

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.

ESOG's NL Team:

Selamawit Kifle:
selakia2004@yahoo.com
Addisu Deresse:
addisuderese@gmail.com

Inside this Package

- Message from the President
- Strengthening Reproductive Health Services: Training in Ambo for ESOG Project
- ESOG) Conducted SCTG Ethiopia Planning Workshop

And More

Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG)

Tel.: +251 115 506 068/069

Fax: +251 115 506 070

P.O. Box: 8731

Addis Ababa

Ethiopia

esogeth@gmail.com

newsletter@esog.org.et

www.esog-eth.org

Physical Address:

Head Office:

Ras Desta Damtew Avenue
Tsehafi Tizaz Teferawork Keda
Building (Near Ghion Hotel)
East Wing, 2nd Floor, Room no 7

ESOG Project Office:

Kirkos District/ Kazanchis
Nigist Towers Building, 3rd floor



OBSTETRICS

ESOG

VOLUME 11 NO. 4

December, 2023

www.esog-eth.org

GYNECOLOGY

Message from the President

Dear Esteemed Members of the Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG),

As we approach the end of another fruitful year, I am honored to share with you the remarkable progress and dedication demonstrated by our society in advancing reproductive health across Ethiopia. The activities and initiatives of the past three quarters have not only showcased our commitment to the cause but have also positioned ESOG as a leader in the field.

We have achieved to strengthen the reproductive health services at project sites located in Oromia through advocacy for and institutionalization of training activities to protect the quality of family planning and comprehensive abortion care with the support of David and Lucile Packard foundation.

The comprehensive abortion care (CAC) training program conducted in Ambo Town stands as a testament to our ongoing efforts to strengthen reproductive health services. The participation of 35 healthcare workers from diverse health facilities in the West Shewa zone reflects the collaborative spirit within our community. This training, focused on integrating family planning methods with CAC, HIV, and Maternal and Child Health services, has equipped our healthcare providers with the latest global trends and approaches. I commend the dedication of our experts and the active

engagement of the participants in fostering an environment of shared knowledge.

Under the overarching initiative funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, our project, "Advocate for and Institutionalize Activities to Protect the Quality of Family Planning and Comprehensive Abortion Care Services in Ethiopia," continues to address critical challenges in sexual and reproductive health. By engaging policymakers, media professionals, and civil society organizations, we aim to create a supportive environment, reduce stigma, and enhance the competence of healthcare providers. The commitment of our society to quality improvement in reproductive health services over the past seven years is evident in these strategic activities.

The panel discussion held on November 6th provided a platform for ESOG to share invaluable insights into advancing safe abortion access and policy reform in Ethiopia. The collaboration with key stakeholders, medical professionals, and activists underscores our society's role as a catalyst for change. The experiences and strategies shared during the discussion will undoubtedly guide future abortion programming in Ethiopia and inspire similar efforts worldwide. Members have been actively involved in changing the narrative around safe abortion care in Ethiopia by sharing their experiences so that young physicians learn from their past practices. Great educational re



The President's Message Cont'd

Ethiopia through guidelines, training, and awareness initiatives is commendable.

As we wrap up the year, I express my gratitude to each member of ESOG for your unwavering commitment and support to reproductive health. Your active participation, collaboration, and dedication to our shared mission have been the driving force behind our achievements. I look forward to the upcoming conference and the continued collective growth

and impact of our society.

Wishing you all a healthy and fulfilling year ahead.

See you soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Abdulfetah Abdulkadir

President, Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG)

Strengthening Reproductive Health Services: Training in Ambo for ESOG Project

The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) conducted a comprehensive abortion care (CAC) training program for 35 healthcare workers from various health facilities in the West Shewa zone of the Oromia region. The three-day training, held from November 25th to 27th, 2023 in Ambo Town, focused on integrating family planning methods with CAC, HIV, and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services.

