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Opening of the Jaradado Health Center

Remarks by USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Dennis Weller

Jaradado, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region

March 9, 2014

I am delighted to join all of you here today to inaugurate this beautiful health center, the first of five completed by USAID as part of the Ethiopia Health Infrastructure Program, and funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

In the next three days, we will also inaugurate the other four new health centers located in Wacho, Mehal Jarso, Sidiya, and Udasa. Together, the five facilities will serve more than 125,000 patients.

Through these facilities, pregnant women can give birth and people living with HIV can receive antiretroviral treatment in clean and safe wards.

In addition to the five completed health centers, USAID has 17 similar facilities under construction in the Amhara and SNNP regions. We have built 10 new warehouses to store and distribute medicine, vaccines, and other health commodities that Ethiopians need to live healthy, productive lives. And we are constructing the new national blood bank in Addis Ababa to ensure a safe blood supply for all citizens.

By constructing new health centers, renovating existing health centers, and building new facilities in the major regions, USAID is helping Ethiopia to control the HIV epidemic.

While we are working with the Ethiopian Government to provide an adequate electricity and water supply to this health center, I am pleased to transfer the operation and maintenance of this facility to the health bureau of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region.

This transfer reflects our commitment to promote Ethiopian ownership of the response to the HIV epidemic, internationally recognized for its success in saving lives and preventing new infections. We are confident that the new facilities will help improve health and reduce the burden of HIV in Ethiopia.

USAID would like to thank the Ethiopian Government and remains committed to working together in strengthening the health system.

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