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**HIP** HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT

## USAID Hygiene Improvement Project Activities in Ethiopia

### Improving Hygiene and Sanitation Practices through Learning by Doing

In Ethiopia, one of its two “at-scale” countries, HIP is working with the World Bank’s Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) to help guide the implementation of the Government of Ethiopia’s National Hygiene and Sanitation Strategy. Through “learning by doing” in the Amhara Region of 20 million, HIP is helping to support and build capacity in the Amhara Regional Health Bureau (ARHB) to achieve its targets relating to hygiene and sanitation and support for the national commitment to achieve universal sanitation by 2012 by fostering “Total Behavior Change in Hygiene and Sanitation.” To support the action agenda developed at by a group of key stakeholders in October 2006, HIP developed and is now working to popularize a set of key hygiene practices that are feasible and cost-effective, known as “small doable actions,” which can be implemented on a large scale through the programs of participating partners. For hand washing, these include hand washing at critical times, using correct technique and soap or an effective alternative such as ash or sand, and the use of hand-washing stations and innovation of appropriate water-saving technologies. To guide the process, HIP worked with WSP and the ARHB to develop a step-by-step process guide, a Woreda (district) Resource Book, capacity building materials, and state-of-the art job aids. Working through a training-of-trainers model, HIP has built the capacity of health extension workers, community volunteers, development agents, farmers, and other outreach workers to “ignite” change through social mobilization and support household behavior change through house-to-house visits to negotiate the practice of small doable actions for hygiene improvement. The experiences, guidelines, tools and materials developed through the Amhara experience will be refined, documented and adapted for application in other regions. In addition, HIP is supporting the development of a WASH resource center in the Amhara Regional Health Bureau to foster information and experience sharing among the many partners working in sanitation and hygiene in the region and elsewhere.

### Integrating WASH When Caring for People Living with HIV and AIDS

HIP has also developed an important initiative to integrate safe water, hygiene and feces management (WASH) practices into home-based and palliative care for people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA). People with HIV/AIDS are at increased risk for diarrheal diseases, and are far more likely to suffer severe and chronic complications if infected. Specifically, HIP is: 1) building the capacity of home-based care workers to practice and promote WASH small doable actions with PLWHA and their families to reduce diarrheal diseases, and 2) developing related programming guidance and tools for integrating WASH into home-based care. Using the new guidance and tools HIP trained a cadre of master trainers who have already trained hundreds of home-based and clinical care workers in Amhara and in other regions of the country. The concepts, guidance, guidelines and materials to support WASH integration will also be applicable to other HIV/AIDS-related programming and build the evidence base and provide concrete programming guidance for use at a global level. While the evidence base is stronger around the impact of safe water on HIV-positive households, the development of small doable actions related to feces disposal for PLWHA will be an important contribution. Finally, HIP facilitated the formation of a community of practice, a loose coalition of organizations primarily in Addis and Amhara, all interested in developing programming guidance and tools to improve WASH in HIV care and support and integrate WASH into their training programs and outreach.