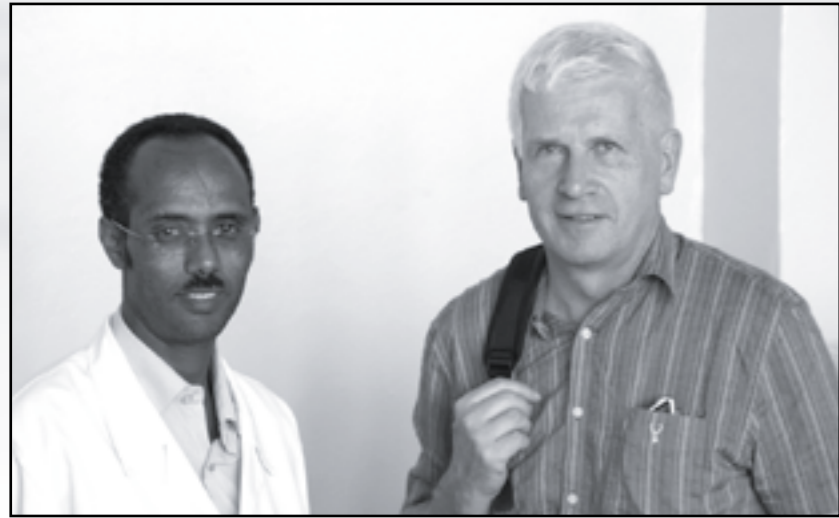


## Ethiopia: Masters in Child Health & Paediatrics



Dr Leul Abadi and Dr David Long

One of the major problems in Tigray, as in the rest of Ethiopia, is the lack of people trained to provide even the most basic level of paediatric or child care. The local hospital based in Mekele covers a population of over five million but has only one full-time Consultant Paediatrician, Dr Leul Abadi, and his job is made all the more difficult by the chronic shortage of drugs and equipment.

The Tigray Health Bureau, in conjunction with Dr Abadi, has now embarked on a teaching programme by establishing a Masters in Child Health & Paediatrics. The idea is to train the local Health Officers in each district in more advanced recognition of children's ill health, allowing for early and appropriate interventions where possible. The first cohort of twenty five had begun the programme only a matter of weeks before our visit at the end of October 2010.

On this visit I was extremely pleased to be accompanied by Consultant Paediatrician Dr David Long and his wife Lesley, a highly experienced Senior Paediatric Sister, both from our local hospital trust in Kent. The meeting with Dr Abadi and his team proved highly successful and Health for All are now exploring the very real possibility of a rolling programme of teaching support, similar in many respects to the successful midwives' experience. This will be particularly targeted at the Masters programme but is also likely to include the paediatric nurses and others.

*Dr Bob Simmonds*



## How You Can Help

We are most grateful for all donations. Our work would not be possible without them. Many of our supporters give regularly by Standing Order arrangement and this is particularly helpful with the on-going running costs of our projects. We are able to re-claim tax on all personal donations made by taxpayers and a simple declaration enables us to add a further 28p to each £1 donated. We try to take full advantage of this worthwhile facility. Cheques payable to 'Health for All' please.

Donations can also be made on-line at [www.justgiving.com/hfa/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/hfa/donate) and, if you wish to create your own fundraising page, go to [www.justgiving.com/hfa/raisemoney](http://www.justgiving.com/hfa/raisemoney).

If you wish to specify whether your gift be used in India or Ethiopia, please make this known to us and we will ensure that your donation is used accordingly.

A full copy of our most recent audited accounts can be viewed at [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk).

Further details from Sue Blacker or Sharon Ashmore at:

### Health for All

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# Health for All

Working with the poor for a better future

Patron: The Most Revd. and Right Hon. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

## Annual Report 2010

It's a pleasure, as always, to be writing for the Annual Report. The past year has been a great year for Health for All, with the work in India and Ethiopia going from strength to strength.

The midwives regular visits to Tigray, Ethiopia, are proving to be hugely successful in supporting teaching and development of local people. Building on this, we have been asked to support teaching in Child Health and this year's report includes an article from Dr Bob Simmonds who has recently visited Tigray with Dr David Long, Consultant Paediatrician at East Kent Hospitals.

In fact East Kent Hospitals have given their full support to the partnership with health workers in Tigray, a wonderful endorsement of the work so far. Even Sir Bob Geldof has offered his support!

In an interview with the BBC earlier this year he recognised how important the work of Health for All was. His comments are included in this report.

