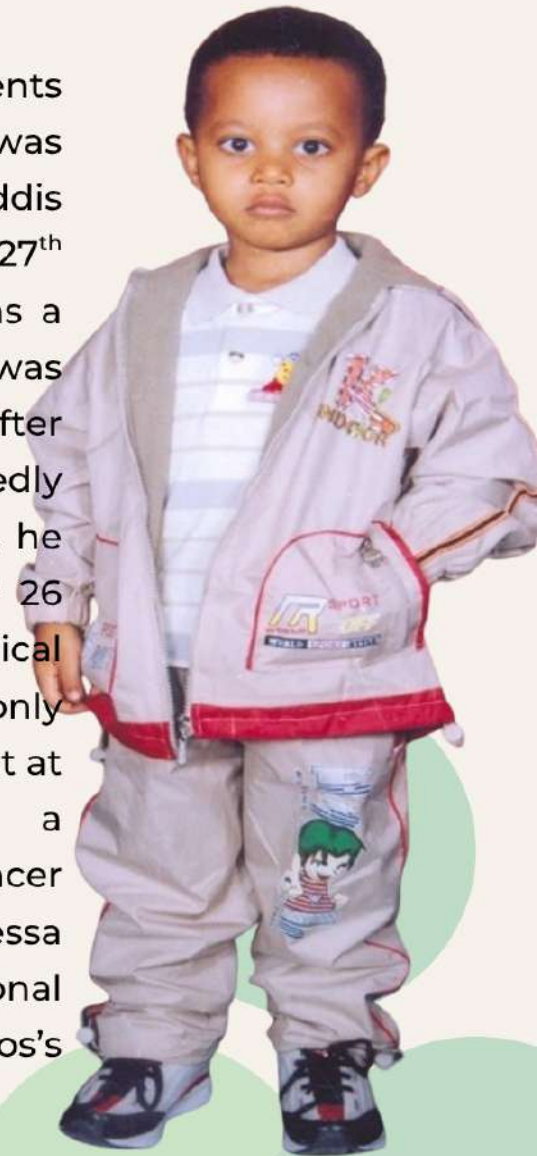


REMEMBERING MATHIWOS WONDU BEKELE

Mathiwos, the third and youngest son of his parents Mr. Wondu Bekele and Mrs. Amsale Beyene, was born on Sene 9, 1991 E.C (June 16, 1999 G.C), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Today we celebrate his 27th heavenly birthday. During his early age, he was a very healthy, energetic son and his growth was corresponding to his age. A few days after celebrating his second birthday, he un-expectedly became very ill, and after clinical investigation, he was confirmed to be ALL-type Leukemia. For 26 months, Mathiwos underwent extensive medical care at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, the only institution in Ethiopia providing cancer treatment at the time. Although the country lacked a well-developed structure for comprehensive cancer care, the dedicated medical faculty at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital gave their utmost professional commitment and thrived to restore Mathiwos's health.



Despite the tireless efforts of the medical team and the unwavering love of his family, Mathiws's leukemia relapsed after 22 months of intensive care. The limited state of cancer treatment in Ethiopia, the absence of essential therapies, inadequate medicine supply, and lack of advanced options became barriers to providing the further treatment he desperately needed.

During those difficult months of medical follow up, essential and expensive medicines were bought from abroad by the family of Mathiws. For a household living on modest means, the burden of affording such expensive treatments was overwhelming, underscoring the immense sacrifices they made in their fight to save him. As Mathiws's health continued to decline, particularly after the sudden relapse of his leukemia, the medical board at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital determined that further treatment abroad was the only viable option. With no advanced therapies available locally, they recommended a bone marrow transplant overseas. Following this decision, an extensive search was undertaken to identify a competent medical institution. Ultimately, the National Cancer Institute (NCI/NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, USA agreed to accept Mathiws for advanced care, including the critical bone marrow transplantation.

