Ten Years On

Marking 10 years as the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin
2004-2014
Strengthening Health Systems

The Centre for Global Health uses social health science to strengthen health systems.

Our Vision is of indivisible and equitable access to health, well-being and human rights.

Our Mission is to engage with partners across all sectors to promote health, well-being, opportunity and social justice.

Where? We work across more than 40 countries with third-level, civil society, government, private sector and United Nations partners. We impact policy and practice, produce excellent scholarship, and provide an engaging and empowering learning environment for students and staff alike.

What? We use eclectic and mixed-methods approaches including action research, operational research, experimental methods, extensive quantitative surveys, multi-media crowd-sourcing, intensive qualitative interviews, ethnography and group methods, policy analysis and revision, systematic reviews, in-depth case studies and realist synthesis.

Who? CGH has 5 academic staff with full-time positions in Trinity (across the Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Psychology) 5 Adjunct staff, as well as many regular contributors to our teaching and research programmes, both from other Schools within Trinity and from other Universities, civil society organisations, the private sector and United Nations organisations. Our full-time staff has disciplinary backgrounds in psychology, anthropology, economics, political science, management and nursing, and they have all lived and worked in low-income countries. Reflecting our interdisciplinary ethos, the Centre is administered though the School of Medicine, with the Director based in the School of Psychology.

CGH Staff with the Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan. Pictured (from left to right): Dr. Douglas Bettcher (Director, Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO), Prof. Mac MacLachlan (Director, CGH), Dr. Margaret Chan, Prof. Elish McAuliffe (Founding Director, CGH), Dr Frédérique Vallières and Nuha Ibrahim (both CGH).
Our Programmes

MSc Global Health

Now with its ninth intake, the Masters of Science in Global Health was the first of its kind in Europe. In 2012, the Irish Times named it as one of the most sought after Masters programmes in Ireland.

Each year, the programme attracts students from North America, South America, the Middle-East, Asia, Africa and Europe, and is supported by a range of funding sources including Irish Aid.

MSc Global Health students have great success publishing their Masters research and go on to excel in the fields of international development, academia and healthcare across the world.

For more information on the MSc Global Health please contact the Course Director, Dr. Fiona Larkan: larkanf@tcd.ie.

PhD Global Health

Also known as the International Doctorate in Global Health (INDIGO), the PhD Global Health is the first of its kind in the world. Led by CGH, core partners include Columbia University and Harvard University in the USA, Queen’s University Belfast, Addis Ababa, Makerere, Ibadan and the University of Malawi in Africa; the Human Science Research Council in South Africa, and the Council for Health Research for Development in Switzerland. Through their involvement with existing programmes housed in NGOs, civil society, private sector and UN agencies, our doctoral students conduct practical research in areas of health system strengthening, human resources for health and access to healthcare in low-resource settings. This programme has been supported by Irish Aid, research foundations, civil society, UN and the private sector.

For more information on our PhD Programme please contact the Course Coordinator, Dr. Frédérique Vallières: fvallier@tcd.ie.
CGH is particularly focused on influencing health systems and policy. In this regard we have contributed background papers to UNICEF’s flagship publication, “The State of the World’s Children” (2013), and to the UNDP’s “Barriers & Opportunities at the Base of the Pyramid: The Role of the Private Sector in Inclusive Development” (2014), on which two members of the Centre were also principle co-authors. Centre staff also lead the Knowledge Management components of the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNPRPD), working with governments, civil society and UN agencies across more than 20 countries. We undertake a similar role with the International Labour Organisation’s PROPEL (Promoting Rights and Opportunities for People with Disabilities in Employment through Legislation) project across seven countries. Both of these projects are concerned with human rights and policy and these concerns are also central to The SPICE – The Social Policy Inclusion Collaboratory – which we are currently developing with UNESCO, as part of their Management of Social Transformation Programme. Our Policy revision instrument, EquiFrame, has been used to develop new policies in Malawi and Sudan, to identify polices for revision in South Africa; and constitutes a central plank of The SPICE, to be rolled-out globally, with collaboratory platforms in each region.

