In 2017, Project HOPE established an office in Addis Ababa to support both our work in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment, and our efforts to increase access to maternal and child health services. Since then, Project HOPE has partnered with 14 local stakeholders to address a wide range of health and humanitarian needs. Our programs in Ethiopia have focused on preventing and treating HIV/AIDS, advancing maternal, newborn, and child health, improving global health security, upgrading health information systems, strengthening the local capacity of health workers and organizations, supporting post-conflict health service delivery through mobile health and nutrition programs, expanding integrated immunization services for internally displaced people (IDPs), supporting polio sample transportation, and providing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

**HIV/AIDS**

Project HOPE is the prime implementing partner for the Community HIV Care & Treatment (CHCT) project funded by PEPFAR/USAID, a seven-year program to expand access to comprehensive community-based HIV prevention, care, and treatment services in Ethiopia. The program works with 28 local implementing partners (LIPs), networks of people living with HIV (PLHIV), and regional health bureaus on three specific objectives: strengthening community health and support systems for service delivery; improving organizational and technical capacity structures; and increasing support for data collection and use in learning and program improvement.

**Community-based ART Refill Group Models**

Project HOPE pioneers the piloting and scale up of the first community-based differentiated service delivery model in Ethiopia. As of June 2023, there were a total of 4,500 community health workers led and peer-led ART refill groups, with a total of over 27,015 members. Project HOPE also provides training, mentoring, and technical assistance to hundreds of community health workers and more than 3,000 volunteers on targeted community-based HIV testing, case management, HIV treatment, adherence support, pharmaceutical care, proper logistics management, and other skills.
Local Partner Capacity Strengthening

Project HOPE provides tailored technical assistance and capacity strengthening services to LIPs and, since FY21, five LIPs have become the prime recipients of PEPFAR support as a result of Project HOPE’s capacity strengthening interventions. A key component of our approach is an Organizational and Technical Capacity Assessment Tool (OTCA) that is used to review readiness and give LIPs ownership of the transition plan. The OTCA tool identifies the strengths, gaps, and improvement areas of LIPs; utilizes progress monitoring tools to ensure prime readiness; and can be adapted to a range of program areas.

Community Health Information Systems

Project HOPE uses CommCare, an open-source health information management system, to develop modules tailored to specific programmatic needs and languages. With CommCare, program partners are capable of robust digital data collection, case management, and bi-directional referral linkages with other service providers. CommCare also provides partners with the ability to track individual-level data longitudinally and incorporate referral linking across sites, which is a critical feature for confirming referrals and capturing feedback. Under the CHCT program, Project HOPE uses CommCare to track case identification, treatment, and case management and retention among 29 LIPs. CommCare is inter-operable within DHIS2 and is endorsed by the Ethiopian government as an electronic community health information management system (eCHIS).

Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health

As a partner on the five-year, USAID-funded TRANSFORM Health in Developing Regions (T-HDR) project, Project HOPE is leading program activities related to neonatal and child health. As partners, we have helped establish centers for Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC), helped hospitals set up mini blood bank services, and supported immunization efforts.

CEmONC Centers

Project HOPE is working with the National Obstetric Society to develop a comprehensive mentorship and improvement program for CEmONC services, following extensive assessments of the intervention sites. The program currently has provided CEmONC clinical mentorship for 15 hospitals. Project HOPE equipped hospitals and trained health care providers to establish on-site, mini blood banks to reduce barriers to providing emergency Cesarean delivery services. As part of its work with health centers, the T-HDR project supported the establishment of 123 newborn resuscitation corners and 500 oral rehydration therapy centers.

Immunization Support

Project HOPE has supported immunization services in under-resourced regions by providing trainings for health care providers, revitalizing outreach activities, strengthening tracing efforts, and reengaging children with interrupted immunization schedules, increasing vaccine management, supporting cross-border activities, bolstering mid-level management, and strengthening post-polio free certification activities. With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Project HOPE is also conducting a national evaluation on reaching zero-dose children in remote areas and implementing emergency polio and immunization campaigns for IDP camps. This evaluation provided evidence for the national strategic planning of Ethiopia (full portfolio review of GAVI-2023-2025).

Under the THDR activity, nearly 3,500 health care workers were trained on different immunization areas. More than 3,349 integrated outreach immunization sessions were conducted to improve access to immunization in the four regions. With this effort, 30,398 children under the age of two received the pentavalent vaccine to protect them from five different life-threatening diseases.

Additionally, Project HOPE has supported immunization services in IDP camps in the six regions of Ethiopia with the support of BMGF. As of June 30th, 2023, the project reached nearly 3,958,213 children through static outreach and campaign service delivery approaches in all targeted regions. Among those, 136,973 were zero-dose children and 163,367 of them were under-immunized.

Global Health Security

Pandemic Preparedness and Response

With support from USAID, Project HOPE implemented a six-month project to strengthen COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, and case management for the health systems in Somali Regional State. The program trained 653 health care providers on COVID-19 preparedness and response and supported 327 outpatient health facilities and 68 inpatient facilities with critical trainings, reaching 788 additional health care workers. Our team also provided mentoring, WASH equipment, and supplies. A total of 113,234 IDPs were reached with risk communication and community engagement, 72,068 were tested for COVID-19, and 81,877 were provided with WASH supplies.

Project HOPE donated personal protective equipment and other supplies, including 56,000 N95s and 264,000 KN95 respirator masks, to support health care providers as they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project HOPE also distributed over 500,000 face masks and 37,000 liters of hand sanitizer, reaching over 36,000 PL-HIV and community health workers.

Emergency Humanitarian Response

As a result of the conflict in northern Ethiopia, millions of people were displaced since November 2020 and required urgent humanitarian assistance. In response, Project HOPE deployed mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) to Amhara and Afar regions to provide life-saving health and nutrition services, deliver essential medical, pharmaceutical, and infection prevention kits, and conduct health facility rehabilitation services. Additionally, in the Tigray region, Project HOPE was among the first responders to deliver water truck services to IDP sites and deploy MHNTs to accessible areas near the Afar region.

As of June 2023, Project HOPE provided treatment to 3,435 severely malnourished children and 6,747 moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, provided antenatal care services to 2,773 pregnant women, served 59,238 IDPs and host communities with outpatient clinical consultations, and screened 24,553 children for malnutrition and 7,188 for mental health illnesses. A total of 1,152 conflict-affected and internally-displace people with mental health disorders were managed, of whom 20% were referred to a higher-level facility by Project HOPE-deployed mental health professionals. Moreover, Project HOPE reached 1,111,538 people with risk communication and community engagement, of whom, 32,568 were engaged on psychoeducation. To support this response, Project HOPE mobilized funds from the Elsa & Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundations, other donors, and its internal sources and secured more than $250,000 USD worth of emergency health packs and standard medical emergency and reproductive health kits from IHP, WHO and UNFPA.