

Examining Perspectives of Healthcare Workers Concerning Medical Equipment Availability in Three Ethiopian Hospitals: A Qualitative Pilot Study

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Background

Hospitals in the United States often have an abundance of unused medical supplies and equipment while many developing countries are in considerable need of these resources. Many nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have donated medical equipment to health centers in low-resource settings to rectify this issue; however, studies show many of these donations are not usable by the facilities that receive them.

The objective was to better serve the partner hospitals of our NGO, Oasis Medical Relief (OMR), we investigated the perspectives and insights of Ethiopian healthcare workers (HCWs) on the medical equipment distribution paradigm of the nation.

Community Partner

- Community Partner: Nifas Silke Lafto Sub-City Worede 12 Health Center
- Mission: To improve patient outcomes and promote health education in urban Ethiopia
- Program Areas: Mother-Child Health, Public Health

Project Description

Examine the current perspectives of healthcare workers of the medical distribution paradigm in Ethiopia.

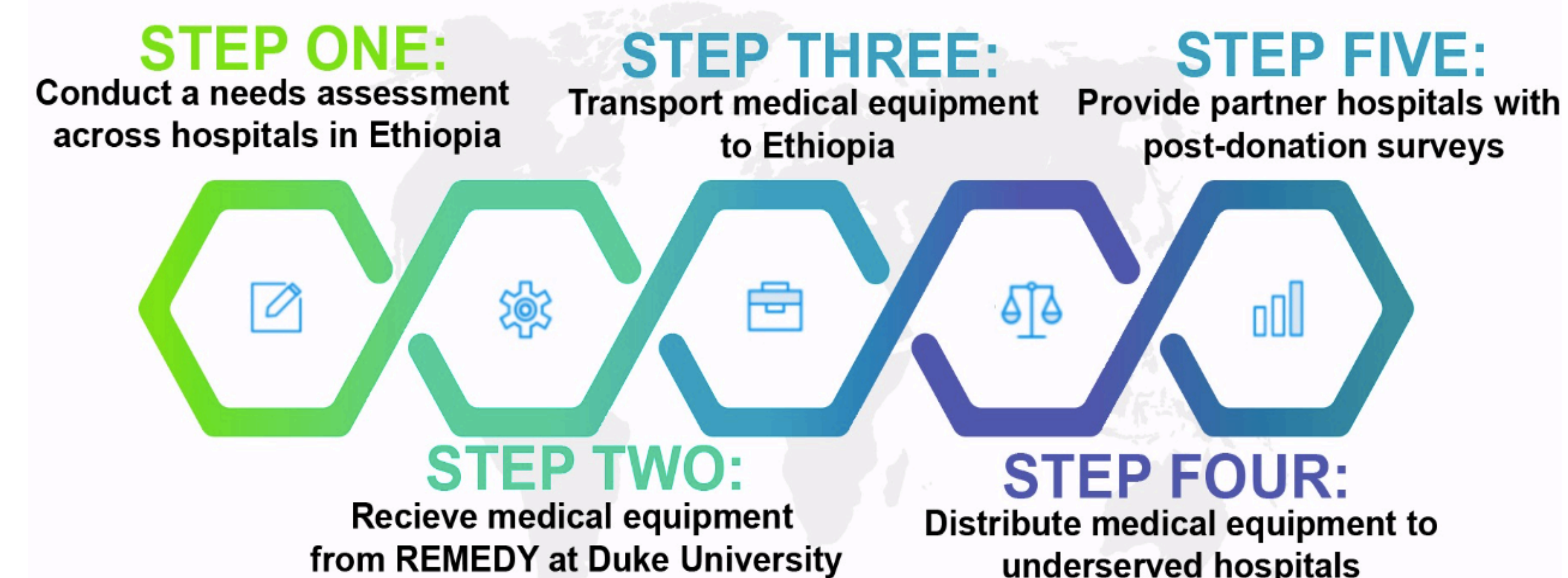
Methods

Semi-structured, open-ended interviews (n=six) with healthcare professionals (four physicians and two hospital administrators) working in hospitals in Addis Ababa and SNNPR region of Ethiopia were utilized. Interviews were recorded and transcribed. Categorical content analysis was utilized to develop themes.

TABLE 1. Demographics of Healthcare Workers

Participant ID	Sex	Position	Areas Served
001	Female	Physician	Addis Ababa
002	Female	Physician	SNNPR
003	Male	Physician	SNNPR
004	Male	Medical Director	SNNPR
005	Male	Finance Administrator	SNNPR
006	Male	Physician	Addis Ababa

APPENDIX A. Oasis Medical Relief Distribution Schema



Outcomes

Three themes related to perspectives and insights of HCWs on the current medical equipment distribution paradigm in Ethiopia interviewed include: 1) state of healthcare concerns, 2) medical equipment scarcity, 3) policy shaping medical distribution paradigm.

Lessons Learned

Pre-donation assessments utilized to understand equipment needs is a recognized process by the World Health Organization to more effectively address medical equipment/supply. However, to further strengthen such efforts, qualitative interviews with HCWs are a tool that can be utilized to promote greater understanding that enhances a more effective partnership between NGOs and their partner hospitals. Furthermore, increasing decentralized methods of procuring medical equipment should be further explored to mitigate issues with national distribution of medical supplies.

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