



STRONG MIDWIVES THRIVING COMMUNITIES

GreenLamp
Impact Report
2012-2025



GREENLAMP
A bright future for women and girls

AWARENESS



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**Your donation
in good hands.**

Inspiration & Motivation

We believe that strong and sustainable communities are built when all members and stakeholders have equal access to the rights and resources they need to flourish. Unfortunately, despite progress in recent years, many women are still only marginally better off in terms of equality in education, health, and employment opportunities.

Access to education is challenging for rural Ethiopian women. For those who manage to receive midwifery training, the lack of equipment in rural health centers makes it difficult to put their knowledge and skills to good use and maximize their impact for communities.

Midwives are pillars of society and can play a strong leadership role in rural and underserved communities as well as being skilled and compassionate caregivers. Often the most educated people in their community, their impact is broad and profound, yet their role is extremely challenging due to cultural traditions and resource constraints.

With generous and consistent support from our donors, partners and volunteers, we are taking a holistic approach to enable young women in rural Ethiopia to be change-makers in society.

We are deeply grateful for your support; together we are making a sustainable impact.

Sincerely,

The GreenLamp Board 2025

Joanna Boyd, Valéria Akroyd, Anna Roos Broekhuijsen, Hellen Hipsag, Lindsay Beardsworth, Marion Struber



Vision & Mission

Vision

A bright future for women and their communities.

Mission

We initiate and support projects with local partners to create equal opportunities for women.

We provide midwifery scholarships to young Ethiopian women, sustainable solar systems for rural health centers, leadership training and career opportunities through our holistic community program and strategic pillars Learn, Light & Lead.



"Many thanks for this solar system. Before we had to give birth in darkness. But now our problem is solved. God bless your organisation! We are so happy with the solar. I hope it can continue. Not only the solar but also you visiting us, as everyone forgets about us."

Mother in SNNP Region

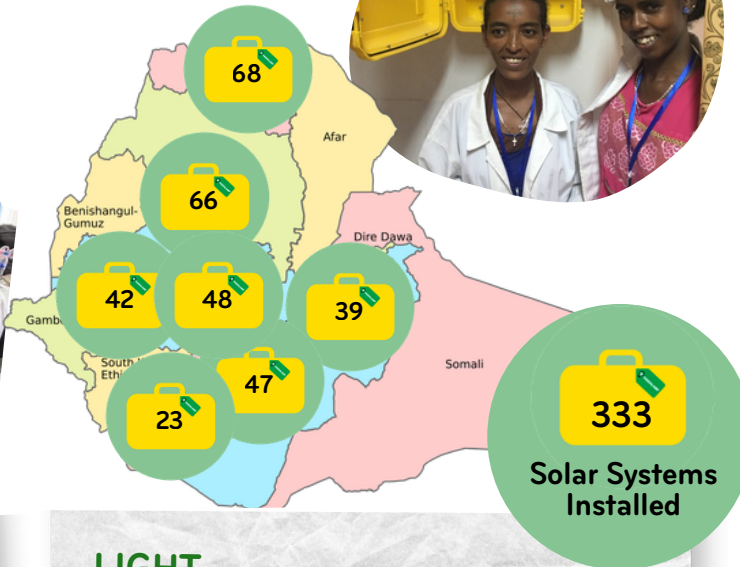
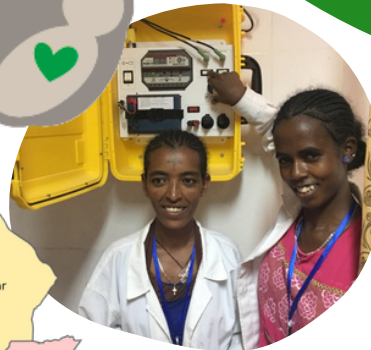
Impact & Reach

2012-2025

84
Midwifery
Scholarships



~1.7 million*
deliveries in
rural Ethiopia
using our
solar
systems



333
Solar Systems
Installed

Since 2012, around 2.3** million women in rural Ethiopia had access to quality maternal health care with a skilled and compassionate midwife and solar lighting through GreenLamp's three connected pillars

LEARN | LIGHT | LEAD

Alumni
Network of
> 300
Hamlin
Midwives



LEARN

Competent & Compassionate Midwives, Maternal Health Care Excellence

84 young women have or are receiving a GreenLamp-sponsored education at a high-quality Ethiopian midwifery college, graduating with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Midwifery.