In India the health team continue to work effectively in one of India's poorest regions. There's a report from Sangeeta who leads the health team, and also details of a training scheme Health for All has been able to support, aimed at helping villagers help themselves out of poverty and the health problems that go hand in hand.

I hope you enjoy this year's annual report and are as impressed as I am with all the work that continues. It goes without saying, but without your support none of this would be possible. On behalf of everyone, thank you.

**Dr Mark Jones**



**The Health Team**

From Left to right on the photo, are Mrinal Kumari, Neelam Verma, senior project nurse, Dr BK Verma, myself, Madhu Bernwal, community worker, and Bina Pandit, project nurse.

I have to say the conditions we work in are sometimes hard, in the blistering heat of summer, or the foggy days of winter when it can get so cold, and we work in the villages exclusively so we reach out to the very poorest communities at the point of need. We work in really poor villages where good health care and advice are not available. There is no electricity either.

### **A day in the life of the Health Team**

My name is Sangeeta and I have been asked by Dr Jones of Health for All to write something about our daily work. This is my pleasure.

May I introduce myself and my team?

I have been working for some time as Project Manager for the Health team. There are six of us, including two qualified nurses, and of course Dr Verma, a most respected local doctor, our medical consultant.

The cities of India are growing but here in the State of Bihar nothing much has changed and we see malnutrition and much hardship and suffering on a daily basis. But we love our work.

We feel we are really helping to make some things better for the people, especially the women and children. We know from the way we measure our work that communities are healthier, less children have died and we gain strength and succour from the respect we have gained from whole communities. Through our health preventative work, advice, basic treatment, giving of blankets, weighing and supervising the health and growth of children, through providing support to self help groups for the women, and providing training in income generating activities, we know in our hearts that we are really helping people, and in some cases saving lives.

We send our heartfelt appreciation to all of you at Health for All, as by your kindness you are making all this work possible. On behalf of "Team Health".

**Sangeeta Roy - Health Team Project Manager**

### **A Message from Sir Bob Geldof**

"What Health for All do is send people, such as midwives, into the areas where the skills are lacking to teach local health workers. That's precisely what's needed. You know it's fantastic that it comes from this country and, for someone who lives in Kent, it's fantastic that something so logical comes from Kent.

You hear about a bunch of midwives who've decided to go to Tigray to teach because "I can and they want me to", what can you say?

Well done them. Well done Health for All".



**Sir Bob Geldof**

### **Craft Training for Village Women**



**Village Women**

The Trust has received a grant through Health for All for the purpose of training village women, mostly associated with our very successful micro credit self help groups, to receive training in income generating activities, such as crafts, candle and incense making, and the production of poppadums.

This is not just a hobby for these women and young girls; it could be a vitally important source of income for their families, most importantly an independent source of income.

The status of women in traditional village culture in Bihar is extremely low, and this programme can greatly improve their circumstances.

Under a separately funded scheme the women and young girls can apply for small loans from a special enterprise fund, or indeed apply to the self help group for a grant.

Many such grants have helped women, and of course their families, break free from the cycle of abject poverty.

**Mr Nick Hansen**



**Craft Training**

### **Ethiopia Midwifery Project 2010**



**Two families we have helped**

The twice yearly visits by the midwives continue and we are enthusiastically greeted by the students each time. We now have a strong core of midwives from East Kent who are willing to give up their annual leave to travel to Tigray to continue to develop the teaching and management of obstetric emergencies. The Health Colleges in both Axum and Mekelle are functioning well and it is good to see the teaching resources being well used. The gifts of books have been particularly well received but remain an ongoing need.

One of the highlights of 2010 was the installation of the diesel powered generator in Nebalet Health Centre. The difference this has made to this community is immense and the safety of the women delivering at night has been greatly improved, no longer having to be cared for by candle light.

A request has been made by the Health Officer in the Edaga Arbi area to provide ongoing training and updates for the midwives in the rural health centres of the project area. It is hoped this will be incorporated into the 2011 programme. Accurate statistics are difficult to obtain but it is reported that the number of women attended at delivery by a skilled person has increased from 4% to 17% over the last 3 years which will undoubtedly be reflected in the maternal mortality rate.

Child health remains an ongoing need in the area with acute malnutrition a major problem amongst the under fives. We look forward to paediatric input into the project in the future, with a consultant paediatrician and a paediatric nurse visiting the project with the midwives at the end of October.

**Liz Acarnley - Midwife**