Mathiws was preparing to travel to Washington, D.C., for the much-needed treatment that offered renewed hope. Tragically, before this journey could take place, he passed away at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital on September 24, 2003. His untimely death left his family heartbroken. Despite their loss, they resolved to honor his memory by committing themselves to the fight against cancer in Ethiopia. This led to the establishment of the Mathiws Wondu Foundation in his memory.

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MWF was formally established on April 17, 2004, by 15 founding members, including three NGO directors, two medical specialists, two American citizens, and eight of Mathiwas's family and friends. What began humbly in the Mathiwas family home has since grown into a nationally renowned NGO at the forefront of the fight against cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Today, MWF has more than 1,500 members, 800 volunteers, and 43 permanent and contract staff. It is currently implementing 10 projects across Ethiopia, focused on strengthening prevention, diagnosis, and management of NCDs and their risk factors. To date, the foundation has supported over 5,000 patients and their families. In recognition of its contributions, MWF has received six international and three national awards in the past seven years.

National Contributions

List of support provided to the Ministry of Health and others.

Despite operating with limited resources, MWF has contributed significantly in Ethiopia's national response to the growing burden of NCDs. The foundation has provided vital support in the following areas:

Ministry of Health/MoH/ to develop and implement:

- **National Cancer Control Plan/NCCP/:** With the financial and technical support from Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon/GSK, MWF successfully recruited and seconded a Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Health and fully paid his salary for over three years and ten months. This initiative included the development and official launch of the National Cancer Control Plan (NCCP) for 2015-2020, the first of its kind in Ethiopia and one of the few costed and budgeted plans in Africa.

This plan laid the groundwork for the establishment of regional cancer centers in Mekelle, Gondar, Jimma, Hawassa, and Haromaya, as well as the procurement of six radiotherapy machines and approximately 1,500 cryotherapy units for the screening and treatment of cervical cancer. MWF also supported MoH to develop and officially launch the NCCP for 2025-2029.

- **National Childhood and Adolescent Cancer Control Plan/NCACCP/:** With financial and technical support from the American Academy of Pediatrics, MWF assisted the Ministry of Health in developing and implementing the National Childhood Cancer Control Plan (NCACCP). Although this plan lacked the necessary budget and faced challenges in implementation, it established a crucial foundation for standardized
- **NCDI Report:** With financial and technical support from Burgen University and PIH, along with a delegation secured from the Ministry of Health, MWF successfully implemented the Non Communicable Diseases and Injury/NCDI/ project. This initiative enabled us to assist the Ministry in developing and officially launching the NCDI report in 2018, marking a significant milestone as the first of its kind in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Food & Drug Authority/EFDA/:

- With financial and technical support from Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), MWF provided financial and technical support to the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority in advocating for the House of Representatives of Ethiopia to pass one of strongest laws on tobacco and alcohol in Africa as well as a strong excise tax on tobacco and alcohol. Leveraging on this experience, it is currently working towards the passage of a comprehensive food policy in Ethiopia to control unhealthy diet.

NCD Alliance of Ethiopia:

- With financial and technical support from the Global NCD Alliance, MWF collaborated with Consortium of Ethiopian Non-Communicable Diseases Association to produce the UHC/NCD in Ethiopia Report. This report has been recognized globally as one of the most outstanding and significant research contributions of its kind.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all who have supported us. In particular, we thank the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia (MoH), Regional Health and Finance Bureaus, the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA), and the World Health Organization (WHO) Ethiopia Office. We are equally grateful to our partners, members of the foundation, board of directors, staff, patients, and families, whose support have sustained and strengthened our mission

List of Awards

- **Enabler of Vision Award:** presented during International Conference on Gender and Sustainability (ICOGAS), being held at side event of United Nations meeting in New York, USA in 2017.
- **Distinguished Community Social Service Award:** from People to People/P2P/NGO formed by Ethiopian Diaspora in North America with more than 5,000 Doctors and Engineers.
- **CEO Award:** in 2018, Mr. Wondu Bekele was nominated among the three finalists and named runner-up for the International Union against Cancer (UICC) CEO Award, an honor contested by more than 1,200 cancer organizations, ministries of health, and research institutions worldwide.
- **Warrior against Cancer:** MWF received Warrior against Cancer award from Mr. John Damonti, President of BMSF at BMSF-STF 20th Anniversary program held in Durban, South Africa on August 27, 2019.

