



Integrated Family Health Program

Press Release

U.S. Government is Striving to Improve Family Health in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 27, 2015 - More than 200 high-level decision makers, health professionals, and staffs of partner organization attended a Lessons Learned Dissemination Workshop today organized by USAID's Integrated Family Health Program (IFHP). The workshop will be used to fine-tune the program's future support.

IFHP has a wide range of experience in building capacity and skills of local public and civil society institutions to strengthen community health programs in Ethiopia. Interventions focus on strengthening the public health system and service delivery at the primary healthcare level. The program implements interventions in the areas of family planning, maternal, newborn, and child health.

Surveys show significant improvements between 2008 and 2013 as a result of the joint efforts of the Government of Ethiopia and USAID through the IFHP. A 2013 survey showed significant increase in the use of family planning, maternal and newborn health, and positive progress in most child health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and malaria indicators.

A similar assessment showed that the percentage of health centers with health workers trained on basic emergency obstetrics and newborn care increased from 44 percent to 99 percent, which improves the quality of delivery services. Lessons learned will guide expansion to wider geographical areas.

Another assessment showed positive trends in implementing management approaches at different health sector levels using their own resources or with minimal external input. In addition, the financial contribution of the public sector increased demonstrating a commitment to sustain current achievements.

"Research in healthcare is crucial for identifying health priorities and operational problems by producing evidence that will focus activities resulting in improved healthcare services," said USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Dennis Weller at the workshop. "It is my sincere hope that the assessment results will bring additional vital information that we can all use to sharpen the focus of our interventions."

Since July 2008, the program, implemented by Pathfinder International and John Snow International, has operated jointly with its government counterparts in the Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples regions, and to a lesser extent in the Benshangul-Gumuz and Somali regions.

IFHP supports expanding health practices at household and community level; improving the availability and quality of health services, products and information; strengthening the health systems to support health services; and systematically learning from its own implementation to inform future policy and program investment.