



# Emory Global Health Connection

*Building Bridges for Better Health*

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## 2017 EGHI Field Scholars Awards

### Multidisciplinary Team Project Profile

Project Title: Creating a Context-Specific Training Program for Ambulance Providers in Tanzania

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#### Can you provide a brief description of your team's project?

This past summer, our team worked on a project focused on strengthening emergency care systems in Tanzania. There is currently very limited in-route medical intervention administered when a patient utilizes ambulatory services in Tanzania. It is alarming as it is common for only a driver to be present for an extended trip to the nearest hospital in the ambulance. This project specifically addresses this issue in Tanzania. We designed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) intervention programs with a heavy focus on Tanzania's health needs for medical professionals to practice in emergency vehicles. All of us had experience in EMS in the US, so designing these programs fell within our career paths and global health interests.

#### How would you describe your experiences working with international project partners?

Everyone we met was enthusiastic and eager to assist us, including people not directly involved in our project. Individuals from all structured levels within the hospital gave us feedback on our program. They also helped us understand the context and culture of Tanzania, which in turn helped us design a culturally competent EMS program. In addition to their insight, we worked alongside other masters and doctoral students who were conducting research. For example, we worked closely with a master's student who analyzed the inventories of EMS vehicles' medical supplies.

#### What are some practical public health skills you took away from this experience?

Since our project was based on developing an educational EMS program, we gained a lot of experience with curriculum mapping. We became very familiar with Pre/Post Assessment strategies to evaluate our program, as well. From our various Emory educational backgrounds, we all felt prepared before heading abroad. As an RSPH student, the behavioral sciences and health education program evaluation course was useful, and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to become an EGHI Field Scholar in the future. In addition, it was an excellent opportunity to apply the skills we have learned in the classroom or observed while working in EMS in the US.

#### What is something fun to note from your time abroad, unrelated to the work you did?

One weekend we got the opportunity to visit Zanzibar, a Tanzanian island approximately 30 minutes from the mainland. Over the three-day weekend, we stayed in a bungalow, relaxed on the beach, and experienced a spice tour. It was interesting to see the ethnic and cultural differences between the island and the mainland.

#### Would you recommend the EGHI Field Scholars Awards Program to others?

Yes! We felt that it was a worthwhile opportunity, gaining experience in global health, as well as working as a team. Our team is already trying to recruit other classmates to apply to the program.