Addis Continental Institute of Public Health (ACIPH) was founded in August 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with an intent to boost the human resource potential in public health in Ethiopia and beyond by providing high quality training programs and promoting evidence based programming through research. These activities are believed to assist the attainment of the national and regional health sector development goals.

Addis Continental led by its clear vision and its vibrant professionals began the noble task with only five staffs, today it has over eighty full time technical and administrative staffs, and has trained over two hundred field research workers. The Institute has the following departments, units and offices: Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Research department; Public Health and Social Science department; Reproductive Health, Population and Nutrition department, Information Communication Technology and Data management Unit, Registrar office, Finance office and administration office.

Today, ACIPH is one of the very few independent centers of excellence for training and research specialized in public health. Some of the major training activities are conducted in collaboration with Universities of Gondar, Haramaya, Jimma, Mekelle and Hawassa. These unique collaborative initiatives have great potentials in leveraging each others strengths for common goals and in building the critically needed human resource capital for the nation’s health sector development. It also has proven its competence by working closely with the Ministry of Health, UN agencies and NGOs in addition to the renowned foreign higher institutions from the United States and Europe streamlining its international connections for drawing technical expertise as need arises. The various activities of the Institute are briefly described in the following sections.
Research Activities

The Institute has been conducting a variety of studies in different areas of public health. Most of these research activities were operational researches done on behalf of various governmental and non-governmental organizations; others were studies done in collaboration with academic institutes for generating knowledge essential to understand better public health matters. The following are research areas categorized by the type of health problems dealt.

Infectious diseases

As infectious diseases are still the major causes of morbidity and mortality, our research activities tend to be in that area. In addition the senior experts of the Institute are leading experts in infectious diseases. The researches in this area used both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Some of the researches undertaken in areas of infectious diseases include:

- Formative assessment for modeling and reinforcement to combat HIV/AIDS (MARCH) Project. A qualitative study conducted on behalf of the Federal Police and CDC-Ethiopia, 2007
- Treat Survey- “Health worker access to HIV/TP prevention, treatment and care services in Africa”. A mixed qualitative and quantitative study conducted on behalf of the WHO, 2007
- Alcohol and Khat Consumptions and the association with HIV/AIDS transmission, prevention, care and treatment in Ethiopia. A mixed qualitative and quantitative study conducted in eight regions of Ethiopia on behalf of the Ethiopian Public Health Association and CDC-Ethiopia, 2007
- ART communication study conducted in four regions of Ethiopia. A mixed qualitative and quantitative study conducted on behalf of the Federal
- Malaria surveillance at a Health Post

Reproductive Health

Researches in the field of reproductive health were also part of the Institute’s activities. One of the studies was conducted over three years.

- Early Marriage Intervention evaluation study in Amhara Region. A large scale quantitative study conducted in collaboration with Tulane University and Measure Evaluation, 2007
- Experience with and Perceptions of Violence among Staffs in Awassa Colleges, Ethiopia in collaboration with University of Washington, 2007

Nutrition

Several large scale community based studies were conducted in the area of nutrition so far using both quantitative and qualitative study designs.

- Coverage survey of Extended Outreach Services conducted in all regions of the country. A mixed quantitative and qualitative study on behalf of UNICEF Ethiopia, 2008
- Baseline study for community based nutrition component of national nutrition program conducted in Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray regions of Ethiopia. A quantitative study conducted on behalf of UNICEF-Ethiopia, 2009

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Secure Areas of Tigray & SNNPR in Ethiopia. A qualitative study conducted on behalf of Alive and Thrive/AED, 2009

- Community based nutrition component of national nutrition program conducted in Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray regions of Ethiopia. Second round quantitative study conducted on behalf of UNICEF-Ethiopia, 2010
- Baseline Study for impact evaluation of Alive & Thrive initiative to reduce childhood stunting in Tigray & SNNPR. A quantitative study conducted on behalf of IFPRI and Alive & Thrive, 2010

**Trainings Activities**

**LONG TERM TRAININGS**

**BSc in Public Health Management:** ACIPH has gained accreditation in 2008 from the Federal Ministry of Education to train undergraduate students in public Health Management. The training is provided by highly qualified professionals. The training heavily emphasizes on health promotion, disease prevention and management of public health programs. The first batch completed their studies in June 2011.

