



# USAID | ETHIOPIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## 2016 EDHS Field Work Launch

### Welcome Remarks by USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Dennis Weller

**Bishoftu, Ethiopia**

**January 18, 2016**

It is my pleasure to be here on behalf of the United States Agency for International Development and welcome all of you to the launch of fieldwork for the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey.

This survey is being realized thanks to the ongoing successful coordination between the Ministry of Health, the Central Statistical Agency as part of the national Planning Commission, ICF International, and USAID.

It has been a year and a half since USAID and CSA began preparation for this survey and we at USAID and other donors are all very excited today to see the fieldwork begin.

This survey is unusual in that it has garnered international support from a range of donor agencies including of course USAID, but also the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Irish Aid, the World Bank, The Global Fund, UNICEF, UNFPA and DFID. Ethiopia can be proud to have such a diverse multi-donor funding pool. It is truly unique.

The 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey will be the 4th such survey conducted in Ethiopia, following surveys in 2000, 2005, and 2011.

As part of the USAID-funded Demographic and Health Surveys Program, the Ethiopia survey will benefit from the standard methods used globally in USAID's DHS Program, and, as in the past, policymakers, program managers, and population and health researchers worldwide will use the results. It will be possible to compare the results from the 2016 survey with previous surveys, allowing for trend analysis, as well as comparisons to other neighboring countries and inclusion in global and regional analyses.

The 2016 survey fieldwork begins today in all regions. Over the next four and half months, 264 interviewers will survey 18,000 households in 645 clusters throughout Ethiopia.

In each household, survey staff will interview all eligible women, ages 15-49, and men, ages 15-59, on topics ranging from their household water source to their use of family planning, recent illnesses experienced by their children, and their experiences with domestic violence. Field staff will also collect biological data such as height and weight, and blood samples for anemia and HIV testing.

The Ethiopia survey is nationally representative, meaning that it includes interviews with women and men in all regions, of all ethnicities, educational levels, and wealth categories.

This will help us understand the current demographic and health situation in Ethiopia on a national level, as well as on the regional level. It will help Ethiopia target policies and programs to those populations who are most in need.

The 2016 survey provides not just data, but the opportunity to strengthen the capacity of the Central Statistics Agency here in Ethiopia to manage large, gold-standard surveys and use the latest survey collection innovations.

I would like to congratulate all of you, the data collection staff of the 2016 survey. You have just completed five weeks of training on interviewing skills, biomarker data collection, and use of tablets for data collection.

Staff from the Central Statistical Agency and the DHS Program will be supervising data collection activities in the field to assure the best quality data possible.

As field workers, you have an extremely important job. The quality of the data you collect will help to inform decisions that will affect hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians for years to come. We look forward to seeing the initial results of these data collection efforts later in 2016.

They will be used to inform efforts by the Ethiopian government as well as international donors as we all strive together to reduce maternal and childhood mortality, improve nutrition, provide family planning services, and reduce the impact of malaria, HIV, and other diseases.

Thank you to the Central Statistics Agency, in particular, for all your hard work and the close collaboration. And thank you to all of you for committing to collecting the most accurate data possible for the benefit of your country.

We wish you all the best over the coming months during the data collection process, and we're really looking forward to seeing the results.