

June 2014 - Report to sponsors Maternity Waiting Home Project – Southern Ethiopia



Dear Sponsors,

We write you with an update on the Maternity Waiting Home (MWH) Project in Southern Ethiopia. Since the beginning of the year when we secured the funding, we have gone through several steps and activities to establish solid ground for the realization of the project. Our apologies for the delay in updating you; this phase took longer than expected. The necessary structures are in place and we are now moving towards the implementation phase.

Please find the current status of the MWH project below:



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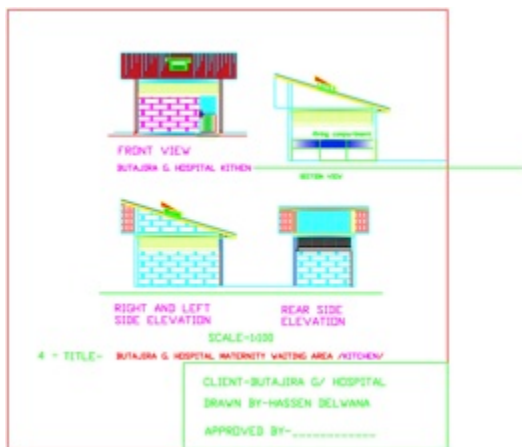
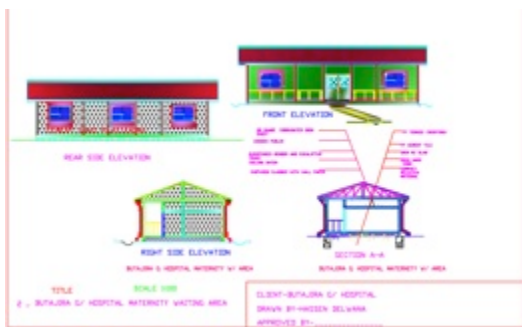
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- **Project structure:** To guide the implementation of the project:
 - The CEO of Butajira Hospital is overall responsible for the MWH Project;
 - The Senior Management Team (SMT) is responsible for approving strategic decisions;
 - The MWH Committee is responsible for the day-to-day activities. A respected community leader with vast building experience has joined to advise throughout the construction phase.
 - The research team is led by Dr. Floris Braat and Tienke Vermeiden with support from Dr. Nina Belay.
 - Tienke is Project Coordinator, to oversee and monitor the implementation of the project, and to communicate with the stakeholders.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** One of the sponsors of the project is VSO The Netherlands, also our employer. They advised us to include external Monitoring and Evaluation of the project, to ensure sustainability. After discussions with the SMT and VSO, the **Florentina Foundation** (FF) in the Netherlands was assigned to take on this role. FF has over 15 years of experience with construction & development projects in Tanzania.



Training of data collectors & supervisors

- **Donor agreement:** Sponsors have communicated their own specific terms and conditions with regard to the funding provided. A donor agreement between the Florentina Foundation and Butajira Hospital was drawn up summarizing these terms and conditions, plus the monitoring and evaluation criteria. Transfer of money will take place based on achieved results.
- **Baseline study:** The aim of the baseline study is to find out more about women in the reproductive age group and their challenges to seeking maternal health care and staying at a MWH. The baseline study was prepared amongst others by making a survey, doing test interviews, and training supervisors and female data collectors. Recently, data collection started in Attat Hospital (where they have over 40 years of experience with a MWH) and Butajira Hospital and in the community of the Gurage Zone. J. Stekelenburg, M.D., PhD and A. Gaym, M.D., MPH supervise the research.



Drawings of the MWH & kitchen

- **Construction:** A government engineer prepared the specifications for the construction of the MWH. The hospital recently started the bidding procedure among local contractors. The plan is to start the construction of the Maternity Waiting Home in August 2014. Based on the available funds and discussions with the Hospital and FF, the following structures will be built:
 - The MWH will be somewhat bigger than originally planned, allowing the hospital to accommodate at least 15 pregnant women and their attendant;
 - A traditional kitchen will be built adjacent to it;
 - A walkway will be built from the MWH to the close by obstetrics ward;
 - Existing toilet & washing facilities will be renovated. *NB. The reason for deciding not to build new toilet & washing facilities at this point is because it is expensive to make a new septic tank. The current facilities are not used, and renovating is relatively inexpensive;*
 - The MWH will be equipped with beds, mattresses and blankets.



Existing toilets & showers will be renovated



Location for the MWH behind obstetrics ward

- **VSO Contracts:** VSO extended the contracts of Floris and Tienke by one year.
- **Timeline & budget:** After rounding up bidding procedure, we will review and update the budget and timeline, which will be available upon your request.

We will send the next update when the construction has started. 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
Chairman Florentina Foundation



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Irish Aid

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Thank you for your contribution to the MWH project!