



**Maternal and Child Survival Program Closeout  
Remarks by USAID Health Office Chief BethAnne Moskov  
December 20, 2016  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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*Indemin aderachu* and good morning! We are all here because we are passionate about and committed to USAID's goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths in our lifetime.

Congratulations on all your hard work on improving the health of mothers, newborns and children in Ethiopia!

I know these achievements did not come easy. It happened due to the Ministry of Health's strong commitment and the partnerships with ALL OF YOU in this room. This coordinated effort, hard work, and the willingness and involvement of communities all contributed to our successes.

Our joint vision is to ensure that all moms, babies, and children, regardless of their income, geography, or education, have equitable access to quality health care services in Ethiopia.

That is why our Maternal and Child Survival Program implemented in Oromia, Amhara, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples and Tigray regions for the last two years supported programming in maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, family planning and reproductive health, nutrition, health systems strengthening, water/sanitation/hygiene, malaria, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and pediatric HIV care and treatment services.

While Ethiopia has significantly reduced maternal and child mortality, we will all need to work much harder to achieve the ambitious goals set forward in the Health Sector Transformation Plan.

So, what has Jhpiego and our partners been doing for the last two years? Through USAID's Maternal and Child Survival Program,

- 19,200 pregnant women received antenatal care
- 14,000 pregnant women received postpartum family planning counseling
- 22,900 mothers delivered at health facilities
- 20,000 mothers received postnatal care in health facilities
- 279 asphyxiated newborns were successfully resuscitated
- 1,200 women were counseled and, upon their choice, received postpartum intra uterine contraceptive device

We also collaborated with the ministry on quality improvement of services nationwide, increased referral and linkages at the primary health care unit level and expanded basic emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Did you know that more than 40 percent of all child deaths occur in newborns? We need to work through social circles at the community level to improve the early identification of pregnancies that leads to follow up through the delivery and the postnatal periods.

Despite the knowledge that women should deliver in a health facility, many refuse because they have heard stories of abuse and mistreatment. For this reason, our Maternal and Child Survival Program trained 472 health care providers and worked with the ministry on institutionalizing respectful maternity care. Abuse and mistreatment must end.

But these are numbers and statistics. Let me tell you a story about a mother who embodies our success. Shemisa delivered her son at one of the health centers in South Wollo. In the words of Shemisa:

I was in labor for more than a day, tired and desperate both for myself and the baby in my womb. But my midwife Fozia was on my side throughout my labor, informing me of the progress and reassuring me. Eventually, I gave birth to a baby boy who was not crying. I was devastated. Though I was not sure the baby would survive, Fozia helped the baby breathe and finally, with God's help and Fozia's efforts, the baby started crying. He is now a healthy and smiling seven-month-old baby.

These are the types of stories that motivate us to go out there and do our work every day.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Health, Jhpiego and Save the Children in the amazing work they have been doing to improve health outcomes for mothers, newborns and children in Ethiopia.

*Amasegenalehu!*