



**3<sup>rd</sup> Science Congress of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences**

## **Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: *Ethiopia's Emerging Challenge***

Congress Program, Concept Note and  
Brief Biographies of Presenters

**07 – 08 December 2017**

Conference Hall of Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





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Printed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Prof. Tegegne Gebre Egziabher

Dr. Assefa Hailemariam

Dr. Eshetu Gurm

Prof. Masresha Fetene

Day One | Thursday, 07 December 2017

## Opening Session

- 09:00 - 09:10 Welcome Address,  
Prof. Tsige Gebre-Mariam, President, EAS
- 09:10 - 09:30 Official Opening, Guest of honor
- 09:30 - 09:40 Introduction of Keynote Speaker -  
Prof. Masresha Fetene, Executive Director, EAS
- 09:40 - 10:30 Keynote Speech – **Africa's Challenge of Harnessing the Potential of its Youth**  
Dr. Ismail Serageldin, *Founding Director Emeritus, Library of Alexandria*
- 10:30 - 10:50 Coffee/tea break

## Session I

Chair, Prof. Tegegn Gebre – Egziabher

- 10:50 - 11:20 Demographic Features of Ethiopia  
Dr. Assefa Hailemariam, *Addis Ababa University*
- 11:20 - 11:50 Population and Economic Development in Ethiopia  
Dr. Alemayehu Geda, *Addis Ababa University*
- 11:50 - 12:30 Discussion
- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break

## Session II

Chair, Prof. Sileshi Lulseged

- 14:00 – 14:20 Health and the Demographic Dividend  
Prof. John May, *Georgetown University*
- 14:20 – 14:45 Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Other Health Care Services  
Dr. Ewenat Gebrehana, *St. Paul Hospital*
- 14:45 – 15:10 Discussion
- 15:10 – 15:30 Coffee/tea break

15:30 – 17:30

### Roundtable on International Experience on the Demographic Dividend

Moderated by Ato Sahlu Haile

- Ethiopia's Status in the Demographic Transition and the Demographic Dividend  
*Dr. Eshetu Gurmu, Addis Ababa University*
- The Global Experience with the Demographic Dividend: Challenges Ahead  
*Prof. John May, Georgetown University*
- Capturing the Demographic Dividend: Experience from South East Asian Countries  
*Dr. Mahesh Karra, Boston University*
- South Africa's Experience with the Demographic Dividend  
*Mr. Morne Oosthuizen, University of Cape Town*

17:30

Closing of the day

## Day Two | Friday, 08 December 2017

### Session III

Chair, Prof. Bahru Zewde

- 09:00 – 09:30 Quality Education, Skill Development and the Demographic Dividend  
*Prof. Berhanu Abegaz, Immediate Past Executive Director of African Academy of Sciences*
- 09:30 – 10:00 Discussion
- 10:00 - 10:30 Coffee/tea break

### Session IV & V

Chair, Senait Tibebe

- 10:30 – 11:00 Youth Employment and the Demographic Dividend in Ethiopia  
*Dr. Assefa Admassie, Ethiopian Economic Association*

11:00 – 11:30 Gender Dynamics of the Demographic Dividend  
Dr. Sehin Teferra, Setaweet

11:30 – 12:30 Discussion

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:30 **Roundtable on Youth Empowerment**  
Moderated by Dr. Assefa Bequele

- Economic Empowerment of Ethiopian Women  
Tsigie Haile - *Women in Self Employment (WISE)*
- Empowering the Ethiopian Youth – Some Lessons from Economics  
Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum Tefesse , *International Food Policy Research Institute*
- Youth Empowerment through Access to Youth Friendly Health Services  
Dr. Mengistu Asnake, *Pathfinder International Ethiopia*
- Participatory Governance for Empowering the Ethiopian Youth  
Hallelujah Lulie, *Program Director, Amani Africa Media and Research*

15:30 - 15:50 Coffee/tea break

15:50 - 17:30 Wrap-up of Congress Proceedings

Highlights of the Congress and reflections on way forward

Ms. Zenebework Tadesse, *EAS Principal Vice-President*

17:30 - 18:00 Adoption of Congress Declaration and vote of thanks

Prof. Masresha Fetene

18:00 – 18:10 Official closing -TBC



# Harnessing the Demographic Dividend: Ethiopia's Emerging Challenge

## 1. Background

The impact of population on economic growth and development of a country has been a contested one. Tuned by Malthusian view of population and resource, "Pessimists" argued that population growth negatively affects economic growth because of the inability of scarce resources to accommodate growing needs. This narrative is criticized for overlooking the advancement of technology and increased access to education which leads to further innovation and hence make it possible for existing resource to accommodate the need of the growing population. There are also "neutralists" who state that population by itself is not a sufficient factor to significantly affect economic growth.

