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MINISTRY OF HEALTH-ETHIOPIA
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VIRTUAL SESSION
Situation of Intensive Care Units in the COVID-19 epidemic
Dra. Alejandra Bustos (Spain)

Monday 11 May. 2.00 pm (EAT) – Prior registration is required for new participants



**SHARING LESSONS LEARNED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF
SPECIALIZED MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAM BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SPAIN**



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More info: otc.etiopia@aecid.es

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/xotSutrFkhSEdcUz9>

Prior registration is required only for new participants

Title: Situation of Intensive Care Units in the COVID-19 epidemic

Objective: This presentation aims to analyze the situation of the sick in ICUs and their treatment, as well as to determine the serious factors and intermediate care strategies to curb the evolutionary course of the disease. Through clinical cases, we will try to collect the treatments and forms of action that we have so far used in a practical way.

Participants: Ethiopian specialist doctors, involved in facing the current COVID19 pandemic and working in public health facilities in Ethiopia. Ministry of Health team and public health workers members will be also welcome.



Speaker:

- Dra. Alejandra Bustos, Specialist in Intensive Medicine. Intensive Medicine Service, Virgen de la Salud Hospital of Toledo. Master's Degree in Cooperation and Master's Degree in International Relations. Collaborator of Health Support Organizations.

GENERAL CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The global situation caused by the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak of the disease called COVID-19 was declared an international pandemic by WHO on 11 March 2020.

The development of the disease, once prevention and confinement measures are not sufficient, presents different clinical tables, ranging from asymptomatic cases, mild respiratory symptoms, to severe bilateral pneumonia that requires hospitalization and specialized care in 20% of cases, reaching 6% a critical condition that requires assisted ventilation in resuscitation services and intensive care.

Access to adequate clinical management of severe (and moderate) patients in hospitals in the respective countries will be critical to reducing patient mortality and the overall impact of the pandemic.

AECID partner countries, particularly where Health is a priority sector, call for collaboration to implement their Contingency Plans to address, bearing in mind that health services must continue to respond to the usual needs.

The development of the disease in Spain and the response of its Health System, severely affected by this health emergency, produces and day by day a great experience in the management of the cases that provides relevant evidence in the management of the disease, which can be shared with other countries whose National Health Systems are still at an early stage of its approach.

In addition, AECID has since 2015 implemented Specialized Medical Training and Assistance Support Programs in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Niger, Bolivia, Mauritania, and other countries in preparation, responding to each country's National Health Strategies, with the aim of increasing its capacity for specialized medical training and access to hospitalized specialist care, and to universal health coverage SDG 3.8. The development of these programs has established a frank dialogue between professionals of the Spanish Health System and partner countries, as well as with their Health Institutions.

With an estimated population of 114 million in 2020, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa ranking 12th in the world. Ethiopia is engaged in rapid and comprehensive development activities to transit from poverty to sustainable and reliable growth and prosperity. By doing so, the country has registered achieved most of the health sector Millennium Development Goals and now thriving to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. While the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia is struggling to meet the global health agenda being guided by the National Health Policy, the 20 years Visioning document and the Health Sector Development Program and detailed Strategies for specific programs, Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) is affecting the world. Since Ethiopia reported the first COVID-19 case on March 15, 2020, over 15, 000 tests are done on suspects, 126 cases are identified, 50 cases recovered from the disease and 3 deceased till April 28, 2020. Though the cases load appeared low at the moment, trajectories show that of the total population approximately 11,000,000 persons (10%) will develop symptomatic infection, over a period of 2-3 months. Of these cases; 1,650,000 (15%) will seek healthcare, out of which 330,000 (20%) would require hospital admission and 82,500 (5%) would be admitted to the intensive care unit. Whilst this huge burden is being anticipated, the total hospital beds of the country are only 29,748 and the ICU capacities and ventilator are only 341 and 173, respectively. This implies that the ICU number and ventilator at hand are far less than the expected demand. To mitigate this gap Ministry of Health is



working on make-shift by establishing 34 treatment centers each having 400 bed capacity nationally- of these 5-10% will be ICU beds.

In this context of a health emergency, it is proposed to incorporate within the framework of the programs an immediate additional component of remote technical collaboration, and exchange of learned lessons to contribute to the management of patients with evidence-based COVID-19, drawing on the experience gained by Spanish professionals, and who have participated in the development of the Programs in each country, which also provide knowledge of the context of health services and hospitals in partner countries, and already maintain an exchange of knowledge and experience on a regular basis with their colleagues working in them.

Methodology

Several virtual sessions of exchange of knowledge and experiences on prioritized topics, in the format of interactive forum at a distance between Spanish professionals and Ethiopian specialists, focused on analysis and discussion on key points for the approach of COVID-19 defined by the Ministry of Health and their professionals.

The sessions (weekly) would begin with presentations in which Spanish professionals share with their Ethiopian counterparts' experiences in the topics defined in the framework of the management of COVID-19, followed by the experience by Ethiopian, followed by a turn for dialogue and exchange between participants.

The possibility of systematizing the contents of the conferences will be valued in order to improve protocols and official guidelines.

The speakers will be specialists of the Spanish health system who have experience in the approach to the pandemic, and know the African health systems, prioritizing the participation of those involved in the specialized medical training program. On the part of the health systems of Ethiopia, medical specialists responsible for specialized medical training, and other participants working in the country's hospitals concerned.

The participants will be specialists doctors, involved in facing the current COVID19 pandemic and working in public health facilities in Ethiopia. Ministry of Health team members will be also invited. The participants of the last edition of the program will be prioritized.