

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 2023/24 call for proposals that are identified for study intervention strategies to prevent and control communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

1.1 Improvement of the Health care system in eastern Ethiopia

- Health care system outcome (community engagement, responsiveness, continuous improvement etc...)
- Mitigating health problem related to Climate change.
- Healthcare system performance/services evaluation (Healthcare quality and safety, coverage, equity, patient satisfaction, staff competence/role of different departments in patient outcome)/ comprehensive health care system (health professional satisfaction)
- Infection prevention and patient safety strategies in health care facilities
- Health facility emergency preparedness during epidemics

1.2 Emerging communicable disease control

- Malaria vector (Stephani) insecticide resistance characterization and management

1.3 Minimization of vaccine preventable diseases burden

- Improvement of vaccine utilization including zero dose vaccine
- Assessment of vaccine efficacy for Vaccine preventable diseases
- Vaccine coverage challenges and interventions in pastoral area
- Evaluation of EPI Service at PHCU level.

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 2023/24 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 Improvement of the diagnosis of prevalent human diseases/health problems

- Development of diagnostic tests/procedures in patient outcome (point of care)- for the improvement of TB cure rate/diagnosis in pastoral community (one health MDR)

2.2 Non communicable disease control/management strategies

- Control strategies focusing on prevalent cancer.
- Mental health problem in marginalized community

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 2023/24 call for proposal.

3.1 Food insecurity and nutritional problems focusing on venerable groups

- Improvement of Nutritional status
- NCD and nutrition, and Nutritional literacy
- Evaluation of malnutrition screening program for under 5 children

3.2. Packed food safety and quality, and its health implication on children

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 (SGDs), 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 2023/24 Call for Proposal: -

4.1 Improving Reproductive health, maternal and child health

- Utilization of early ANC and contraceptive in pastoral area
- Improvement of the screening of HIV positive partners
- Intervention strategies on unwanted pregnancy outcome (abortion, still birth, preterm)