

## JIMMA UNIVERSITY (JU): THE PROPOSED COLLABORATION

### **Development of nutrition intervention strategies to improve child survival, growth and development**

#### **CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROJECT TEAM**

#### ***Fact sheet***

---

<b>Project leader:</b>	Habtamu Fekadu (MD), Assistant Professor, Head of Department of Paediatrics and Child Health (Faculty of Medical Sciences).
<b>Faculties involved:</b>	Faculty of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Public Health, Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Education.
<b>Project capacity:</b>	4 senior and 7 junior staff members would be involved. Some team members are already involved in international projects (Brown University (USA), Munich Maximillan University and Menschen fur Menschen (Germany) and The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University of Denmark, Department of Human Nutrition (Denmark).
<b>Core needs/problems:</b>	Lack of basic and applied research in nutrition because of lack of laboratory capacity, limited funding, committed partner in the area of nutrition, and trained manpower at PhD level in child health and nutrition areas.

#### ***Specific objectives of the project***

- 
1. Generate baseline and longitudinal data on child growth and development dynamics.
  2. Decrease the rate of LBW by 20% by the end of the fifth year by implementing nutritional approaches around Gilgel Gibe Hydroelectric dam.
  3. Decrease infant and child mortality from common childhood infections by 25% through improvement of nutrition.
  4. Develop locally appropriate nutritional interventions for the management of malnutrition.
  5. Develop and test nutritional intervention strategies that address women's nutrition.
  6. Develop human and physical capacity of Jimma University for nutrition research.

#### ***An opportunity to collaborate***

##### ***General notions:***

As this is a community-based and multidisciplinary project, it creates the opportunity for other technical and administrative staff members, local community health promoters and the community to participate and enhance their capacity. Student research projects both in undergraduate and graduate levels will be integrated into the project area. It helps to understand the nutritional problems and dynamics and develop locally appropriate interventions. The project gives the opportunity for the Flemish MSc and doctoral students to do their research or share experience in short term visits. The Flemish experts participate in advising the research projects and mentor the MSc and doctoral students. Bilateral exchange and sharing of academic, cultural, and social values strengthen the North-South Link

##### ***Expertise required:***

<b>Specialisation:</b>	Paediatrician and nutritionist with research experience in the area of child health and applied nutrition. Food technologist and a professional with experience in food based interventions and food security.
<b>Critical capacities:</b>	Laboratory equipments, PhD training and building research capacity. There is also a need to strengthen the laboratory with well trained technicians who can be instrumental in the process of doing interventional studies for the project.
<b>Nature of collaboration:</b>	The project needs a food technologist for a specific period and on a remote support basis. We need a supervision support of the research projects biannually as well as on a remote support and short term trainings to improve the research capacity of the group members.