



SCOPE ANNUAL REPORT  
2016 - 2017



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# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

When we began in 2008, SCOPE was just a premise. We knew people were not accessing healthcare in northern Ethiopia. We knew the Ethiopian Orthodox Church played a major role in people's lives. And we knew that although both the medical community and the church community cared passionately about the lives of the people, they were not communicating effectively with each other. Our premise was that if we could combine the science of the medical community and the reach of the church – 84% of the people in this area belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church – we could help improve the health of this region.

So we set out to validate this premise. Here are a few things we did:

- We sent global health fellows from the University of Washington, pairing them with fellows from the University of Gondar to research ways where faith and medicine could intersect.
- We created an HIV/AIDS testing campaign with the North Gondar Diocese and tested over 800 people including the archbishop and 55 priests proving that faith and medicine could work together.
- We piloted a program in a local government health center, training priests and Ethiopian female community health workers about HIV, the importance of antenatal care, and assisted births for safer childbirth and healthier mothers and babies. Then our trainees went out into their communities to encourage pregnant women to come to the clinics.
- The pilot resulted in an increase in uptake of antenatal care of 20%, and we expanded this program to five other clinics.
- We also began a program at holy water sites – traditional healing sites of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. We trained priests who are traditional healers about HIV and the importance of testing so people would know their status. Then once a month we had HIV testing at the healing sites and those who tested positive were referred to care.

We are proud of this work, which only happened because of your faithful support.

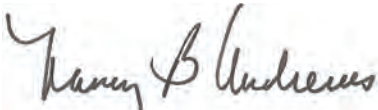
Now we are beginning a new phase. We want to take what we've learned and scientifically validate our results. This effort is funded by a grant to our University of Gondar partners by the National Academy of Sciences - secured with the help of our partners at the University of Washington Department of Global Health. This study, named FLAME – Faith Leaders Advocating for Maternal Empowerment, will rigorously evaluate the efficacy of the SCOPE model and provide opportunities for future partnerships on a larger scale. Dr. Getahun Asres, our longtime SCOPE program manager at the University of Gondar, serves as the principal investigator on the FLAME study and two stellar faculty at the University of Washington, Drs. Judd Walson and Brandon Guthrie, are providing technical assistance. We look forward to sharing the progress of this study and SCOPE's expanding work with you over the next two years.

While this grant provides important new funding, SCOPE's work in maintaining this partnership and providing fellowship opportunities remains entirely funded by our loyal supporters. Your generosity enables us to continue our fellowship program which cultivates leadership among global health fellows from the US and Ethiopia by providing experiential learning in building community partnerships. Working in conjunction with the University of Gondar and the North Gondar Diocese, our fellows are delivering evidence for scaling effective models of mobilizing faith communities to improve health. Currently we have two very talented University of Washington SCOPE fellows in Ethiopia for 6 months – Elizabeth Karman and Sheldon Halsted. You can follow stories of their work and life in Gondar at [www.scopestories.wordpress.com](http://www.scopestories.wordpress.com).

Another exciting part of this new phase will be new board leadership. Beginning in 2018 David Brenner will be the SCOPE Board Chair. David brings a legal background with experience in the non-profit sector as well as knowledge and experience with the local global health community. We have also restructured the work of our board with committees through which our highly skilled board members will provide sustainability and resilience for SCOPE's ongoing work. Kate Pfizenmaier is continuing to provide essential staff support and a vital link to our partner, UW Global Health. I will continue to be involved as a SCOPE board member.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for being part of the SCOPE family – for supporting our work, our fellows, our community. We look forward to 2017-2018 as we continue to advance our mission of bridging medical and faith communities to improve health for the most vulnerable through innovative partnership, leadership development, and measured impact.

Warmest regards,



Nancy Andrews



**Left:** David Brenner, JD, SCOPE Board Chair-Elect

**Right:** Nancy Andrews, MS, SCOPE Board Chair and Founder

# ABOUT SCOPE

SCOPE UNITES MEDICAL AND FAITH COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE THROUGH INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND MEASURED IMPACT.

