

# Global Health

## FACT SHEET

**\$63 billion**

Funding from the U.S. Global Health Initiative for a six-year effort to develop a comprehensive, U.S. government-wide strategy for global health focused on the health challenges and needs of those in low- and middle-income countries.

**30.5%**

Percentage of medical students who have completed an international medical school experience.

**293**

Number of family medicine residency programs offering international health opportunities.  
[aafp.org/residencies](http://aafp.org/residencies)

**\$18.9 billion**

Global Health and Development funding provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation since its inception. (September 2011)

**93%**

Percentage of residency programs that will pay at least one month's salary for a resident participating in an international rotation.

**300**

Number of organizations profiled in "A Practical Guide to Global Health Service" (author Ed O'Neil).

This guide offers tips on how to focus on direct action and how to safely and effectively get engaged in medical volunteering.

**1978**

Alma Ata Declaration was signed by member states of the World Health Organization (WHO), formally launching a holistic approach to health care.

**2008**

Year when the WHO World Health Report called for a return to a primary care based approach to health care.

- Family medicine's **broad scope** of training uniquely prepares physicians to practice medicine in a variety of settings, with specific consideration of public health and community resources.
- U.S. family physicians work closely with WONCA and are active in **numerous global health organizations** such as Global Health Education Consortium and through the State Department in Embassy postings. Family physicians are **developers and leaders** of many mission organizations—both faith-based and secular—and in academic departments with a focus on global health.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

Explore Family Medicine

# Finding the RIGHT international rotation.

Questions to ask when you're evaluating a program.

## MISSION

- What is the goal of the international rotation?
- Describe the field experience (clinical activities, public health initiatives, community activities, patient education, or other activities).

## FUNDING

- What is the cost to the residents?
- What opportunities exist to seek additional funding for international rotations?
- Will I have professional liability insurance while participating?
- Will my employee benefits (health insurance, dental insurance, etc) continue while I am abroad?

## SCHEDULE

- How long are the rotations?
- What time of year do residents travel?
- Are certain years (PGY-1, PGY-2, PGY-3) prohibited from participation?

## LOCATION

- In what country (or countries) do the residents engage in international activities?
- Do the residents ever design their own global health experience?
- What policies and processes are in place to ensure resident safety during travel?

## CONTACTS

- How many residents have participated in the past two years?
- Who are the faculty involved? What other international experiences have they had?
- Who do I contact to get more information?

## CURRICULUM

- What are the didactics (lectures, reading, discussion, debriefing) of the rotation?
- Does the program accept medical students for trips?
- Does the program accept residents from other programs for trips?

Visit the Directory of Family Medicine Residency Programs that offer international opportunities at:  
[aafp.org/international/residencies](http://aafp.org/international/residencies)

Email: [international@aafp.org](mailto:international@aafp.org)