Jhpiego in Ethiopia

**Quick Facts**

**Estimated total population:** 90 million

**Maternal mortality ratio:**
353 per 100,000 live births

**Infant mortality rate:**
50 per 1,000 live births

**Under-five mortality rate:**
68 per 1,000 live births

**Total fertility rate:**
4.1

**Contraceptive prevalence:**
- 42% (all methods)
- 40% (modern methods)

**Births with skilled provider:**
14.5%

**HIV prevalence:**
1.5%

Sources:
2. Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2011;
4. WHO World Health Statistics 2014;

---

**Background**

With an estimated population of 90 million, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa. The majority of Ethiopians live in rural areas, creating a backdrop for a large and diverse country that is also home to some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable populations. Over the last two decades, Ethiopia has made improvements in several critical health indicators, but with one of the lowest rates of skilled birth attendance in sub-Saharan Africa at 15%, the lifetime risk of an Ethiopian woman dying in childbirth or from obstetric complications is 1 in 52. Although the country’s overall HIV prevalence is lower than most neighboring countries, according to the 2011 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey, adult HIV prevalence remains high in some parts of the country, especially the Gambella Region, where prevalence is 6.5%—or four times the national rate of 1.5%. This is in part due to the lower rate of male circumcision in the region (75.5% compared to the overall male circumcision rate of 92.2%). Ethiopia is also faced with a critical shortage of health care professionals across most essential cadres, with a health workforce ratio of 0.84/1,000 population (compared to the World Health Organization [WHO] recommendation of 2.3/1,000) and an unmet need for midwives of 63%.

Jhpiego began working in Ethiopia in 2003 with funding from the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Initial efforts focused on implementing a national infection prevention program and quickly expanded to multiple HIV prevention and treatment interventions.

Since then, Jhpiego’s presence in Ethiopia has expanded and diversified. Through the ACCESS Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Jhpiego supported the training of health officers in maternal and newborn care, and led the development of the safe, clean delivery training for health extension workers (HEWs) to provide essential maternal and newborn care. With funding from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), Jhpiego built the capacity of the Ethiopian National Defense Force to provide safe, voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention package. From 2010 to 2013, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) supported Jhpiego to collaborate with the Ethiopian Midwives Association to establish standardized training sites and develop a group of national trainers to deliver high-quality, standardized training in basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC). Under the USAID-funded Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), Jhpiego and partners Save the Children and the Johns Hopkins Institute for International Programs supported interventions to increase the use of high-impact maternal and newborn interventions and improve the quality of essential maternal and newborn health care in the four most populous regions of the country (Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples’ Region [SNNPR]).

More recently, through a project funded by the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), Jhpiego supported Digital Campus in implementing an open-source mLearning program to support and increase HEWs’ application of skills obtained through training programs in Tigray Region. Under the Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunity (ENGINE) program, Jhpiego partnered with Save the Children to improve pre-service education of health care providers and agricultural agents in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR Regions.
In addition, the global, USAID-funded Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) worked in Ethiopia to scale up BEmONC services, improve performance and quality of maternal and newborn health services, strengthen existing lifesaving innovations, and, where appropriate, assess and introduce new ones.

Today, Jhpiego continues to expand its programs and scale of interventions across the country, with an aim of assisting the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to meet the goals of the fourth Health Sector Development Program to improve access to high-quality health services provided by skilled essential health workers. With multiple active projects and more than 130 in-country staff, Jhpiego is currently working with a diverse funding base to support the FMOH and other partners to address the challenges of maternal and newborn mortality, health workforce development and HIV/AIDS.

**Current Program Highlights**

**The Strengthening Human Resources for Health (HRH) Project**

The HRH Project is a USAID-funded Cooperative Agreement with an overall goal of improving human resources for health in Ethiopia. The project is contributing to the Government of Ethiopia’s efforts to strengthen local capacity to support comprehensive and sustainable systems for developing and managing human resources for health. Under this award, Jhpiego is building capacity within the government to improve human resources management practices, develop human resources managers, and support policies and systems for planning, recruitment, deployment and retention of health workers. The project also supports pre-service education and in-service training, while focusing on strengthening legal frameworks and mechanisms for licensure and regulation of health worker performance. Jhpiego works with more than 50 universities and colleges to improve the quality of teaching by developing faculty, establishing health science education centers, conducting curriculum review and strengthening infrastructure. With the government, Jhpiego has helped to standardize and institutionalize in-service training, linked to the establishment of a continuing professional development system. The project is being implemented by a Jhpiego-led consortium including Management Sciences for Health, the Ethiopian Midwives Association, the Ethiopian Association of Anesthetists, the Open University, 25 regional health science colleges, 11 regional health bureaus (RHBs), 85 zonal health departments and 861 *worreda* (district-level) health offices working in collaboration with the FMOH.

**Technical Assistance for the Transition of Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Programs and Medical Education to Ethiopia**

Jhpiego is a sub-partner to ICAP with funding from PEPFAR through CDC to support the RHB in Gambella Region to ensure provision of comprehensive, high-quality adult and adolescent VMMC services. The initiative emphasizes strengthening VMMC awareness and demand creation, and building human and institutional capacity to promote and provide comprehensive and high-quality VMMC services.

