

CENTER FOR URBAN HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

John Snow Inc. (JSI) – Addis Ababa University / School of Public Health (SPH)

Joint Project on

Strengthening Ethiopia's Urban Health Program (SEUHP)

Center for urban health development-Ethiopia is established at the School of Public Health of Addis Ababa University. This center is expected to physical and virtual resources pool on urban health as well as center for capacity building in diverse urban health agendas. The center forges for more partnership among likeminded institutions interested in or responsible for urban development agenda in genera and urban health development in particular.



Objectives of the Center for Urban Health Development:

- Foster national discussions on urban health issues;
- Create a platform for networking among individuals and institutions engaged in urban health;
- Promote the understanding of the impacts of urbanization on health and behavior;
- Promote trans disciplinary and collaborative research;
- Serve as a knowledge hub (information center) for urban health in Ethiopia. As such all available urban health materials will be collected, stored and shared to individuals and organizations working on urban health;
- Provide technical support to researchers, programmers, policy makers and other stakeholders working on improving urban health;
- Draw urban health related experiences and lessons from all over the world and;
- Serve as a center for think tank group and policy and program reviews.

Why Urban Health Matters?

Approximately 18% Ethiopia's population resides in urban areas. However, with the current trend of fast urbanization, the Ethiopian urban population is expected to grow to 35 % by 2030, and 42% by 2050.

Such expansion of urbanization is assumed to be associated with increasing prosperity and access to services in general and health in particular. Nonetheless, that is inconclusive of the realities of urbanization which is documented to demonstrate some of the world's most prominent health disparities – in both low- and high-income countries.

Major Health Issues in Ethiopia's Urban Setup

It is undeniable that this population growth will lead to complex health challenges. Multiple factors such as poverty, inequity of access to health services are laying a huge challenge among urban residents in Ethiopia:

- HIV prevalence is more than five times greater among women living in urban and peri- urban centers compared to women living in rural communities.
- More than 50 percent of pregnant women in urban centers still deliver at home, and
- Despite proximity to facilities, neonatal deaths in urban settings are almost as high as the rate in rural settings.
- Non-communicable diseases like heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, cancer and road traffic accidents which are linked to lifestyles in cities.

In recognition of the growing concerns of urban health challenges the Government of Ethiopia (GOE) has launched Urban Health Extension Program in 2009. This flagship initiative is being supported by USAID through a program called **Strengthening Ethiopia's Urban Health Program (SEUHP)**, which is being implemented by John Snow, Inc. (JSI), and its implementing partners Addis Ababa University and Emmanuel Development Association (EDA). The program is implemented in over 40 cities across Addis Ababa, Amhara, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions.

The program aims to improve the health status of the urban population in Ethiopia by reducing HIV/TB-related and maternal, neonatal and child morbidity and mortality and the incidence of infectious and NCDs.

The Partnership

The John Snow Inc. (JSI) – Addis Ababa University / School of Public Health (SPH) partnership in implementing Strengthening Ethiopia's Urban Health Program (SEUHP)

As part of its Strengthening Ethiopia's Urban Health Program (SEUHP), JSI has established a strategic partnership with Ethiopia's leading academic institution, the Addis Ababa University's School of Public Health (AAU/SPH) with major aim of generating evidences that will inform policies and strategies for urban health programming in Ethiopia.

The partnership was officially launched on June 16, 2015 in the presence of the State Minister of Health, His Excellency Dr. Kebede Worku.



This partnership will ultimately establish a center of excellence for urban health programming, which will promote innovation, program implementation, and quality improvement.

The specific objectives of the partnership are to;

- Map urban health dynamics so as to identify determinants of urban health, risks and vulnerability, geographic and programmatic categorization;
- Identify the factors affecting demand and utilization of urban primary health services (quality, referral linkages and other barriers) and identify community based and collaborative resources for urban health;
- Develop effective linkage between the academia, policy and development sectors to translate research findings and recommendations into policy and program implementation;
- Mobilize partnership and advocate for urban health utilization and linkage;
- Establish center for urban health development and partnership at the SPH of AAU Avail technical support to urban health programs to facilitate and smoothen interventions.

So far.....

During the last few year of partnership, the Addis Ababa University School of Public Health has generated evidences from selected urban settings to inform targeting of health interventions. Some of the key findings include:

- All urban settings are not equally vulnerable to specific health problems.
- Within a particular urban set-up not only segments of people but also places found to be vulnerable.
- Although interventions are well under way to address a particular health problem, the needy ones and those at risk are yet invisible since they remain in the shadow.

Such highlights of the findings show interventions need to be more focused in targeting their beneficiaries.

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For more information on Center for urban health development Ethiopia

Email: israelmitiku@yahoo.com

Phone +251-9-11077070

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