



BSc. MIDWIFERY DEGREE GRADUATION



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Acronyms List

BIOHS	Burao Institute of Health Sciences
BSc.	Bachelor of Science
DFID	UK Department For International Development
EAH	Edna Adan University Hospital
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric & Neonatal Care
HGH	Hargeisa Group Hospital
HIOHS	Hargeisa Institute of Health Sciences
HR	Human Resources
KTSP	Kings THET Somaliland Partnership
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSc.	Master of Science
RH	Reproductive Health
SBA	Skilled Birth Attendants
SIOHS	Sool Institute of Health Sciences
SL	Somaliland
SLNMA	Somaliland Nursing & Midwifery Association
TA	Technical Assistance
THET	Tropical Health and Education Trust
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UoH	University of Hargeisa
WHO	World Health Organization

Background of BSc. Midwifery Training in Somaliland

According to WHO 2006 estimates, Somaliland has one of the worst maternal mortality ratios in the world, estimated to be between 1044 and 1400 per 100,000 live births. Life expectancy at birth is between 47 and 60 years. The infant mortality rate is 73/1000 while the under-five mortality is estimated at 117/1000. 5% of children are comprehensively immunized. Environmental sanitation is highly challenged. The top 10 leading causes of morbidity are mainly preventable and curable infectious diseases.

Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age. It is caused mainly by hemorrhage, puerperal sepsis, eclampsia and obstructed labour. Women in Somaliland have a 1 in 15 risk of dying from pregnancy and childbirth related causes. Somaliland RH indicators are amongst the worst in the World. Estimates indicate;

- Maternal Mortality Rate 1400/100,000
 - Limited access to SRH services
 - Limited SBAs
 - Limited EmONC Facilities
- High fertility rate at 6.4
- High level of home delivery 90%

There are a number of Midwifery training Institutions in the country. Currently, UNFPA supports Community Midwifery (2 years) at BIOHS, ANS and HIOHS as well as Post-Basic Midwifery (18 months) at BIOHS and HIOHS but the BSc. Midwifery (18 months) supported by THET and funded by DFID was the first of its kind in the Country. The programme was delivered by University of Hargeisa but hoisted by Edna Adan University Hospital as a Teaching Institution. There are also plans by different institutions to launch BSc. Midwifery degrees (4 years) targeting fresh entrants from High School as well as an MSc. Midwifery by UoH in partnership with Darlana University.

In light of the above, it is important to emphasize that the BSc. Midwifery training is in line with MDG5: Reducing Maternal Mortality. The Programme started in February, 2011 and ended in October, 2012 with 21 out of 25 female graduates successfully completing the programme. The request of THET and indeed that of every stakeholder and mother is that these 21 Midwives, whose capacity has been enhanced in clinical practice, research and even English language communication, will be meaningfully deployed by the Ministry of Health to impact Maternal and Child Health Programmes in the country.

The Graduation on the 11th October, 2012 was a worthwhile celebration and we must be seen to extend such a celebration to the health of many mothers and children in the countryside through the provision of platforms and opportunities where these 21 Graduates can apply what they have learnt.

Key Partners to the BSc. Midwifery Programme

- Ministry of Health
- DFID...the sole funder of the Programme.
- Tropical Health and Education Trust(THET)
- University of Hargeisa (UOH)
- Edna Adan university Hospital (EAH)
- Somaliland Nursing and Midwifery Association(SLNMA)
- NNM Somaliland. Provided a tutor to work with the Lead Tutor in running the Programme.

