



World Health Organization

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# TENACHIN

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## WHO Donates \$2.4 million for Leishmaniasis Control Program in Ethiopia



Dr. Daniel Argaw— WHO, and Dr. Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré—WHO, Dr. Kesetebrihan Admassu – FMOH, Mr. Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar [guest of honors left to right ]

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ETHIOPIA

World Health Organization (WHO) today donated six vehicles for the Leishmaniasis Prevention and Control Program in Ethiopia, and one vehicle for the Onchocerciasis Program in an official ceremony held at The Hotel De' Leopold here in Addis Ababa . On the occasion the support from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID), the main donor providing \$2,4 million for the 2008-2010 Leishmaniasis Control Program in Ethiopia, provided through WHO was appreciated. . This contribution is believed to assist the FMOH in its implementation of the Leishmaniasis National Control Program which started in 2006. During the handover ceremony, officials from the FMOH, WHO, and partners among others were in attendance and the gesture was much appreciated by the recipients.

Upon receiving the vehicles and agreements with assigned institutions in collaboration with MoH and WHO, to carry out the

mapping activities were signed, Dr. Kesetebrihan Admasu, Director General Health Promotion and disease prevention, directorate, Federal Ministry of Health, expressed his gratitude to WHO on behalf of his ministry and the country at large. According to him, it is a significant contribution for Ethiopia's in its endeavour to prevent and control this fatal disease.

Dr. Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré, WHO Representative, on her part expressed her appreciation to the ministry that the Ethiopian government not only took the matter seriously, but also put in place the necessary prevention and control program to fight **leishmaniasis**.

His Excellency, Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar, Ambassador of Spain, stressed the commitment from the Spanish Government on supporting the Leishmaniasis control program. He said Ethiopia is a priority country for the Spanish Agency of International



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Cooperation and Development and neglected tropical diseases is part of the multilateral strategy for cooperation.

On the occasion it was disclosed that, different activities are ongoing and continuous process in collaboration between the ministry, the concerned regional governments and development partners such as WHO and AECID. Accordingly, drugs and diagnosis supplies had been procured to diagnose and treat 4,000 patients. Direct financial and technical support to the most endemic regions has also been provided to implement the program at regional level (Tigray and Amhara) over the past 04 years.



**Dr. Kesetebrihan, Dr. Nafo-Traoré, and Mr. Sánchez-Benedito during the signing ceremony**

Furthermore, mobile teams have been put in place for early case detection and active surveillance. In the process, mapping activities and operational research has been identified as a priority activity that need to be supported in order to achieve the ultimate objectives the elimination of Leishmaniasis from all endemic regions of the country.

To this effect, the Leishmaniasis National Task force technical working group has revised the Leishmaniasis diagnosis and treatment guidelines within the Leishmaniasis Taskforce.



**Dr. Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré handing over the vehicle key to Dr. Kesetebrihan Admassu**

Moreover, the film, entitled “Kalaazar, inside poverty” developed by WHO in collaboration with AECID, in a bid to raise awareness level and to mobilize resources from donors to be used for health education and awareness was shown during the ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony, the General Director of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Kesete Admasu, affirmed his ministry’s commitment to always work in partnership. The WHO Representative too, on her part, reiterated the same

It is to be noted that Ethiopia is the only country in the Horn of Africa (where Leishmaniasis is endemic) that has committed itself with a national program to fight against this neglected tropical disease..



**Mr. Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar handing over the vehicle key to the Tigray Region**