HEALTH POLICY PROJECT/**ETHIOPIA**

Building capacity for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance.

The Health Policy Project (HPP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), contributes to improved health through strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of health systems.

To learn more, visit HPP at: www.healthpolicyproject.com

Overview

Ethiopia has made impressive strides in education, health, and poverty alleviation over the past decade. Yet high population growth threatens to undermine these gains. The country struggles with persistently high maternal mortality, and access to family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) services is limited, particularly in rural areas—where the majority of the population resides. Sustaining social and economic development gains will require strengthening Ethiopia's health systems and expanding access to FP/RH and maternal health services.

Since 2011, the Health Policy Project (HPP) has supported the Federal Government of Ethiopia, the Amhara Regional State Administration, and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to achieve these goals. The project

- Strengthens leadership and stewardship of the health system by building partners' capacity for evidence-based advocacy and planning

- Supports the integration of gender equality principles into health policies and programs

- Promotes multisectoral coordination around key gender and health issues

- Builds the capacity of women leaders to advocate for improved FP/RH services

Policy

HPP/Ethiopia helps foster a more supportive policy environment for FP/RH and related health issues by strengthening evidence-based decision making and enhancing stewardship of the health system. The project works at both the national and regional levels to

- Build the capacity of policymakers, leaders, and nongovernmental organizations in data use

- Increase the harmonization and alignment of planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes

- Foster high-quality gender and health programing

- Promote women's active participation and leadership in the policy process

Key contributions include

- Enabling stakeholders to apply software models and tools to better understand the costs and benefits associated with expanding FP/RH services

- Strengthening regional health governance structures in Amhara Region to improve community ownership and involvement

Photo by: Meseret Belachew

HPP facilitated a discussion in Harar, Ethiopia with youth and women's association members, as well as community-based and faith-based groups, to improve reproductive health through community dialogue.

- Creating and applying new advocacy tools to analyze the costs and benefits of investing in FP/RH services and identify resource gaps
- Strengthening the institutional capacities of government partners, including the Bureau of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs, in gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equity

Advocacy

HPP/Ethiopia supports evidence-based advocacy that enables local partners to engage more effectively in policy dialogue and affect policy change at the national and local levels.

Key contributions include:

- Building the capacity of individuals and organizations to generate and use data effectively in FP/RH advocacy
- Facilitating high-level policy dialogue to encourage multisectoral collaboration on population and RH issues
- Supporting local partners to engage media representatives in increasing awareness and coverage of FP/RH and population issues

Health Financing

Generating data and building partners' capacity for costing the delivery of health services are key components of improving health financing and enhancing sustainability. HPP/Ethiopia trains government and civil society partners to:

- Apply modeling data to support evidence-based decisionmaking
- Explore policy and resource options and set priorities
- Analyze population projections and estimate the cost and impact of health programs and resource allocation decisions
- Advocate for increased resources

How to Work with Us

For over 40 years, Futures Group has managed large and complex international health and development projects for a range of major development players, achieving significant results on the ground in more than 100 countries. Host-country partners with interest in receiving project assistance should contact their USAID Mission. All Missions may participate through field support. For information on how to work with the Health Policy Project please contact:

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Photo by: Health Policy Project

Through its partner EPHA, HPP trained representatives from government institutions on HPP's Spectrum Suite and GAP models to support evidence-based planning, budgeting, and policymaking for family planning and reproductive health.

Capacity Development

Capacity building is central to HPP/Ethiopia's efforts. Highlights include:

- Building capacity to apply software models and tools to better understand the costs and benefits associated with expanding FP/RH services
- Creating a resource pool of master trainers
- Enhancing the Ethiopian Public Health Association's (EPHA) capacity to serve as a resource on FP/RH tools and models

Contact Us

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