272 midwifery students have participated in GreenLamp's Leadership and Communication skill building course which emphasizes the Hamlin compassionate care model.

With an increased number of qualified midwives there is a direct and profound impact on the quality of service delivery and access to maternal health in rural areas.

LIGHT

Light for Life Solar Program, Key enabler for Quality Care

Since 2014, GreenLamp has funded 333 solar systems with lights and solar fridges in maternity wards of rural health centres. Regular user training and lithium-ion batteries mean they require minimal maintenance and our 24/7 Troubleshooting Service ensures "the lights stay on for mothers and midwives" at all times.

These solar systems fulfill a crucial role, providing light for over 1.7 million deliveries and assisting midwives in the prevention of birth injuries and deaths. The systems improve the working conditions for midwives, create a safer birthing environment for mothers, and facilitate referrals of high-risk pregnancies to primary hospitals.

LEAD

Alumni Network & Professional Development, Midwives as Community Role Models

In 2018 GreenLamp initiated the Hamlin Midwives Alumni Network (HMAN). To date more than 300 midwives are members of HMAN across eight regions in rural Ethiopia. HMAN is owned and run by midwives and provides a crucial channel for them to connect, learn, share, develop, and find their Voice.

By listening to the working midwives' voices and needs, GreenLamp has sponsored several professional skills training courses and mentorship training. As confident leaders these highly skilled midwives then support and build up the capabilities of their colleagues in rural health centres. As strong role models and professionals, they improve the quality of maternal health services and foster thriving communities.

*94 births per health centre/month facilitated by solar light 2014 - 2025 (data collected from GreenLamp contact with health centres)
**Women of reproductive age constitute about 23% of the population and nearly 80% of Ethiopians live in rural areas. (WHO, 2025)

Context

IMPACT WHERE IT MATTERS MOST

Rural Ethiopia faces significant unmet needs in maternal health, education, and economic opportunity. With a population of over 130 million, Ethiopia has approximately 1.2 nurses and midwives per 1,000 people, compared to 18.8 in Switzerland (World Bank, 2022). Since 2012, the maternal mortality ratio has declined substantially - from 545 to 195 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2023 (UNICEF/World Bank, 2023). However, this remains far higher than Switzerland, where maternal mortality is approximately 5–7 per 100,000 live births (OECD, 2025).

In rural areas, this figure rises to around 350 deaths per 100,000 live births (UNFPA, 2024). Infant mortality (IMR) declined from 49/1'000 live births to 29.9 in 2026*- compared with 3.8 to 3 in Switzerland. Midwives are crucial in preventing maternal and infant morbidity (injuries) and deaths, reducing the incidence of harmful traditional practices, e.g. female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage. They provide family planning services and birth control, enabling rural women to make informed decisions about spacing pregnancies and the size of their families.

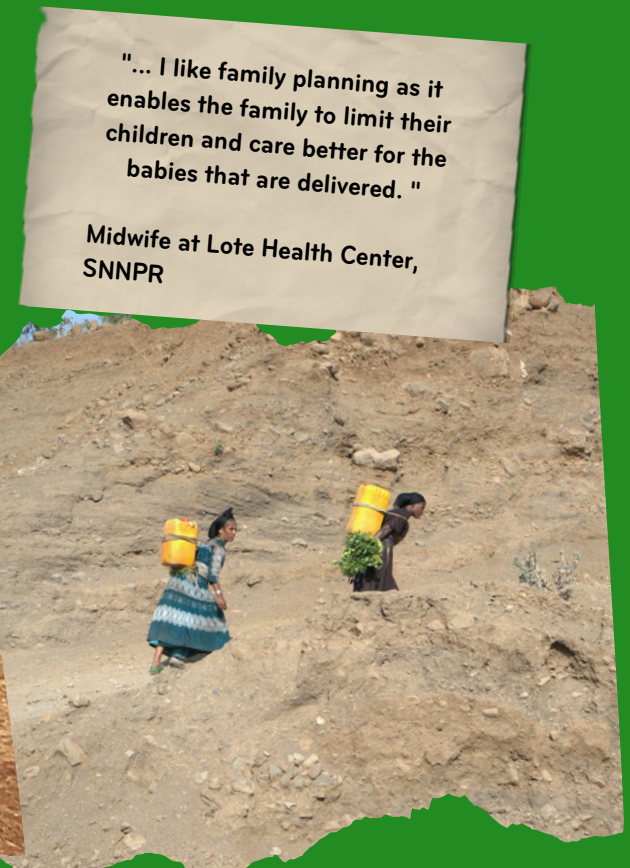
*<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/eth#goal-3>

