

AIHA, EPSS Celebrate Graduation of Second Cohort of Leadership Trainees

Cohort II Included 36 Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service Staff Who Successfully Completed Six-month Leadership Incubation Program for Health Training Course



AIHA and the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS) celebrated the graduation of the second cohort of EPSS staff who completed a prestigious six-month leadership program in Addis Ababa December 25, 2025.

AIHA, in collaboration with the [Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service \(EPSS\)](#), graduated the second cohort of 36 leadership trainees on December 25, 2025, in Addis Ababa. Graduates successfully completed a program tailored to address EPSS's institutional priorities through AIHA's flagship [Leadership Incubation Program for Health \(LIP-H\)](#).

In addition to core leadership competencies, the curriculum incorporates specialized modules on human resources and supply chain management to ensure participants are equipped with practical tools to drive organizational excellence. Notably, 15 women were among the graduates, underscoring our joint efforts to promote gender equity in leadership roles.

EPSS Director General Dr. Abdulkadir Gelgelo delivered opening remarks at the gala ceremony, congratulating the graduates on their achievement. Explaining that the graduates have been equipped with essential skills and knowledge expected of effective leaders, Dr. Abdulkadir stressed that leadership must be rooted in teamwork. "Collaboration is particularly vital in the supply chain sector, where success is the result of collective efforts and shared responsibility," he said.



Dr. Abdulkadir Gelgelo.



Mrs. Kidest Hailu.

AIHA Country Director for Ethiopia Kidest Hailu shared details about LIP-H training and detailed the technical assistance AIHA provides to the EPSS thanks to financial support from the [Gates Foundation](#).

Stressing that leadership is not only a title, but also a responsibility, she called on the graduates to inspire others, drive innovation, and create solutions that transform countries, institutions, and communities. “In the healthcare sector, where we all work, effective leadership is the foundation of sustainable progress. I know you are now equipped with the tools, knowledge, and networks to make that progress a reality,” she said.



Dr. Lisan Seifu.

Dr. Lisan Seifu, a nephrologist and owner of Sante Medical College, was the guest speaker of the day. He shared valuable insights from his own leadership journey, discussing key qualities of an effective leader, the challenges leaders encounter, and some strategies to overcome them.

LIP-H Training Coordinator Nurhan Tefik presented an overview of all the capstone projects implemented by EPSS staff; graduates presented three of these projects, which focused on improving the proof of delivery collection rate at the EPSS Bahir Dar Hub; decreasing the pharmaceutical wastage rate at the Kabridehar Hub; and enhancing the operational efficiency of the incinerator machine at the Adama Hub.

Dr. Gelgelo, EPSS’s Director General, committed \$20,000 for the further implementation of three capstone projects and two of the graduates provided personal testimonials about their journey to leadership and the lessons they gained through the LIP-H training.

The day before the graduation ceremony, AIHA and EPSS hosted a networking event for EPSS LIP-H alumni, including the second cohort of trainees. More than 50 people attended the session, which created an opportunity for trainees to connect with like-minded professionals, expand their professional networks, and engage with leaders and motivational speakers in their field.

Kidest Hailu, AIHA’s Country Director, shared that networking increases a leader’s influence and confidence. “When leaders are visible and engaged, others are more likely to trust and respect them,” she explained, encouraging them to take full advantage of these events to network, share their stories, and discuss their ambitions. “The connections you build here can lead to incredible opportunities, collaborations, and lifelong friendships,” she stressed.

Dr. Abiy Tadesse, a young ENT specialist recently recognized for his motivational and inspiring messages on social media, discussed the healthcare services he provides and shared his own insights on the power of networking.

He explained that effective networking goes beyond professional contact. "It is about creating opportunities, building a legacy, establishing meaningful connections, exchanging knowledge, and accelerating personal and professional growth," he said, noting that he views networking not just as a tool for success, but a way to make a positive impact within one's field.



Dr. Abiy Tadesse.

Below are some scenes from the networking event.

