
Ethiopian Universities Research Centers Network

Experiences, Challenges and Future Directions

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HDSS Network in Ethiopia

- The idea of Networking of HDSS sites was initiated by Universities and EPHA/CDC.
- Four Universities (AAU, JU, HU, UoG) through the AIDS mortality surveillance work in 2007
- ***“Ethiopian Universities Research Centers Network (EURCN)” Established in 2007***
- Chair, vice chair and secretary assigned
- Mekelle and Arba Minch joined the Network in 2009

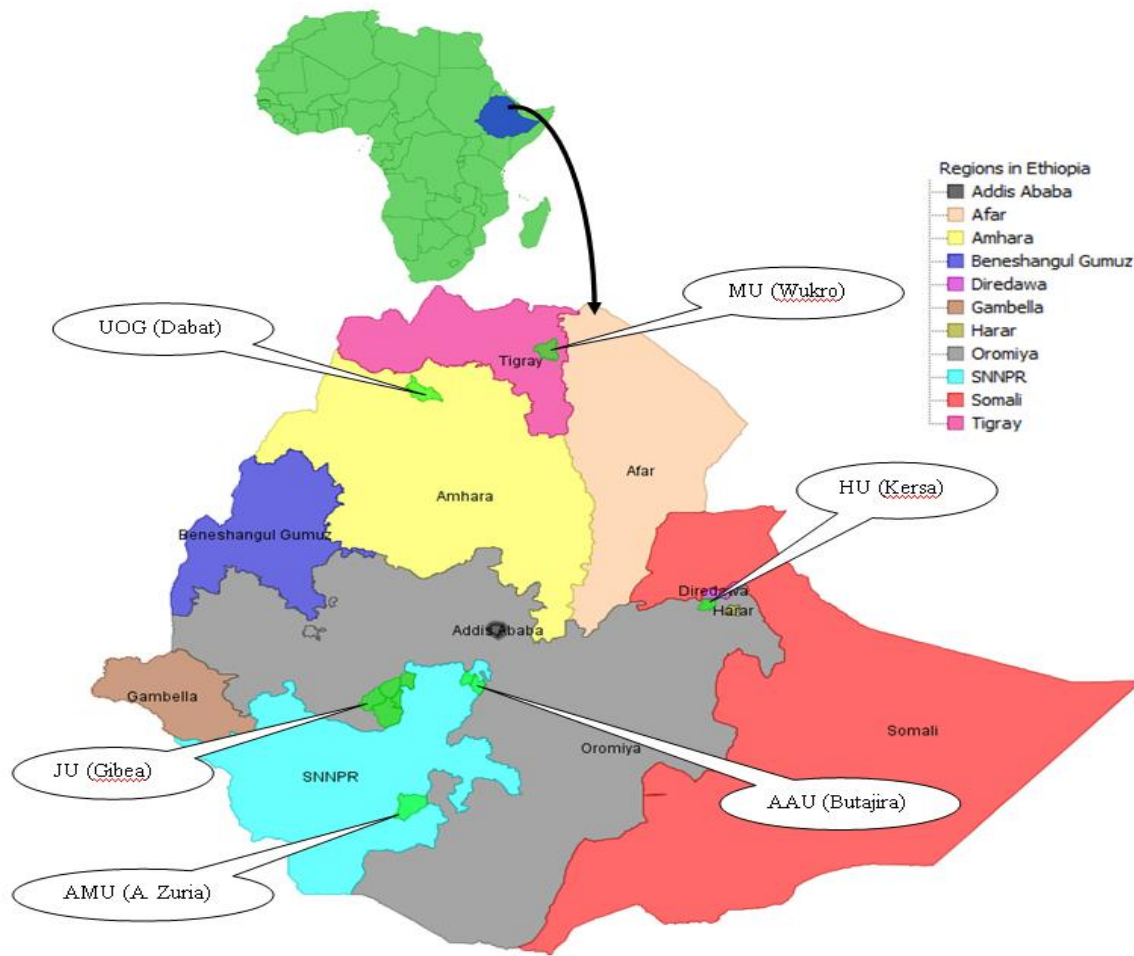


Members of the Network in Ethiopia

1. Butajira Rural Health Program (1987), AAU
2. Dabat Research Center (1996), UoG
3. Gilgel Gibe Field Research Center (2005), JU
4. Kersa HDSS (2007) & Harar Urban HDSS (2011), HU
5. Kililte Awlalo Rural Health Program (2009), MU
6. Arba Minch Zuria Rural Health Program (2009), AU