SCOPE envisions a world where trusted faith leaders serve as health advocates in partnership with healthcare providers. SCOPE's programs empower religious leaders to be health advocates in their communities by training them to talk about pressing health issues with their parishioners and neighbors. Our programs address social and cultural barriers to healthcare including stigma, lack of education, and traditional healing practices that are sometimes used instead of modern medicine. SCOPE encourages religious leaders to continue their faith practices while also endorsing modern health practices, which are proven to save lives. SCOPE programs are defined by their link to local health systems and by graduate student fellows from the University of Washington and the University of Gondar who provide technical support. Current SCOPE programs focus on two intersecting domains: HIV/AIDS and maternal health.

This year, SCOPE held a strategic retreat to define our distinct features as an organization, the strength of our partnerships, and how we will know when our work is done. As we look to the future, we are excited to share our strategies, rooted in SCOPE's history, that will take us into the next phase of SCOPE.

SCOPE's strategies:



## STRATEGY

### HARNESS TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AT UNIVERSITIES

Generate evidence on best practices for mobilizing faith communities to improve health

Provide technical support in taking effective models to scale

Cultivate future global health leaders through experiential learning opportunities at the University of Washington and University of Gondar

#### DESIRED OUTCOMES

Evidence-based practices for working with faith communities to improve health

Best practices disseminated and adopted by governments and NGOs across the globe

SCOPE student trainees contribute to Global Health efforts throughout their careers.



## STRATEGY

### ENGAGE FAITH LEADERS AND LEVERAGE SOCIAL NETWORKS FOR HEALTH

Educate religious leaders on woman and child health

Engage religious communities in solving local health crisis

Train faith leaders to promote healthy behaviors and reduce harmful traditional practices

#### DESIRED OUTCOMES

Increased access to maternal child health services

Reduced stigma around women's health issues, including HIV, to reduce cultural barriers to seeking care

Empowered women and mothers who take charge of their own and their children's health



## STRATEGY

### PROMOTE DIALOGUE BETWEEN HEALTH SYSTEMS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

Foster partnership between large faith and health institutions

Facilitate collaboration between community health workers and religious leaders at a local level

#### DESIRED OUTCOMES

Sustainable collaborations between medical and faith communities

Serve as a catalyst for reaching last mile communities with proven health interventions through faith networks



## IMPACT:

Improved health for families, especially mothers and children

# FAITH LEADERS ADVOCATING FOR MATERNAL EMPOWERMENT (FLAME)



**Top left:** Priests from a SCOPE pilot site participate in training; **Top center:** FLAME staff member pilots a survey at an Ethiopian Orthodox church after service; **Top Right:** Adino Tesfahun, FLAME Study Manager poses with two girls after church; **Bottom Left:** FLAME study staff and SCOPE fellow Ke Pan pose for a photo at the University of Gondar; **Bottom center:** Worshipers at an Ethiopian Orthodox Church; **Bottom Right:** Healthy babies delivered at the Aymba clinic.

SCOPE received a grant in 2016 to test an intervention designed to bring communities together to prevent maternal and neonatal death called Faith Leaders Advocating for Maternal Empowerment, or FLAME. The program responds to the large need to increase the number of women who get medical care during pregnancy and delivery in Ethiopia. Only 27.7% of women in Ethiopia give birth with the aid of a skilled provider and women have a 1 in 64 lifetime risk of dying during childbirth. In North Gondar, a region characterized by the ancient religious tradition of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, SCOPE believes trusted faith leaders have a role to play in changing community norms toward helping women have safe pregnancies and deliveries.

The two-year FLAME study will inform and test a SCOPE maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) outreach intervention pairing Orthodox priests with community health workers at six Health Centers in the North Gondar region. The study team will compare Health Centers who complete the program to control sites that do not receive the intervention. This comparison will provide evidence on how successful SCOPE's intervention is at increasing the number of women seeking antenatal and delivery services at government Health Centers. Dr. Getahun Asres, the FLAME Principal Investigator, formed the FLAME team this year and they have been hard at work developing tools for SCOPE's outreach intervention. These tools will help us understand women's behaviors and preferences around childbirth, assess Health Center readiness to participate in the program, and incorporate perspectives from male partners, religious leaders, and health workers. In addition, the study team worked closely with partners-the Zonal Health Office, Amhara Regional Health Bureau, Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health and the North Gondar Diocese- to map out a plan for completing the training and outreach intervention in rural Gondar communities and to keep all partners informed. We are extremely grateful for the support of our partners and their contributions to this study. Our work would not be possible without them.

