

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ENGERA

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THE YEAR 2023

On behalf of everyone at Engera, thank you for your support.
I am pleased to present our annual impact report 2023, which highlights important progress in our commitment to sustainable healthcare. None of this would be possible without you.

*In 2023, we saw an overall increase of **3%** in the number of patients. We started an exciting collaboration with Attat Hospital, thanks to Dotoressa Caldés of Centro Salute Globale, Regione Toscana, and Professoresa Chiara Azzari, Director of the School of Pediatrics at the University of Florence. This enables two Meyer Hospital doctors to rotate every three months to increase our support for healthcare in Gurage.*

Significant developments include the transformation of Burat Health Center under the leadership of Sister Surabhila and ongoing growth in Zizencho and Shebraber led by Sisters Joanna and Meskel. We are fully funding Getche, continuing support for Maganesse and we also support a new clinic called San Marco as Dakuna closes due to the increasing number of government clinics in the area.

We are committed to ensuring that all supported clinics meet the same standards. The recent purchase of oxygen concentrators for all clinics supports this goal. To support future medical professionals in Gurage, we awarded two scholarships last year, ensuring the sustainability of our initiatives.

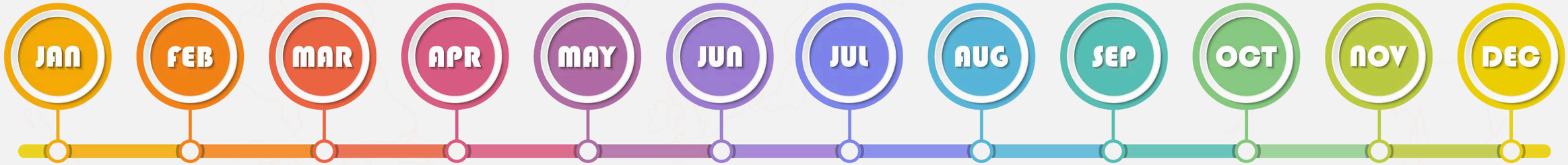
Our new collaboration with Ethiopian medical volunteers has been invaluable. Having dedicated medical professionals from Ethiopia, with their medical expertise and profound understanding of local challenges, is an essential addition to our collaborative efforts.

*In the coming year, the small clinic in Galeya Rogdha remains a priority project, which we aim to transform from a clinic into a health center, to encourage more people to use its services. We are deeply grateful to the Ethiopian Catholic Church, and our exceptional team of volunteers and supporters. Together we are laying the foundation for a healthier future. We look forward to further achievements in **2024**.*



Dr. Francesco Silenzi
Founder and President

2023 IN A NUTSHELL



1

JAN/FEB

Dr Wubrest Bekele joined the Engera USA Board.

2

MAR/APR

A large investment to renovating Burat Health Center.

14 medical volunteers went to Gurage. Treated 4,500 patients.

3

MAY/JUNE

2 members of staff from Zizencho Health Center received scholarships.

4

JULY/AUG

2 volunteer doctors from Meyer Pediatric Hospital, Florence started a 3 month long secondment working in Attat Hospital in Gurage.

5

SEP/OCT

Site visit to Galeya Rogdha Clinic for solar power needs analysis.

Identified funding priorities for 2024 cycle.

6

NOV/DEC

21 medical volunteers went to Gurage and treated 15,000 patients.

800 eye patients treated in Burat. 85 eye operations.

Galeya Warm Meals program fundraising started to feed 240 children.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

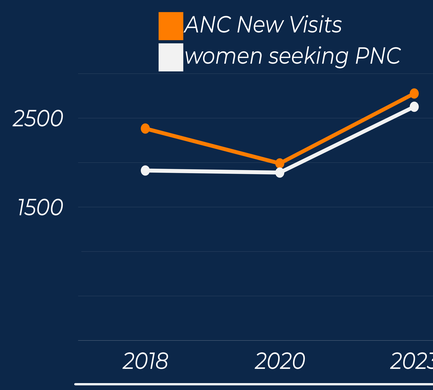
Maternal Health in the Seven Centers 2023

2,777
Total ANC Follow up
+1 % YOY

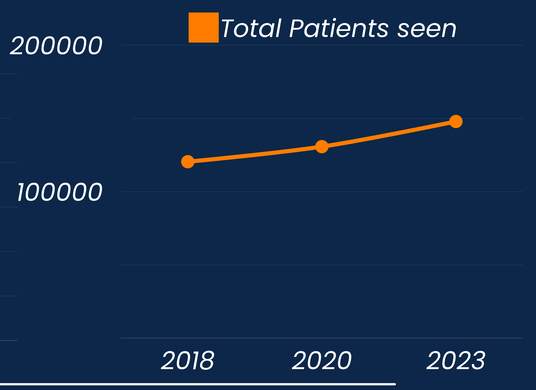
2,542
Deliveries
+20% YOY

2,619
Vaccinations
-0.1% YOY

Increasing Trend in Use of Ante Natal Care and Post Natal Care over 6 years



Increasing Trend in Numbers of people visiting the clinics



147,946
Patients seen
+3% YOY

Community Health Education

64,113
Participants in health education sessions
+39% YOY

154
Home village visits
+1.3% YOY

112
HIV/AIDS community meetings
+75% YOY

HEALTHCARE

We work with communities in our areas of operation to improve healthcare by receiving patients in the clinics we support and conducting outreach programs on disease prevention, safe motherhood and other critical healthcare topics.

