

June 2015 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Report Maternity Waiting Home Project  
*Butajira Hospital, Southern Ethiopia*



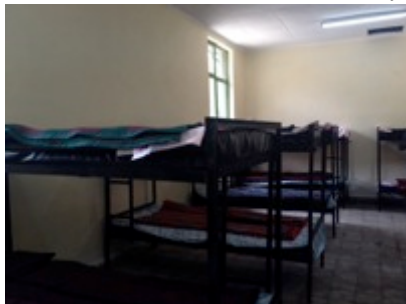
We are pleased to share the current status of the MWH project with you:



*1400 women were included  
in the baseline study*



*Finished MWH, kitchen, walkway*



*13 bunk beds inside MWH*

- **Baseline study:**

- The first report about the barriers and preconditions to using a MWH is available and has been shared with stakeholders. If you wish to read the report, please contact [tienkevermeiden@gmail.com](mailto:tienkevermeiden@gmail.com).
- Recently, a Dutch medical student assessed all 20 Health Centers in the catchment area of Butajira Hospital. The findings will be used to determine the quality of maternal health care at health centers and the knowledge and skills gaps in identifying high-risk pregnancies. The next step is to train health workers to improve their knowledge and skills and to promote the referral of high-risk pregnant women to the MWH (*also see: community work*).

- **Construction:**

- ***The construction and renovation works are finished!!*** Butajira Hospital now has a MWH, a kitchen, a walkway to the labor ward and operating theatre, laundry washing facilities and renovated toilets and showers.
- 13 metal bunk beds, 26 mattresses covered with fake leather (for cleaning purposes) and wooden boards were fabricated and installed in the MWH. The Regional Health Bureau donated blankets and sheets.



*Inauguration banner*



*The official opening*



*Tienke & Floris leave Ethiopia*



*Dr. Nina, Dr. Floris & Tienke present findings baseline study and guideline at inauguration*

- **Inauguration:**
  - The MWH was inaugurated on May 5, 2015 in the presence of the Mayor of Butajira, the Head of the Zonal Health Department, religious leaders from the community and VSO Ethiopia.
  - The donors, volunteers and Attat Hospital were thanked for their contributions in a speech.
  
- **VSO volunteers leave Butajira Hospital:**
  - VSO volunteers Floris Braat and Tienke Vermeiden, who coordinated the MWH project, have sadly left Butajira Hospital and Ethiopia in the beginning of May 2015.
  - Floris found a new position in Zimbabwe with the Swiss organization Solidarmed in maternal health care. Tienke will continue to do research on maternal health.
  - VSO Ethiopia has taken over Tienke's role as Project Coordinator and takes amongst others financial responsibility in Ethiopia.
  - Tienke has become board member of Florentina Foundation for monitoring and evaluation purposes.
  - Butajira Hospital will proceed to implement the remaining project activities. VSO Ethiopia and VSO The Netherlands are looking into placing a new volunteer at Butajira Hospital to assist with the implementation of the remaining project activities.
  
- **Guideline:**
  - Tienke prepared a guideline together with stakeholders about the implementation and operations of the MWH.
  - The aim is to guide the operations and reporting at Butajira Hospital and to support other hospitals in starting a MWH.
  - The next step for Butajira Hospital is to provide on-the-job-training to health professionals on how to implement the protocol.
  - The guideline includes indicators on how to measure the utilization and effect of the MWH.
  
- **Community work:**
  - A plan and budget for the community work have been drafted by Butajira Hospital.
  - The aim is to promote the use of the MWH amongst selected health centers and health posts and to improve health workers' knowledge and skills in identifying and referring high-risk pregnant women.



A "plaquette" on the exterior of the MWH to thank the Dutch sponsors

- VSO Ethiopia and Butajira Hospital will coordinate the implementation, possibly together with a new volunteer.
- The community work should be seen as a pilot project. Based on the results, new funds may be needed to expand activities to other health centers and posts and/or to the grassroots level.

- **Finances:**

- Attached you will find an overview of the incurred expenses to date.
- More was spent than budgeted (approx. 1,000 Euro) on the walkway because of a miscalculation in the technical specifications. The 13 bunk beds were approx. 573 Euro more costly than the planned 15-20 single beds.
- Due to a sharp decline of the Euro in the last months, the project is relatively more expensive. A gap we are luckily able to fill with the available buffer. Florentina Foundation is monitoring the finances closely.

We will send the next update after the execution of the community work. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Sincerely yours,

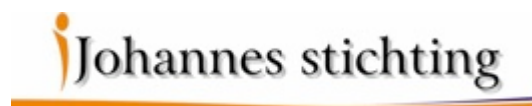
**Andualem Mengistu Tsegaye,**  
CEO Butajira General Hospital

**Tienke Vermeiden,**  
Project Coordinator MWH

**Rob Boogaard,**  
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**Yohannes Amado,**  
VSO Ethiopia - Health Program

**Thank you for your contribution to the MWH project!**



**Stichting Dayalu**

**Stichting Tilly en Albert Waaijer Fonds**

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