While the opposing views have empirical evidences to support their arguments, much of the debate heavily concentrated on the number/size of population as a central element. The composition of different age-groups in a given population and its distinct economic consequences were critical issues that were overlooked in the debate surrounding population and development. In recent decades, however, the call for a focus on the age-structure of a population has been gaining an increasing level of attention from policymakers, academics and other stakeholders.

With the increasing focus directed to understanding the impact of the age-structure composition of a population, the concept of the demographic dividend is being embraced as an alternative lens to view population and development. Technological advances in health and other sectors; urbanization; and increased access to education and family planning programs, especially to girls; contribute to lower fertility and mortality rates, changing the composition of age-groups in a given population. Decline in fertility rates are ultimately followed

by a demographic transition where the dependency ratio falls and the number of people in the working-age group of a population increases in relation to the number of people considered to be economically dependent. This change in age-structure creates a window of opportunity that, if accompanied by the design and implementation of appropriate policies, could generate a surplus for a country. This benefit is conceptualized as the demographic dividend.

Ethiopia, with an estimated total population size of 101.2 million, is the second most populous country in Africa. The country has registered a decline in fertility rate: from 6.6 children per woman in 1990 to 4.6 in 2016; infant mortality rate in Ethiopia has also significantly dropped: from 106 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 48 in 2016. Similarly, under-five mortality rate declined from 180 deaths in 1990 to 125 in 2005, and to 67 in 2016, equivalent to a 63% reduction during the period 1990 – 2015. Life expectancy at birth increased from an average of 46 years to 63 years during the period 2010-15. In light of such trends and the expanding working-age population (the age-group 15 – 64 constitutes half of the population: 51 million), demographers contend that Ethiopia's population is shifting from high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates. However, as emphasized by researchers in the field and supported by country experiences, the demographic dividend is not guaranteed by sheer demographic transition but embedded in crucial caveats. Appropriate measures should be in place in order for a country to generate a demographic dividend. If Ethiopia is to harness the demographic dividend, the significance of designing and implementing appropriate and multi-sectoral policies that hasten the demographic transition cannot be disputed.

The possibility for Ethiopia to harness the demographic dividend is not just dependent up on putting in place the necessary preconditions but also the speed with which actions are taken. The potential opportunities in demographic transition are also threats if not swiftly accompanied by appropriate policies that accommodate

the changing age structure. If Ethiopia is unable to accommodate its bulging working-age population, the predictable consequences are rampant unemployment, environmental stress, and marginalization of the majority of the population. In a populous country like Ethiopia with a complicated history of conflict, insufficient attention to harnessing demographic dividend risks adding and/or causing grievances that could cause/ trigger violent civil strife with a potential to destabilize a country. Hence, for Ethiopia, the emerging challenge of turning the demographic transition into demographic dividend is not merely a matter of accelerating economic growth out of changing age-structure: it is an existential one.

Against this background, the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences is dedicating its 3<sup>rd</sup> Science Congress to discussing the critical issue of attaining demographic dividend in Ethiopia's context. The Congress, titled ***Harnessing Demographic Dividend: Ethiopia's Emerging Challenge***, will serve as a platform where challenges to harnessing demographic dividend are presented, analyzed, debated and brought to the forefront of policymakers' agenda. The Congress will discuss context-specific issues underpinning the demographic dividend in Ethiopia. A major theme that will be reflected throughout the Congress will be how Ethiopia can harness the demographic dividend by utilizing the potential of the bulging youth population while mitigating the risks that come with it.

## 2. Objectives of the Congress

The Academy is conducting the Congress with the objectives to:

- assess the status of demographic transition and the prospect of harnessing demographic dividend in Ethiopia;
- encourage and stimulate contextualized discussion on the issues surrounding demographic transition and demographic dividend;

- bring demographic dividend to the priority of the policymakers' agenda; and
- recommend evidence-based and context-specific policy measures for sustaining the demographic transition in Ethiopia to harness demographic dividend.

