



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

In 2025, Hospice Ethiopia continued to respond to the growing need for quality palliative care across Ethiopia through service delivery, capacity building, advocacy, and partnerships.



MESSAGE FROM

DR. EPHREM ABATHUN

Executive Director Of Hospice Ethiopia

2025 was a year of both progress and adaptation, as Hospice Ethiopia remained committed to ensuring dignified, holistic care for people facing life-limiting illness.

- Despite ongoing system and policy challenges, Hospice Ethiopia sustained and strengthened its services through innovation, partnerships, and staff commitment.
- Investments in people, partnerships, and learning remained central to our work.
- We are deeply grateful to our patients, families, staff, partners, and donors who made this work possible.



ABOUT US

Hospice Ethiopia is a local non-governmental organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life of patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families through the provision of Palliative care services.

VISION

To ensure all patients and their families facing a life-threatening illness have access to palliative care services throughout Ethiopia.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide culturally appropriate palliative/hospice care, train healthcare professionals, and support the development of palliative care in Ethiopia.

Our work is guided by the principles of holistic, patient-centred, and family-focused palliative care.

We address physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs through integrated service delivery, training, and advocacy.

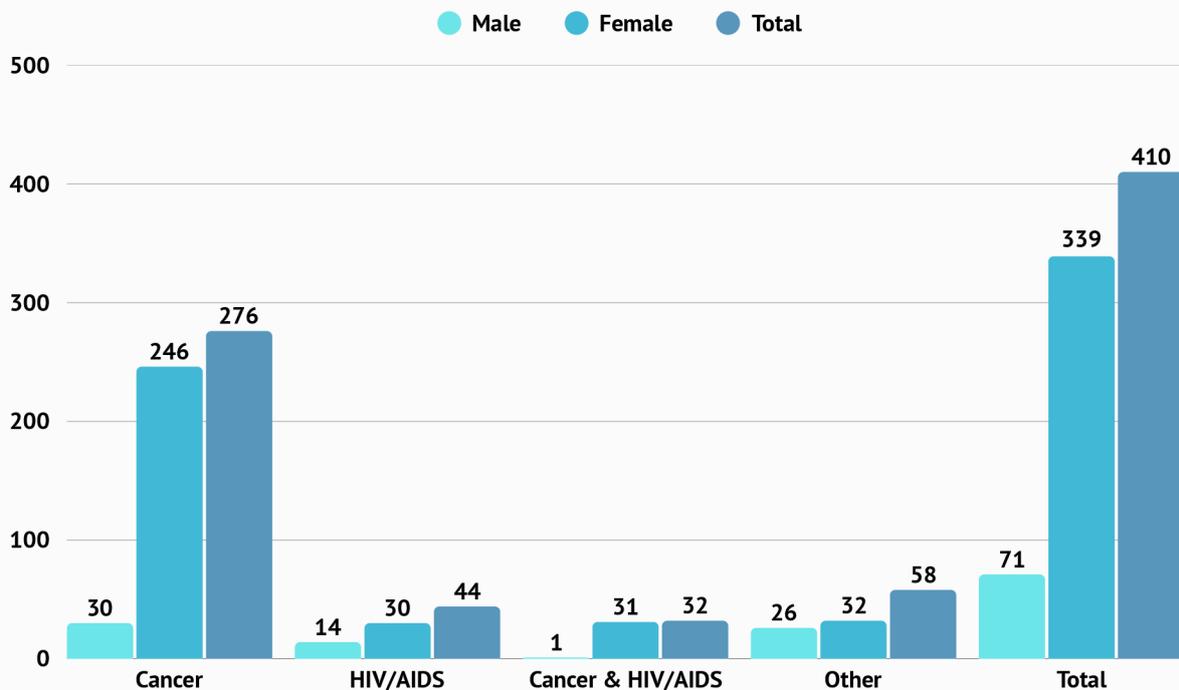
Our Program Activities

Palliative care service delivery through Homebased care

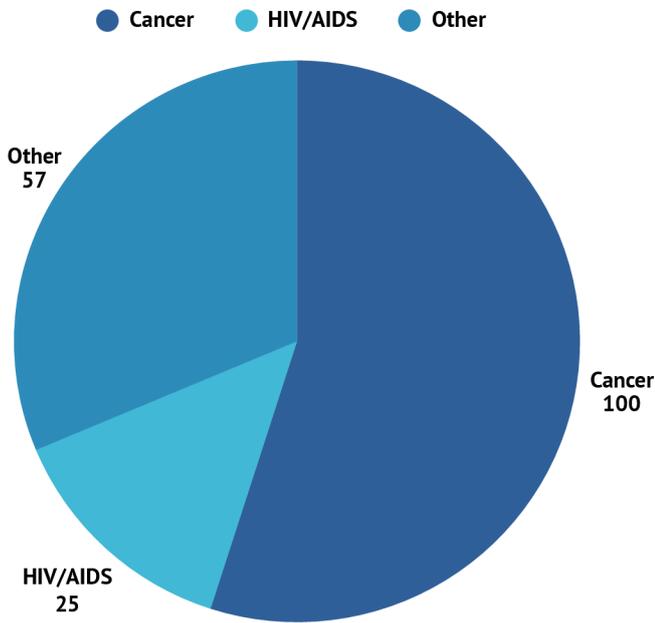
Home-based palliative care remained a cornerstone of Hospice Ethiopia's service delivery approach. Through regular home visits, trained nurses and care providers offered compassionate, patient-centered care in familiar and dignified environments. Services focused on symptom assessment and management, psychosocial and spiritual support, and guidance for family caregivers.

In 2025, a total of **410** patients received home-based palliative care services across all subcities in Addis Ababa. These patients received services such as pain and symptom management, medication support, medical supplies, wound care, and psychological and social support.

Patient Statistics_Home based Care

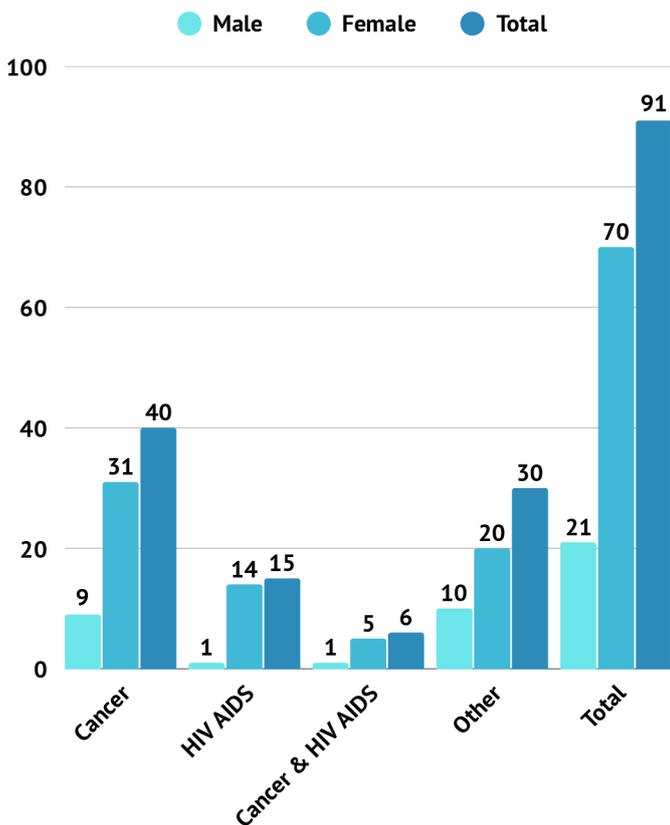


Medical Supplies



Medical supplies were provided as part of the holistic home-based care. These supplies include colostomy bags, adult diapers, gauze, normal saline, and sanitary pads. In addition to these medical supplies we also provided oxygen cylinder assistance for patients who need it by lending the cylinder. In 2025, 184 (45%) received medical supplies.

