



From Vision to Impact:  
Empowering Young People  
**to Advance Equity in Global  
Health and Research:**



# The GHF Story

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- Global Health Focus (GHF) emerged in 2015 from a simple yet transformative question posed by its founder and Executive Director, Professor Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III: "Why don't we bring global health programmes to the developing world?" What began as an effort to replicate European global health training courses in Africa has evolved into a pioneering organization that has fundamentally reshaped research capacity and leadership development across the Global South.
- Through its flagship Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme (GHELP), participants gain not only research methodology training but also exposure to global networks and role models who demonstrate leadership through service. The organization's mentorship model has created a cascade effect, with early mentees becoming prolific researchers themselves and inspiring subsequent generations across Africa and beyond.

The organization's genesis traces back to Professor Lucero's experiences attending global health programmes in the United Kingdom and his subsequent teaching engagement at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania in 2012. A chance meeting with a medical student in Rwanda catalyzed GHF's distinctive approach, as youth organizations proved more enthusiastic and effective partners than traditional professional bodies. This serendipitous shift toward youth engagement became GHF's defining characteristic, with partnerships through organizations like the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) and the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) establishing the framework that continues today.

GHF's impact operates across multiple interconnected dimensions. At the individual level, the organization has mentored thousands of young professionals, creating pathways to scholarships, research opportunities, and international collaborations.

At the institutional level, GHF has pioneered what is now its GHF University Excellence programme, addressing a critical challenge facing universities in developing regions: the need to strengthen research capacity and improve international rankings. By facilitating internationalisation through university partnerships, providing research mentorship, and enabling collaborative research production, GHF delivers outcomes that universities struggle to achieve independently. This model operates at remarkably low cost compared to traditional development programmes, achieving significant impact through strategic networking rather than large financial

- Perhaps most significantly, GHF has catalyzed a research revolution among young people across the developing world. Before GHF's interventions, young professionals in these regions rarely engaged in research production. The organization recognized that original research represented only one avenue for evidence creation and systematically taught diverse research approaches. The emergence of highly productive early mentees created demonstration effects that spread rapidly through social media and professional networks, establishing new norms for youth engagement in research across multiple continents.

GHF's vision centers on impacting global health policy and practice through evidence creation and leadership development, with particular emphasis on addressing research inequities. The organization maintains that empowering countries through research capacity addresses fundamental inequities while contributing to improved population health outcomes. This mission operates through a distinctive set of values including cooperation, respect for marginalized populations, future-oriented preparation, and a commitment to altruism modeled by leadership that provides mentorship without membership fees or financial barriers.

Moving forward, GHF continues to evolve with plans for thematic research programmes in areas such as artificial intelligence and digital health, global surgery, and potentially low-cost, high-quality academic journals that prioritize accessibility over profit. The organization seeks to professionalize its structure while maintaining its volunteer-driven ethos, ensuring financial sustainability to support its expanding global network of universities and young researchers. With presence established across Africa, Central Asia, and expanding into Pacific regions, GHF represents a sustainable model for capacity building that prioritizes people development over infrastructure investment, demonstrating that transformative impact emerges not from substantial financial resources but from vision, commitment, and strategic relationship building.

# Global Health Focus History

Global Health Focus was founded in 2015 with the aim of developing critical thinkers, leaders and researchers in global health. The journey of GHF, though graced with humble beginnings, has been a spiral of hope in the era of innovative research. The idea of GHF was born from the need to engage youth in cutting-edge research in the developing world. This was visualized when the Founder, Prof. Don Eliseo Lucero-Priso III alongside other pioneering members of GHF launched the first Global Health Foundation course at the University of Rwanda, Kigali in 2015.

The emergence of GHF in the developing world sparked the creation of several similar initiatives around the globe. Its pioneer certificate course in Rwanda marked the foundation's first entry into Africa. This was soon followed by other programs and events, including the reconfiguration of the certificate course to Global Health Emerging Leaders' Program, solidifying its presence in the continent. Over time, the foundation's impact expanded beyond the developing world, laying a foundation of evidence generation and youth empowerment through global health research. GHELP became more than just a platform for equipping the next generation of health leaders with leadership skills. It now empowers them with the critical abilities needed to address pressing global health challenges. Through the analysis of key health concepts and theories, and the examination of health disparities, participants are able to develop innovative strategies to tackle these complex issues.

## Warning Stories of Impact



To date, GHELP has successfully trained an estimated 5,000 students and professionals across diverse health fields from around the world—a remarkable achievement that represents not just numbers, but 5,000 individual stories of transformation and empowerment. This has enabled participants to merge their medical expertise with essential global health competencies, contributing meaningfully to the advancement of the global health landscape through over 400 publications in peer-reviewed journals, amplifying voices from the Global South in international health discourse.

In its effort to reduce research inequity and strengthen institutional research capacity, GHF produced the first ever University Excellence (UE) Workshop. Founded in 2021, UE aims to advance universities through research, innovation and global collaboration. Over the years, GHF broadened its reach and deepened its impact by collaborating with notable personnel in local governments, international NGOs and health organizations. As such, the foundation has played key roles in advancing research in global health challenges.

Today, GHF boasts of a global impact in over 30 countries, hosting more than 50 conferences throughout sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe and continues to pivot the development of innovators versed in global health, research capacity building and the generation of knowledge and evidence to inform global health policy and practice, with its 5,000+ graduates now serving as ambassadors of change in their respective communities and professional spheres.

GHF's impact has been outstanding, to say the least. Its birth, growth, and aspirations have played a significant role in shaping the evolving landscape of global health.

'My experience in GHF has been a valuable learning journey that helped me develop program management and leadership skills, which continues to influence my current role and future opportunities.' – Remy, Pioneer member GHF.

'GHF's influence on many of its active participants has been tremendous. It has significantly empowered participants to discover their potential, build valuable networks, and develop essential self-improvement skills.' – Prof. Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III, Founder GHF.

As GHF celebrates its 10th anniversary, it stands as a testament to the transformative power of youth empowerment in global health. From a single course in Kigali to a movement spanning 30 countries, GHF has proven that when young minds are equipped with knowledge and purpose, they become the architects of change.

The 5,000 graduates and 400+ publications represent more than statistics—they are living proof that health equity is not just an aspiration but an achievable reality. As GHF enters its second decade, it carries forward not just a legacy of impact, but a promise that the future of global health lies in the hands of those bold enough to dream of a world where health knows no boundaries.



# | 2 | Ghf Research Impact And Recognition

From its inception to its current growth, GHF has been instrumental in shaping the future of global health through a distinctive approach that transforms individuals and institutions into indispensable influences across the global health landscape and beyond—extending into sectors like politics, education, and policy development.

**Building a Legacy of Research Excellence** Global Health Focus has championed a range of impactful initiatives that build research capacity among young people, particularly across the Global South. The organization's research impact spans several transformative areas: inspiring a new generation to recognize the value of research in creating a healthier and more equitable world, promoting locally grounded research that brings regional realities into mainstream global health discourse, and strengthening publication culture among emerging researchers.

GHF's research unit, consisting of network members involved in diverse research policy and development projects, has developed expertise in health policy evaluation, evidence review and synthesis, and critical analysis across multiple health domains. Members have authored numerous papers covering infectious and non-communicable diseases, COVID-19, menstrual health, gender equality, health service delivery, food security, human resources for health, health systems strengthening, Universal Health Coverage, leadership development, pharmaceutical policy, and health equity. The unit's prolific output includes **approximately 1,000 articles listed on Google Scholar from 2016 to present**, alongside several book chapters and peer-reviewed publications.

Distinguished Recognition and Awards Evidence of GHF's transformative impact is clearly visible in the prestigious recognition received by GHELP graduates. **The Diana Awards**, tailored to empower youth in fostering a better future, has recognized the exceptional potential of outstanding young people with positive global impact. **Graduates including Funmbi, Saad, Yusuff, Greatman, Gabriel, Goodness, Hajar, Melody, Regina, Yusuf Babatunde, AbdulHammed, and Adriana** are Diana awardees whose distinguished footprints in the global health sector have marked their legacy in the annals of global health history through their innovative competence in health research on a global scale.