CGH staff have influenced global decision makers addressing, for instance, OECD’s Development Assistance Committee, the UN’s Commission on Social Development, the African Union’s meeting of Social Welfare Ministers and the Global Ministerial Forum on Health and to the World Bank. Over a period of three years we represented Irish Aid on the GAVI Alliance, an alliance of the key stakeholders in global immunisation, across public and private sector organisations.

CGH works with a range of civil society organisations. For instance, Handicap International has translated the EquiFrame manual into French and are now using it as an advocacy tool across some of the 60 countries they operate in. Through a range of civil society partners in Africa and with Columbia University, CGH has been able to make an important contribution to the acceptance of mid-level cadres in the provision of obstetric care in poorly resources regions, extending care to millions of pregnant women, and illustrating how health systems can be strengthened through new innovative delivery mechanisms. With World Vision International, operations research conducted by CGH has contributed to the iteration of their maternal and child health programme across Kenya, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Mauritania and Tanzania. Providing timely, evidence-based feedback to programme implementers has resulted in the inclusion of mobile health technology, greater male involvement, and stronger monitoring and evaluation of their programmes.

CGH has also contributed to the establishment of Evidence Aid. Partly coordinated from the Centre, Evidence Aid focuses on getting evidence into action, allowing the results of systematic reviews to more effectively inform decision makers in humanitarian or disaster relief situations. Several CGH staff have also contributed to the establishment of Humanitarian Work Psychology a global organisation applying behavioural science to organizational and systems problems in international aid. At the systems level, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research have also commissioned work from us. CGH is celebrating its tenth anniversary by Co-hosting the Irish Forum for Global Health (which CGH staff were also co-founders of 10 years ago) conference with Concern.

Our research therefore directly contributes to 5 of Trinity’s 7 “research directions” as described in the University’s Strategic Plan 2014-2019: Health, Society, Independence, Technology and Sustainability.
Staff Achievements

Our staff have contributed to the development of new initiatives in global health and have been personally recognised for their achievements. We are proud to be among the founding Board Members of the Irish Forum for Global Health (IFGH), now a thriving NGO, also celebrating its tenth anniversary. More recently:

* 2010: Fiona Larkan is appointed Editor of the Irish Journal of Anthropology.

* 2012: CGH staff are among the founding members of the Global Organisation for Humanitarian Work Psychology.

* 2013: The Canadian Women’s Y Foundation names Frederique Vallieres as a Young Woman of Distinction.

* 2013: Frederique Vallieres & Eilish McAuliffe’s collaborative project with World Vision, receives the African Development Bank’s eHealth Award.

* 2013: Evidence Aid, led by Mike Clarke, (QUB, and an Associate Director of CGH) wins the Unorthodox Prize: Evidence Aid is partly coordinated from CGH by Bonnix Kayabu.

* 2014: Fiona Larkan becomes a founding member of the Medical Anthropological Network of Ireland.

* 2014: Mac MacLachlan is awarded the American Psychological Association’s International Humanitarian Award.

CGH receives the African Development Bank’s eHealth Award. From left to right: Laurence Lannes, African Development Bank; Frédérique Vallières, Centre for Global Health, and Feng Zhao, Manager of Health Division, African Development Bank.
Strategic Development

Building on our track record of embracing the challenge of human complexity through our interdisciplinary ethos, we will continue working with vulnerable and marginalized groups; on human resources for health, with health systems and organisations; on the innovative application of new technologies for researching, learning, systems delivery and empowering health-workers and communities.

We enter our second decade with a clear vision of some of the ways in which we can strengthen our contribution to global health. This includes building on the success of our internationally leading Masters and Doctoral programmes; developing new models of engaging partners across sectors; developing and testing new technologies for maternal and child health; creating new multimedia research and learning opportunities; strengthening ethical governance; and developing new evidence synthesis methods that embrace the contextual complexities of health. We will continue reaching into the difficult, the uncomfortable the controversial; fusing evidence, ideas and action.

