Engagement Snapshot

The strength of Emory’s global footprint spans each of its units and crosses a variety of disciplines – from the health sciences to anthropology and law. Emory has an established on-the-ground network in Ethiopia, including a country office. Emory has a reputation for excellence in the health sciences, with areas of expertise that include newborn and maternal health, child mortality research, infectious disease research and treatment, and radiation oncology training. The Emory community has also conducted in-country research in climate science, women’s agricultural empowerment, and economic development.

Summary of Current Engagement and Activity

Institutional

Emory Ethiopia Office (2010-present)

- The Emory University country office in Ethiopia was established in 2010 in support of the Maternal and Newborn Health in Ethiopia Partnership (MaNHEP) with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Since 2010, the office has grown to include field offices in Bahir Dar, Semara, and Assosa. The office supports Emory’s dynamic activities in Ethiopia, and it implements community-based projects for improving maternal, newborn and child health outcomes as well as water, hygiene and sanitation practices. The Emory Ethiopia team works closely with the Federal Ministry of Health, Regional Health Bureaus, Addis Ababa University and other regional universities, as well as key international organizations, including Nutrition International, UNICEF Ethiopia, the World Health Organization, and others.

Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing Emory-Ethiopia Partnership (2010-present)

- Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing (NHWSN) has collaborated with partners across Ethiopia for more than a decade to support patient care and nursing education. These partnership activities include the MaNHEP project that prompted the founding of the Emory Ethiopia Office and several of its successive efforts supporting maternal-infant health. Further NHWSN partnered with Addis Ababa University (AAU) in 2015 to develop the country’s first PhD in nursing program, its hybrid in-person and distance-learning approach provides opportunity between Atlanta and Addis Ababa. In addition to developing the body of nursing research in Ethiopia, the Emory-AAU PhD in Nursing students are advocating for national nursing regulatory reforms. In 2021, this partnership won a $4.5 million grant for Saving Little Lives at Birth (SLL) focused on infant and maternal health.

Emory University-Addis Ababa University Faculty Visitor Program (2018-present)

- The Emory University-Addis Ababa University (AAU) Faculty Visitor Program aims to advance Emory’s eminence as a global research university with a diverse and inclusively excellent intellectual community by deepening the relationship between Emory and AAU, seeding new research collaborations, and cultivating new Emory-AAU research connections. This program welcomes up to two AAU faculty members each program year for short-term visits at Emory to explore new areas of research and collaboration with Emory counterparts.
Country Engagement: Ethiopia

Faculty Engagement

- Emory received a Fogarty NIH grant to launch a training initiative designed to improve the research, treatment, and control of tuberculosis (TB) in Ethiopia. The first five-year grant totaled more than $970,000. The grant was renewed in 2019 for another five years to further training and capacity building for impactful TB research. The project collaborates with three Ethiopian institutions:
  - Addis Ababa University
  - Armauer Hansen Research Institute
  - Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute

**Health-Professional Education Partnership Initiative** (HEPI) (2018-2023)
- The HEPI program complements and enhances workforce training efforts in countries across Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. HEPI focuses on efforts to help the health workforce in these countries meet the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs associated with low-income, high HIV-burden country profiles. Emory University collaborates with Addis Ababa University, Wolaita Sodo University, and Dilla University on this activity.

**The Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) Network** (2015-present)
- The Emory Global Health Institute serves as lead partner of this network dedicated to identifying the definitive causes of deaths among children and preventing child deaths through community engagement, diagnostic and laboratory innovations, surveillance network advances, policy-to-action activities, and rapid, open access to data. Ethiopia is one of seven preliminary sites for this 20-year project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Haramaya University, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute lead the CHAMPS work in Ethiopia through the Haraghe Health Research partnership.

**Africa CDC Institute for Workforce Development** (2019-present)
- Emory University is consulting with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to develop and administer a workforce development platform for public health professionals across the continent.

**The Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Scholars Program for Developing Research Capacity of Junior Faculty** at Addis Ababa University (2015-2020)
- The MEPI Scholars Program aims to build the research capacity of health sciences faculty at Addis Ababa University. MEPI provides training opportunities for cohorts of junior faculty in key health sciences areas: infectious disease, child and maternal health, non-communicable disease, and mental health. Emory University is the primary training partner.

