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Country Office

Senior Officials meet development partners on Ethiopian Census



Senior Government officials and UN Resident Coordinator

Two senior officials of the Ethiopian Government met various development partners on September 15 to discuss on how the latter could contribute resources for the undertaking of the Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia slated to take place in November 2017. It was disclosed during the meeting that to date there is a shortfall of 70 million dollars out of the total estimated budget. It was indicated that the 2017 Census will cost

around 172 million dollars out of which the Government will cover an estimated 60 percent.

Dr. Abraham Tekeste, Deputy Commissioner of the National Planning Commission with the rank of State Minister, said that the Census is an undertaking set by the Ethiopian Constitution to be conducted every ten years. He underscored that the country views the census as a foundation for good governance and

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Afambo district, Afar Region abandons child marriage and FGM

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-



Participants of public declaration ceremony

ficer, said “a new chapter opens for the girls of the Afambo Woreda with today’s public declaration of the abandonment of child marriage and female genital mutilation.”

The intervention on the integrated

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Special points of interest:

- Integrated abandonment of Child Marriage and FGM

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



Mr. Faustin Yao making remarks

development.

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

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UNFPA receives prize at Regional Health Festival



Mr. Faustin Yao receiving prize from President of Tigray

UNFPA was recognized with a prize by the Tigray Regional State at the Health Festival that was held in the Region on July 29 for its unreserved contribution in support of the health sector. Mr. Faustin Yao, UNFPA Country Representative, received the prize in the presence of senior government officials and development partners.

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.

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’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

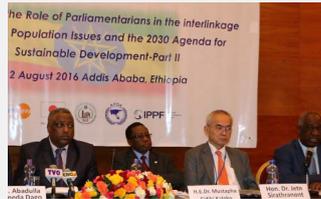
A three-day meeting of Asian-African Parliamentarians took place in Ethiopia 10-12 August under the theme “Enhancing the role of parliamentarians in the interlinkage between population issues and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Parliamentarians from several countries in Asia and Africa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

In an opening remark on the occasion, Honorable Abadula Gemedo,

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 deliber-



Dignitaries at Parliamentarians’ meeting

ated on a number of issues including sexual and reproductive health and rights in emergency situations; demographic dividend and investing in youth; and food security and women’s empowerment.

World Population Day colorfully ...

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Quoting the statement of the Executive Director of UNFPA conveyed in connection with the day, Mr. Yao said “a teenage girl

whose rights are respected and who is able to realize her full potential is a girl who is more likely to contribute to the economic and social progress of her community and nation.”

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 differ-

ent 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-circumcisers, 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.

UNFPA Representative visits interventions in Amhara Region



Mr. Faustin Yao being briefed at Finote Selam Hospital

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 Guga 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
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