

Information on the Organisation	
Name of Organisation	women's hope international
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Responsible	Dr. med. Martin Leimgruber
Project Details	
Project name	OPERATION OF A FISTULA CLINIC IN METU (ETHIOPIA)
Target group	Girls and women with obstetric fistula as well as women of childbearing age in the Metu region (Ethiopia)
Goals	<p>Primary goal: Operation of a clinic for women with childbirth injuries, so-called vesico- and recto-vaginal fistulas, in Metu (Ethiopia). Women shall receive medical, social and psychological help. Around 85% can be healed of their fistula by surgery. Follow-up and competent obstetric care (caesarean) for former fistula patients shall be provided. A further focus is prevention. The clinic is an outreach centre of the <i>Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital</i> and works together with the Mettu-Karl-Hospital.</p> <p>Project goal whi: Contributing to cover operating costs of the fistula clinic in Metu with US\$ 100,000 per year as from opening in 2008.</p>
Background	<p>Obstetric fistula: More than two million women worldwide suffer from obstetric fistula. The fistula occur during protracted childbirth: the constant pressure of the unborn child's head on the birth canal causes the tissues to die off, which leads to openings between the bladder and vagina and/or colon/bowels and vagina. The result is permanent incontinence: urine and/or stool flow out uncontrollably. Aside from infections and pain, the women concerned are often despised, shunned and cast out.</p> <p>Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital: women's hope international works closely with the <i>Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital</i> in Ethiopia, the only hospital in the world which specializes specifically in treating and preventing obstetric fistula. In order to be able to extend its care of women and girls with fistula, five outreach centres are being built in Ethiopia by the year 2008, one of which will be located in Metu.</p>
Project implementation and organisation	The <i>Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital</i> in Ethiopia is responsible for operating the clinic: www.fistulafoundation.org/hospital
Funding	The operating costs for 500 patients, some of whom require several surgeries, amount to approximately US\$ 200,000 per year. whi has committed to provide funding for the clinic after it opens, to the amount of US\$100,000 per year. The remaining expenses will be covered by other organizations.
Timeframe	Construction is scheduled to start in 2007; the clinic plans to open in 2008.
Further information	Further information available from women's hope international.