



37th EPHA Annual Public Health Conference

15 - 17 March 2026

Program Book

Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA)



37th Annual Public Health Conference

Main Theme: Harnessing the power of local data and emerging technologies for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

15 - 17 March 2026

EPHA House, Kebena, Addis Ababa

Sunday 15 March 2026			
Time	Activities	Responsible	Room
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Registration	Conference organizing committee	
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Opening Ceremony		Main Hall
Program introduction		Dr. Alemnesh Mirkuzie V/president, EPHA Prof. Afework Mulugeta, EC member, EPHA	
Welcoming address		Dr. Agonafer Tekalegne President, EPHA	
Keynote address		<p>Mr. Stanley Chitekwe, Chief of Nutrition Section, Unicef</p> <p>Prof. Francis Kasolo Chisaka WHO Representative to Ethiopia</p> <p>Dr. Worku Gachena, Director General, Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya Director General Africa CDC</p> <p>Prof. Michael C Asuzu President, African Federation of Public Health Associations (AFPHA)</p> <p>H.E Dr. Belete Molla Minister, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, FDRE</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Mekdes Daba Minister, Ministry of Health, FDRE</p>	
Official opening		President, EPHA	
EPHA award ceremony		Closing and Cocktail	
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM			

Monday 16 March 2026			
Time	Activities	Responsible	Room
9:00 AM -10:30 AM	Plenary session 1: Data - driven decision making and evidence for policy action	Moderators: Prof. Aster Tsegaye Prof. Tsinuel Girma Speakers: Prof. Aklilu Azasz Dr. Kassu Ketema Dr. Melkamu Abite Dr. Alebel Bayrau WHO Ethiopia	Main Hall
10:30 AM-11:00AM	Health Break (Poster display 1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11,12,13,14,15, 16)		
11:00 AM-12:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions Oral Presentations Health Systems (1,2,3,4,5) RMNCH (10,11,12,13,14) Digital health (17,18,19,20,21) Global Health Security (36,37,38,39,40)	Moderators Mulugeta Abate & Dr.Bethel Martha Assefa & Amsale Dr.Solomon Abtew Dr.Moges Tadesse	Main Hall Room 1 Room 2 Room 3
12:30 PM-1:30 PM	Lunch Break		
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	General Assembly Meeting	General Assembly Members	Main Hall
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Health Break (Poster display 17,18,19,20, 21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30, 31)		
4:00 PM- 5:00 PM	General Assembly Meeting	General Assembly Members	Main Hall

Tuesday 17 March 2026

Tuesday 17 March 2026			
Time	Activities	Responsible	Room
9:00 AM -10:30 AM	Plenary Session 2: AI and Big data for evidence-based health decisions	Moderators: Prof. Alemayehu Worku Dr. Abas Hassan Speakers: Prof. Biniam Chaklu Dr. Masresha Tessema Dr. Shimelis G/Medhin Biruhtesfa Abere Amanuel Biru	Main Hall
10:30 AM -11:00 AM	Health Break (Poster display 31,32,33,34,35, 36,37,38,39,40), 41,42,43,44,45)		
11:00 AM -12:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions Oral Presentations Health Systems (6,7,8,9) & Nutrition and Food Security (30) Nutrition and Food Security (31,32,33,34,35) Digital health (22,23,24,25) & RMNCH (15) Environmental Health (26,27,28,29) RMNCH (16)	Moderators Mulugeta Abate & Dr. Bethel Dr. Moges Tadesse Dr. Solomon Abtew & Martha Wondimu Gebeyehu & Amsale	Room Main Hall Room 1 Room 2 Room 3
12:30 PM-2:00	Lunch Break		
		Responsible	Room
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Plenary Session 3: Ethical and human dimensions of using AI and Technologies	Moderators: Dr. Solomon Worku Speakers: Dr. Adamu Addissie Dr. Awoke Misganaw Dr. Hailemichael Getachew Dr. Serawit Hadiso	Main Hall
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Health Break		
4:00PM - 5:00PM	Special session for MoH and Amref Health Africa		
5:00 PM – 5:10 PM	Call for Action	Scientific Committee	Main Hall
5:10 PM – 5:20 PM	Closing	EPHA President	Main Hall

