

# Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Care, Repair and Reintegration Project Ethiopia

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# Ethiopia – country profile



- Population 77 million
- Fertility Rate 5.4
- ANC 28%
- Attended delivery 6%
- PNC 5%
- IMR 77/1,000
- CMR 123/1,000
- MMR 871/100,000
- Per capita income 100 USD

Source: *DHS Ethiopia, 2006*



# Goal

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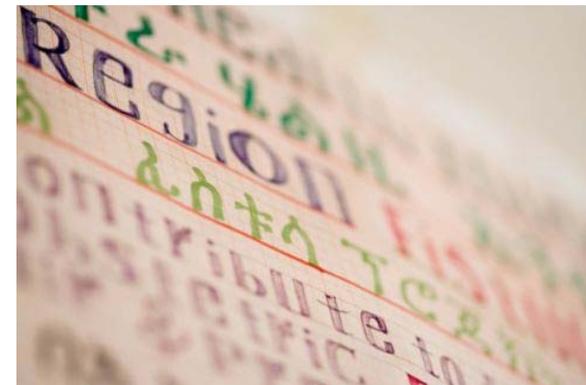
To contribute to the reduction of obstetric fistula in Ethiopia through repair and prevention activities



# Objectives

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1. Increase access to treatment, care and support.
2. Integrate and decentralize fistula repair and care to services at the regional level.
3. Build capacity to offer quality, comprehensive obstetric fistula services within existing MCH services.
4. Bring about behavior change at all levels around maternal health.



# Strategies at the community level

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- Conduct community sensitization
- Train existing community level health workers
- Detect and refer obstetric fistula cases



# Strategies at the facility level

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- Strengthen capacity of providers
- Establish sound referral systems
- Ensure facilities are properly equipped
- Strengthen coordination and communication among and between:
  - the community/community health workers,
  - the health post and health centers,
  - the fistula hospital and project staff.



# Linking the community and facilities

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- Strengthening communication and referral between and among communities and the health care delivery network.
- Conducting community-facility dialogues to share lessons learned about:
  - fistula screening, care, prevention and rehabilitation,
  - transferring emergency fistula cases to the appropriate level of care.



# Achievements to date

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- **461** women with complaints of urinary incontinence were screened for obstetric fistula.
  - **236** were diagnosed with obstetric fistula and referred to the Bahir Dar Fistula Hospital for repair services.
  - **172** (73%) of the confirmed OF cases were cured.
  - **195** (42%) women were diagnosed with uterine prolapse.
- **104** health care providers were trained on OF prevention, care and referral.
- **23** nurses and midwives from the three health centers and their 15 satellite health posts were trained on basic life saving skills focusing on EmOC.



# Achievements in the Community

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- **977** community leaders and **153,169** community members oriented on OF prevention messages.
- Key messages on OF prepared and distributed to all community level health cadres.
- OF prevention week celebrated in the presence of Women Parliamentarians and Regional Health Bureau representatives.



# Recording and documentation

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- Pre-intervention assessment conducted at facility and community levels.
- Post-intervention evaluation conducted at the end of year one.
- Individual client record forms, registration forms, referral and back-referral forms, monthly and quarterly reporting formats are used.
- Data entry spreadsheet prepared and monthly reports incorporated into the overall IH-Ethiopia data base.
- Monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and final project reports compiled.
- A documentary film on obstetric fistula and the activities of IntraHealth in the Amhara Region produced (in Amharic and subtitled English) and is being used for community mobilization and PR activities.



# Challenges

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- Large number of urinary incontinence cases other than OF.
- No funding source to support income generating activities as part of post-repair re-integration program.
- Poor roads and transport make referral from adjacent woredas difficult.
- High staff turnover at public health facilities.
- Poorly equipped health facilities unable to provide basic life saving services.



# The Way Forward

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- Expand comprehensive fistula prevention, care and reintegration program to other high prevalent regions/ woredas.
- Strengthen BEMOC and CEMOC services.
- Continued advocacy at all levels to bring OF on the agenda of local government.
- Support capacity building activities at community and facility levels.



