



STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF HEALTH NETWORK IN ETHIOPIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief Partners with Fitch Hospital to Improve Healthcare Outcomes for Patients in Fitch, Ethiopia

Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) is collaborating with Fitch Hospital in a multi-year project to strengthen the capacity of patient services in North Shoa Zone of Oromiya Regional State in Ethiopia.

Fitch Hospital is a 102 bed zone hospital located approximately 125 km from Addis Ababa. The hospital serves approximately 1.5 million people and is a referral center for 57 Health Centres and 297 Health Posts in the North Shoa Zone. Resources (both skills and medical equipment) in these centres are markedly limited. The North Shoa Zone is one of the poorest regions of the world with significant health infrastructure challenges.

The project will see Canadian physicians, specializing in Emergency, serve annual rotating 8-12 week placements. During their stay, the physicians will deliver medical services primarily through knowledge sharing with Fitch Hospital medical staff, health care centres and health posts in the region.

“Such knowledge sharing partnership initiated by CPAR has an important implication to the sustainable quality of health care and service delivery at the hospital” says Dr. Muluneh Solomon, Medical Director of Fitch Hospital. “CPAR’s support, and the new model of partnership characterized by a shared commitment and exchange of experiences among Canadian and Ethiopian physicians, will contribute significantly towards our efforts to save the lives of poor people. I believe that implementation of the project has not only a tremendous positive effect on improving the quality of the hospital’s health care system , but also on the country as a whole.”

“CPAR is excited about this new collaboration with Fitch Hospital” says Dusanka Pavlica, Executive Director of CPAR. “The population benefiting from this project is severely underserved and we are optimistic that our 32 years of experience in Ethiopia, paired with partnership of Fitch Hospital and the communities, will help to build the framework required to increase the quality and accessibility of health services in the North Shoa Zone”

CPAR is currently recruiting emergency physicians or family doctors with ER experience. The project is slated to begin in April 2016.

The project has two phases. The first focuses on increasing the capacity of the hospital Emergency department to support community demands and services; improving the ability of staff to deliver quality services; and improving capacity with respect to medical equipment and supplies.

Phase two of the project will see physicians providing high quality Maternal Child and Newborn Health (MNCH) services in health care centres and health posts within the region; developing technological support tools such as remote rounds and remote diagnostics, and creating a remote mentoring framework to facilitate ongoing knowledge sharing between Canadian and Ethiopian medical staff.

For more information, contact Dusanka Pavlica at dpavlica@cpar.ca

About Canadian Physicians for Aid & Relief:

Established in 1984, CPAR works with community members in some of the most remote rural areas in Malawi, Ethiopia and Tanzania to implement long-term sustainable programs that are focused on real grassroots change. We work with community members to provide access to life’s most basic needs despite challenges that might be posed by the environment or infrastructure.

About Fitch Hospital:

Fitch Hospital was established in 1999 in Fitch Town in North Shoa Zone of Oromiya Regional State. The Hospital is located at about 112km from the Addis Ababa, currently serving a catchment of approximately 1.5 million people. Fitch Hospital serves as a referral centre for some 57 Health Centres and 297 Health Posts in the zone.