OVERCOMING RESISTANCE WITH COMPASSIONATE CARE

Many rural women lack trust in health institutions and do not feel adequately cared for. They still prefer to deliver at home surrounded by family members despite the higher risk for both mother and child.

GreenLamp regularly engages with women and midwives in the field to better understand why and their needs. We collaborate with local partners to develop sustainable solutions at health centre level.

Our emphasis on educating more midwives and encouraging compassionate care in a well-equipped maternity ward encourages mothers to use professional maternal health care services.



Approach

GreenLamp's strategy is based on a sustainable, holistic approach targeting long-term impact for women's futures. Our approach is aligned with five of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GreenLamp has defined three strategic program pillars: Learn, Light & Lead:



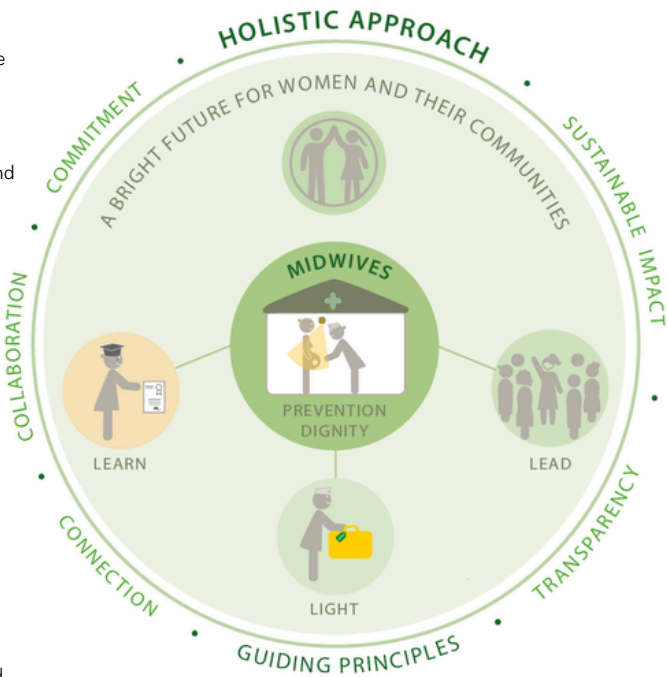
Skilled and compassionate midwives help prevent maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, provide family planning and other health services



LEARN
We believe in the African saying "if you educate a woman, you educate a community!"



GreenLamp has long term partnerships, including 3 midwifery colleges, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, Solar Energy Foundation, WEEMA and > 8 Regional Health Bureaus



Our VISION
A bright future for women and their communities aligns with SDG 5 Achieve Gender Equality & empower all women and girls



LIGHT
Solar systems provide light, power and refrigeration for medications. A sustainable solution for off grid rural health centres



LEARN | Bachelor of Science in Midwifery & extracurricular skills training such as communication and leadership training and upright birthing positions.



LIGHT | Well-equipped working environment with life-saving solar lighting, fridges, and power for delivery rooms as well as maintenance and user training.



LEAD | Professional and personal development opportunities for midwifery graduates and deployed midwives, including professional skill training, alumni networks and career opportunities.

Learn

We are passionate about making an impact at a personal and a community level. By investing in a young rural woman's education, we invest in her as an individual as well as a leader of her community. As a Midwifery BSc graduate, she develops as a knowledgeable, compassionate caregiver, and brings much-needed essential skills to encourage mothers and local communities to embrace change.