Oral Presentations

No.	Title of Abstracts	Corresponding Author
Health Systems		
1	Bridging the Gap Between Access and Trust: Population Confidence in Ethiopia's Health System (PVS 2024/25)	Ashenif Tadele Ayele
2	Strengthening Multisectoral Nutrition Coordination in Ethiopia A Delphi Study on Barriers, Enablers, and Strategic Priorities	Taddese Alemu Zerfu
3	Time trend prediction of MDR/RR-TB in Northeast Ethiopia(2015-2023)	Enkuneh Atnafu Abegaz
4	Does life expectancy vary by disability status in low and middle-income countries?: a systematic review and meta-analysis	Desta Debalkie Atnafu
5	Machine learning classification of maternal adversity and its association with child morbidity across 37 sub-Saharan African countries	Abel Fekadu Dadi
6	Ethical dilemmas and decision-making in emergency and critical care nursing in Western Amhara region, Northwest Ethiopia: a multi-method qualitative study	Abebe Dilie Afenigus
7	Functional impairment and associated factors among adults with upper extremity fractures at comprehensive specialized hospitals in Gojjam Zones, Northwest Ethiopia: ordinal logistic regression analysis	Abebe Dilie Afenigus
8	Maternal fine particulate matter (PM2.5) exposure and adverse pregnancy outcomes in rural Butajira, Ethiopia: A population-based prospective cohort study.	Sisay Shine Tegegnework
9	Quality of Antenatal Care Services: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.	Leltework Wondmagegn
RMNCH		
10	Improving ANC8 contact coverage at Afar region Telalak Deroesi Health center	Rahel Degefa Gizaw
11	Determinants of late ANC initiation among pregnant women in rural pastoralist community of Gomole District, Borena zone, Southern Ethiopia	Wagaye Alemu Zenebe

12	Unequal burden: Spatial disparities and determinants of anemia among pregnant women in Sub-Saharan Africa (2018–2024) based on Bayesian spatial analysis	Woldeteklehaymanot Kassahun Dagne
13	Determinants of Contraceptive and Sexual Empowerment among pregnant and postpartum women in Ethiopia: A Partial Proportional Odds Model	Tsegaye Lolaso Lenjebo
14	Closing the Equity Gap: A Controlled Evaluation of Task-Shifting Life-Saving MNH Interventions to Village Health Leaders in Ethiopia	Biruk Bogale Wolde
15	Reorienting Family Planning for Sustainable Development and Demographic Resilience: A Macro-Level Assessment of Facilitators and Impediments to Fertility Transition in Ethiopia	Tesfay Brhane Gebremariam
16	The Unseen Danger: The Impact of Early Pregnancy Anemia on Pregnancy Outcome in Southwest Ethiopia: Evidence from Prospective Cohort Study	Abdi Geda Geda
Digital Health		
17	AI and Digital Health for Resilient and Equitable Care: Bridging Data Gaps in Maternal, Child, and Infectious Disease Services in Crisis-Affected Ethiopia	Derbabaw Fentie Shiferaw
18	Leveraging Local Health Data and AI-Enabled Digital Systems to Strengthen Evidence-Based Decision-Making for Universal Health Coverage in Northern Ethiopia	Tsigabu Atsbeha Kelelom
19	Effectiveness of Tailored Daily SMS Reminders on Antiretroviral Therapy Adherence Among Adolescents Living with HIV in Southern Ethiopia: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Abayneh Tunje Tanga
20	Unveiling the Role of DHIS2 in Enhancing Data Quality and Accessibility in Primary Healthcare Facilities: Evidence from Ethiopia	Taddese Alemu Zerfu
21	The impact of Ethiopia's Health information Revolution on Quality of Maternity Care in Ethiopia: Propensity Score Matching Analysis	Adane Kebede
22	Short mobile text reminders as cost-effective strategies for improving health-related adjusted quality of live in adolescents living with HIV in Ethiopia	Abayneh Tunje Tanga
23	The feasibility of antenatal exercise using an innovative exergame program during pregnancy.	Gemechu Kumera Wirtu

