

IntraHealth
INTERNATIONAL
Because Health Workers Save Lives.



ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia has emerged as a development leader on the African continent, and has made high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health services for its population a priority. By reducing its child mortality rate from 204 to 68 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2012, Ethiopia met its Millennium Development Goal 4 target ahead of schedule. The country has also reduced its fertility rate and drastically increased women's access to and use of modern family planning methods.

Yet much remains to be done to ensure every family has access to high-quality, integrated health services. In 2013, 196,000 Ethiopian children under the age of five died, most from preventable and treatable conditions.¹ Maternal mortality, while on the decline, remains high at between 420² and 676³ deaths per 10,000 live births. Eighty-five percent of births are not assisted by skilled providers,⁴ and access to emergency obstetric care remains limited.

IntraHealth International began working in Ethiopia in 2003 introducing services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. Under the Hareg Project, jointly funded by USAID and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), IntraHealth led the task force to develop the first national PMTCT guidelines and worked with local partners to roll out innovative approaches such as support groups for mothers with HIV, home-based PMTCT services, and mainstreaming of gender approaches in health worker training.

¹ UNICEF, 2014

² WHO, 2012

³ Ethiopia DHS, 2011

⁴ Ethiopia mini DHS, 2014



1.4 million pregnant women tested for HIV



230 peer-to-peer mothers' support groups established



Over 24,000 health workers trained in PMTCT, MNCH, and related services

Focusing on the country's five largest regions—Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, and Tigray—IntraHealth has contributed to Ethiopia's health development goals by:

- Collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Health to develop critical guidelines such as the training package for basic emergency obstetric care, a roadmap for safe motherhood, and implementation plans for scale up of Option B+ and elimination of mother-to-child-transmission (EMTCT) of HIV.
- Integrating MNCH and family planning with PMTCT/EMTCT services in 1,025 health centers
- Strengthening basic emergency obstetric care in 519 health centers
- Establishing 230 mothers' support groups (MSGs) to improve the ability of women with HIV to care for themselves and their children, an approach now replicated internationally.
- Training and mentoring 2,374 community volunteers to communicate messages on prevention of fistula and refer women to services

Community Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission Project (2009–2014)

As the leader of this USAID-funded project, IntraHealth applied its expertise in training, performance improvement, and referral system development to scale up and improve the quality of PMTCT and MNCH services. The project built PMTCT/MNCH management capacity within the public sector and increased access to services, including community follow-up for HIV-positive pregnant women, mothers, and HIV-exposed infants. The project worked with various directorates in the Federal Ministry of Health as well as with regional, zonal, and district health bureaus to strengthen these capacities.

Capacity Building with NEPI and MEPI (2012–present)

IntraHealth leads USAID's global health workforce strengthening project, *CapacityPlus*. As a partner in the Nursing Education Partnership Initiative (NEPI), the project conducted nursing and midwifery education capacity assessments and costing

studies at Addis Ababa University, the University of Gondar, and Arba Minch University. The ministries of health and education, school leaders, and other stakeholders are now using the results to scale up the quantity and quality of graduates. Through the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Addis Ababa University is also collaborating with *CapacityPlus* to implement MEPI Connect—open source software developed by IntraHealth—to track medical students from registration to deployment.

Fistula Care (2008–2013)

IntraHealth, as a core partner on the global USAID-funded Fistula Care project, developed a job aid on diagnosis of obstetric fistula and a comprehensive training package for fistula prevention and recognition. IntraHealth worked closely with the Amhara Regional Health Bureau and the Hamlin Fistula Hospital to build capacity both within communities and in the health sector to prevent fistula and to identify, prepare, and refer women with obstetric fistula for surgery. As part of our innovative approach to fistula prevention, IntraHealth created prerepair units affiliated with four health centers in the Amhara region.

Social Welfare Workforce Assessment and Curriculum Development (2013)

Through this UNICEF-funded project, IntraHealth worked with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to assess the human resources capacity of Ethiopia's social welfare workforce.

Past projects and funders

- HIV/AIDS Care and Support Program, 2007–2011 (USAID), supporting partner
- Preventive Care Package, 2009–2011 (USAID), supporting partner
- Fenote Tesfa (PC4) Project, 2004–2009 (USAID), supporting partner
- Extending Service Delivery Project, 2005–2006 (USAID), supporting partner
- ACQUIRE Project, 2003–2008 (USAID), supporting partner
- Hareg Project, 2003–2004 (USAID), 2004–2007 (USAID and CDC)

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