Sanitary Material Support



Furthermore, sanitary material support, including liquid and solid soaps, was provided to support the hygiene of our patients. During this reporting period, 91 patients have received this support.

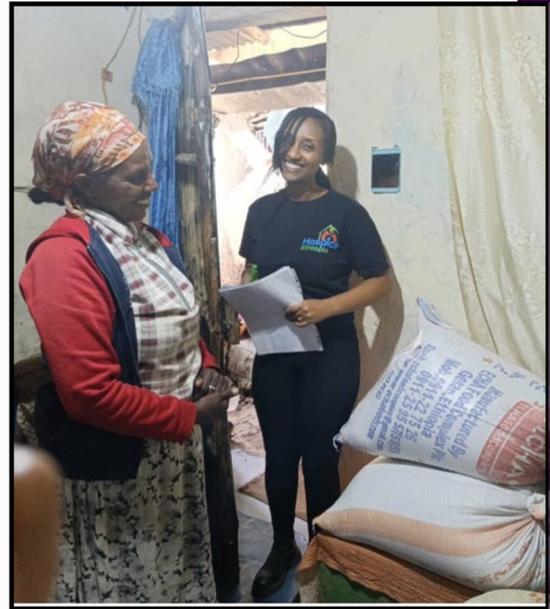
Food support

Hospice Ethiopia is strongly grounded in the core principle of holistic care and the management of total pain. More than 90% of our patients are economically disadvantaged, and this financial burden contributes significantly to their suffering.

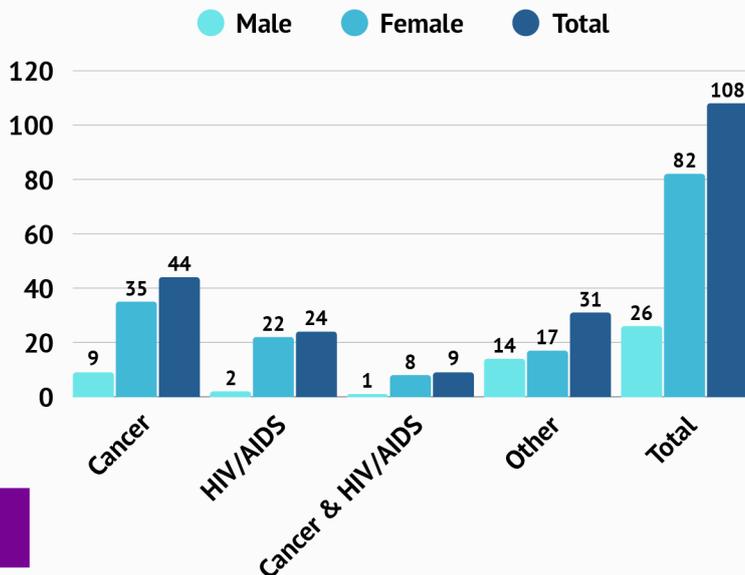
For many families, the cost of long-term treatment for cancer and other life-limiting illnesses had exhausted available resources, pushing them further into poverty.

In response, we provided basic food support as one component of home-based palliative care. Food support included essential household items such as cooking oil, teff, lentils, and rice, and was provided

In 2025, food support was provided to 108 patients and households.