Another remarkable testament to GHF's influence is the **Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH)** grants awarded to numerous members. These annual grants serve as financial fuel for the aspirations of these exceptional minds, supporting early-career researchers worldwide in their first research endeavors in tropical medicine or global health. Since 2017, over 800 grants have been awarded across 66 countries, targeting researchers without prior funding. Since GHF's inception, approximately 20 of its members have received this prestigious grant, facilitating the advancement of progressive research in critical areas of global health.

**Developing the Next Generation of Research Leaders** As part of its commitment to developing high-quality research leaders, GHF members were appointed to the Youth Editorial Board of the Public Health Challenges (PHC) journal in 2022. At the time of their appointment, Public Health Challenges was the only journal in the world with a highly active and hands-on Youth Board.

This multidisciplinary, open-access journal addresses all areas of public health research, policy, and practice, with GHF members actively involved in co-managing, co-steering, and co-creating the publication while serving as ambassadors of science and research.

## **Tangible Outcomes and Global Influence**

The ripple effects of GHF's work extend far beyond individual achievements. Many alumni now publish in peer-reviewed journals and actively engage in global academic communities, while others have secured international research funding through competitive grant applications. **GHF-supported work has been cited by WHO, UNICEF, and other international organizations**, influencing policy through rigorous analysis and evidence-based recommendations that appear in academic journals and media platforms.

The organization's impact on academic advancement is equally impressive, with numerous **GHF alumni earning prestigious scholarships to top global universities, including Oxford, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Cambridge**, thanks to their enhanced research profiles developed through GHF's mentorship and capacity-building programs.

Several GHF-led research projects have received awards for their innovation and impact, while members have gained opportunities to present at international conferences and establish valuable global networks.

**A Continuing Legacy** Global health is evolving as young people increasingly take active roles in the sector, a shift significantly influenced by GHF's transformative approach. Through peer-to-peer mentorship, leadership development, and hands-on research experience, GHF continues to equip young researchers to conduct evidence-based research that shapes public health practice, fosters meaningful change in communities, and translates findings into effective policies.

The organization's impact is boundless and continues to manifest in people, systems, and across international borders, creating a new generation of global health leaders who carry forward the mission of health equity and evidence-based change.

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## Research Impact GHF Research Unit

GHF's research unit consists of members from the network involved in a range of research policy and development projects. The unit has expertise in the areas of health policy evaluation and analysis and evidence review and synthesis. Its research focus includes food security, conflicts and health systems, Universal Health Coverage, leadership and educational development, pharmaceutical policy, and infectious and non-communicable diseases.

The unit has published several book chapters and peer-reviewed articles, with about 1000 articles listed on Google Scholar from 2016.

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|------------------|-------|-------|
| <u>Citations</u> | 11415 | 11257 |
| <u>h-index</u>   | 52    | 52    |
| <u>i10-index</u> | 244   | 243   |

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The link to Google Scholar:

[https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Sl6p\\_6gAAAAJ](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Sl6p_6gAAAAJ)

### Developing Research Leaders

As part of its bid to enhance and develop high-quality research leaders, members of the GHF network were appointed to the Youth Editorial Board of the Public Health Challenges (PHC) journal in 2022. At the time of their appointment, Public Health Challenges was the only journal in the world with a highly active and hands-on Youth Board.

Public Health Challenges is a multidisciplinary, open-access journal that addresses all areas of public health research, policy, and practice. It provides a platform for sharing knowledge of urgent public health issues and promoting their understanding and solutions. Members of the Youth Editorial Board are actively involved in co-managing, co-steering, and co-creating the journal.

They serve as ambassadors of science and research, encouraging young people to engage in research and advocate for evidence-based approaches in public and global health.

## Youth Editorial Board

### Youth Editorial Board Section Editor

 Thinley Dorji (Central Regional Referral Hospital-Ministry of Health, Gelephu, Bhutan)

### Youth Editorial Board

-  Yusuff Adebayo Adebisi (University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom)
-  Attaullah Ahmadi (École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique, Paris, France)
-  Aishat Jumo Alaran (University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom)
-  Julian M.A. Buban (College of Medicine, University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines)
-  Lila K. Chamlagai (School of Public Health, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA)
-  Aniekan Ekpennyong (Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, United Kingdom)
-  Yasir Ahmed Mohammed Elhadi (Sudanese Medical Research Association, Khartoum, Sudan)
-  Dawa Gyeltshen (Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, Thimphu, Bhutan)
-  Junjie Huang (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China)
-  Khine Wut Yee Kyaw (Asian Harm Reduction Network-AHRN, Yangon, Myanmar)
-  Leonard Thomas Sy Lim (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom)
-  Xu Lin (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China)
-  Jaifred Lopez (Duke University, Durham, NC, USA)
-  Emery Manirambona (University of Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda)
-  Adriana Viola Miranda (Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia)
-  Shuaibu Saidu Musa (Global Health Focus Africa, Abuja, Nigeria)
-  Ahmed Negida, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine (Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts, USA)
-  Blaise Ntacyabukura (Karolinska Institute, Solna, Sweden)
-  Ryan Nugraha (University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia)
-  Joseph Christian Obnial (University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines)
-  Goodness Ogeyi Odey (University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria)
-  Isaac Olushola Ogunkola (University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria)
-  Shohra Qaderi (Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA)
-  Deborah Oluwaseun Shomuyiwa (University of Lagos, Nigeria)
-  Saran Tenzin Tamang (Central Regional Referral Hospital-Ministry of Health, Gelephu, Bhutan)
-  Nelson Ashinedu Ukor (Nigerian University of Technology and Management, Lagos, Nigeria)
-  Paolo Miguel Manalang Vicerra (Asian Demographic Research Institute, Shanghai, China)
-  Creuza Rachel Vicente (Federal University of Espírito Santo, Espírito Santo, Brazil)
-  Brian Li Han Wong (Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands)

# Reflection on GHF Research Impacts

One of the defining achievements of the Research and Innovation arm at Global Health Focus (GHF) has been the successful implementation of a dynamic, tiered research development model that has empowered young scholars from the Global South to move confidently from idea to impact. Recognising the barriers many early-career researchers face, especially around access, mentorship, and publishing opportunities, we devised a progressive pathway that begins with writing short-form pieces such as letters to the editor, commentary articles, and opinion essays, gradually advancing to longer narrative reviews, systematic reviews and original empirical research. This model builds technical competence and also cultivates critical thinking, scientific writing fluency, and policy engagement skills. The result has been extraordinary: our fellows and research associates have published in high-impact peer-reviewed journals, gaining visibility on international platforms. Several of these publications have gone beyond academia, being cited in policy briefs, government health strategies, and regional action plans, thereby reinforcing the relevance and utility of our work. We have proven that with the right structure and support, early-career researchers in resource-constrained settings can produce knowledge that shapes health decisions and contributes to global conversations.

Another source of deep pride has been our ability to inspire and nurture a generation of researchers, many of whom began their journey with GHF at an undergraduate or early postgraduate level, often with little or no prior exposure to formal research. Through our programmes, we have created a vibrant ecosystem that encourages curiosity, innovation, and resilience. Our alumni have secured competitive grants and fellowships including the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Early Career Grants, the Tobacco Harm Reduction Scholarship Programme, Robert Koch Institute Grant, International AIDS Society Grant, and various other prestigious research awards. Many are now leading epidemiological studies that uncover critical insights into infectious disease patterns, health system equity, and critical health issues in underserved populations. We are especially proud of the growing number of alumni who have transitioned into roles as principal investigators, academic faculty, and policy advisors, demonstrating the long-term, structural impact of our research mentorship model. Their success reflects the vision that GHF has always stood for: building research leadership from within, rather than waiting for it to arrive from elsewhere.

