RATIONAL FOR PhD PROJECT IN ETHIOPIAN CONTEXT

- Reduction in infant mortality rate, from 48 (2011) to 43 (2014) infants per 1000 live births
  - reduction in neonatal mortality not sufficient
- Early initiation of breastfeeding
  - Saves hundreds of lives globally each year by reducing deaths
- Colostrum
  - neonatal and post-neonatal deaths 5-6 times lower in infants fed colostrum
- Exclusive breastfeeding
  - prevent 12-13% of all under-5 deaths in developing world
- Saves money – formula, outpatient visits/hospitalization, medications/procedures, work absence

THE PROJECT

- Comprehensive breastfeeding intervention – developed based on theory

- In collaboration with Jimma Zone Health Department
  the existing HEWs and WDAs will be used
  - To provide breastfeeding education and support to women prenatally and postnatally
  - To involve spouses and mother-in-law in BF discussions
  - To address community and religious leaders to supporting breastfeeding

POTENTIAL IMPACT FOR ETHIOPIA FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PROJECT.

- If this intervention is proven to be effective:
  - increase early breastfeeding initiation,
  - increase rate of exclusive breastfeeding,
  - increase duration of exclusive breastfeeding

- It can be used as a framework for an intervention model that may be scaled up in other parts of the country.

- The project will be sustainable since HEWs and WDAs, who are part of the country’s health system, will be used to provide the intervention.

Thank you!