

SUCCESS STORY

USAID TRANSFORM: PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Youth-Friendly Health Services Make a Difference



**USAID Transform:
Primary Health
Care is introducing
a youth-friendly
services approach
in 20 health care
facilities in four
regions: Amhara,
Tigray, Oromia,
and SNNP.**

Behaviors and lifestyles learned and adopted between the ages of 10 to 24 years—the transition from childhood to adulthood—affect people for their whole lives. Early sexual debut and marriage and limited use of contraceptives—which are especially common in rural areas—are associated with unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, and maternal health problems. This is a special challenge for Ethiopia, where adolescents and youth comprise one-third of the country's population.

In response, the Federal Ministry of Health recently launched a five-year National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy that includes youth-friendly service (YFS) delivery guidelines and a minimum services package. When YFS is integrated effectively

*Photo caption: Demboya PHCU's
YFS Focal Person Tseganesh
Wolde reviews a report.*



/USAID Transform: Primary Health Care



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



in health facilities (public or private), young people are involved and help health professionals understand and respond to their needs.


USAID Transform: Primary Health Care is introducing a YFS approach in 20 health care facilities in four regions: Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and SNNP.

Transform: PHC trained staff at five health facilities in each region to ensure youth-friendly health services at every service delivery point. Each facility has a focal person who is responsible for coordinating YFS interventions.

For example, Demboya primary health care unit (PHCU) supports six health posts. Transform PHC trained all staff at the PHCU on family planning (FP) counseling and services; HIV counseling and testing; STI treatment; and other clinical care.

In April 2018, the project trained 25 health care providers and 25 youth recruited from nearby schools. Five student ambassadors at each school now disseminate this information to their peers at school. The group ensures the community's

participation in youth issues and disseminates information on life skills, FP, STIs, improving health-seeking behaviors, and providing one-on-one counseling for “at-risk” youth who are identified by the peer counselors. The PCHU identifies referral cases from the group's monthly reports.

 **The peer educators are so impassioned to teach their friends. They are happy to receive FP and other health services.”**

— Tseganesh Wolde, a midwife and the YFS focal person at Demboya PHC

“The peer educators are so impassioned to teach their friends. They are happy to receive FP and other health services. We also provide them with condoms and they are immensely grateful. Our only challenge has been finding ways to reach the youth during the summer holidays,” said Tseganesh Wolde, who is a midwife and the YFS focal person at Demboya PHCU.

When youth-friendly services are integrated effectively in health facilities (public or private), **young people are involved and help health professionals understand and respond to their needs.**

USAID Transform: Primary Health Care partners with the government of Ethiopia to end preventable child and maternal deaths by strengthening the country's health system. USAID Transform works in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR). Funded by USAID, the project is implemented by Pathfinder International, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., Abt Associates, EnCompass, the Malaria Consortium, and the Ethiopian Midwives Association.

This success story is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Pathfinder International and JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.