



**February 2016 – 4th Report Maternity Waiting Home Project
Butajira Hospital, Southern Ethiopia**



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



Maternity Waiting Home Butajira General Hospital

Hello again!

It has been 9 months since we last contacted you. At that time, the Maternity Waiting Home (MWH) had just been finalized and inaugurated. More importantly, it had opened its doors for high-risk pregnant women to await the last weeks of their pregnancy, in close proximity to professional delivery care.

VSO Volunteers Floris and Tienke left Butajira Hospital in May 2015. Since that time, Hospital CEO Andualem Mengistu Tsegaye and the members of the MWH committee have continued to work on the remaining project activities.

MWH women:

- From June 2015 until November 2015, 23 women stayed in the MWH. In December and January, 11 women stayed at the MWH, showing a slight increase compared to the first months. This was also due to the community work which started mid December.
- 30 women delivered their baby in the hospital, who would otherwise had died or their baby.
- On average, women stay 15 to 20 days.
- A logbook is kept with the details of the women and the outcome of the delivery.



Logbook MWH



Health Center Visit



Mr. Merete, emergency surgeon at Butajira Hospital and part of the MWH committee

Community work:

A Maternity Waiting Home is a relatively new concept in Ethiopia and is not integrated into Ethiopian society. With a strong culture of home deliveries and a high maternal mortality, there is a lot of work to do in convincing women, their husbands and extended families. The MWH project decided to first focus on the “low hanging fruit”, namely on pregnant women that visit the health center.

From December 2015, Butajira Hospital visited 13 health centers in the region for health facility supervision. The purpose is *“to provide onsite support for health centers on Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNH) to enhance the quality care and services, and to have good referral linkage to the hospital and use the MWH for selected high-risk mothers”* (Source: A Summarized Health Facility Visit Report, Butajira General Hospital, Dec. '15). During these visits they also informed and trained the health extension workers who are responsible for informing the families in the local communities.

At the end of January, a stakeholders’ review meeting was held with 50 people from selected health centers, health extensions workers, the Zonal and Regional Health Department and VSO Ethiopia. The goals are to determine the way forward and to make a plan for training midwives how to improve the identification of high-risk pregnancies.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

The Florentina Foundation is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project. Rob Boogaard visited the MWH in January 2016. He met with CEO Andualem and VSO representative Yohannes Amado, and visited one of the health centers.

The main focus in the coming year is on the community work and on lowering barriers for women to come and stay at the MWH. New funds may be needed to expand the activities.



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

Andualem Mengistu Tsegaye,
CEO Butajira General Hospital

Yohannes Amado,
VSO Ethiopia - Health Program, Project Coordinator MWH

Rob Boogaard,
Florentina Foundation

Tienke Vermeiden,
Florentina Foundation, Project Advisor MWH

Thank you for your contribution to the MWH project!



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