

September 20, 2016

**Report on experience sharing visit for
Future Generations Graduate School
Students**

**September 14th 2016 and
September 15th 2016**

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At around 0630 pm, Professor Mengesha Admassu, Executive Director of the International Institute for Primary Health Care (IIfPHC), Tilahun Debebe, Training Officer of IIfPCH and Luidina Hailu, Communication Officer of IIfPHC set out from Ethiopian Public Health Institute for Ethiopia Red Cross Society training Center to meet with fifteen students of Future Generations Graduate School currently enrolled in the Masters of Art in applied community changes program. When IIfPHC staff arrived at the facility, they meet with Mr. Firew Kefyalew Mekonnen, assistant professor and regional academic director of east Africa at Future Generations Graduate School who had previously asked Prof. Mengesha to grace him and his student with his presence. After expressing his ample appreciation to Professor Mengesha Admassu for taking time of his busy schedule and agreeing to the meeting Mr. Firew directed the staff to the conference room where the students where debriefing on their previous workshops. There was a student population diversification as they where composed of 10 Ethiopians, 1 Ghanaian, 1 Sudanese and 2 from Uganda. Mr. Firew gave a very heartfelt speech to introduce Professor Mengesha to the students. He described Professor Mengesha as a role model of note, a man of distinction and explained that they are very honored and privileged to have the Formal President of Gondar University for eight years present for them. After thanking Mr. Firew for his kind words, Professor Mengesha presented his first power point presentation on the Health System in Ethiopia, which covered, the health policy in Ethiopia, the health tier system, Primary Health Care and mostly the Health Extension Program. The students then raised very interesting questions and concerns that where then elaborated by Professor Mengesha. The diversity of the audience gave an insight on the challenges that exist in different countries to deliver health care to all. Shortly after the discussion, a short coffee break was provided by the facility. After the recess, Prof Mengesha continued with his presentation on International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia. He explained the vision, mission, activities, and objectives of the institute. During the post-presentation discussion, the students expressed their personal opinion about the Institute and the purpose as well as raised some questions that where answered by

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Professor Mengesha. The IlfPHC's staff were overwhelmed by the words of encouragement expressed by the students. With a little time left, Professor Mengesha displayed his last motivational power point presentation that uplifted everyone's spirit. After a heartfelt appreciation and gratitude, Mr. Firew offered Professor Mengesha a present on behalf of the Future Generations Graduate School and logistics for the next day field visits were discussed.

September 15th, 2016

At around 08 am, an approximately 90 minutes ride journey to Debre Birhan was commenced with Mr. Firew, two IlfPHC's staff, Tilahun Debebe and Luidina Hailu, and all 15 students of Future Generations Graduate Schools. First stop once in Debre Birhan was the Debre Birhan Health Science College, the Health Extension workers training center. Mr. Abenet Dagneu, MSc in clinical, tropical, infectious diseases prevention and tropical disease, and also instructor of the college greeted the team. In one of the training classroom, Mr. Abenet illustrated about the Health Extension workers training program using a power point presentation in which he elucidated some statistics and data on the rate of achievements of the students according to the different level of HEW training program. The team then visited the classrooms and the demonstration room where they were able to comprehend which exact medical tasks each HEW is required to master before they are set out to work in health posts and health centers. After a short discussion, the team continued his journey to the next health center: The Keyit Health Center. Mr. Tamiru Mengistu greeted the crew and invited them to observe the displayed model house. An exemplary rural household that helps teaches patients to partition their house instead of having a single room shared among parents, children and cattle's. In the model is one room was divided into a living room, bedroom and a store. The model also encourages households to have a kitchen separate to the house and use energy saving stoves as well as construct their own pit latrines. As the team went further into the facilities they were able to observe the different room where adequate care was given to the rural community. However, their eyes lit up with amazement at the site of the community build temporary maternity waiting rooms where expecting mothers come in 10 days prior to their delivery date and sleep, eat,

relax and discuss about child and self care after deliver. Mr. Tamiru Mengistu explained that all of this was free off charge due to the communities contribution of services and dozens and dozens quintal of cereals (barely, wheat, etc...) for expecting mothers. The team was stroked by this high engagement of the community, which reflects a true applied community change experience. After a very effective discussion with Mr. Tamiru, the team headed it out to a health post not far from the health center: the Bakelo Health post. There with the help of Mr. Tamiru and a Health Extension Workers, different data recording system, the purpose of the health development army, the community changes tracking system, immunization up-to-date tracking system, birth control delivery to the community, and overall the effectiveness of the system to deliver care to each person in the community was explained thoroughly. Questions where asked and translated for the HEW. One team member asked what motivates the HEW to keep working at the Help post and not change carriers. And the HEW explained that when she used to be a student in that community, she always hears that mothers die during delivery. However, she explained that since the HEP was established and since she has been working as a HEW, no mother died during delivery. She goes on further in explaining that nowadays, mothers come to her to get their kids vaccine unlike before where she had to go door to door and convinces them of the positive outcome of vaccines. The team was very amazed about the dedication of the HEW to the work she does and the high engagement of the community for building their own health unit using local available resources. At the end of the health post, a student of Future Generations Graduate School gave a speech thanking; Mr. Tamiru, and the HEW .The School offered each one a book as a token of gratitude.