

Learning Objectives by Track

Core learning outcomes and discipline-specific objectives, mapped to ACGME, STFM, and WHO frameworks

For university coordinators and ethics boards · Version 1.0 · July 2026

Overview

All ECHOES placements run the same three-strand model regardless of discipline or duration. Learning objectives are calibrated by discipline and by placement length (4, 8, or 12 weeks). Longer placements include all objectives of shorter placements plus additional depth.

Frameworks referenced: the global health elective competencies of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME); the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) global health curriculum; and the WHO public health competency framework.

Core objectives — all disciplines and all lengths

Knowledge

- Describe the organisation of a low-resource health system from household to community health worker to district hospital, including referral pathways.
- Explain how social, economic, cultural, and environmental determinants shape disease burden, health-seeking behaviour, and late presentation.
- Describe the role, training, and scope of practice of community health workers in delivering primary care and public health interventions.
- Explain how resource constraints shape clinical decision-making and prioritisation at district-hospital level.
- Outline ethical principles relevant to global health and apply them to at least one dilemma encountered during the placement.

Skills

- Communicate respectfully in a cross-cultural context, including working effectively through interpreters.
- Work within an interprofessional team including nurses, midwives, community health workers, and other cadres.
- Contribute at least one defined, useful output to the host system.

Medicine track

Core rotation areas

Maternal and newborn care, paediatrics, general/internal medicine, emergency and acute care, oral health and dentistry. Additional rotations (ophthalmology, dermatology, surgery/theatre) are available for longer placements.

Track-specific knowledge objectives

- Compare the burden and presentation of major conditions (infectious disease, non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, injuries) in a low-resource setting with the student's home context.
- Apply WHO and national clinical guidelines to management decisions in a resource-constrained environment.
- Recognise how non-communicable diseases present and progress differently in a high-infectious-burden setting.

Track-specific skills objectives

- Take a history and conduct an examination appropriate to the setting, and propose a context-appropriate management plan for common presentations.
- Observe the diagnostic pathway for common conditions, from sample collection to clinical decision-making.
- Formulate a focused, feasible quality improvement or service evaluation question and outline a plan to address it.

Nursing track

Core rotation areas

Ward nursing across maternal and newborn care, paediatrics, and general medicine. Community nursing alongside community health workers. Patient and family health education.

Track-specific knowledge objectives

- Describe nursing roles across levels of the health system in a low-resource context.
- Explain how task-shifting to community health workers affects continuity of nursing care and patient outcomes.
- Describe principles of infection prevention and control in a resource-limited hospital environment.

Track-specific skills objectives

- Carry out supervised nursing assessments, clinical decision-making, and basic care tasks within certified competency.
- Contribute to a patient or community education session in collaboration with a local community health worker or nurse.
- Produce a written nursing-focused deliverable (e.g. a care pathway, an education material, or a process audit) for the host setting.

Midwifery track

Core rotation areas

Antenatal clinic, labour ward, postnatal care, newborn and preterm care. Community antenatal and postnatal follow-up alongside community health workers.

Track-specific knowledge objectives

- Describe the continuum of maternal and newborn care from household to facility in a low-resource island setting.
- Explain how Zanzibar's community health worker programme supports antenatal follow-up, facility delivery, and continuity of maternal and newborn care.
- Identify common complications in maternal and newborn care and describe how resource constraints shape clinical responses.

Track-specific skills objectives

- Participate in supervised antenatal assessments, labour support, and postnatal care within certified competency.
- Follow a small cohort of antenatal patients from community contact to facility delivery and postnatal follow-up.
- Contribute to a maternal health deliverable — for example, an audit of antenatal care completeness, or a set of bilingual patient education materials.

Dentistry track

Core rotation areas

Oral health outpatient clinic. Community oral health screening and education sessions alongside community health workers.

Track-specific knowledge objectives

- Describe the oral health burden in low-resource settings and its links to systemic disease, nutrition, and poverty.
- Explain how oral health is integrated, or not integrated, into primary care in a district-level health system.
- Identify barriers to oral health-seeking behaviour in a low-income island community.

Track-specific skills objectives

- Participate in supervised oral health assessments and basic clinical procedures within certified competency.
- Contribute to a community oral health screening or education session.
- Produce a deliverable addressing a specific oral health need identified at the site — for example, a bilingual oral health education resource, or a referral pathway document.

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