Safe motherhood and Reproductive Health Project
Ethiopian Midwives Association was established in 1992 and it is a member of the international confederation of Midwives since 1993. The association is contributing its part in the reduction of maternal and child mortality and improving the quality of MCH services in Ethiopia by conducting different activities under four strategic directions namely: capacity building, advocacy and representation, partnership and resource mobilization, and research and M&E. The main intervention areas of the association include; provision of knowledge and skill on safe motherhood, reproductive health and family planning, basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, etc.

Safe motherhood and Reproductive Health Safe motherhood is a broad concept that includes reproductive health counseling, information, education and communication, family planning services, focused antenatal care, safe delivery, postnasal care, comprehensive abortion care, prevention and treatment of infertility and treatment of reproductive tract infections. Ethiopian Midwives Association conducted a safe motherhood and RH project from 2005 to 2011 in SNNPR in collaboration with ESOG and Packard Foundation in two phases with a goal of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality through improving access to basic obstetric care and family planning services.

Phase I

- Phase one Safe Motherhood and RH project is implemented in four woredas of Hadiya zone from January 2005 to March 2008 with the objective of increasing the coverage of contraceptive prevalence rate, ANC, safe and clean delivery, post natal care, and creating awareness of clients on HIV/AIDS and STI through social mobilizations.
a. Outputs of the Project

Preliminary activities
- Pre-intervention data collected by interviewing 4,240 household heads on family planning practices and other reproductive health issues for baseline survey.

Capacity Building
- 64 community based reproductive health agents trained on family planning, antenatal care, identifying high risk mothers, birth preparedness and complication readiness, active management of third stage of labor and strengthening referral system.
- 130 health extension workers trained on safe and clean delivery by midwives who took TOT.

b. Outcomes

Information Education and communication
- Health education provided to 24,064 clients on family planning, STI and HIV/AIDS.

Maternal Health and Family planning services
- 1468 pregnant women received outreach antenatal service by health extension workers.
- 1199 clients referred to VCT services.
- 665 mothers referred for high risk pregnancy
- Strong link established between health center staff and HEWs that enhanced and improved knowledge and skill transfer about maternal health.
At the supportive supervision it is observed that,

- The coverage of service provided on preventable reproductive health complications have increased as more and more mothers have been served in the project area.
- The coverage of service provided on ANC, family planning, VCT, high risk pregnancy and PMTCT have increased as there has been high client flow in the project area.
- Strong link between community health agents and midwives has been created and is functional.
- The local community, community and religious leaders have been sensitized and are active in promoting and sustaining RH services.

Phase II

The safe motherhood and RH project in phase two is implemented in 10 woredas of Hadiya zone from April 2008 to March 2011.

Strategies

- Capacity building at all levels with special emphasis on pregnancy and child birth, provision of information, basic essential obstetric care and family planning services at community, health post, health center and hospital level through strengthening functional referral system
- Strengthening monitoring and supervision program on HMIS
- Advocate with decision makers
### Outcomes and outputs of the project

**Goal - contribute to reduction of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality through improving access to basic obstetric care and family planning services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Outcome</strong></th>
<th><strong>Outputs</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Outcome 1.** Access to and utilization of life saving procedures, skilled care delivery, family planning services and information improved | The knowledge and skill of health workers improved through training.  
- 40 midwives trained on family planning and HMIS  
- 171 Health Extension Workers and 53 community based providers trained on safe motherhood and family planning. |
| 1468 pregnant women received outreach antenatal service. | |
| **Outcome 2-** Involvement of target groups and community in the project area increased in safe motherhood and RH | Community mobilization sessions done in six woredas of Hadiya with 258 persons from six woredas.  
- 6 local support groups formed in each of the six woredas that advocate for safe motherhood and family planning service. |
| The level of community involvement in the safe motherhood and RH project improved. | |
| **Outcome 3.** Improved referral system in place. | Referral improvement meeting conducted with 22 participants form different health facilities and offices.  
- Referral activities strengthened from community to health posts, then health centers and hospitals through networking. |
| 1199 clients referred to VCT and 665 mothers referred for high risk pregnancy. | |
| **Outcome 4.** Increased availability, dissemination, utilization and documentation of RH data. | IEC materials such as 17,400 copies of booklet, brochure and posters on safe motherhood, family planning methods and birth preparedness and complication readiness were printed and distributed to the community.  
- 6 billboards prepared on birth preparedness and complication readiness, and erected in six woredas of hadya zone. |
| The awareness of public on safe motherhood and family planning has raised. | |
Health extension workers on family planning training

Family Planning and RH Training for Midwives
Midwives on HMIS Training

Billboard stand at Fonko town of Anlemo Woreda (Hadiya Zone)

Community Mobilization meeting in woredas of Hadiya zone
Building the Capacity of Midwifery Instructors on Comprehensive Family Planning

Ethiopian Midwives Association undertook training on comprehensive family planning for midwifery instructors from 15 teaching institutions in collaboration with UNFPA.

**Goal** - To contribute towards reducing maternal mortality and morbidity through improving the quality of family planning services.

**Objectives**
- To equip midwifery instructors with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to carry out long term family planning services.
- To expose midwifery instructors to practical family planning scenarios so that they can have the competence in managing practical attachment with their students.

**Outputs**
- Total of 20 midwifery instructors selected from 15 teaching institutions have taken part in the training and the knowledge, skills and competency of instructors improved on comprehensive family planning.
Outcomes

- The tutors transferred the skill and knowledge they gained on comprehensive family planning to their students.

- Students got proper knowledge and experience from their instructors on comprehensive family planning.
Building the Capacity of Midwives on Comprehensive Family Planning

Ethiopian Midwives Association undertook comprehensive family planning training for midwives who are BEmONC trainers with a goal of contributing to the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity through improving the quality of family planning services in collaboration with ICAP Ethiopia.

**Objectives**

- To equip midwives on knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to carry out long acting family planning service.
- To transfer the knowledge and skills they gained to BEmONC trainees.

**Outputs**

- Total of 20 midwives have (BEmONC traners) been trained on Comprehensive Family Planning and the knowledge, skills and competence of midwives improved on comprehensive family planning.
Outcomes

- The midwives provided proper services to their clients on comprehensive family planning.
- The number of clients receiving both short term and long term family planning services increased.
- BEmONC trainers' knowledge on comprehensive family planning improved.
- BEmONC trainers transferred their skill and knowledge on comprehensive family planning to BEmONC trainees.

Lessons learnt

- Involving community members, leaders, volunteers, and community-based reproductive health agents in safe motherhood and reproductive health increased the acceptance of reproductive health services by the community.
- Integrating services such as obstetric care and family planning saves time and effort of both client and service providers.
- Referral and networking from grassroots level health facilities to the higher level is key to improve reproductive health services and reduce obstetric complications.
Ethiopian Midwives Association

Address: Haile G/Selassie Avenue Zerihun Building, 2nd floor Room No. 30 & 31
P.O.Box 1410 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: 251-116-63 84 25 Fax: 251-116-63 32 97
E-mail: ethiopianmidwivesassociation@gmail.com
Web site: www.ethiopianmidwives.org