Quality Midwifery Education in Ethiopia

Since the start, GreenLamp has partnered with Hamlin College of Midwives (HCM) in Addis Ababa; a college with an excellent academic reputation and high-quality resources, that recruits students from rural areas where there is the greatest need. Students graduate with a BSc in Midwifery and are trained in the game-changing compassionate care model created by HCM founder Dr. Catherine Hamlin.

Since 2022, we have also partnered and supported another college in Addis Ababa, LeDeG College of Midwifery. This college recruits students from more remote rural areas such as South Omo, Afar and Somali region. By supporting and partnering with this college we broaden our footprint and impact.

The midwives are taught by highly qualified academic staff. They acquire a robust skill set and modern delivery techniques, a dignified, women-centered approach, and are confident when tackling difficult births. Each year they practice at hospitals and health centres, and during their four year course they assist in at least 40 deliveries, often over 80.

To further diversify our impact geographically, we are supporting St Luke's College of Midwifery to achieve their certification with the Ethiopian Ministry of Education to teach BSc degree courses. Located in Wolisso, 118km southwest of Addis Ababa, students are more likely to remain working in their home region longterm.



Every midwife who graduates is gifted a rechargeable surgical headlamp - to always have light at night.



Since 2012
GreenLamp has
sponsored 84
students

We are proud of Birke Bayu, one of GreenLamp's first supported midwife BSc graduates in 2018, who graduated as best in her class with an MSc in 2025.



Learn



Interpersonal and leadership skills - essential tools for midwives in their work and as role models for rural women and girls

Empathic communication with delivering mothers is an essential quality for midwives to be able to support a smooth and relaxed birthing process.

Midwives carry out outreach work to engage with local communities to provide health education and explain about maternity services. This has a positive impact on the take-up of ante and postnatal care, prevention of harmful traditional practices, hygiene, and nutrition for mother and baby. To be successful in their outreach work, midwives need excellent communication and leadership skills.

Ten batches of final-year midwifery students have participated in our Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and Leadership training program. This training is focused on self-awareness, interpersonal skills, and confident & empathic communication - all necessary skills for midwives working in rural communities.

Piloting an AI-enabled Learning Platform

In 2025 at Hamlin College of Midwives, GreenLamp supported the pilot of an AI-enabled learning platform developed by researchers from Upleap, a start-up company from Zurich's Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH). The App - available from any mobile device - converts curriculum content into interactive learning modules.

One Hamlin student reflected:

"The Upleap application training was very beneficial for me. I experienced new and up-to-date learning methods that helped me understand more complex topics clearly."



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Further Skills Development, a direct impact on quality and personal growth

Ongoing competence-building and skills transfer are essential for sustainable change. GreenLamp has trained 272 midwifery students at HCM in various birthing techniques. This includes pelvic floor and breathing with Basic Body Awareness Training (BBAT) in collaboration with University of Lund and upright birthing positions with Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW). Both techniques are aimed at facilitating an easier, more natural birthing process for mother and baby.

At LeDeG College, GreenLamp funded the establishment of a digital library implemented in partnership with Addis Ababa University. The library provides access to over 4,000 academic books and journals and significantly strengthens both teaching capacity and independent student learning.

Light

Most rural health centres are off-grid or lack reliable electricity and cannot afford fuel for generators. The lack of reliable electricity in health centres creates situations where health workers are forced to work with often dangerous sources of light and left unable to deal effectively with emergencies. Poor lighting hampers and delays accurate diagnosis and compromises critical treatment. Working in the dark increases the risk of infections, errors, and can result in preventable deaths. This demoralizes both the health workers and their patients.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Our solar systems have benefitted >7.8 million people in rural Ethiopia and provided safer birthing conditions during >1.7 million deliveries*

Solar Systems support - a virtuous cycle

- Mothers are more confident to give birth with a compassionate experienced midwife.
- Midwives are more motivated with higher job satisfaction as they can apply their skills and knowledge more effectively especially at night.
- Obstetric emergencies and referrals are better managed thanks to phone charging capabilities.
- The new ultrasound scanning services develop trust and encourage mothers to attend health centres

Light for Life 333 solar systems installed across rural Ethiopia

In collaboration with Ethiopian partners and government health bureaus, we have installed and maintained 333 solar systems since 2012 .

