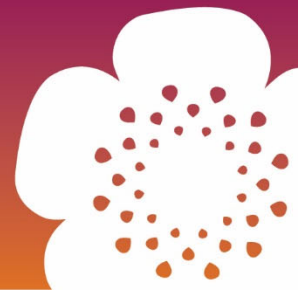


Celebrating EngenderHealth Women Leaders in Ethiopia

Stories collected by EngenderHealth's Ethiopia Office for International Women's Day, 8 March 2021



Introduction

As the world convenes around the theme of “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world” for International Women’s Day 2021, EngenderHealth’s Ethiopia office celebrates the accomplishments of three women leaders on the team. Read their stories below.

Seblewongel Endashaw Bealem - Senior Director for Finance and Operations



Seblewongel Endashaw Bealem is the Senior Director for Finance and Operations in EngenderHealth’s Ethiopia Office. A member of senior management for more than a decade, Seblewongel contributes significantly to the success of EngenderHealth’s work to improve access to high-quality reproductive health services for millions of Ethiopians.

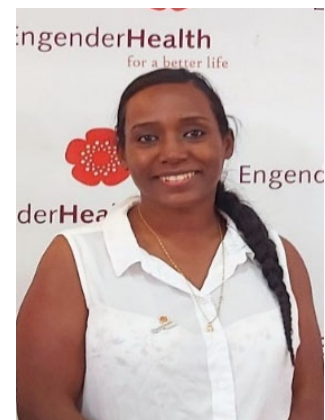
Equipped with a Master’s degree in Business Administration, Seblewongel has a shining track record of managing complex logistics, human resources, and multi-million dollar projects efficiently and effectively. She encourages young women to be confident, to know their purpose, and to smash gender stereotypes. She wants women to know what they are capable of and believe they can make their dreams come true. She encourages all to focus on their interests, know their short- and long-term goals, and work each day to accomplish those goals.

Metasebia Admassu Joffe - Regional Team Leader, Hawassa Program Office

“This journey of my life, being a mom and a leader, I believe, has enabled me to internalize the various challenges (including sexual and reproductive health issues) women experience and keep motivated to better serve my community, especially women,” says Metasebia Admassu Joffe, Regional Team Leader, Hawassa Program Office. “I always encourage women and girls to be strong, to come forward and participate in various training sessions or meetings—with their little babies if they have to; not to remain behind because of pregnancy or motherhood. I tell them from my personal experience that being a mom is not the end of their dreams but the beginning of another more fulfilling journey.”

Metasebia’s message to girls and women: “I believe there are women and girls who have experienced a very challenging life path. But I tell you one thing; what does not kill you makes you stronger!”

Metasebia’s message to EngenderHealth: Thank you for walking the talk!



Meskerem Demisse Setegne - Regional Team Leader and Project Director



Meskerem Demisse Setegne started her career as a midwife nurse, providing care for laboring mothers and for newborns. She brought that experience and passion to EngenderHealth, where she assists district health offices and public health facilities region to ensure equitable access to high-quality reproductive health services. With Meskerem's guidance, the facilities she supports have made significant strides, and as a result, Meskerem has been promoted to new positions with growing responsibilities. She currently serves as Project Director for a SIDA-supported project focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights for young women and girls in Addis Ababa, including addressing sexual and gender-based violence. Of her career, Meskerem says, "The three D's got me where I am now: Dedication, Determination, and Discipline."

Meskerem's message to girls for International Women's Day is: "Do not wait for someone to come and change something...Get up every day and choose to give your best in whatever you are doing, step up in your game, and always strive to be a better version of yourself."

