



# Ethiopia

Since 2015, Ethiopia has made great strides to increase access to oxygen and pulse oximeters, develop new guidelines and policies, and train health workers, which has transformed access to oxygen at pediatric wards across public hospitals.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, demand for oxygen far exceeded Ethiopia's previous need, but prior investments allowed the country to set up a strong foundation for treating severe cases. As of 2020, the Ethiopia Ministry of Health, with support from Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and other partners, carried out multiple initiatives to further improve reliable supply of oxygen, including:

## ASSESSMENT

- + Conducted **two rounds of a national assessment and maintenance campaign**—the first was in 83 COVID-19 treatment centers and the second was in 74 facilities—to fix damaged medical oxygen and related respiratory aid devices to manage the COVID-19 crisis.



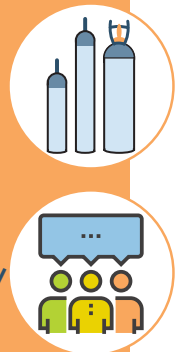
## COORDINATION & STRATEGIC PLANNING

- + Collaborates with multiple stakeholders through a **National Technical Working Group for Oxygen** on key priorities and investments.
- + Carried out an end line evaluation of the **National Oxygen Road Map** (2016–2021), which is being used to inform development of the next road map (2022–2025) for guidance and action on oxygen.



## EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT & REPAIR & CAPACITY-BUILDING

- + Procured **spare parts and accessories** to keep oxygen concentrators and cylinders functional at Millennium COVID-19 Treatment Center—the primary treatment center in the country.
- + Procured and supplied an **oxygen hose** to the Millennium COVID-19 Treatment Center oxygen plant to optimize its refilling capacity to the surrounding COVID-19 treatment centers.
- + Conducted weekly follow-up and technical support on **maintenance of oxygen devices**, with quarterly inventory updates on the database for the Millennium COVID-19 Treatment Center.
- + Trained **762 clinical health care workers and 189 biomedical engineers/technologists** at referral and general hospital levels on standard medical oxygen therapy and oxygen device maintenance.
- + Adapted the standard oxygen therapy training manual, supported with video/visual aids, into an **online training** to improve access to all clinicians regardless of their location.



Oxygen remains critical to saving lives both during COVID-19 and beyond. Ethiopia has prioritized building oxygen plants to meet hospitals' needs and procuring oxygen concentrators for over 4,500 health centers.

These investments have strengthened the health system to sustainably provide oxygen, but more work is required to reach all patients in need.