

COVID-19

Situation Report #25

17 September 2020

Key Updates

- In Ethiopia, Project HOPE has reached **4,327 internally displaced persons (IDP)** from **748 households** with handwashing supplies and education with support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Under the same project, **162 health care workers** have been trained on COVID-19 to date.
- In partnership with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and ECHO, Project HOPE is training **Master Trainers** in its **COVID-19 Preparedness and Response** curriculum from Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique, Eswatini, Lesotho and Zambia. A second training is scheduled for next week with participants from eight countries in Northern Africa.
- In the Dominican Republic, Project HOPE delivered more than **100,000 pieces of PPE** in partnership with the Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, and is coordinating distribution with the Ministry of Health.
- In Ecuador, Master Trainers of Project HOPE's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response curriculum trained **900 health and academic professionals** in all eight modules. In Nepal, Master Trainers have trained an additional **500 health care workers** in the curriculum.
- In the United States, Project HOPE is in the process of distributing **1.95 million surgical masks**, to priority hospitals and health facilities in partnership with Business Roundtable and Healthcare Ready.
- Since late July, Project HOPE volunteer medical teams have provided **care** and **COVID-19 testing** to nearly **2,900 patients** in Houston, Texas and Montgomery County, Maryland in the United States.

Situation Update

Project HOPE continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in countries around the world with ongoing and emerging outbreaks as well as those where HOPE has existing operations and global health programming. COVID-19's impact on some of the world's greatest health concerns has been dire. In many countries, essential health services and supply chains have been disrupted, mobility and quarantine restrictions have halted or limited the delivery of aid and services, and many



Project HOPE volunteers are supporting Montgomery County, Maryland, to expand COVID-19 testing services. Photo by Nancy Miller for Project HOPE.

COVID-19 Response Highlights

- **79,700+** health care workers and frontline personnel trained
- **2,800+** participants in e-Learning curriculum
- **9 million+** PPE and supplies distributed in 14 countries, including:
 - 1.19 million+** respirator masks distributed
 - 5.45 million+** surgical masks distributed
 - 1.17 million+** gowns, coveralls and lab coats distributed
 - 1.22 million+** pairs of exam gloves distributed

beneficiary populations and health systems that already faced health risks before COVID-19 are even more vulnerable.

Prior to COVID-19, Ethiopia faced significant challenges from natural disasters and ongoing conflicts as well as a high rate of maternal mortality, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malnutrition. It has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDP) in the world. Since COVID-19, the humanitarian situation in the country has escalated with ongoing transmission exacerbated with outbreaks of cholera and measles, decimation of food crops by locusts, and flooding. The country saw a sharp increase in the number of daily confirmed cases as well as deaths at the end of June 2020. To date, Ethiopia has confirmed more than 65,000 COVID-19 cases and 1,000 deaths, according to the Africa CDC.

In May of 2020, the government of Ethiopia stated that 16.5 million people in the country were in need of humanitarian assistance and, of these, 9.8 million were in need of COVID-19 related assistance. The government shared COVID-19 response priorities and needs which included: providing surge capacity in the form of health workers to cover increased patient numbers and disease surveillance needs; procuring and distributing medicines, medical supplies, laboratory supplies; and strengthening referral mechanisms so that people get the required care on time.

DEEP DIVE: Project HOPE's Response in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Project HOPE is implementing the PEPFAR-funded USAID Community HIV Care and Treatment program as well as the USAID-funded Transform: Health in Developing Regions project, which aims to increase access to maternal, neonatal, and child health services. When COVID-19 began to escalate in the country, Project HOPE coordinated with the Ministry of Health and its network of partners across 11 regional states, including the Somali Region, to respond to increasing needs among health facilities and high-risk communities. Highlights of our response in Ethiopia are below.

Improving COVID-19 Prevention, Preparedness and Case Management in the Somali Regional State and Dire Dawa City Administration

Project HOPE is currently implementing a six-month project to strengthen COVID-19 prevention, preparedness and case management for health systems in Somali Regional State and Dire Dawa city administration, with support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. The project aims to support 327 outpatient health facilities and 68 inpatient facilities across the Fafan, Sitti, Jarar and Erar Zones as well as Dire Dawa City. The COVID-19 situation in these areas is even more complex as they host high numbers of IDP in communities where the risk of transmission is high and that are currently experiencing floods and heavy seasonal rains. Somali Regional State also borders three countries and there is high cross-border movement and direct transport routes making it particularly susceptible to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The main components of the project include; Health Workforce Development, Surveillance and Contact Tracing using DHIS-2 tracker; Infection Prevention and Control including provision of PPE to targeted health facilities, Risk Communication & Community engagement; Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) on Water Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH); and Distribution of WASH items such as soaps, sanitizers, and hand washing facilities.

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Since July, Project HOPE has distributed handwashing supplies and health education in two IDP communities of Dire Dawa City, reaching **4,327 beneficiaries** (Female=2,207, Male= 2,120) from **748 households**.

Additionally, Project HOPE has trained **162 health workers** to date, including doctors, health officers, nurses and midwives, from health facilities in the project locations. This is part of an effort to train more than 600 health care workers in targeted health facilities across the project geographic areas.

Procurement is also underway for more hygiene items, (soaps, sanitizers hand washing stands) and PPE, which will be distributed to targeted community and health facilities in the coming month.

Distribution of 54,600 N95 Masks

In April, Project HOPE procured 56,400 N95 masks for health facility partners in Ethiopia with support from Latter-day Saint Charities. The Ministry of Health in Ethiopia held a formal hand-over ceremony for the masks with Project HOPE and developed a joint distribution plan. The masks have since been delivered to health facilities in all 11 regions of Ethiopia with the highest proportion to Somali, Amhara and Oromia regions.

Equipping Health Care Workers with COVID-19 Training and Case Management Tools

Project HOPE partnered with training institutions and health facility partners in Ethiopia to train a cadre of Master Trainers in its COVID-19 Preparedness and Response curriculum, developed in partnership with Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies at the Watson Institute of Brown University. These Master Trainers were from specialized hospitals, case treatment centers, health centers and universities from different regions. To date, these Master Trainers have cascaded the training to more than 160 health care workers.

In partnership with the Weitzman Institute, Project HOPE supported the expansion of its ConferMed electronic consultation (e-consult) platform to clinicians treating patients with COVID-19 in Ethiopia. Project HOPE collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Health to train on the use of the platform eight physicians with specialties in pulmonology, critical care, infectious disease and emergency care from Eka Kotebe Hospital, the country's largest COVID-19 treatment center. These physicians are now able to conduct e-Consults with experts in the United States who can help support care and treatment of complex COVID-19 cases in Ethiopia.

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