Dignitaries during the BSc. Midwifery Graduation



L-R: Fouzia (SLNMA Executive Director, H.E Amina Hajji Mohamed Jirde (First Lady Somaliland), Edna Adan Ismail (Founder EAH), Dr. Hussein Mohamed (Minister of Health SL), Dr. Ali Yusuf (2nd Vice Speaker of Parliament SL) and Wario G. Guracha (THET Country Representative SL)

The graduation ceremony attracted a number of dignitaries and skilled health personnel due its significance in Somaliland. Some of the signatories that graced the function included;

- H.E. Amina Hajji Mohamed Jirde-The First Lady of the Republic of Somaliland
- Dr. Hussein Mohamed Mohamed-Minister of Health, Republic of Somaliland
- Dr. Ali Yusuf-The second vice Speaker of Somaliland Parliament
- Dr.Deria Ereg-UOH Vice President
- Edna Adan Ismail-EAH Founder and Managing Director
- Fousia Mohamed Ismail-SLNMA Executive Director
- Wario Galma Guracha-THET Country Representative
- Margaret Crichton –THET BSc. Midwifery Lead Tutor

Other notable dignitaries present included representatives from supporting training institutions in Burco, Lasaanod, Hargeisa and Boroma as well as MOH HR Department director, RH unit head and representatives from UN other INGOs operating in the Somaliland health sector.



H.E. Amina Hajji Mohamed Jirde-The First Lady of the Republic of Somaliland giving her speech

In her speech, the Guest of Honor - H.E. Amina Hajji Mohamed Jirde-The First Lady of the Republic of Somaliland and a trained Midwife, commended the efforts of THET and DFID for supporting Health programmes in Somaliland. She noted that Hargeisa and many other areas of the Country had been dilapidated by the effects of war and there was a necessity for the rebuilding of institutions and human resource capacity to deliver social services to the population. “Only within two (2) decades, Somaliland is on the road to rebuilding its institutions and human resources and therefore it is a great pleasure for us to produce the first batch of BSc. Midwifery Graduates in Somaliland. Thanks to the Students, Parents, THET and DFID who have invested this for the Mothers and Children of Somaliland” the First Lady noted.



Left: Guests at the Graduation. Right: Entertainment & MCH Drama for Guests.

The Minister of Health – Dr. Hussein Mohamed on his part noted that Somaliland is the third country in the world with the highest Maternal Mortality rate and that there is need for a collective effort to overcome the problem and work towards the achievement of MDG5. “Production of the right skilled health personnel is an integral part of the solution,” Dr. Hussein noted. He admonished graduates to look at the huge task ahead of them and focus on making a positive contribution as their first responsibility. He also noted that everywhere in Somaliland, mothers are dying as a result of manageable complications and that now the graduates can help to change that situation. The minister was full of praise for THET and DFID for their generous and outstanding support in improving healthcare in Somaliland.

Mr. Wario Guracha - the Country Representative of THET in Somaliland thanked DFID for the continued commitment in providing financing for the improvement of healthcare in Somaliland. He noted that the BSc Midwifery degree was an excellent addition into the professionalization of the Somaliland MCH Workforce. Wario thanked Margaret Crichton – the Lead Tutor of the Programme for enduring very tough times to ensure that the programme wasn't miscarried along the way but reached a stage of normal delivery where all the stakeholders can celebrate. He challenged the graduates to move out and become agents of change in Somaliland.

Achievements of the BSc. Midwifery Degree Programme

- Despite some operational, coordination and delivery challenges, the first Midwifery Degree programme in Somaliland attained an 84% completion rate with a total of 21 students graduating.



Margaret (Lead Tutor) awarding Medals and Presents to the Students and Tutors.

- THET worked with other stakeholders to develop the curriculum and to ensure that there was a participatory development process of the curriculum. This will ensure sustainability and replicability of the programme within the Country.
- Developed a functional collaboration link with the local institutions (UOH & EAH) in delivery of the course
- THET provided financial and technical support for running the course
 - Engaged the Lead Tutor (Feb. 2011 – October, 2012)
 - Utilized KTSP to engage short term TA to provide Gap filling teaching and External Examination roles

The research based curriculum introduced new concepts to most of the students. Students collected data and wrote their research reports productively.

