

# STRENGTHENING ETHIOPIA'S URBAN HEALTH PROGRAM (SEUHP)

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## BACKGROUND

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The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched Strengthening Ethiopia's Urban Health Program (SEUHP) in July 2014 to address health challenges related to rapid urbanization in Ethiopia. SEUHP promotes urban health leadership and enhances implementation capacity in cities and towns across seven regions of Ethiopia, extending cost-effective, high-quality, and targeted support and services to strengthen the roll out of the Government of Ethiopia's Urban Health Extension Program (UHEP) and related urban services. Program activities are closely aligned with the PEPFAR goal—creating an AIDS-free generation—and other PEPFAR guidance, as well as the Government of Ethiopia's strategic priorities at the federal, regional, and city/town levels.

Strengthening Ethiopia's Urban Health Program promotes access to health care and improved health status for more than 1.6 million households in 49 cities in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, and SNNP regions. Activities focus on building sustainable urban system for more and better primary health care outcomes by bringing together urban stakeholders across multiple sectors and fostering stronger community and private sector involvement in primary care, community health service delivery, and promoting urban water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) practices. The project will be implemented until June 2018.

## PARTNERS

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John Snow, Inc. is the prime implementer of SEUHP. Addis Ababa University School of Public Health and Emmanuel Development Association are sub-contractors.



## SEUHP OBJECTIVES

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The followings are the four main focus areas of SEUHP:

- Improved quality of community-level-urban health services.
- Increased demand for facility-level urban health services.
- Strengthened regional platforms for improved implementation of the national urban health strategy.
- Improved sector convergence for urban sanitation and waste management.

## SUMMARY OF ONGOING AND ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

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- Developed competency-based in-service training materials and rolled out the training to more than 2,180 UHE-ps and their supervisors on core public health topics: HIV; TB; maternal, newborn, and child health; urban WASH; and data recording and reporting and inter-personal communication. The training improved UHE-ps' knowledge, skills, and motivation.
- Supported the revision, regional-level contextualization and translation, printing, and dissemination of the UHEP Implementation Manual. SEUHP organized orientation sessions on the revised manual at regional and lower levels and continues to support its implementation on the ground.
- Supported quality improvement (QI) initiatives at health center level, including step-by-step guidance in the establishment of 63 QI teams, comprising UHEP focal person at health centers, UHE-ps and their supervisors, and experts from city/town health offices. These teams measure quality of services provided by UHE-ps and health centers, analyze root causes of problems, and develop interventions tailored to their respective facilities and local context. This initiative, which is inline with Ethiopia's focus on quality as described in the health sector transformation plan, has enhanced defaulter tracing, improved referral by UHE-ps, and strengthened home-based HIV counseling and testing.
- Supported Federal Ministry of Health in the piloting of the primary health care reform at 11 health centers in Addis Ababa and one health center in each of the seven regional towns.

- Provided technical and financial support in the development of integrated refresher training (IRT) modules to improve the technical capacity of UHE-ps to deliver community-based health services. SEUHP supported the development of IRT modules on reproductive maternal, newborn, and child health; health communications; communicable disease; non-communicable disease; and first aid and WASH. The project is supporting the cascading of the IRT training, complemented by on-the-job mentoring, to enhance UHE-ps' technical competency and ensure high-quality service delivery.
- Supported the development of a new curriculum for training generic UHE-ps.
- Prepared and provided toolkits and job aids for UHE-ps, and orientation on how to use them.
- Strengthened referral and linkage between UHE-ps and health facilities by introducing referral forms and other tools and technical assistance to ensure that beneficiaries have access to a continuum of high-quality health services.
- In collaboration with regional health bureaus and city/town health offices, facilitated supportive supervision, follow-up, coaching, and mentoring for UHE-ps and their supervisors.
- Supported the establishment/strengthening of WASH platforms in cities/towns including Addis Ababa, Gondar, Dire Dawa, Harar, and Mekele. Sanitation and waste management service provision responsibilities are spread among different sectors and have poor coordination mechanisms, which hinders the implementation of the UHEP hygiene and environmental health packages. These platforms, led by mayors, aim to facilitate joint planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Lack of data on the quantity, quality, location, current functional status, and current management practices of public sanitation facilities is a major challenge. The program conducted resource mapping of public and communal latrines and water points in targeted cities/towns using global positioning systems. The findings from this assessment are being used to inform planning and development of strategies.

- Completed preparation of the design to construct model public latrines in selected towns/cities.
- Conducted assessments on human resource management, key health-seeking behaviors, and urban sanitation and waste management. The findings are informing program implementation.
- Hired seven senior technical assistants for the Medical Service General Directorate of FMOH to support the implementation of Ethiopia's health sector transformation plan.
- Supported FMOH in the development of the urban community health information system.
- Conducted two studies in conjunction with Addis Ababa University: Mapping Risk and Vulnerability of Urban Residents, and Social Determinants of Urban Health. SEUHP is supporting the establishment of the urban health think tank group to enhance academic-policy-program interface. The establishment of the first Urban Health Development Center is another pillar of the partnership. It is an information center for urban health in Ethiopia that provides urban health materials; technical support to researchers, programmers, policy makers and other urban health stakeholders; and hosts the think tank group and policy and program reviews.
- Implementing targeted WASH interventions, including construction of sanitary facilities and extending water points in selected towns affected by the drought, including urban and peri-urban areas in Amhara, SNNP, and Tigray regions.
- Provided need-based support to FMOH, regions, and towns/cities in the control of outbreaks, epidemics, and other emergencies.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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