



CIRHT Scale-up

- CIRHT seeks to work in other African countries, with the same goal of reducing maternal morbidity and mortality by increasing the health workforce for the provision of contraception and pregnancy termination services through strengthening RH education in pre-service education.
- To that end, CIRHT invites inquiries from schools of medicine and midwifery that recognize the importance of integrating contraception and CAC training into their curricula.



Program Focus

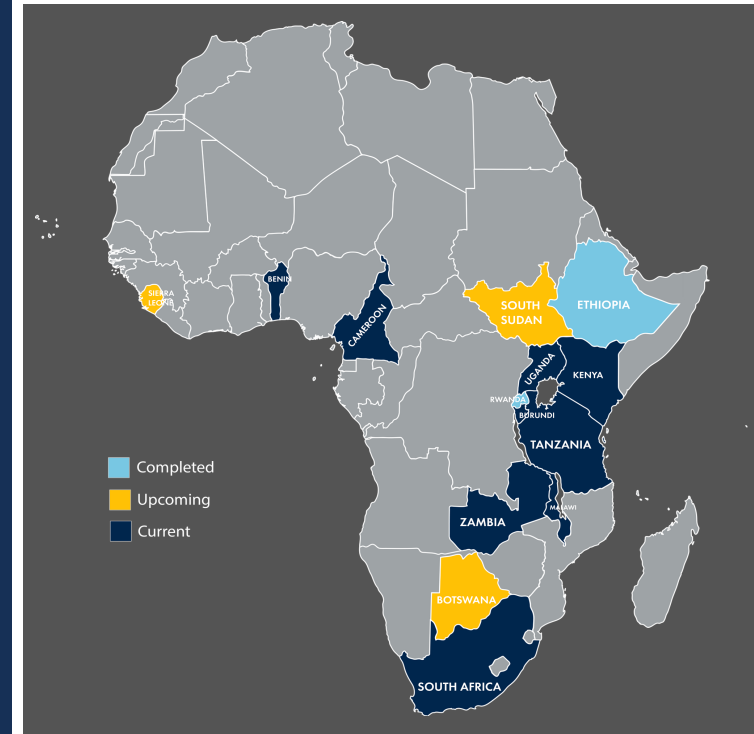
Collaboration areas include;

1. Curriculum revision to integrate or reinforce competencies on contraception and abortion care
2. Faculty development on effective teaching and assessment skills, methods to deliver abortion care and contraceptive services, and research capacity strengthening
3. Quality improvement projects to enhance the RH services
4. Establishment of simulation centers to teach RH clinical skills
5. Assistance with creating high-quality RH clinics for providing service and hands-on training

CIRHT works to support partner institutions based on Their individual capacities, needs, and goals.



**Sexual and Reproductive Health:
Informing Policy and Practice
through Research and
Preservice Training**



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Scaling up pre-service clinical education on contraception and comprehensive abortion care in African countries.

Background

- The Center for International Reproductive Health Training (CIRHT) was founded at the University of Michigan in 2014 with a goal of reducing maternal morbidity and mortality caused by unsafe abortion and unwanted pregnancy.
- In partnership with ten medical and midwifery schools in Ethiopia, it supported the expansion of curricula and competencies in pre-service education for the provision of reproductive health (RH) services, with a focus on comprehensive abortion care (CAC) and comprehensive contraception (CC).
- Since 2018, CIRHT has launched similar programs in Rwanda, Uganda, and Cameroon with the same model, drawing on lessons learned through its years of implementation experience in Ethiopia. The programs include medical students, interns, OBGYN residents, midwives, and nurses.



Program Objective

CIRHT works to improve the capacity of partner universities to produce competent health care providers that deliver high quality contraception and pregnancy termination services. Partner universities achieve this by;

1. Integrating and delivering competency-based RH curriculum
2. Creating adequate opportunity for hands-on training through simulation-based learning and clinical teaching
3. Ensuring that faculty members have the necessary enhanced training in clinical, teaching and research skills

Program Approach

A framework below shows the relationship among CIRHT's strategic areas – education, clinical service, and research – to produce a graduate able to give comprehensive, high-quality abortion care and contraception services.



Illustration depicting the relationship among CIRHT strategic areas



Outcome

- Partner institutions are fully implementing the integrated CIRHT model. Medical and midwifery students receive skill teachings on pregnancy termination and contraception, both in simulation and clinical settings. Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) has become the primary method of skills assessment
- Teaching hospitals are supported to establish RH clinics that provide integrated services. Faculty are assigned regularly to those clinics to provide service and instruction. The case flow of abortion and contraception services has increased significantly.
- Teaching hospitals continue to introduce RH quality improvement initiatives.
- More than 400 research projects have been funded, from both OBGYN and midwifery faculty, to generate evidence to improve RH services. Many of them have been presented at international conferences or published in national and international journals.
- As part of its contribution to strengthen national systems, CIRHT has provided technical and human resource capacity strengthening support to ministries of health and education.
- Organized international conferences in Addis Ababa (2019), Kigali (2022) and Gulu (2025), bringing together hundreds of academics and practitioners from around the world.