

THE
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE
GENEVA

GLOBAL
HEALTH
CENTRE



TEN YEARS OF SHAPING GLOBAL HEALTH

MILESTONES OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE 2008 - 2018

TEN YEARS OF SHAPING GLOBAL HEALTH

Global Health Center
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2 | Case Postale 1672
1211 Geneva 21 – Switzerland
Tel +41 908 4558
Fax +41 908 4594
Email globalhealth@graduateinstitute.ch

graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth

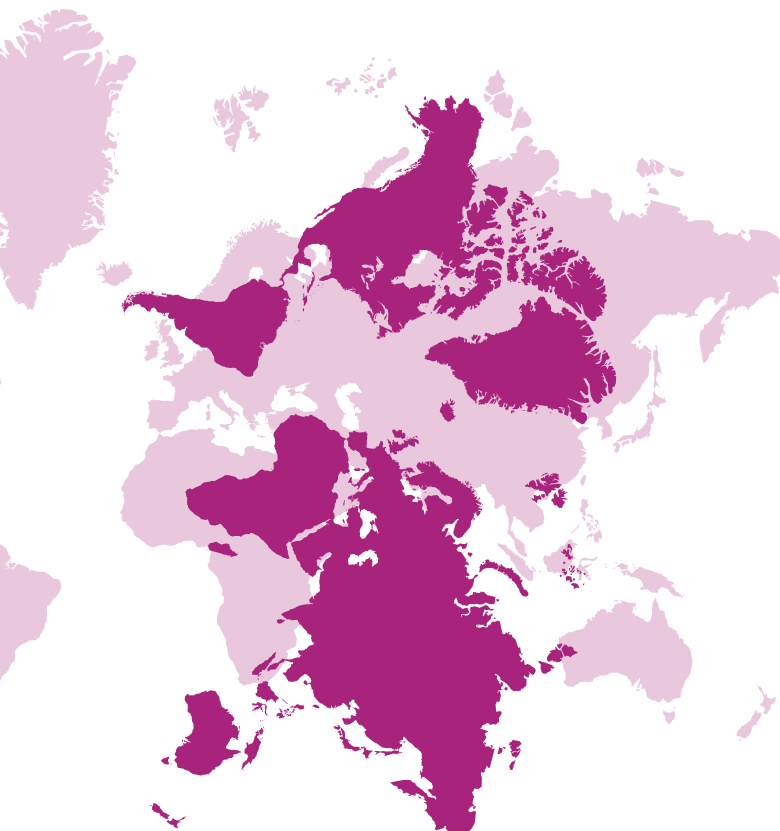
Authors: Michaela Told, Kristina Petrova, Pamina Monaco, Hidemi Ueno
Photos: © GHC / S. Deshapriya (unless otherwise mentioned)
Photo Title: 2017 NCD Bootcamp at the Maison de la paix
Layout: Rüdiger Puntke



This brochure describes the development of the Global Health Centre in the past ten years and highlights some significant milestones. It is not a comprehensive report but presents the scope of activities in research, convening policy debates, and executive education. The Centre's relevance was gained through its constant adaptation to the changing global health issues, its continuous engagement with International Geneva, and its focus on the priority domains of governance, instruments, and diplomacy for global health.

“The Global Health Centre’s strength lies in its formidable capacity to link and connect people and subjects.”

Philippe Burrin, Director of the Graduate Institute
of International and Development Studies



This global health story begins in the spring of 2008, even if the idea was sparked much earlier. In 2008, Philip Burrin, Director of the Graduate Institute, brought Ilona Kickbusch, a leading health expert, on board to set up a Global Health Programme (GHP) within an academic institution of international relations, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. This was very visionary move at the time – and it would prove to be a good move indeed. A small team of three people (Ilona Kickbusch, Michaela Told, Kristina Petrova) kicked-off the first of its kind Global Health Programme within an Institute of International Relations, committed to examining the characteristics and mechanisms of successful global health governance and its relations to foreign policy, trade and development. The strategic location of the Programme in Geneva – the ‘global health capital of the world’ – and in Switzerland, including the support of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, has been instrumental for positioning the Global Health Programme globally.

