

DPHSWD Activities in Ethiopia

Applied Epidemiology Training

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through its Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD), helped the Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) establish a Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP), headquartered in Addis Ababa. The first cohort of residents entered the program in February 2009.

The goals of the FELTP are to provide service to the FMOH and work toward improving public health systems within the country through the training of field epidemiologists and public health laboratorians.

Program Structure

The FELTP is a 2-year in-service training program in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory practice. It guides field epidemiology residents and public health laboratory residents in the development of knowledge and experience to become public health professionals qualified to assume leadership positions in various levels of the FMOH and Regional Health Bureaus.

Residents spend 25% of their time in classroom instruction and 75% in field assignments. They take courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, communications, leadership and management where they develop the skills necessary to investigate health problems, implement intervention strategies, and generate evidence-based health information to inform and improve health policy and reduce morbidity and mortality in the country.

During their field assignments residents conduct epidemiologic investigations and field surveys, evaluate surveillance systems, perform disease control and prevention. They also report their findings to decision- and policy-makers and the broader community of national and international public health professionals. In addition, residents serve as mentors and teachers to help train other health workers.

After residents complete all program requirements, they are awarded a Master of Public Health in Field Epidemiology

from the Addis Ababa University School of Public Health. CDC is supporting the program by



assigning an experienced resident advisor to provide technical assistance in teaching and mentoring program residents, and giving consultation to the Ethiopia FMOH on priority public health issues.

Funding and Partnerships

- Ethiopia Federal Ministry of Health
- Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute
- Addis Ababa University School of Public Health
- Ethiopian Public Health Association
- African Field Epidemiology Network

Management Capacity Building

CDC is also working with the Ethiopian Government to improve all aspects of its public health services and systems, including its HIV/AIDS programs.

The country has a high burden of HIV/AIDS. Most recent studies estimate that between 1 and 2.6 million people are infected. To help Ethiopia improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its HIV/AIDS activities, CDC is conducting management and organizational capacity workshops and projects in Ethiopia.

Developing Tools to Support Health Development

At an organizational-level, CDC is providing support in project management and process improvement to help the FMOH improve the Ethiopian Public Health Emergency Response System.

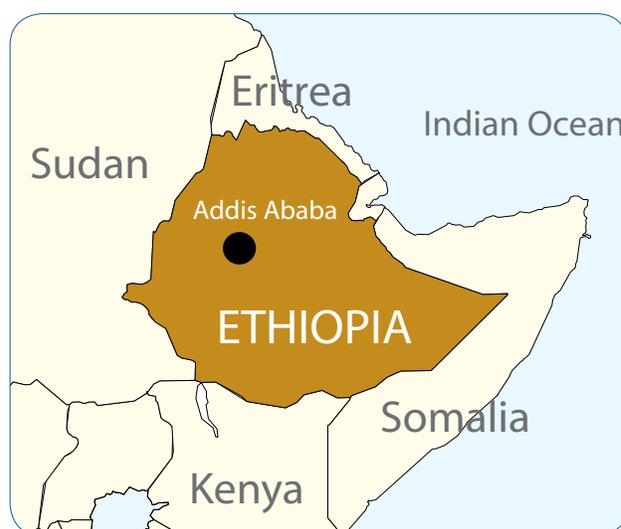
CDC is also providing technical assistance to the FMOH on creating a new Ethiopian Public Health Agency. In addition, CDC is working to improve leadership and management by providing training in process improvement for national and regional reference and hospital laboratory managers.

CDC is also training Ethiopia's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office Regional Bureau Chiefs in applied learning projects designed to improve management processes.

Promoting Sustainability

An important goal of CDC is to design sustainable programs. The program in Ethiopia will

- Assist with the government's strategy to improve how HIV/AIDS health services are provided,
- Improve process and project management skills throughout the public health system,
- Work with the Ethiopian Public Health Agency to establish an institutional home for management capacity building, and
- Align with other CDC initiatives, such as the FELTP and other national initiatives.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Global Health

Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Mailstop E-93 • Atlanta, Georgia 30333, USA
www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/fetp • Tel: 404-639-3210 • Fax: 404-639-4617