- These systems support:
- Solar lamps
 - A portable surgical light
 - Rechargeable headlamps
 - Solar fridges for medication
 - Portable ultrasound charging
 - Device charging banks

Our sustainable solar solutions are essential elements in reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Combined with a qualified and confident midwife they ensure a safe and high-quality delivery environment.



Solar fridges Instant access to medications

Solar fridges provide a cold chain for oxytocin which prevents and treats postpartum hemorrhaging, a leading cause of maternal death worldwide. Installed in the delivery ward for immediate access, this initiative was highly praised by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health.

*94 births per health centre/month facilitated by solar light 2014 - 2025 (data collected from GreenLamp contact with health centres)

"When a mother gives birth in the dark, it brings difficulties for her. If the woman is in labour, with darkness plus the pain of labour, she feels fearful. Having light is very important to make the mother feel comfortable."

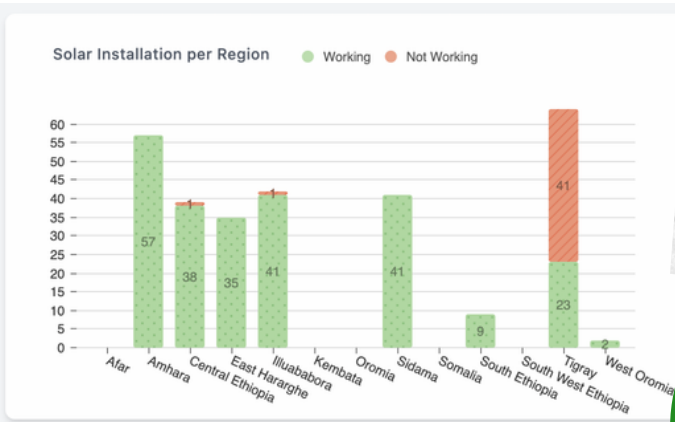
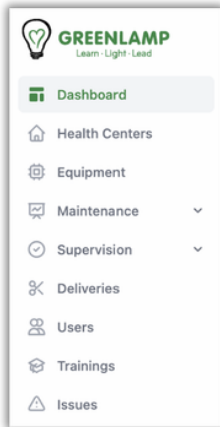
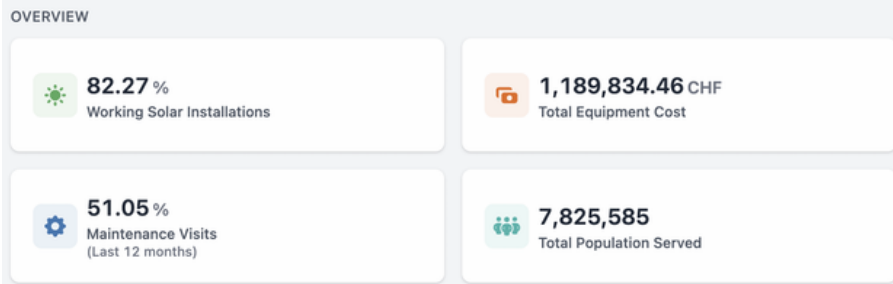
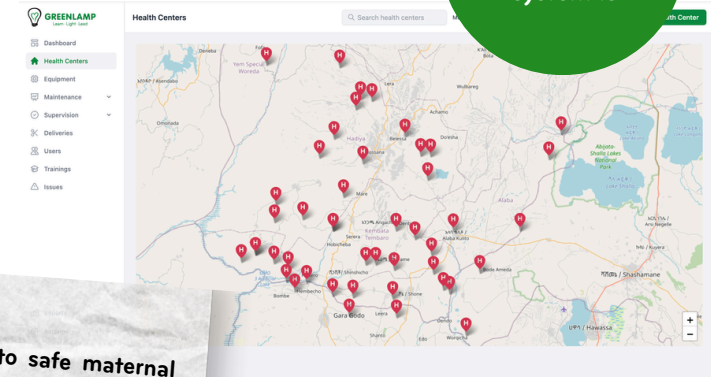
Mother in Sidama region

Light: The Sustainability Program

Solar systems need user training and maintenance, battery failure is a major challenge in rural areas. Generally, there is a lack of trained solar technicians, budget and spare parts. With our partners, we have developed the Sustainability Program to ensure the lights stay on for midwives and mothers 24/7. The program includes supervision and annual maintenance visits, spare parts, a replacement battery service and user training. The Sustainability Program Database and Dashboard (below) keeps track of all solar systems and maintenance work!