- **World No Tobacco Day Award:** Mr. Wondu Bekele, Chief Executive Director of MWF was nominated as one of the six recipients of World Health Organization World No Tobacco Day Award 2020 from the Africa Region.
- **Center of Excellence:** By implementing organizational reforms based on technical support provided by USAID LCD team in the areas of financial management, project management, monitoring and evaluation and sustainability, USAID LCD Team awarded MWF a Certificate of Achievement as Center of Excellence capable of implementing mega projects.
- **Outstanding Contribution Certificate:** MWF received a certificate of recognition from Ethiopian Thoracic Society/ETS/ in February 2, 2023 for its outstanding contribution in the successful implementation of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine program in Addis Ababa University, College of Health sciences.
- **Golden Jubilee/50 years/Good Practice Award:** MWF's project on tobacco was selected as one of five best practices by the Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association /CCRDA/ in June 15, 2023.
- **Yebego Sew Award:** MWF received the 12th round of Yebego Sew Award, one of the most prestigious awards in Ethiopia for 2016/2024/ for its charity work.

Projects being implemented by MWF

1. Childhood Cancer Mitigation Project: This project is the first of its kind for our foundation, funded mostly by local resource mobilization. Due to the rising costs of psychosocial support services, we are seeking various forms of assistance and conducting different local fundraising activities to support this initiative. Currently, we are paying 150,000 Birr per month in rent alone for our psychosocial support center. Thanks to this project we managed to support more than 3,000 childhood cancer patients and their families. MWF covers the costs of:

- Round-trip transportation for cancer patients and their families from their home regions to Addis Ababa and back.
- Drugs and Medications that are not available at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital.
- Diagnostic and laboratory services that are not available at Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital
- A monthly allowance of 1,000 Birr to help cover basic living expenses while patients are undergoing treatment at the hospital.
- A monthly education support of 1,000 Birr for selected childhood cancer patients who pursue their education in between treatments.
- Psychosocial support, including transportation, meals, and accommodation along with educational resources for cancer patients and their caregivers during treatment intervals.

2. Tobacco-Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids/CTFK/ supported: Support the adoption and enforcement of regulations for Pictorial Health Warnings (PHWs) and smoke-free provisions in Ethiopia.

3. Tobacco -African Capacity Building Foundation/ACBF/ supported: Supported MWF in building institutional and community capacity for tobacco control, promoted the establishment of a 100% smoke-free environment in the hospitality industry, and enhanced monitoring and countering efforts against the tobacco industry.

4. Tobacco-Vital Strategies supported: The project aims to closely monitor the tobacco industry interference in policy implementation in Ethiopia and to establish a Code of Conduct for non-health stakeholders in the country.

5. Multinational Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Control Project/MLCCP/: Supported by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation (BMSF), this project is being implemented across five African countries, with MWF serving as the lead implementer in Ethiopia. The initiative spans four regions: Amhara, Oromia, Afar and Addis Ababa, in collaboration with four partners: AMREF in Afar, Doctors with Africa CUAMM in Oromia, MWF in Amhara, and MWF, Mary Joy and the Ethiopian Thoracic Society in Addis Ababa.

Thanks to the generous support from BMSF, we have renovated 15 rooms in the Chest Unit of TASH and procured bronchoscopy and EBUS equipment, the first of its kind in Ethiopia, which has been handed over to TASH. This project, along with the leadership and guidance from the Ministry of Health, has enabled chemotherapy treatments to commence at Tulubolo and Dupti hospitals in the Oromia and Afar regions, respectively.

