



## Gambella Medical School

•Disclaimers: Barry Bacon MD, Gatbel Chamjock PA, Yohanes Tot PA, Yien Duoth M Sc & Eng, Andrew Dolfie PA and Gabriel Wakow PharmD have no commercial relationships to disclose.

4

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS



Health Equity through Medical Education: The  
Gambella Medical School Story

Presenters/Authors: Barry Bacon, Gatbel Chamjock,  
Yohanes Tot, Yien Duoth, Gatluak Wakow, Andrew  
Dolfie

## GMS: Introduction

Barry Bacon MD  
Gatbel Chamjock PA  
Yohanes Tot PA  
Yien Duoth M Sc & Eng  
Andrew Dolfie PA  
Gatluak (Gabe) Wakow PharmD

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

© 2018 American Academy of Family Physicians. All rights reserved.

All materials/content herein are protected by copyright and are for the sole, personal use of the user.

No part of the materials/content may be copied, duplicated, distributed or retransmitted  
in any form or medium without the prior permission of the applicable copyright owner.

3

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Health Equity through Medical Education

Teaching objectives:

At the end of this session the learner will be able to:

Personally define health equity  
Describe what each is committed to doing in their practice and life to  
improve health equity for the world  
Advocate for locally accessible medical education in health disparate  
regions of the world.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

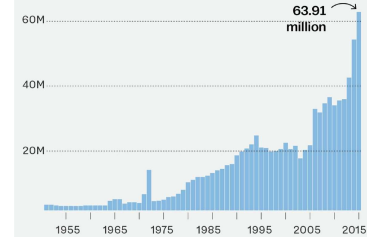
## Health Equity: Definition

How would you define health equity?  
Why does it matter to you?

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

### The refugee crisis is at historic proportions

Persons of concern, including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and others



Source: UNHCR

Vox

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Health Equity: Numbers that matter

Refugee crisis  
Refugee education access

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## GMS: Refugees continued

We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record.

An unprecedented **70.8 million** people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly **25.9 million refugees**, over half of whom are **under the age of 18**.

**There are also millions of stateless people** who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

UNHCR

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## GMS: The State of Refugee Health and Education

As of 2017, 65.6 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide because of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations, per the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of these, 5.4 million were Palestinian refugees, which are not under UNHCR but under UNRWA's mandate.

**Middle East and North Africa:** 2.739 million

**Africa:** 4.413 million

**Asia and the Pacific:** 3.830 million

**Europe:** 4.391 million

[Refugee crisis - Wikipedia](#)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## GMS: Refugee Camps

97% of refugees never make it out

Average length of stay in refugee camp is 17 years (UNHCR 2004)

1% of refugees have access to higher education vs 32% of non refugees UNHCR's goal is 15% access by 2030 (UNHCR)

Higher education opportunities exist for refugees in host countries (Idaho/Germany)

Higher education opportunities for refugees in origin countries are rare and limited (Kakuma camp 47/150,000)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS



13

PHYSICIANS

## GMS: Background

2013 trip to Gambella: An encounter with one patient

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Health Equity: The Region

Numbers that matter: the reality of health equity

- \*Brain drain
- Gambella as a hardship area
- Education access inequity
- Refugee crisis
- \*South Sudan crisis

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS



17

PHYSICIANS

## Health Equity and Medical Education

- What does health equity look like in Gambella?
- What if we could change the health outcomes for an entire region?
- What does it feel like to live where the population to physician ratio is 100,000 to 1?
- What if we invited refugees to be part of their solution?

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Health Equity: Gambella Site Visit

- We met with local, regional and national leadership
- We visited local university, hospital and health center
- We traveled to remote rural health center and school
- We identified like minded partners

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Gambella Site Visit: Findings

Turnover of staff at hospital is dramatic  
 MSF has expanded their services at the hospital  
 Tribal conflicts common in region  
 Significant population shifts across the border  
 Ethiopian leadership supportive of refugee inclusion  
 Local leadership willing to provide site for teaching hospital

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS



22

PHYSICIANS



23

FAMILY PHYSICIANS



24

FAMILY PHYSICIANS







## Gambella Med School: Challenges

US partnerships  
Infrastructure  
Distractions  
Regional instability

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS



## Gambella Med School: Strengths

US Med School Partnership  
GMTC  
Core Faculty Development  
Curriculum development

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Gambella Site Visit: Summary

Findings:  
Hospital  
Health Center  
University  
Leadership support  
MSF and other potential partners  
Community health  
Infrastructure  
Need

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Gambella Med School: Next Steps

Faculty development  
Partnership development  
Supplemental faculty identification  
Conversations with Campbell leadership  
Launch the medical school

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Gambella Med School: Summary

- Unique med school
- Inclusion of local students and refugees
- Healing process
- Peace initiative
- Partnership with service minded US med school
- Core faculty are diaspora

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Gambella Med School: Discussion/questions

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS