

Dr. Tewabech Bishaw



Dr. Tewabech Bishaw was born and raised in Jimma, Ethiopia. She is a Public Health specialist with over 40 years of national and international work in public health program development, management, policy, leadership, advocacy and community capacity strengthening. Her career initially began as a primary school teacher.

Dr. Tewabech is the Founder and Managing Director of Alliance for Brain-Gain and Innovative Development (ABIDE). ABIDE is a pioneer Ethiopian indigenous non-governmental development organization that focused on facilitating brain-gain. It aims at Ethiopia's human resource, institutional and national capacity building through knowledge exchange and technology transfer by mobilizing, linking and effectively engaging the Ethiopian Knowledge Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia with institutions and professionals in the country for partnership in the country's sustainable development.

Prior to this Dr. Tewabech worked for over 20 years in UNICEF in different countries and functions: in Botswana as Country Deputy Director, in Namibia as Programme Director Health / Nutrition / Water and Sanitation, in India as Chief Health Programs and as Programme Director for Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme, and in Ethiopia as Chief Health Programme for Accelerated Maternal and Child Health Services.

Before joining UNICEF she served for about 17 years in the Ministry of Health in Ethiopia, first in Health Services Provision and Program Management at the sub-national level and later in Senior Management and Executive Leadership positions at the national level. In the latter function she was responsible for: Disease Prevention and Control, Integrated Maternal and Child Health Services; Health Man-Power Development and Health Education, including conceptualizing and leading the establishment of the then "Jimma Institute of Health Sciences" now the Jimma University.

Dr. Tewabech is involved in the creation and leadership of the Ethiopian Public Health Association, the African Federation of Public Health Associations and the Society of Ethiopian Women in Science and Technology. She is actively engaged as International Board of Governors of AMREF Health Africa, and member of the Governing Council of the World Federation of Public Health Associations. She also serves in a number of Technical Advisory Committees of World Health Organization, Africa Region.

In 2012, Dr. Tewabech was nominated among the top Ten Ethiopian Women of Excellence by the Association of Ethiopian Women in Business. She was also nominated by the Ethiopian people in 2013 as an inspiring Ethiopian recognized for her pioneering role in public health. Internationally, she was again nominated and included in the top 100 Women Leaders in Global Public Health through a campaign organized by the Global Health Program of the Graduate Institute, Geneva.

Dr. Tewabech Bishaw holds a Bachelor's degree from Addis Abeba University Gondar Public Health College, Master of Public Health as well as a Dr. of Health Sciences, both from Loma Linda University School of Health, Loma Linda, Ca. USA.

She is married with children and grandchildren.