

A Health Care Provider Works to Promote better Hygiene and Sanitation Practices

Eftu Abi is one of 38,000 rural health extension workers in Ethiopia. She practices at a health post in Sheno Woreda, Indode Washa Kebele in the north eastern part of the country. She spends her time at the health post and visiting families in their homes. She has wide ranging responsibilities for community-based health promotion and curative care in Indode Washa Kebele. Her workload is diverse, and over the course of a week she divides her time between activities relating to family health, disease prevention and control, hygiene and sanitation, and other activities.

In November and December 2014, The Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources of Addis Ababa University organized a three-day training workshops for 100 health extension workers from four regions on how to engage and train



Participants of the training at the Sheno site during group discussion

communities on potable water, sanitation and hygiene practices. The workshops were held in Arbaminch, Bahir Dar, Hawassa, Mekelle and Sheno.

Eftu was one of the participants of this training at the Sheno site. Eftu said that the training enhanced her knowledge and workplace performance. She valued the participatory approach of the training with the chance to share her own experiences with other health extension workers. She added that the training helped her to learn how water is contaminated from source to the household level, how to select proper sites for WASH facilities, the connection between sanitation and water, to name a few.

“The training is the most useful and productive experience. I am now confident in successfully applying/implementing my new skills in my daily work at the community” she says.

Her plan for the future is to continue applying the concepts presented at the training to increase community awareness in health through the involvement of communities and provision of continued health education and promotion to bring about positive changes in the knowledge, attitude and behaviour of the community.