Over the next few months the FLAME team will complete and analyze preliminary data. We look forward to sharing findings from the preliminary phase with you and informing you of how this data will be used to better serve women and their children living in the North Gondar region.



# SCOPE STORIES

SCOPE fellows and staff are sharing their stories and the stories of trainees and program beneficiaries on our new blog. You can follow their journeys at [www.scopestories.wordpress.com](http://www.scopestories.wordpress.com). We are extremely grateful to all of our Ethiopian partners who have allowed us to share their experiences of faith, medicine, and access to healthcare. We'd like to share two stories with you of women touched by the SCOPE program:

## GEBEYANESH'S STORY

Gebeyanesh is a SCOPE Maternal Health Advocate who was trained at SCOPE's Aymba site last year. She is a member of the Health Development Army (HDA), an all female group of community health volunteers who have worked in the Aymba community since 1994 to provide health services and assist with health campaigns. She is highly motivated to support pregnant women throughout pregnancy, birth, and motherhood because she has watched as family members and colleagues die due to preventable complications during childbirth. She shared the story of her aunt who delivered at home and, when complications arose, was not immediately taken to receive care. Sadly, she died four days after delivery leaving behind her newborn baby. However, thanks to SCOPE's advocacy efforts, now more women in Aymba are willing to visit the health center.



Gebeyanesh is very grateful for SCOPE's support and program activities. She says her community has suffered from maternal deaths for many years leaving children without a mother. She hopes the SCOPE program continues and expands its outreach efforts.

## TIGIST'S STORY

"[Without interaction with SCOPE] I would have been very critically ill... because especially, around the date of my birth I was very sick, and their support was great- great for me to have a healthy baby and be healthy myself." - Tigist

Tigist is a mother who benefited from SCOPE's outreach efforts. When she was 3 months pregnant with her third child, a trained SCOPE pair (Gebeyanesh and a priest) met her on a home visit. They encouraged her to receive antenatal care (ANC) and continued to support her throughout her pregnancy. Tigist received ANC and delivered her child at the Aymba health center. Tigist developed a severe kidney infection while giving birth but, thankfully, she had chosen to deliver her child at the Aymba health center where she received immediate treatment and was able to recover quickly. Without this medical treatment and support, Tigist said she would have become critically ill. When our staff met with her, she brought her newborn daughter with her to the interview. She slept quietly on her mother's back. Tigist wanted to tell SCOPE supporters that she is grateful for the outreach and the advice she received from the HDA member and priest as part of their work with SCOPE. She believes it saved her life.



# SCOPE'S NEW FACES

This year SCOPE welcomed many new faces to the team! Thanks to your support we were able to send four graduate student fellows from the University of Washington to contribute to the FLAME study in different capacities.

## SCOPE FELLOWS

SCOPE's programs and research are supported by graduate student fellows from the University of Gondar and the University of Washington. Experienced global health leaders are essential for improved health in resource limited settings and SCOPE's 3-6 month graduate student fellowships provide a hands-on experience for students interested in global health leadership. SCOPE has supported 24 fellows since it began its graduate student fellowship program in 2011: eighteen from the University of Washington and six from the University of Gondar.

SCOPE fellows come from diverse backgrounds and disciplines- public health, medicine, social work, public policy, and nursing- to work on SCOPE community service and research projects. Today, SCOPE fellows are public health and global health leaders in the United States and around the world with fellows working as faculty, research fellows, clinicians, and program managers at organizations like the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), University of Nagasaki, Australian National University and the University of Washington.

### Meet our 2016-2017 Fellows:



**Elizabeth Karman (June 2017-December 2017)**- Elizabeth Karman is an MPH student in the department of Global Health. She previously attended the University of Washington School of Nursing and graduated with a BSN. After working for several years as a bedside nurse, Elizabeth served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Malawi, where she worked with her community to develop adolescent health education interventions. Upon returning to the US, Elizabeth worked in the field of clinical research, as the nurse manager of a non-profit clinical research center. Elizabeth's research interests are centered on adolescent and maternal health education and access to care in low resource settings. A board member of her local church, Elizabeth is deeply committed to finding sustainable ways of integrating local faith traditions and evidence-based health interventions. Elizabeth is currently in Gondar, Ethiopia completing her SCOPE fellowship where she is providing technical assistance to the FLAME team on implementing facility assessments and surveys with women to understand their behaviors and preferences around childbirth.



