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Dr. Dereje Duguma (right), State Minister of Health, awards a trophy during the EHIS annual review meeting, as Tesfaye Worku, Director of EHIS (left) watches.

# Ethiopian Health Insurance Service Conducts Annual Review Meeting

The Ethiopian Health Insurance Service (EHIS) held a three-day annual review meeting on November 9 -11, 2023 with representatives from resource mobilization and partnership directorate of regional health bureaus and branches of EHIS. The purpose of the meeting was to review EHIS performance in the previous budget year and to discuss its plans for the current year. The meeting highlighted the achievements of the community-based health insurance (CBHI) program, which covers citizens in the informal sector, who can access health care services using their membership ID cards.

The CBHI program was piloted in 13 woredas in 2011 and has now expanded to 1,006 woredas out of 1,246 in Ethiopia. As of October 2023, 12.5 million households in the informal sector are enrolled in CBHI, covering 58 million people, more than half of the country's population. This includes over 11.6 million beneficiaries in 2.47 million poor households, whose premiums are fully subsidized by the government.

In 2015EC (2022/23), the CBHI program collected 6.86 billion Birr from premiums and government subsidies, which are used to reimburse health facilities for providing health care services to CBHI members. There are 3,459 health facilities that have signed agreements with the CBHI schemes, which reimburse them for their services.

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Dr. Dereje Duguma, State Minister of Health, said that Ethiopia cannot continue to rely on foreign aid for its health system, especially as foreign aid for the sector is declining. He said that Ethiopia should strengthen its domestic resources, “therefore, all roads should lead to CBHI.” CBHI has contributed to improving access, equity, and quality of health services in Ethiopia.”

The USAID Health Financing Improvement Program and earlier USAID health financing projects implemented by Abt Associates Inc have been integral parts of the design and implementation of health financing reforms, which include CBHI and social health insurance programs. Certificates and trophies were awarded to stakeholders from regional health bureaus and zones during the meeting for good performance in CBHI.

Article from **Health Financing**, a newsletter produced by the **USAID Health Financing Improvement Program**. The Program collaborates with the Ethiopian government to further strengthen health financing functions and systems to support universal health coverage of quality primary health care services for Ethiopian citizens with reduced financial barriers. Abt Associates implements the Program in collaboration with core partners Breakthrough International Consultancy, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and Results for Development, and resource partner Harvard School of Public Health. Cooperative Agreement No.: 72066319CA00001. [USAID Health Financing Improvement Program \(hfip-newsletter.com\)](http://hfip-newsletter.com)

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