

# Ethiopia

## Country Brief

Global. Health. Action.

ICAP ensures the wellness of families and communities by strengthening health systems around the world.

ICAP is committed to partnering with the Government of Ethiopia through service, education and training, and research projects that support sustainable health systems strengthening and ensure impact towards national health development goals.

### Background

ICAP began work in Ethiopia in 2005 to support large scale antiretroviral treatment (ART) programs in four regions. With support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), ICAP partnered with Ethiopia's Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and regional health bureaus (RHBs) to build capacity, strengthen health systems, and deliver comprehensive and high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services at the national, regional, and health facility levels.

ICAP's current portfolio focuses on capacity building and technical assistance for comprehensive HIV programs, including counseling and testing, care and treatment, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), integrating HIV care into care for tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted infections (STI), infection prevention, blood safety, laboratory support, and HIV program monitoring and evaluation. ICAP also supports medical, nursing and midwifery education by strengthening health education institutions. In Ethiopia, ICAP conducts research that informs national and international guidelines on HIV, TB, and malaria.

ICAP's work in Ethiopia is supported by a senior team based at Columbia University with technical, clinical, implementation, and research expertise. In Ethiopia, ICAP's multidisciplinary team of over 300 staff members includes physicians, public health experts, health systems specialists, nurse advisors, monitoring and evaluation experts, operations management and financial officers, technical advisors and research staff.

ICAP has received support for its work in Ethiopia from: bilateral donors, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

### Current Projects

#### **Technical Assistance for the Transition of Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Programs and Medical Education to Ethiopia under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)**

Through this five-year project funded by CDC, ICAP is providing technical assistance to build the capacity of the FMOH, regional health bureaus (RHBs) and universities to implement, monitor, and sustain the delivery of high quality adult and pediatric HIV prevention, care and treatment. ICAP is building the capacity of RHBs to provide a full range of services, including HIV counseling and testing, PMTCT, adult and pediatric HIV treatment, care and support, TB/HIV integration, laboratory support, prevention of STIs, blood safety, infection prevention, support for strategic information systems, health systems strengthening, and transition of responsibilities to local partners. ICAP is also working to build the capacity of universities to provide pre-service medical education and in-service training.

In addition, ICAP is providing site-level support to hospitals and health centers providing HIV services in Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Afar, and Ethiopian Somalis. ICAP supports the RHBs and regional reference laboratories to strengthen and expand ARV laboratory monitoring, early infant diagnosis, and quality assurance for HIV and related laboratory tests. ICAP collaborates with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) to build regional capacity for WHO-AFRO accreditation, training and equipment maintenance. ICAP is also building the capacity of RHBs to provide TA to health facilities in data reporting.

**About ICAP:** A global leader in HIV/AIDS and health systems strengthening, ICAP provides technical assistance and implementation support to governments and NGOs in more than 21 countries. ICAP has supported work at more than 3,380 health facilities around the world. More than 1.2 million people have received HIV treatment through ICAP-supported programs.

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#### **Malaria Laboratory Diagnosis and Monitoring**

With support from the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) through USAID, ICAP is providing technical assistance to the FMOH, Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI), and six regional reference laboratories to support malaria laboratory diagnosis and monitoring activities. ICAP also works at the facility-level strengthening the malaria diagnostic capacities of health facility laboratories in four regions and provides technical, strategic, managerial, and operational support to RHB/RRLs, EPHI, and the FMOH.

#### **General Nursing & Nursing Education Partnership Initiative (NEPI)**

Supported by PEPFAR through HRSA, ICAP is collaborating with the FMOH to improve nursing care standards at health facilities and to improve the production, quality, and relevance of nurses and midwives to address essential population-based needs, including HIV and other life-threatening conditions in Ethiopia. ICAP is building the capacity of nursing leaders to support high-impact quality improvement initiatives and provides supportive supervision to hospitals in Oromia, Dire Dawa, Ethiopian Somali, and Harari regions and work in collaboration with their regional health bureaus.

Through the NEPI program, ICAP is working to strengthen in-country nursing and midwifery educational institutions and ensure the production of sufficient numbers of well-trained, clinically-competent nurses and midwives. ICAP partners with the Addis Ababa University, Arba Minch College of Health Sciences, and the University of Gondar and provides faculty mentorship and develop evaluation tools.

#### **A Combination Intervention Package for Isoniazid Prevention Therapy in Ethiopia (ENRICH)**

With support from NIAID, ICAP is conducting an innovative cluster randomized trial aimed at rigorously evaluating the effectiveness of a combination intervention package for the provision of isoniazid prevention therapy (IPT) for tuberculosis in HIV care and treatment programs in Ethiopia, as compared to the current standard of care. The goal is to determine an effective strategy to increase IPT initiation, adherence, and completion among people living with HIV.

#### **Multi-Level Determinants of Late ART Initiation in Sub-Saharan Africa (LSTART)**

With funding from the NIMH, ICAP is collaborating with CUNY School of Public Health, the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at Columbia University, and the Oromia Regional Bureau of Health on a study to determine the multi-level factors associated with late antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation in areas of sub-Saharan Africa and Ethiopia where ART is being scaled-up rapidly. ICAP is working to develop general and practical recommendations for clinical-level interventions that would result in earlier ART initiation.

#### **Evaluating the Efficacy of Artemether-Lumefantrine Compared to Artemether-Lumefantrine Plus Primaquine and Chloroquine Compared to Chloroquine Plus Primaquine for Malaria**

With this two-year study, through the Menzies School of Health Research, ICAP is evaluating the therapeutic effectiveness of drugs currently used in Ethiopia against malaria, arthemeter-lumefantrine and chloroquine. The research will assess the safety and the efficacy of primaquine when used in combination with the existing treatment protocol. The research will determine the number of recurrent malaria episodes in patients who receive primaquine compared to those who do not.

