

HEALTHY MOTHERS, BABIES AND CHILDREN

AMHARA REGION, ETHIOPIA

Extensive research shows mothers and newborns are far more likely to survive childbirth (and early childhood) when births are attended by a skilled assistant, and mothers can access healthcare before and after birth. Unfortunately, in Ethiopia, many people have difficulty accessing quality healthcare and don't understand the risks of childbirth and childrearing. One in 15 children dies before their fifth birthday and only 28 percent of births are currently delivered by a skilled birth assistant.

Research also shows when girls delay marriage till after the age of 18, they and their children are healthier and have more opportunities in life. Yet in Ethiopia's Amhara region, nearly 45 percent of girls are married before they're 18.

That's why communities from North Gondar in the Amhara region of Ethiopia have worked hard to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality rates by improving the accessibility and understanding of maternal, newborn and child health services, and reduce the number of early marriages, by advocating for marriages to be delayed until after the age of 18 years.



THE RADIO LISTENING PROGRAM



195 LISTENING GROUPS were setup, including groups for children, women, men and people with disabilities.

Girls, boys and adults learn about preventing early marriage and how to give birth safely.

THE HEALTH DEVELOPMENT ARMY



Recruited and trained **600 HEALTH DEVELOPMENT ARMY (HDA) VOLUNTEERS.**

The Health Development Army taught mothers how to prepare for birth and provide good nutrition.

TRAINING HEALTH EXTENSION WORKERS



Provided training and supervision to **120 HEALTH EXTENSION WORKERS.**

Health Extension Workers helped families to stay healthy and stop harmful traditional practices.

BUILDING MATERNITY WAITING ROOMS



Built and equipped **5 MATERNITY WAITING ROOMS.**

Mothers were given a safe place to stay when giving birth.

TRAINING MIDWIVES



Provided training and supervision to **80 MIDWIVES.**

Midwives are saving lives thanks to the training they received

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES



EQUIPPED 25 HEALTH CENTRES with life-saving supplies and equipment.

New supplies helped to save lives in community health centres.



Between 2013 and 2017, the number of births attended by a skilled assistant increased from

25% to 47%.



1,684

early marriages were cancelled between 2013 and 2017.

OUR PARTNERS

This project was supported by many partners, including the Ethiopian Government's Health Ministry and Women, Children and Youth Affairs Ministry; Gondar University; Gondar Media Education Centre; community health posts and health centres; schools; and local Community Task Forces.

WHO FUNDED THE PROJECT?

The 'Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Amhara Region in Ethiopia' project was funded by the Australian Government. Through the government's overseas aid program, Australians are providing the children and families in Ethiopia and around the world with the chance to achieve a brighter future. Find out more about how Australian Aid is changing lives at www.dfat.gov.au/aid/who-we-work-with/ngos/anep/