24	Machine Learning-Based Prediction of Blood Pressure Screening during Pregnancy in Ethiopia: Evidence from the recent EDHS	Ali Yimer Mohammed
25	Willingness to Receive mHealth Services among Patients with Diabetes on Chronic Follow-up in Public Hospitals in Eastern Ethiopia: Multicenter Mixed Method Study.	Dawit Fufa
Environmental Health		
26	Tracing the Water–Beef Safety Nexus: Assessing Water Quality’s Role in Beef Contamination from Slaughterhouse to Plate, in Southwest Ethiopia	Girma Mamo Zegene
27	Escalating Burden of Malaria in Pregnancy in the Amhara Region, Ethiopia: Spatiotemporal Patterns, Early-Warning Insights and Predictors (2018-2024)	Kassawmar Angaw Bogale
28	Fecal Carriage, Risk Factors and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Patterns of Salmonella from Lactating Cows and Contact Humans at the Dairy Farm Level in Mekelle and Southeast Zones of Tigray, Northern Ethiopia	Atsebaha Gebrekidan Kabsay
29	Respiratory symptoms among hospitality industry employees: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Yimer Mamaye Belete
Nutrition and Food Security		
30	Mapping mixed milk feeding practice and its spatial predictors among children aged 0-6 months in Ethiopia: A geographically weighted regression analysis	Abel Endawkie Tareke
31	Nutritional Benefits and Potential Health Risks of Moringa Stenopetala Consumption: A Scoping Review	Tesfaye Dagne Weldemariam
32	Impact of an Educational Intervention on the Feeding Practices and Nutritional Status of Children Aged 6-23 Months during and after Common Childhood Illnesses: A Clustered Randomized Controlled Trial	Mastewal erango ersado
33	Modeling determinants of women’s decision-making autonomy on agriculture and household matters in rural Ethiopia: a mixed effects beta regression tree analysis	Teshome Kabeta Kebeta
34	Dynamic copula Bayesian network predictive model for assessing the impact of initiative programs on child undernutrition in Ethiopia, 2009–2016	Getnet Bogale Begashaw

35	Bridging the Gap: A Data-Driven Strategy for Integrating Nutrition into Health Workforce Education to Advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC).	DerbabawFentie Shiferaw
Global Health		
36	Estimating childhood tuberculosis incidence and under-reporting in Gedeo Zone, Ethiopia: a Bayesian hidden Markov model	Solomon Hailemariam Tesfaye
37	Cross-Sectoral Surveillance of ESBL-Producing Escherichia coli and Salmonella spp. in Humans, Animals, Vegetables, and the Environment in Ethiopia: A One Health Study	Shemse Sebre Muktar
38	Resurgence of malaria in the Amhara Region, Ethiopia (2014–2024): trends, spatial expansion, and control challenges	Mastewal Worku Lake
39	Pertussis Trends and Its Correlation with Vaccination Coverage in Eastern Africa, 1990–2021: Analysis of Global Burden of Disease 2021	Mengistie Kassahun Tariku
40	Trends of Acute Hepatitis B infection in Ethiopia from 1990 to 2021 and its Projection to 2031: Join Point Regression Analysis on GBD 2021 Study	Taye Abuhay Zewale

Poster Presentations

Health Systems

1	Adaptation, validation, and development of an 8-item short form of the HIV Stigma Scale among adolescents and young people living with HIV	Melkamu Merid Mengesha
2	A new hepatitis delta virus hotspot in Ethiopia: a multicenter study	Teklu Shiferaw Simbo
3	Challenges in implementing the WHO-recommended package of care for advanced HIV disease in resource-constrained settings	Temesgen Leka Lerango
4	Health Information System in Primary Health Care Units of the Central Zone, Tigray, Northern Ethiopia	Letekirstos Gebereegziabher Gebretsadik
5	Improved Community-Based Pediatric HIV Case Identification Through Social Network-Assisted Index Testing (SN-AIT) in the Amhara Region, Ethiopia	Anteneh Wohabie Tsega
6	Are primary healthcare facilities in Ethiopia complying with accessibility standards? An accessibility audit of health facilities in Bahir Dar City.	Desta Debalkie Atnafu
7	Utilization and associated factors of the community-based differentiated service delivery model among ART users in Dessie public health facilities, Northeast Ethiopia	Endalkachew Mesfin Gebeyehu
8	Implementation of continuous quality improvement projects at public hospitals in Eastern Ethiopia	Dawit Fufa
9	Urban health extension workers in prevention and early identification of disability in the case of Addis Ababa city, analysis related of policy and practice	Asnakech Zewdie Degefe
10	Individual and System-Level Intervention Strategies to Promote Active Living among Office-Based Employees in Ethiopia	Abel Negussie Gebregziabher
11	Integrated malaria service uptake and its determinants among Pregnant Women in Ethiopia: Multi level analysis of 2021/22 National Service Provision Assessment	Kassawmar Angaw Bogale
12	Epidemiological Patterns and Regional Variation of Major Diseases in Ethiopia: Strategic Implications for Public Health Response	Shirega Minuye Share

