

# Health Care in Somaliland



**Former British Somaliland Protectorate** lies between  
former French Djibouti and former Italian Somalia



- **I first returned home to Somaliland when on a UN fact-finding mission in June 1991**
- **Findings:**
- **95% of Hargeisa was destroyed in civil war.**
- **Hargeisa had less than 10 thousand inhabitants**
- **City was strewn with landmines & war debris**
- **No potable water, no food, no health care**
- **250,000 had died in the war**
- **One million of our people were in refugee camps in Ethiopia and wherever else they could find refuge**









# Shock.... thoughts ....options....

- What can I do in this situation?
- How can I help ?
- Should I go and spend my retirement years in comfort somewhere else and as far away as possible?

My decision:

- I am Midwife, I will go home and build a hospital for the women and children



But before I can help anybody, I need to make many personal adjustments.

I must be sure to make a total commitment.

I cannot look back on my previous life and life-styles. No room for half-measures, it's all or nothing.































# The Edna Adan Hospital

Opened in March 2002

*Edna Adan Maternity & Teaching Hospital opens in 2002*



**Between 9th March 2002 and 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014,  
The hospital has achieved the following:**

- Delivered over 15,682 babies
- 13,315 were normal deliveries
- 1797 were C. Sections
- **Performed thousands of other operations**
- Treated 16,703 patients in the General Wards
- Treated 143,333 patients in out-patients clinics
- Performed 50,000 prenatal & postnatal exams
- Performed 210,766 Laboratory tests
- Vaccinated 20,000 women & children
- Fought FGM and conducted study on FGM

# Trained the following Health Workers:

- 162 Nurses
- 32 Critical care nurses
- 75 Post Basic Midwives ( 50 more in training)
- 103 Direct entry Midwives ( 40 more in training)
- 161 Medical Laboratory Technicians
- 297 Pharmacy technicians
- 8 Health Officers
- 7 Anaesthesia Technicians ( 16 in training )
- Awarded 21 Midwives with Bachelor of Science Degree



# University

- Since two years, we have opened the Edna Adan University where we offer training to 800 students in:
- Nursing and Midwifery
- Laboratory and Pharmacy
- Public Health
- Dental technology
- Anesthesia
- We have also welcomed 145 International Volunteers, Interns and Experts

# The Somaliland Solution

- With our limited resources, we know that country-wide coverage with doctors and graduate midwives will not be possible for a long time. Our choice is a low-tech, low-cost and time-effective solution which is to

**Train as many Midwives now !**

- My target for Somaliland is 1000
- My hope for Africa is 1 million Midwives !

# Midwives lower MMR

- When the national MMR for Somaliland is  
1600/100, 000

The training of midwives has helped us lower the MMR rate at our hospital to less than 400/100,000







## Training Department:

- 30 General Nurses graduated in 2003 and
- 29 General Nurses graduated in 2008



Second group of Nurses graduate from Edna Adan Maternity & Teaching Hospital, 2006



# Somaliland Midwives



Each Community Midwife costs \$5000 to train over a period of 24 months ( \$7 a day )

They become educated women who are dedicated to their cause and who are trained to perform clean and safe deliveries.

Above all, they can identify major problems to refer in good time to a higher level health facility.

They are the best placed to ensure the survival of the newborn



Cost of one of these is said to be around \$9 Million.  
That would train 2000 Midwives for my country !



Post-Basic Midwives take 4 years to train.

50 in training now.







# Second Batch of Laboratory Graduating from Edna Adan Hospital





# Achievements of the Hospital

- Setting high standard of patient care
- Improved International cooperation promoting links with hospitals in Africa, Australia, Europe and the USA
- Employment opportunity for 127 employees and improved income for their families thus contributing to poverty reduction initiatives mainly for women in Somaliland
- Empowering women to take Leadership roles and positions of responsibility within their community
- Offers employment to women to help them economically
- **Conducting studies on harmful Traditional Practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and fighting the practice on a national as well as international levels.**

# Beautiful and healthy Twins





26-11-14

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# Example of a Surgical set





# **The Somaliland experience, a lesson for the world.**

- If Somaliland which receives the least support from the International community can provide safe and essential surgery and anesthesia, then anybody can do it !

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