

## Seeing the Unseen: Improving access to abortion care in humanitarian settings, Ethiopia

This research project aims to evaluate the implementation of person-centered comprehensive abortion care (CAC) among internally displaced women in Ethiopia. It will explore the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs and preferences of IDW; measure the impact of person-centered midwifery-led CAC on experience of care and autonomy, clinical outcomes, contraceptive utilization, and cost-effectiveness; and explore barriers and opportunities for implementation.

### Background

Internally displaced women are especially marginalized and vulnerable to poor access to contraceptives, unintended pregnancies, and subsequent unsafe abortion. A person-centered care approach is critical to delivering high-quality reproductive health services.

In Ethiopia, there is potential for significant humanitarian impact if the health system is supported to provide person-centered comprehensive abortion care. However, evidence is needed to inform feasible and sustainable implementation.

### Expected outcomes

This study aims to influence the uptake of evidence-based abortion care in war-affected areas, so that women and girls affected by the civil war affected region can access cost-effective quality, person-centered comprehensive abortion care. The study will deliver:

- Evidence which supports policymakers to understand reproductive needs and preferences of internally displaced women in the community.
- Evidence to guide midwifery policy and practices and inform effective, cost-effective and sustainable implementation.
- Increased visibility and credibility of the midwifery profession as providers of person-centered CAC.
- The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health and humanitarian partners will support and empower midwives to function within their scope of practice in abortion care.

### About the research

- The research project will employ mixed methods and entail three concurrent studies in seven war-affected administrative zones of the Amhara region.
- The research team will produce a policy brief and publish articles.
- The project will run from July 23 - October 24.



*Midwives providing health education on sexual and reproductive health for internally displaced women in war-affected areas of Amhara region, Ethiopia. Credit: Ethiopian Midwives Association*

### About the research team

The study is a transnational research practice partnership, led by Dr. Tewodros Seyoum (RM, Ph.D. Postdoctoral Researcher), University of Gondar (Principal Investigator) and Prof. Marie Klingberg Allvin (RN, RM, Ph.D.), Karolinska Institutet (Co-Principal Investigator). Partners include the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health, IPAS, UNFPA and the Ethiopian Midwives Association.

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