

Ethiopia

Each trip requires participation in several orientation sessions which will prepare volunteers to encounter the culture, travel, language and other aspects of the volunteer service trip. Due to the community-based nature of our program, in-person attendance is required at these sessions and preference is given to volunteers from the local region (versus those from outside the region). Details about these sessions will be sent out via email to the volunteers signed up for each trip following the sign-up deadline.

If you are interested in learning about opportunities to volunteer in Ethiopia, please complete a [volunteer form](#).

Global Partners-Ethiopia volunteers must be able to endure long days (8+ hours) of physical activity, which may include standing, walking, light lifting and sitting. Volunteers must be age 16 or older. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Travel: Trips are usually 10 days in length. Travel days are long and include 10+ hour flights plus ground transportation.

Cost: The total estimated cost per volunteer is \$2,000-\$2,500. These expenses include flights, accommodations, transportation and meals. These costs are considered a charitable contribution for volunteer service work, per the IRS code. Additional expenses, which will be each volunteer's responsibility, include pre-trip immunizations, passport costs and medications (e.g. malaria prophylaxis).

Gundersen employees may apply for a [Global Partners grant](#) to help offset the costs of volunteering in Ethiopia (up to \$500).

Medical issues: Your trip leader will inform you of needed vaccinations and medications for travel to Ethiopia. Vaccinations need to be up-to-date. Do not make an appointment to get your vaccines at Gundersen until AFTER your first volunteer orientation meeting. Due to the rigors of travel, volunteers will be asked to provide a medical clearance letter from their primary care provider.

Communication: Amharic is the primary language in Ethiopia, but English is required to progress onto higher education. Students, professors and medical professionals will be able to speak English, but there may still be a language barrier due to accent and varying English ability. Other staff and community members may not speak English. Interpreters will be available as needed. Learning phrases in Amharic is a helpful and friendly way to meet the Ethiopian people.