

RESOLVE TO SAVE LIVES, ETHIOPIA: PREVENT EPIDEMICS

The Prevent Epidemics program at Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL) supports its partners to strengthen early detection of and response to infectious disease threats. In partnership with the Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI), RTSL strengthens effective epidemic prevention as measured by the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR 2005).

Program goals

Enhance epidemic preparedness by strengthening areas that support IHR 2005

Strengthen national health security by supporting NAPHS implementation, including providing financial support and technical expertise on IHR multisectoral coordination, tracking mechanisms, legal frameworks and communication

Improve early detection and early response of public health threats by improving data collection, evaluating the timeliness of event responses against the 7-1-7 target, and identifying bottlenecks to propose solutions

Ethiopia's A-Team

RTSL works with the EPHI through a dedicated preparedness team (also known as an Acceleration Team, or A-team) – a multi-disciplinary team focused on the multi-sectoral effort of epidemic preparedness and overall health security. The six-member team includes a Senior Technical Advisor, Project Manager, a Legal Advisor, a One Health Coordinator, a Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor and a Communications Expert. Each member sits under different directorates that is most relevant to the work they perform.

Our work to date

RTSL supports EPHI on different IHR core capacity assessments including the World Health Organization's Joint External Evaluation (JEE), and e-SPAR, to provide tailored support to close gaps in EPHI's preparedness.



Other key achievements:



Supporting Ethiopia's National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS)

- Established electronic tracker (data entry database and analysis dashboard) to monitor implementation
- Organized reprioritization of NAPHS activities through performance review workshops with EPHI, implementing partners and key stakeholders
- Prepared and distributed the first and second editions of the Multisectoral National Health Security Bulletin to communicate NAPHS updates and best practices among sectors



Improving early detection and response

- Partnered with EPHI to conduct retrospective reviews of 10 public health events against the 7-1-7 target. Bottlenecks for early detection, notification, and response were identified and used to prioritize activities during the annual NAPHS operational planning.
- Rolled out Enhanced Situational Assessment (ESA), identifying eight priority hazards and linking dynamic risk factors with the necessary preparedness activities



Strengthening health care worker protections

- Supported development and rollout of a new national plan to strengthen infection prevention and control (IPC) measures
- Helped develop a national IPC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Provided ongoing capacity building, mentorship and personal protective equipment to 52 primary health facilities in six regions – which saw a sharp decline in avoidable health care worker infections and an increase in IPC capacities
- Supported IPC budget advocacy, resulting in government commitment to domestic IPC budget line



Providing technical assistance and support on initiatives including

- EPHI's proclamation on hazardous pathogens and toxin control and administration (draft)
- Public health emergency management proclamation (draft)
- Ethiopian Public Health establishment regulation. (approved)
- Managing COVID-19 preparedness and response
- EPHI's Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) in health facilities initiative
- IPC including budget advocacy
- Program Management for Epidemic Preparedness training for 33 multisectoral IHR focal persons

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