

Press release



Social Enterprise saving lives in Ethiopia

“Without responsible private sector involvement, tackling social problems is like clapping with one hand,” says Kibret Abebe, founder of the first and only private ambulance service in Ethiopia.

Kibret Abebe is the founder and owner of Tebita Ambulance Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical. While working at the largest teaching and referrals hospital in Addis Ababa, Kibret handled numerous emergency cases, but due to the lack of ambulance services, many lives were unnecessarily lost. He founded Tebita in 2008 with the aim of creating a financially self-sustaining social enterprise that would save lives and inspire fellow citizens to contribute to improving their country.



To date, Tebita has a fleet of eleven ambulances, has provided ambulance services to more than 40,000 clients and emergency training to more than 25,000 trainees. “Tebita” is Amharic for “Drop,” a message to force every citizen to think about his or her drop of contribution to humanity.

Kibret will be speaking at a debate taking place at the [European Development Days](#) forum (largest development forum in Europe) in Brussels on 16 June entitled ‘[Aiming to achieve the SDGs: how can we make business more social?](#)’. The debate is organised by British Council in partnership with the World Bank Group.

We invite you to the session to hear about the latest thinking around social enterprise from several different perspectives, including that of [British Council](#) who will discuss the “Support to Social Enterprises in Eastern Africa” project that they implemented in partnership with the European Union in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Why does social enterprise matter?

Social enterprises are businesses which trade for a social or environmental purpose, reinvest profits into their social mission, and are accountable for their actions. They create jobs, reduce inequalities and bring hope to disadvantaged communities, delivering social as well as economic value.

“Across the world, people are realising that the principles and practices of social business and social enterprise – doing business with social or environmental purposes, reinvesting

wealth, ensuring openness and co-operation – can offer inspirational models to create the right kind of economy” says Professor Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate.

Session details

Moderator: Elena Casolari – CEO, Foundation ACRA-CCS

Speakers:

- Natalia Agapitova - Lead for the Social Enterprise Innovations Program, World Bank
- Roberto Ridolfi - Director for Sustainable Growth and Development, European Commission
- Kibret Abebe Tuffa – Founder, TEBITA Ambulance And Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Service
- Emanuele Santi – Lead Strategy Advisor, African Development Bank
- Paula Woodman - Senior Advisor for Global Social Enterprise programme, British Council

When: Thursday 16 June, 13.00-14.15

Location: D2, Tour & Taxis, Brussels

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Photo credit: Kibret Abebe

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British Council Social Enterprise Global: @SocEntGlobal

Notes to Editors:

About European Development Days 2016

European Development Days is Europe's leading forum on development and international cooperation, bringing together over 40,000 people to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

About British Council

British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide.

We work in more than 100 countries and our 8,000 staff – including 2,000 teachers – work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year by teaching English, sharing the arts and delivering education and society programmes.

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