At the time of its inception, the Programme’s priority areas of engagement have been the analysis of powershifts in global health, executive trainings in global health diplomacy and the facilitation of networking and cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders.



May

Establishment of the
Global Health Programme

June

First Global Health Diplomacy executive course
with 28 participants from 21 countries



Margaret Chan at the 2008 GHP Symposium
Photo: GHP / E. Roset

NEGOTIATING HEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The first 2008 symposium, entitled “Analysing the Powershift in Global Health at National and Global Level” was opened by H.E. Federal Councillor Pascal Couchepin, then President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Margaret Chan, then Director-General of the World Health Organization. It was a good start for the Global Health Programme, and its capacity to convene key global health players remained an important feature throughout the years. Each year from 2008 to 2013, the GHP annual symposium assembled representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society, private sector, and academia from across the globe to explore the changing landscape in global health governance. The GHP has also hosted high-level panels in partnership with different organizations, among others with WHO, WTO, WIPO, UNAIDS, the Global Fund, WEF, the Swiss Development Cooperation, as well as NGOs, such as MSF and World Vision International. Even though the thematic focus has changed each year, all the symposia have been linked by a common theme: the urge to create an understanding how complex power relations and competitions in a multi-polar world affect the global health arena and produce new challenges for policy- and decision-makers.

“Building up the international affairs department of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, I was looking for academic competence in health diplomacy. Realizing the absence of this field in academia, the Federal Office sponsored competitions for students to research on global health and foreign policy topics. These competitions were highly successful and showed the potential of what became the Global Health Centre.”

Gaudenz Silberschmidt, Director for Partnerships and non-State actors, WHO, reflecting on the beginning of the Global Health Centre as Head of the International Affairs Department and Vice Director, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health

October

First symposium on
Negotiating Health in the 21st Century

December

Publication of the **first edition** of the
**Online Directory of Geneva-based Global Health
Actors** with 75 entries online

2008



2009 GHP Symposium.
Photo: GHP / E. Roset

The activities of the Global Health Programme have been expanded over the years, especially concerning its work on global health diplomacy: the flagship course on Global Health Diplomacy, held in June every year, was ‘institutionalized’ and two new training courses took place: one in Geneva with government representatives from PR China, and one in Nairobi, Kenya. The Global Health Diplomacy Consortium, established already in 2008 by the Global Health Programme, held its first meeting in January 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand at the Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) and held a further meeting in November 2009 at the Annual Global Forum for Health Research in Cuba. At the same time, the Programme’s role as an innovative and intellectual hub took shape through the launch of Global Health Europe at the second annual symposium (see box). Through this initiative, the Global Health Programme influenced the shaping of the Council Conclusions and related European Commission documents on “The EU role in global health”.

“Global health is [...] a long-term objective which is local, national, regional and international in scope and requires sustained attention, commitment and closer international cooperation beyond emergency, ...”

Resolution A/RES/64/108 adopted on 10 December 2009 at the UN General Assembly.

January

First meeting of the
Global Health Diplomacy Consortium
in Bangkok, Thailand

September

First executive course on
global health diplomacy
outside Geneva in Nairobi,
Kenya



THE GLOBAL HEALTH EUROPE THINK-TANK

“Global Health Europe: A Platform for European Engagement in Global Health” (GHE) has been officially launched at the 2009 high-level symposium on “Regional Voices in Global Health Diplomacy” as a hosted project of the Global Health Programme. Global Health Europe was set up to create a community of influence to strengthen and consolidate European commitment, consistency, and coherence in the area of global health. It promoted the interface between the policy spheres of public health, foreign policy, development, and research for health, thus, linking policy communities together that were not systematically collaborating. In the following years, Global Health Europe contributed to global health policy processes in Europe and important to Europe. A wide range of policy publications and the GHE website as a depository for global health resources have been important channels to reach a larger audience and to ensure that global health is adequately placed on the European research and policy agenda. In 2012, Global Health Europe was transferred to Maastricht University and was then jointly run.

