Jhpiego in Ethiopia

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 obstetrical 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 the national infection prevention program, expanding voluntary HIV counseling and testing, scaling up services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, strengthening pre-service HIV education for key health workers, and improving the quality of HIV/AIDS services through the Jhpiego-developed Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R®) approach, as well as introducing safe, comprehensive male circumcision services for HIV prevention.

Over the years, 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 also worked to build 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. With support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Jhpiego collaborated with the Ethiopian Midwives Association from 2010 through 2013 to establish standardized training sites across all regions of the country 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 its partners Save the Children and the Johns Hopkins Institute for International Programs supported interventions to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity by increasing the use of high-impact maternal and newborn interventions, and improving the quality of essential maternal and newborn health in the regions of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR), the four most populous regions of the country.

Quick Facts

**Estimated total population:**
90 million

**Maternal mortality ratio:**
676 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. World Health Statistics 2014;
5. 2014 Ethiopia Mini Demographic and Health Survey. Central Statistical Agency;
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. In the process, Jhpiego has deepened its partnerships with the FMOH at the national and regional levels, and has partnered with a range of institutions and agencies including the Federal Ministry of Education; the Food, Medicine and Health Administration and Control Authority, the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (FHAPCO); the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency; and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Agency, allowing us to respond to a range of critical health needs. 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 (GOE’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. Working 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 of partner organizations 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 woreda health offices working in collaboration with the FMOH.

**Key Achievements:**

- At total of 1,216 personnel have been trained in human resources management.
- The project supported the fulfillment of 70% of approved health worker positions.
- Functional federal and regional human resources for health forums have been established.
- Through its support to pre-service education programs, Jhpiego contributed to the successful graduation of an additional 8,301 midwives, 10,462 HEWs, 617 anesthetists and 624 other essential health workers.
- Jhpiego supported the establishment of a post-graduate program for Health Economics and Human Resource Management at three institutions; 76 students enrolled between 2013 and 2015.
- Jhpiego helped standardize and institutionalize in-service training, including development of six training curricula, providing training for 8,050 faculty members and supporting in-service training for 477 human resource 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, and disseminated the information to stakeholders to guide implementation and policy development.

**The Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP)**

MCSP is a global, USAID cooperative agreement to introduce and support high-impact health interventions in 24 priority countries with the ultimate goal of ending preventable maternal and
child deaths within a generation. In Ethiopia, MCSP is focused on scaling up BEmONC services, improving performance and quality of maternal and newborn health services, strengthening existing innovations such as postpartum family planning (PPFP) and postpartum intrauterine contraceptive device (PPIUCD) services and, where appropriate, assessing and introducing new, lifesaving interventions such as the uterine balloon tamponade for the management of postpartum hemorrhage. MCSP also provides support to the GOE’s national quality improvement efforts to advance standards for respectful, evidence-based maternal and newborn care. MCSP is leading research in Ethiopia on topics such as respectful maternity care, blended BEmONC learning methods, the continuum of care for PPFP, and follow-up and use of audit feedback tools for management of pre-eclampsia/eclampsia. MCSP’s geographical coverage in Ethiopia includes Addis Ababa, Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR Regions.

**Key Achievements:**
- 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 (MNCH) 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 (MNH) tool for use at the health center level, including adaptation of the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist.
- Jhpiego has trained providers on PPFP counseling and PPIUCD insertion and trained providers in Effective Teaching Skills to support the FMOH’s rollout plan for PPFP services.

**Strengthening Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Health**
With funding from UNICEF, Jhpiego is working to ensure that there are adequate numbers of skilled providers able to deliver BEmONC services at the health center and hospital levels. The program supports the GOE’s efforts to reach Millennium Development Goal 5, Improving Maternal Health, by further improving facility-based BEmONC services in selected areas of Ethiopia, and enhancing the capacity of RHBs and the FMOH to roll out standardized BEmONC training and supportive supervision systems.

**Key Achievements:**
- Jhpiego has supported the establishment of 15 BEmONC training centers across the country, with an additional four under development.
- To strengthen skills and capacities in BEmONC, Jhpiego trained more than 80 national trainers, and provided training on supervisory skills to a further 100 trainers.
- Working with six hospitals, Jhpiego has provided support to implement quality improvement efforts and improved the quality of MNH services.

**Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunity (ENGINE)**
As the flagship nutrition program for USAID Ethiopia’s Feed the Future and Global Health Initiative strategies, the program aims to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality by improving the nutritional status of women and children under five. As a partner to lead implementer Save the Children, Jhpiego is working to improve the pre-service education for health care providers and agricultural agents in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR Regions by improving the curriculum and enhancing the capacity and quality of instructors and preceptors. The program also established an academic center of excellence at Hawassa University and provides in-service training for nutrition program managers and health care providers.

**Key Achievements:**
- Established an Academic Center of Excellence for Nutrition at Hawassa University in SNNPR.
- Supported the competency-based revision of a nutrition curriculum for 13 Health Science and Agriculture colleges and developed a training package for Nutrition Program Planning and Supervision.
- Led the design and development of a comprehensive, blended learning package on nutrition.
- Built the technical capacity of 1,171 faculty to effectively address nutrition and reached 7,439 students to raise awareness on the importance of nutrition.
- Trained close to 40 staff through a training of trainers approach on nutrition program planning and supervision.
Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

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 emphasis is on strengthening VMMC awareness and demand creation, and building human and institutional capacity to promote and provide comprehensive and high-quality VMMC services.

Key Achievements:

- Jhpiego has increased the availability of VMMC services by supporting 11 static and 17 outreach sites in the Gambella Region.
- More than 100 providers have been trained in provision of VMMC and are providing outreach services and supporting demand-creation activities.
- To date, 55,275 adult males have received safe, high-quality circumcision services and more than 43,842 adult males have been tested for HIV, counseled and linked to treatment and care services.

Improving HEWs’ Training and Effectiveness through Continuous Skills Improvement, Knowledge Assessment and Patient Management Processes

Through a project funded by the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), Jhpiego supports Digital Campus in implementing an m-learning program to support and increase HEWs’ application of skills obtained through training programs in Tigray Region. Jhpiego’s work is enabling HEWs to increase their capacity to assess and monitor MNCH patient cases. The program provides tutors with improved tools for monitoring and assessing skills and knowledge of HEWs in MNCH, and allows HEWs to have access to additional MNCH training and reference content (multimedia and self-assessment exercises) through dissemination of the open-source mobile learning platform use and training content.

Key Achievements:

- An open-source mobile learning platform for delivering learning content has been designed and developed for environments with poor Internet connectivity and has been provided to 156 HEWs and 18 tutors enrolled at Dr. Tewelde Health Sciences College, Tigray Region.
- HEWs have been trained on how to use the mobile platform for learning purposes and tutors have been provided with improved tools for monitoring and assessing knowledge of HEWs in MNCH learning content.
- A medical glossary has been developed in the local Tigrigna language to support HEW students in improving their language skills and understanding the learning content.

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 that Jhpiego has collaborated with 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