**Sheldon Halsted (June 2017-December 2017)** - Sheldon graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University where she studied Psychology and Education. After graduating from Georgetown, Sheldon moved to South Africa where she worked for Grassroot Soccer, a non-profit HIV organization. When she returned to the U.S. Sheldon worked as a Fundraising Associate for a nonprofit organization that supports an all-girls boarding school in Kenya. She recently completed her first year of the MPH program in the Department of Global Health at UW. Outside the classroom, Sheldon worked with I-TECH to support the Haiti team in their clinical mentoring evaluation to assess whether the program has contributed to improvements in quality of HIV/AIDS care. Sheldon is currently in Ethiopia completing her SCOPE fellowship. She is working with the University of Gondar study team to develop, implement, and analyze focus group discussions for FLAME. With a background in HIV/AIDS care and strong belief in the power of community based partnerships, Sheldon is utilizing her skill set to strengthen communication and collaboration between the faith-based and medical communities.





**Ke Pan (March 2017-June 2017)**- Ke Pan is an MPH student in the Department of Global Health at UW. She received her BA in Public Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) and graduated from medical school in Third Military Medical University in China. Prior to coming to UW, she worked as a resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and conducted research about the quality of women's life after surgery for Pelvic Organ Prolapse. She aspires to work on issues facing women during pregnancy around the world, especially in Africa. Ke completed her fellowship in Gondar providing technical support for survey coding and development in ODK, a data platform that allows the FLAME study team to collect data on tablets- even in areas with no internet connection. Ke is deeply interested in improving global health disparities of women and children through education, awareness, and access to healthcare. In fall 2017 she will join the National health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China in the Global Health office as an intern, a role she believes was made possible by her SCOPE fellowship experience.



**Sharon Kunin Brown (April 2017)** While she was a SCOPE fellow, Sharon was a Global Health Fellow in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington. Her passion for global health was ignited at the Harvard School of Public Health where she studied maternal and child health, health policy, and international health. She aspires to deliver innovative health interventions using low-cost solutions to make a positive and long- lasting impact. Sharon worked with our University of Gondar FLAME team and collaborators at UW to develop a facility assessment tool and strategy for implementation. Data from the facility assessment will be used to determine what communities participate in the FLAME study.

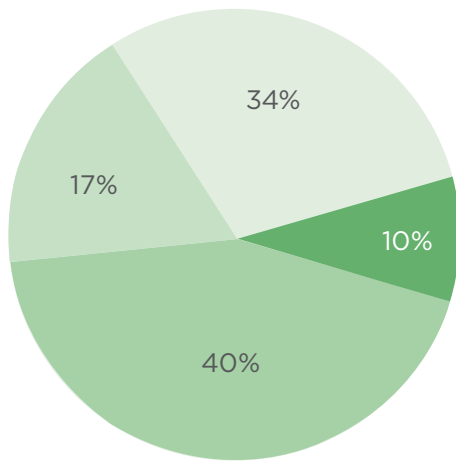
In addition to our fellows, SCOPE also added several staff members to the FLAME team in Gondar including six data collectors, two statisticians, and a study manager. The dynamic FLAME team at the University of Gondar aims to enhance their engagement in research. The study grant provided several training opportunities to help the team reach its goal including exposure to new data collection and database technologies, implementation science training, and focused mentorship from experts in the field. We also brought a UW faculty member in Global Health and Epidemiology on board to provide technical assistance in research methods. Meet SCOPE's new team members below:



**Left:** Dr. Brandon Guthrie, technical advisor to the FLAME study; **Center:** Adino Tesfahun, FLAME Study Manager  
**Right:** FLAME data collectors at a survey site

# OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

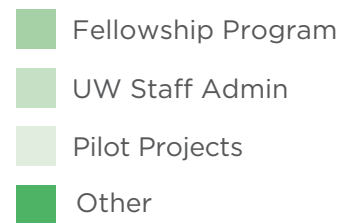
This year SCOPE had an annual budget of \$51,838 with many of our programmatic costs shifting to the University of Gondar through the Faith Leaders Advocating for Maternal Empowerment (FLAME) award. With the support of our generous donors we funded four extraordinary fellows from the University of Washington that lent their expertise and time to the FLAME study. In addition, SCOPE provided program funds to wrap up our Beruh Tesfa pilot sites at Aymba and Tседа and continue testing and trainings at three holy water sites. SCOPE raised \$56,806 from private supporters to bolster our fellowship programs and pilot studies in addition to securing \$169,596 in grant funding from NAS, USAID, and Seattle Rotary Foundation to support our University of Gondar partners in validating a SCOPE pilot study. Below is a visual representation of how SCOPE stewarded funds to improve health in Gondar, Ethiopia in 2016-2017. Please note that programmatic grant funds expended through the University of Gondar are not included in these figures. As a result, administrative costs at the University of Washington to support the validation study appear disproportionately high.



## SCOPE Expenses FY17

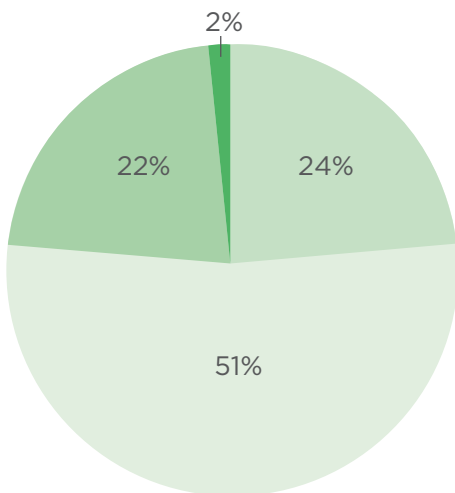
(Does not include grant expenditures at the University of Gondar)

Total: \$51,838



## SCOPE Income FY17

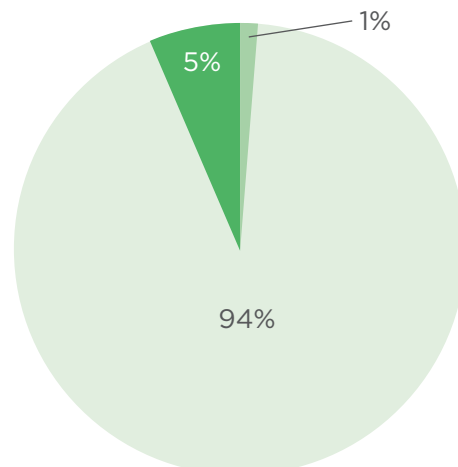
Total: \$51,767



## Restricted Grant Revenue

(Made to SCOPE partners at the University of Gondar)

Total: \$169,596



# PARTNERSHIP

For the past eight years SCOPE has been defined by its unique partnerships between academic institutions and faith-based congregations in Seattle and Ethiopia. We are very grateful for opportunities in the last year to deepen these partnerships, especially with our founding institutions: The University of Washington, University of Gondar, Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and University Presbyterian Church.

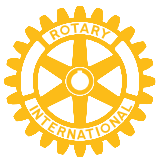
In 2016-2017 SCOPE was very pleased to form new partnerships with four organizations who contributed to SCOPE's various projects:



**St. Joseph Parish** - The Faith Justice Commission approved pilot participation in SCOPE, and several parishioners stepped forward to contribute the resources necessary for the parish to support UW SCOPE graduate student fellowships in Gondar, Ethiopia.



**Partnership for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)** - SCOPE's University of Gondar partners were awarded a grant this year to validate a SCOPE maternal health pilot project the team has named FLAME. The award was funded by USAID and the National Academy of Science.



**Rotary International** - Our new partners at Seattle Rotary Foundation and Gondar Rotary made a gift to support our University of Gondar partners with the FLAME award providing funds to support a graduate student fellow who will specialize in data collection.





# LEADERSHIP



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# LEADERSHIP

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"I feel proud and very happy because I am supporting mothers and helping them to deliver at the health center, and to be healthy, and to have a healthy child."

- Gebeyanesh, SCOPE trainee



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