October

Launch of the **Think Tank Global Health Europe** as a hosted project of the GHP at the annual symposium

2009



Global Health Europea at the EHFG. Photo: EHFG

In its third year of operation, the Global Health Programme strengthened its research on governance issues. At this point, it still expanded the activities of Global Health Europe but focussed on research and analysis around governance challenges within the European region. It was a timely moment to do so, since the new Regional Director for WHO EURO took office and then commissioned a study on this. Taking up this momentum, a six-hour forum was organised at the European

Health Forum Gastein (see box). At the same time, the annual symposium “Fragile states – Analyzing the interface of health and diplomacy” went beyond European borders but continued to emphasize the importance of global health diplomacy. The regular face-to-face courses in global health diplomacy in Geneva continued but the portfolio was then enriched by regional face-to-face courses in other parts of the world and by online courses through a partnership with DiploFoundation.

HEALTH IS GLOBAL: IS EUROPE READY?



Ilona Kickbusch at the EHFG. Photo: EHFG

The best indication of the GHP/GHE's increased recognition was the invitation by the European Health Forum Gastein to organise a six-hour parallel Forum on global health. For the Global Health Programme, it was the first time going beyond Swiss borders with its own organised event and to inject its thinking in this way to a larger gathering. Ilona Kickbusch said in Gastein: "Globalization is changing healthcare policy permanently. This is why we too have to become increasingly global in the way we plan European healthcare policy. [...] With the increase in mobility, health problems and diseases worldwide have become more similar. The spread of infectious diseases is a good example." The impact of globalization, the need for global public goods for health, tensions between sovereignty and global action, and the call for strong leadership in global health were all topics at this Forum and gave impetus to a study on "Governance for Health in the 21st Century" which was commissioned by the WHO Regional for Europe in 2010 and then published in 2012. The terminology on the three levels of governance and the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to global health found then its way into the global health literature. In addition, the GHP has frequently since then integrated its own sessions in other conferences around the world.

"We commissioned this study to better understand the interdependent nature of the complex problems that are reshaping our health landscape [...] and identify how to address them. The findings of this study will play a vital role in guiding the further development of WHO's new European health policy, Health 2020."

Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe

October

Parallel Forum on
Health is Global: Is Europe Ready?
at the European Health Forum Gastein

October

First regional course on global health diplomacy outside Europe, held for ASEAN countries in Jakarta, Indonesia

November

Third annual symposium on Fragile States - Analyzing the interface of health and diplomacy

2010

By 2011, the GHP was working with a small team of ten committed staff and consultants and an operational budget of 1.2 Mio CHF. The Programme had established partnerships with more than 15 organizations worldwide and organised eight public events over the year. Applied and policy-oriented research became intertwined with policy debates and dialogues, but the thematic focus remained on global health diplomacy and important health issues intersecting with other domains. The GHP had entered into a partnership with World Scientific Publishers in earlier years to publish a series of books on Global

Health Diplomacy and the first two volumes were both launched in 2011. In the realm of executive education, for the first time a new thematic course on “Intellectual Property, Diplomacy and Global Public Health” was added to the existing portfolio of executive course on global health diplomacy and the interface of health, trade and intellectual property was the thematic focus of the annual symposium (see box). Access to medicines as a theme has accompanied the GHP along the years to date, through its public events, research, and its executive courses.

“Political turning points are important in so far as they change reality. And has this [the Doha Declaration] been a political turning point to change reality? Even though I am part of the debate, my overall answer is yes. [...] Access to medicines is a multifaceted, multi-sectoral, multi-governance, and multicultural issue. We need to have a holistic view. This is why joint work and cooperation is important.”

Pascal Lamy, Director-General, World Trade Organization at the annual GHP’s symposium in November 2011.

