



GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE STRATEGY 2020–24

OPEN GLOBAL HEALTH

GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE

GLOBAL
HEALTH
CENTRE

ABOUT THE GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE

Founded in 2008 by **Ilona Kickbusch**, a prominent public intellectual and global health expert, the Global Health Centre (GHC) focuses on research and analysis, strategic convening, and education. Over its first decade, the GHC has strengthened Geneva's role as a capital of global health. In 2019, Ilona Kickbusch handed over leadership of the Centre to **Vinh-Kim Nguyen**, emergency physician and medical anthropologist, and **Suerie Moon**, internationally-recognised policy expert on global governance and health. Global health is currently at a crossroads, facing acute challenges from a shifting geopolitical order, weakened multilateralism, and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as chronic challenges such as climate change, economic inequality, migration, and armed conflicts. The Centre aims to open global health to diverse voices, knowledge and ideas, and engage critically with issues of governance, politics and power. It offers a unique meeting place for scholars and practitioners in Geneva and far beyond for discussion, debate, learning and connection.

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Geneva, Switzerland is a “global health capital”: home to the headquarters of leading global health agencies, including the World Health Organization, numerous international organisations, and diplomatic missions to the UN. Dozens of nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and policy think tanks have been attracted to Geneva as a result. Geneva is also home to agencies working on human rights, humanitarian action, migration, the environment, trade and more; and it is a centre for banking and finance.

As a result, Geneva convenes a significant community of both residents and frequent visitors interested in global health—a lively, fluid, mobile and international public. At a historical turning point for global health, this community is eager for information, analysis, and insight.

Located on the right bank of Geneva, close to the United Nations and the Campus Biotech, the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) is strategically positioned to meet these needs, train a new generation of leaders, and help shape a rapidly-evolving global health agenda.

In 2019, the new leadership of the Centre identified the need for a strategy to clearly articulate a vision, mission, and a framework for future growth.

MISSION

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE MISSION

The Graduate Institute is an institution of research and higher education dedicated to the fields of international relations and development studies. Its activities include: research, postgraduate teaching, executive education, forums for debate and forward-looking thinking. Its mission is to offer independent and rigorous analyses of current and emerging global challenges, in an effort to promote a more just and united international community and to make an academic contribution to the development of less fortunate societies. The Institute carries out its mission by drawing

on the intellectual resources available among the international actors based in Geneva and by developing its own international networks.

THE GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE MISSION

The Global Health Centre is committed to opening global health to diverse voices, knowledge and ideas. The Centre will engage critically in its research, education and convening with issues of governance, politics and power.

OPEN GLOBAL HEALTH

The Global Health Centre's commitment to the principle of "open global health" is at the core of its 2020–24 strategy. We believe open, inclusive governance furthers the rights and dignity of everyone whose health is affected by global governance and provides the ethical foundation for our work. We also believe it has positive practical outcomes: transparency and inclusion strengthen the legitimacy, effectiveness and accountability of global governance processes.

At a critical moment in world history, with new epidemic outbreaks, climate change, and other challenges reshaping the politics and economics of many countries, we believe that more open, transparent, critical and diverse approaches to governance will improve the quality of debate, enabling a larger public to inform decision-making and to monitor realities on the ground—thus, improving health policies and outcomes.

VALUES

The Centre's values are aligned with those of the Graduate Institute, and include commitments to **EXCELLENCE, INDEPENDENCE, RESPONSIBILITY, SOLIDARITY** and **DIVERSITY**.

We are committed to:

- Exchange and dialogue
- Clear management and communication policies
- Rigour and integrity in the realisation of tasks
- Respect for others and recognition of the contribution made by each individual
- Commitment to sustainable development
- Addressing inequality



FIVE FOCUS AREAS

In 2020–24 the Centre’s work will focus on five themes, while promoting collaboration across them in response to fast-changing events. Its work draws on cross-disciplinary thinking across anthropology & sociology, international relations & political science, law, history, economics, science & technology studies, and public health and medicine.