13	Exploring the Integration of Social and Behavior Change Communication into Targeted NTD Mass Drug Administration Campaigns: Insights and Best Practices from Jimma, Ethiopia	Daba Abdissa Keneni
14	Low prevalence of diabetes mellitus among older people in rural Sidama in Ethiopia: a two-step community-based cross-sectional study	Desalegn Tsegaw Hibstu
RMNCH		
15	Maternal and neonatal outcomes associated with cesarean section in low- and middle-income countries: Systematic review and meta-analysis	Tomas Yeheyis Ferede
16	Effect of Household Food Insecurity on Birth Weight: A Causal Effect Analysis Using Propensity Score Matching	Mohamedawel Mohamedniguss Ebrahim
17	From Barriers to Solutions: Maternal Continuum of Care Utilization in Rural Ethiopia—Findings from a Cross-Sectional Household Survey	Aleme Mekuria Belachew
18	Effectiveness of Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative on Early Initiation and Exclusive Breastfeeding Practice: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Mahilet Berhanu Habte
18	Trends and Disparities in Antenatal Care Utilization: A Multilevel Analysis of Four-plus and Eight-plus ANC Visits among Urban Women in Ethiopia	Worku Dechassa Heyi
20	Help-Seeking Behavior and Quality of life among Women with Stress, Anxiety, and Depression in Northwest Ethiopia: A community-based study	Shegaye Shumet Mekonen
21	Time to first dose of measles-containing vaccine and associated factors among infants in Ethiopia: a survival analysis from performance monitoring for action data	Eyob Tilahun Abeje
22	Effect of Health Belief Model-Based Education for Companions of Choice on Adherence to Support Roles: A Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial	Gedamu Abera Zegeye
23	Bridging Policy and Practice: A Scoping Review of Maternal Health Policies and Community-Level Interventions for Pre-eclampsia in Ethiopia	Trhas Tadesse Berhe
24	Food crises and coping strategies in war-affected communities in Tigray, Ethiopia: A community-based cross-sectional study among households	Hadush Gebregziabher Tsegay

25	Lived experience of self-induced abortion among female students of Dilla university South Ethiopia: a qualitative phenomenological study	Yohannes Addisu Wondimagegne
Digital Health		
26	Tracing the epidemiological shift in Southwestern Ethiopia: A 14-year analysis of the Gilgel-Gibe Field Research Center database	Bikila Regassa Feyisa
27	Automatic Detection of Myocardial Infarction Diseases from Electrocardiogram Signal Based on Non-linear Entropy features and Adaptive-KNN Machine Learning	Henok Mezemr Besfat
28	Machine Learning Algorithms for Predicting Surgical Site Infections: Insights from Prospectively Collected Data Among General Surgery Patients in Amhara Region	Meron Asmamaw
29	Problematic alcohol use in Ethiopia: A community-based cross-sectional study	Kefyalew Dagne
30	Exploring Digital Innovations and Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the One Health Approach: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Derbabaw Fentie
31	Digital Health Literacy among Pregnant Women in Jimma City: Evidence from a Convergent Parallel Mixed-Methods Study	Bekelu Teka Worku
32	Forecasting the Incidence of Leishmaniasis in Ethiopia: A Contextual Analysis of Conflict and Health Insecurity Using GBD 2021 Data.	Jenberu Kelkay
33	Predicting determinants of early discharge in health facility after birth in East Africa. A machine learning approach.	Geleta Nenko Dube
Environmental Health		
34	Electronic Waste Management Practice, Barriers and Potential Challenges among Different Institutions in Gedeo Zone South Ethiopia: Explanatory Sequential Mixed Methods Study	Mekonnen Birhanie Aregu
35	Bacteriological Quality, Hygiene Practices, and Supply Chain Challenges of Raw Meat in Dilla Town, South Ethiopia: An Explanatory Sequential Mixed-Methods Study	Mekonnen Birhanie Aregu