In Trinity College Dublin: We will continue as a cross-School and cross-Faculty Centre, making a strong contribution to international development, to social science and to health science within Trinity.

We will develop new interdisciplinary working relationships and continue to be a major contributor to Trinity’s reputation as a University of global significance.

Our diverse student intake, our interdisciplinary approach, and our contributions to pluralism, social justice and sustainability will allow us to contribute substantially to each of Trinity’s three Mission Pillars as described in the University’s Strategic Plan, 2014-2019.

In Ireland: We will develop formal links with the recently established Health Systems Group at University College Dublin, creating a strong cross-institutional profile for Dublin and Ireland in global health systems strengthening; boosting our potential to capitalize on Horizon 2020 opportunities.

We will strengthen our links with the Methodology Hub at Queens University Belfast (led by Prof Mike Clarke, who is also an Associate Director of CGH). We will also develop formal links with established open-access academic journals and with new multi-media initiatives in global health.

We will develop our new collaboration with the Trials Methodology Research Network; becoming a valued partner, helping in the transfer of new technologies, methodologies and ideas to different countries and contexts globally.

Globally: We will strengthen our reputation as one of the world’s leading Centres for social health sciences within global health, with strong collaborations across a diversity of research, implementing and policy partners.

We will collaborate on low-and-middle income country capacity-building initiatives at the community level (such as Praxis Malawi) and for researchers (including our INDIGO School graduates) and contribute to ethical research governance in South-North relations.

We will strengthen and build our interaction with civil society organisations, governments, United Nations organisations, and the private sector through the development of new innovative doctoral programmes that enrich the interplay between scholarly research, organisational and systems implementation, and social gain.
We are grateful for the support and collaboration of the organisations listed below:

Advisory Board of Ireland Aid; Afhad University for Women, Sudan; Averting Maternal Death and Disease (AMDD) Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York; Centre for Disaster Studies, Wageningen University, Netherlands; Cochrane Centre, United Kingdom; Concern Worldwide; Department of Social Medicine & Global Health, Harvard University; Eduardo Mondlane University, Community Health Department, Mozambique; Enterprise Ireland; Europe Aid; European Union Framework 7 Programme; Economic and Social Research Council, UK; Health Research Board; Higher Education Authority; Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, People’s Republic of China; Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; Ibadan University, Department of Sociology, Nigeria; Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania; Information Systems Development Approach for Society Development (ISD4D), Finland; Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Dehli, India; Instrumentarium Science Foundation, Finland; Intrahealth International, North Carolina; Irish Aid; Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences; JHPIEGO, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Makerere University, School of Public Health, Uganda; Massey University, Poverty Research Group, New Zealand; Ministry of Health, Government of Mozambique; Ministry of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly, Government of Malawi; National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Tanzania; National University of Lesotho, Faculty of Health Sciences, Lesotho; Realizing Rights, Ethical Globalisation Initiative, New York; National Commission for Science and Technology, Malawi; Regional Prevention of Maternal Mortality Network (RPMM), Ghana; Secretariat of the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities, South Africa; The Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research at the Norwegian Institute of Technology (SINTEF), Norway; Shell; South African Medical Research Council’s Cochrane Centre; Southern African Federation of the Disabled; Tampere Tuberculosis Foundation, Finland; UNICEF, New York; University College London, School of Psychology; University of Addis Ababa, School of Public Health, Ethiopia; University of Malawi, Centre for Reproductive Health, Centre for Social Research, Department of Community Health, Malawi; UK Aid/DFID; University of Namibia Multidisciplinary Research and Consultancy Centre, Namibia; University of Papua New Guinea; University of Stellenbosch, Department of Psychology and Centre for Rehabilitation Studies, South Africa; University of the South Pacific, Solomon Islands; University of Witwatersrand, Centre for Health Policy, South Africa: World Vision Ireland.

Contact Us

Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin
7-9 Leinster Street South
Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)1 896 4394
Email: global.health@tcd.ie

Or go to:
https://global-health.tcd.ie/