

Country Story - Ethiopia

Practices that make programmes work

2004 - 2007

Significant follow-up activities have taken place with the Ethiopia IBP team established in conjunction with the 2004 Uganda IBP Launch.

In January, 2006 the IBP Secretariat and USAID worked with the Ethiopian Team to initiate the documentation of a collection of technical and programmatic practices addressing reproductive health issues that identified "Practices that Make Programs Work".

The document was endorsed by the Ministry of Health in November 2006. Once it was finalized, the Ministry and the IBP team supported similar meetings at regional level to assist with the dissemination, implementation and scaling-up of the effective practices identified through analyzing the practices that make programmes work.

In early 2007, the Ministry of Health requested assistance to convene regional meetings focused on meeting specific priority issues and programmes of importance in each region. May, 2007, IBP partners organized a meeting in Bahir Dar for four regions that introduced the change management techniques detailed in the ***IBP Guide to Fostering Change to Scale-up Effective Health Services***. Action plans were developed based on the Fostering Change Framework and IBP partners agreed to follow-up and support the Ministry of Health implement these plans in the regions where they worked.



A second regional workshop took place in October, 2007 as well as a follow-up visit to one of the first regions that attended the May, 2007 workshop.

At the November 2007 IBP Consortium meeting, a videoconference was held with colleagues from Ethiopia's IBP team. The Ethiopia team felt that the introduction of the IBP Initiative has led to identification of best practices and improved sharing of national and regional information. The team felt it was important to advocate for the IBP approach since it is very useful and should be integrated into the work we do. The notion of identifying, documenting and sharing best practices has been adopted by the highest health authorities within the Ministry of Health. The country participants supported by WHO/RHR and IBP partners are very pleased to have taken this approach to the regional level, but recognize that follow-up is essential.

Our colleagues in Ethiopia stated that working collaboratively and in partnership will help to achieve this and with the support of the IBP partners this programme continues.