

EPSS Staff Members Complete Six-month LIP-H Training Course

AIHA and the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service Celebrate Graduation of Their First Cohort of Leadership Incubation Program for Health Trainees



AIHA, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS), celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of 26 EPSS trainees from our [Leadership Incubation Program for Health](#) (LIP-H) on August 1, 2025.

This LIP-H training is part of [AIHA's project to bolster Ethiopia's pharmaceutical supply chain workforce](#) by strengthening human resources management and practice, which was launched in November 2023 with funding from the [Gates Foundation](#). An overarching objective of the project is to improve the availability of pharmaceutical commodities throughout the country.

Speaking to the more than 50 people gathered in Addis Ababa for the ceremony, Mrs. Zinash Demissie, Director of the EPSS Human Resources Directorate (HRD), stressed the importance of enhancing the knowledge and skills of EPSS staff through the LIP-H training.



Mrs. Zinash Demissie thanked AIHA for its excellent work supporting the EPSS HRD.



Dr. Kalkidan Lakew.

Dr. Kalkidan Lakew, Senior Program Officer at the Gates Foundation, congratulated the EPSS graduates and recognized AIHA for the hard work and dedication demonstrated through the LIP-H program. She also mentioned that the Gates Foundation supports various initiatives identified by Ethiopia’s government – including maternal and child health, human capital management, supply chain, and pharmaceutical management – by integrating and aligning with EPSS’s Pharmaceuticals Supply Transformation Plan (PSTP).

Dr. Kebede Worku, former State Minister of Ethiopia’s Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony.

Currently serving as CEO of the [Africa Center for Early Childhood Development](#) under the Addis Ababa City Administration, Dr. Kebede shared insights from his own leadership journey, discussing the extensive experience he gained while working with various government agencies, which was both inspiring and motivational.



Dr. Kebede Worku.

AIHA Country Director, Mrs. Kidest Hailu, shared an overview of the support that AIHA has provided to the EPSS HRD over the past year and a half, highlighting the LIP-H training and explaining the ongoing support AIHA has been providing thanks to funding from the Gates Foundation.

She stressed the value of having more than 40 EPSS staff members who have already completed the LIP-H course, with an additional 30 participants currently enrolled in the second cohort. She strongly encouraged EPSS to strategically leverage this critical group of trained professionals to support the transition toward becoming an autonomous organization.

The event concluded with the presentation of three capstone projects by selected graduates. The project topics were:

- Improving RRF Data Quality at the EPSS Shire Branch;
- Enhancing Staff Satisfaction at the EPSS Nekemet Branch; and
- Increasing Pharmaceutical Inventory Accuracy Rate at the EPSS Dessie Branch.



Mrs Kidest Hailu.

These projects support efforts of the EPSS hubs to improve services at their respective institutions. Two graduates also provided testimonials on their journey to leadership and the lessons they acquired through the LIP-H training.

A day prior to the graduation ceremony, AIHA and EPSS hosted the first networking event for participants of the EPSS LIP-H. The event brought together more than 50 attendees, including current LIP-H trainees, program graduates, trainers, coaches, healthcare leaders, and university representatives.

As with previous LIP-H networking events, the gathering created a platform for trainees to connect with like-minded professionals, expand their professional networks, engage with leaders and motivational speakers in their field, and connect trainees with potential mentors.

AIHA's Kidest Hailu told attendees these events serve as "a space where individuals meet to establish professional relationships, share information, and explore career or business opportunities." Her remarks were followed by an inspiring talk on "The Power of Reflection" delivered by Mr. Bekri Ahmedin from [Netib Consult](#).

The event was well received by all participants, many of whom expressed a strong interest in continuing similar networking opportunities in the future to foster professional growth and collaboration.



Scenes from the networking event on July 31, 2025.