6. PEN-Plus Project: With support from the NCDI Poverty Network, an affiliate of Harvard University, and under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Amhara and Oromia Regional Health Bureaus, we have successfully implemented the first phase of the Ethiopian PEN-Plus Implementation Demonstration Project for chronic care of severe NCDs at the primary hospital level. The project aims to enhance the coverage of high-quality care for less common and more severe conditions, including Type I and II diabetes, heart failure, rheumatic heart disease complications, severe chronic respiratory diseases, cancer, and palliative care. The first phase took place at Muketuri Primary Hospital in Oromia and Addis Zemen Primary Hospital in Amhara where we constructed, furnished and provided services through the PEN-Plus clinics. Under the Ministry of Health's leadership, the National Operational Plan (NOP) has been officially launched, with plans to scale up the project to 150 primary hospitals across nearly all regions of Ethiopia.

7. Support Food Policy in Ethiopia: With financial and technical support from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi), we have been implementing a project aimed at advocating for the passage of a comprehensive and mandatory food policy to promote healthy diets and combat non-communicable diseases in Ethiopia. This initiative is the first of its kind in Ethiopia.

8. Initiative for Lung cancer Care (ILC2): With the financial and technical support from AstraZeneca, we have successfully implemented a two-year project aimed at improving care for lung cancer patients in Ethiopia. The project focuses on strengthening multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) through technology to enhance lung cancer care. It supported MDT centers at five university hospitals: TASH, St. Paul, Hawassa, Jima, and Gondar. To build institutional capacity, we have provided support to all five university hospital MDTs by donating equipment such as Android TV sets, chairs, tables, internet access, cameras, and more. Additionally, team members are compensated for their contributions and efforts.

9. International Early Lung and Cardiac Action Program (IELCAP) in Ethiopia: With the financial and technical support from BMSF and technical support from Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, we have been implementing new project aimed at utilizing AI-supported screening and diagnosis through low-dose CT scans. This project is the first of its kind in Africa.

10. Continuing Professional Development (CPD): Thanks to support from Nottingham University Hospitals NHS TRUST, an NHS Trust established and existing under the laws of the United Kingdom, partners and our extraordinary effort ,our society managed to secure grant to implement project on enhancing the capacity of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Accreditors on NCDs and Mental Health Illness (MHI) in Ethiopia by 2026. The relationship between the two organizations is a new relationship, built on shared values and an ambition to improve the health and wellbeing of our local and Ethiopian population.

Healthy Africa Center of Excellence

Healthy Africa is a project designed to deliver high-quality and accessible health services that address the complex health challenges facing our communities. Its services focus primarily on NCDs, mental health, and injury care. To alleviate the growing burden of NCDs, Ethiopia has adopted Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.4, which aims to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one-third by 2030. The government is working towards the realization of this ambitious target through integrated prevention, treatment, and policy measures. Mathiws Wondu Foundation (MWF) strongly believes that the Healthy Africa Project will contribute significantly to Ethiopia's journey in achieving this goal. By raising community awareness, strengthening prevention, and expanding diagnostic services, the project aims to reduce deaths caused by non-communicable diseases and thereby ease the suffering of patients and their families. The project is envisioned as a gateway for health tourism in Eastern Africa, making a significant contribution to Ethiopia's economic and social development.

Center of Excellence for Diagnosis and Treatment

The Center of Excellence will be the flagship medical hub of the Healthy Africa Project, designed to provide advanced diagnostic and treatment services for NCDs as well as other disease conditions. This center will be equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, imaging technologies, and specialized treatment wings that will ensure that patients receive world-class care without the need to travel abroad.

A dedicated pediatric cancer unit will further strengthen Ethiopia's capacity to care for children, offering specialized treatment and reducing the emotional and financial burden on families. By consolidating expertise and technology under one roof, this facility will position Ethiopia as a regional leader in NCD care and medical innovation.

