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USAID Mission Director for Ethiopia, Scott Hocklander talks to the head of the Harari Regional Health Bureau.

# USAID Mission Director Visits Harari Region to Witness Health Care Financing Reforms

USAID Mission Director for Ethiopia, Scott Hocklander and his team visited the Harari Regional Health Bureau and Jinela Health Center on October 20, 2023. The purpose of the visit was to learn about the impact of the community-based health insurance (CBHI) program and other health care financing reform activities USAID supports.

Harari is one of the best performing regions in Ethiopia in terms of CBHI enrollment and health service utilization. According to Yassin Abdulahi, the head of the Harari Regional Health Bureau, 100% of the eligible population is enrolled in CBHI, and over 110,000 people received financial coverage through their membership when accessing health care services in 2022/23.

Hocklander and his team also visited a community pharmacy, one of nine established in Harari to expand availability of and access to essential drugs. These pharmacies were established with 12 million Birr borrowed from the regional CBHI scheme for the purchase of drugs. The pharmacies serve CBHI members and other members of the society who need those drugs with affordable prices.

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During the visit, the Mission Director expressed his appreciation to the Regional Health Bureau and his team for their hard work and dedication to improving health care access and outcomes in the region; he appreciated that CBHI members were getting health care services for an annual contribution of 500 Birr. Afterward, Yassin detailed the specific support from the USAID Health Financing Improvement Program to enhance the implementation of health care financing reforms in the region. Yassin said that the support included providing training and production, printing and distribution of the legal framework, training materials, and manuals and he has requested continued support in health care financing reform.

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