

Ethiopia-Heal TB Project

FACTS at a glance

July 2011-July 2016

HEAL TB: Curing TB, Saving Lives 2011-16

Innovations and research for continuous improvement

The challenge and the scope

While TB is a national and international priority, Ethiopia's high TB rates were not declining rapidly in the 2000s.

From 2011-16, USAID funded a project to support the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to dramatically improve TB services and outcomes in Oromia and Amhara Regions. Its formal name is "Help Ethiopia Address Low TB Performance," or HEAL-TB.

HEAL TB assisted FMOH to find and treat TB cases among children, adults, and special populations; expand multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) diagnosis and treatment; integrate TB and HIV services; improve laboratory diagnostics and reporting; and strengthen health-system expertise, leadership and management.

The project scaled up to make these services accessible to nearly 55 million people--more than half the country's population.

Thanks to intense capacity-building and mentorship, the expertise and health-systems improvements now reside in Ethiopia's public health system, so that FMOH can continue progress against TB throughout the country.

HEAL TB has presented its operational research in 20 academic journal articles and more than 60 presentations at international conferences.

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Led by the Federal Ministry of Health, the USAID-funded HEAL TB project brought more than 15 innovations in capacity-building and TB services to Oromia and Amhara, home to more than half of all Ethiopians

20 Research articles published or soon to be published by international Journals

70+ Abstracts and presentations delivered at national and international conferences

Perhaps the most important of HEAL TB's many innovations is its technical assistance model based on a cascade of expertise. Project experts intensively coached zonal and local TB experts and officials, who then passed along their expertise to facility personnel, and continued monitoring and coaching. This extremely effective and efficient model not only allowed the project to more than double its scope: it also ensured that TB expertise remains firmly rooted in the Ethiopian health system.

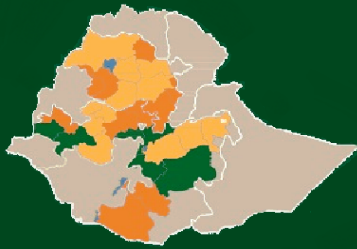
HEAL TB introduced a "Standards of Care" tool to guide government health officers on their monitoring visits. The Standards of Care indicators make it easy for both supervisors and facilities to discern areas needing improvements as well as progress made, forming a basis for coaching and correction as necessary. Supervisors now monitor all facilities each quarter, using the Standards of Care.



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HEAL TB





Innovations introduced through HEAL TB include:

- ⇒ Health-facility supervision and mentorship by *woreda* and zonal TB focal persons
- ⇒ Contact screening, both prospective and retrospective
- ⇒ Model DOTS centers
- ⇒ Blended learning (classroom plus video or online study)
- ⇒ MDR-TB clinic days
- ⇒ Standards of Care tool, for monitoring and improvement
- ⇒ Implementation of decentralized, external quality assurance
- ⇒ Gastric aspiration for diagnosis of childhood TB, introduced in Ethiopia
- ⇒ Slide referrals instead of person referrals in pastoral areas of Ethiopia
- ⇒ Purpose-built, small vehicles with cold-chain capability for sample transport
- ⇒ A regular bulletin for health extension workers, for continuing TB education
- ⇒ Quarterly performance review of all health facilities by *woreda* TB officers and zonal health department managers.

Further more

Twenty peer-reviewed articles produced by HEAL-TB staff have been published in international scientific journals or are in the process of publication as of mid-2016. These papers describe the project's operational research to evaluate methods and continually improve them. They form part of the project's contribution to global health knowledge.

In addition to peer-reviewed articles, HEAL TB personnel have presented more than 70 abstracts at national and international conferences, including the Ethiopian TB Research Advisory Committee (TRAC) conference, the African Society of Laboratory Medicine, and the international Union World Conference on Lung Health.