



World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) 2009 Celebrations

A Brief Summary of activities conducted in Ethiopia

Ethiopia Celebrated World Blood Donor Day for the Sixth Time

June 14, 2009, Addis Ababa

The 2009 World Blood Donor Day has been celebrated colorfully for two consecutive days in the capital city of the country and in about five regions, under the theme *"Achieving 100 per cent Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD)"*.

The International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Society of Blood Donor Organizations (FIODS) have dedicated June 14 as World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) starting from 2004. The purpose of celebrating the day is to give thanks to millions of Voluntary non-remunerated Blood Donors worldwide for their Humanitarian Service expressed in their donation of the precious gift of blood.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society National Blood Bank Service celebrated the day colorfully on June 13 and 14, 2009 with the theme of

13 June 2009:

On the eve of the day there was a huge turnout for voluntary blood donation and about 200 units of blood has been collected (at the central blood bank) only from the regular voluntary blood donors. As the same, time a press conference was also held. The press conference was given jointly by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Federal Ministry of Health and WHO Country office, and on the press conference due attention was paid to the role of voluntary blood donors while addressing the challenges of a safe blood program in developing countries where, as they plainly disclosed, only 40% of the world's blood supply is available although 80% of the world's population lives, and the prevalence of transfusion transmissible infections is at higher rate. Media coverage (Newspaper, Radios, and Television) with regard to WBDD celebration was so tremendous and astonishing that there was even live transmission via Radios in a form of News and Interviews.

14 June 2009:

The day was celebrated for the sixth time both at the national and international level. On the next day, 14 June 2009, about 1500 people comprising of invited guests, voluntary non-remunerated regular blood donors and representatives of various institutions, delegates of partners, media personnel, Red Cross Youth Clubs, Club25 members, Red Cross staffs and blood bank partners accompanied by the Police Marsh Band were marching from Meskel Square to Black Lion General Teaching Hospital with the theme -“Walk for Life”.



At the point from where the walk was starting, Dr. Girma Tesfaye, Director of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, National Blood Bank Service had made a welcoming as well as an introductory remark.

Following the director's introductory remark, World Health Organization (WHO) country representative emphasized the significance of voluntary blood donations towards a national safe blood program.

Finally the Club 25 president made an appeal for the youth of the nation to stand up by their side and become volunteer blood donors to save the nation.

The walk program was officially opened by the State Minister's representative exciting speech, the core point of which reflected and undoubtedly demonstrated the Government's commitment towards the provision of adequate and safe blood and blood products nationwide. The program was made so colorful by the Police Marsh Band and the Club 25 youth.



At the Black Lion General Teaching Hospital: the hospital's temporary blood bank, the newly opened National Cardiac Center and patients in different wards who were getting blood transfusion has been visited by the participants of the programme.

Thank you messages sent by health institutions (Governmental and Private) were to the crowd. The content of the messages was almost the same in that all appreciated and forwarded a thank you note to both voluntary non-remunerated regular blood donors and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, National Blood Bank Service, for their humanitarian deed.

After the visit and explanations given by the hospital staffs, Dr. Girma appreciated and paid tribute to voluntary non remunerated regular blood donors, for their humanitarian and altruistic deeds, without whom the realization of a safe blood initiative would be impossible.

At almost 01:00 P.M. the program came to an end.

