New Hope and Health for Eshe

Five year old Eshe lives with her family in a rural part of the Afar region in Ethiopia. When she became unwell, her mother Mazaa faced many challenges in finding the treatment her little girl needed. The area where the family are cattle farmers experiences a lot of conflict. Many people in their community are moving away due to fear. The devastating drought in the Greater Horn of Africa has now seen five consecutive failed rainy seasons, leading to high levels of acute malnutrition from increased food insecurity and inflation. This crisis has become neglected and is not receiving enough international attention or support.

Mazaa and her husband do not have a formal salary and have no choice but to sell cattle or goats to buy basic goods, such as flour. However, selling their assets in this way reduces their ability to make an income as cattle farmers.

Eshe suffered with sickness and a fever for a month, sometimes vomiting blood. Her worried family sought medical care from their local health centre but Mazaa explained: ‘There is no treatment available there, it’s empty. If the health centre was stocked, we would have gone there instead and maybe she wouldn’t have gotten as sick’.

The only other option was to take Eshe to a hospital over 100 km away. The family made the long journey in an open truck that carries goods. This hospital is supported by Integral Member International Health Partners (IHP), working with their local Partner Project HOPE.

Here, Eshe was diagnosed with anaemia and malnutrition when she was seen by the doctors. She had to have a blood transfusion and after ten days in hospital is now starting to feel better. Her family did not have to pay for this life-saving treatment.

Paying for medical treatment is very costly. Receiving free medical treatment at the hospital acted as a lifeline for this family in their time of need.

Prayer points:

1. Pray for the work of local Partner Project HOPE, for God’s provision and resources in Ethiopia. In particular for the provision of nutritional supplements which are critical for those suffering from malnutrition.
2. Pray for the many people experiencing poor health because of the food crisis. There are tragically 11 million more children younger than Eshe who are acutely malnourished in the Greater Horn of Africa. (Source: WHO Greater Horn of Africa Health Emergencies appeal 2024 - link here)
3. Give thanks for the shipments of medicines and medical supplies which IHP is able to send to Partner Project HOPE in Ethiopia. May they be a blessing to the people being served and may donors remain generous to continue to fund this life saving work.