

Hawassa University is preparing to launch its First Fully Equipped Clinical Trial Unit

Hawassa, Ethiopia — [November 2025]

The PREGART Clinical Trial project has successfully established Hawassa University's first fully equipped Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences campus, marking a significant advancement in both the University's and the nation's clinical trial infrastructure.

The Hawassa University Clinical Trial Unit (HU-CTU) can now conduct Phase III and higher clinical trials, bringing Ethiopia closer to international clinical trial standards. Supported by EDCTP2 funding through the PREGART clinical trial project and technical assistance from the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA), the unit is designed to serve as a central hub for high-quality clinical trials in southern Ethiopia. The key developments of the unit include:

- Comprehensive renovation and equipping of the CTU having sufficient rooms for reception, informed consent, clinical examination, data management, laboratory sample processing, IMP archiving, and Emergency service.
- Development of clinical trial legislation and governance frameworks
- Creation of GCP-compliant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Establishment of organizational structures and quality management systems
- Ongoing preparations for **ISO 9001 certification**

“This is going to be a historic step for Hawassa University,” said **Dr. Abel Gedefaw**, PREGART clinical trial National Principal Investigator, at Hawassa University. *“The HU-CTU will serve as a beacon for clinical research excellence and a training ground for the next generation of clinical investigators.”* The new CTU is expected to attract national and international collaborations and position Hawassa University as a leading center for clinical trials in the region.

The **PREGART project expresses its gratitude** to the project consortium partners— **Hawassa University (Ethiopia), Karolinska Institute (Sweden), Makerere University (Uganda), ISS (Italy)**—and to the funder **EDCTP2** for their continued support in building Ethiopia's clinical trial capacity





HAWASSA UNIVERSITY
CLINICAL TRIAL UNIT (HU_CTU)

SUPPORTED BY THE PREGART CLINICAL TRIAL