

**A new partnership to increase access to obstetrical care in rural areas of Ethiopia
Ottawa, October 15th, 2020**

CPAR, the Fund for Innovation and Transformation, Global Affairs Canada, the Inter-Council Network and Dr. Mendez from the University of Saskatchewan, are partnering together to build obstetrical ultrasound capacity among frontline healthcare workers in remote and low resource regions of Ethiopia.

Together, we will design and test a capacity building program that will increase access to obstetrical care in the North Shoa zone of Ethiopia by bringing potentially life-saving antenatal ultrasound imaging and associated diagnostic, preventative and therapeutic capacities. The goal of this project is to test the delivery of synchronous ultrasound services in selected health centers, for pregnant women who are unable to access regular obstetrical prenatal care. Health officers and midwives will be trained in using synchronous ultrasound technology in consultation with an obstetrician located at Fitch Hospital.

Despite significant investment and subsequent impressive advances in healthcare uptake and provision in Ethiopia over the last two decades, the country still struggles with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world (412 deaths per 100,000 births), almost double the global average. The chances of a mother and her child surviving labour are even lower in rural areas, where 80% of the country's citizens reside. This project can help more women get accessible and affordable healthcare and diagnose an at-risk pregnancy.

"Rural women deserve the same access to antenatal care as their urban counterparts, and this project will work to build the capacity needed in healthcare centers for that goal to be achieved." Says Sandra Abeje, Project Manager.

This project will also focus on educating expectant mothers on reproductive and antenatal services, enhance their awareness about risk factors during pregnancy and empower them to make independent decisions during pregnancies. It will help them understand how to have better access to household resources that are important for their nutrition and the nutrition of their newborns. Women, of any age, should be aware that they have the right to be treated well and equal even during pregnancy, that antenatal care is not a privilege but basic essential care and, that they should be given the appropriate information and access to medical treatment during pregnancy.



For more information and media inquiries, call 416-369-0865, email info@cpar.ca or visit our website: <https://bit.ly/341IqnK>



Fund for Innovation
and Transformation
Fonds pour l'innovation
et la transformation



240 Bank Street, Suite 401
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X4
Web: www.cpar.ca E-mail: info@cpar.ca
Tel: 416-369-0865 • 1-800-263-2727
Charitable Number 11883 5230 RR001