### **3. Sub-themes of the Congress**

Within the major theme of harnessing demographic dividend, the following sub-themes will be discussed.

#### **3.1. Demographic Features of Ethiopia**

Understanding the current situation of Ethiopia's population is critical to having a contextual conversation on harnessing demographic dividend. Therefore, within this sub-theme, the status of Ethiopia's population will be discussed. To give a comprehensive and contextual understanding of the demographic transition in Ethiopia, population size and age composition, spatial distribution and population to resource ratios, trends and projections will be presented and discussed.

#### **3.2. Improved Access to Reproductive Health and Other Health-Care Services**

A healthy and productive labor force is a sine qua non of demographic dividend. Improved access to family planning is critical to accelerating the demographic transition because of its impact on the number and spacing of children in a given household. On the other hand, access to other healthcare services is essential to reducing mortality rate and producing a healthy and productive population.

Ethiopia has made a significant progress in decreasing maternal and infant mortality rates and expanding healthcare services through its health programs. However, despite the commendable progress, health

institutions are lacking in numbers and quality of service. Majority of Ethiopians, especially those residing in rural areas, are isolated from critical health-care services. Maternal mortality, malaria, sexually transmitted and communicable diseases are still grave health concerns for millions of Ethiopians. It is therefore imperative that Ethiopia has a health-care system that not only caters to its current population but is also able to adapt to the changing demographics and its healthcare needs.

Therefore, a major point that will be discussed during the Congress will be how Ethiopia can effectively invest on its healthcare system to accelerate its demographic transition and generate a dividend.

### **3.3. Quality Education and Skills Development**

Access to quality education is essential to producing an innovative population that accelerates the demographic transition to harness the demographic dividend. The importance of quality education to creating a productive workforce is an established one in which the positive impacts are crosscutting and directly affect many sectors of an economy.

In the past decade, Ethiopia has registered an impressive growth in school enrollment. Since the 1990s: gross primary enrolment rate has shown an increase from less than 20% in the mid-1990s to more than 95% in 2014. However, there is still an epochal gap when it comes to school enrolment and quality education that produces a workforce with diverse range of skills that is able to fill the labor demand of the economy. As Ethiopia is in the early stages of its demographic transition, one critical issue is investing in the population that is going to join the workforce tomorrow.

Therefore, a major point that will be discussed during the Congress will be how Ethiopia can effectively invest in the quality of education and skill development and create a favorable environment for

entrepreneurship to contribute to the economy and therefore help harness the dividend.

### **3.4. Youth Employment and Empowerment**

Inevitable with the demographic transition that Ethiopia is undergoing in is the labor pool that will be inundated with job seekers because of the rise in the working-age group of the population. In 2016, Ethiopia's unemployment rate in urban areas has reached 16.9% while there are a large number of unemployed and underemployed youth in rural areas who migrate to urban areas looking for jobs. For Ethiopia, this transition poses a challenge in terms of the country's ability to accommodate the employment needs of its bulging youth population. As demographic dividend is generated within a window where the opportunity to reap the benefits is limited by time, the issue of creating employment opportunities and empowering the youth needs to be addressed with urgency and due consideration.

The limited window of opportunity that a demographic transition offers will become a wasted opportunity if it is not met with a favorable governance system that empowers the majority of its population. When the appropriate policies are designed and implemented, a bulging working-age population can be a source of innovation and an agent for positive change for Ethiopia. However when an ever bulging and productive segment of the population is not economically independent and denied meaningful spaces to participate and contribute in its own affairs, disenfranchisement and the grievances it breeds become inevitable. If Ethiopia is to harness demographic dividend: inclusive, participatory and representative space where people make meaningful contributions in their own affairs is essential. An open political space where the bulging working-age group, particularly the youth, participate and critically engage in their local and national government's legislative and judiciary decisions is empowering and decisive.

It is therefore essential for Ethiopia to begin addressing the issue of unemployment and empower the youth both to harness demographic dividend and to mitigate its potential risks. In light of this, the Congress will deliberate on how Ethiopia can address current and future unemployment needs both from the supply and demand side of employment. The Congress will also deliberate on possible ways to promote inclusive governance where the bulging segment of the population is empowered and given the opportunity to influence the country's affairs.