**Masters of Public Health (MPH):** since 2007, ACIPH has created very fruitful collaborations with public universities in Ethiopia to expand access to graduate level training in public health. The joint programs have been conducted in collaboration with universities of Gondar, Haramaya, Jimma, Mekelle and Hawassa. In three of the collaborating universities the program was established for the first time and they are gaining fast momentum to gain full capacity needed to run the program.

Chronic Non-Communicable disease

It is widely recognized that chronic diseases are emerging as a major component of the burden of disease in developing countries. The Institute has collaborated with universities to generate critically needed information in this area.

- Assessment of Non Communicable Diseases among Bank Employees and Teachers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in collaboration with University of Washington and International Clinical Laboratory, 2009.

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A GLIMPSE OF ACIPH’s FIVE YEAR JOURNEY: 2006-2011

PhD in Public Health: ACIPH is also collaborating with universities of Gondar, Haramaya and Hawassa Universities in providing doctoral level training (PhD program). Admission into this training program is strictly limited for academic staffs of the collaborating institutions.

Currently twenty one academic staffs of the collaborating universities are studying in the joint PhD programs. While Addis Continental provides scholarship for the courses, the collaborating universities are providing funding for the field research works. The first batch will start defending their doctoral thesis in 2012.

SHORT TERM TRAININGS
ACIPH has standardized short term training on selected public health subjects. Based on the demand short term trainings can be tailored to meet the specific need of client organizations. Both local and international trainings have been organized and delivered by ACIPH in the last five years. Some of these trainings are listed below.

- Training on Grant writing, conducting research and publishing: In collaboration with Ethiopian Public Health Association. October 2007.
- Training on Qualitative Research Methods. In collaboration with FHI. 2007

The First Short Training in 2007
- Basic training for monitoring and evaluation of health programs: In collaboration with UNHCR. January 2008.
- Data analysis workshop for University of Gondar academic staff. In collaboration with the University of Gondar. March 2008
- Training on Monitoring and evaluation of gender based violence programs for UNFPA grantees: In collaboration with TTTM and UNFPA. Adama, January 2009
- Training on Monitoring and evaluation of health programs for CRDA/CORE group Ethiopia. June 2009

The First Short Training in 2007
- Training on Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Development for Grantees of the United Nations Trust Fund in “Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women” for Africa and Asia regions. Training Workshop conducted in collaboration with ICRW and UN Women Addis Ababa (October 2009) and Delhi (December 2009).
- Training on Project Cycle Management for Compassion International Africa Region Staffs, Hawassa, Ethiopia (12-14, October 2010)
- Training on Health Research Methods for Compassion International Africa Region Staffs, Hawassa, Ethiopia (11-16, October 2011)

Cheering up the trainees at a leisure time

• Training on Child Survival “Child Survival –Reaching the Target” international research training in collaboration with Uppsala University, Addis Ababa and Hawassa 24-28 January 2011

Collaboration

ACIPH has established fruitful academic collaborations within the country and internationally. We greatly appreciate the dedicated support from the collaborating institutes. ACIPH has strong and continued collaborations with the following institutes: University of Gondar, Haramaya University, Mekelle University, Hawassa University, University of Washington (Seattle, USA), Tulane University (New Orleans, USA), University of North Carolina/MEASURE Evaluation (Chapel Hill, USA), John Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA), University of Bergen (Bergen, Norway), Umea University (Umea, Sweden), and Uppsala University (Sweden). ACIPH has also strong links with Federal and Regional health sector agencies.

University of Gondar and ACIPH Staff at the graduation of Bahirdar Campus Joint students

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Publications

The following are publications of the Institute's staff in peer-reviewed journals. The issues covered and the extent of collaborations are clearly manifested in the publications.


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Girma B, Berhane Y. Children who were vaccinated, breast fed and from low parity mothers live longer: A community based case-control study in Jimma, Ethiopia BMC Public Health 2011, 11:197


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