

## International Health Partnerships (IHP)

The Health Board is a signatory to the Charter for IHP in Wales, which signals its commitment to helping others as part of promoting global health and sustainable development. As well as benefitting people in poorer countries who have fewer resources and less developed healthcare systems, involvement in humanitarian overseas work also benefits our staff, in a number of ways. These include improving their teaching skills, building leadership confidence, generating ideas for health service delivery within limited resources, learning about the delivery of healthcare to people from different cultures and also gaining direct experience of global diseases that may pose a risk to Wales. This enhanced skill and knowledge is then be used by our colleagues when they return from overseas, for the benefit of patients in North Wales.

Teams of local nurses, doctors, midwives, public health specialists and researchers are involved in international health links, most notably as part of the Wales for Africa Programme. In North Wales, there are active links to healthcare in the Quthing district of Lesotho, hospital care in Hossana Hospital, Ethiopia and eye care in Hawassa, Ethiopia. During trips overseas, volunteers from North Wales have helped to improve developing health services by providing training, sharing knowledge and donating equipment. This support can mean the difference between life and death to many people in less developed countries.

Over the past year, the Health Board has supported the work of the links by hosting the International Health Group, providing governance advice, launching a successful awareness-raising international health week, liaising with colleagues at national level and by participating in reciprocal visits involving Wales for Africa partners.