At an organisational level, we have committed ourselves to measurable progress by setting annual research publication targets, a rare step for a non-profit research initiative, and we are proud to have met or exceeded these goals each year. This culture of accountability has strengthened our internal systems, improved mentorship quality, and fostered healthy competition among fellows. More importantly, it has created a sense of shared purpose across the GHF network. Many of our graduates have received fully funded scholarships to pursue advanced degrees at leading institutions such as Oxford, Harvard, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the University of Cambridge among others. These scholars now continue to produce impactful research that addresses health inequities and drives policy change in their home countries and beyond. The success of our graduates is a reflection of their individual brilliance and a support to what is possible when an ecosystem of support, excellence, and belief in local capacity is firmly in place. As we look ahead, our ambition is to expand this model to more regions, deepen our South-South collaborations, and continue to build a global health research movement rooted in justice, knowledge equity, and bold, context-driven inquiry.

As our research network continues to expand across multiple countries and disciplines, one of the growing challenges we face is managing this growth effectively within the constraints of a small but passionate organisation. Coordinating mentorship, maintaining research quality, ensuring timely communication, and offering consistent support to an increasingly diverse and dynamic community has required considerable effort. The demand for collaboration, training, and publication support has surged far beyond our initial scale, which has at times stretched our administrative and structural capacity. However, we view this as a positive challenge, one that signals the success and relevance of our work. In response, we are actively developing clearer internal structures, including streamlined application processes, thematic working groups, and alumni-led clusters that allow those who are eager to engage more deeply with GHF to do so in meaningful and sustainable ways. Looking ahead, our priority is to evolve these systems further, ensuring that our network remains inclusive, impactful, and scalable without compromising on the values of equity, mentorship, and excellence that define us. This next phase is about deepening our roots while widening our reach.

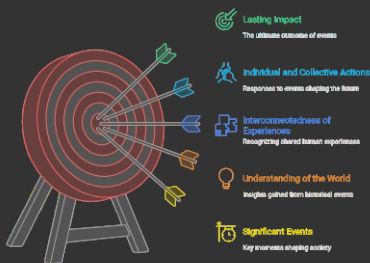
**Yusuff Adebayo Adebisi,**  
Director for Research and Thought Leadership  
Global Health Focus

# | 3 | Research Leadership: GHF Impact Hall - A Basket of Stories

From Afghanistan to the Democratic Republic of Congo, GHF is steering young people's interest & impact in academia and research. This dream, birthed in a modest Rwandan classroom, has reformed capable youth researchers scattered across continents—except well, Antarctica.

It's been a decade of redefining what youths in LMICs' engagement in research writing means, and to lift a glass to years of building capacity and growth, we pay homage first to the country of this dream's birth and then to GHF.

## Chronicles of Impact





**DR. ATAULLAH  
AHMADI**

*"Collaborating with GHF taught me that striving and working with passion to contribute to knowledge creation through research can open pathways to further professional and academic achievements."*

One of the foremost qualities of GHF alumni is critical thinking and proactiveness. This quality would mark the journey from Afghanistan, Asia, to France for Ataullah Ahmadi, a medical doctor and a senior researcher at the French School of Public Health, Paris, France.

In 2016, Ataullah, a young medical student at the Kabul University of Medical Sciences, upon careful self-evaluation, shared his career interest with Don, who welcomed him warmly to collaborate with GHF. With Don's direct mentorship and supervision, Ataullah's collaboration will manifest in various positions: a GHF Research Assistant in Afghanistan, Director of Research in Asia, and currently, a Senior Researcher in Paris, where he continues to play a significant role in public health, making a positive impact at the population level, and addressing the root causes of health issues that affect people.

Now Dr. Ataullah Ahmadi, he lives his passion vicariously of achieving health goals through research and a data-driven approach. With 64 publications/numerous scientific papers and over 20 author collaborations in reputable peer-reviewed journals, he demonstrates proven expertise in translating complex data into actionable insights, from the conceptualization and design of studies to their publication, thus supporting informed decision-making in healthcare and public health. His work transcends countries, and his most recent publication, in collaboration with Knowledge Action Change London, explores the knowledge and attitudes of patent medicine vendors in Ebonyi State, Nigeria.



**ALEX VANDY  
SAFFA BAYOH**

*"It simply opened the door to a world of opportunities. Personally, this was the event that opened my mind to public health, and until today, it was the best decision I ever made."*

In 2017, the GHF ship docked on Sierra Leonean shores. Audience expectation was set at 50 participants, only to experience a 5 times turnout on the program's last day. The advent of the timely program came at a turning point where young professionals like Mr. Alex needed clarity on their next career steps. Alex reports that the program opened the door to a world of new opportunities, and it was the best decision he ever made. He ascribes to the fact that GHF changes one's mindset, providing the platform to think critically and create a web of people that serve as a great resource. He also believes that GHF remains a midwife—one that birthed every professional milestone he achieved/surmounted.

GHF facilitates thought leadership and takes one on an introspective journey to self-discovery. After the maiden Sierra Leonean event, Alex made the decision to pursue a public health career in an internationally recognized organization providing technical support to the Ministry of Health. A few months later, the publications and collaborations started rolling in; he published over four papers together with other GHF leaders. Eight years after the program, he has moved on to become a Mandela Washington fellow, a nationally recognized pharmacist, and a global health champion.

He now manages the implementation of the PEPFAR-funded Global Reach 2 program as the youngest manager. From the web of people, Alex found friendship and partnership in GHF Alumni Aniekani Ekpeyong, with whom he co-founded the Pharmacare initiative during the preparation for the GHF program in 2017. Mr. Bayoh considers Don, who has been pivotal to his journey, as family. He is convinced that GHF creates a bond that lasts for a lifetime. Don has produced so many leaders in Sierra Leone that, as a godfather, he keeps discovering new GHF babies every day.

Alex Bayoh has the noble dream to serve his country and help build a healthcare system that is robust enough to withstand any outbreak, eliminate any epidemic, and develop a sustainable career pathway for other healthcare professionals. He is motivated by his strides, achievements, and seeing the impact of my work. In his words, "My goals give me hope."



**AISHAT ALARAN**

*"I was peer mentored by GHF members, and this was instrumental to my success. Having someone show you the ropes can never be overestimated. It makes navigating challenges a lot easier."*

Three days at the University of Ibadan Conference Hall would herald a transformative beginning for Aishat. In 2019, she attended the Global Health Emerging Leaders Program, where new horizons opened up for her. She recounts that it was as though she experienced a sudden awareness of infinite possibilities available to harness—and harness, she did. With hard work, diligence, and dedication, she began contributing majorly to global health research spanning countries, public health concerns, and target populations.

Aishat values the peer mentorship she received from GHF members. She says, "I was peer mentored by GHF members, and this was instrumental to my success. Having someone show you the ropes can never be overestimated. It makes navigating challenges a lot easier." Thereafter, she began a quick but steady climb up the ladder. Between February 2020 and July 2022, she landed the role of a research assistant at the Global Health Focus, where she conducted over 20 comprehensive literature reviews to support global health research projects. She also coordinated the development of research proposals and grant applications, contributing to successful funding efforts. Ms. Alaran also authored and co-authored more than ten research articles on critical public health issues, showcasing a strong ability to synthesize information and communicate findings effectively. As a key role in organizing and managing research projects, ensuring thorough data analysis and scientific rigor.

In 2023, Aishat won the Knowledge-Action-Change UK grant. As a harm reduction scholar, she led a scoping review on smoking cessation interventions in Africa, managed a team of researchers, and developed search strategies with a strong focus on data gathering, analysis, and strategic project management.

Aishat's wake-up call at Ibadan would launch her to new realities as a fully funded scholar at an Ivy League college—the University of Cambridge. After her master's degree, she soon landed another role she had long refined herself for at her alma mater: a research and policy assistant, working on improving the policy elements to implement the World Health Assembly Resolution on clinical trials and provide research and policy support to key stakeholder groups, including the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) members.