November 2011



2011 GHP Symposium with Francis Gurry (WIPO), Margaret Chan (WHO), Ruth Dreifuss, and Pascal Lamy (WTO).
Photo: GHP / E. Roset

10 YEARS AFTER THE DOHA DECLARATION: THE FUTURE AGENDA AT THE INTERFACE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, INNOVATION AND TRADE

The 10th anniversary of the adoption of the “Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health” by the WTO Ministerial Conference prompted the GHP to assemble the leaders of all major global health organizations based in Geneva and a public of more than 400 people to discuss access and innovation. The list of speakers was impressive, from Margaret Chan (Director General, WHO), Pascal Lamy (Director-General, WTO), Francis Gurry (Director-General, WIPO), Michel Kazatchkine (Executive Director, the Global Fund), Seth Berkley (CEO, Gavi Alliance),

Michel Sidibé (Executive Director, UNAIDS) to Denis Broun (Executive Director, UNITAID), Eduardo Pisani (Director-General, IFPMA), and Johanna Ralston (Governing Board member, NCD Alliance). Ruth Dreifuss, former Federal Counsellor of Switzerland, chaired the discussion in order to review achievements and challenges in promoting access to medicines and innovation, to reflect on the policy coherence between the different international organizations and on the role of other stakeholders.

November

Annual symposium on
**10 Years of the Doha
Declaration**

December

Launch of the publication
**World Scientific books series
on global health diplomacy**

2011

“The Global Health Programme is a source of new ideas and innovative solutions”, said Professor Thomas Zeltner, former Director-General of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health and Secretary of State for Health, when he started as Chairperson of the GHP’s Advisory Board in 2012. Many products which have started to be developed in earlier years now came to fruition and were launched in 2012: The first online course for WHO heads of country offices was launched (see box) and the background study on governance for health as major contribution to the WHO’s European policy for health and well-being, Health2020, were officially presented. The GHP became for the first time a principal partner in a SNIS project led by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH). It also continued to organise high-level public events both in Geneva but also increasingly abroad. Its engagement with the World Health Summit / Charité Berlin resulted in the launch of the joint publication “Research for health and sustainable development” at the World Health Summit 2012.

ONLINE COURSES

Back in 2010, the World Health Organization Department of Country Focus (CCO) commissioned the Global Health Programme to deliver capacity-building activities to all the Heads of WHO Country Offices as part of their staff development. The first pilot course was launched in September 2012 with a selected group of Heads of WHO Country Offices and then later implemented in four subsequent cohorts of ten weeks each throughout 2012 and 2013. A further two cohorts with fully revised modules were held in 2015.

The main objective of the courses was to foster participants’ understanding of the changing system and methods of global health diplomacy, to develop their analytical skills in global health governance and to develop their ability to apply these skills to their working realities. The course was led by staff members from the GHP and a pool of high-level guest experts. Each week introduced a new substantive topic. Participants interacted together through an online learning platform developed and managed by the DiploFoundation. In later cohorts, a half-day face-to-face learning component was added to the overall course. Peer-to-peer learning was an important feature of this course which was enabled through hypertext entries, online chat sessions and short assignments – both individually and in group. The virtual discussions represented a wealth of deposit knowledge to develop best practices in global health diplomacy and governance at the national, regional and global levels.

May

Public seminar with
Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz
on the global R&D system

September

Launch of the first **online course**
for Heads of WHO Country Offices



Working Group at the global health diplomacy flagship course. Photo: GHP / S. Deshapriya

"This course allowed me to reflect on what might be of importance for my host country. In fact, my host country wants to prepare its own Global Health Strategy and this course will allow me to fully engage and support this process."

Anshu Banerjee, WHO Representative, Sudan in 2012

September

Launch of the **WHO background study on Governance for Health in the 21st Century** at the 62nd WHO EURO Regional Committee

October

Increased engagement at the **World Health Summit**

2012



2013 GHP Symposium. Photo: GHP

The post-2015 process started to take momentum in 2012 not only through the Rio+20 conference but also through the national, global and thematic consultation process. The GHP followed the debates from the beginning but it entered its list of priorities in 2013 with an analysis of health in the development agenda and a public event held on this topic during the World Health Assembly. In executive education, for the first time a new five-day francophone course on global health diplomacy was carried out in Geneva which found its continuation both in Senegal and Geneva in the following years. In addition, the GHP facilitated for the first time the pre-World Health

Assembly training course for the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA). Throughout the year, GHP continued to act as a platform for policy dialogues and as a renowned think tank to foster cooperation and facilitate networking among the different global health stakeholders. The 2013 annual symposium represented the Programme's effort to bridge and intersect different fields of work and research (see box). The year was also characterised by the move of the Graduate Institute to the Maison de la paix, housing the GI's research centres, among them the GHP, for the first time under one roof.

