



WOMEN AND HEALTH ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL – ETHIOPIA

Financial and activity report

Project name: A Global Approach to Obstetric Fistula
Prevention, Training and Care at the
Assela School of Health,
Adama University Hosptial

Grant holder: Women and Health Alliance International

Reporting period: July to September 2013



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Introduction

Thanks to the Ethiopia Fund's kind support, WAHA International has been making sustainable progress in the fight against obstetric fistula in Arsi zone, Ethiopia. Our global approach supports Assela University Hospital's fistula care infrastructure to increase availability of treatment and training of medical personnel, covers all costs related to fistula operations and social integration and carries out community mobilization activities to identify fistula sufferers and increase the uptake of maternal health services and thus prevent obstetric fistulas.

The Ethiopia Fund has made a generous initial donation of 28,000 USD, of which 18,763.00 USD has been spent in the previous quarter. It has made a second donation of 14,000 USD in July 2013 that is enabling us to further implement this very important project.

Of the total funding of 22,524.50 USD that was available for the past three months, 16,235.10 USD has been spent. The expenditure details are given below and summarized in the table at the end of this report.

Accomplished activities in the reporting period July – September 2013:

I. Renovation works and equipment of the fistula ward

The renovation of the fistula center that has been started in the past quarter is still in progress. Works include basic refreshment works including tiling and painting as well as the provision of furnishings such as curtains, bed sheets and other much needed commodities, as to comply with the patient's basic requirements and needs of comfort.

This quarter the materials required for renovation (tiles, ceilings, electrical and sanitary materials) were purchased and are now being used throughout the renovation process. As per the contractual



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agreement the remaining 20% of the contractor's fee (3102.67 USD) was paid shortly after the purchase of the required renovation materials.

Most of the installation of drainage and electrical systems has been completed this quarter. Work will soon begin to cover the floor and half walls with ceramic tiles. Once these renovation works will be completed, they will be complemented by providing new furnishings to the fistula ward, including curtains, bed sheets and other needed commodities.

Unfortunately the renovation work has become a more lengthy process than foreseen due to delays caused by the contractors not been able to work on our project with the promised intensity. We are doing everything possible to mitigate these delays in order to complete the renovations in a timely manner.



Figure 1: Renovations in progress



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II. Upgrading of garden facilities

In our aim to improve the Assela fistula ward's garden facilities and turn them into a place of rest and recovery for the fistula sufferers, cement benches were purchased and will soon be put in place. Once they are installed, the fence will be reinforced and flowers will be planted as to present a welcoming, tranquil atmosphere for fistula patients.

1,700 USD has been spent under this budget line in the past three months.

III. Provision of free obstetric fistula treatment

During the last three months, 15 additional women received free obstetric fistula treatment, augmenting the total number of patients who have so far been treated thanks to the Ethiopia Fund to 40. Treatment of fistula sufferers includes surgery as well as supportive care such as physiotherapy. Psychological and social support has been provided before and after surgery. WAHA International's expert fistula surgeons carried out the more complex operations and supervised the local fistula team in operating simpler cases of obstetric fistula.

3,000 USD has been spent to treat the 15 additional patients (200 USD per patient) as to cover their hospital stay and surgery cost, materials, drugs (especially additional drugs not available in the hospital's pharmacy) and other related supplies. Two senior fistula surgeons traveled on a rotating basis to Assela University Hospital to carry out and supervise the operations.

Equipment

Two scissors were bought for the fistula center in Assela during July 2013. A total of 53.93 USD has been spent on equipment.

The remaining money allocated for equipment will be used to purchase a cystoscopy machine, which enables the surgeon to look into the bladder and thus supports diagnosis and treatment.



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Training

Training local medical staff to provide fistula care services is a fundamental part of the work at Assela fistula ward. During last three months two local gynecologists were trained, one of whom is now working for WAHA International as part-time staff (50% of his time).

Staff

Per diem and accommodation costs of the two senior fistula surgeons and half the salary of the part-time obstetrician and gynecologist were covered by the project, amounting to 3,000 USD during the past three months.

V. Dedication of one nurse to the fistula ward

As of July 1st the top-up salary of the nurse was paid and her continuous presence at the fistula ward has improved the quality of care and documentation of the project activities enormously. The total amount spent of the top-up salary in the past three months is 225 USD.

