

## **Call for Student Midwife Volunteers: Student Assessment Tools and Processes Desk Review**

*Somali Midwives for Improving Lives and Enhancing SRH (SMILES) project*

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### **Summary**

The Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) is seeking Canadian student midwife volunteers to help prepare a training workshop that will strengthen the ability of midwifery educators in Somalia and Somaliland to assess their students. The workshop will focus on the development and upgrade of student assessment tools and processes, including Observed Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and written exams. This activity, as part of the Somali Midwives for Improving Lives and Enhancing SRH (SMILES) project, will directly support midwife educators from five midwifery schools to enhance the quality and consistency of student evaluation.

### **Research Assistants**

Timeframe: Approximately 15 working days (equivalent to 105 hours in total), non-consecutive, to be completed by January 2026. The assignment may be carried out by one volunteer working solo or by a team of 2–3 volunteers.

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Location: Remote.

This call is directed to **Canadian student midwives** to support a **Canadian Midwife Consultant** in the review and revision of existing content, materials, and activity reports developed during a previous project. The purpose of this work is to contribute to the development and delivery of a workshop led by the Canadian Midwife Consultant for a group of Somali midwife educators, aimed at strengthening skills in student assessment tools and processes.

The desk review will serve as the foundation for developing and delivering a comprehensive workshop for midwifery educators from five schools across Jubaland, Galmudug, Puntland and Somaliland. The workshop will combine a series of lecture-style sessions with hands-on practical work, focusing on the development and implementation of OSCEs and written exams within the midwifery education program. This activity aims to strengthen the midwifery schools to effectively evaluate student midwives' knowledge, skills, and attitudes, while ensuring alignment with the midwifery diploma curriculum and global standards.

The volunteer's mandate will take the form of a desk review, which will require approximately 15 days of work (105 hours), and can be carried out remotely at the volunteers' own pace. CAM will provide guidance and support, ensure access to the necessary documentation and materials, and oversee the overall coordination of the work.

## Background to the placement

The SMILES project is a 5-year initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada and led by CARE International Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM), Somalia Midwives Association (SOMA), Puntland Association of Midwives (PAM) and the Somaliland Nursing and Midwifery Association (SLNMA). The Ultimate Outcome of this project is to improve SRHR for Somali women and adolescent girls (ages 15–49) by strengthening the supply of qualified midwives to provide rights-based, gender-responsive services, and enhancing the utilization of midwifery care by women and girls by increasing awareness their SRHR to access these services.

The SMILES project is working with five midwifery schools in Somalia and Somaliland to strengthen their ability to provide high-quality, rights-based, and gender-responsive pre-service education in the classroom and in health facilities which provide clinical placements to students. This project builds and expands on the achievement of Strengthening Midwifery Education and Practice in Somalia (SMEPS) project from 2020-2025 which introduced a new three-year midwifery diploma curriculum and trained tutors and clinical instructors to implement the curriculum and supported them through supportive supervision in midwifery schools and health facilities. During the SMEPS project, it was identified that student assessment tools and processes needed to be strengthened and ensure they included material from the newly revised curriculum. An initial orientation session to student assessment tools and processes was conducted but provided limited results – underscoring the need for further work. Building on this, the SMILES project will train midwifery educators in developing assessment tools (e.g., OSCEs and written exams), support them in co-developing standardized tools, and orient schools on their use.

In this framework, CAM, SOMA, PAM, and SLNMA will be working together to strengthen student assessment in midwifery schools. This activity will involve: i) a comprehensive training on OSCEs and written exams; ii) two collaborative workshops with principals and senior tutors from five schools to co-develop OSCE and exam questions; iii) A two-day orientation in each school to introduce and put into practice the upgraded assessment tools.

## Goal and Objectives of Placement

The goal of this research assistant placement is to support the development of a workshop for midwifery educators on the development of OSCEs and written exams, to improve the quality of student assessments in midwifery education in the project catchment areas.

Specific objectives include:

- Conduct a desk review of existing student assessment tools, as well as reports, materials and documents from previous student assessment activities undertaken during a previous project.
- Provide recommendations from the desk review on integrating gender, inclusion, and climate-resilience considerations into the assessment tools.
- Support the preparation and development of the workshop.

## Methodology

**1. Parties Involved** – During the assignment, collaboration will occur between the following actors:

- a) Volunteer(s): Canadian student midwife volunteer(s)
- b) Stakeholders and participants:
  - Canadian Midwife consultant hired by Canadian Association of Midwives.
  - Canadian Association of Midwives Project Coordinator for SMILES.
  - CAM Midwifery Technical Expert.

## **2. Methods**

- a) Conduct a literature review on student assessment, and the integration of gender, social inclusion and climate-resilience.
- b) Review of materials and reports from previous student assessment activities, as well as assessment tools currently used within the targeted schools.
- c) Meetings with consultant and project team as needed.

## **3. Resources available**

During the assignment, the volunteers will have access to the following resources:

- a) Ongoing support from CAM staff;
- b) Documentation related to the midwifery student assessment (tools, materials and reports).

CAM will support the volunteers with respect to assignment planning and coordination. All questions and concerns before and after the placement should be directed to the CAM Project Coordinator.

### **Timeline**

The workshop on OSCE and written exams development will be conducted late January 2026. Volunteers are expected to collaborate with the project team and the consultant prior to this, in preparation of these activities.

CAM will conduct a preparatory meeting to introduce the project early November 2025.

The volunteers are required to submit an activity report by early February 2026.

### **Reporting**

Volunteers will be responsible for delivering the following during their placement:

1. A report synthesizing finds from the desk review.
  - A list of recommendations on ways to integrate gender, social inclusion, and climate-resilience considerations in the student assessment tools and processes.
2. A final report summarizing the assignment as well as held meetings, outputs and challenges. CAM will provide a report template;
3. A detailed timesheet capturing the number of hours worked and activities undertaken. CAM will provide a time sheet template.

### **Qualifications and requirements**

CAM is looking for Canadian midwifery students with the following qualifications:

- Currently enrolled in a Midwifery Program at an educational institution in Canada;

- Experience in education, in particular student assessment;
- Cultural sensitivity and experience with cross-cultural communication;
- Strong analytical and writing skills;
- Strong organizational skills, ability to handle multiple tasks, self-management and prioritization; ability to meet deadlines.

**Assets:**

- Experience collaborating with not-for-profit, development or humanitarian organizations.
- Knowledge of Somalia and/or the Horn of Africa region.
- Experience in working in low resource settings.

**How to Apply**

Interested applicants are requested to submit the following:

1. Application letter (1-2 pages maximum)
2. CV

The application should be sent to [admin@canadianmidwives.org](mailto:admin@canadianmidwives.org) with the Subject Line: “SMILES Supportive Supervision Volunteers Application” no later than **October 20, 2025**.

For inquiries please contact: Letizia Gianfranceschi, CAM Project Coordinator for SMILES at [lgianfranceschi@canadianmidwives.org](mailto:lgianfranceschi@canadianmidwives.org)