January

Launch of the **first textbook**
on **Global Health Diplomacy**

August

Launch of Volume 3 of the
**World Scientific Global Health
Diplomacy book series**

"Diplomatic practice in health is increasingly multilateralised, given the number of actors which must act collectively. One of the essential tools for this must be scientifically sound evidence as to the nature of the problem and the benefits or externalities that drive from collective action."

Sir George A.O. Alleyne, Director-Emeritus of the Pan-American Health Organization and Chancellor of the University of West Indies, in his keynote speech at the GHP's annual symposium

HEALTH DIPLOMACY MEETS SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

The 6th High Level Symposium on Global Health Diplomacy was held in November 2013 and attracted more than 200 participants. It was co-organised with the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and focussed on the interplay of health diplomacy and science diplomacy. Both were considered as means to address global challenges in an interconnected world and both were seen as increasingly becoming an integral part of foreign policy. The symposium not only explored the opportunities but also addressed contradicting concerns about geopolitical and economic interests, values and principles. The symposium discussed the following three dimensions of the relationship between science and diplomacy, applying them to challenges in global health: diplomacy for science, science in diplomacy, and science for diplomacy. Overall, the symposium aimed at contributing to the academic debate on the interface of health and sciences and allowed the Programme to continue its outreach to the scientific community.

September

Move of the **Graduate Institute** and its GHP to the new **Maison de la paix**

November

Annual symposium on **Health Diplomacy Meets Science Diplomacy**

November

First francophone executive course Formation de haut niveau Diplomatie et Santé

2013

By 2014, the Global Health Programme had formulated its priority areas as global governance for health and global health diplomacy, linking and working in collaboration with a number of research centres, think-tanks, universities, international organisations, and a group of distinguished senior fellows. The nature of research remained applied policy research, accompanied by expert advice, policy dialogues and publications. A new research partnership was established with Rabin Martin focussing on Universal Health Coverage and the new economy of health. The ongoing WHO Reform and SDG negotiation processes continued to be important topics, monitored and researched by the Programme. A number of articles, policy briefs, and working papers concerning ongoing health debates were published throughout the year.

By 2014, the Programme had established itself as an important think-tank and platform for policy dialogue. Eight public events with an outreach of an average of 100 people were organised but increasingly, the GHP partnered with other think tanks, academic institutions, and international organizations, most notably with Chatham House, the Institute of Global Health of the University of Geneva, and the WHO, to organise events. A specific contract was signed in 2014 with the Swiss Federal Office for Foreign Affairs to strengthen International Geneva as a hub of global health (see box).

In 2014, the Programme implemented executive training courses and high-level seminars in global health diplomacy for more than 230 professionals, introducing new courses on “Global Health Instruments” and on “Multistakeholder Diplomacy”. The first public online course on global health diplomacy was launched and courses were held in Turkmenistan, Moldova and China. The French-language course was conducted for a second time and established itself as second flagship course in Geneva.

“The spirit of International Geneva is not only a catchword. It stands for Switzerland’s commitment to advance international cooperation and dialogue.”