Ms. Alaran is driven by kindness, empathy, and consideration. She looks forward to being a world leader in the field of global health, contributing immensely to improving the health and well-being of the global population, without leaving anyone behind. In her words, "I love to contribute peace and joy into the lives of people by bringing meaning and solace in the way I live and represent myself."



**ANIEKAN EKPEYONG**

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GHF regional director and Edge Hill doctorate candidate Aniekan Ekpeyong describes his GHF experience as "exhilarating, career changing, and curiosity igniting." Since the word-of-mouth referral all the way from Maidas, his peer mentor, who hails from Rwanda, Aniekan has remained dedicated to the GHF cause while being immensely helpful to other GHF alumni.

Aniekan attended his first GHF event in 2016. The Lagos GHF program, coordinated by Maidas and Bodinga, shed light on career paths in global health and how to position oneself for a career in the field.

He started off as a volunteer, contributing skills and competence to tasks assigned, collaborating with like-minded change makers like him in writing impactful research papers, articles, and think pieces on issues affecting global health.

In 2017, he began engaging at the forefront of global health research and practice in sub-Saharan Africa, making his mark as an advocate for the generation of evidence-based research to influence policymaking. The advocate turned policy coordinator for the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation, Netherlands, shouldered the responsibility of developing policy work for the federation and participated in reviewing policies for presentation at the 2017 World Health Assembly.

Fast forward to 2019, Aniekan started his master's program in Global Health Policy, worked briefly in a global health policy organization to improve access to services to reduce non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and is currently in a doctoral program in healthcare leadership to transform leadership for better patient care quality and reduced inequity.

He affirms that "The thread that has connected all of this is utilizing my professional knowledge to do good to the society, a theme that is constantly reinforced in all GHF programs."

Mr. Ekpeyong testifies that he has gained significant mentorship and encouragement from Don at all stages of his career since their initial interactions in 2016. With glowing recommendation letters, support, and career advice, Don, through the GHF initiative, remains a propelling force to Aniekan's excellence in the global health field.

In a heartfelt remark, Mr. Aniekan closed, "GHF has made me a better professional, a better citizen of the world, and a better human. It has also provided a platform for me to pour into others, support them in their dreams, and see them live out their potentials. I have made friends for life with shared values and commitment to transformation. These, and many more, are significant achievements that will live with me for the next decades of my life."





**SHUAIBU SAIDU  
MUSA**

*"GHF has significantly been a part of my life for the past eight years. I have been fortunate to work together with very smart and kind people to impact lives and change the trajectory of global health on the African continent and beyond. My values have come alive through volunteering with GHF. I have learned how to be kind, more empathetic and support missions that help transform lives. GHF has made me a better professional, a better citizen of the world, and a better human."*

From the halls of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Shuaibu heard about Global Health Focus for the first time. The words sowed an invaluable seed in Shuaibu's heart, spurring him to take action—getting certified in the 2017 Global Health Pharmacy course.

He attests that the program has improved his critical thinking capacity, reinforcing his ability to think of solutions to the problems within his surroundings and beyond. It is interesting to note that, at this juncture, he realized his skill in scientific writing and valuable contribution to the global health arena. With refined thought leadership, Mr. Shuaibu morphed from "a reader and regurgitator of findings" to a contributor of knowledge in the fields of public health, global health, and nursing.

After the program, Mr. Musa started writing and getting published. With collaboration as one of his outstanding strengths, he jocularly mentions that "I collaborated with almost all the GHF members in my papers. Prominent amongst them are Yusuf Wada, Goodness, Emery, Gheltshen, Usman, Muhammad Kabir, Mustaf, Isaac, etc. Collaboration is the most propelling factor to the success of my papers. In fact, without it I wouldn't have come this far and wide." As of now, he has more than 50 publications to his name in peer-reviewed international journals, and still counting.

A leader through and through, he heads several research teams across Africa and Asia under the umbrella of GHF, where he supports the hatching of young and enthusiastic early-career global health researchers.

"Mentorship has been integral in my GHF journey. I acquired the skills of writing, publishing, emotional intelligence, and leadership through peer mentorship. I have been guided by many peers, which I am transferring to the younger ones." Shuaibu says. Most notably and true to GHF fashion, GHF provided support and mentorship to Shuaibu, enabling him to secure a fully funded scholarship for his master's program at one of the top universities in the world, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Shuaibu is driven by honesty, courage, consistency, hard work, networking and collaborations, and human conscience, and his greatest dream is to travel the world and make a positive impact in the lives of people while living a healthy and happy life. He aspires to be at global health decision-making tables in international organizations such as WHO, UNICEF, UN, and NGOs.



**BLAISE NTACYABUKURA**

*"The certificate course on global health significantly shaped my career over the years. The course also helped me approach my medical practice with new perspectives, enabling me to view health problems from a global standpoint and embrace the best practices and values. I also discovered numerous opportunities for growth beyond the confines of local education and medical practice, which honestly sparked my interest in public health policies and innovations."*

To Blaise, the certificate course on global health revealed a Venn diagram of interdisciplinary collaboration, which reflected the integral roles of fields such as pharmacy, veterinary medicine, finance, and engineering in achieving common healthcare outcomes. The interdisciplinary focus strengthened his appreciation for the diverse factors that contribute to public health.

The advent of the certificate course on global health significantly shaped his career over the years. Blaise claims that it broadened his understanding of healthcare systems beyond local practices, introducing him to global health structures and the various levels of healthcare delivery, which expanded his perspective on health issues both locally and internationally. With real-life applications of challenges presented by Prof Don through ethical and health economics exercises, Blaise was tested and motivated to think critically about healthcare strategies and their real-world implications. This self-discovery, is the heart of what the GHF certificate course on global health aims to achieve—compelling young researchers in LMICs to think globally and act locally.

Armed with new knowledge and skills, Blaise started publishing papers in collaboration with GHF members. GHF support is one that every alumni genuinely agrees to. Blaise describes it as "invaluable."

He testifies that "The GHF body helped me explore career paths, map out the steps to achieve my goals, and clarify the essential skills and knowledge I needed. They also provided actionable guidance throughout my journey. At pivotal moments, such as seeking master's programs, or entry-level jobs, their practical advice helped shape my success. Additionally, their financial guidance in the early stages of my career was crucial in ensuring that my path remained sustainable."

One paper became two, and two became twenty papers in a short while. He takes great pride in his loyalty to the movement and stays true to his innate values of curiosity, growth, integrity, empathy, and making a positive impact. He works towards providing quality, evidence-based, comprehensive, and accessible primary care. Mr. Ntacyabukura derives joy from spending quality time with family and exploring new places and cultures.



**YASIR ELHADI**



*"The GHF program has been the cornerstone of my career journey, providing the foundation for all the professional achievements I have attained over the years. It was a transformative experience that instilled in me invaluable life lessons. It taught me resilience and determination, showing me the importance of persevering through challenges in both research and life."*

The drive for growth and knowledge has been Yasir's Northern Star. Sojourning from his Sudanese origins to Egypt, to Libya, and the UAE, he continually lives out his dream of contributing meaningfully to global health by advancing research addressing health inequities and improving public health systems, particularly in underserved regions.

Yasir's journey began with the GHF program, which he refers to as "the cornerstone of my career journey." He chronicles that prior to joining GHF, he had no knowledge of research, and the program transformed his skills in research, data analysis, and critical thinking, opening doors to numerous opportunities and equipping him with the tools and confidence to secure key roles, from working as a hospital pharmacist in Sudan to serving as an international public health consultant in the National CDC and the Cancer Control Authority in Libya and later excelling as a healthcare administration and public health researcher in the United Arab Emirates.

Upon graduating from the GHF program, Yasir's academic and professional achievements expanded exponentially. Before joining the program, he had no research publications to his name.

