

Assefa Bekele Zeleke

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License: Certified Public Health Professional (CPHP) | SNNPR Health Bureau

Professional Profile

licensed Public Health Professional with over 15 years of experience, now strategically pivoting to health data science and informatics. My career began with hands-on roles in a remote woreda, where I managed integrated health programs (WASH, Nutrition, IDSR), gaining a ground-level understanding of public health and data challenges. This led to an MPH in Field Epidemiology and roles in national COVID-19 response and zonal outbreak control. I played a key role in establishing the Sidama Region PHEOC and now proactively apply my ongoing Computer Science skills to public health data and digital health projects. My goal is to develop practical data driven tools and analytical solutions for public health challenges, transforming raw data into actionable intelligence for decision-making at all levels of the health system

Core Competencies

- **Public Health:** PHEM, IDSR, Field Epidemiology, WASH, Nutrition
- **Data Science:** Power BI, DHIS2, Excel, Epi Info
- **Programming:** Python, R, SQL, JS
- **Geospatial Tools:** ArcGIS, QGIS
- **Languages:** Amharic (Native), English (Fluent), Afan Oromo, Afo Sidama

Professional Experience

Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) Technical Assistant | *Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Sidama Region* | Jun 2021 – Present

- Key contributor to the establishment and operationalization of Sidama Region PHEOC.
- Provide technical coordination for major emergency responses such as cholera, measles, malaria, mpox, disasters, and IDP.
- Lead capacity-building activities for regional, zonal and woreda health staff on PHEM.
- Voluntary Initiative: Provide technical support to the Regional Data Management Center, undertaking data analysis, visualization, and contributing to digital health.
- COVID-19 National Response Team | Ethiopian Public Health Institute | Mar 2019 – May 2021
- Supervised contact tracing and follow-up teams across sub-cities of Addis Ababa.
- Managed data quality and reporting for the national COVID-19 laboratory testing system.
- Deployed to support concurrent outbreak responses, including cholera in South Omo.

Field Epidemiology Resident | *SNNPR/Hawassa University* | May 2016 – Feb 2019

- I have been working as a zonal PHEM officer, including responses to polio, measles, IDP, and cholera outbreaks.
- Delivered six core epidemiological outputs, including outbreak investigations and surveillance system evaluations, used for zonal decision-making.

District Public Health Officer | *Aroresa Woreda Health Office, Sidama* | Oct 2008 – May 2016

- Progressed through multiple integrated roles, including PHEM Coordinator, Nutrition Coordinator, WASH Officer, and Regulatory Officer in a remote woreda.
- Core responsibilities encompassed disease surveillance (IDSR), MCH such as immunization (EPI), nutrition program management (CBN), and WASH interventions.
- Built foundational expertise in district-level health systems, data collection, analysis, reporting, supervision, and multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration.

Education & Credentials

- **BSc in Computer Science** | University of the People (Online) | Expected 2026
- **MPH in Field Epidemiology** | Hawassa University | 2019
- **BSc in Environmental Health Science** | Hawassa University | 2008

Certifications & Training

- **Data Science:** Google Data Analytics, Python (Stanford), R (ECDC), Power BI, QGIS
- **Public Health:** Field Epidemiology (EFELTP), IDSR (WHO)
- **Emergency Response:** PHEOC & IMS (OpenWHO), Contact Tracing (Johns Hopkins)

Professional Affiliations

Memberships in THPINET, AFINET, EFELTP alumni

Soft Skills

Strategic communication, stress management, stakeholder engagement

References

Available on request