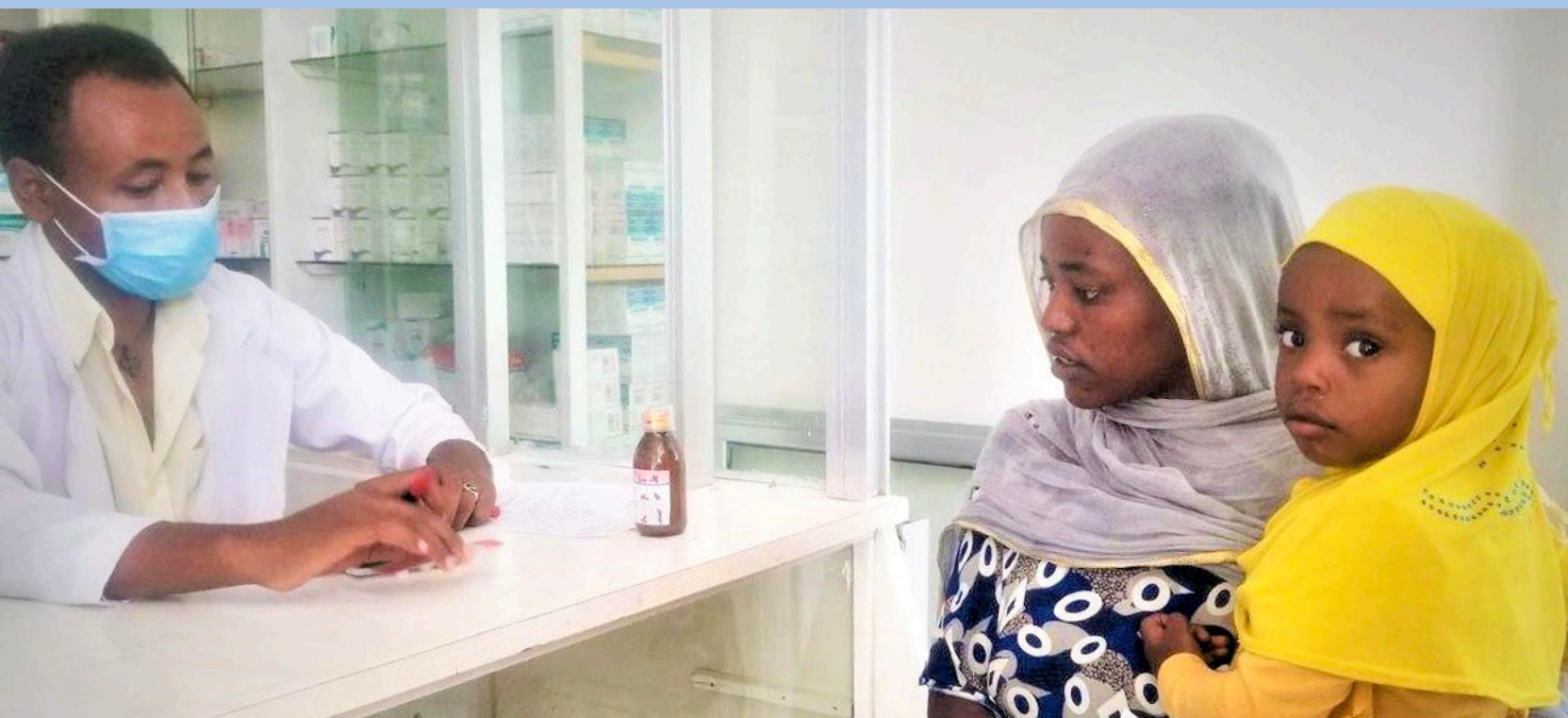


USAID GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM
Procurement and Supply Management



TARGETED SUPPORT LED PROVIDERS TO INCREASE USE OF ZINC-CONTAINING REGIMENS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD DIARRHEA IN ETHIOPIA

Diarrhea is the second-leading cause of mortality among infants and children under five in Ethiopia and the cause of 13% of child deaths. This case describes effective interventions for increasing use of the WHO-recommended treatment for childhood diarrhea, oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc, in a large health center in Ethiopia. Ethiopia's treatment guidelines list ORS and zinc as the preferred treatment. This regimen is considered a cost-effective and easy-to-administer treatment for childhood diarrhea.