Although we focus primarily on maternal and child health, our disease prevention efforts benefit the entire community.



Annual Assessment of Centers

Dr. Eyosiyas Arega from Ethiopia has been working with us as a volunteer since August 2023. In November, he conducted an assessment of all health centers to identify strengths and areas in need of improvement. The results will feed into the development of our strategic plan. Below are some examples.

Problems

Data
Only paper-based records are maintained with no computerization or digital tools in place. Limited data analysis to impact decision making.



Space
Lack of dedicated spaces for all services.



Feedback
While the community can access services, there are currently no formal mechanisms to ensure that feedback influences operations in accordance with guidelines.



Solutions

Computers
Purchase computers for all the health facilities. digitalize data recording and analyze.

Construction
Identify a list of rooms that need to be constructed and prioritize them.

Focus Groups
Start holding annual focus groups to receive feedback from the communities.

Problems

Waste Management
Inconsistent segregation of hazardous waste and sharp materials, lack of color-coding or signage according to the guidelines.



Electricity
Lack of reliable grid electricity to consistently power equipment.



Staff Development
Inconsistent staff training , and no recent management training for managers.



Solutions

Color Coding
Implement color coding in all health centers.

Solar Panels
Establish a priority list to determine which centers require solar panels first. Additionally, investigate the feasibility of implementing solar-powered lamps.

Training
Ensure that is a clear training path for all staff.

BURAT HEALTH CENTER

EYE CLINIC CAMPAIGN

During Engera's visit to Burat Health Center in November, we identified an urgent need for eye care in the community. Our doctors documented each case so the patients could be updated when specialist eye doctors were on site.

Thanks to the efforts of Sister Surabhila, this need was met through a three-day eye camp in December led by eye specialists.





800 Patients Treated

85 Eye Operations



Feedback from the communities

Importance of malaria treatment



At Galeya Rogdha, we spoke to a mother from the Gumuz community who has two sons.

"As a mother, watching my children fight malaria time and again has been a relentless anguish. It's a constant battle, not just against the disease itself, but against the fear of losing my loved ones. In our remote community, malaria is an ever-present threat, leaving us in a perpetual state of worry and heartache."

Trust in Healthcare

We spoke to a mother of twin boys who has been bringing them to Shebraber for checkups since they were born.



"I feel really good knowing that my boys are receiving such great care here," she told us. "The nurses and doctors treat all of us with so much kindness and respect. They always take good care of the babies and answer all our questions with patience. I completely trust that if any problems or concerns come up, the dedicated staff will be there to help us right away."



INFRASTRUCTURE

We improve existing health facilities and make strategic investments in vital infrastructure such as clean water wells and ambulances. With these initiatives, we ensure quality healthcare for the communities we serve.

RENOVATION AT

BURAT HEALTH CENTER

In March **2023**, we made a large investment on renovations at the Burat Health Center, coinciding with Sister Surabhila taking over the management in **April 2023**.

The main area of the clinic was renovated to make it more welcoming for **community health education** events. In addition, the sisters' residence and guest accommodations were renovated. In addition, accommodation was renovated for guests and volunteers including Engera doctors, who have been able to return to this area since **November**.



Oxygen Concentrators Given To All Health Facilities

The Challenge

To effectively manage critical medical conditions like asthma in adults and children throughout the year.

In November **2023** alone, two people passed away due to a lack of adequate medical equipment.

Our Response

In less than two weeks, we raised **$11,000** to equip all centres with at least 1 oxygen concentrator.

With a reliable supply of oxygen on site, our centres can now treat more patients locally.











TRAINING

Through collaboration with the communities and local medical staff, we build people's skills and knowledge to contribute to a healthier population supported by quality, accessible and sustainable health care.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH ATTAT HOSPITAL

In **August**, we started a partnership with **Attat Hospital**, a key referral hospital for our health centers in the Gurage Zone. **Every three months**, doctors from Florence bring their specialized skills to the pediatric department in **Attat Hospital**. Last year saw **four doctors** in total take part in this exchange.

