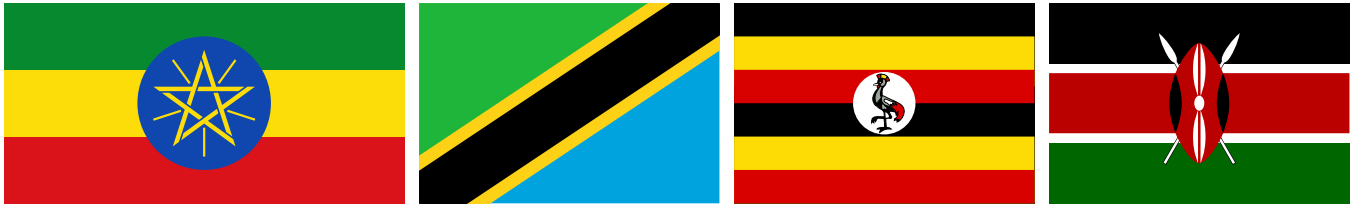


# The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



**Spring 2023 Professional Fellow**



## **Yimegnushal Kebede Legesse** **Lecturer in Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Ambo University**

*“I mostly expect to gain good experience and skills from the Fellowship Program. I would like to access research findings based on lived experiences, a manual for teacher training as well as opportunities to network for future work.”*

Yimegnushal is a lecturer in special and inclusive education at the Institute of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Ambo University. She teaches courses on disability inclusion as well as courses on Ethiopian Braille, Ethiopian Sign Language, and orientation and mobility. Yimegnushal has trained preschool teachers on special and inclusive education and has provided vocational skills training to women with disabilities. Prior to joining Ambo University, Yimegnushal worked as a special needs teacher at a primary school.

Yimegnushal holds a master’s degree in special and inclusive education from Addis Ababa University and is currently pursuing a doctorate in this field at Ambo University. She also has a certificate in Ethiopian Braille and Ethiopian Sign Language from Sebbeta College.

For her Fellowship, Yimegnushal has proposed a project to promote inclusive education in early childhood care and education (ECCE) in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia. For the past 30 years, there has been some focus on and support for inclusive education in Ethiopia, reinforced in part by the 1994 Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education (UNESCO, 1994).<sup>[1]</sup> However, Ethiopia continues to lag behind other countries in realizing inclusive education, and children with disabilities in Ethiopia continue to be excluded from mainstream education. Yimegnushal’s project seeks to address this issue by training preschool teachers to identify students with disabilities and teach and support all learners through inclusive instructional techniques and practices.

Yimegnushal will complete a four-week Fellowship placement training with Ohio State University’s [Nisonger Center](#) in Columbus, Ohio.

<sup>1</sup>UNESCO (1994): Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education.  
Source: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000098427>