The training aimed to equip healthcare workers with the latest global trends, definitions, and approaches in integrating family planning services with CAC, HIV, and MCH services. Facilitated by experts in the field, the sessions covered topics ranging from the overview of reproductive health and rights in the Ethiopian context to specific aspects like emergency contraception, post-abortion and post-partum family planning, and family planning for HIV-positive clients.

Participants engaged in interactive sessions on counseling in family planning, gaining insights into effective communication strategies to address the diverse needs of their communities. The training fostered an environment of shared knowledge and expertise, setting the stage for future implementation of integrated services in their respective health facilities.

The training program falls under the broader initiative led by ESOG, funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foun-

ation. The project, titled "Advocate for and Institutionalize Activities to Protect the Quality of Family Planning and Comprehensive Abortion Care Services in Ethiopia," spans 24 months from August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2025.

ESOG, a trusted partner working closely with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, has been dedicated to strengthening capacity and quality improvement in reproductive health services over the past seven years. The current project addresses critical challenges in sexual and reproductive health, particularly focusing on safe abortion and family planning care programs.

The multifaceted approach involves engaging policymakers, media professionals, and civil society organizations to build a supportive environment for abortion and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). By reducing stigma and discrimination, the project seeks to enhance the competence of healthcare providers and increase client satisfaction.

As the training in Ambo concludes, the participants return to their health facilities armed with not only new knowledge but also a renewed commitment to championing the cause of comprehensive reproductive health services. The ESOG project, with its ambitious objectives and strategic activities, marks a crucial step towards creating sustainable change in the landscape of reproductive healthcare in Ethiopia.

The President's Message Cont'd

sources have developed for future uses. I would like to thank those members who have been involved in this resource development. We hope the future of safe abortion access in the nation will be strengthened with the concerted efforts of all members and stakeholders.

In response to the evolving financial landscape for non-governmental organizations, ESOG has made an important announcement regarding changes to the funding structure for our annual conference. This adjustment, aligned with global practices observed by esteemed organizations like FIGO and the national financial policy, reflects our com-

mitment to the long-term sustainability of the organization. While we acknowledge that these changes may raise questions, we trust in your understanding and support as we navigate this transition together.

Our commitment to self-care is evident in the Self-Care Trailblazer Group (SCTG) Ethiopia Planning Workshop conducted at Best Western Plus Addis Ababa Hotel. This initiative, part of a broader project supporting the scale-up of self-care policy and practice in the national health system, highlights the progress made by NSN partners and the Ministry of Health. Your dedication to advancing self-care in

ESOG Shares Insights on Abortion Care in Ethiopia

In a panel discussion held on Monday, November 6th, the Ethiopian Society Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) shared its invaluable experience in advancing safe abortion access and policy reform in Ethiopia. The event, which took place at the Best Western Plus Addis Ababa Hotel, brought together key stakeholders, medical professionals, and activists to discuss strategies for enhancing safe abortion services and overcoming challenges in a region where access to safe abortion remains a pressing issue. The panel discussion, titled "Pioneering the Pathway to Access: Sharing strategies to inform MSI's Future Abortion Programming from Ethiopia," addressed three critical topics:

Dr. Abebe Shibru, Country Director for Marie Stopes International Ethiopia (MSIE), commended Ethiopia's progress in abortion policy and guidelines, emphasizing that the nation serves as a beacon in the region. He highlighted three key approaches that played a pivotal role in achieving abortion reform. Additionally, Dr. Leilena Shimeles, another panelist, discussed the collaborative efforts that formed the national movement for reform and the challenges and compromises required for success.

Alemayehu Hunduma, head of RH, FP, Adolescent and Youth Health Desk at the Ministry of Health highlighted Ethiopia's unique commitment to scaling safe abortion access, including recent initiatives for task-sharing and de-medicalization. Overcoming resistance to this approach was a significant focus of the discussion.

Eyob Mohammed, ESOG's Project Coordinator for Changing the Narrative around Safe abortion in Ethiopia Project, discussed ESOG's role in the 2005 reform of the Penal Code on abortion and shared insights into further increasing access to safe abortion services. Coordinated by

Eyob, the project being implemented by ESOG with a support from MSI aims at building supporting environment, institutionalizing and evidence generation.