Also the Addis Ababa Mortality Surveillance Program





Site	Female	Male	Total
Butajira	38,169	39,393	77,562
Dabat	34,685	33,820	68,505
Gilgel Gibe	32,619	31,447	64,066
Kersa	64,190	66,010	130,200
Kilte Awlaelo	32,575	30,928	63,503
Arba Minch	36,346	36,576	72,922
Total	238,584	237,174	476,758

Location of University based research centers in Ethiopia

All the sites are full members of the INDEPTH Network

Why Networking

- Opportunities for learning and sharing knowledge, skills and mentorship to each other.
- Standardizing HDSS procedures & tools and pool data for joint analysis, reporting and sharing
- Can serve as a platform for universities and stakeholders to undertake collaborative & multi-center studies
- Increasing visibility and funding opportunity



Vision and Mission

Vision: To see evidence based decision making practices in health and development sectors in Ethiopia

Mission: Provision & promotion of the use of valuable information for evidence based decision making, policy formulation, program design, evaluation and execution in public health practices



General Objective

Support to generate longitudinal data and promote the use of strategic information for evidence based decision making and coordination of activities among university based surveillance and research sites.

Specific Objectives

- Support graduate level trainees to conducted research in the sites and use existing data
- Provide technical support to network members and new sites
- Strengthen HDSS sites capacity to generate and disseminate information on major vital events and population dynamics
- Support to undertake different add on studies at community level
- Develop data warehouse and avail for local and international users



The Network so far (1)

- 👍 Regular quarterly meetings and joint proposal development
- 👍 Initiated Mekelle & Arba Minch universities research centers, Bahirdar and other University are also coming
- 👍 Standardize tools, methods & procedures for HDSS and VA activities



The Network so far (2)

- 👍 Capacity building & skill trainings for members – longitudinal data analysis using STATA, GIS, etc.
- 👍 Created learning and experience sharing forum between universities
- 👍 In country and African sites (Ghana, SA) team experience sharing visits



Experience Sharing visits to Kintampo, Navrongo, and Agincourt Research Center in Ghana and SA



The Network so far (3)

- 👍 Implemented longitudinal database management system in all the site – HRS2
- 👍 Now we are working to moving to OpenHDS
 - OpenHDS and legacy data migration training



The Network so far (4)

- 👍 A number of joint data analysis, with pooled data were conducted yearly, reports produced and shared to stake-holders



- 👍 Data sharing & standardization documents developed

Challenges

- ‡ Due to many competing activities, support from the Universities is limited
- ‡ Unable to expand HDSS sites
 - ‡ In terms of content and Geographic areas
- ‡ Though declining from year to year, it is only EPHA through CDC who is supporting the surveillance activities technically and financially
- ‡ Collaboration with regional or federal level offices is limited, only recently we start with FMoH on estimating the incidence of common childhood illnesses

The way forward (1)

- 👉 Formalize the Network by involving Universities & stakeholders
- 👉 Stipulate national priority research agendas in consultation with stakeholders
- 👉 Enhance the use of HDSS sites and the generated data for capacity building (Masters, PhD, Post Docs)
- 👉 Encourage & support for the establishment of more HDSS sites in Ethiopia to get better representative indicators at national level

The way forward (2)

- 👉 Work for the implementation of mobile data collection system across the sites
- 👉 Create HDSS data warehouse for public access and use
- 👉 Support the national VERA with the available critical and experienced staff in the sites
- 👉 Expansion of existing sites in terms of content and geographic coverage

The way forward (3)

- 👉 Engage sites for multi-center studies that include clinical and community trials
- 👉 Surveillance and add on modules on:
 - 👉 Morbidity surveillance
 - 👉 Nutrition surveillance
 - 👉 Maternal, newborn and child health

Acknowledgment

- The communities in the different sites
- The Universities
- CDC and EPHA for technical and financial support
- INDEPTH Network for capacity building support

