

In rural Ethiopia, there is only one specialist in obstetrics & gynecology per 1.8 million people.¹

The maternal mortality ratio in Ethiopia ranks high at 353 deaths for every 100,000 live births.²



Preparing tomorrow's health workers to provide women with lifesaving reproductive health care

A woman with access to high-quality reproductive health services has access to opportunity. Without access to quality care, even the most basic reproductive health issues can put women's lives at risk. There is an urgent need to increase the number of skilled health professionals providing quality care to women throughout their lives, when and where they need it.

The Center for International Reproductive Health Training works with medical schools across Ethiopia to provide future doctors, nurses and midwives with comprehensive reproductive health care education and experience. Students receive pre-service training in all aspects of reproductive health, including contraception, safe pregnancy termination and birth spacing. As more providers are trained to offer these services, more women can find the treatment, care and support they need.

The CIRHT Approach: Integrated Training for Improved Care

Rather than pulling professionals from their communities for post-graduate training, CIRHT integrates training on comprehensive reproductive health care instruction and hands-on clinical rotations into the standard medical school curriculum. To educate the community and address stigma, each of the nine medical schools working with CIRHT also collaborates with regional leaders to build a supportive environment for these health professionals. This approach positions graduates to serve clients effectively and compassionately from the start of their careers.

Expanding Access to Care

Students who completed the Center's training at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa are expanding access to contraception and safe pregnancy termination. Of graduates, nearly 80 percent requested support to provide comprehensive reproductive health services in the rural areas where they work.

The Center assists these professionals and connects them with regional health bureaus and organizations that provide reproductive health services.

¹ Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health's (FMoH) Health Indicators Survey, 2008.

² "Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2013 Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank and the United Nations Population Division." World Health Organization, 2015.



“Quality reproductive health care not only saves lives; it also empowers women and girls. Enabling women and girls to make informed decisions about if and when to have children, and how many to have, opens up possibilities for what girls, women and their families can achieve.”

– Lia Tadesse, MD, MHA,
Program Director,
the Center for International
Reproductive Health
Training



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Building a Community of Support

Beyond medical training, doctors, nurses and midwives learn how to promote the benefits of comprehensive reproductive health care and help families understand what services are available. In the future, CIRHT's Fellowship program will offer advanced training in reproductive health research, policy and practice, preparing graduates with the knowledge and skills to effectively champion the needs of women.

Our Strategy

To increase the number of health professionals providing quality, comprehensive reproductive health care, CIRHT is working to:

- 1. Build faculty capacity** on clinical training in reproductive health services, medical and surgical pregnancy termination, as well as teaching and research skills.
- 2. Improve the capacity of partner medical schools** with the physical infrastructure, equipment and instruction models needed to deliver quality training.
- 3. Implement and expand integrated pre-service training** for medical students, interns and residents at nine medical schools.
- 4. Monitor and evaluate training** to ensure that partner schools adhere to the curriculum's standards, while enabling CIRHT to share lessons learned.

Training Future Health Professionals across Ethiopia

The Center is working to train health professionals in nine medical schools across Ethiopia.

