research note

Exploring the barriers and facilitators to improved WASH behaviors in Amhara, Ethiopia

Key Messages

- The Andilaye project seeks to develop and assess the effectiveness of an enhanced, demand-side sanitation and hygiene intervention to sustain key behaviors for the control of enteric and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) endemic to Amhara, Ethiopia.

- Formative research was conducted to inform an enhanced version of the government’s current Health Extension Package.

- Barriers and facilitators to improved sanitation, personal hygiene, shoe-wearing, food hygiene, and animal husbandry practices were explored.

The Need

Millions of people in Ethiopia are at risk of NTDs, and the Government of Ethiopia has made control and elimination a priority. The Andilaye “Together” project will study the impact of an intervention that integrates specific sanitation and hygiene behavior change components into current government supported programming (e.g., the Health Extension Package [HEP]) to encourage improved personal hygiene and sanitation practices and reduce the spread of NTDs and other enteric infections. Formative research is needed to properly inform the project on factors influencing demand-side sanitation and hygiene promotion on sustained behavior change, NTDs, and mental well-being.

The Study

Formative research was conducted to identify barriers and facilitators to WASH practices amongst rural households in West Gojjam and South Gondar Zones of Amhara during September 2016 to January 2017. Research activities included: (1) household and community observations, (2) focus group discussions, and (3) key informant interviews. Findings from all three methodologies were triangulated to provide a more holistic understanding of current WASH practices and the barriers and facilitators to improved WASH practices.
### Next Steps

Findings from the completed formative research will be used to adapt study instruments (household and community level surveys) to the local context, validate existing metrics, and inform the design of the enhanced demand-side sanitation and hygiene intervention.

### Partners

- AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE
- Health Bureau