

# The Italian Dermatological Centre (IDC) at Ayder Hospital-Mekele

## CONTEXT

The total population of Ethiopia was estimated at over 81 million people in 2008, with a life expectancy at birth of 55 years for men and 58 years for women, and a probability of dying

under 5 of 123/1000 live births. Ethiopia ranks among the last ten countries in the UN Human development Index and is still one of the poorest countries in the world, with a Gross National Income per capita of 630USD/year (source: WHO Ethiopia

Country profile).

Skin diseases represent an emerging health priority for the Country and are currently indicated among the ten leading causes of illness and hospitalization, after malaria, tuberculosis, acute respiratory and gastrointestinal infections.



## THE HEALTH SITUATION IN TIGRAY IS THE FOLLOWING:

Surface	54.572,6 km <sup>2</sup>
Total population in the region	4.831.471*
Number of working hospitals	12 (1 : 402.623 people)*
Number of doctors	73 (1 : 66.191 people)*
Life expectation at birth	46 years**
Mortality index under 5 years	90/1000**
Mothers mortality index	551/100.000**
Under weighted children under 5	66,6%**
Tuberculosis prevalence	188,4/100.000**
Malaria incidence	23.072/100.000**
Single point HIV prevalence	2.8%*

\*Data from the Tigray Health Bureau, 2008  
\*\* Data from the Tigray Health Bureau, 2004

In 2008 skin diseases were listed among the top ten diagnoses for out-patient admissions in the Region. **35,797** men, **14,098** women and **7,871** children under five were admitted in an outpatient department for skin infections in 2008 (source: Tigray Health Bureau profile 2008).

## ACTIVITIES

Within this context, the National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (NIHMP)- San Gallicano Hospital, in partnership with IISMAS ONLUS, supports the activities of the Italian Dermatological Centre based at Ayder Hospital in Mekelle, in coopera-

### AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Age groups	n	%
0-4	5.356	11,60
5-14	7.577	16,41
15-44	27.929	60,47
45-60	3.498	7,57
>60	1.826	3,95
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.186</b>	<b>100,00</b>

Gender	n	%
F	22.637	46,85
M	25.549	53,15
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.189</b>	<b>100,00</b>

During the period January 2005-August 2009, **48,427** admissions to the IDC took place. **46,873** admissions were in the out-patients department and **1,554** in the ward.

tion with the Tigray Regional Health Bureau, the Ethiopian Government, the University of Mekele and the Italian Cooperation.

The IDC is composed of a ward with 30 beds and an outpatients department, where an average of 60 patients are admitted every day. It is the only referral centre for dermatological diseases in the whole Tigray region.

The Centre is managed by Ethiopian health professionals (5 nurses, one lab technician, one pharmacist) and administrative personnel, under the overall coordination of Italian Medical Doctors sponsored by the NIHMP.

60.37% of the total number of diagnosis made at the IDC belonged to the ICD-9 group "Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous issues".

Within this group, those mostly represented were the "inflammatory conditions of skin and subcutaneous tissue", particularly **atopic and contact dermatitis**.

12.83% of dermatological diagnoses were instead "Infections of skin and subcutaneous tissue", where **impetigo**

accounted for 84.05% of cases.

30,47% of the total diagnosis belonged to the ICD-9 group "Infectious and Parasitic Diseases": most of them were skin infections, such as the **superficial mycoses**, particularly scalp dermatophytoses (3.314 cases) and pityriasis versicolor (2.170 cases), and **scabies** (3.415 cases).

818 cases of **Leishmania** were observed between January 2005 and August 2009, mostly of the cutaneous and subcutaneous type. During the same period, **leprosy** was diagnosed in 361 patients.

**HIV infection** was diagnosed in 1.494 patients (3,35% of the total).

889 cases of **tbc** were observed, 40,49% of them cutaneous, 36% of the peripheral lymph nodes and 11,82% pulmonary. **Malaria** was diagnosed in 277 patients.

Among the so called **Neglected Tropical Diseases**, besides Leishmaniasis the IDC attended 51 cases of **Wuchereria Bancrofti Filariasis** and 43 cases of **Onchocerciasis**.

**Skin tumors** were observed in 170 patients.