**Growth through Nutrition**

Growth through Nutrition is USAID’s five-year, flagship multi-sector nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project. It aims to improve the nutritional status of women and young children in four of Ethiopia’s regions, focusing on the first 1,000 days (from conception to age two). The project will build off of the ENGINE program, work across all government and society levels, bring intensified multi-sectoral nutrition programming to community levels, and link development and emergency efforts to build resiliency and sustainability. Unlike ENGINE, the project is investing more in agriculture and WASH to address gaps in the availability of diverse food in targeted areas and the supply of WASH products and services needed to alleviate stunting.
HIV Service Quality Management
This five-year, CDC-funded project is designed to strengthen HIV services quality improvement and quality management systems in Ethiopia under PEPFAR. Through this project, Jhpiego is: 1) building the capacity of the FMOH, RHBs and public health facilities to effectively plan, implement and monitor HIV quality improvement/quality management activities to strengthen the quality of health care service delivery at 284 scale-up and 312 maintenance health facilities by the end of 2021; and 2) enhancing HIV quality improvement/quality management leadership and governance capacity at highly burdened public health facilities by increasing the number of Master of Hospital Administration graduates trained and subsequently deployed from 111 to 370 by the end of 2021.

Safe Surgery 2020 Leadership Pillar
Jhpiego is implementing the surgical leadership development component of the GE Foundation’s flagship initiative, Safe Surgery 2020, which seeks to reduce preventable deaths from surgically treatable conditions. This first-of-its-kind project is initially being implemented in Ethiopia, with expansion planned to Ghana and Kenya. Under the Leadership Pillar, Jhpiego is developing and mentoring district-level surgical teams in leadership, and contributing to provider-driven improvements in surgical care. Assist International, Harvard Medical School’s Program in Global Surgery and Social Change, and the G4 Alliance are supporting surgical innovation, monitoring and evaluation, and policy and advocacy, respectively. The ultimate goal of this support is to increase surgical volume and reduce surgical morbidity and mortality.

Demonstration Project for Anonymous Medical Error Identification and Reporting System
Jhpiego is funding and implementing a one-year demonstration project to test an anonymous medical error identification and reporting system designed to maximize the use of information communication technology and reporting by frontline health workers.

Key Achievements
Under the HRH Project:
- The midwife to pregnancy ratio increased from 1:611 to 1:328.
- The project supported the fulfillment of 70% of approved health worker positions.
- More than 2,155 human resources managers have been trained in human resources management at the national and regional levels.
- Through its support to pre-service education programs, Jhpiego contributed to the successful graduation of new health workers (8,301 midwives, 617 anesthetists, 10,626 HEWs, 287 emergency medicine technicians, 63 biomedical technicians and 274 paramedics).
- Jhpiego supported the establishment of a post-graduate program for Health Economics and Human Resource Management at three institutions; 76 students enrolled in the program between 2013 and 2015.
- Jhpiego helped standardize and institutionalize in-service training, including developing six training curricula, providing training for 8,050 faculty members and supporting in-service training for 477 human resources managers, instructors, clinical preceptors and skill lab assistants.
- To increase the quality and availability of data for decision-making, Jhpiego led and contributed to five national research studies, published four peer-reviewed articles in international journals and disseminated the information to stakeholders to guide implementation and policy development.
Under MCSP:

- Through MCSP, Jhpiego has trained 175 providers in BEmONC.
- To improve the quality of BEmONC services, Jhpiego assisted the FMOH in adapting a national maternal, newborn and child health quality improvement tool for hospitals, which has been further adapted and introduced in 22 MCSP-supported facilities.
- Jhpiego has helped adapt the national maternal and newborn health tool for use at the health center level, including adaptation of the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist.
- Jhpiego has trained providers on postpartum family planning (PPFP) counseling and postpartum IUD insertion and trained providers in Effective Teaching Skills to support the FMOH’s rollout plan for PPFP services.

Under VMMC:

- Jhpiego has increased the availability of VMMC services by supporting 11 static and 20 outreach sites in the Gambella Region.
- More than 100 providers have been trained in provision of VMMC and are delivering outreach services and supporting demand-creation activities.
- To date, 65,539 adult males have received safe, high-quality VMMC services and more than 49,390 adult males have been tested for HIV, counseled and linked to treatment and care services.

Partners and Donors

Jhpiego’s current and past funding partners in Ethiopia include USAID, UNICEF, CDC, DOD, DFID, Save the Children, ICAP and local partner Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE). Jhpiego works closely with the FMOH and RHBs, as well as zonal health departments and woreda health offices. Jhpiego supports or previously supported a range of local organizations including: the Ethiopian Midwives Association, the Ethiopian Anesthetists Association, Surgical Society of Ethiopia, Project Mercy, Ethiopian HIV/AIDS Counselors Association, FGAE, Ethiopian Nurses Association, Ethiopian Medical Association, Ethiopian Health Officers Association and other professional associations. International organizations with which Jhpiego has collaborated include Save the Children, the Open University, Digital Campus, Management Sciences for Health, ICAP, Pathfinder International, John Snow, Inc. and the Johns Hopkins Institute for International Programs.

References


FMOH and FHAPCO. *Single Point HIV Prevalence Estimate 2007*.


