

Theme II: Human Health, Nutrition, and Welfare

Sub-theme 1: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Health promotion is the process of empowering people to increase their control over their health and its determinants through health literacy efforts and multi-sectorial action that increase healthy behaviors. The health promotion and disease prevention as a subtheme included the following priority research areas for 2024/25 call for proposals that are identified for study intervention strategies to prevent and control communicable and non-communicable diseases.

1.1 Improvement of the Health care system in eastern Ethiopia

- Integrating traditional healers into the healthcare system or Traditional medicine and modern medical healthcare system
- Evaluations of health care delivery services in teaching hospitals
- Improving medical /drug supply chains management system

1.2 Emerging communicable disease control

- Malaria vector (Stephani) insecticide resistance characterization and management

1.3 Minimization of Vaccine preventable diseases burden

- Improve vaccine coverage including zero dose and reduce immunization inequalities.
- Assessment of vaccine efficacy for vaccine preventable diseases
- Vaccine coverage challenges and interventions in pastoral area

1.4 Environmental health and sustainable waste management

- Environmental toxicants on food quality and safety, human and animal health
- Waste Management and Its Impacts on Human and Environment
 - Liquid waste disposal, treatment and reclamation
 - Development of sustainable solid waste disposal and management (integrated waste management approaches, innovative practices and technologies)

Sub-theme 2: Advances in Curative and Rehabilitative Health Services and Disease Management in eastern Ethiopia

A well-functioning health system is verified by improving the health status of individuals, families and communities. Ethiopia, like most developing countries is affected by double burdens of health problems as a result of health transition, which necessitates improved or advanced health services and health care delivery systems. In the 2024/25 call for proposals, advances in curative and rehabilitative health services and disease management as a sub-theme has given emphasis on strategies that can improve healthcare delivery system and disease management through the following priority research areas.

2.1 Improvement of diagnosis of prevalent human diseases/health problems

- Advancements in pharmaceutical excipients: new developments and innovations or pharmaceutical excipients development and modification
- Evaluations/optimization of development of diagnostic tests/procedures in patient outcome (point of care)- for the improvement of screening of prevalent infectious diseases (liver diseases, diabetes, cancer, tuberculosis and others)
- Improvement of the control of antimicrobial resistances

2.2 Non communicable disease control/management strategies

- Improved/optimized control strategies focusing on prevalent cancer in eastern Ethiopia
- Health equity across the cancer continuum
- Improvement of mental health services in eastern Ethiopia
- Improvement of multidisciplinary diabetes care services

Sub-theme 3: Nutrition, Food Safety and Security, Dietetics and nutritional problems

Optimal nutrition is critical for human development, economic growth and as a stepping-stone for equity. Food and nutrition security continue to represent challenges for developing countries as maker and marker of development. This is true for Ethiopia, where malnutrition remains serious public health problem and nutritional problems remain a threat for future healthy generation as well as food safety and hygiene from environmental chemicals and microbial contamination and adulteration of foods has become an ever-increasing concern. Therefore, the dietetics and

nutritional safety, security and problems and as a sub-theme has given emphasis to fill the evidence gaps and the following priority research areas are identified for 2023/24 call for proposal.

3.1 Food insecurity and nutritional problems on vulnerable groups

- Evaluation of malnutrition screening program for under 5 children
- Food contaminants and their impact on human health
- Nutrition and infectious diseases
- Evaluations of potential neglected/underutilized food items/plants (wild edible plants) in eastern Ethiopia

Sub-theme 4: Reproductive Health, Maternal and Child Health

Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health is central to the agenda of Healthcare. Women and children's health remains a main concern of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as evidenced by the strong commitment to end preventable newborn, child and maternal deaths by 2030. Issues of sexual and reproductive healthcare services including family planning, information and education are unfinished. In sub-Saharan Africa countries including Ethiopia, maternal, newborn and under-five mortality are still the major concerns. In addition, concerns of sexual, reproductive and adolescents' health including HIV/AIDS continue to be health issues. Pregnancy during the period of adolescence is associated with an excess risk of poor outcomes, including low birth weight and prematurity. Adolescents are exposed to a range of risks and suffer from a variety of illnesses including HIV/AIDS and many health behaviors adopted during adolescence have lasting impacts on health throughout their lives. However, there is scarcity of information about these problems that calls for continued effort in generating up-to-date information for relevant intervention. Therefore, the following potential priorities research areas were identified for this call:-

4.1 Improvement of reproductive health, maternal and child health

- Utilization of early ANC and contraceptive in pastoral area
- Link between malnutrition, environmental and maternal behavioral risk factors with infection among children