### **3.5. Empowering Girls and Women**

The impracticality of attaining economic progress without empowering women, who make up half of the population, has been articulated numerous times in various platforms in Ethiopia. For the past decades, Ethiopia has paid an increasing attention to establishing legal frameworks that make it possible for women to access equal economic opportunities. However, Ethiopia still has a long way to travel in empowering women and alleviating the negative issues that plague the economic and social progress of women. There is still a wide gender gap in employment opportunities and school enrollment where boys considerably outnumber girls; a prevalence of early marriage and lack of representation in decision making spheres plaguing the socio-economic progress of women. In 2013/14 academic year, for instance, females constituted only 30.3% of the undergraduate enrolment (UNESCO, 2015) while female unemployment rate in 2016 was 2.6 times higher than that of male.

If all segments of a society, regardless of their gender and socio-economic standings, are not afforded equal opportunities, isolated economic policies targeted at harnessing demographic dividend are likely to be ineffective and discordant. In this context, the Congress will discuss the challenges and prospects imbedded in empowering women with regards to the acceleration of demographic transition and

harnessing the demographic dividend.

## 4. Expected Outcomes of the Congress

By the end of the Congress, the Academy will:

- Initiate a dialogue on the demographic dividend in Ethiopia and create a more crystalized understanding of demographic transition and the demographic dividend among stakeholders;
- Charter concrete avenues of harnessing the demographic dividend; and
- Prompt/encourage policymakers to prioritize the issue of population in general and the demographic dividend in particular.

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Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (2017), The Demographic Dividend: Imperative for Ethiopia's Transformation.



# **Brief Biographies of Presenters**





## **Dr. Alemayehu Geda**

Dr. Alemayehu Geda has Ph.D. in Development Economics from Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University), The Hague, the Netherlands. Currently, he is Associate Professor at the Department of Economic, Addis Ababa University in Macroeconomics and International Economics. He is also a Research Professor at the University of London, SOAS, Centre for Development Policy Research, where he had served as Senior Lecturer between 2003-2005. He is also currently a Research associate at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, African Economic Research Consortium in Nairobi, Economic Policy Research, Makerere University Uganda, Central Bank of Kenya and Macroeconomic Management Institute for Easter and Southern Africa (MEFMI), Zimbabwe. He is also currently the Scientific board member of the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa, Dakar, Senegal; Editorial Board member of Journal of African Trade Cairo, Journal of African Transformation, Dakar and Addis Ababa/ECA. He has worked for a number of international organization that includes: the Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, The World Bank, DFID, ILO, UNDP and SIDA, among others. He has also served as a consultant for the government of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda,

Zambia, Sudan. Among the major successful projects he led include: building a global forecasting model for Africa with the AfDB and ECA, building Macro model for Kenya and Ethiopia governments, and serving as Macroeconomic expert for AU panel on the economic negotiation between the North and South Sudan, led by the former South African president Tambo Mbeki.

His Research interest areas include International Trade; Development Finance, Macroeconomics Policy and Poverty Analysis, Macro Econometric Modeling and the Political Economy of Conflict and Economic Performance - all in African context. He is the author of over 80 research journal articles and Chapters in a book and four books on African Economies.



### **Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse**

Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and President of the Ethiopian Economics Association. His most recent broad areas of research include individual psychosocial characteristics (primarily aspirations, locus of control, and self-efficacy), behavior, and well-being outcomes in Ethiopia and beyond; social protection and resilience (including impact evaluation of large

multi-year public programs such as Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program); agricultural transformation in sub-Saharan Africa, with emphasis on Ethiopia; and risk and farm households' economic choices. He published research outputs in refereed professional journals including *Journal of Development Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *World Development*, *The World Bank Economic Review*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of African Economies*, *Food Policy*, *Ethiopian Journal of Economics*, and *Agricultural Economics*.

Dr Alemayehu has previously worked as an assistant professor of economics at Addis Ababa University and an economic affairs officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He holds a D.Phil. degree in Economics from the University of Oxford.



### **Dr. Assefa Admassie**

Dr. Assefa Admassie is a Director of the Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute, which is an affiliate to the Ethiopian Economics Association. In addition, he is an adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Economics at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He holds a PhD degree in Agricultural Economics from the University

of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. Before his current post, he had been teaching several courses at the Haromaya and Addis Ababa Universities. He has also worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn, Germany between 1998 and 2002. During his stay at the University of Bonn, he taught PhD level courses and supervised PhD dissertations.