However, in five years, he published over 40 research papers in peer-reviewed journals, covering diverse topics such as public health priorities, noncommunicable disease policies, health economics, and child growth monitoring. These publications reflect the research and analytical skills he gained through the program. Additionally, he took up leadership roles, including mentoring budding researchers, consulting in healthcare administration, and co-developing initiatives to build research capacity in the MENA. These accomplishments are direct outcomes of the transformational impact of GHF, which not only laid the foundation for Yasir's academic success but also for leading and contributing meaningfully to the global health community.

Mr. Elhadi's greatest dreams and aspirations are to contribute meaningfully to global health by advancing research that addresses health inequities and improves public health systems, particularly in underserved regions. He enjoys playing football, which he says keeps him active and fosters teamwork, reading, and mentoring others.



**OUNMIA BOUADDI**

*"Thanks to GHF, nobody else had to 'take a chance' on me because they already had.... Being part of the GHF network opened the door to the world of research and scientific publishing for me. I am incredibly grateful for this experience because it prepared me to seize opportunities when they eventually came my way. Without the foundational research experience I gained through GHF, I would not have been able to make an impression or take full advantage of these opportunities."*

Oumnia believes everyone has a unique path in global health. Faithful to her convictions, she found hers and has since stuck to it. She took up leadership roles in GHF, co-organized GHELP 2023 in Morocco, and even served on the youth editorial board of Public Health Challenges for a year and a half. Oumnia's engagement with the GHF network opened the door to the world of research and scientific publishing for her.

Pathfinding often begins with a dream. Oumnia had long dreamed of transitioning from clinical medicine to global and public health. Unfortunately, she couldn't afford to attend prestigious universities, even after receiving offers. Thankfully, she remarks that GHF played a pivotal role in bridging this education gap, proving that attending top universities is not the only route to carving out a successful career. In her telling of GHF as an alternate form of valuable education, "Sometimes, learning from and being mentored by those who attended these institutions can provide equally valuable education. In this sense, GHF truly serves as a university of excellence. Engaging with GHF and 'learning on the job' helped me build a solid skillset, craft a strong PhD application, and ultimately secure an international scholarship to pursue my PhD. Having a list of publications as a pre-doctoral student also strengthened my application for the WHO internship program. As a result, I spent four incredible months at WHO HQ in Geneva, working with the Immunization team."

Ms. Bouaddi, who is currently a pre-doctoral researcher at the Barcelona Institute of Global Health in a very noble manner, ascribes her greatest achievement to be "which I can't fully take credit for, is seeing alumni of GHELP Morocco 2023, which I co-organized, publish their papers and further engage with GHF and get access to more opportunities in a trickle-down effect manner." She embodies what GHF does, creating a waterfall effect of empowered early career researchers.

According to Ms. Oumnia, she owes so much to GHF for clearing some of the fog and uncertainty that many of early career researchers face when trying to navigate a path into global and public health. "Thanks to GHF, nobody else had to 'take a chance' on me because they already had."



**FERUZI ABDU SALAM**

*"My perception of a health career being relegated only to the clinicals has changed. I have seen that it is possible for one to have an outstanding career as a health practitioner in other global health fields."*

From a Facebook post made from Rwandan friends, Feruzzi was encouraged to join the GHF Goma course in 2017. He describes his journey forthwith as "amazing and fruitful" and has since learnt major life lessons on creativity and innovation in global health. Upon graduation from the GHF programme, he had research papers published on vital issues like COVID-19 and Mpox. Looking retrospectively, Feruzzi has come to the intelligent deduction that an excellent health career is not tied to the hospital walls and clinic rooms.

He now believes one can do better in other fields of global health and make sustainable impact. Ferruzzi hails the mentorship and support he gained as a pivotal pillar to his success and dreams of publishing more papers, get his specialization while traveling the world as an ever-learning student of life.



**NELSON UKOR**

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*"One profound thing from GHF was learning that regardless of your background and where you find yourself, you can make a difference."*

Nelson journeyed from Lagos to Uyo to attend the GHF Uyo conference in 2018. The engagement with like-minded professionals was 'eye-opening and career defining.' It influenced his intentional focus on public health, identifying problems, doing research, and from his discovery, he deduced that "some problems can only be best solved by thriving enterprises and not left for the usual grant making organisations."

All of his accomplishments stand firm on his solid values of integrity and impact. When Mr. Ukor is not busy making impact, he relaxes by reading African Literature, cooking, traveling and yoga.

Through collaboration and peer-mentorship, Nelson published multiple book chapters and most impressively, co-founded "Incolc8," a company built on the principles of innovation and impact. His experience with GHF not only exposed him to global health dynamics but also helped him identify scalable solutions rooted in African contexts. Nelson believes that peer mentorship in the GHF network is an ongoing journey as people from the GHF network have remained very tight knit since the programs." and he declares that at "GHF, you develop lifelong connections."

He holds dreams of scaling his health enterprise, exiting and starting a new one focused on health research for African prosperity.



**JOY SHARON  
JOHN**

*"One major life lesson I've learnt from my GHF experience is that with the right support system, you can overcome any fear. I once believed that research was out of reach for me, but being part of the GHF programme, surrounded by driven young professionals thriving in research, changed that."*

GHF gives one an all expense-paid trip into the path of destiny. In 2016, Joy attended the Global Health Course. Surrounded by a network of passionate, driven young professionals, she found more than knowledge, she found courage. "The peer mentorship I received from GHF played a major role in helping me overcome my fear of venturing into research," she often reflects. Under the mentorship of Professor Don and the support of fellow GHF members, she began to take bold strides. Their example gave her the courage to step out of her comfort zone and give it a try. As a result, she gained valuable experience and, more importantly, a newfound confidence in my abilities as a researcher.

Her journey took a bold turn when she co-authored her first research paper, a milestone made possible through the mentorship and collaboration fostered within the GHF community. Recently, she partnered with GHF fellows to proofread, edit, and co-author a second publication—proof that her transformation was not only personal but now professional.

GHF ignited more than her research journey—it reshaped her career trajectory. Inspired by the programme, she transitioned into leadership roles within international organizations, advocating for healthcare policy reform and leading impactful projects across Nigeria.

She is now exploring research in Healthcare Policy and Management, and is co-editing a textbook on the Sociology of Reproduction alongside scholars in England, a milestone she once thought impossible.

Looking back, she credits GHF not only for giving her confidence but for planting a deeper purpose. "Thanks to GHF, I am also exploring the field of research in Healthcare Policy and Management. It has been nine fulfilling years, living out purpose. GHF inspired this!" she says.

Her dream is to influence the development of healthcare systems that are effective, equitable, and accessible to everyone while remaining deeply committed to understanding and shaping solutions to maternal, newborn and child healthcare challenges across diverse economic settings, from high- to low-income countries, addressing both governance and technological dimensions. Beyond systems and policy, Joy Sharon aspires to be a force for positive change, proof to that young girl with a dream, who feels like a misfit or a failure as I once did, that greatness resides within her too.



# CHRONICLES OF IMPACT

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**HASSAN OLAYEMI  
ALAKA**

*"One of the life lessons I've learned is the crucial need for mentorship, no matter your level, you still need to be mentored."*

This quote by Hassan Olayemi Alaka perfectly captures the spirit of his journey through the Global Health Emerging Leaders Program (GHELP). From Nigeria to Taipei, his story is one of determination, excellence, and a strong belief in the power of community.

Before GHF, Hassan had the passion, but it was the program that refined that passion into structured direction. He credits much of his growth to the influence of thought leaders like Prof. Don and Pharm. Adebisi, whose mentorship helped him rethink possibilities and open himself to them. Through structured guidance, research exposure, and hands-on collaboration, GHF helped Hassan find his footing as a researcher and advocate.

Following his graduation from GHELP in 2019, Hassan presented his first conference abstract and quickly moved into publishing research, garnering over ten publications so far. Notably, he secured a travel grant to attend the 14th African Rotavirus Symposium and received both the RSTMH Early Career Grant and the Young Experts: Tech for Health Fellowship in Digital Health.

