

ESOG Newsletter is quarterly published by Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. It updates members and partner organizations by publishing the organization's activities and other major reproductive health issues.

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## Message from the President

### President's Message

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Members, It is with great pride and a deep sense of appreciation that I share this message with you, reflecting on a truly inspiring and productive quarter for our Society. This edition of our quarterly newsletter captures some of the most pivotal moments that affirm ESOG's continued dedication to excellence in reproductive, maternal, and newborn health.

Foremost among our accomplishments this quarter was the successful hosting of our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference at Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa. Under the theme "Every Woman, Every Newborn for a Healthy Future: The Role of ESOG," we welcomed leaders and experts from across Ethiopia and beyond to engage in rich scientific dialogue and collaborative exploration. We were honored by the presence of Her Excellency Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health, whose keynote remarks emphasized the national priority placed on maternal and newborn health. The conference served as a testament to our Society's impact, not only through the thought-provoking panel discussions and 16 scientific research presentations, but also in our recognition of leaders and institutions who have advanced the cause of reproductive health.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize our collective contribution to

the launch of the Integrated RMNCH + PPFP Scale-Up Project. This ambitious initiative, led by a strong consortium including ESOG, the Ministry of Health, Engender Health, EMwA, EPS, and others, aims to significantly expand access to postpartum family planning and improve care across high-caseload health facilities nationwide. ESOG's role in shaping and implementing this transformative effort is a reflection of the trust and responsibility we have earned as a Society.

These achievements are not possible without the enduring commitment of our members, staff, and partners. I am deeply grateful to each of you for your role in our shared success and for continuing to raise the bar in service of Ethiopia's women and families.

As we look ahead, let us carry forward the momentum, insights, and inspiration from this past quarter. There is much more work to be done—and together, I am confident we will rise to every challenge.

With warm regards,

**Dr. Hailemariam Segni**

President

Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG)

## ESOG's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference Concludes Successfully at Hilton Hotel with Prestigious Awards and Scientific Advancements



The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) successfully concluded on March 11, 2025, at Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa, following two days of insightful discussions, scientific presentations, and professional networking. The conference brought together national and international stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, healthcare professionals, and industry leaders, under the theme “Every Woman, Every Newborn for a Healthy Future: The Role of ESOG.”

The opening day was graced by the presence of Her Excellency Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health, whose keynote address emphasized the government's commitment to improving maternal and newborn health in Ethiopia. Dr. Hailemariam Segni, President of ESOG, welcomed participants and highlighted the Society's achievements in advancing reproductive health, while Professor Anne Kihara, President of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), commended ESOG for its leadership in strengthening obstetric and gynecological care in the country.

A highlight of the first day was the awards ceremony, which recognized outstanding contributions in the field. ESOG presented its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Abdulhamid Ishak, an esteemed professional who has dedicated decades to improving maternal and reproductive health. The Clinical and Community Service Award was given to Dr. Sisay Maru, while the Leadership Award was

presented to Her Excellency Dr. Mekdes Daba for her remarkable contributions in advancing maternal and newborn health services. The Institutional Award was also given to Hamlin Fistula in honor of its long-standing impact on reproductive health in Ethiopia.

The opening day featured a high-level panel discussion, where experts explored the key sub-themes of the conference, including ending preventable maternal mortality, universal quality health coverage, strengthening emergency obstetric and newborn care, and the role of public-private partnerships in healthcare. The panel discussions were followed by ESOG's annual business meeting, where members convened to discuss key updates on the Society's ongoing projects, partnerships, and strategic plans.

On March 11, the final day of the conference, the focus shifted to scientific sessions where 16 rigorously selected research studies were presented. The sessions were moderated by leading experts in the field, fostering insightful discussions and knowledge exchange. One of the key moments of the day was the Dr. Solomon Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. Demeke Desta and moderated by Dr. Yirgu G.Hiwot. The lecture provided an in-depth reflection on US Policy Change and Its Global/ Local Impact, honoring Dr. Solomon's legacy and his contributions to obstetrics and gynecology.

