



USAID | ETHIOPIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

2016 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey MoU Signing

Remarks by USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Dennis Weller

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

March 12, 2014

(As prepared)

It is a pleasure to represent the USAID and welcome all of you to the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health, USAID, and ICF International, to implement the 2016 Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey. It will be the 4th such survey conducted in Ethiopia, following surveys in 2000, 2005, and 2011.

As part of the USAID-supported demographic and health surveys program, the Ethiopia survey will benefit from the standard methods used worldwide. By using the same methodology, surveys can be compared over the years, allowing for trend analysis and comparison to other neighboring countries and inclusion in global and regional analyses. For this reason, the DHS program is the gold standard in household surveys.

This new agreement builds on more than 15 years of successful collaboration between the Central Statistical Agency, ICF International, and USAID in collecting, analyzing and disseminating high quality data. This partnership leads not only to much-needed data, but to strengthened capacity of local agencies here in Ethiopia to manage massive and complex surveys.

DHS project staff will provide technical assistance to the CSA at every stage of the survey, from sampling, to field work to data processing. The Ministry of Health and CSA will continue to use these skills long after the 2016 survey has been completed.

The 2016 survey will provide data on fertility and family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and many other topics.

As in the past, policymakers, program managers, and population and health researchers will use the results to inform our shared goals as we strive to reduce maternal and childhood mortality, improve nutrition, provide family planning services, and reduce the impact of malaria, HIV, and other diseases.

It was partly through the analysis and modeling of the 2011 DHS that Ethiopia was able to declare that it had met its child and maternal health Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, and I know that there is already great anticipation for the 2016 survey results.

We are excited to begin the survey planning process, and look forward to welcoming many other partner groups as stakeholders as we plan together to implement the survey.

I wish you all the best in this exciting endeavor. Thank you.