Food Support Statistics



Financial Support

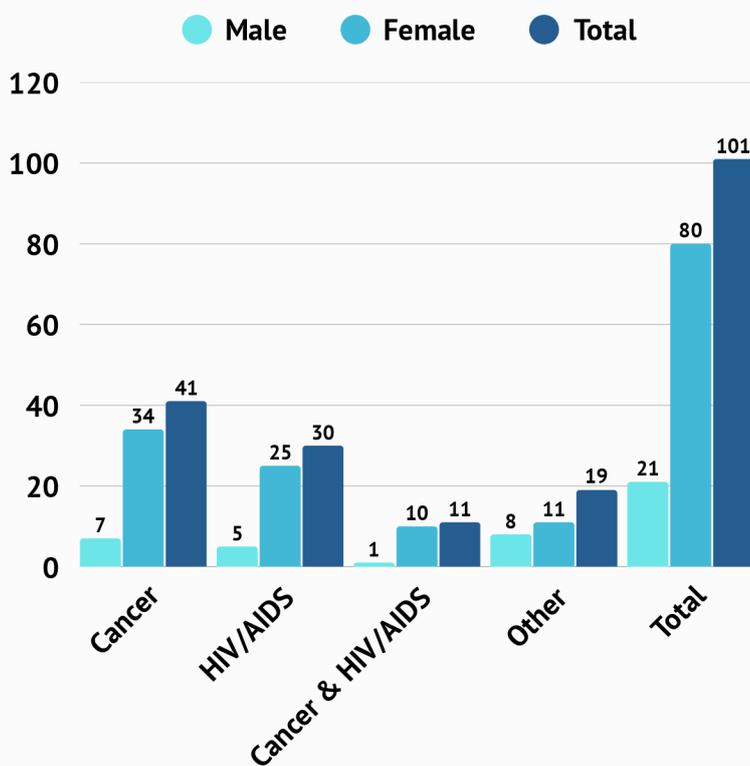
To mitigate the financial burden associated with life-limiting illness, Hospice Ethiopia provided limited financial assistance to patients and families facing extreme hardship.

This support aimed to address immediate, care-related needs such as transportation to health facilities, basic household necessities, and other essential costs that could otherwise limit access to care.

During the reporting period, Hospice Ethiopia provided monthly financial support to **101** patients and families.



Financial Support



Your support has been a lifeline for me and my wife as we navigate life as elderly individuals without a pension. We both struggle to make ends meet, and your assistance has come at a crucial time. The financial support helps us purchase medications that are not available through your services, covers our transportation needs, and pays for our iddir (indigenous associations that support families during times of death, assisting with burial processes and providing cultural support). Thank you for your kindness.

DAY CARE



As part of its commitment to psychosocial wellbeing, we implemented a bi-monthly day care programme providing structured group-based support for patients and families.

These sessions created safe and supportive spaces where participants could share experiences, receive emotional support, and build coping skills.

The day care programme also facilitated peer connection, reduced isolation, and strengthened patients' and caregivers' ability to navigate the emotional challenges associated with serious illness. Group activities were complemented by health education and facilitated discussions tailored to participants' needs.

In this reporting period we conducted day care sessions, reaching **24** patients and caregivers.



“ *It allowed me to connect with people and develop friendships. Also, the coffee ceremony and lunch program feel very good.*

Daycare Participant

Memorial Service



In 2025, Hospice Ethiopia introduced a Memorial Day as part of its commitment to patient-centered and family-focused palliative care.

The program honored patients who passed away after living with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses and acknowledged the families who cared for them through their journey.

The Memorial Day created a safe and compassionate space for remembrance and grief support, bringing together seven bereaved families, religious leaders from Orthodox, Protestant, and Muslim faiths, and our team. The memorial event was attended by **10** patient families.

This initiative strengthened our holistic approach by recognizing bereavement support as an essential component of quality palliative care.

“ I encourage you to continue this program, as it provides valuable guidance from our religious leaders. Thank you so much for all of your support. May God reward you for your good deeds. Lastly, I hope to see Hospice Ethiopia expand and reach more people in need.

Patient Family



Training and Mentorship

Strengthening the capacity of healthcare professionals remains central to Hospice Ethiopia's mission to improve access to palliative care. In 2025, we focused on equipping healthcare providers with practical knowledge, skills, and ongoing mentorship to support the integration of palliative care within existing health services.