Didier Burkhalter, President of the Swiss Confederation (2014) and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland (2012 - 2017)



May

Organisation of the **first public events** at the Maison de la paix **during the World Health Assembly**

October

First regional course on global health diplomacy outside Europe, held for ASEAN countries in Jakarta, Indonesia



Ruth Dreifuss (middle), former President of the Swiss Confederation.
Photo: GHP / S. Deshapriya

RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL GENEVA

Throughout the years, the Global Health Programme has positioned its activities within the context of International Geneva with the aim of strengthening Geneva as the “global health capital of the world”, working with some of the most influential health organisations based in Geneva, such as WHO, the Global Fund, Gavi, UNAIDS, but also with organisations from other sectors, such as the WTO, WIPO, and WEF. The Programme started to become more actively engaged in Swiss initiatives based in Geneva, such as in the Global Health Forum led by the University of Geneva and the Geneva University Hospitals, on behalf of the Graduate Institute.

In this context, the GHP signed a multi-year contract with the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen

“International Geneva as a hub of global health” in 2014. The project provides the means for the GHP to continue to engage with a wide-range of actors and to enhance its role as laboratory of global health innovation. In this way, the platform function of the GHP is supported, facilitating the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences, encouraging the vast numbers of Geneva-based actors to work together on topics of common concern, and building cross-sectoral synergies to address current global health challenges. The project also allows for mobilising the health dimensions of ongoing negotiations, allowing the diplomatic community in Geneva to prepare their positions in the lead-up to major international gatherings. Activities of the project include an electronic newsletter, policy dialogues, symposia and other outreach activities.

November

Start of the multi-year project on

Strengthening Geneva as Global Health Hub

2014



First briefing to WHA new delegates. Photo: GHP / S. Deshapriya

2015 saw a number of important milestones in all its three functions of research, training and convening. The GHP was awarded for the first time a research grant as Principle Investigator and thus, it started this two-year research on “Gridlock in Global Health Governance”. In addition, the GHP launched a series of activities on the involvement of the security sector in health crisis together with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). This project addressed the economic, security and humanitarian dimensions of the West African Ebola crisis and explored the governance implications in order to provide a more coherent, cross-sectoral approach. In addition, a new executive course, “Global Health

Diplomacy in the Humanitarian Space”, was added to the existing thematic portfolio and the francophone course on global health diplomacy was for the first time held in Dakar, Senegal together with the Ecole Nationale d’Administration (ENA). In its platform function, the Programme for the first time organised, together with the UN Foundation, the “Briefing for New WHA Delegates”. This public event saw great success with more than 450 participants, and has since become an annual event before the official opening of the World Health Assembly. Finally, the GHP was also designated a “WHO Collaborating Centre on Governance for Health and Global Health Diplomacy”.

May

First briefing to new WHA delegates, organised jointly with the UN Foundation

July

Designation of the GHP as **WHO Collaborating Centre on Governance for Health and Global Health Diplomacy**

“The THINK_SDGs initiative is a call to change. [...] This [the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs] can be a unique opportunity to turn health into one of the top sectors in the global governance process for sustainable development.”

Paulo Buss, Director of the FioCruz Centre for International Relations in Health, Brazil, and Director of the WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centre for Global Health and South-South Cooperation

THINK_SDGS

The network THINK (Think tanks, Health policy institutions, Networks, and Knowledge) _SDGs was launched in 2015 by the Global Health Centre (GHC) and the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) after its first two-day global meeting held in November 2015 in Geneva, mixing closed roundtable discussions with public events. THINK_SDGs brings together Global Health Policy Think Tanks and Academic Institutions to strengthen the capacity of research institutions to generate evidence-informed policy options and enable a collective engagement in policy dialogues on the health-related SDGs. The network enhances the role of Southern think tanks and focuses on the following six areas: better governance for the SDGs; political accountability for SDG implementation; stakeholder engagement; systemic, inter-sectoral health challenges; knowledge sharing as a global public good; and policy research.

After the great success of the launch, regional consultations and meetings were held in the following years. The first such regional meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil organised by FioCruz, with support of IDRC and the GHP. One year later, followed by African and Asian regional consultations, as well as specific country conferences. In 2017, a second global meeting was held in Geneva and a knowledge sharing platform was created through ghptt.graduateinstitute.ch. The network also published a wide-range of articles and policy papers. Among others, a special issue of the Global Health Governance Journal was published on the role of think tanks in the implementation of the SDGs, a G20 Insights Policy Brief for the German G20 Presidency (2017) and a Global Solutions Paper for the Argentinian G20 Presidency were published.

