SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia Course

Oromia, Ethiopia

1st – 3rd March 2018

Ethiopia is a landlocked country in the Horn of Africa. It is one of the most populous countries in the World with over 102 million inhabitants and occupies 1.1 million square kilometres.

In Ethiopia, anaesthesia is extremely under resourced, with only 51 physician anaesthetists, the majority of which are concentrated in Addis Ababa which means that in most regions anaesthesia is provided by non-physician anaesthesia providers, who receive little or no ongoing development or training.

Oromia is one of 9 regions within Ethiopia, the capital of which is Addis Ababa.

The Oromia region borders Kenya to the south, Somali region to the east, the Amhara, Afar and Benishangul-Gumuz regions to the north and Gambela region and South Sudan to the west. Oromia has an estimated population of around 30 million and covers over 280,000 square kilometers. It is the largest and most populous region in Ethiopia.

The location for this SAFE Obstetric Anaesthesia course was Dukem, a town approximately 40 kilometers south-east of Addis Ababa. The course was supported by the WFSA SAFE Group, Oromia Health Professionals Association, Oromia Regional Health Bureau, Novartis, and the Ethiopian Society of Anaesthesiologists Professional Association (ESA). The course was joined by a media crew from Oromia Broadcasting network. They filmed during lectures and breakout sessions and conducted interviews. Coverage of this was broadcast on Oromia TV network.
The course was run at the Yina Grand Hotel in Dukem, Oromia, Ethiopia from 1st-3rd March 2018. Faculty included 4 UK medical staff and 6 Ethiopian anesthesia providers from Addis Ababa and the Amhara Region. Participants in the three-day SAFE Obstetrics course (29) were from 28 hospitals and were resident anaesthesiologists (3) and non-physician anaesthetists of BSc (18), Level 5 (4), Advanced Diploma (5) grades. A one-day Train-the-trainer course was held on 4th March 2018, after the SAFE Obstetrics course with 5 participants (resident anaesthesiologists and BSc anaesthesia providers).

Most delegates improved on both their knowledge and skills over the 3-day course. On average MCQ scores improved from 40/50 (80%) to 45 (90%) and Skills Test scores improved from 4/10 (40%) to 8.5/10 (85%). Delegate feedback received for lectures, breakout sessions, and overall course delivery was very good. Faculty and participants expressed their appreciation for the course and the course ran smoothly. The feedback was very positive. It is anticipated that more courses will be able to be run throughout the region utilizing local trainers and donated training equipment.

Faculty of SAFE obstetrics course

Training of Trainees course
Delegates and faculty of the SAFE course

Photos from the course

Jolene Moore, March 2018