We conducted palliative care training for healthcare professionals from different public hospitals in Addis Ababa and the regions.

By strengthening frontline capacity, we contributed to improving access to palliative care services beyond its direct service delivery.

In 2025, 4 training projects were completed, reaching 100 healthcare professionals from 5 hospitals and 1 health center in Addis Ababa and 1 regional referral hospital.

Recognizing that training alone is not sufficient for sustained change, we provide

post-training mentorship to support healthcare professionals in translating knowledge into practice.

Mentorship focused on guiding the palliative care team as they implement palliative care services within their respective facilities and addressing challenges encountered in real-world settings.

Through regular follow-up, experience sharing, and technical guidance, Hospice Ethiopia supported healthcare professionals in strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration, improving patient care pathways, and adapting palliative care practices to their local context.

During the reporting period, mentorship support was provided to 6 facilities or healthcare teams. During the mentorship of Jijiga Sheik at Yabarae Hospital, our donors, HEUK Sue and Jamie, joined us for a three-month post-training impact assessment. The results showed that knowledge retention was evident, and we observed systemic changes. Overall, the findings were encouraging.



100 healthcare professionals trained



6 Hospitals & 1 health center



Training for healthcare professionals from Alert Comprehensive Specialized Hospital and Yekatit 12 Hospital.



Training for 25 healthcare professionals from St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, St. Peter's Specialized Hospital, and Churchill Health Center.



Jijiga | Palliative Care Training at Sheikh Hassan Yabare Referral Hospital



EPEC Ethiopia Training Project: A collaboration between Northwestern University, staff from Stanford, Addis Ababa University, and Hospice Ethiopia to strengthen palliative care training in Ethiopia. 25 residents from Addis Ababa University were trained in palliative care.

Advocacy, Partnerships & Systems Strengthening

In 2025, Hospice Ethiopia continued to enhance palliative care through advocacy, strategic partnerships, and system-level engagement. These efforts focused on increasing awareness, strengthening collaboration, and amplifying palliative care voices within the health system and the wider community.

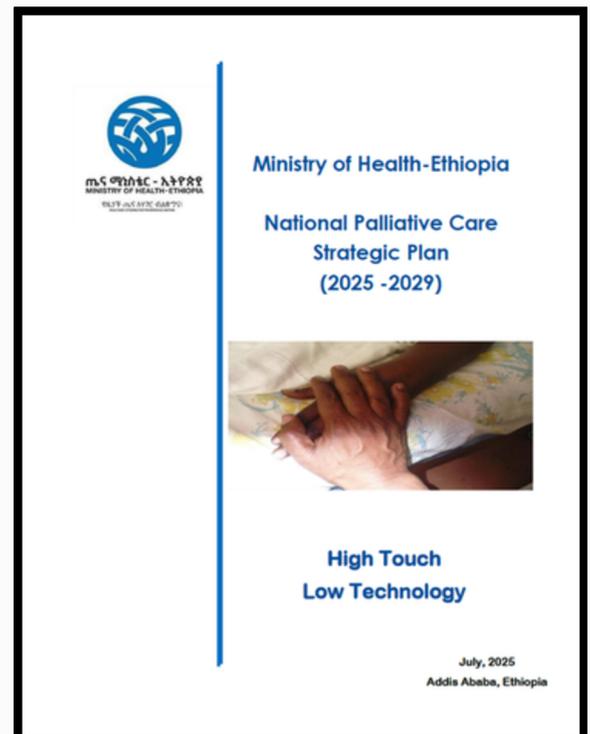
Policy Engagement & National Systems Strengthening

In 2025, we contributed to key national initiatives aimed at strengthening the integration and sustainability of palliative care within Ethiopia's health system.

Our organization actively participated in national and sub-national technical working groups, providing technical expertise informed by years of service delivery and training experience.

