



**December 2016 – 5th Report Maternity Waiting Home Project
Butajira Hospital, Southern Ethiopia**



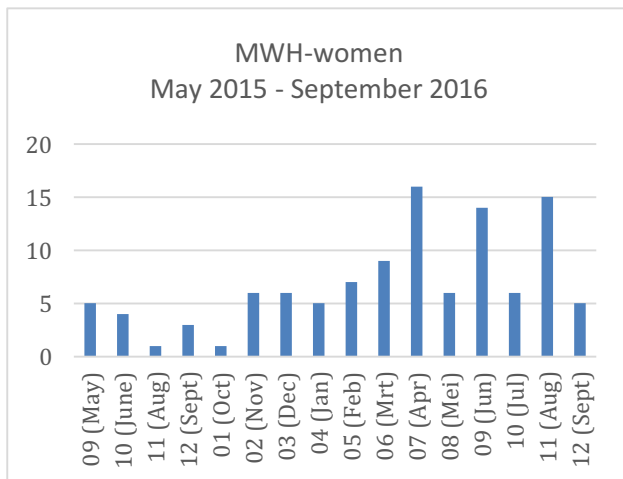
We are pleased to share the current status of the MWH project with you:

Top: Women staying at the MWH.

Bottom right: Hoorah for one of the MWH-babies, who was safely delivered in Butajira Hospital after his mother stayed at the MWH!

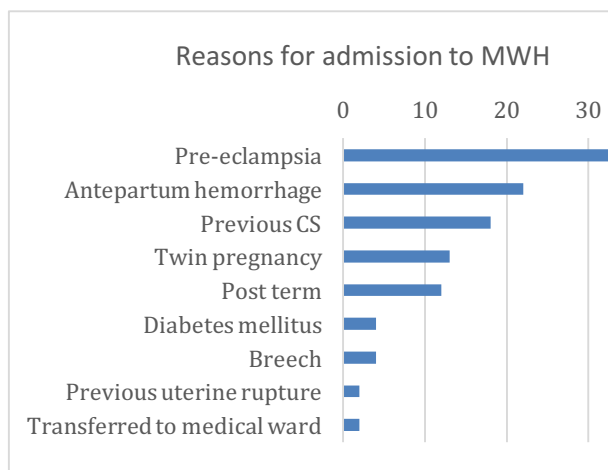
The end of 2016 is approaching and we would like to give you an update of the activities at the Maternity Waiting Home at Butajira Hospital in Southern Ethiopia.

Butajira Hospital and VSO Ethiopia are still responsible for running the project. Florentina Foundation visited the project in January and September 2016 for Monitoring & Evaluation.



MWH women

- From the opening of the MWH in May 2015 until the end of the Ethiopian year in September 2016, 118 high-risk pregnant women have stayed at the MWH with a care-giver.
- As barriers prevent women from accessing maternal health services, stay is free-of-charge. They are also provided food during their stay, as well as refunding of transport costs.
- The bunk beds have proven useful. Care-givers sleep on the top bed, pregnant women on the bottom bed.
- Two midwives from the hospital are providing regular checkups to the MWH-women. They also have coffee ceremonies to discuss health matters.





Interview with the sister of a MWH-woman. The husband wanted a home delivery but the sister convinced him to let his wife stay at the MWH.



VSO International CEO Philippe Goodwin visits the MWH project in Butajira and meets with the MWH committee members.

VSO Ethiopia would like to upscale the intervention to others regions in Ethiopia.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Rob visited the project in January 2016 and in September. Both the hospital and MWH looked good. Because it was an Ethiopian holiday, there were no women at the MWH, but she paid home visits to women who had stayed at the MWH. The interviews are in the process of being translated. One of the interviews reveals that women have little knowledge about their health status, but health workers are convincing them to seek maternal health care.

Another observation from the visit was that the staff at Butajira Hospital really want MWH women to have a safe delivery. They stress that it is the best way of promoting the MWH. There are still operational challenges, which seem related to the intervention being new for the hospital. Staff are convinced that MWH-use will increase as “facility readiness” increases. Knowledge sharing is starting to take place, as Hosanna Hospital is in the process of starting a MWH together with VSO Ethiopia.

Special visit

VSO International CEO Philippe Goodwin paid a special visit to the MWH in November 2016. See the pictures and his comments [here](#).

Community work:

A new round of community activities will start in January 2017. Butajira Hospital plans to conduct the following activities:

- Monthly community mobilization activities
- Experience sharing activities with catchment health facilities (participants: Health center head and health extension workers)
- Quarterly review meeting with stakeholders
- Bi-annual training for 40 midwives
- Prepare and publish educational material



We wish you Happy Holidays!



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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