This initiative represents a significant knowledge exchange in both directions. The doctors involved in this collaboration contribute their expertise and gain invaluable insight into resource management from the staff at Attat. The experience serves as a transformative journey for our doctors, both professionally and personally, from which they will learn lasting lessons that will shape their practice for the rest of their lives.



Dr Danilo Mirata, Meyer Hospital

“The skill of Attat’s staff in managing the available resources is a great source of learning for us. In Western hospitals, in fact, it may happen that tests are required that are not strictly necessary or that superfluous procedures are performed, whereas here, every clinical action is only implemented if it is really aimed at impacting the needs of the patient.”

Dr Melaku Tsegaye, Attat Hospital



"I was impressed by how quickly Danilo and Agnese, our Italian colleagues, learned the Amharic language. As a result, they were able to easily understand the patients' complaints. Their efficiency in diagnosing illnesses was remarkable, and their devotion to patients made me happy. Despite our different medical backgrounds and the different guidelines in our countries, there was a great exchange of knowledge and experience. It was a valuable and fulfilling experience for me."





Training

More than **30** of Engera's doctors visited Ethiopia in **2023** treating more than **15,000** patients





Volunteer Spotlight

Beatrice Pagnotelli

I am Beatrice, a nurse for almost a decade.

I always imagined that the nursing profession would offer a wide range of opportunities, from technical and professional work at a high level, to emotional care for people and families, to training in the area of prevention for society as a whole. And this was the driving force behind my approach to the possibility of a 'change of scenery'. So, thanks to Engera, I ended up in Zizencho, Gurage, Ethiopia: a multi-faith rural community that is poor if you define it by European standards, but very rich if you change the scale. I got to know a community in which priorities are clearly defined, in which the education of young people belongs to the whole village and in which a willingness to help can be felt on every street corner.

However, healthcare remains a major problem for them as they do not have the financial means to access it. Even a sore foot that does not allow them to go to work in the fields becomes a major problem for the patient and the livelihood of their whole family. This is precisely why it was so important for me to contribute to the free healthcare that I firmly believe in, and it was impossible not to see how even a small sanitary gesture that we take for granted was crucial for the people I cared for at the Zizencho clinic. It filled me with so much joy and gratitude, as a nurse, as a mother, as a member of a community where I felt at home.

For me it was the first time, but I have the certainty that I will come back every year.



SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, we supported two staff members from **Zizencho Health Center** with scholarships to study for degrees: Cheru Fantu, a clinical nurse, and Dawit Koree, a lab technician, both of whom had been with us for five years.

They began their courses in **September 2023**. Sadly, in **March 2024**, we received news of Cheru's passing from **tuberculosis meningitis**.

Cheru, whose name aptly means "kind," was known for his dedication and compassion as a nurse.

Dr. Danilo Mirata, an Engera medical volunteer, remembers Cheru as eager to learn and dedicated to his profession. Cheru's untimely passing is a loss not only to **Zizencho** and **Engera** but also to all who knew him.



1987 - 2024
Rest in Peace





Dawit says: Cheru's death was devastating, as I lost a very good friend with whom I was sharing a place during our courses. Now, with the second semester starting, I am performing well in my studies and learning a lot. The curriculum is interesting, and I am excited about the journey ahead. I am grateful to Engera for this opportunity and remain in regular touch with the Zizencho Health Center. I look forward to applying my new skills there when I finish my degree.

EDUCATION

Education is key to healthcare. It's not just about medical care; factors beyond health influence well-being. Schools are crucial for young people. Engera focuses on educational projects in villages where we operate, like Galeya Rogdha, to support the development of young people.





GALEYA ROGDHA WARM MEALS PROGRAM

Galeya Rogdha is the only facility we support outside of the Gurage Zone, as it is in Oromia.

The Challenge

The school lacks sufficient food; children walk for more than an hour to get to school and receive only a biscuit and water.
Poor nutrition affects health and learning; some, especially girls, drop out of school.

Our Response

We launched a fundraiser at the **end of 2023** to provide 250 children with daily nutritious school meals; over **$14,000** was raised.
Expansion plans include **gender clubs** and **support for school supplies.**

WHAT'S NEXT

Three areas of growth

1. A New Health Center for 30,000 patients

Our priority project is transforming the small Galeya Rogdha clinic into a larger health center so it can serve even more people.





2. Impact through data

We will strengthen our data collection and analysis to accurately measure our impact, make informed decisions, and introduce a user-friendly digital information system.



3. Staff & Development

We will empower local staff through increased professional development, which will enrich lives, support families, strengthen communities, and ensure top-quality patient care.

Galeya Rogdha's needs: from Clinic to Health Center

The remote village of Galeya Rogdha in Oromia, located 35 km from the nearest hospital, has no electricity and a population of 16,000. Despite the harsh climate, the clinic is staffed by five dedicated members.

