

including the GNC mentoring programme, GNC Learn, and various online tools and guidance to support emergency preparedness. The experiences of the first GNC Technical Alliance support to a local NGO in Somalia (ARDI) highlights a situation true of many local NGOs that not only have technical needs but also seek support on programme management, financial management and resource mobilisation. The Alliance is looking at forging links with other entities who have the expertise to provide such support.

Whilst a strong focus of Field Exchange content is (quite rightly) on community-level prevention and treatment of wasting, in this edition we feature a field article from Zimbabwe by Austin et al (page 30) that highlights the effectiveness of establishing a specialist multidisciplinary unit for the inpatient treatment of complicated wasting, dramatically bringing mortality rates down from nearly 46% to 14% in these vulnerable children. The article describes the journey of the Sally Mugabe Children's Hospital, Zimbabwe in its quest to improve the quality of care for wasted children by becoming a National Centre of Excellence for wasting management, providing valuable lessons for others embarking on the same goal.

Another article from the field by Rahimov et al (page 22) describes an often discussed but less often implemented approach of nutrition service rationalisation to tackle an important issue of duplication, double counting and gaps in service provision by multiple partners in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The article highlights how bringing integrated nutrition services together under one roof for a 'one stop shop' improved programme coverage and service quality for Rohingya refugees after one year. Such an exercise was, of course, not entirely straightforward but resulted in extremely important benefits including a more streamlined approach that supported the continuation of services during the COVID-19 pandemic. A more comprehensive evaluation, including qualitative aspects is planned, the results of which will be featured in a future issue.

Finally, two recent reports from UNICEF/WHO describe the impact of the harmful marketing practices of the food industry on the health and nutrition of infants, children and women. A views piece (page 20) by Desplats draws on these two recent reports that highlight the scale and tactics of the food industry in the promotion of breastmilk substitutes and foods that contribute to unhealthy

diets and the need to strengthen efforts to protect infants, children and their mothers from harmful marketing practices. One shocking statistic revealed is that the formula milk industry spends more in one year on marketing than the entire two-year operations budget of the World Health Organization. In the face of the industry's ever more pervasive and persuasive tactics, we, as public health professionals, all need to act in more strategic ways to ensure women are supported to choose how to feed their infants and children based on informed choice and free from commercial influence.

There you have it – happy reading and please do continue to share your reactions and experiences with us. And just to whet your appetite for what's coming, we are planning a special Field Exchange series (online, print and podcasts) on complementary feeding in emergencies this year in collaboration with UNICEF. We'll be issuing a call for content soon – watch this space.

Marie McGrath (*Editor*)
Nicki Connell (*Editor*)
Anne Bush (*Editor*)
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Dr Ferew Lemma 1961 - 2021



Dr Ferew Lemma, friend, colleague and ENN Board of Trustees member, died unexpectedly on Christmas Day. This is a huge loss for his family and friends, for Ethiopia and for the global nutrition community.

Dr Ferew was a public health physician with a PhD in Public Health Nutrition from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He had a long and illustrious career working in various capacities in higher education teaching/learning, health service delivery and management as well as research. He started his career with government service in the Regional Health Bureau and as a faculty member of Jimma University School of Public Health before moving to the UK in 1998 to study for his PhD. Upon its completion, he worked at London's South Bank University for eight years as a Senior Research Fellow then relocated back to Ethiopia in 2010 to act as Senior Nutrition Advisor to the Minister for Health, including serving as an advisor to the (former) First Lady of Ethiopia. As testament to how much he was respected on the international stage, he also occupied many important advisory positions such as being a member of the Independent Expert Group of the Global Nutrition Report.

ENN's partnership with Dr Ferew started in 2010 as we embarked on the year-long process of organising the CMAM conference in Addis Ababa, held in November 2011. The aim of this conference was to provide the space for government voices and experience to be front and centre – something that had not been done in previous international CMAM meetings. Dr

Ferew immediately saw the potential and became our key partner – helping us to navigate all the many hurdles we needed to jump to deliver this large, reputation-making event and he was integral to its success. His blend of knowledge and experience, spanning both the Ethiopian and the global context, meant that he instinctively understood what the crucial elements to success were, who it was critical to engage with and how to navigate the many different organisations, agendas and priorities. Among his many other duties he continued to be closely involved in the rollout of CMAM in Ethiopia where millions of severely wasted children have been successfully treated over the past decade, more about which can be read here.

Dr Ferew continued to be a great friend to ENN and we were thrilled when he agreed to join our Board of Trustees just over a year ago. He brought depth and gravitas to the position, along with the much-needed country-level perspective. He was always so willing to help us – our 'go-to' person for anything – no matter the subject, always the first person that we thought to ask. For all his immense experience and knowledge, no question or topic was ever too small for him; a truly humble giant of nutrition. He was proud to be associated with ENN and we can safely say that our growth over the past decade has in no small part been due to his substantial contributions.

What a privilege it has been to have his support and friendship. We send our deepest condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

Emily Mates (*ENN Technical Director*)