Dr. Demeke Desta, Country Director, Ipas Ethiopia, voiced concerns about the growing opposition to safe abortion in Ethiopia, which poses a risk to the progress made thus far. The discussion delved into the experiences of this opposition in communities and among health care providers. Ato Abebe Kebede, Executive Director for the Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations (COHRA), addressed the critical role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in safeguarding Ethiopia's present safe abortion law. He shared information about the work being done to create new narratives around safe abortion to reach the silent majority.

The format of the panel was discussion and Q & A, skillfully facilitated by MSI-Kenya's Country Director, Dr. Joan Oracha. The insights and strategies shared during the panel will undoubtedly provide valuable guidance for MSI's future abortion programming in Ethiopia and may serve as a source of inspiration for countries facing similar challenges.

Ethiopia's commitment to safe abortion access and the invaluable contributions of organizations like MSIE, ESOG, and COHRA reflect the country's dedication to the cause. By sharing their experiences and strategies, these experts hope to pave the way for safer and more accessible abortion services, setting an example for the region and the world.

As the discussion concluded, the participants remained hopeful about the future of safe abortion access in Ethiopia and inspired to continue their collaborative efforts to protect women's reproductive rights.

Important Announcement: Changes to Annual Conference Funding

The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) has announced a significant update to the funding structure for its annual conference, a longstanding tradition that has played a vital role in advancing maternal health and professional development in Ethiopia.

In a recent communication, the President of ESOG highlighted the organization's decision to modify the funding of specific components of the annual conference, in line with global practices observed by esteemed organizations such as the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

The key change pertains to the coverage of costs associated with the lunch during hands-on training sessions and post-main-event cocktail sessions. Starting from the upcoming conference, ESOG will no longer bear these expenses, a departure from previous years' practices.

The decision, as explained by the President, is rooted in the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization amidst the evolving financial landscape for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. It reflects a shift towards a model where conference attendees

contribute to the associated costs, aligning with approaches successfully implemented by global organizations like FIGO.

While acknowledging that this adjustment may prompt inquiries, the President emphasized ESOG's unwavering commitment to delivering a conference that upholds the high standards expected by its members. The organization reassured its members of its readiness to address any concerns and expressed confidence in their collective ability to navigate these changes while preserving the essence of the annual conferences.

ESOG urged its members to extend their understanding and support during this transition, underscoring the belief that together, they can overcome challenges and continue advancing the mission of improving maternal health in Ethiopia. The announcement concluded with an invitation for participation in the upcoming conference, with the assurance that it will be another enriching event contributing to the collective growth and impact of the society.

ESOG) Conducted SCTG Ethiopia Planning Workshop



Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) conducted a Self-Care Trailblazer Group (SCTG) Ethiopia Planning workshop at Best Western Plus Addis Ababa Hotel. The half-day session that started on November 1, 2023 will end with another half-day session on November 2, 2023.

The objective of the two days session is sharing the state of self-care in Ethiopia and the vision for 2024 and beyond. Participating in the two days event are National Self-Care Network (NSN) partners and the Ministry of Health.

The two days event took place as part of a project entitled-Support for the scale-up of self-care policy and practice in the national health system by national and sub-national advocacy planning and implementation.

The participating organizations at the SCTG Ethiopia Planning Workshop are making significant progress in advancing self-care in the country. They are working on a variety of initiatives, including developing and implementing guidelines, providing training to providers, and raising awareness of self-care among the public.

Most partners have provided administrative support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in developing a national self-care guideline and has piloted self-care with the MoH. PSI has also piloted self-care in Ethiopia with the MoH and has provided capacity building training sessions to providers

The MoH is committed to moving forward with self-care and has been gathering data from learning sites.. ESOG Communications has made self-care a subject of media content on all of the Society's platforms, including radio shows, digital media platforms, and newspaper columns.