- The course introduced learners to leadership and management training
- The course was delivered in a timely manner

Names of the BSc. Midwifery Graduates



BSc. Midwifery Graduates in a Group Photo with their Tutors and Dignitaries invited for the Meeting

S/No	Name	Region of Origin	Current Place of Work
1	Amal Derie Ismail	MARODI JEH	EDNAUNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
2	Amina Essa Mahamoud	SANAG	HGH
3	Farah Mahamed Yusuf	MARODI JEH	HPA
4	Filsan Hussein yusuf	MARODI JEH	SLNMA
5	Hamda Ali Abdillahi	MARODI JEH	SLNMA
6	Hamda Mohamed Ali	MARODI JEH	TBH
7	Hanan Awad Ahmed	MARODI JEH	HGH
8	Hodan Mohamoud Osman	MARODI JEH	HGH
9	Hodo Abdirahman Ismail	MARODI JEH	HGH
10	Ifrah Hashi Hussein	MARODI JEH	HGH
11	Ifrah Mahamed Ali	MARODI JEH	IFTIN MCH
12	Ifrah Mohamed Omar	AWDAL	EDNA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
13	Khadra Ahmed Hassan	AWDAL	EDNA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
14	Layla Abdo Maxamed	MARODI JEH	GARGAAR HOSPITAL
15	Mariam Ibrahim Hirsi	MARODI JEH	HGH
16	Muna Abdilahi Bihi	MARODI JEH	EDNA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
17	Muna Muhumed Hussein	MARODI JEH	GARGAAR HOSPITAL
18	Naima Faisel Bedel	MARODI JEH	GARGAAR HOSPITAL
19	Rahma Ismail Abdirahman	MARODI JEH	GARGAAR HOSPITAL
20	Safia Ali Hussein	MARODI JEH	HGH
21	Ubah Ali Yusuf	MARODI JEH	EDNA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Tutors in the BSc. Midwifery Degree Programme

1. Margaret A. Crichton: BSc Lead Tutor
2. Hilka Hares
3. Jennifer Fileen Thiel
4. Baraket Taddesse
5. Dr. Saed Osman Daher
6. Mr. Ibrahim Ali Hassan
7. Mr. Hassan Ibrahim Jama: BSc Coordinator

Key challenges faced in the execution of the BSc. Midwifery Degree Programme

- Student enrollment challenges; because of the low level of English among the applicants, it was an uphill task getting the required cohort of candidates to enroll into the programme.
- Course delivery challenges including the English levels of students which was below standard.
- Lack of strategy on post-training roles and placement for the graduating cadre within the Somaliland health system.
- The curriculum had to be adapted to the learners ability and to reflect reality of the environment
- Having only enrolled students from Hargeisa this may present a challenge in deployment of graduates into other regions of Somaliland

The Future of BSc. Midwifery Training in Somaliland

There are a number of Institutions in Somaliland that have expressed a need and are actually planning to roll out BSc. Midwifery Training. This is a welcome input into the country's human resources for health, but it is important to do so while take the following factors into consideration;

- MoH, MoE, NHPC and SLNMA need to work together and with the institutions to ensure that quality standards during training are observed. This will lead to the delivery of well equipped graduates that will transform the quality of Healthcare in Somaliland.
- MoH needs to plan and develop strategies of allocating and retaining new graduates in the public health care system.
- Training of Tutors to deliver Midwifery Training in Somaliland. It is important that a pool of Midwives is trained as Tutors so that they can deliver teaching using appropriate teaching and training methodologies.
- Incorporate Research, Leadership & Management as well as Community Health into all elements of Training. One of the unique features of the BSc Midwifery degree was the element of research where the students had an opportunity to collect data and write Reports on various MCH indicators. This is a line that must be trodden in all elements of the training.

THET is committed to the continued support for the training and development of human resources for health in Somaliland. The BSc. Midwifery degree is one of such efforts. We are evaluating the delivery of the first training in order to make an informed decision about our future courses of action. THET is highly indebted to all the partners in Somaliland who supported the programme and to DFID for the financial support. The journey to maternal and child health is still long but every step we take will move us closer to the desired end.