



CHAMPS

Building
Knowledge.
Saving
Children's
Lives.

CHAMPS Ethiopia response to the COVID-19 pandemic



April-December 2020

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CHAMPS Launches COVID-19 Testing

In April 2020 COVID-19 testing was launched in the CHAMPS laboratory. The ministry of health of Ethiopia and regional health bureaus called for support as the outbreak started and CHAMPS offered support at its very modern laboratory. Well trained CHAMPS laboratory professionals became engaged in supporting COVID-19 testing. The president of Harari regional state, a representative from Oromia Regional Health Bureau, and President of Haramaya University attended the COVID-19 test launch ceremony.



More than **29,000 COVID-19** **Tests** Conducted

Between April and December 2020 more than 29,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted by the CHAMPS laboratory. Trained professionals have been working hard to deliver accurate test results in a timely fashion. Documentation of cases is well organized and follows the nation's standards and communication guideline with the responsible COVID-19 task force.

CHAMPS laboratory technicians facilitated a training on COVID-19 testing for additional regional laboratories in Jigjiga, Somali region, and in Dire Dawa.

COVID-19 test for women attending ANC

In line with understanding the dynamics of COVID-19 in the local area, samples were collected from pregnant women attending antenatal care for the first time in local health facilities. For far, 2,100 samples were collected from Hiwot Fana Hospital, Haramaya District Hospital, and Aweday Health Centers.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Mass media productions

CHAMPS used different media outlets in awareness-raising campaigns on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Short plays

prepared by CHAMPS program on the prevention, transmission and treatments of COVID-19. The messages were transmitted through the national radio station, Fana Fm 94.8 and Haramya University community radio 91.8. These medias have an estimated audience reach of six million.

Short messages

Transmitted on 12 major issues through Fana Fm 94.8 for 48 days. The topics covered were social distancing, avoiding handshaking and washing hands every 20 minutes, phone numbers of the regional COVID-19 task force, symptoms of COVID-19, quarantining oneself and other topics. These were broadcasted in two languages, Affan Oromo and Amharic. The radio station has an estimated audience reach of 4 million.



Health Education

Facilitated in the city of Harar, and in the towns of Kersa, and Water using sound amplifiers mounted on a vehicle. Recorded health education messages were also played in different parts of these areas, including public places, markets, and on the roads.

Posters

More than a hundred informative posters prepared in Affan Oromo and Amharic were distributed in the community. COVID-19 preventive recommendations, advice, and up to date information released by national and international agencies including WHO are included on the posters. Posters were distributed in Harar, Haramaya and Kersa CHAMPS catchment areas.



Integrating COVID-19 messages with CHAMPS regular activities

Regular activities of CHAMPS such as family follow-ups, verbal autopsy, health outreach programs, death notification trainings, and burial events and others provided opportunities to also share COVID-19 messages. The main focus of the messages in such events was on COVID transmission means, prevention mechanisms and possible measures to be taken if one contracts COVID-19.



Trainings

Training health care workers

Trainings were provided for health professionals in the rural CHAMPS catchment areas. Health care providers in Kersa and Haramaya district health centers were covered by this training. Around 100 health professionals and more than 40 health extension workers received the training. The focus of the trainings was on how to identify and treat a case with COVID-19 symptoms. In addition, self-protection mechanisms were also discussed in the training.



Material support

Much needed small items of material support were facilitated for health centers in Kersa area. The support include sanitizers, face masks and gloves.



Food material support

To Community health volunteers

On a training facilitated by the CHAMPS team a few community health volunteers had contact with COVID-19 suspected staff and they were quarantined for two weeks in Haramaya University quarantine center. After testing negative for COVID-19 they were discharged from the center. Upon return to their villages, CHAMPS supported the families with food materials as they had not been able to work during quarantine. Families were grateful to the CHAMPS program for considering their family situation.



To Families receiving cause of death

In recognition of the economic impact of COVID-19 especially at a time of bereavement, some families, who lost children and participated in the CHAMPS research, were provided with food support when they were informed about their child's cause of

VTM Support to EPHI

Viral transport medium (VTM) was badly needed at the time of start of COVID testing. CHAMPS Ethiopia provided 600 units of VTM to EPHI in support of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



COVID-19 test for staff

The CHAMPS team regularly travels in the community, and that put them at an increased risk for COVID-19. Considering this, CHAMPS provided the chance of COVID-19 testing for its staff when they were suspected of having come into contact with a COVID-positive case.



CHAMPS Ethiopia

Our Vision

A world where evidence-based interventions offer every child an equal chance to thrive.

Our Mission

Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) works to save children's lives by collecting, analyzing, and sharing accurate, timely data about the causes of child mortality in the regions where it is highest. World where evidence-based interventions offer every child an equal chance to thrive.

The CHAMPS Promise

CHAMPS transforms data into action, working at the local, national and global levels to ensure sustainable changes in policies, systems, and health interventions to accelerate improvements in child health.

CHAMPS Ethiopia Site

Harar town in Harari region and Kersa and Haramaya districts in Eastern Hararghe, Oromia region





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