**Emory Global Health Residency Scholars Program** (2012-present)
- Emory’s School of Medicine provides financial and mentorship support to engage U.S. residents and fellows in Ethiopian clinical care. The program includes a year-long curriculum (consisting of monthly lectures, seminars, and discussions) and a one-month clinical rotation in Ethiopia. The program aims to provide residents/fellows from clinical departments with knowledge and practical experience in global health by building on ongoing collaborations between Emory and Ethiopian institutions, in
Country Engagement: Ethiopia

particular Addis Ababa University and its main teaching hospital, Black Lion Hospital, as well as the ALERT clinic, which specializes in care for Hansen’s disease (also known as leprosy).

Emory Ophthalmology in Ethiopia (2014-present)

- In Ethiopia, Emory Ophthalmology has partnered with Addis Ababa University and the Menelik II Hospital Department of Ophthalmology since 2014. Its engagement emphasizes clinical service, research, and education opportunities that foster learning and collaboration. Key activities include a year-long Global Ophthalmology Fellowship (further enabled by Alcon and Fogarty International), resident education and curriculum development in Ethiopia, national partnership efforts to combat vision loss, and subspecialty training with Ethiopian ophthalmologists on Emory’s campus in Atlanta.

Global Surgery Program (2011-present)

- In 2011, the Emory Department of Surgery established its Global Surgery Program – one of the first American Board of Surgery-approved international surgical training experiences – at Soddo Christian Hospital in Soddo, Wolaita, Ethiopia. The facility is located in the southern part of the country, a region where there is limited healthcare available for a population of more than three million people. In addition to providing medical services, the hospital partners with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) as one of nine PAACS academic centers that train national doctors over a five-year surgical residency program. In Hawassa, Ethiopia Emory has joined the Consortium for Academic Global Surgery Programs of the American College of Surgeons Operation Giving Back (OGB) program. OGB aims to create hubs for training and collaborative research around the world, and the Hawassa site is the first of such hubs under this program.

Student-Focused

Addis Ababa University PHD of Nursing (2015-present)

- Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff’s School of Nursing (SON) and Addis Ababa University (AAU) have partnered to develop Ethiopia’s first PhD nursing program. For this effort, Emory has provided a range of support including assistance with program and curriculum development. Students participate remotely in a number of Emory classes, and Emory created a “smart room” at AAU to ensure appropriate connectivity for this aspect of the program. Students also visit Emory during the program to develop their research proposals and work with faculty in Atlanta who serve on their dissertation committees. The first cohort of PhD students is now in the dissertation phase of the program.

Emory University-Addis Ababa University Radiation Oncology Collaboration (2017-present)

- The Department of Radiation Oncology at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute is working with Addis Ababa University to further radiation oncology education and collaboration in Ethiopia. Emory and AAU counterparts are developing an MOU to support and direct the continuation of these efforts which include collaboration on the creation of a master’s in physics program at AAU. In 2017, Emory hosted AAU’s Chief of Radiation Oncology and its Chief Medical Physicist to observe US medical practices and latest linear accelerator (“LINAC”) techniques ahead of the installation of AAU’s own LINAC in 2018.
Emory University Affiliates in Ethiopia

The Carter Center
- Addis Ababa is home to a field office of The Carter Center (TCC) that is led by Dr. Zerihun Tadesse. Dr. Zerihun joined TCC in 2009 after directing the Ethiopian Ministry of Health’s (MOH) disease control and prevention efforts. TCC in Ethiopia’s current work is focused on health, and more specifically efforts to eradicate Guinea worm disease, river blindness, and lymphatic filariasis (“elephantitis”) and control trachoma (a bacterial eye infection) and malaria. These efforts include mass distributions of drug treatments. TCC employs approximately 200 people in Ethiopia and collaborates with partners like the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and MOH.
- TCC’s peace initiatives have also been active in Ethiopia with past efforts including observation of the country’s third national elections in 2005 as well as negotiations between Ethiopia and Eritrean and Tigrayan leaders led by President Carter in the 1980s.

The Task Force for Global Health
- The Task Force for Global Health (TFGH) is an NGO based in the Atlanta, GA, area with field offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Guatemala City, Guatemala. What began in 1984 as an initiative to combat low childhood immunization rates in developing countries has endured for more than three decades and evolved into a dynamic international health organization that leverages the power of partnerships and meaningful collaboration to tackle the most pressing global health challenges.
- In Ethiopia, the Task Force focuses on a number of portfolios, including the International Trachoma Initiative, the Mectizan Donation Program (which treats Lymphatic Filariasis), Polio eradication, neglected tropical disease (NTD) support, the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network, and the Children Without Worms initiative.