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CHALLENGE

At the Addis Ketema Health Center in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, providers were not prescribing the WHO-recommended product and treatment regimen for childhood diarrhea, ORS and zinc for 10-14 days. The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project helped supply chain staff at this facility to identify barriers to use of this product and helped implement interventions to address the barriers.

TIMELINE: ASSESSMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

GHSC-PSM provides ongoing support to Ethiopia's government to ensure child health commodities such as ORS and zinc are available where and when they are needed. To pilot solutions for increasing use of ORS and zinc in Ethiopia, the project took several steps to evaluate the barriers and implement changes:

What is a Drug Use Evaluation (DUE)? A DUE is a systematic, criteria-based program of medicine evaluations that will help ensure appropriate medicine use. If a regimen (such as antibiotics to treat childhood diarrhea) is determined to be inappropriate, interventions with providers or patients will be necessary to optimize prescribing practices. Each component of this DUE conducted in Ethiopia was designed using WHO DUE methodology, including the data collection tool, indicators/criteria, thresholds and methods.

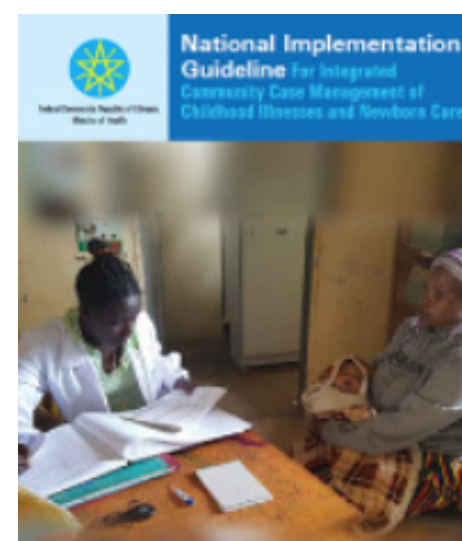
June 2019: GHSC-PSM conducted DUE and root cause analysis; reviewed 100 medical records of children treated for diarrhea.

July 2019-February 2020: GHSC-PSM recommended and supported interventions to increase use of ORS and zinc.

March 2020: 2nd DUE to evaluate interventions; GHSC-PSM again reviewed 100 medical records. Results are displayed in the graph to the right.

JUNE 2019 FINDINGS

- Providers at Addis Ketema had limited knowledge on how to prescribe zinc
- Prescription of zinc to treat childhood diarrhea was low
- Zinc supplementation practices did not adhere to established treatment protocols



Ethiopia's standard treatment guidelines for child and newborn care

SOLUTION

GHSC-PSM recommended and helped to implement several interventions that addressed the June 2019 findings:

- Sensitized and supervised clinicians and dispensers on ORS and zinc as recommended treatment
- Encouraged clinicians and dispensers to prescribe co-packaged ORS and zinc, using correct dosage and duration
- Distributed standard treatment guidelines and drug formularies to health center staff
- Decreased rotation frequency of trained prescribers at the pediatric ward
- At regional level, integrated ORS and zinc into the supply chain system and started consumption-based distributions to increase availability of the commodities

LESSONS LEARNED & NEXT STEPS

The project learned that proper training and information sharing led to increased use of the appropriate product and treatment regimen. The most effective strategies to improve management of childhood diarrhea at Addis Ketema were ensuring availability of standard treatment guidelines; conducting sensitization and supportive supervision; promoting use of co-packaged ORS and zinc and enforcing proper prescribing practices; building staff capacity; and improving the supply chain at the local level. **Going forward, similar interventions will be replicated in other facilities.**

Title image: Fatuma Sultan brought her three-year-old child to the Addis Ketema Health Center for treatment of diarrhea. She received ORS and zinc at the pharmacy.

MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD DIARRHEA AT ADDIS KETEMA IMPROVES ADHERENCE TO WHO GUIDELINES FROM JUNE 2019 TO MARCH 2020