Dr. Assefa is a prolific author of more than 40 research articles on reputable international journals. His areas of research such as agricultural credit, child labor, education, health, production economics, impact evaluation, Information and Communication (ICT) and poverty issues, political economy are worth to mention.

He has also received several awards including DAAD, GDN and others. As a scholar, he is a member of several national and international professional associations. Currently, Dr Assefa Admassie is a Board Member of the PhD Collaborative Program of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and a fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences.



## **Dr. Assefa Hailemariam**

Dr. Assefa Hailemariam received B.Sc. Degree in Statistics from Addis Ababa University in 1979, M.Sc. in Demography from the London School of Economics , University of London in 1984 and Ph.D. in Population Studies from the same University in 1990. He was the founder of the Demographic Training and Research Center (DTRC) in 1982, now Center for Population Studies under Addis Ababa University. He served as its Director from 1990 – 1997 and headed Center for Population Studies from 2003 - 2008.

Dr. Assefa worked as a country Representative for Family Health International from 1997 – 2002. He has served as a consultant or a resource person for various national and international organizations such as the National Office of Population, Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia, the Population Media Center, Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia, Pathfinder International-Ethiopia, Marie Stopes International-Ethiopia, Population Reference Bureau, the Futures Group International, Population Council, UNFPA, USAID, UNDP and UNECA.

Currently, Dr. Assefa teaches at the graduate programs of the CPS, Addis Ababa University. His teaching specialty ranges from technical to substantive demography. Dr. Assefa's research and advocacy engagements

cover the broad areas of population and development including the social and demographic determinants of fertility, infant, child and maternal mortality, the cultural and socio-economic context of early marriage, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based and domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, HIV/AIDS, evaluation research, urbanization, population policy and age structure transition and demographic dividend.

Internationally, he has been invited as a visiting Professor/Scholar at Universities and Centres around the world. To mention few, he went to the Indiana University Population Institute for Research and Trainings and the Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University in USA, the University of Jakarta and Yogyakarta in Indonesia, the University of Manila, Philippines, the University of Nepal, Mahidol University in Thailand and serves as dissertation examiner for the University of Botswana graduate program.



## **Professor Bahru Zewde**

Professor Bahru Zewde is an Emeritus Professor of History at Addis Ababa University, Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and Vice President of the Association of African Historians. He has served as Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Executive

Director of the Forum for Social Studies; and Board member of TrustAfrica, and Principal Vice-President of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. He has published extensively and edited books and journals. Among his major publications: *A History of Modern Ethiopia 1855-1991*; *Pioneers of Change in Ethiopia: The Reformist Intellectuals of the Early Twentieth Century*; *Society, State and History: Selected Essays*; and *Quest for a Socialist Utopia: The Ethiopian Student Movement c. 1960-1974* are suffice to name.



### **Professor Berhanu Abegaz**

Berhanu Abegaz is professor in Organic Chemistry. He is a fellow to the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, African Academy of Sciences and the World Academy of Sciences. He served as the an Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences for the last six years. Professor Berhanu is a founding member of the Natural Products Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa. He has also served as the Coordinator for the Network for Analytical and Biological Services for Africa.

Professor Berhanu Abegaz is the recipient of the Pierre Crabbe Award and the CNR Rao Prize from TWAS. He has published extensively.

Eshetu Gurmu has BA in *Sociology*, Addis

Ababa University (1986), MSc in *Demography*, Addis Ababa University (1994) and PhD in *Anthropology*, University College London, UK, (2005). He is an *Associate Professor* of Population Studies and Anthropology and is currently *Head of the Population and Gender Research Unit*, Institute of Development and Policy Research, Addis Ababa University. Dr Eshetu has 23 years of teaching and research experiences at the Centre for Population Studies and other academic departments of Addis Ababa University. In addition to teaching courses at undergraduate and graduate levels, he supervises and examines Master's and PhD theses in areas of Population and Gender Studies, Anthropology and other fields of Development Studies. Dr Eshetu was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Population Research and Training Unit of the North West University (South Africa) in 2012, and a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies of Bristol University (UK) in 2013. His research interests include determinants of reproductive health outcomes, maternal and child wellbeing (nutrition, health and schooling), migration and urban dynamics, family formation and dissolutions, gender inequality and empowerment, as well as HIV/AIDS. Dr Eshetu has published about 20 research articles in academic journals and contributed 2 book chapters in the aforementioned areas besides making several

presentations at national and international conferences and workshops. He has a strong research link with Universities in Britain, United States of America, Austria, South Africa, Kenya and Uganda. Dr Eshetu had also served as Head of the Centre for Population Studies and Associate Dean of Graduate Programs for Social Sciences and Humanities of Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia) for five and three years, respectively. Dr Eshetu is also serving as a consultant to government and non-government organizations, and development partners in areas of population and development issues.