Nutrition and Food Security

36	Effect of high-intensity motor learning and dietary supplementation on muscular fitness and motor skills of 5-7-year-old children with moderate acute malnutrition in Jimma Town South- West, Ethiopia: a cluster-randomized controlled trial	Melese Sinaga Teshome
37	Severity of Wasting Among Children Aged 6–59 Months in East Africa: A Multilevel Proportional Odds Analysis of DHS Data from 2012-2022	Masrie Getnet Abate
38	Animal Source Food Consumption Level and Its Determinant among Pregnant Women in Gamo Zone, South Ethiopia: Using Bayesian Multilevel Mixed Effect Model	Teshale Fikadu Gebabo
39	Pooled Prevalence of Optimal Complementary Feeding Practice and its Determinants among 6-23 months old children in Ethiopia: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	Mastewal erango ersado
40	The Ecotourism–Food Security Nexus: Evidence and Policy Implications from Ethiopia	Shirega Minuye Share

Global Health

41	Mental Health Factors and Suicidal Ideation Among Students in Africa: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Anmut Endalkachew Bezie
42	Co-occurrence of native and invasive malaria vectors in anthropogenic habitats in Metehara, Ethiopia: Opportunities for urban malaria control	Temesgen Ashine Amenu
43	Spatial Distribution and Vaccination Status of Measles Cases in Ethiopia: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Mengistie Kassahun Tariku
44	A Comparative Population-Based Study of Diabetes Mellitus and Its Risk Factors among Adults in Southwest Ethiopia.	Birhanu Yadecha Dibaba
45	Risk Factors for Early Mortality in HIV-Positive Adults on Antiretroviral Therapy: Insights from Health Facility-Based HIV Cohort in Ethiopia	Birhanu Yadecha Dibaba
46	Non-fatal health outcomes of low back pain among people aged 55 years and above in Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa, from 1990 to 2023	Yohannes Addisu Wondimagne

EPHA Brand Identity Brand Target and Messaging

Establishing the target audience of the brand is essential in the development of the branding process. Here the target audiences are:

1. EPHA's members- (Health Professionals)
2. The overall public- it is important to note that, the brand design should respect and adhere to the culture and religious beliefs of every ethnic groups within the country.
3. Local and International partners- Ascertaining target audience of the brand, relieves the task of creating visual illustration (such as print documentations, charts, billboards, banners, social media posts...)

New Brand Look

Using EPHA's goals, ambitions, core values and purposes along with identifying target audience, the brand new look is crafted. The new look is SIMPLE, MODERN, and WHOLSOME

Logo Mark Concept

The logo main concept is Unity for Community Health. The logo crafts imagery that conceptually and artistically represents the following core values of the brand.

1. Cooperation
2. Active Engagement
3. Solidarity
4. Inclusiveness and Social Awakening.

It depicts community members (including Health Professionals) holding hands to form UNITY for COMMUNITY HEALTH.

The logo has two components - the symbol on top and a logotype below.

The symbol can be used independently for any form of digital and print visuals. The logotype can only be used in conjunction with the symbol. Different layout placement of symbol with logotype should only be considered by following the guideline.

Colour Theory

Theory Strong Cyan + Light Blue Colour captures passions, inspires emotions, and connects people. Colour manifests Brightness, energy, purity and beauty. - Strong Cyan + Light Blue are the brands primary colours. STRONG CYAN - Cyan symbolizes SERENITY, Mental and public HEALTH and WELL-BEING - Promotes clear and focused goal - It evokes a sense of liveliness and rejuvenation. LIGHT BLUE - is often associated with health and medical institutions. - It evokes a sense of hope, promotes wellness, and symbolizes longevity.