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.

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

More than 77,800 were indirectly impacted through outreach activities in 2015.

In 2015 the program reached 2,377 individuals through 46 outreach activities. The Young Achiever’s hosted an event including skits and poetry around tobacco use, which was seen by approximately 250 Somali and other East African youth.

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 series of Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshops for elders in the Somali community was joined by over 30 participants.

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

The program is attended by mostly middle and high school students, and serves about 100 students each semester.

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

Over 100 farmer’s 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.

The program is attended by mostly middle and high school students, and activities are held at two locations in Minneapolis.

The Young Achiever’s hosted an event including skits and poetry around tobacco use, which was seen by approximately 250 Somali and other East African youth.

Over 300 Somali men and women received reproductive health information and services through individual consultations and small group education sessions.

Nearly 40 Karen men and women participated in Karen-language community classes.

Over 600 health care professionals, educators, and other social service professionals were engaged in conferences, trainings and health fairs that WellShare staff participated in.

Thank you to WellShare’s funders and major donors for supporting the advancement of sustainable community health around the world!

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WellShare continued its long-term work in reproductive health and continued two USAID-funded projects in 2015. Through Advancing Partners & Communities (APC), and the Arua District Partnership for HIV/AIDS and Family Planning Integration Project, we worked to scale up access to contraceptives including intramuscular injectables in Uganda.

The project reached 3,522 clients through project-trained staff and village health team members, as well as more than 19,041 people with family planning messages during group discussions and home visits.