### **Dr. Ewenat Gebrehanna**



Dr. Ewenat Gebrehanna is a Senior Reproductive Health Expert currently based at the Department of Public Health, St. Paul's Millennium Medical College, Addis Ababa. She received her BSc. degree in Public Health from Debu University (now Hawassa University), Masters degree in Public Health from Addis Ababa University, and Doctoral degree in Public Health from Gondar University in 2014. She has been teaching and researching in her areas since 2009.

Dr. Ewenat has participated in various researches and trainings at national and international level. She has more than 10 publications in peer-reviewed journals

and authored book chapters. She has coordinated monitoring and evaluation of various implementation programs in relation to reproductive health of girls and women empowerment project in Ethiopia and Child Sexual Abuse project in Malawi. Dr. Ewenat has served in various technical working groups at national level. She is currently serving as member of Advisor Counsel for Ethiopian Public Health Association.

She has worked as a consultant for both local and international organization projects focusing on health related issues.



## **Hallelujah Lulie**

Hallelujah Lulie is a regional security researcher interested in democratization, social justice, nationalism & social movements in the Horn of Africa, & the affairs of the African Union. He recently completed a post graduate study at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), specializing in democratization and nationalism. Prior to that, he worked as a researcher at the Peace and Security Council Report Program (PRP) of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Addis Ababa office for seven years, and as a research consultant for the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) for a year. Earlier on, he worked as a journalist covering the African Union (AU) and the political and security dynamics in

Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. He wrote for numerous local newspapers and freelanced and worked for the Chinese international news agency Xinhua, and the German international broadcaster Deutsche Welle. Hallelujah has written and published on media and democracy in Ethiopia, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and Ethiopia's role in the Horn of Africa. He made numerous high-level policy briefings, and his expertise was used by media organizations including the New York Times, The Washington Post, the BBC, Al-Jazeera, CNN, the Guardian, Reuters and the Wall Street Journal. He took part and led youth community service and leadership initiatives and groups including the Rotary Club and the Toastmaster's. He is an active user of the social media.



### **Dr. Mahesh Karra**

Mahesh Karra is an Assistant Professor of Global Development Policy at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. Dr. Karra holds a B.A. in Economics and Hispanic Studies (Joint Honors) from McGill University, an M.Sc. in Economics from the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, and an Sc.D. in Global Health Economics from Harvard University. His academic and research interests are broadly in development economics, health economics, quantitative

methods, and applied demography. His research utilizes experimental and non-experimental methods to investigate the relationships between population, health, and economic development in low- and middle-income countries. He has conducted field work in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, and his current research uses randomized controlled trials to evaluate the health and economic effects of improving access to family planning and maternal and child health services in Malawi, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

He has also worked for the Population Reference Bureau and the Futures Group International and served as a consultant to the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the Population Council.



### **Dr. John F. May**

John F. May is a specialist in population policies and programs, with a worldwide experience of over 35 years. He has worked on many population projects for the World Bank, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). He earned a BA in modern history (1973) and an MA in demography (1985) from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), and he received his Doctorate

in Demography summa cum laude from the University of Paris-V (Sorbonne) in 1996. He is the author of World Population Policies: Their Origin, Evolution, and Impact (Dordrecht, NL: Springer, 2012), which has received the 2012 Global Media Award of the Population Institute for best book on population. He also co-edited the book Africa's Population: In Search of a Demographic Dividend (Cham, CH: Springer, 2017).



### **Dr. Mengistu Asnake Kibret**

Dr. Mengistu Asnake Kibret is a public health physician with over 30 years of experience in clinical service, program management, training and operation researches in government and non-governmental organizations. He is currently a Senior Country Director for Pathfinder International in Ethiopia. In addition, he is Chief of Party for the Transform: Primary Health care project, a USAID flagship program on Ending Preventable Childhood and Maternal Deaths (EPCMD) led by Pathfinder International in Ethiopia. In different occasions, Dr Mengistu served as an expert in global discussions for FP/HIV integration; community based family planning, long acting family planning and adolescent issues. Prior to joining Pathfinder, he worked at various levels of Ethiopia's Ministry of Health and non-governmental organizations.

