



USAID | ETHIOPIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FACT SHEET

USAID—Project Mercy Partnership for Health and Livelihoods in Rural Communities of Ethiopia



“The diaspora community has a uniquely important role to play in addressing the challenges of today and shaping a brighter future for tomorrow.” – USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah

USAID is working with more local organizations, non-profit civil society and faith-based groups, in Ethiopia to improve their capacity to address social and economic challenges and sustain their operations over the long term. These groups and the communities they benefit contribute to national goals for growth and transformation and complement public sector programs. One such group is Project Mercy founded by distinguished members of the Ethiopian diaspora and faith-based groups from the U.S.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PROJECT MERCY

Project Mercy is a not-for-profit relief and development organization providing aid and support to alleviate human suffering and overcome systemic poverty in underserved, rural communities. In two regions of Ethiopia, USAID will cooperate with Project Mercy: Ytebon, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Chacha, Amhara. At Project Mercy’s hospital and training facility in Ytebon, USAID will increase and improve skilled birth attendance and lower a high rate of maternal, newborn and infant deaths in the area. At the Project Mercy dairy farm in Chacha, USAID will improve household income and nutrition through increased cow milk production and consumption.

Livestock Market Development

USAID’s Livestock Market Development project is part of the U.S. Feed the Future Initiative with a goal to end hunger and end malnourishment and chronic undernourishment. Project Mercy established a 350-acre dairy farm in the Chacha area for its good grazing and water supply to cross breed Ethiopian indigenous cattle with the Jersey breed for increased milk production.

At 19 liters per annum per capita, Ethiopian annual milk consumption is well below the world average of 105 liters and the



Through assistance from Project Mercy, households, like the one pictured here, can earn additional income from the sale of milk. Photo: Kelley Lynch.

African average of about 40 liters. Most children in Ethiopia today do not consume milk because of low cow production. Experts from the Livestock Market Development project will improve milk and other dairy production for sale by linking families who receive a Project Mercy cow to markets. USAID also will train Project Mercy beneficiaries on proper livestock management techniques and production and development of forage for cows.

Strengthening Human Resources for Health

Maternal and newborn mortality in Ethiopia remains one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa: One newborn dies for every 27 live births, one in 17 will not live past the first year of life, and one out of every 147 mothers dies in child birth (DHS 2011). USAID's Human Resources for Health Project addresses critical human resource shortages, including midwives, whose role is central to effectively addressing the causes for maternal and newborn deaths including the fact that too many women do not seek or can easily access skilled birth attendance, prenatal and antenatal care, or the shortage of qualified personnel to deal with complicated births. Ethiopia's Ministry of Health is a leader in championing efforts to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and to promote survival of children beyond the age of five. USAID's partnership with Project Mercy is one component of that broader effort.



During a visit to Project Mercy in January 2013 with Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah (right) met with numerous staff at the Project Mercy Glenn Charles Olsen Memorial Hospital in Yetebon, Ethiopia including Senior Pharmacist Tamirat Alemu Deressa (left) and a pharmacy worker. Photo: Robert Sayers, USAID.

Through USAID's Human Resources for Health project, implemented by Jhpiego, USAID will help Project Mercy build the capacity of the 54-bed Glenn C. Olsen Hospital at Yetebon to become a model practice site and learning center for quality education and training of midwives and improve maternal, reproductive and newborn health services.

USAID and Project Mercy will train 400 midwives for deployment at health centers and hospitals around SNNPR in addition to Project Mercy's own hospital at Yetebon. Hawassa University, School of Health Sciences will assist with and certify the curriculum and the trainees to meet national standards.

Expected Results

Dairy: USAID technical assistance will link 65 targeted households to markets to ensure that milk produced by these heifers is converted into household income. Project Mercy beneficiary households will have ample milk consumption and receive training in care and feeding of dairy cows and techniques to maximize milk production. 2013-2014.

Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health: USAID will provide teaching and technical expertise to enable Project Mercy to train 400 midwives who will work throughout the SNNP region and directly benefit 3,000 people in Yetebon with maternal and child services and lower the maternal death rate across the region. USAID will also assist with refurbishment of the hospital and training facility at Yetebon and procurement of supplies and equipment to ensure high quality standards for teaching and for service delivery are met. 2013-2017.

Key Implementing Partners

- **CNFA:** USAID Livestock Market Development Project
- **Jhpiego:** USAID Strengthening Human Resources for Health Project
- **Hawassa University,** College of Health Sciences (Curriculum)
- **Partnership Value:** Approximately \$2 million USD