

BEYOND NETWORK CONVENING

The role of Ethiopia's NSN lead in building capacity of healthcare providers, managers, and trainers to implement the national self-care guideline and integrate self-care into routine health services

The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) - the Ethiopia National Self-Care Network (NSN) lead, is partnering with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Regional Health Bureaus to scale-up and institutionalize self-care interventions as part of Ethiopia's broader efforts to improve access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

Through training, advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives, this partnership aims to strengthen the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers, managers and trainers to effectively implement the national self-care guideline and integrate self-care interventions into routine health services.

WHO IS TRAINED

The training program is designed to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) service delivery, including healthcare providers e.g. midwives, nurses, health officers, and physicians, as well as RMNCH coordinators, team leaders, health facility managers, regional and zonal health managers, and obstetricians and gynecologists serving as faculty members in medical universities.

By targeting both service providers and health system leaders, the trainings aim to support the effective integration, implementation, and oversight of self-care interventions across all levels of the health system.

THE TRAINERS

Training is conducted by a multidisciplinary team of national and regional experts, including ESOG technical staff and consultants, MOH specialists, Regional Health Bureau technical teams, and experienced clinicians and trainers from teaching hospitals and medical universities. In addition, ESOG works closely with a cadre of regional trainers, to ensure broad geographic coverage and sustainable capacity-building efforts.



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To strengthen long-term implementation and scale-up, ESOG has applied a Training of Trainers (ToT) approach, enabling the development of a skilled network of trainers who can continue delivering training and mentorship at regional, zonal, and facility levels.

TRAINING APPROACH

The courses are delivered over 3 – 5 days. Training effectiveness is evaluated through a combination of pre- and post-training knowledge assessments, active participation in discussions and practical exercises, daily reflection sessions, group presentations, and action-planning activities.

The trainings are done in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, Regional Health Bureaus, Pathfinder International, PSI Ethiopia, academic institutions, medical universities, and other development partners supporting SRH programs. The training uses nationally approved materials such as the national self-care guideline and other training packages developed and endorsed by the MOH, which cover priority self-care interventions, implementation strategies, counseling approaches, and service delivery standards.

VCAT training curricula are used to strengthen providers' capacity to deliver rights-based and client-centered reproductive health services, including self-managed abortion care.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025, ESOG conducted self-care and VCAT trainings across four regions, reaching 118 health facility managers and 548 healthcare providers. ESOG also conducted a VCAT Training of Trainers (ToT) for Ob-Gyn faculty members from 16 medical universities, creating a strong pool of trainers and champions for self-care and comprehensive abortion care.

The Provider Assisted Self-Managed Abortion (PASMA) Training Manual was developed through a collaborative process involving technical consultants, the Ministry of Health, and ESOG. The manual is in the final stages of revision and approval and will serve as an important capacity-building tool by providing standardized guidance on safe, evidence-based, and rights-centered self-managed abortion care.