ETHIOPIA

Digital Health Quick Facts

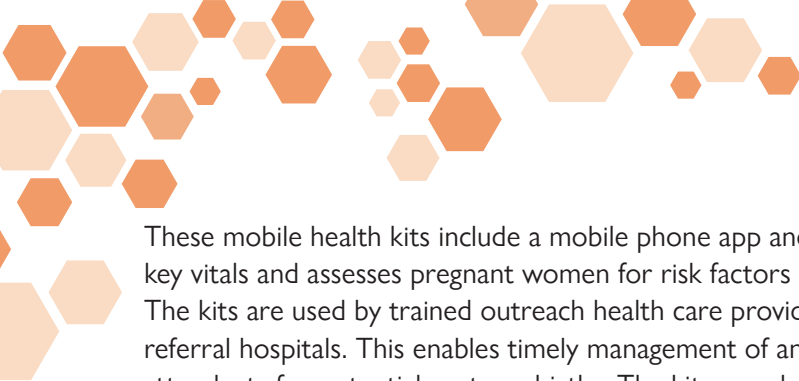|	
Project	**Life-saving Mobile Health Kits (LMHK) for Obstetric Care in Remote Areas**
Timing	**2019–2020**
Phase	**Piloting and Evidence Generation**
Programmatic approaches	**Timed and Targeted Counselling, Community Health Committees, Community-based TB Prevention, Grandmother Approach, Growth Monitoring and Promotion, Integrated Community Case Management**
Software	**eClinic**
User profile	**Extension workers (CHW, volunteer, or home visitor) and facility-based workers**
Number of users	**8**
Number of health facilities supported	**2**
Number of beneficiaries reached	**8,122 children aged 0–5 9,924 children aged 6–11 13,854 children aged 12–18 2,039 pregnant/lactating mothers 13,733 other adult females 14,336 adult males**

Overview

Prematurity is the leading global cause of death in children under 5. Every year, an estimated 15 million babies are born preterm, and this number is rising. Massive gaps in our understanding and a lack of reliable data continue to undermine worldwide efforts to prevent preterm births.

An exciting period of opportunity for digital health services has arisen in Ethiopia. The government has flagged investment in digital health information management systems as a priority. For the first time, this has led to an openness toward exploring and piloting digital health solutions.

Digital health solutions offer the potential to bridge these information divides and to strengthen health systems while extending the reach and quality of evidence-based, life-saving interventions to pregnant women.

Supported by a grant from Born on Time, a public-private partnership that is implementing several interventions to support the prevention of preterm birth, World Vision Ethiopia engaged with technology partner SLK TECHLABS to deploy mobile health screening kits with an internet-driven telemedicine capability in the Amhara region.

These mobile health kits include a mobile phone app and diagnostic equipment, including ultrasound, that captures key vitals and assesses pregnant women for risk factors of preterm birth and other obstetric complications. The kits are used by trained outreach health care providers who are also linked with enhanced telemedicine at referral hospitals. This enables timely management of any areas of concern and encourages families to seek skilled attendants for potential preterm births. The kits can also be moved easily from village to village, which maximises access to these essential services for more women living in remote areas.

WHO Health Focus Areas* Supported

- Adolescent and youth health
- Civil registration and vital statistics
- Cross cutting
- Environmental health
- Humanitarian health
- Infectious diseases (non-vector borne)
- Maternal health
- Newborn and child health
- Non-communicable diseases
- Nutrition and metabolic disorders
- Other chronic conditions and disabilities
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Vector-borne diseases
- Violence
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Wellness and mental health

Technology Partners

- **Software:** Dimagi, SLK TECHLABS
- **Mobile Network Operators:** Ethio telecom

Stakeholders

- Ministry of Health
- Amhara Regional Health Bureau
- Woreda Health Office

Funding

- World Vision Canada

Contacts

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* Categories used to describe health focus areas are established within the structure of the World Health Organization's Digital Health Atlas.