In Oromia, **the maternal mortality rate is 410 deaths** per 100,000 live births. This is significantly **higher than the national average of 350.**

32% of births still **take** place **at home,** exposing women to an increased risk of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.



Marginalized Community

The 236 families from the Gumuz community face discrimination and live isolated on the edge of society.



Obstetric Care

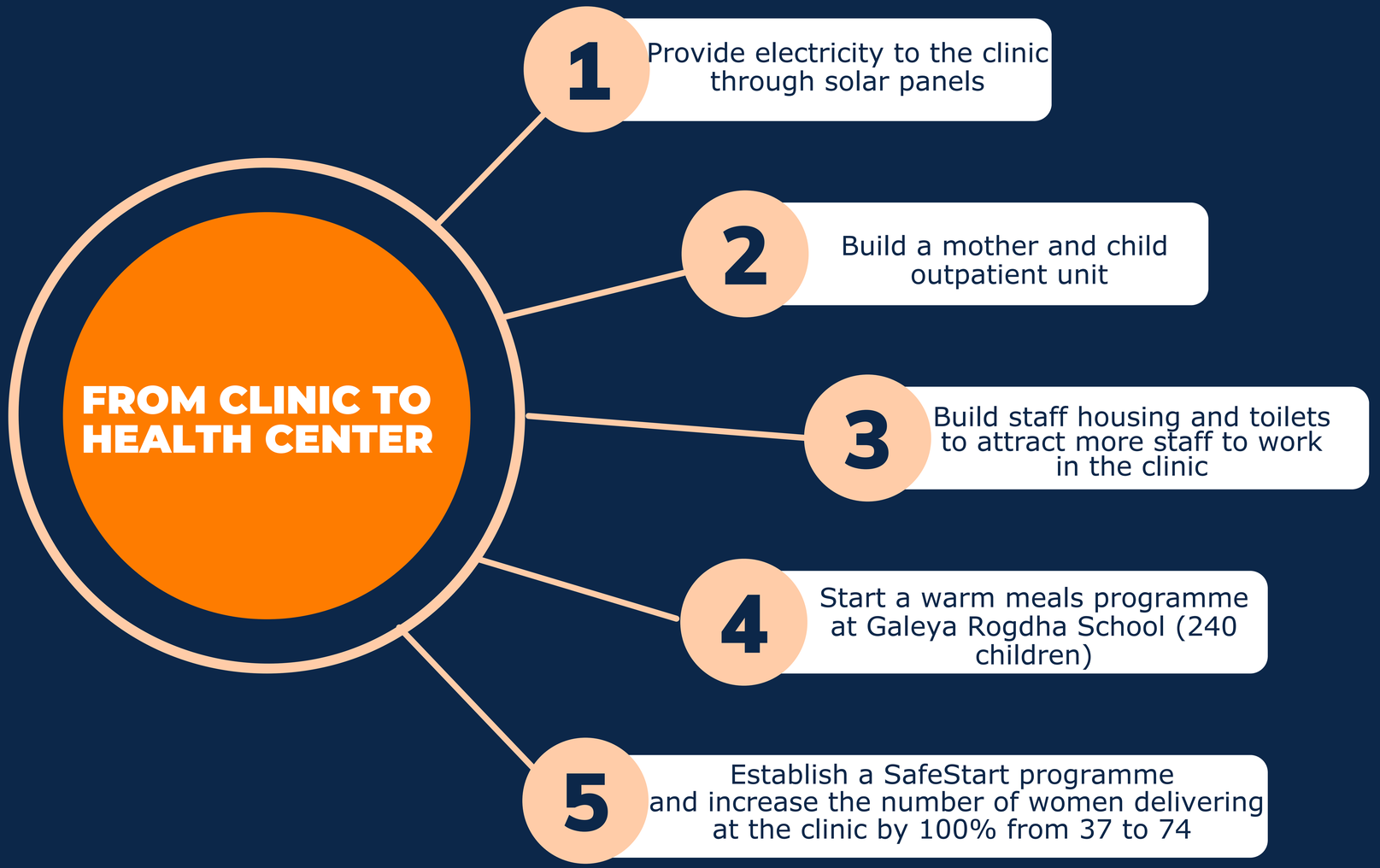
In 2023, while 125 women sought initial care at the clinic, only 37 ultimately delivered there.



Malnutrition

In 2023 520 children were moderately malnourished and 27 were severely malnourished.

Transforming Galeya Rogdha from clinic to health center



We would like to express our sincere thanks to the AJA Foundation, Regione Toscana, Meyer Hospital, and all our other supporters, including organizations and individuals. Your generous support is greatly improving the health and well-being of women and children in the Gurage Zone and parts of Oromia in Southern Ethiopia.

Regione Toscana

AJA

IRCCS Meyer

Centro Salute Globale Regione Toscana

THANK YOU

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