At different occasions, Dr Mengistu has received different recognitions. These are: Award for Senior Public Health Service by the Ethiopian Public Health Association in 2014, EXCELL Award in Family Planning Leadership at individual level at the international conference on Family Planning in 2013, Geneva Foundation Medical Education and Research (GFMER) research workshop award from Geneva State Chancellery in 2011; and Leadership award at the International Conference on Emerging Infectious disease from CDC-Atlanta in 2008.



## Morné Oosthuizen

Morné Oosthuizen is Deputy Director of the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town. He has more than fifteen years' experience in conducting policy research for government, multilateral organisations and donor institutions. His research interests include intergenerational transfers (National Transfer Accounts), poverty, inequality, and labour markets. He has worked on issues of intergenerational transfers and the demographic dividend in several countries in Southern Africa and is currently coordinator of the multi-country research project, *Counting Women's Work*, which aims to value time spent in unpaid services and incorporate it

into estimates of production and consumption over the life course. He holds a Masters degree in Economics from the University of Stellenbosch, and is currently completing his PhD at the University of Cape Town on National Transfer Accounts for South Africa.



### **Sahlu Haile**

Ato Sahlu Haile has over 35 years of experience in the development and management of health and development programs including access to contraceptive services, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS prevention, youth development, environmental protection, girls' education and women empowerment.

He retired from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation where, for the last 20 years, he worked as Country Director to Ethiopia and later, as Regional Director for Africa. He had opened Packard Foundations's first country office outside the US and later expanded it to cover Sub-Saharan Africa. As such, he witnessed the most dramatic transformation in reproductive health in Ethiopia and other African Countries. Prior to that, He worked for UNFPA as Senior Advisor to, as Regional Director for West and Central Africa for John Snow Inc. and as Deputy Regional Director for Africa for Engender Health. Furthermore, he has experiences in program and human resources management, in networking, resource mobilization and advocacy in a multicultural

and multidisciplinary environment. Ato Sahlu has an extensive knowledge of the African continent and worked in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America.



### **Dr. Sehin Teferra**

Dr. Sehin Teferra is the co-founder of *Setaweet*, the first contemporary feminist movement in Ethiopia, and the Managing Partner of Setaweet PLC, a feminist research and training company offering tailor-made content for corporate and non-profit institutions. Sehin obtained her PhD in Gender Studies from SOAS, University of London in 2015 and is the mother of a six-year old girl and a four-year old boy.

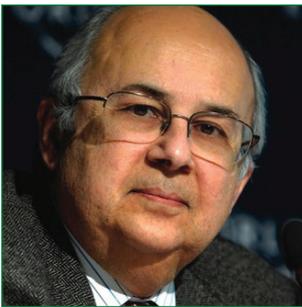


### **Senait Tibebe**

Senait Tibebe (M.Sc. Demography) is currently working as a Research Associate for the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Sub Saharan Africa Office. Before that, she served as a Country Director and Technical Advisor for the Health Policy Project of Futures Group International Ethiopia Office overseeing and coordinating activities with government partners in Reproductive Health, Population and Family-planning and providing trainings in Population related softwares.

Her engagement at the USAID DELIVER

project helped her gain insights in developing logistics management information system, and providing training in monitoring and evaluation, contraceptive security and RH commodity forecasting. With Abt Associates, she contributed to the design of a workplace and private HIV and TB prevention and control program in Ethiopia. The major components of her focus at Abt were Public-Private Partnership, Social marketing and Social Franchising. Senait had also worked for Pathfinder International, Ethiopia office at different capacities. She was responsible for designing reproductive health programs, compiling and analyzing data and preparing reports and work plans. Senait is a twin and the ninth child in the family of 12; she hopes to see her unpublished Amharic books published soon.



### **Dr. Ismail Serageldin**

Ismail Serageldin is a Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), the new Library of Alexandria, inaugurated in 2002. He is currently Emeritus Librarian and member of the Board of Trustees of the Library of Alexandria. He serves as chair and member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions, including as co-Chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), and served on the Advisory

Committee of the World Social Science Report for 2013 and 2016, as well as the UNESCO-supported World Water Scenarios (2013) and the Executive Council of the Encyclopedia of Life (2010) and Chaired the Executive Council of the World Digital Library (2010). He has held many international positions including as Vice President of the World Bank (1993–2000). He also co-chaired the African Union’s high level panel for Biotechnology (2006) and for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in 2012-2013, and was a member of the ICANN Panel for the review of the internet future (2013).