The Centre will actively promote collaboration that bridges Global North/South divides, within academia and beyond, bringing in governments, civil society, journalists, the private sector, and other stakeholders, to discuss and tackle global health challenges. The Centre will pay special attention to geopolitics, concerns of transparency and accountability, the impact of (neo)colonialism on global health, and populations often excluded from governance.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, ACCESS AND FINANCE

Global politics, finance and rules shape what kinds of technologies are (or are not) developed, who does (or does not) get access to these technologies, and ultimately whose health is undermined or protected. The Centre is mapping and investigating new business models for pharmaceutical research and development that can improve access; researching current norms and gaps in the systems for international sharing of pathogens and benefits for outbreaks; studying the influence of financialisation on the development and pricing of pharmaceuticals; and building platforms to facilitate two-way flows of knowledge between the research and policy/practitioner communities.

OUTBREAKS AND EPIDEMICS

The role of governance, politics and power in epidemic outbreaks is a cross-cutting interest for the Centre. For example, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Centre formed a working group of researchers from multiple disciplines to track daily developments in the outbreak and societal responses to it. They are examining research and development of new drugs, therapeutics and vaccines, and analysing challenges in access; monitoring compliance with international law; tracking trade and travel restrictions; analysing economic impacts of the outbreak; exploring potential future data-sharing and digital health opportunities; and identifying human rights threats in the response.

GLOBAL DIGITAL FUTURES

The future of global health is being shaped by the rapid growth and application of new digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and the role of data in decision-making. What new collaborations and governance approaches will be required? How might inequalities be reinforced or mitigated? What risks to privacy, autonomy and accountability do these tools introduce, and how can they be addressed? How might new digital technologies enhance community resilience? The Centre is supporting the co-creation of a neutral international platform to connect global interdisciplinary research projects that promote responsible and inclusive artificial intelligence and digital technology for health; and exploring the convergence of digital health with universal health coverage to improve the health and well-being of children and young people.

INTIMACY, SEXUALITY AND AUTONOMY

Sexuality and sexual health are closely linked to power and politics. Sexual health, including reproductive options, remain politically contentious in most countries. Current projects include a multi-country collaborative study of transactional sex and sexual and reproductive health in displaced populations; a longitudinal study of reproductive choice and reproductive technologies in the UK; and research into infertility, inequality and reproductive technologies in the Global South.

LAW, PROTECTION AND CONTROL

The law plays a direct role in global health, as an instrument to promote rights, to control behaviour, and as the framework for global diplomacy. Tensions between empowerment, protection, control and criminalisation are central in global health disputes today. There are few international laws dedicated explicitly to health, but most international legal regimes have health implications. The Centre analyses legal instruments, their use and fragmentation in multiple issue areas impacting health; offers executive courses on health law, human rights and diplomacy; and conducts research, convening and education on the uses and misuses of law to regulate both psychoactive substances and people who use drugs.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2020–24

In order to fulfill its mission of opening global health, the GHC has adopted the following objectives in its current strategy:

RESEARCH	<p>The Global Health Centre incubates and hosts research on pressing issues related to governance, politics and power in global health. Providing logistical support and intellectual communities to researchers, including visiting fellows, strengthens the quality of their work, allows them to develop and obtain funding for research, reach a broad audience, and produce knowledge and ideas that shape policy and practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → SUPPORT ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS → DEVELOP NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS AND RESEARCHERS → SHARE RESEARCH FINDINGS → BUILD RESEARCH SKILLS
CONVENING	<p>The Centre convenes diverse stakeholders for dialogue to advance thinking and debate on critical, timely issues in global health. The Centre is mindful of how the individuals who are given a platform at its events play an important role in shaping public perception and debate. It will seek to have a diverse range of views represented within and across its convening events, paying particular attention to gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, profession, or discipline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → SHAPE THE PUBLIC AGENDA → INCREASE UNDERSTANDING → OPEN DEBATE ON SENSITIVE ISSUES → PROMOTE UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES → SOLICIT INPUT AND FEEDBACK
EDUCATION	<p>The Centre's educational programmes enable graduate students and professionals to build the skills and knowledge they need to understand how governance, politics and power shape global health, and to address current and emerging global health challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENTS ACADEMICALLY & PROFESSIONALLY → DELIVER QUALITY COURSES → REACH UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

The Global Health Centre is positioned to grow in exciting directions. Its commitment to “open global health” will provide new impetus to open global health research and policy conversations to critical engagement that will strengthen the field, preparing the next generation of leaders to contend with global health challenges on the horizon. Drawing on its growing intellectual community, the Centre can build a diverse but cohesive voice that actively engages and shapes the global health debate in Geneva and beyond.