VI. Re-integration of patients after surgery

As to help patients overcome the trauma associated with obstetric fistula, psychological counseling was provided pre- and post-operatively for all fistula victims helped at the center. In order to facilitate their reintegration process following treatment, all patients treated were given a support package including a new dress, a blanket (Arsi zone is relatively cooler than other places), and 2,000 birr in cash. With the 2,000 birr the women can buy 3-4 sheep and use them for income-generating activities. For the 15 women who were treated in the past three months thanks to this grant this support totals to 1,822.50 USD.



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Patient received one blanket as component of re-integration package

One particularly vulnerable young girl, who was rejected by her husband and family after developing fistula, and as a result has developed a severe depression, was selected for specialized reintegration attention. Funding is being provided for her education and training as to overcome her depression and empower her to start carrying out income-generating activities. The reintegration funds allocated for the young girl have only been partially used, as she is still undergoing treatment. She received 271 USD to temporarily visit her aunt as part of treatment for the depression she is suffering from.



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A total of 2,093.50 USD was spent on reintegration in the past three months.

V. Free transport for women presenting for obstetric fistula operations

As transport costs can be an insurmountable barrier preventing women from accessing care, Ethiopia Fund's donation has covered all transportation costs for the fistula sufferers treated thanks to this grant to reach the hospital and return home. 30 USD, thus a total of 450 USD, covered the transport costs for the 15 patients treated in the last quarter.

VI. Community outreach for case identification and obstetric fistula prevention measures

Sensitization activities supported by information, education and communication activities are being carried out as to inform the community about the availability of free treatment services at the fistula center in Assela. As such, announcements encouraging women to come forward and seek treatment are being made on the radio throughout the region in the local language, Afan-Oromo, emphasizing the fact that treatment is provided for free, all transportation costs are covered and additional support is available. This radio transmission is broadcast continuously twice a week. The monthly cost for the transmissions is 173 USD, amounting 519 USD for the three months.

Similarly, community outreach activities were carried out to inform the community about obstetric fistula and raise awareness on the importance to access maternal health services during pregnancy, delivery and the postnatal period.

In addition health education was provided for pregnant women attending ANC clinics at 16 health centers, encouraging them to deliver at the health centers. A total of 1,700 USD was used for the per diem of the Coordinator of these field activities as well as transportation costs (car rental, fuel and per diem for the drivers).



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Upward referral is indispensable to ensure care for women with obstetric complications and thus prevent obstetric fistulas. However costs of transport are often an insurmountable barrier. Therefore we made agreements with the local health centers to support the cost of transportation for women with obstetric complications to Assela hospital. This quarter, six women needed such assistance and a total of 391.30 USD has been spent.

The overall cost for the community activities in the last three months was 2,610.30 USD.

Outlook

We thank the Ethiopia Fund for the continuous support and look forward to the continuous collaboration that is essential as to free the women from Arsi zone, Ethiopia, from the burden of obstetric fistula.

Please refer to the next page for a complete budget and expenditure overview.



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Budget and Expenditure Overview

The following table lists the budget expenditure per line item in the past as well as the previous reporting quarter and recapitulates the original budget for one year.

Supporting fistula treatment, training and prevention at the Assela School of Health, Adama,					
Item	Description	Annual Budget	First Quarter Expenditure	Second Quarter Budget	Second Quarter Expenditure (in USD @ 18.45 USD)
Renovation works and equipment of fistula ward	Painting, furnishing (curtains, bedsheets, etc) and renovation (roof and walls) of fistula ward	10000	9353	-	3102,67
Upgrading of garden facilities	Setting up benches and planting flowers	3 000	0	-	1700
Fistula treatment	Hospital stay and surgery costs, materials, drugs and supplies	15000	5 000	3750	3000
Equipment to increase fistula treatment capacity	Fistula surgery sets and consumables that need to be imported	5 000	200	1250	53,93
Fistula Surgeons for treatment and training	Indemnities including travel costs and per diem	12 000	2 139	3000	3000
Dedication of one nurse to fistula ward	Monthly top up to nurse's salary	900	0	225	225
Reintegration after fistula surgery	Includes psychological support and skills training and new clothes	9000	3000	2250	2093,50
Transport patients	For fistula patients before and after surgery	2250	750	562,50	450
Community outreach for case identification and fistula prevention measures	Radio announcements Community education to increase skilled attendance at birth	12600	1321	3150	2610
TOTAL		69750	21763	14187,50	16235,10