Africa Humanitarian Action

02 May 2025

Statement from Africa Humanitarian Action
Celebrating the life of Ms. Guenet Guebre-Christos

The leadership and staff of Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) wish to express our condolences to the family, friends and the humanitarian community, on the passing of our beloved Trustee Guenet Guebre-Christos.

In moments like these, words are inadequate, as it is never easy to effectively express the impact of the loss of such a treasured friend and colleague. In short, the humanitarian community has lost a dynamic persona.

A Pan-Africanist at heart and a committed Ethiopian, Guenet was an avid reader on global and African issues and believed in the potential of young Africans to lead the continent out of a cycle of poverty, conflict, and displacement.

An ardent supporter of AHA's mission since inception, Guenet joined the AHA Board of Trustees in 2009 and has been serving on its Executive Board since 2019. Even before joining our governance, Guenet has always been gracious with her time and counsel to promote AHA and champion our cause. In AHA's early years in Rwanda and Burundi in the late 1990s, Guenet – who was a UNHCR Representative in the respective capitals at the time – was eager to offer meaningful guidance to our novice field staff as they navigated the complexities of working with the UN system agencies.

With a healthy aptitude for lively discourse, stemming from true intellectual curiosity and openness, Guenet had dedicated her career to the global humanitarian demands of refugees and displaced communities in an increasingly vulnerable world. In her work, she strived to articulate the multilayered nature of human vulnerability in various engagements with refugees and suggested potential ways to address them.

Vigilant, with a tangible measure of vulnerability, her contagious attributes of self-confidence and level-headedness made Guenet a skilled team player and manager. Her legacy lives on through the lives she touched, the ideas she inspired, the communities she championed, and the future she helped shape.

A consummate humanitarian, Guenet Gebre-Christos will be sorely missed by all of us at AHA and the wider humanitarian community in refugee related circles. May the deep ache we feel in her absence instead be replaced by the tenacity to move forth and further the ideals she passionately upheld.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

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