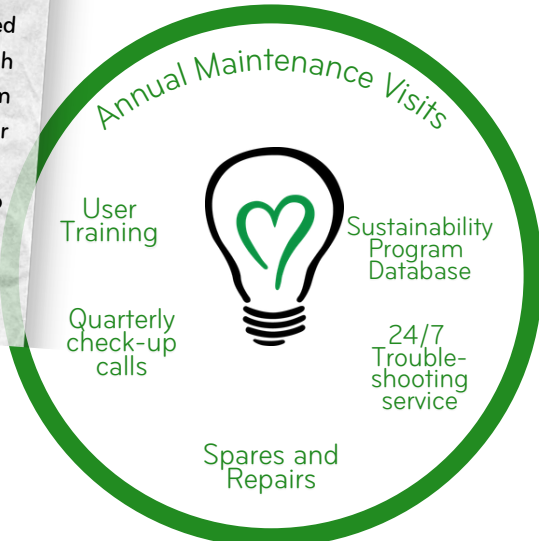
We know where every solar system is



Light 4 Life Program
Reliable solar power remains central to safe maternal healthcare in rural Ethiopia. A major priority for the Light 4 Life program in 2025 was the assessment and revitalisation of solar systems in the Tigray region following years of conflict. Technical teams from the Solar Energy Foundation, Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE) and regional health authorities assessed 26 health centres and restored functionality through battery replacement, system upgrades and full system replacement where equipment has been lost or destroyed. In total 23 health centres benefitted from upgrades to enhanced systems which include additional solar panels, larger batteries and a solar fridge.

Your support to continue further essential repairs and upgrades in Tigray is appreciated.

Keeping the Lights on 24/7



Lead



We believe in the power of young, well-educated, and compassionate women to be the inspiring leaders of tomorrow. We support midwives to become agents of change in their communities by giving them tools to use their voice and providing opportunities for them to continue their personal and professional development.

Hamlin Alumni Network - a tool created to spark peer-to-peer exchange, motivation and growth

Stationed in rural health centres, midwives often feel disconnected from fellow midwives, and left alone to handle difficult situations.

In 2018, GreenLamp initiated the Hamlin Midwives Alumni Network (HMAN) with the goal to provide a channel so Hamlin midwives can:

- Share success stories, learn from and support each other
- Enhance, refresh, and sharpen professional skills
- Discuss each midwife's longer-term career plans
- Explore how to develop and use the midwife's voice

The vital first step for HMAN was to establish networks on social media. Now Hamlin midwives can communicate easily. As well, GreenLamp has provided support and guidance to establish a sustainable and motivational meeting framework. Regular meetings provide a forum to share best practices and discuss vital improvements at the health centre level. The meetings also facilitate skills transfer, including cervical cancer screening, the use of maternal health applications, introduction to portable ultrasound, compassionate care model and refreshers in the use of solar systems.

Despite long distances to travel, the midwives are eager to participate in the meetings to get inspiration and motivation to continue their work in underserved communities. In just a few years, the midwives have taken ownership of HMAN and the regions are proud to organise their own meetings, monthly, quarterly, or annually.



"We had a great time. We were able to share our successes and experiences – the best part of the meeting. We also set our goals in future and how we will work on it."

Sister Wongel , Hamlin Midwife in West Oromia, at HMAN meeting in Metu



The HMAN Logo, designed by the midwives with the help of Anna Blecker



**Professional skills training
Continued quality improvement of maternal health care**

Professional skills training for working midwives offers a great possibility to continuously improve the quality of maternal health care. GreenLamp works diligently with all HMAN members to advocate and flag their needs. In past years HMAN teams have raised several needs and submitted high quality training proposals to GreenLamp, addressing urgent priorities in the rural maternal health care system. As an example, the East Oromia HMAN team identified a lack of knowledge and understanding about how to prevent postpartum infections. Taking action, the team submitted a training proposal to GreenLamp for Infection Prevention Training (IPT) for five local health centres. It is a fantastic initiative which promotes teamwork and emphasises the strength of HMAN and the development of the midwives' "Voice". Improving availability of ultrasound scanning services has been voiced by several HMAN teams as an urgent need with immense impact on maternal mortality and morbidity. Their voice and proposals submitted has been a key instigator for GreenLamp's Ultrasound pilot program which will be launched in 2026.

