

## Summary of Evaluation Study

I. Outline of the Project		
Country : Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia		Project Title : Laboratory Support for Polio Eradication (LAST Polio) Project
Issue/Sector : Health		Cooperation Scheme : Project-type technical cooperation
Division In Charge : Human Development Department		Total cost : 245,650,000 yen
Period of Cooperation	12 April, 2001 – 11 April, 2004	Partner Country's Implementing Organization : Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute ( EHNRI)
		Supporting Organization In Japan : National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan
		Related Cooperation: NA
<p>1. Background of the Project</p> <p>Ethiopia has been putting in practice full-scale activities toward eradication of poliomyelitis, including vaccination through National Immunization Day started in 1997. WHO has been supporting Ethiopia, designating the country as one of 13 most important nations in eradicating poliomyelitis. However, the technique of isolation and identification of polioviruses remained in unsatisfactory level in Ethiopia. In response to the request by the Ethiopian government, Japan started Technical Cooperation Project in collaboration with African polio laboratory network initiative led by WHO. The three-year Project started in April, 2001 has the purpose of achieving Accreditation by WHO annually through strengthening of polio laboratory in the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI).</p> <p>2. Project Overview</p> <p>The project aims at achieving Accreditation by WHO as National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and enabling isolation and identification of polioviruses in Ethiopia, by constructing a new laboratory in EHNRI and improving laboratory equipment and technique.</p> <p>( 1 ) Overall Goal</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Wild polioviruses are eliminated in Ethiopia.</p> <p>( 2 ) Project Purpose</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Function of polio laboratory at EHNRI is strengthened as NRL.</p>		

<p>( 3 ) Outputs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A better polio laboratory is constructed.</li> <li>2. Lab facility (building and equipment) and preventive maintenance are strengthened.</li> <li>3. Skills and knowledge of polio laboratory staff are improved.</li> <li>4. Specimen collection is improved.</li> </ol> <p>( 4 ) Inputs</p>		
<p>J a p a n e s e   s i d e :</p> <p>Long-Term Expert            2    Equipment    33,681,000 yen</p> <p>Short-Term Expert            5    Local cost    35,838,000 yen</p> <p>Trainees received            11</p> <p>E t h i o p i a n   s i d e :</p> <p>C o u n t e r p a r t            17    Local cost Land, Facilities (Before the construction of new laboratory), Equipment, Electricity and water charges, Consumable supplies</p>		
<p>II. Evaluation Team</p>		
Members of Evaluation Team	<p>( First )</p> <p>Leader: Dr. Hiroshi Yoshikura, Director-General, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan</p> <p>AFP Surveillance: Dr. Yasuo Chiba, Director, Second Expert Division, Bureau of International Cooperation, International Medical Center of Japan</p> <p>Evaluation Planning: M r. Hisahiro Ishijima, Associate Expert, Second Medical Cooperation Division, Medical Cooperation Department (Human Development Department), JICA</p> <p>( Second )</p> <p>Evaluation Analysis: M s. Erika Tanaka, Researcher, Social Development Dept. Global Link Management, Inc.</p>	
Period of Evaluation	<p>( First ) 21 December, 2003,28 December, 2003</p> <p>( Second ) 20 March, 2004, 31 March, 2004</p>	Type of Evaluation : Terminal
<p>III. Results of Evaluation</p>		
<p>1. Summary of Evaluation Results</p> <p>( 1 ) Relevance</p> <p>The current Health Sector Development Program me (2002/03-2004/05) by the Ministry of Health, Ethiopia names communicable disease prevention and control as one of the priority areas and polio eradication is the part of its target. That means the Project is still highly in line with Ethiopian development policy. Donor agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, and Rotary International (NGO) also put importance on polio eradication in Ethiopia and</p>		

carry out a variety of activities in coordination. Among major donors, WHO gives assistance mainly in surveillance and UNICEF in expanded program on immunization. Therefore the Project focused on the strengthening of laboratory is relevant in terms of donor coordination as well.

( 2 ) Effectiveness

It is concluded that the Project Purpose, the strengthening of the function of the laboratory, has been achieved by the fact that the Accreditation as NRL by WHO has been awarded every year since 2001, notably with the highest evaluation score among African countries in 2003.

The first year of the Project period showed some problematic progress such as delayed dispatch of long-term experts and laboratory construction. The project activities were implemented as planned after the second year and the expected outputs were achieved. The delay in laboratory construction did not affect the overall Project activities very much and the laboratory is now fully equipped and functioning. As to the maintenance of equipment in the laboratory, no major problem in regular maintenance can be pointed out, however, it is desirable that preventive maintenance be further improved. The capacity of the laboratory staff has been improved through the guidance of Japanese experts and training in Japan. The training for focal persons improved collection and transport process of specimens and thus contributed to the achievement of Accreditation by WHO.

( 3 ) Efficiency

It took several months after the start of the Project before planned two Japanese experts were dispatched but the expertise, experiences and efforts of long-term and short-term experts made smooth technology transfer possible. The building and equipment of the laboratory provided by the Japanese side have been utilized appropriately and the maintenance is also adequately carried out. The assignment of sufficient number of counterparts in the laboratory by the Ethiopian side contributed to the improvement of the examination capacity of the laboratory. Consideration should be given, however, so that the maintenance personnel will be able to take expected responsibility to the full extent as they are in charge of not only the polio laboratory but overall EHNRI as well.

( 4 ) Impact

It is highly probable that the Overall Goal will be achieved in near future by the fact that a new poliomyelitis patient has not been found since 2001. It is still necessary, however, to continuously monitor the Important Assumptions (external conditions), that is, the conditions of imported polioviruses from neighboring countries and areas without surveillance due to the lack of transportation.

The positive impacts to point out are: the promotion of donor coordination, the improvement of motivation and awareness of counterparts and the promotion of awareness and knowledge of health workers and community leaders and people through sensitization activities during the Project. No negative impacts affiliated with the Project have been seen so far.

( 5 ) Sustainability

The sustainability of the Project is not evaluated very high. Despite the clear intention for the continuous support for polio eradication by the Ethiopian side, its financial foundation is not very strong. After the Project, WHO is going to continue its financial support in reagents and personnel cost for the time being and there will not be major constraints, but financial sustainability in the long-term period, after the polio eradication, is a matter of concern. Technical sustainability, which is the key to the continuous award of Accreditation by WHO, is considerably high, given the fact that the Ethiopian counterparts have been carrying out laboratory work without major difficulties even after the Chief Advisor left the laboratory. Several issues for future challenges can be pointed out. For example, it is necessary to examine how Ethiopian side can continuously perform the laboratory work on their own with necessary adaptation to possible innovation or change in technology in the future, and to examine measures to retain trained personnel as one of the counterparts trained during the Project has already left the laboratory.

It is important to secure the financial allocation by donors for sometime, while at the same time gradually reducing the financial dependency on donor community, and to create incentives to retain trained personnel.

2. Factors that promoted realization of effects

( 1 ) Factors concerning to planning

In the Project plan, the Project Purpose, namely Accreditation by WHO, and its objectively verifiable indicators were clear, thus activities necessary to achieve Project Purpose were planned effectively and efficiently. This is one important factor in planning that promoted the realization of effects. The Project plan formulation with consideration of donor coordination helped to gain collaboration by related agencies and to produce prompted outcome that can be said synergy effect.

( 2 ) Factors concerning to the Implementation Process

The dedication shown by the Japanese experts, the Ethiopian assignment of sufficient number of counterparts with positive attitude, and generally desirable communication between Japanese experts and Ethiopian counterparts can be pointed out as promoting factors in the implementation process

### 3. Factors that Impeded realization of effects

#### ( 1 ) Factors concerning to Planning

There was not a specific plan to facilitate sustainable operation only by Ethiopian side after the termination of the Project, for example, by gradually shifting the allocation of more operation cost to the Ethiopian side during the Project period. This leaves some problem in terms of financial sustainability.

#### ( 2 ) Factors concerning to the Implementation Process

The Japanese side explained to the Ethiopian side about the procedure of disclosing the details of the Japanese local cost and about the modification of the counterpart training in Japan caused by the capacity of training organization, but full understanding by the Ethiopian side was not obtained. Communication difficulties as shown in these problems occurred occasionally but not as serious as affecting the whole progress of the Project.

### 4. Conclusion

Throughout efforts by both Ethiopian and Japanese sides, planned inputs were executed without major problem and the laboratory was strengthened in terms of facilities and manpower. The Project Purpose, annual Accreditation by WHO, has been achieved and WHO and other donor agencies highly evaluate the Project as it greatly contributed to polio eradication. Because the Project Purpose was successfully achieved, it is appropriate to say that the Project should be terminated as was initially planned. As to the achievement of the Overall Goal, it is necessary to maintain the current laboratory capacity as well as to monitor the Important Assumptions (external conditions).

### 5. Recommendations

The important factors to sustain the performance of the laboratory are; keeping the technical level of cell cultivation and virus isolation and identification, improving the maintenance system of laboratory equipment, supporting human resources and finance within EHNRI by itself, and strengthening collaboration with WHO to obtain necessary advice and support. The Ethiopian side recommends that the Japanese side continue to participate in Interagency Coordination Committee (ICC) in regard to polio eradication activities.

### 6. Lessons Learned

The Project was planned with consideration of the donor coordination in the field of polio eradication and implemented in close coordination with donors as WHO , UNICEF, and Rotary International, where JICA took role in improvement of laboratory. This cooperation process may not be positioned within the framework of so-called Sector Approach, but can be a good example of JICA Project incorporating Japanese assistance scheme and donor coordination.