

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2023



HHR | HARARGHE
HEALTH
RESEARCH



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MEDICINE



CHAMPS

Building
Knowledge.
Saving
Children's
Lives.



Vision

Evidence based best practice in maternal and child health.

Mission

Produce cutting-edge health information for maternal and child health decision making at all levels.



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The 2023 CHAMPS Annual Network Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



In the meeting, researchers and scientists from the seven countries where CHAMPS is currently implementing, and two newly added countries, came together to present site updates, panel discussions, shared lesson learned, experiences from each site and on the way forward.

Her Excellency Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister, Ministry of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Professor Jeylan Wolyie, a Vice President for Administration and Student Affairs of Haramaya University and other distinguished guests were attendees of the meeting.

The annual CHAMPS network meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from March 13-17, 2023. CHAMPS Ethiopia in collaboration with the Program Office (PO) organized the event attended by 160 participants from 14 countries around the globe.



HHR's laboratory accredited

HHR's laboratory is accredited by Ethiopian Accreditation Service (EAS) on (Month, Date), 2023. One of the major achievements of HHR in the past year was the accreditation of the HHR laboratory by the EAS. HHR's laboratory has become now one of the five accredited laboratories in Ethiopia. The accreditation is a recognition of the high quality of the laboratory's work and its commitment to providing accurate and reliable results.

The laboratory has been analyzing samples for several studies on the causes of child

mortality and morbidity. The laboratory's work has helped to improve the understanding of child health in Ethiopia and has led to the development of new interventions to improve child health outcomes.

The accreditation is a significant step forward for the HHR laboratory and for the field of child health research in Ethiopia. The accreditation will also help to increase the visibility of the laboratory's work and to build trust with its stakeholders.



HHR Launched a Waiting Home for Families of Children with Neural Tube Defects

Gaaddisa, waiting home is opened in a neighborhood to Hiwot Fana comprehensive specialized University Hospital in East Hararghe Zone Health Bureau's compound

and it is believed that Gaaddisa home will ease their suffering. Witnessing the challenges of these families along with their children who need serious medical attention are

facing, HHR facilitated this waiting home collaborating with the East Hararghe Zone Health Bureau.

Currently, families are welcomed at the home during both pre-surgery and post-surgery of the children. Data-to-Action section; in charge of coordinating service in the house stated that currently,



of the, one of the local stakeholders of HHR.

Gaaddisa, is a waiting home for children with Neural Tube Defect who are following a medical treatment at the hospital and their parents. Families bringing their children for medical treatment from remote rural areas used to face problem of accommodation

currently, the waiting home has a capacity of serving four families at a time and there is a plan to expand service.

The waiting house is serving all live-born children with NTD below the age of 15. The name Gaaddisa has the conceptual meaning Shelter in the local language.

A Smiling story: A Journey From Child Loss to Alive Birth

Sakina Mohammed is a 26-year-old mother from Kersa, among the parents who consented for MITS while she had her 4th stillbirth. The young mom has been suffering from redundant child loss which she couldn't figure out the reason.



Sekina sitting between her mother and father holding her newborn baby

On her fourth stillbirth, which happened at her home, she was visited by the CHAMPS team asking her to consent for MITS. By the verbal autopsy, it was known that the birth happened before completing the supposed 9 months of pregnancy. In addition, the mother had six previous pregnancies which had ended without completing normal

pregnancy duration: stillbirths and preterm deliveries. The result of the tests showed that her fetus had distress during pregnancy which is compatible with the diagnosis of intrauterine fetal asphyxia.

After the result, CHAMPS facilitated health linkages for her, and she received four rounds of clinical follow-ups in a private and public hospitals. Besides understanding Sekina's medical condition, CHAMPS covered all her medical expenses including urine test, blood test, Ultrasound examination, and additional medical cost.

Successfully, Sekina welcomed her healthy baby girl by on November 2023. Like Sekina, women with difficulties of having child and mothers who are unable to afford for ultrasound and other pregnancy follow-up care are supported with the services for free through HHR pregnancy surveillance program.

“Improving maternal health also means improving infant health and survival. It means stronger families, more vibrant communities, and more prosperous societies.”

—Melinda French Gates
Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation team visited CHAMPS Ethiopia



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A delegation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) visited CHAMPS, Ethiopian Site.

On November 1st and 2nd 2023, a delegation led by BMGF Ethiopia held a two-day visit at CHAMPS working sites in Eastern Ethiopia. The visit included meetings with site leads and researchers and traveling to CHAMPS catchment areas.



The delegation visited Hara-maya and Harar site MITS rooms, community engagement activities, Pregnancy Surveillance activities, laboratories, and IT data center.

The BMGF is supporting efforts to strengthen Ethiopia's primary health care system,

expand access to immunizations, improve coverage of family planning services, and improve maternal, newborn, and child health. Moreover, the foundation also focuses on policy and advocacy to address systemic challenges and capture emerging opportunities in the above mentioned aspects of the health sector.