Beyond personal accolades, Hassan has remained deeply collaborative. "Most of my publications are with one GHF graduate or the other," he shares. This testament to the GHF network shows how shared experiences fuel shared success.

Today, as a graduate student in Taiwan, Hassan's dream is to become a professor of global health. His guiding values, perseverance, integrity, and respect continue to drive his mission. The Global Health Focus program didn't just shape Hassan's career, it helped him inspire others. He is not just a rising leader. He is proof that mentorship, vision, and global collaboration can truly transform lives.





**IBRAHIM  
ABDULAZEEZ**

*"I always knew I wanted to do more than treat individual patients. I wanted to change systems and GHF showed me how."*

When Dr. Ibrahim Abdulazeez first joined the Global Health Emerging Leaders Program in 2019, he was a young medical doctor eager to understand how to connect clinical work with larger health equity goals. His discovery in GHF was not just knowledge, but a platform to build his influence and sharpen his voice in global health advocacy.

GHF gave him his first real exposure to interdisciplinary research and international collaboration. "The conversations, the mentorship, the networking, it was like being plugged into a world of possibility," he recalls. With guidance from mentors and peers across Africa and beyond, he began to see how his work could scale beyond hospital walls.

Since then, Ibrahim has contributed to several community health projects, taken on leadership roles in youth-led public health movements, and actively participated in global health forums where he represented the voice of African professionals. "What GHF does best is give you the confidence to lead and the network to back it up," he says.

His experience with GHF also inspired him to mentor others. He frequently guides early-career medics interested in global health, sharing with them what he calls the "GHF mindset" a blend of passion, evidence-based action, and collaborative problem-solving.

While his current interests span infectious disease control, health systems strengthening, and youth empowerment, Ibrahim remains grounded in the values instilled by GHF: equity, integrity, and impact.

His ultimate goal? To serve as a policymaker and global health strategist influencing health systems reform across Sub-Saharan Africa. "GHF gave me the blueprint. Now I'm building."



# CHRONICLES OF IMPACT

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**DEBORAH SHOMUYIWA**

*"I discovered that my potential truly has no boundaries: by guiding me to explore new ideas, challenge my assumptions, undertake rigorous personal and professional development, and pursue opportunities I once thought out of reach, GHF showed me that I can become anything I set my mind to and that the possibilities before me are as vast and limitless as the world itself."*

Deborah's engagement with GHF is what she describes as transformative: through its mentorship and research projects, she gained the confidence in herself and her capabilities, and built a global network of peers, friends, and colleagues that supported her, and as she notes, "perhaps most importantly, GHF's emphasis on early career development has shaped my perception of my career and options available for me."

What she found through GHF was far beyond her expectations, it was a complete transformation. "GHF showed me what I'm truly capable of," Deborah shares. "It unlocked new opportunities, challenged my thinking, and gave me the tools to aim higher." Through engaging in research seminars, mentorship, and professional development, Deborah discovered a truth that now drives her every step: her potential has no boundaries.

GHF wasn't just an academic experience, it was a turning point. She testifies that "One of my proudest moments was publishing my first paper. It showed me that my ideas could contribute to the wider field and gave me the confidence to pursue even bigger research goals." By participating in research projects and receiving peer mentorship, Deborah gained confidence.

She credits the programme for equipping her with the courage to lead, the insight to innovate, and the support to succeed. "The mentorship I received from GHF members was the best I've ever experienced," she says. "It wasn't just guidance, it was empowerment."

Since completing the programme, Deborah has published several academic papers and led multiple leadership initiatives. But the most lasting impact, she notes, has been internal: a reshaped perception of what's possible and a global community that continues to walk with her. She currently serves as the research director for GHF Africa, an editorial board member at Wiley, and a graduate teaching assistant after bagging a fully funded scholarship to study in the United States.



# CHRONICLES OF IMPACT

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**JERICO OGAYA**

*"One of the most valuable lessons I learned from the Global Health Focus (GHF) programme is that youth are not just future leaders, but current changemakers capable of driving impactful advocacy, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Looking retrospectively, the Global Health Focus (GHF) programme has been a defining milestone in my career journey. It not only sharpened my understanding of global health systems and power structures but also gave me the confidence to pursue leadership roles and advocacy work at a young age."*

For Jerico Ogaya, the Global Health Focus (GHF) programme was more than just a training, it was a phenomenal experience that positioned him as a youth leader and changemaker in global health. As a Program Manager with GHF University Excellence in the Philippines, Jerico first encountered the GHF ethos through the AMSA Global Health Training in 2023, facilitated by Prof. Don Priso. The experience was enlightening, opening new academic and professional doors and reinforcing the idea that youth are not future leaders, but present agents of change.

The most important lesson from GHF is that global health is political and deeply intertwined with power, policy, and justice. The experience taught him to champion equity through inclusive and interdisciplinary collaboration, always centering communities in the process. He learned to see health not merely as a clinical issue, but one rooted in inequality. It spurred him to see public health through the lens of social justice and governance. The programme also underscored the importance of collaboration over competition, as solving complex global health challenges requires inclusive, interdisciplinary teamwork. Jerico learned that effective interventions must be context-specific, co-created with communities, and grounded in cultural and political realities. Above all, for Mr Ogaya, "the GHF experience instilled in me the resilience, purpose, and compassion needed to confront global health crises with strategic and meaningful action."

Looking back, GHF was a defining milestone. It built Jerico's confidence to lead research and advocacy efforts and exposed him to networks that led to over 30 peer-reviewed publications and leadership roles including his position as the youngest Associate Member of the DOST-National Research Council of the Philippines. Through mentorship and collaboration, Jerico not only grew as a researcher, but also became a mentor himself supporting young professionals around the world.

Since graduating from the Global Health Focus (GHF) programme, he has published over 30 peer-reviewed research papers in internationally indexed journals, many of which explore critical issues in global health, health equity, and public policy—topics deeply rooted in the GHF ethos.

Today, he envisions establishing a youth-led global health innovation hub in the Global South and contributing to multilateral governance bodies like the WHO or UN. His life is guided by values of equity, integrity, and service. Whether writing papers, managing programs, or inspiring others, Jerico lives out the GHF philosophy: where passion meets purpose, and leadership begins now.



**OLALEKAN JOHN**

*"Since joining GHF, I have recorded a trail of remarkable achievements. What began as an interest has evolved into a thriving research career. I have now published over 100 research articles in high-impact factor journals, co-authoring with scholars from around the world and contributing to critical conversations in global public health"*

In 2021, when a friend invited Okesanya Olalekan John to the GHF Conference in Ilorin, Nigeria, he had no idea it would mark the beginning of a life-changing journey. Then a research novice and Medical Laboratory Scientist at the Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Aro, he now reflects on that moment as "a God-sent gift."

"My GHF experience is beyond what words can express," Olalekan says. "It ignited my passion for global health and opened doors I never thought possible." At the time, he describes himself a novice in research, with limited exposure to academic writing and scientific inquiry. However, that single opportunity marked a transformative turning point in his career, igniting a passion for public health research and academic excellence that has since propelled him to great heights. Since joining GHF, he has recorded a trail of remarkable achievements. What began as an interest has evolved into a thriving research career. Through structured research engagements, strong mentorship, and peer support, GHF helped transform Olalekan from a curious learner into an internationally recognized researcher. The network provided the foundation for growth through mentorship, structured learning, peer support, and global exposure.

He has now co-authored over 100 publications in high-impact journals, contributed to global conversations in public health and infectious diseases, and become a two-time recipient of GHF's top research awards: Emerging GHF Researcher of the Year (2023) and GHF Researcher of the Year (2024).

One of his most notable milestones came when he secured a fully funded MPH program at the University of Thessaly, Greece offered solely based on his research accomplishments. He has since won an international travel bursary to attend a public health conference in Kenya and was selected for a fully funded U.S. research internship in 2026. GHF taught me that youth-led, equity-driven, and impact-oriented research can truly transform the world, he reflects.