Lead

**Emergency Situations
Professional Skills Refreshment Workshop**

In rural Ethiopia, a complication during childbirth can be the difference between life and death. Often the midwives are also alone, without the right medical equipment or infrastructure. In November 2025, GreenLamp arranged and sponsored a special professional skill training workshop for 24 HMAN regional representatives and Midwife Mentors in Addis Ababa. For three intensive days our partner Midwives Without Borders taught the midwives how to deal with three acute emergencies: cramps in pre-eclampsia, postpartum bleeding and shoulder dystocia – through theory, practical training and realistically staged scenarios.

After the course, many of the midwives expressed they now feel confident, that they know how to handle these emergencies out at their health centers and are no longer afraid. As regional representatives, they will bring their training and experience to their regional teams to spread the knowledge and the opportunity to strengthen confidence. Professional training and refreshment in managing emergencies are essential for rural midwives in Ethiopia to save lives.



Holistic Community Program

The program integrates our Learn, Light & Lead components into a single, coordinated approach, developed in collaboration with GreenLamp staff and partners.

Drawing on accumulated experience, it reflects our holistic model and core values. Focusing on a single Woreda (or community) allows activities to be tailored to local needs while enabling consistent data collection & more robust assessment of impact through both qualitative and quantitative feedback.

Our first Holistic Community Program launched in 2022, has been generously funded by Ferring AG



Pregnant women waiting to undergo ultrasound scans at a health center

Ferring Holistic Community Program

Ferring AG funds the **Ferring Holistic Community Program** worth 250k CHF for health centres, solar systems, midwifery scholarships and midwife mentors.

Implemented since 2022, the Ferring-funded Holistic Community Program continued in 2025. It integrates GreenLamp's Learn, Light and Lead pillars at a community level to strengthen maternal health services in Kembata-Tembaro Zones with a population of 230,000 and consists of four components: scholarships, solar installations, healthcare renovations and a midwife mentor program over five years.

What the Program provides

The fourth year of the Holistic Program continued to fund five scholarships as LeDeG College, as well as nine health centres with three midwife mentors, solar systems, birthing beds (cots) and solar fridges in delivery wards for quick access to essential drugs. Renovated and equipped pregnant mothers waiting rooms with newly installed solar lights enable expectant mothers to stay at health centres before going into labour. This has been a huge success encouraging mothers to attend health centres to give birth.

The midwife mentors support local diploma midwives with training and coaching in compassionate care, antenatal and postnatal services. The education and outreach services include preventing harmful traditional practices (FGM) and family planning at pregnant mothers conferences in villages.

Portable Ultrasound Scanning Services

Through local partnerships two portable ultrasound machines and free scanning services are included in the program - a gamechanger, which attracts 25% more expectant mothers to attend antenatal checks. This helps to identify high-risk pregnancies for referral, and develops confidence and trust between the midwives, mothers, and their extended families, which encourages them to deliver in health centres.

Our KPI data shows that since 2022:

- **80 midwives** have been mentored
- **2,394 pregnant women** have received an ultrasound
- **243 high-risk pregnancies** have been identified and referred

Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP) Partnership

The Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP) partnership with Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Yirgalem, Sidama Region has treated over 480 neglected and untreated patients. It is an overlooked condition affecting many older women who suffer long term debilitating and painful physical injuries from multiple often unassisted childbirths. The positive feedback about the transformative benefit of these surgeries is humbling due to the happiness experienced by these women who feel they have their lives back again.



Sidama Region - Ultrasound Pilot

In 2026 we aim to initiate our Ultrasound Pilot program in the rural community of Sidama region. The pilot aims to assess the feasibility of the implementation and strengthening of basic obstetric ultrasound services in rural areas. The outcome will drive and shape potential further expansion of service implementation.



