

Following the Country Annual Meeting (CAM-2024) in Kigali, Rwanda, in April 2024, the Countdown-Ethiopia Country Collaboration (CECC) team, led by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, disseminated key analytical outputs. This effort aimed to inform stakeholders, influence policy, and improve health outcomes in Ethiopia.

The objectives of the engagement included mapping stakeholders, broadly sharing CAM-2024 analytical outputs for maximum impact, and exploring opportunities for future analytical collaborations at national and subnational levels.

### Key Activities Undertaken by the CECC Team

**Discussion with the Joint Core Coordinating Committee (JCCC):** In June 2024, the CECC team presented the Kigali CAM 2024 analytical outputs at a JCCC meeting, which included representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH), USAID, UNICEF, and other health organizations. JCCC members expressed a keen interest in further collaboration and the potential to leverage this evidence for significant sector-wide impact.

**Data Week Event:** Organized by the Ministry of Health's Strategic Affairs Executive Office, the Data Week event featured a presentation by the CECC team, titled "Ethiopia: Progressive Improvements Towards Universal Health Coverage and Equity in Maternal and Child Health Using DHIS2 Data."

The event addressed key issues, such as data quality, regional coverage, equity, and health system performance related to maternal and newborn health. Participants emphasized strengthening collaboration and capacity-building activities.



*Ethiopia Countdown Country Collaboration team presenting a poster during data week.*

**Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program Interventions:** On May 15-17, 2024, preliminary findings on the quality and equity of maternal and child health services were presented during a workshop hosted by the Ministry of Health's Maternal and Child Health Executive Office. The analysis offered valuable insights into the country's progress toward national and international targets.

Participants, including regional health bureau heads, highlighted the importance of finalizing and disseminating the results to regional and national partners, recognizing that these findings are vital to improving maternal, newborn, and child health (MCH) services across Ethiopia.

**Discussion with Ministry of Health Leadership:** On August 12, 2024, the CECC team presented their findings to the MOH management, including the Minister of Health, three state ministers, and all executive directors. The feedback was positive, with a recommendation to present the results at the upcoming Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting with senior MOH and regional health bureau leadership.

### Key takeaways included the need to:

- Finalize and share the narrative report with MOH.
- Review results with MOH units, develop recommendations, and plan interventions.
- Monitor and document changes over time.
- Develop and implement a capacity-building plan.
- Disseminate findings to regional health bureaus (RHBs) and other stakeholders.

This ongoing collaboration promises to strengthen Ethiopia's maternal and child health systems, paving the way for more equitable and effective healthcare across the country