



Horn of Africa Neonatal Development Services

2nd Quarter 2015
Guest Editor – Sarah Laberge

Horn of Africa Neonatal Development Services (HANDS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving infants' lives in Ethiopia by facilitating the implementation of skilled medical care by the local medical professionals.

HANDS Team came back from a successful trip in Ethiopia

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Dr. Mesfin Woldesenbet, HANDS founder and neonatologist, Beverley Edwards, Neonatal ICU nursing manager-retired and Robert Menchaca, Manager, NICU Respiratory Therapist at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, Houston, Texas came back from a successful trip in Jimma, Ethiopia. The medical team left the United States of America on April 25th and stayed for two weeks in Ethiopia.

While reinforcing the efforts made by previous medical teams, some new concepts were also introduced by the current volunteers:

1- One of the major challenges for Jimma Hospital NICU staff the lack of readily available water supply to wash their hands. HANDS team brought portable hand washing bags, which has been positively accepted by the NICU staff. Research shows that proper hand washing significantly prevents hospital-acquired infection.

2- Jimma University Hospital nursing administration in collaboration with HANDS team designed and published a concise vital sign and nursing documentation form that provides important information regarding the patient's status. A copy of this vital sign form will be available on HANDS website soon.

3- HANDS team carried some equipment that is desperately needed in Jimma. One of the equipment is RAM Canula, which is very functional and easy to use as it delivers oxygen to the sick infants.

The team met with both Jimma University and Jimma Hospital teams including the Hospital CEO, Dr. Fikadu Jiru, and leadership team of pharmacy and laboratory services. They discussed the challenges currently facing the neonatal services in the Hospital and finding long term solutions.

HANDS would like to thank our volunteers, for making this a successful trip. We would also like to express our gratitude to the constant advocacy of individuals and institutions that continuously provide their unwavering support in making these trips a reality. Special thanks to Professor Abraham Haileamlak, dean of Jimma medical school, and the staff of the Pediatrics department and NICU of Jimma University Hospital

“The Legacies we leave behind define our success in life”
MWS.

Vital Neonatal Equipment arrived in Jimma

HANDS' recently shipped neonatal equipment has arrived in Jimma. The shipment includes phototherapy units, intravenous pumps, blood glucose monitoring devices and other vital equipment that will help achieve improvement in neonatal care. The estimated price of the shipped equipment is close to \$40,000 US dollars. This was made possible by the generous donation of institutions and individuals in United States of America.

Boeing Company in collaborations with Ethiopian airlines facilitated the shipment.

HANDS would like to recognize both companies for this generosity.

Major Challenges

During the trip, some major challenges were observed. This includes:

- 1- Lack of proper laboratory services which are much needed for proper neonatal care;
- 2- Lack of pharmacy services that would help improve neonatal morbidities and mortalities;
- 3- Lack of proper water supplies, without which proper neonatal services cannot be provided.

HANDS team had a very constructive dialogue with the local health professionals and administrators on how to tackle these challenges.

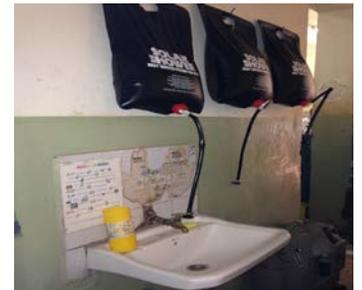
The involvement of volunteers from United States of America and Europe in tackling these challenges will be much appreciated by HANDS.

New pictures and videos from the April/May 2015 trip is being uploaded on our website. Please visit our website and facebook page to get more information:

- Our website (www.handsforbabies.org) and
- Our facebook page (www.facebook.com/HANDSforBabies).



RAM canula being applied to a patient in Jimma Hospital.



Portable hand washing bags installed in the NICU at Jimma Hospital



Using the newly designed vital sign and nursing documentation sheet at Jimma Hospital NICU.

Next Steps

We believe strongly that the involvement of multiple organizations comprised of a variety of specialties or professions, both medical and non-medical, are needed to address these issues. This will require the involvement of local Ethiopian professionals and orchestration by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health.

We are in dire need for neonatologists who will lead teams and are willing to travel to Ethiopia. A team comprises of a neonatologist, neonatal nurse and respiratory therapist.

We hope the above newsletter will trigger thought and discussion among individuals and organizations residing in the developed world. We are willing to work with local Ethiopian professionals towards the common goal of upgrading neonatal care in Ethiopia through the exchange of combined knowledge and experiences.

-HANDS Team



HANDS team with Jimma Hospital Nursing staff and local Pediatricians.

How You Can Help

Would you like to get involved with Hands for Babies by volunteering your time and talents?

We have volunteer opportunities for skilled, talented and dedicated people in the following areas:

Clinical Staff

- Neonatologist
- Neonatal Nurses
- Neonatal Respiratory Therapists
- Pharmacists

Non-Clinical Staff

- Administrative Assistance
- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Shipment
- Travel Arrangements
- Website Maintenance

We welcome monetary donations in any amount. Your contributions will enable us to continue our work to improve neonatal health care facilities and the delivery of medical care to newborn babies in Ethiopia.

To volunteer or make a donation, please contact us at:

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