

## **Management Sciences for Health LMG Ethiopia Success Story: “Improving HIV/AIDS Diagnostic Services in Ethiopia”**

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The Leadership, Management and Governance Project (LMG) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) five-year Cooperative Agreement, designed to strengthen and expand the people-centered capacity building strategy pioneered under the Leadership, Management and Sustainability (LMS) Project, LMG’s successor project. The LMG Project’s objective is to support health systems strengthening by addressing the gap in leadership, management and governance capacity of policy makers, health care providers and program managers to implement quality health services at all levels of the health system. Governance functions – distinct from leadership and management functions – are an important focus of LMG because they provide the ultimate commitment to improving service delivery, and foster sustainability through accountability, engagement, transparency and stewardship.

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## Improving HIV/AIDS Diagnostic Services in Ethiopia

### CHALLENGE

Health centers serve an important role in the health system, and the Legehare Health Center is no exception. In addition to primary care, the health center provides maternal and child health, laboratory, and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention services. In order to better serve the patient population, the Dire Dawa Regional Health Bureau purchased 9 blood chemistry machines in 2012, which were distributed to all health centers within the region. The machines were meant to increase the capacity of the health centers to perform diagnostic testing services at the health centers. However, with no trained laboratory professionals to operate the machines, some machines sat unused for years. One such machine was at the Legahre Health Center, which had 150 patients undergoing antiretroviral therapy treatment for HIV/AIDS in 2012.

### INITIATIVE



The USAID-funded Leadership, Management and Governance Project worked with the Legahre Health Center to provide leadership, management, and governance skills building training. The training aimed strengthen the ability of staff to operationalize the blood chemistry machine and increase the percentage of bloodwork performed on patients undergoing antiretroviral therapy, as well as those needing follow-up for chronic diseases.

Leghahre Health Center workplace team

### RESULTS

After the training, the health center was able to recruit a lab professional with the expertise to operationalize the machines. With the machine operationalized, the center could now provide diagnostic services to those 150 patients - and others - in need. Currently, the percentage of patients on antiretroviral therapy that are receiving clinical bloodwork has increased from 0% to 20%. This successful increase in the use of the blood chemistry machine at the Leghahre Health Center has become a model for other health centers, who are now working to make their machines operational.