October

**Start of the SNIS project on
Gridlock in Global Health Governance**

November

**First gathering of global health think
tanks and academic institutions on the
implementation of the SDGs**

2015



Breakfast with Parliamentarians in the German Bundestag. Photo: GHP / A. Berry

POLIO ERADICATION AND TRANSITION: A POLITICAL AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE

The policy-oriented research project “Polio Eradication: Overcoming the final barriers and ensuring a lasting legacy for health systems” analyses the critical dimensions of the global effort to eradicate polio and explores the resilience and transition challenges involved, involving member states, European institutions, and other key stakeholders to understand the evolving political complexities. The effective integration of valuable GPEI (Global Polio Eradication Initiative) resources into health systems and their relationships to large global governance challenges, such as the transformative SDGs agenda, universal health coverage, global health financing, global health security and the sharing of

responsibility for creating global public goods for health, are the focus of this hybrid research project. It focusses on the role of European actors and is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In March 2016, the first public event took place in Geneva, followed by further policy dialogues and roundtables held in London and Berlin in the same year and, among others, Oslo, Brussels and Stockholm in the following years. In this project, public engagement is coupled an intensive research effort through in-depth qualitative interviews.

March

First public event of the policy-oriented research project on **Polio Eradication**

April

The Global Health Programme (GHP) becomes **the Global Health Centre (GHC)**

In 2016, the Global Health Programme transitioned into the Global Health Centre (GHC) which was important internally to recognize its vision to expand activities, especially in the research areas and in its role within an Institute of International Relations and Development Studies. Most activities continued along the lines of the previous years. In research, a new hybrid research project on "Polio Eradication: Overcoming the final barriers and ensuring a lasting legacy for health systems", combining policy dialogues and in-depth qualitative research, gained momentum in 2016 (see box). In executive education,

more than 200 participants attended the global health diplomacy executive courses around the world, among others in Geneva, Beijing / PR China, and for the first time also in Colombo / Sri Lanka and Tehran / Iran in 2016. Additionally, the GHC introduced web-based discussions (webinars) accessible globally on current ongoing topics, such as the health workforce as an economic investment, Non-Communicable Diseases, and the reform at the World Health Organization. These three webinars were a great success, with more than 600 viewers joining the webinars.

"The position of the European Commission is clear: in the 21st century no one should suffer or die from polio or any other disease which can be prevented with safe, effective and available vaccines."

Neve Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development at the closed dinner event in Brussels 2017.



October

Launch of Volume 4 of the
**World Scientific Global Health
Diplomacy Series**

November

First webinar held to reach
out to a global audience

2016



The three DGs at the GHC public hearing. Photo: GHC / S. Deshapriya

2017 was characterized by the elections of the WHO Director-General who was for the first time in history elected through secret ballot by member states. Effective leadership is critical to govern the global health domain, especially as leader of the World Health Organization. Throughout the year, the Global Health Centre carried out a number of research and policy activities linked to this election process (see box). At the same time, the Centre introduced the “Geneva Health Week” with seven public events held at the Graduate Institute during the World Health Assembly. This contributed, together with the 22 other events organised by the Centre in Geneva and 6 events outside Geneva, to manifest Geneva as a strategic location for policy engagement, intellectual dialogues and debates. In addition, eight executive courses were held throughout the year, four based in Geneva and four beyond Swiss borders. Since 2017, through a modular system, the Geneva-based executive courses allow participants to obtain a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) and even to pursue a Master in Advanced Studies (MAS) by following courses offered by the Executive Education Department of the Graduate Institute.

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

The election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization was considered one of the most important elections of the year due to the high political attention on health following the Ebola outbreak and the adoption of the 2030 Development Agenda. Expectations were high for the new Director-General to demonstrate the required political leadership. The Global Health Centre, through the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, introduced back in 2016 a hybrid project at the nexus of research and policy, entitled “What Defines Global Health Leadership in the 21st Century” in order to render the election process more transparent, accountable and inclusive. Activities on this project culminated in a public hearing of the three short-listed Candidates presenting their vision for the future at the Maison de la paix in March 2017. More than 450 people attended the event and more than 1’700 watched the online webcast.