Today, Olalekan is a mentor, lecturer, and rising global health advocate. He has presented at international conferences, mentored upcoming scientists, and secured a federal government role all before completing his NYSC. His values are compassion, equity, and integrity and this remains central to his work.

Looking ahead, he is set to graduate with distinction in 2025 and plans to begin his PhD, continuing his mission to drive impactful research, uplift underserved communities, and shape the future of global health.



**HIPOLITE TARIMO**

*"My role as an SDG3 GAP Associate at WHO Headquarters involved strategic coordination across global health stakeholders — a position where the leadership mindset cultivated through GHF helped me drive cross-sectoral collaboration and champion equitable health priorities at the global level."*

For Hipolite Tarimo, a Public Health Specialist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Tanzania, joining Global Health Focus (GHF) through a friend's recommendation proved to be a turning point in his career and life mission. His journey began in 2015 with a certificate course in Global Health at Kenyatta University and evolved into a transformative leadership experience through the GHF network.

"GHF opened my eyes to the deeper meaning of health equity and the power of service-oriented leadership," Hipolite reflects. "It reshaped how I engage with communities and global stakeholders alike."

GHF instilled in him the belief that "Leadership is service: Through GHF, I understood that impactful leadership in global health involves humility, listening, and empowering others." Through its research engagements, mentorship, and peer exchange, he learned to bridge global dialogue with local action, always keeping community realities at the heart of health initiatives. These lessons fueled his advocacy for inclusive health systems and equity-driven policies across Africa.

Hipolite's journey is marked by significant milestones. He authored a paper on Tanzania's COVID-19 response in the Journal of Global Health Science, amplifying the GHF values of transparency and accountability.

As an SDG3 GAP Associate at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, he applied GHF's principles of collaboration and humility to navigate complex global partnerships.

Peer mentorship within the GHF community also played a pivotal role. It supported his successful application to the Master's in Global Health and Development at University College London, where he graduated with distinction. Hipolite was later honored as a Young Physician Leader by the Inter-Academy Partnership and ESMT Berlin.

One of his most impactful achievements was raising over \$12,000 to establish emergency and reproductive health units in Tarime District, improving access to care for thousands. Today, Hipolite is committed to building resilient health systems, mentoring the next generation, and championing African voices in global health spaces.

"GHF taught me that excellence, compassion, and resilience are more than ideals, they're the foundation for lasting impact in global health."



**NURUDEEN  
ABUBAKARADAMU**

*"I learned ideas and leadership skills and critical thinking that are crucial in global health and how to explore strategies that could be used to identify and solve crucial issues as it relates to my community and my country at large. This course gave me the opportunity to acquire knowledge for personal growth and development."*

The Global Health Focus (GHF) program has been an empowering experience for NuruddeenAbubakar Adamu, significantly shaping his career and personal growth in the field of global health. Through GHF, Nuruddeen gained a comprehensive understanding of global health theories, current trends, challenges, and debates, particularly in relation to medicine, drugs, and the roles of pharmacists and healthcare professionals. This knowledge provided him with a critical perspective on the determinants influencing global health problems and equipped him to contribute to sustainable solutions.

The program expanded Nuruddeen's leadership skills and critical thinking abilities, essential for navigating complex global health challenges. It also emphasized the importance of collaboration, adaptability, and evidence-based approaches. These are principles that have guided his work in humanitarian settings and public health initiatives. GHF instilled in him the value of mentorship and continuous learning, encouraging him to both seek and provide guidance within the global health community.

Nuruddeen's engagement with GHF directly enhanced his research capabilities, enabling him to co-author multiple research papers on global health nursing and other topics, often collaborating with esteemed mentors such as Dr. Don Eliseo Priso III.

These academic achievements complemented his practical work, allowing him to assume leadership roles, including supervising a large nursing team at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Nigeria, responding to global health emergencies and Nutrition crisis. The program ignited his passion for global health, leading me to further studies and certifications in public health, and completing his MPH in Epidemiology.

Beyond academic and professional skills, GHF inspired Nuruddeen to found the Life Saving Training Initiative (LSTI), an NGO dedicated to emergency response training and community first aid in Nigeria. The program ignited his passion for advocacy, leadership, and humanitarian work, driving him to pursue further studies, certifications, and international representation at forums like the World Health Assembly and the World Innovation Summit for Health.



# CHRONICLES OF IMPACT

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## UCHENNA FRANK IMO

*"GHF, through my peers and colleagues, taught me that there is an opportunity in every problem you see. So when you see that there is a prevailing problem around, it is important to ask about what you can do about the situation and what opportunities it avail you."*

The Global Health Focus (GHF) program has been a pivotal force in shaping Uchenna Frank Imo's career trajectory in global health, research, and evaluation. As an undergraduate, GHF provided him with the rare opportunity to co-author international peer-reviewed journal articles, under the mentorship of distinguished leaders like Prof. Don Eliseo Priso III. This early engagement not only enhanced his research skills but also introduced him to the importance of persistence, negotiation, and professional communication skills that continue to influence his career.

GHF taught Uchenna valuable lessons in seizing every opportunity with confidence, understanding that rejection is part of growth, and that asking and negotiating can open doors otherwise closed. The program also encouraged him to view challenges as opportunities, fostering a mindset oriented toward solutions and innovation. These principles have been instrumental in his development as a passionate evaluator and researcher, particularly within development programs targeting youth and global health. In his statement, "Now, I am privileged to have an edge to pursuing a career in academics and evaluation."

Through GHF, Uchenna published five significant research articles between 2020 and 2023, which continue to be cited and recognized internationally.

Beyond publications, the community and network cultivated through GHF granted him access to leadership roles and projects, such as serving as an Advocacy Team member for the SEDA Project of IYAFP, holding board membership in the SSDP, and acting as the National Evaluation Officer for the Nigeria Youth SDGs Network. These positions not only reflect his professional growth but also his commitment to impactful development programming in Africa.

Mentorship played a crucial role in Uchenna's journey, with mentors like Isaac Olushola, Goodness Odey, and Yusuf Adebisi providing guidance that enhanced his critical thinking and innovative approaches. Inspired by these experiences, Uchenna is dedicated to mentoring future leaders, aiming to contribute to building a strong generation of global health and evaluation professionals. He desires to train and mould global health and evaluation professionals of the future through academics and mentorship capacity. Mr. Imo envisions a future where the career outcomes and achievements of future leaders are in safe hands of competent professionals who he has jointly raised.

Uchenna aspires to be the most reliable evaluator and evaluation consultants who is trusted with the contextual understanding of African/LMIC in development programming demonstrating thought leadership and authority for what works and does not work in the African context.



**MELODY  
OKEREKE**

*"Most of the folks whom I collaborate with from GHF are some of the top dogs in their industry or career niche. We all started small and we are far beyond where we used to be."*

The Global Health Focus (GHF) program has had a profound and lasting impact on Melody Okereke's career in global health research and leadership. His journey began with an early admiration for Pharm. Aniekan Ekpenyong, a key GHF figure, whose posts and work inspired him to engage deeply with the program. Attending the Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme (GHELP) in 2019 marked a critical turning point, providing Melody not only with academic knowledge but also the opportunity to connect directly with mentors and role models who shaped his professional path.

GHF offered Melody a strong foundation in academic writing and research collaboration. Through this platform, he developed resilience and a commitment to contributing relentlessly to science. The connections and networks within GHF have been instrumental, leading to numerous research collaborations with fellow graduates and mentors, including involvement in high-impact projects such as working as a research consultant for a GHF alumni-founded organization. Mentorship from Pharm. Aniekan Ekpenyong and Pharm. Adebisi Yusuff Adebayo was pivotal during Melody's early career, providing guidance, encouragement, and support that helped him navigate the complexities of global health research. Though currently focused on his own mentorship masterclass, Melody is committed to giving back and fostering growth in others.

