IN 2020

The year 2020 was characterised by the Covid-19 pandemic, causing restrictions on movement and reduced availability of air flights, which in the first phase resulted in a major reduction in the presence of our operators at Wolisso Hospital, where it wasn’t until August that international staff were restored to support critical services, such as internal medicine and paediatrics. Moreover, as in many countries, the effects of the restrictions in Ethiopia meant admissions to the hospital were significantly reduced, resulting in reduced revenue.

The challenging financial situation had to be addressed through the use of extraordinary aid, which was made available to support the wage increase for health workers as decided by the country’s health authorities. Despite these difficult circumstances, in 2020 the new neonatology department at Wolisso Hospital was completed. The effects of the pandemic have also been felt, albeit to a lesser extent, in the other more isolated regions where Doctors with Africa CUAMM operates, which faced difficulties in implementing activities on schedule. In South Omo Zone, the maternal and child health intervention continued, with support for Jinka Hospital and Turmi Hospital. In the Gambella region, the project to reduce unequal access to health services, particularly for mothers and children ended at the end of the year in the Gambella region, and work continued for South Sudanese refugees at the Nguenyyiel camp to improve infrastructure, equipment, staff training and the referral system. Project activities continued to develop national neonatal intensive care guidelines, and improved diabetes services in 15 national hospitals in partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, the Ethiopian Society of Paediatrics, the Ethiopian Diabetes Association and St. Paul’s University Hospital in Addis Ababa and the Tulu Bolo District Hospital in the Southwest Shewa Zone. In spite of the difficulties tied to the pandemic, a health intervention was carried out in Harawa District in Somali Region, in collaboration with a local NGO for infrastructural improvements and staff training at the District health centre. The political situation in the country – with various hostilities between different ethnic groups – has worsened since November amid the crisis in the Tigray region. On top of this is an economic situation where the currency has gradually devalued by 33% over the year and the inflation rate stands at 20.16%.
CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH
- 36,275 prenatal visits
- 869 transfers for obstetric emergencies
- 15,095 attended births
- 177,282 visits of children under 5 years of age
- 32,070 vaccinations

NUTRITION
- 515 for severe acute malnutrition

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- 92,836 patients treated for malaria
- 1,282 patients treated for tuberculosis
- 1,629 patients undergoing antiretroviral treatment

ONGOING TRAINING
- 158 community agents
- 335 nurses and midwives
- 179 doctors
- 594 other

CHRONIC DISEASES
- 13,195 visits for diabetes
- 10,285 visits for hypertension
- 172 patients with heart disease
- 24 patients with cerebral ischemia

SURGERY SERVICES
- 3,144 major surgeries, including 364 orthopaedic surgeries
- 3,610 minor surgeries, including 349 orthopaedic surgeries
- 2,108 physiotherapy sessions

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE
- 11,660 visits for children < age 5
- 233 attended births
- 1,401 pre-natal visits

WHERE WE WORK
- Gambella: 2 Hospitals, 6 health centres, 140,120 population served, 1 refugee camp, 90,506 refugees
- Somali: 1 Health centre, 1 District, 197,719 population served
- South Omo Zone: 2 Hospitals, 2 Districts, 560,603 population served

RESULTS ACHIEVED

Activities and results/Ethiopia