Advancing Patient-Centered Care for 2.9 Million Rural Tanzanians

The Foundation for African Medicine and Education (FAME) advances equitable, high-quality medical care for some of the most under-resourced communities in northern Tanzania. Our vision: healthier rural communities, where individuals from all walks of life have access to patient-centered care, and frontline healthcare workers have the resources they need to treat disease and save lives.

FAME builds local capacity through on-campus continuing education and training, and a competitive scholarship program that enables select staff to further their education at medical institutions in Tanzania and abroad. FAME also hosts more than 60 international medical volunteers annually to mentor and learn from our Tanzanian doctors and nurses.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the FAME Covid-19 Task Force has developed policies and best practices that have served as a model for infection prevention and management in our region. Our Task Force has partnered with local government to train more than 300 government healthcare providers across the Karatu District.

The maps on the left depict FAME's catchment area of 2.9 million rural Tanzanians across northern Tanzania — and are based on an analysis of 95% of our patients, who reside within an 85 mile radius in three regions: Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro. Our patient population has been growing at a steady rate since 2008, the year we opened our outpatient clinic. As word of mouth spread beyond Karatu District, the average distance a patient travels to receive medical care at FAME has increased from 6.6 miles in 2008 to 27.3 miles in 2019.

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223,216 Outpatient Clinic visits since 2008
156,305 Lab visits since opening in 2011
6,891 Hospital admissions since opening in 2012
3,387 Deliveries since opening Labor & Delivery in 2014
456 on-campus volunteers since 2009
29,794 patients seen through our mobile clinic*

In low-income and middle-income countries “poor-quality care is now a bigger barrier to reducing mortality than insufficient access. 60% of deaths from conditions amenable to health care are due to poor-quality care, whereas the remaining deaths result from non-utilization of the health system.”

*Launched in 2006, FAME’s mobile clinic provided medical care to remote communities for a decade. Numerous factors contributed to FAME’s decision to stop mobile clinic outreach: In 2012, FAME opened its inpatient ward with two operating rooms. In late 2014, FAME launched labor & delivery and prenatal services. This led to the strategic decision to focus our resources on providing on-site healthcare.