Hospice Ethiopia is a member of the Technical Working Group that contributed to the development of Ethiopia's National Five-Year Palliative Care Strategic Plan, which was officially launched by the Ministry of Health.

This strategic plan provides a national framework to guide the expansion and institutionalization of palliative care services across the country.





At the sub-national level, Hospice Ethiopia also contributed to the development of the Primary Health Care Palliative Care Guideline led by the Addis Ababa Health Bureau.

Our organization participated in both the technical development of the guideline and the official launch of the program, supporting efforts to integrate palliative care into primary health care services.

Through these engagements, Hospice Ethiopia played a key role in shaping policy, strengthening national ownership, and supporting system-level change to deliver sustainable palliative care.

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

Hospice Ethiopia marked World Hospice and Palliative Care Day as a key advocacy and stakeholder engagement platform. The event brought together healthcare professionals, partners, and community representatives to raise awareness, mobilise support, and highlight the importance of palliative care for patients and families facing serious illness.

Through this annual celebration, Hospice Ethiopia contributed to amplifying palliative care voices, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and promoting collective action to improve access to quality palliative care services.

We were honored to have Dr. Lelisa, Advisor to H.E. Dr. Dereje Duguma, State Minister of Health, deliver the opening remark on behalf of the Ministry of Health.



Awareness-Raising Activities

Hospice Ethiopia conducted an awareness-raising session for health center Health extension workers (HEWs) and community volunteers to strengthen their understanding of palliative care principles, referral pathways, and the role of primary health care in delivering palliative care services.

In 2025, awareness-raising sessions were conducted for 1 health center (Ledeta Health Center), reaching 14 participants.



Partnership Visits

Throughout the year, we hosted partnership and learning visits from donors and collaborators.

These visits provided opportunities for shared learning, reflection on programme implementation, and strengthened mutual accountability. Partners engaged directly with staff and observed service delivery and capacity-building activities in practice.

In addition, our donors HEUK and Helen brought the much-needed medical supplies, including colostomy bags and other essential palliative care materials.



Pictured above is Hospice Ethiopia UK and Ethiopia Hospice Care teams delivering supplies to staff at Hospice Ethiopia

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In 2025, Hospice Ethiopia strengthened international partnerships through various engagements across the United States.

Executive Director Dr. Ephrem Abathun, alongside long-standing partners and various board members of the newly established U.S.-based nonprofit, Ethiopia Hospice Care, conducted visits in Massachusetts, Georgia, Washington, Nevada, and California.

These engagements provided valuable opportunities to raise awareness about palliative and hospice care needs in Ethiopia, strengthened existing partnerships, and mobilize both financial and in-kind support for Hospice Ethiopia's expanding programs.

Our Executive Director participated in community meetings, home-based gatherings, and fundraising events where Hospice Ethiopia's mission, impact, and future priorities were shared with supporters, board members, healthcare professionals, and diaspora communities.



Pictured above, event and presentation in Las Vegas, Nevada



Pictured above, event and presentation in Saugus, Massachusetts



Pictured above, event and presentation in Sacramento, California

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

A key component of the visit included engagement with Snowline Health, a long-standing institutional partner that has supported Hospice Ethiopia's nursing workforce in Addis Ababa. Meetings with Snowline Health reinforced shared commitment to compassionate end-of-life care and sustained collaboration to support service delivery in Ethiopia.



The visit also included participation in fundraising and awareness-raising events organised by Ethiopia Hospice Care, including a fundraising dinner in Scottsdale, Georgia, which brought together supporters, board members, and health professionals to mobilize resources and expand the organization's supporter base.



Pictured above, presentation at Snowline Health, Sacramento CA

Through these international engagements, Hospice Ethiopia strengthened relationships with existing partners, expanded its visibility among new supporters, and reinforced its collective commitment to ensuring access to compassionate palliative and hospice care for patients and families in Ethiopia.



