementation of the Census.

Ato Ahmed Shide, State Minister of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation, said on the occasion that a series of bilateral meetings will be held with development partners in due course to discuss on how they could provide their assistance to the census.

The meeting was jointly organized by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia and UNFPA.

Afambo district, Afar Region abandons...

abandonment of child marriage and FGM is coordinated with a committee composed of representatives from the district administration, religious and clan leaders, school administration and parent-teacher associations.

Influential players at the community level that have been engaged in the effort include traditional birth attendants, ex-circumcisioners, and Health Extension Workers. There is also a close involvement of law enforcement bodies.

This programme builds on the good practices of the Joint UNFPA-UNICEF Programme on Abandonment of FGM which has been running in the Afar Region for the past 8 years sparing a total of 10,000 girls from FGM.
The UNFPA Country Representative, Mr. Faustin Yao, paid a visit to UNFPA supported programmes in the Amhara Region on July 15. In his one day visit he went to the Finote Selam Hospital to see the implementation of the Integrated Emergency Surgery and Obstetrics (IESO) Program and a gender intervention on Community Conversation and Income Generating Activities being undertaken in a district called Gugusa Shikudada supporting needy women.

In his visit of the IESO program in the Finote Selam Hospital he was briefed by the Chief Executive Officer, the Medical Director of the Maternal Health Unit of the hospital, and an Emergency Surgical Officers trained in the IESO Program and deployed at the hospital. The hospital which is currently serving around 1.3 million people is contributing much to the improvement of maternal health.

Mr. Yao also interacted with the participating women during his visit to the Community Conversation and Income Generating Activities intervention. The intervention is being implemented in 14 localities in the district.

Mr. Yao was accompanied during the visit by Mr. Constant-Serge Bounda, Chief of the UNFPA Liaison Office to the African Union Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

**Upcoming events**

- International Day of Older Persons, October 1
- International Day of the Girl Child, October 11
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, November 25

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](http://ethiopia.unfpa.org)