

Theme II: Human Health, Nutrition, and Welfare

Sub-theme 1: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Health promotion is the process of empowering people to increase their control over their health and its determinants through health literacy efforts and multi-sectorial action that increase healthy behaviors. The health promotion and disease prevention as a subtheme included the following priority research areas for 2022/23 call for proposals that are identified for study intervention strategies to prevent and control communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

1.1 Non communicable disease control and prevention including mental health problems in eastern Ethiopia

- Mental health epidemiology and surveillance in eastern Ethiopia
- Improving Non communicable disease prevention and control methods
- Improving the integration of mental health and other NCD related care into front-line primary health care delivery

1.2 Emerging, re-emerging communicable diseases and antimicrobial stewardship in eastern Ethiopia

- Emerging, re-emerging communicable diseases epidemiology
- Microbiome at the intersection of Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance
- Optimization of Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Stewardship (AS)

1.3 Impact of COVID-19 on infectious diseases and NCD burden and health system resilience

-

1.4 Reducing toxicological effects of commonly used pesticides and other chemical toxins on human health in eastern Ethiopia-

- Pesticides level in food items or commonly used vegetables available in the market
- Improving strategies and new tools to curtail the health effects of pesticides
- Occupational risks and hazards (industry) in eastern Ethiopia
- Improving occupational safety and health, and develops new interventions to minimize occupational hazard in eastern Ethiopia, industries

Sub-theme 2: Advances in Curative and Rehabilitative Health Services and Disease Management in eastern Ethiopia

A well-functioning health system is verified by improving the health status of individuals, families and communities. Ethiopia, like most developing countries is affected by double burdens of health problems as a result of health transition, which necessitates improved or advanced health services and health care delivery systems. In the 2022/23 call for proposals, advances in curative and rehabilitative health services and disease management as a sub-theme has given emphasis on strategies that can improve healthcare delivery system and disease management through the following priority research areas identified.

2.1 Improving diagnostic tool for infectious diseases (TB, renal diseases, cancer, NCD...)

2.2 Utilization of Indigenous knowledge for development of drug /diagnostic tools

- Development of alternative medicine for common infectious diseases in eastern Ethiopia (cancer, TB, renal diseases, Viral diseases...etc)

2.3 Development of point of care for the diagnosis of prevalent human diseases/health problems (TB, renal diseases, cancer, COVID-19, NCD, pregnancy...)

2.4 Neglected tropical disease (NTD)

- Reducing the burden of NTD and its impact on quality of life in eastern Ethiopia
- Minimizing skin related NTD and quality of life among school children
- Reducing mental health problems associated to Skin related NTD

Sub-theme 3: Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, Dietetics and nutritional problems

Optimal nutrition is critical for human development, economic growth and as a stepping-stone for equity. Food and nutrition security continue to represent challenges for developing countries as maker and marker of development. This is true for Ethiopia, where malnutrition remains serious public health problem and nutritional problems remain a threat for future healthy generation as well as food safety and hygiene from environmental chemicals and microbial

contamination and adulteration of foods has become an ever-increasing concern. Therefore, the dietetics and nutritional safety, security and problems and as a sub-theme has given emphasis to fill the evidence gaps and the following priority research areas are identified for 2022/23 call for proposal.

3.1 The change in societal feeding culture and child growth/development in eastern

Ethiopia

- Change in Mothers' feeding practice from traditional food items to modern items and their health status
- Change in Mothers' feeding practice from traditional food items to modern items and their child development/growth pattern

3.2 Packed food/processed food and child growth and development in eastern Ethiopia

- Packed food safety and quality in health and diseases in eastern Ethiopia

Sub-theme 4: Reproductive Health, Maternal and Child Health

Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health is central to the agenda of Healthcare. Women and children's health remains a main concern of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as evidenced by the strong commitment to end preventable newborn, child and maternal deaths by 2030. Issues of sexual and reproductive healthcare services including family planning, information and education are unfinished. In sub-Saharan Africa countries including Ethiopia, maternal, newborn and under-five mortality are still the major concerns. In addition, concerns of sexual, reproductive and adolescents' health including HIV/AIDS continue to be health issues. Pregnancy during the period of adolescence is associated with an excess risk of poor outcomes, including low birth weight and prematurity. Adolescents are exposed to a range of risks and suffer from a variety of illnesses including HIV/AIDS and many health behaviors adopted during adolescence have lasting impacts on health throughout their lives. However, there is scarcity of information about these problems that calls for continued effort in generating up-to-date information for relevant intervention. Therefore, the following potential priorities research areas were identified for this call:-

4.1 Reproductive health, maternal and child health

- Disease/health surveillance among street/homeless children in eastern Ethiopia
- Minimizing orphans and street/homeless children abuse in eastern Ethiopia
- Improving the health status of Street /homeless children /girls in eastern Ethiopia
- Minimizing substance use /abuse and its health effect in eastern Ethiopia
- Reducing respiratory diseases burden among children and neonates
- Improving the survival rates of newborn and their mothers in eastern Ethiopia