

UM-HAIL: University of Michigan Nursing Healthcare and Integrated Learning

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BACKGROUND

- Ethiopia is the second most populated African nation
- High rates of maternal (676/100,000) & infant (59/1,000) mortality¹
- Only 24% of children ages 12-23 months are fully vaccinated¹
- One of Ethiopia's main health issues, communicable diseases, is worsened by malnutrition and poor sanitation
- Health problems are exacerbated by a shortage of trained healthcare providers as well as a shortage of health facilities
- In 2009, the ratio of nurses & midwives (0.28) per 1,000 people was much lower than the World Health Organization recommendation of 1.73⁴
- Large scale-up of nurses & midwives by the Ministry of Health has resulted in a much larger nursing and midwifery workforce
- There is now a need to understand the quality of performance of practicing nurses and midwives in relation to patient health outcomes
- Recent Ministry of Health calls for improved interdisciplinary team collaboration are reliant on the **quality of nursing & midwifery practice** as well as **leadership skills and training for nurses & midwives**⁵



Landscape of Aksum
Photo Credit: Michelle Munro-Kramer

AKSUM UNIVERSITY

- Located in the far northern Tigray region close to the Eritrean border, Aksum is home to several UNESCO world heritage sites.
- Established in 2007, the University is undergoing rapid expansion, with a newly established College of Health Sciences in 2010.

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this project was to explore the establishment of a nursing and midwifery center of excellence in partnership with Aksum University.
- Our goals were to:
 - Facilitate student and faculty exchange
 - Establish shared virtual learning experiences
 - Immerse University of Michigan nursing students in a global clinical and research environment



Front Entrance of Aksum University
Photo credit: Marcin Szczepanski



Aksum University Health Sciences Campus
Construction, January 2015
Photo Credit: Sue Anne Bell



Aksum University College of Health Sciences
Videoconferencing Center
Photo Credit: Sue Anne Bell

RESULTS

- October 2014:** Needs assessment conducted and potential collaborations explored by 2 UM nursing faculty
- January 2015:** Expansion of established partnerships and initiation of shared virtual learning experience goals (video conferencing, shared assignments) by 2 UM nursing faculty
- April 2015:** Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the UM School of Nursing and the Aksum University College of Health Sciences
- Spring 2015:** Monthly video conferencing sessions initiated by the UM School of Nursing in partnership with the UM Language Resource Center to establish a connection with Aksum University, to troubleshoot the BlueJeans platform to establish a sound connection, and to discuss shared assignments for future student video conferencing experiences

LESSONS LEARNED

- The 7 hour time difference between Aksum, Ethiopia and Ann Arbor, Michigan has made communication, especially video conferencing, difficult.
- While the faculty at Aksum University and UM are committed to a partnership for video conferencing and joint interactive learning, the technology capability in Aksum has presented real and continuous challenges.

NEXT STEPS

- An Aksum University nursing faculty member will be visiting UM for 10 days in October to learn more about leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, and technology based learning.
- Our shared work continues with our colleagues at Aksum University as well as the UM Language Resource Center to implement shared virtual learning experiences.
- We continue to seek funding and opportunities to promote student and faculty exchange.

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