HHR applies continuous support for a better maternal child health services

HHR has continued sharing medical equipment for the betterment of health service delivery in health care facilities found under the catchment area.

The data-to-action activities under the HHR are not limited to sharing research findings for health policy intervention, it also stretches up-to contributing medical equipment and capacity building supports for the health care service improvements in government health facilities.



After providing the materials for the health facilities, the data-to-action section conducts continuous training and follow-up visits for the health practitioners.



The East Hararghe region Islamic affairs council renewed Fatwa for the CHAMPS program

HHR has a firm stand of respecting community's norms and values in its activities and has been working in closely with religious leaders in the catchment area.. In the past year, HHR had a discussion with the Islamic Affairs Council of the East Hararghe re-

garding the Fatwa (Islamic ethical approval) with detailed points on the procedure and applications of MITS and burial processes.

After the discussion, the council acknowledged the necessity and legitimacy of the research



stressing that working for improvement of health as it enhances the life of humans.

CHAMPS Program Office, Nigeria and Sierra Leone teams visited CHAMPS-Ethiopia site.

In 2023, along with the annual CHAMPS network meeting, the CHAMPS PO team, led by Dr. Cynthia Whitney, and teams from the Sierra Leone and Nigeria had a two-days-

visit at CHAMPS Ethiopia site.

The guests had the opportunity to visit activities on the ground, and the Ethiopia team presented the site's achievements from the initial implementation to present-day. Furthermore, CHAMPS Ethiopia management had discussions with the PO regarding status of the site and future.



Our Message of the Year

The Bill and Melinda Gates Goal Keepers report of 2023 indicates that every year, approximately 5 million children die before they reach their fifth birthday. Nearly another 2 million babies never take their first

then means the world is not on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goals for the survival of mothers or babies—not unless progress is accelerated.

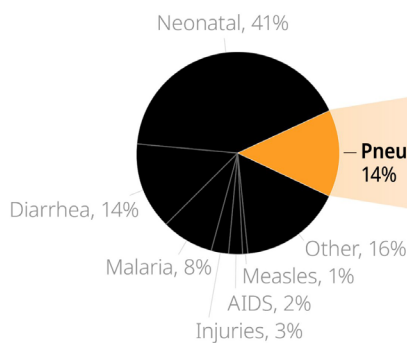
Regarding the solutions methods the GK's

More precise understanding of why children die

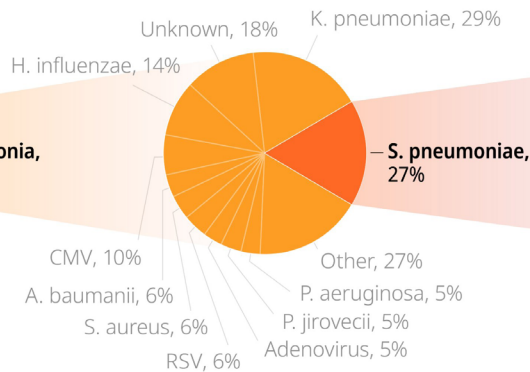
CHAMPS data provides hyper-detailed information about which pathogens are causing deaths, guiding the development of improved treatments and vaccines.



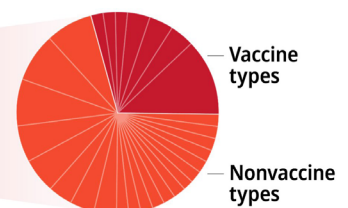
1 Reported causes of child mortality globally were limited in 2010



2 CHAMPS provides more detail, identifying specific pathogens causing deaths



3 CHAMPS also provides details on the types of pathogens to help determine how well vaccines work



Vaccine types:
3, 1, 19F, 23F, 9V, 18C, 19A

Nonvaccine types:
Nontypeable, mixed, 19B, 12F/44, 17F, 10A, 35B, 48, 8, 9L/9N, 11B/11C, 13, 15A/15F, 15B/15C, 21, 22F, 23A, 23B, 24B/24F, 32A/32F, 37

Source
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2023 Goalkeepers Report. gates.ly/Goalkeepers-Report
For more information on data sources: gates.ly/data-sources

breath—they're stillborn. Although these deaths have continued to decline since the mid-2010s, they're not declining fast enough, especially for infants. About 74% of child deaths happen during a baby's first year.

Globally, maternal mortality rates have remained unchanged over the past eight years, and in some countries, they have risen. Despite the significant progress from 2000 to 2015, slowing improvement since

report underlines that those solutions aren't reaching families in the communities where mothers and kids need them most and that needs to change. The Hararghe Health Research partnership also stresses on this point and strives to influence stakeholders to mainstream maternal and child health for a holistic wellness of the nation.

