RUTGERS HEALTH
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Ophthalmologic Care in Ethiopia

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Trip Goals

- To observe and assist in ophthalmologic care in resource limited settings
- Identify challenges and barriers to care in Ethiopia

Ethiopia Background

- National Language: Amharic
- GDP/capita: $1,070 (USA $86,000)
- Only has 1 ophthalmologist for every 700,000 people (versus USA has 1:18000)

VisionCare Background

- 1.1 billion people live with vision loss
- 90% of all cases of blindness are preventable/treatable
- Work to deliver free sight restoring treatment and strengthen local healthcare systems
- Program Goals: Perform cataract surgeries and train local ophthalmologists







Conclusion

- Organizations like VisionCare create sustainable models that empower local providers through mentorship
- Global health initiatives can have lasting effects when they prioritize education, infrastructure, and continuity of care
- Plan to do another global health initiative in the future

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