



Thank you to all of our 17 cyclists and 3 volunteers who tackled the 400km from Addis Ababa to Gimbie, Western Ethiopia in February 2012 where they visited one of the projects which their sponsorship money funds. A huge amount of money was raised – over £23,000 which will help us expand our current projects so we can save even more lives.

Part of the team was Maternity Worldwide trustee Mary Russell who tells us more about the event. “After spending the weekend acclimatizing, we set off and spent the next 7 days cycling the beautiful, mountainous terrain towards Gimbie. Despite the challenges of the heat and orange dust of the dry season, not to mention road works galore, an amazing time was had by all. Some days were quite long and others slightly less strenuous but all were incredible as we were greeted wherever we went by the broad smiles of the Ethiopian people and a diversity of wildlife, from hyenas to gelada baboons and monkeys.”

“We arrived victorious in Gimbie on the 27th February to a very warm welcome from the staff, patients and Maternity Worldwide volunteers at Gimbie Adventist Hospital where we were greeted with a blissfully cold drink and a banner to welcome us followed by an evening party in the town, not to mention a donkey who walked in front of the camera as we posed for the team photo!”

“We were lucky enough to spend the next two days seeing the day-to-day lifesaving work of Maternity Worldwide in the hospital and meeting women and their babies who had delivered safely even after high risk pregnancies and long labours. We also visited the new Government Hospital in Gimbie as well as the antenatal triage clinics and health promotion community sessions in the surrounding kebeles (villages), before returning to Addis Ababa: this time by van instead of bicycle, and then, reluctantly returned home!”

Thank you to all the intrepid cyclists and everyone who sponsored them helping to make this event such a success.