



Photo credit: Ayenew Haileselesie, Abt Associates

Recording prescriptions covered by CBHI benefits. Finance Department, Kibet Hospital, Silti Woreda, SNNP

Woreda in Silti Approaches Full CBHI Enrollment

Community-based health insurance (CBHI) membership and health service utilization are surging in Silti woreda in the Silti zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region. In 2018/19, all 16,050 member households from the previous year renewed their membership. An additional 4,500 new households also enrolled, bringing the total to 20,493 households, or 98.1% of eligible households—the highest enrollment rate among the zone's 13 woredas. Consistently high CBHI implementation has helped Silti woreda win awards two years in a row from the regional health bureau—including a computer and printer, which came in handy for improving their data management activities.

In Silti and other woredas throughout Ethiopia, the USAID Health Financing Improvement Program has enhanced CBHI implementers' commitment and intensified CBHI mobilization and awareness-creation through:

- **Technical assistance** to support interventions at the zonal, woreda, and kebele levels
- **Orientation workshops** to explain CBHI concepts and regional directives for high-level zone, woreda and kebele personnel, followed by **zonal review meetings** and **steering committee meetings** to conduct performance reviews and clarify CBHI implementers' roles
- **Experience-sharing visits** to the best-performing woredas in the region for high-level woreda and kebele personnel

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Utilization of health facilities in Silti woreda has also more than quadrupled over the past three years, from 25,165 beneficiary visits to health facilities to 116,396 last year.

“The only reason for this increase is that people have realized the benefits of CBHI,” says Jabir Hussein, the CBHI Scheme Coordinator for Silti woreda.

Improved CBHI coverage has boosted health care-seeking behavior and patient flow to health facilities in Silti. When Menaheria Health Center started receiving CBHI beneficiaries in 2016-17, they made up 22% of its 11,000 patients. The following year, CBHI made up 57% of its 7,000 patients, and by 2018-19, the proportion rose to 73% of 19,000 patients. Reimbursement from the CBHI scheme also jumped from 43,000 birr (US \$1,366) in the first year to 550,000 (US \$13,475) in 2018-19.

This year, Silti woreda is gearing up to accomplish full coverage of its population, including enrollment of up to 1,000 new households.

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