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BEFORE & AFTER

Improved Warehousing in Amhara Region

Dejunking Ethiopian warehouses in the Debre Birhan zone increases storage, reduces expiry, and speeds identification and shipment of health commodities.

“We’ve seen many years of impossible tasks made possible.”
—Zonal Health Bureau

Personnel were so eager and so invested in improvements that even national holidays didn’t slow their progress.

Located 130 km northwest of Addis Ababa, Debre Birhan is served by three zonal warehouses.

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Photo: Negash Milky, warehouse and distribution specialist

BEFORE Accumulated damaged and expired health commodities were mixed in with current stock, cluttering zonal warehouses. High-demand commodities—IV fluids and surgical blades—were expiring or being damaged before reaching service delivery points. Zonal authorities acknowledged the problem and requested technical assistance from the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT.



Photo: Negash Milky, warehouse and distribution specialist

AFTER Storage capacity is dramatically increased. To assist with dejunking and to help the zonal health bureau maintain the new system, the project provided warehouse equipment—pallets, aluminum ladders, manual trolleys, and canvas to shade heavy machinery stored outdoors. After 15 days of dejunking, including three disposal days, they removed damaged and expired commodities valued at more than 300,000 Ethiopian Birr (more than U.S.\$33,000). Included were expired items dating back to 2001. At a cost of less than U.S.\$1,500, the zonal staff can now easily locate needed health commodities and distribute them before they expire.

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