



USAID | ETHIOPIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Bishoftu Hospital MDR-TB Facility Handover to Oromia Regional Health Bureau/ Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia

Remarks by Joshua Karnes, USAID Health Officer

September 28, 2014

We are here today to inaugurate the USAID/TB CARE-supported Multi Drug Resistant-TB specialized treatment facility within the hospital of Bishoftu Town, Oromia.

One of my greatest joys living in Ethiopia and working with USAID is to come out and visit sites like this. I want to thank Ato Desalegn, director of Bishoftu Hospital, for showing us the amazing work that is happening here. I am impressed by the quality of your TB team and humbled by the sense of dedication that everyone here feels to truly make a difference.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a threat to all of us and Multi-Drug Resistant-TB is even worse. We see television and photos of health workers in West Africa covered in protective gear to fight Ebola. We hear of communities who hide from the health workers. But we who work with TB, and who are being cured of TB, understand the importance of the masks and protective gear that is worn. We must win the trust of the communities and stop the spread of TB, and make sure everyone knows the importance of using masks, however frightening they may appear to be, and completing treatment once it is started, to avoid Multi-Drug Resistant-TB that is so much harder to cure. Otherwise, TB patients may suffer separation and isolation from family and community due to the threat to public health.

Despite efforts to control TB and MDR-TB, Ethiopia remains a high MDR-TB burden country with roughly 3,000 patients. In response to the urgent need to

control TB, USAID in the front lines, working with the Federal Ministry and regional health bureaus leading the fight.

Several USAID TB projects have been supporting Ethiopia's efforts, and collaborating with all partner organizations, to stop TB, focusing on four major areas of TB control to improve and expand diagnosis and treatment, to strengthen public health medical personnel and systems, to address specific challenges of MDR-TB, and to ensure cooperation on HIV and TB programs. USAID and [PEPFAR](#) funding for combatting TB in Ethiopia is roughly 13 million U.S. dollars per year. The average investment in a facility like the one we are opening today is about \$250,000 U.S. dollars. USAID has supported eight other similar wards and facilities around Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, and Addis Ababa.

USAID has several TB programs in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Health. A lead program is TB CARE, implemented by a coalition of partners led by KNCV TB Foundation, which contributed to the establishment of this new MDR-TB treatment facility. TB CARE aims to strengthen the technical and management capacity of the overall TB control effort in the country.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to represent the American people in handing over the TB CARE supported MDR-TB care facility and training center to bring the best possible technology and care to all those this hospital serves who may be afflicted with MDR-TB.

Through our strong partnership and hard work, together we will achieve our goal of eliminating TB from Ethiopia and all over the world.

Thank you.