



Photo credit: Ayenew Haileselassie, Abt Associates  
Mother and daughter CBHI beneficiaries at Hiwot Fana Hospital, Harari Region

# Harari Region Achieves Nearly 100% Community-Based Health Insurance Coverage

Harari Region, in eastern Ethiopia, launched community-based health insurance (CBHI) in 2020 and within two years it had enrolled 99.8% of the nearly 50,000 eligible households in the region.

Harari launched CBHI in five of its nine woredas, with 31% enrollment in 2020. The following year (2021) it rolled out CBHI in all nine woredas, and enrollment increased to 52%. In December 2021 Harari's regional health bureau (RHB) held a high-level conference to rally stakeholders around achieving 100% enrollment in year three of CBHI implementation (2022). The conference was attended by the regional president and deputy president, officials and staff from the RHB and Ethiopian Health Insurance Service, woreda cabinet members, CBHI coordinators, and partners.

During the meeting, the RHB announced its determination to achieve full enrollment during the upcoming mobilization period, when community members enroll in the CBHI program. The Harari deputy president supported the RHB by reaffirming that CBHI was a priority for the regional government and RHB officials were responsible for leading the mobilization process across woredas. The meeting created consensus among stakeholders and motivated them to kick off the CBHI mobilization process with full commitment.

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Local media, religious organizations, women's associations, and influential residents participated in the mobilization process by sensitizing the public about CBHI. By the end of January 2022, 99.8% of eligible households were registered in CBHI.

The USAID Health Financing Improvement Program provided technical assistance to the Harari RHB from the start. The Program provided technical assistance in drafting the region's CBHI legal framework that allowed the CBHI scheme to be established at the regional level (rather than the woreda level, as in all other regions of the country). This adaptation was made in consideration of Harari's relatively small eligible population compared to other regions. The Program also provided CBHI training and on-site technical support for scheme staff over the past two years, and organized a review meeting to learn from last year's mobilization process.

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