The Future

GREENLAMP.CH ●●●●●

GreenLamp is a highly efficient, remote working, open-minded and agile organization, we swiftly adapt to changing circumstances and new possibilities. We have six board members and wonderful new team members. We adopt new ideas especially as technology presents opportunities like the new miniaturized ultrasound probes and cheap mobile internet for health centre connectivity.

Our holistic approach "Learn - Light - Lead" has proven to be a strategy that facilitates sustainable impact and positive change. Our systemic approach fills gaps in health systems, which has demonstrated positive improvements in maternal health outcomes and benefitted communities.

LEARN

We aim to continue funding student scholarships concurrently at high-quality midwifery colleges. Our support to midwifery colleges in rural regions, e.g. St Lukes in Wollisso will continue, assisting them to gain their certification to teach BSc degrees. We will continue to check and assess the quality of education and extra-curriculum courses to promote compassionate and dignified care for women.

LIGHT

We aim to install new systems and upgrade older solar systems to include a solar fridge, bigger batteries and more lamps. The Troubleshooting and Maintenance service will continue to be provided nationally in conjunction with the Sustainability Program Rollout Program, to train, capability build and facilitate Regional Health Bureaus to establish local expertise and solar maintenance systems

LEAD

We aim to expand the professional development (certified and accredited) training for HMAN midwives focusing on ultrasound scanning (BOUC) and mentorship training. We will continue our work to enhance the leadership skills of midwives deployed in rural communities running organizational workshops and encouraging midwives to advocate for change and improvements to their working environment.

Holistic Program

We aim to collaborate with the Regional and Zonal health bureaus with the support of local partners to provide a sustainable solar maintenance system and manage midwives' post-graduation employment and ongoing support via an alumni network.

Partnerships to Reach our Vision

OUR IMPACT IS ACHIEVED THROUGH GREAT PARTNERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

"Without the support of each and every donor, we would not have been able to make such a tangible impact. Even the smallest donation matters. A deep heartfelt thank you to all our generous donors and sponsors who have made this amazing impact possible." - GreenLamp Board

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

"I am happy to have come across GreenLamp and to have gotten the chance to be involved in a project where a relatively small investment offers the sponsor to become a change maker with a significant impact for so many women!"
 Dr. Ellen Ringier
 Sponsor of Sosina, HCM class of 2024

CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

- Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Hamlin College of Midwives, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- LeDeG Midwifery College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- St Luke's College of Nursing and Midwifery, Wolisso, Ethiopia
- Hamlin Regional Hospitals Bahir Dar, Mekele, Yir Galem, Hargarge, Metu
- Ethiopian Regional and Zonal Health Bureaus
- Solar Energy Foundation (SEF), Ethiopia
- WEEMA, Kembata-Tembaru Zone, Ethiopia
- Wings of Healing, Addis Ababa, Mekele, Ethiopia
- Institute for Midwifery and Reproductive Health (ZHAW), Winterthur, Switzerland
- Zurich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Switzerland
- Swedish Association - Midwives without Borders



Heartfelt thanks to our amazing team of Board members, admin & project specialists, fundraising & communication teams, speakers, auditors and advisors
 ...and to our community of Members!

GREENLAMP
members' circle

"I and my organization are so happy working with GreenLamp. Because their objective is not only to install the solar light and run away as others did. But they work more on its sustainability to run the system for a long time without interruption. We are responsible for the after-sales services and also for training the health workers to keep the system sustainable. My technical teams located in different regions are the ones who deliver the aftersales services and the training. More than 240 Solar Suitcases were installed for Health Centers located in the off-grid areas. ... providing this service financed by GreenLamp saves a lot of lives ..." S.Tsegaye Solar Energy Foundation Ethiopia

"My dream is to eradicate obstetric fistula... I won't do this in my lifetime, but you can in yours."
 Dr. Catherine Hamlin 1924-2020, founder of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia & Hamlin College of Midwives at her GreenLamp visit in Zürich in 2013, together with her longtime friend Mamitu Gashe, once a patient, who became an acclaimed fistula surgeon.





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Your contribution matters.
Let's continue our work together.