(ESOG's 33<sup>rd</sup>.... Continues on Page 4)



## Integrated RMNCH + PPFP Scale Up in High Caseload Facilities Project Regional Inception Meeting Conducted



The Integrated Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) + Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) Scale-Up Project has been conducted regional inception meeting. The initiative aims to enhance maternal and newborn health services across key regions in Ethiopia, reinforcing the country's commitment to reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rates.

The consortium running the project has conducted a series of regional inception workshops to engage key stakeholders, harmonize project priorities with government initiatives, and strengthen collaboration for effective implementation. These workshops served as a platform to discuss strategic interventions, clarify deliverables, and ensure a coordinated effort in scaling up RMNCH and PPFP services at high-caseload health facilities.

Through this project, ESOG and its partners will work to expand access to quality reproductive health services, build the capacity of healthcare providers, and support evidence-based policy implementation. The initiative reflects a shared commitment to reaching every woman and newborn with life-saving care, ensuring a healthier future for Ethiopia. Funded by the Gates Foundation, the four-year project (2024-2028) will be implemented in six regions: Oromia, Amhara, Central Ethiopia, Sidama, South Ethiopia, and Addis Ababa. The project is administered by consortium led by Engender Health, and including the Ethiopian Midwives Association (EMwA), the Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG), the Ethiopian Pediatrics Society (EPS), and SPMMC. Population Council and MERQ will serve as evaluation partners to ensure the initiative's impact is effectively measured.

The primary objective of the project is to scale up postpartum and immediate postpartum family planning services (IPFP and PAFP) within high caseload health facilities. This will be achieved through facility-level and community-level interventions, including competency-based training for healthcare providers, integration of gender, youth, and social inclusion (GYSI) approaches, and improved availability of reproductive health commodities. The project also aims to enhance the continuum of care by strengthening RMNCH-N service delivery systems in these high caseload settings.

A crucial component of the project is the introduction and scale-up of Hormonal Intra Uterine Device (HIUDs) as part of an expanded contraceptive method mix. Additionally, the initiative will focus on improving newborn care through the implementation of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) and strengthening the quality of antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care services. The project will also support the national rollout of the E-MOTIVE postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) bundle of care across health facilities, providing essential training and equipment for emergency obstetric care.

The project will be implemented in phases, beginning with 300 high caseload health facilities in the five regions and one city Administration on the first phase of the two year and 600 facilities on low caseload facilities in the second phase of two year. The selection of these facilities is based on service demand, geographical distribution, and potential for integration with existing health programs. Special attention will be given to facilities in conflict-affected areas to ensure equitable healthcare access.



## Integrated RMNCH .... Cont'd from Page 2

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To maximize impact, the project will tackle critical barriers such as healthcare worker competency gaps, supply chain disruptions, poor integration of family planning and RMNCH services, and pervasive gender inequalities. Collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders will be a priority to align interventions with national health strategies and ensure sustainability beyond the project's duration. The inception meetings conducted across all project implementation regions mark a significant step forward in strengthening Ethiopia's healthcare system, particularly in reproductive, maternal, and newborn health. Through targeted interventions and strategic partnerships, the project aims to create a lasting impact by ensuring that more women and newborns receive the lifesaving care they need.

## ESOG's 33<sup>rd</sup> .... Cont'd from Page 2



As the conference came to a close, ESOG leadership extended their deepest gratitude to all panelists, moderators, scientific session presenters, and participants for their invaluable contributions. A special appreciation was given to the title partners, bronze, silver, and green sponsors, as well as exhibitors, whose support made the event possible. The winners of the scientific session's oral research presentations were also acknowledged for their excellence in advancing reproductive health research. The conference concluded with a cocktail reception, providing a relaxed setting for attendees to network and celebrate the success of the event.