In addition, later in June 2017, a public event to bid farewell to Margaret Chan and her ten years of global health leadership was organised at the Graduate Institute. Many colleagues, friends, and individuals came to say thank you to the former DG and the Global Health Centre was glad that we could do so too.

February

Launch of Volume 5 of the **World Scientific Global Health Diplomacy Series**

March

Public event on **Political Leadership for Global Health** with the WHO DG candidates



2017 GHC public hearing of DG candidates. Photo: GHC / S. Deshapriya

“Global Health Leadership can be interpreted as the practice of mobilizing the institution and its stakeholders to go through a constant process of learning and adaptation to ensure that health is high on the political agenda and to enable effective health action.”

Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Centre, the Graduate Institute

May

First Geneva Global Health Week organised during the World Health Assembly at the Maison de la paix

June

Introduction of the **Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS)** in Global Health Diplomacy

June

Farewell event to Margaret Chan, the then Director-General of the World Health Organization

2017

THE ANNIVERSARY OF WHO

A year of celebration for the Global Health Centre has also been a year of celebration for WHO. Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Centre, said in her opening remarks of the second "Geneva Global Health Week", starting with the "Briefing of New WHA Delegates" on Sunday prior to the start of the World Health Assembly, said:

"We are not just celebrating 70 years of WHO as an organisation, we are celebrating its constitution, one of the most radical documents the world has produced in that it affirms that it is the social responsibility of governments to protect and promote people's health and gives the organisation treaty-making powers."

Nine public events and roundtables in one week and more than 1'500 people joining the events at the Maison de la paix illustrate the GHC's established role in convening policy debates in Geneva, in creating synergies between global health challenges and other sectors impacting on health, in bringing different actors together, and in performing its role as a laboratory of global health innovation. The Maison de la paix – after five years of existence - has developed into International Geneva's main hub for intellectual exchange and the Global Health Centre is proud to be a contributor to this.

March

Launch of the online course on
21st Century NCD Diplomacy

May

First Walk the Talk held prior to the World Health Assembly & the **2nd Global Health Week** at the Maison de la paix



The Global Health Centre celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2018. It is time to say thank you, to reflect upon the past and to look towards the future. With the first “Walk the Talk”, organised by the WHO, just prior to the World Health Assembly, the Centre introduced its celebration year. More than 20 public events were organised at the Graduate Institute and others were held elsewhere in the world. An online course on “21st Century NCD Diplomacy” was launched, seven executive courses within the CAS curriculum were held, and five additional courses were organised with different partners across Europe. New research grants were awarded, and other research efforts continued.

October

Start of the 2nd SNIS project on Understanding the norms and practices of pathogen- and benefit-sharing to improve global health security

December

Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Global Health Centre

2018



More than **1600 persons**
trained in **68 courses** from
more than **100 countries**

2008

2018

1	public events / year in and outside Geneva	25
0	research grants & applied research projects	8
1	executive courses / year in and outside Geneva	8
1	full-time staff	8
2	part-time staff	7
0	consultants	5

“The next era of global health will be judged by its political capacity to ensure global health security, build universal health coverage, address the commercial determinants of non-communicable diseases and reduce global health inequalities. This will require a focus on producing global public goods for health (GPGH) through strong international organisations [...] supported by governments who have the political will and the institutional capacity to practice smart sovereignty.”

Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Centre, the Graduate Institute

There are no conclusions and there is no ending. The story does not stop here but will continue. A new story will be written in the next ten years and so it should be.

Yet, it is the appropriate moment to thank all its committed staff, consultants, and students who have worked with the Centre over the years, colleagues in the various administrative departments in the Graduate Institute, senior fellows, affiliated faculty, donors and the many, many partners who have become friends for their support. The achievements of the Centre are not reached in isolation. They were possible because of an incredible dedication and spirit to work together. Thank you all.



