

Advisory Expert Panel (AEP)

The AEP serves as an external reference group for the project.

The purpose of the AEP is to:

- provide advice and guidance to improve routine immunization through the context of family health services
- review and provide input into strategic approaches
- identify existing innovative experiences
- assist with the organization and presentation of the evidence base



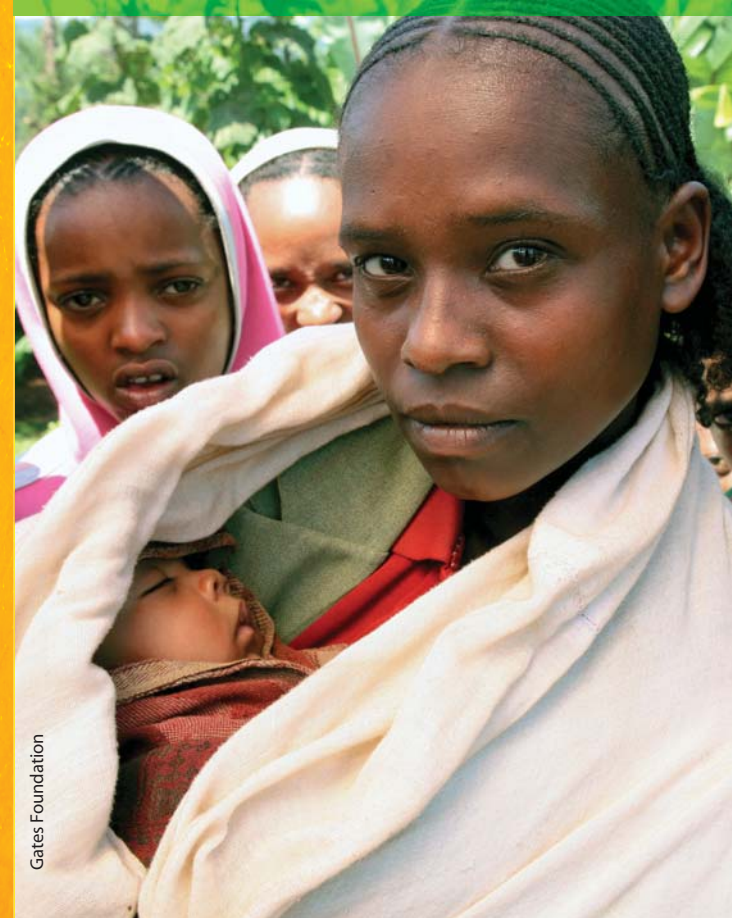
John Snow Inc.



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Universal Immunization through Improving **Family Health Services** (UI-FHS)



Gates Foundation

Background

For more than a decade, Ethiopia has undergone a period of deliberate, rapid and intense change—much of it at community level—and made sizable investments to improve the health of its population. This experience presents an excellent opportunity to take stock of promising interventions and innovations, identify why and how they work, and foster critical thinking and new learning to improve immunization and family health services.



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About the UI-FHS Project

In 2011 the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) the UI-FHS Project, a 2.5 year learning grant. The project works in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), three Regional Health Bureaus and Woreda Health Offices, the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI), and an implementing partner Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) at the University of Maryland.

The goal of the project is to develop evidence to inform a FMOH decision on whether and how to pursue nationwide universal child immunization in Ethiopia, integrated with family health approaches, and what it will take to do so effectively, affordably and sustainably. UI-FHS will build upon local understanding to introduce improved routine immunization practices in three agrarian and pastoral learning woredas, strengthen capacity, and translate lessons for sustained immunization system performance so as to inform policies and practices.

Specifically, the UI-FHS Project will work with the Health Extension Program to improve access to, use, and equity of basic health services to the rural population. In many areas, the Health Extension Workers (HEWs) also identify, train and support volunteer Health Development Agents and model families, and work with their communities to improve health outcomes. While respecting their overall workload in promoting multiple basic interventions and searching for positive synergies (e.g., between maternal health and immunization interventions), the project will identify how these practices — and the support required within local administrations and across sectors — can be strengthened to achieve sustainable increases in routine immunization coverage.

Center for Vaccine Development/Ethiopia Health and Nutrition Research Institute

CVD is JSI's main implementing partner for serological work. CVD will provide technical assistance on a serosurvey in each of the three learning woredas in a joint collaboration with EHNRI. CVD and EHNRI will conduct serosurveys (for measles, Haemophilus influenzae type b, and tetanus anti-toxin).

Stakeholder Engagement

The UI-FHS Project aims to increase stakeholder interest and engagement in taking a renewed look at routine immunization performance through the lens of improving overall family health services — and in the process will infuse new energy into looking for better ways to strengthen and sustain the system so as to achieve universal immunization (~95% Pentavalent 3 coverage) in three learning woredas (located in Tigray, Afar, and SNNPR regions).

