East African Smoke Free Program

The East African Smoke Free Program (EASFP) aims to reduce the harm caused by tobacco and secondhand smoke among Somali and East African children, youth, and adults through innovative community awareness and health education activities that change social norms around tobacco use.

2,212 Somali and East African community members living in 8 multi-unit housing facilities are now living smoke free

To date, over 3,000 community members have been directly reached

More than 77,800 were indirectly impacted through outreach activities

Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative

The Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI) is working with the Somali community to build the skills necessary to prevent diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. The EHDI program also hosts the Minnesota Community Health Worker (CHW) Peer Network, and provides continuing education opportunities for Minnesota’s diverse CHWs.

A pre-diabetes informational DVD was created that reached over 1,500 Somali community members

Exercise classes for 100 Somali Elders

150 grocery store tours in the native language of participants

100 farmers’ market tours for individuals eligible for Electronic Benefits Transfer

Over 500 Community Health Workers and stakeholders reached by the Community Health Worker Peer Network

Somali Healthy Youth Initiative:

The Young Achievers, WellShare’s after-school program for East African youth, began in 2006 and serves about 100 students each semester.

215 215 youth participated in the Young Achievers after-school program

100% high school graduation rate among participants

Annual community event showcased Young Achievers’ talents and engaged over 200 community members

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Reproductive Health: The Somali Child Spacing Program and the Karen Family Planning Program

The Somali Child Spacing Program and the Karen Family Planning Program provide culturally appropriate reproductive health education and resources to both the Somali and Karen communities, and to health care providers serving them. Grounded in a health benefits, client-centered approach, Somali and Karen CHWs assist Somali and Karen men and women to understand their reproductive health options, and how to access resources and care. Staff also work with providers to increase their cultural sensitivity, which improves their work with Somali and Karen patients.

Over 500 Somali men and women discussed the benefits of child spacing with WellShare staff

More than 350 professionals from the Twin Cities and Greater MN were educated on cultural competency through 7 professional development trainings.

Nearly 500 adult participants in Karen-language classes

20 clinics serving Karen patients received a Karen-English methods tool created by WellShare.

Uganda Child Spacing Program:

WellShare continued its long-term work in reproductive health and added two new USAID-funded projects in 2014. Through Advancing Partners and Communities (APC), the Advancing Community-Based Access to Injectable Contraceptives in Uganda project worked to scale up access to injectable contraceptives in Eastern Uganda.

10 10 District Health Team staff were trained as master trainers

30 30 health center staff and 161 village team members were trained to provide family planning resources

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