Pictured above, presentation in Scottsdale, Georgia

Strengthening Hospice Ethiopia's Capacity

Hospice Ethiopia recognizes that a skilled, supported, and continually learning workforce is central to delivering high-quality, compassionate palliative care. In 2025, our organization continued to invest in the professional development of its nursing and multidisciplinary team through further education and experience-sharing opportunities.

In 2025, three nurses were supported to pursue advanced training in palliative care:

- Nurse Abenezer and Dr. Mkonen from St. Paul completed a nine-month certification course in pediatric palliative care at Patch Academy. As part of this professional development pathway, they also participated in an experience-sharing visit to Hospice Uganda, gaining exposure to regional best practices in pediatric palliative care delivery. Dr. Ephrem also completed this 9-month course in preparation to lead the pediatric palliative care services that Hospice Ethiopia will start in 2026.
- Nurse Flagot is currently pursuing a master's degree in palliative care at Makerere University, Uganda, further strengthening Hospice Ethiopia's clinical expertise in specialist palliative care.
- Nurse Kalkidan, Clinical Department Head, is pursuing a Higher Diploma in Palliative Care at Nairobi Hospice, supporting advanced clinical leadership and quality improvement within the organization.
- Our finance and admin manager, Gulilat, went to Hospice Africa Uganda for peer exchange and experience sharing.

These investments in continuing professional education contributed to strengthening the quality of care provided to patients and families, while expanding Hospice Ethiopia's internal clinical expertise and capacity.

“

I recently completed a 9-month online course in pediatric palliative care, deepening my understanding of how to support children and their families through pain and compassion. I am motivated to begin providing pediatric palliative care services in our organization.

Nurse Abenezer

I am currently pursuing my master's degree in palliative care at Makerere University in Uganda. The teaching methods and educational process here are unique and promote systems-level thinking and critical thinking. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute in various capacities.

Nurse Filagot

“I have recently commenced the Advanced Diploma in Nairobi, which marks an important step in my ongoing professional development. This program helps to strengthen my theoretical knowledge and practical skills, particularly in delivering quality palliative care.”

***Nurse Kalkidan,
Clinical Dept. Head***

Safeguarding training

To ensure safe, ethical, and patient-centered care, Hospice Ethiopia prioritized safeguarding and clinical skills training for its staff. Six staff members participated in the safeguarding training. Trainings covered topics such as patient protection, professional boundaries, and ethical practice. This training reinforced organizational standards for safe and dignified care.



Knowledge Exchange & Global Engagement



In 2025, Hospice Ethiopia engaged in international knowledge exchange and global learning platforms to learn from global best practices while showcasing Ethiopian-led palliative care initiatives.

During the reporting year, Hospice Ethiopia was represented at the 8th International African Palliative Care Conference by Dr. Ephrem Abathun, Executive Director, and Wengelawit Yared, Program Manager.

They presented a poster abstract on the development of a spiritual care training manual and the training of clergy, highlighting the organization's experience in integrating spiritual care into palliative care services.

Our donors from HEUK, Sue and Jamie, also attended and made an oral presentation on Hospice Ethiopia Audit: symptom burden and access to oral Morphine.

Dr Ephrem also attended the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association conference in Nanaimo, British Columbia, in October 2025 to network, learn, and explore potential partnerships. He found the presentations highly informative, particularly the sessions on spiritual care and caregiver support, which he described as insightful.

These engagements provided valuable exposure to emerging evidence, peer learning, and practical approaches that informed Hospice Ethiopia's service delivery, training, and advocacy efforts.

Our Donors & Partners

Hospice Ethiopia extends its sincere appreciation to the donors, partners, and supporters who made our work possible in 2025. Through financial support, technical collaboration, in-kind contributions, and shared commitment, these partnerships enabled us to deliver compassionate palliative care services, strengthen health systems, and support patients and families facing serious illness.

We are deeply grateful for the trust, collaboration, and solidarity of all those who stand with us in advancing access to quality palliative care in Ethiopia.

