

ASSET

Health System StrEngthening in Sub Saharan Africa

Project and progress

ASSET-Ethiopia is a health system strengthening programme led by Addis Ababa University in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, King's College London and University of Cape Town. See <https://www.healthasset.org>. ASSET is one of the key projects within CDT-Africa that supports the healthcare delivery platform of CDT-Africa. The goal of ASSET is to develop effective health system strengthening interventions to support the translation of clinical evidence into delivery of integrated continuing care across healthcare platforms for Non-Communicable Diseases/mental health, surgical and dental care, and maternal healthcare. The programme is being implemented in the Meskan, Mareko and Sodo Woredas of the Gurage Zone in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR).

The project obtained ethical approval from the Institutional Review Board, College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University on 16/5/2018 and the University signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with FMOH on 15/08/2018 and with SNNP Regional Health Bureau on 04/09/2018. The ASSET PIs and project staff presented the project to the Gurage Zone Health Office and Woreda Health Offices on September 21-22, 2018. After the introduction.

The following project activities have been conducted since the beginning of the project.

- Recruited staff members (Project coordinator, Research coordinators, Field coordinators, field supervisors, data collectors, ODK specialist, admin staff)
- Stakeholder workshop using Theory of Change model on psychosocial maternal care with selected health extension workers and health professionals from health centres from the three woredas (these professionals were selected by woreda health office heads) (17th October 2018).
- Surgical and maternal Theory of Change workshop with health professionals from hospitals, health centres and regional, zonal as well as woreda health office managers (15th December 2018).
- ASSET sponsored 3 focal persons for clinical services (one per woreda) to participate in a Master TOT for the Ethiopian Primary Healthcare Clinical Guidelines (PHCG) conducted by FMOH. These trainers then trained facility trainers by teaming up with the master trainers from the zone and the region. One trainer has been invited by the region to train facility TOT trainers for health centres outside of the project site) (21st -25th September 2018).
- Training of facility trainers for Ethiopian PHCG was organised by ASSET (two health professionals per health centre from all health centres in the three woredas) (20th -24th October 2018).
- Conducting training on Clinical communication (19th November 2018)
- Hospital assessment for surgical preparedness was carried out in eight hospitals in the quality cluster headed by Butajira and Wolkite hospitals (October 2018 - February 2019).
- Mapped out the processes for maternal and surgical care for the two hospitals (Nov 2018 – Feb 2019)
- Evaluation of the quality of and completeness of routine recording of maternal and surgical care was carried out an ethnographic study has started in the two hospitals (Commenced 20th November 2018)
- Qualitative interviews conducted with 5 HEWs, 4 midwives, 5 traditional birth attendant, 3 community leaders, 1 general practitioner, 1 manager from woreda health office and 4 interviews for IPV study (From December 2018).
- The Ethiopian PHCG manual was printed and distributed in Meskan (#117), Mareko (#85), and Sodo (#145) woreda health offices as well as Butajira city administration health office (#29).
- Facility PHCG training started on 30/10/2018 in Sodo woreda in all health centers.
- Facility PHCG training started on 05/01/2019 in Meskan woreda in five health centers.
- The ASSET team has been encouraging and following up the progress of the facility training.
- Conducted community survey of the burden of unmet need for surgical care.
- Started situational analysis data collection.

Plan for the next 3-6 months: continuation of the 'diagnostic' phase of the project

- Follow-up study of people receiving surgical care.
- Survey of unmet need for NCD/mental health care in health centres
- Survey of antenatal care and psychosocial maternal care
- Further qualitative interviews