Dr. Serageldin has received many awards including: First recipient of Grameen Foundation (USA) Award for a lifetime commitment to combating poverty, (1999); Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters awarded by the government of France (2003); Pablo Neruda Medal of Honor, awarded by the Government of Chile (2004); The Bajaj Award for promoting Gandhian values outside India (2006); Order of the Rising Sun – Gold and Silver Star awarded by the Emperor of Japan (2008); Champion of Youth Award by the World Youth Congress, Quebec (2008); Knight of the French Legion of Honor awarded by the President of France (2008); The Swaminathan Award for Environmental Protection (Chennai, India, 2010); Millennium Excellence Award for Lifetime Africa Achievement Prize, by the

Excellence Awards Foundation, Ghana (2010); The Public Welfare Medal, by the National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC (2011); Commander of the Order of Arts & Letters awarded by the government of France (2011); Nizami Ganjavi Gold Medal of the Republic of Azerbaijan awarded by Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (2015); The “Dostlug” Order (Order of Friendship) of Azerbaijan awarded by President of Azerbaijan (2015); Marianna V. Vardinoyannis Foundation Award (2016); Honorary Sign of the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (2016).

Serageldin has published over 100 books and monographs and over 500 papers on a variety of topics, including biotechnology, rural development, sustainability, and the value of science to society. He has hosted a cultural program on television in Egypt (over 130 episodes) and developed a TV Science Series in Arabic and English. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Cairo University and a Master’s Degree and a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has received 38 honorary doctorates.



## **Professor Sileshi Lulseged**

Sileshi Lulseged is Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health at Addis Ababa University and Senior Associate Research Scientist at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, New York, U.S.A. He is also Senior Advisor at ICAP Columbia University Program in Ethiopia. He has served as Head of the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health and Director of Clinical Epidemiology Service at Addis Ababa University, Director of the WHO Regional INCI Training Center, Associate Director for HIV Treatment Program at U.S. CDC in Ethiopia, and Editor-in-Chief of the Ethiopian Medical Journal. He has published extensively.

He is the recipient of the U.S. PEPFAR Lahya Shiimi Memorial Award; the Ethiopian Medical Association Medal Award, and Certificates of Merit from the Minister of Health of Ethiopia and U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa.



## **Professor Tegegne Gebre-Egziabher**

Tegegne Gebre-Egziabher is Professor of Regional and Urban Development and Planning and Director of the Institute of Development and Policy Research at Addis Ababa University. He is the recipient of a Fulbright Award for Ph.D study, research grant awards from OSSREA; Mazingira Institute; and ACFRN. He has published extensively.



## Tsigie Haile

Tsigie Haile is the founder and director of the Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE). Tsigie had her BBA from Addis Ababa University and MBA from the Netherlands. She worked for over 21 years at the Addis Ababa University, both in the administrative and academic wings. After leaving the University, she joined the voluntary sector and worked for ActionAid Ethiopia for four years in the capacity of Human Resource Development Manager. While working at ActionAid, she decided to set up WISE and work with low-income, underprivileged women and girls.

The work of WISE mainly focuses on the economic empowerment of women. During the past 20 years WISE has directly served over 36000 women and girls in Addis Ababa. Moreover, it has reached over 27000 women and men through partners working in different parts of the country. At present, a 145-strong staff serve the Organization. WISE is currently one of the renowned women-centered, development organizations and a leader in women's economic empowerment and community-based savings and credit cooperatives development in the country.

Tsigie serves in many governing boards and committees of different organizations and mentors female students and women leaders of charitable organizations. In addition to

her services in the voluntary sector, she was one of the organizing committee members of Addis International Bank S.C. and has been serving the Bank as a Board Director since its establishment.



### **Zenebworke Tadesse**

Zenebworke Tadesse is a Sociologist by training and an international consultant to non-profit organizations, academic institutions and UN agencies in the fields of gender, social development and poverty. She has published widely and co-authored a book; two lengthy manuscripts; chapters in books; conference/workshop papers; and working documents. Her current professional affiliations include serving on two local and seven International Boards and on a number of International Editorial Advisory Boards.





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