

Transform: Primary Health Care

Strengthening primary healthcare in Ethiopia to reduce preventable maternal and child deaths

Background and project overview

Malaria still poses a significant barrier to social and economic development in Ethiopia, despite recent reductions in malaria-related morbidity and mortality. In endemic areas, it is responsible for limiting productive capacity when the need for agricultural work is greatest: during the planting and harvesting seasons. Although there are regional differences, Ethiopia's National Malaria Indicator Survey indicates a national prevalence of 0.5 percent in 2015,^[1] and more than 75 percent of the total area of Ethiopia is malarious, making it the country's leading public health issue.^[2]

Ethiopia aims to eliminate malaria by 2030, and is implementing essential malaria control and elimination interventions (such as improved case management) to achieve this goal. The USAID-funded Transform: Primary Health Care project is supporting the Government of Ethiopia in these efforts and, in doing so, seeks to contribute to a reduction in preventable maternal and child deaths. It will build the capacity of antenatal care providers in malaria case management, assist in capturing data on malaria in pregnancy, and provide technical assistance for rapid diagnostic testing, among other activities. The project will take place in the regions of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region.

Country

Ethiopia

Donor

USAID/U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

Length of project

January 2017 – October 2019

Partners

Pathfinder International (prime)

John Snow, Inc (prime)

Amhara Regional Health Bureau

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Health

Oromia Regional Health Bureau

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional Health Bureau

Tigray Regional Health Bureau

Objectives

The project aims to contribute to a reduction in the number of preventable maternal and child deaths in Ethiopia by supporting the implementation of the Government's Health Sector Transformation Plan. Specifically, it aims to:

- improve the management and performance of Ethiopia's health system
- increase the sustainability and quality of service delivery across the primary healthcare unit continuum of care
- improve households' and communities' health practices and health seeking behaviours
- identify and disseminate learning to strengthen policies and practices around preventable maternal and child mortality.

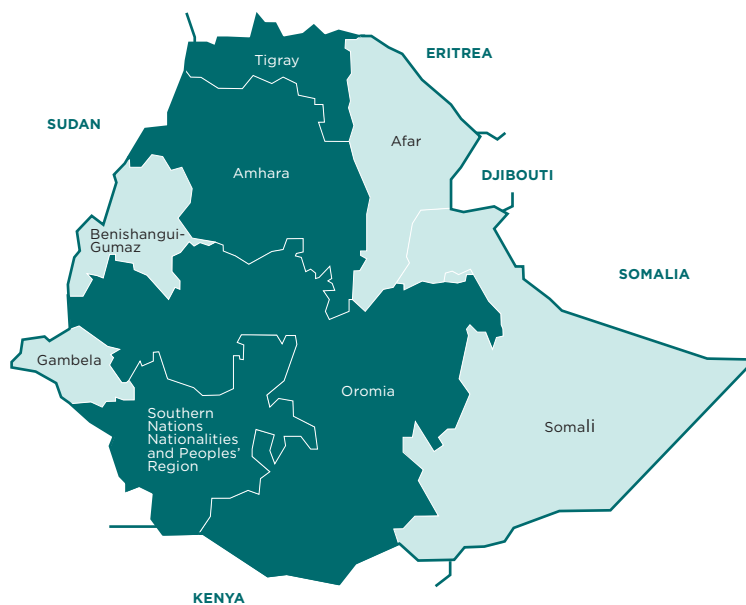
Activities

This project will deliver a range of activities that seek to improve health outcomes (including around the management and performance of the health system, and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health) in Ethiopia. Malaria-related activities will include:

- supporting antenatal care facilities to provide a one-stop service for febrile pregnant women and supporting health facility staff to accurately record data on malaria in pregnancy
- providing regular supervision to community health workers and undertaking quality assessments of rapid diagnostic test performance during random follow-up visits
- providing health facilities with malaria epidemic monitoring charts and offering technical support to selected health facilities to improve such monitoring

- supporting efforts to reduce malaria-related morbidity and mortality among internally displaced people by:
 - assessing risk factors associated with malaria
 - screening febrile patients
 - identifying mosquito breeding sites
 - increasing awareness of malaria prevention and treatment
- using various communication channels, such as audio-mounted mobile vans and brochures, to improve health seeking behaviours within communities
- undertaking periodic caseload assessments in high-risk areas to improve data flow and providing timely information to actors at the local level (such as the regional health bureaux and district health offices) to ensure a continuous supply of malaria commodities. The results will also be shared with the government and USAID/PMI partners.

Figure 1: Operational regions of the Transform: Primary Health Care project



References

1. Ethiopian Public Health Institute. Ethiopia National Malaria Indicator Survey 2015. Addis Ababa: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Health; 2016. Available from: <https://www.ephi.gov.et/images/pictures/download2009/MIS-2015-Final-Report-December-2016.pdf>.
2. Ayele DG, Zewotir TT, Mwambi GH. Prevalence and risk factors of malaria in Ethiopia. *Malaria Journal*, 2012. 11(1): 195.

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Cover image: A child in Guba, Ethiopia, during an entomological household survey, 2013

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