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Palliative Care and Psychosocial Support Center

Recognizing the emotional and social dimensions of NCDs, the Psychosocial Support Center will provide holistic services that go beyond medical treatment. This center will provide counseling as well as therapeutic programs such as art therapy, music therapy, and recreation spaces to ensure comfort for patients and their families throughout their treatment journey. Additionally this unit will also provide a Palliative Care service which focuses on enhancing quality of life for patients living with NCDs by addressing pain management, end of life care, symptom relief, and emotional well-being in a patient-centered and family-oriented manner.

Addiction Rehabilitation Center

The Addiction Rehabilitation Center will tackle one of the root causes of NCDs by addressing harmful lifestyle behaviors such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and other addictions. Through comprehensive rehabilitation programs, behavioral therapy, counseling, and reintegration initiatives, the center will help individuals regain productivity and improve their quality of life.

Research Center

The Research center will serve as the knowledge hub for innovation, evidence generation, and knowledge sharing in the fight against NCDs. Its activities will focus on conducting multidisciplinary research across various NCDs while also strengthening data collection and digitalization systems. The center will provide a platform for national and international partners to collaborate ensuring that Ethiopia's NCD response is guided by evidence and aligned with global best practices. The Research Center's outputs will serve as a foundation for developing evidence-based and up-to-date policies that strengthen Ethiopia's response to NCDs.

Hotels and Hospitality Facilities

To support patients, families, and international visitors, the project will include hotels and hospitality facilities designed to provide affordable, patient-friendly accommodation. These facilities will offer rest and recovery spaces for patients and their families with services tailored to the needs of medical tourists. The hotel and hospitality components will generate sustainable income for the project and strengthen Ethiopia's position as a medical tourism destination, by enhancing patient experience and attracting international visitors.

Office/Business Facility

The G+ 7 office and administrative complex will provide modern infrastructure for MWF, partner organizations, and advocacy networks. It will house administrative offices, meeting halls, and training facilities bringing together diverse actors under one roof. This complex will ensure effective management of the Healthy Africa Project and create collaboration across sectors.

Forest Lake and Outdoor Sports Facilities

Promoting prevention and rehabilitation, the forest, lake and outdoor sports facilities will integrate wellness and recreation into the Healthy Africa Project. Green spaces, walking trails, playgrounds, and fitness areas will encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles, while simultaneously providing opportunities for relaxation and mental well-being. These facilities will symbolize the project's commitment to holistic health, making prevention and wellness an integral part of care.

Current Status

The Healthy Africa Project has already reached a critical milestone in its journey toward implementation. Through close collaboration with the Addis Ababa Land Development and Administration Bureau, we have successfully secured a 10,000 square meters (one hectare) plot of land at Lemi Kura Sub-City beside Summit Soft Drinks, Addis Ababa. This achievement provides a strong foundation for establishing the envisioned Center of Excellence and its supporting facilities. The land allocation demonstrates the government's recognition of the urgent need to address the growing burden of NCDs and its commitment to partnering with MWF to strengthen Ethiopia's health system. This plot of land lies in one of the fastest-developing residential neighborhoods of Addis Ababa and marks the transition from vision to tangible reality. With the land secured, the next steps involve mobilizing resources to construct, and operationalize the facilities outlined in the project plan.



At this pivotal moment, we humbly call upon your collaboration to help make this crucial initiative a reality. You can contribute in:

- Financing infrastructure development and construction of the different units.
- Providing in-kind contributions such as medical equipment, technology, and expertise to ensure world-class standards of care.
- Supporting capacity building through training programs, knowledge exchange, and technical assistance for healthcare professionals.
- Strengthening sustainability by investing in the income-generating components such as hotels, hospitality services, and wellness facilities that will ensure long-term financial viability.
- Purchasing bonds and shares

By joining hands with MWF, you will not only contribute to reducing NCD mortality and improving quality of life for millions of Ethiopians, but also help position Ethiopia as a regional hub for medical tourism and innovation. We warmly invite you to be part of this transformative initiative!

MWF, Head Office & Psychosocial Support Center

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