His motivation is rooted in resilience, diligence, honesty, and a philosophical drive for self-reliance. Outside academia, he balances his career with interests in geopolitics, diplomacy, health leadership, and HIV/AIDS advocacy, alongside hobbies like gaming and fitness.

Recent successes include securing research grants, winning scholarships, and supporting mentees to achieve their own academic breakthroughs, underscoring the transformative role GHF has played in his evolving career. Over the years, Melody has co-authored close to 100 research papers, both primary and secondary, which continue to contribute significantly to global health scholarship. These academic achievements are complemented by his growing leadership and influence in health governance and advocacy, with aspirations of becoming a key stakeholder in Nigeria's health ministry or broader governance.





**MOHAMED ABDULKAREEM  
ADAM MODBER**

*"I still remember that moment when I discovered my passion for community health nursing and global health. Since that time, I have advanced in my career, holding various nursing leadership positions across the African continent, building the capacities of future nursing generations, winning multiple travel grants, and speaking at numerous international conferences."*

The Global Health Focus (GHF) program has been a foundational and transformative experience in Mohamed Abdulkareem Adam Modber's career in global health. His journey began at the World Health Student Symposium (WHSS) in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2017, where he first encountered GHF. Shortly after, he participated in the Global Health Pharmacy Course in Sudan and played a key role in organizing the first global health nursing course in Africa at the University of Khartoum, marking early leadership in global health education.

GHF exposed Mohamed to the multidisciplinary nature of global health, teaching him the importance of knowledge sharing, collaboration, and holistic critical thinking when addressing complex health challenges. As a fourth-year nursing student at the time, the program inspired him to specialize in community health nursing, igniting a passion that has guided his professional path ever since.

Since then, Mohamed has held numerous nursing leadership roles across Africa, contributed to capacity building for future nursing professionals, won multiple travel grants, and presented at international conferences. His collaborations with GHF leaders from countries including Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone have been instrumental in his research endeavors, resulting in several published papers.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the collaborative research environment fostered by GHF proved particularly crucial.

Mentorship has been a vital aspect of Mohamed's journey, especially from Prof. Don Eliseo Prisno III and Dr. Attaullah. Their guidance helped him develop strong research writing skills and provided personal and professional support throughout his transition from Sudan to Sweden. Notably, GHF's support during his flight from Sudan to Ethiopia in 2023 was pivotal for his pursuit of a Master of Public Health at Umeå University under the prestigious Earling Persson Scholarship.

Looking forward, Mohamed aspires to strengthen health systems in low- and middle-income countries by focusing on human resources for health and retention policies in resource-limited settings. He embodies values of academic integrity, collaboration, and transparency, with interests including football and reading. He is eager to mentor the next generation of GHF leaders, continuing the legacy of support that shaped his own journey.



## GOODNESS ODEY

*"Don has been and remains a constant mentor and inspiration to me to pursue my masters and research in my journey. Watching his unwavering commitment to public health inspired me to pursue a dual Master's in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics. His passion lit the path I walk today, and together, we continue to shape the future of global health."*

Goodness Odey's journey in global health is a remarkable testament to mentorship, advocacy, and women's leadership. Inspired by Professor Don as her mentor and the Global Health Focus (GHF) alumni as her peer mentor network, Goodness advanced from a passionate undergraduate student to a global advocate for women's inclusion in public health spaces.

She first heard about GHF through a mutual friend from Facebook, and got connected with him at the peak of her interest in global health then, as a public health student. Her first exposure to GHF in 2019 ignited her commitment to correcting gender gaps in GMF and global health leadership. She actively mobilized young women to engage in research, leadership, and advocacy, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic when GHF became a transformative platform for her growth.

Through GHF's mentorship, Goodness refined her research writing skills, achieving over ten publications in one year during the heat of the Covid - 19 pandemic, and expanded collaborative networks across Africa. Her leadership extended to organizing national conferences, mentoring peers, and coordinating impactful workshops that have empowered hundreds of young professionals, especially women, to pursue scholarships and leadership roles. Her advocacy in menstrual health was highlighted when she won grants like the ASPIRE Leaders Programme to implement community-based projects in Yala LGA of cross-river state reaching over 1,000 beneficiaries. She combines research, education, and policy advocacy, emphasizing community-centered solutions and evidence-based approaches.

Goodness's impact is amplified through prestigious recognitions, including the Diana Award, and her commitment to decolonizing global health narratives. With GHF, she has become a driving force in reshaping leadership pipelines, fostering gender equity, and inspiring the next generation of public health leaders.

From mobilizing local students to influencing global conversations, Goodness embodies the transformative power of mentorship, solidarity, and purpose-driven leadership within the global health community and travels far and wide to continue preaching the gospel according to public health.

Goodness enjoys hiking and spending time in nature, particularly near rivers and forests, which brings her a sense of peace and clarity. Reading African literature has long been a passion of hers, shaping both her worldview and creative expression. She began as a creative writer and gradually transitioned into research writing, which now forms a core part of her academic and professional life. Nature photography is another hobby she enjoys, capturing the quiet beauty of natural spaces. While she is generally reflective, she also enjoys engaging in public speaking when she has meaningful insights to share.



**DUAA MOHAMED**

*Being in a space that centers underrepresented voices showed me that diverse perspectives are not just important — they're necessary. My lived experience, cultural background, and regional insight are not limitations; they're assets in the global health dialogue.*

The GHF network connected me with like-minded scholars, practitioners, and emerging leaders across the Global South. Through GHF:

I co-authored policy briefs and research papers focused on sustainability in healthcare and planetary health. I developed collaborations on pharmaceutical policy and circular economy models in the MENA region.

I joined cross-disciplinary projects linking environmental health to youth mental health and community resilience. I was honored to be selected as an Arab Youth Pioneer under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and awarded by His Excellency Dr. Sultan Al Neyadi in the category of Medicine and Health Sciences.

This recognition acknowledged my work on integrating sustainability into healthcare, especially through EcoRx — a project that reimagines pharmaceutical waste management using circular economy principles.



## FUNMBI OKOYA

*"Knowledge gained here and other sources were influential in determining my program of choice for grad school. Don wrote letters of recommendation in support of my grad school applications which resulted in multiple admissions into top public health schools like Harvard and John Hopkins"*

The Global Health Focus (GHF) program has played a crucial role in shaping Funmbi Okoya's career trajectory and deepening his engagement with global health. His journey began with participation in the Global Health Emerging Leaders Program (GHELP) in Ibadan, Nigeria, where he gained invaluable insight into the diverse career paths available within global health. This experience broadened his perspective, highlighting the power of collaboration and bringing like-minded individuals together to tackle complex health challenges.

The knowledge and skills Funmbi acquired through GHF significantly influenced his decision to pursue graduate studies in public health. With strong support from mentors like Prof. Don Eliseo Prismo III, who provided letters of recommendation, Funmbi was admitted to several top-tier public health programs, including Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities. This academic advancement opened doors for further specialization and leadership in global health.

Funmbi's collaborations with GHF colleagues enabled him to publish his first and most cited research paper, focusing on pharmacy and global health topics. These academic achievements have been pivotal in channeling his passion into meaningful global health initiatives.

His work, supported by a strong network within GHF, garnered international recognition, including prestigious awards such as the Princess Diana Award and the International Pharmaceutical Federation Health Promotion Award.

Throughout his career, Funmbi has valued the community and mentorship fostered by GHF, which helped him navigate professional challenges and expand his influence in global health. Though he did not participate in mentoring within GHF, he credits the program for foundational experiences that continue to inspire his leadership and strategic roles.

Currently serving as a Senior Corporate Strategist at Idexx in the United States, Funmbi continues to apply the principles and networks gained from GHF to drive health promotion and strategic initiatives. The program's emphasis on collaboration, leadership, and innovation remains central to his professional ethos and ongoing contributions to global health.



**AYOMIDE SINA-ODUNSI**



*"One of the most transformative lessons I've taken is that global health isn't just about what you know, it's about who you build and work with. Coming from a medical background, I used to think impact was driven primarily by technical expertise. GHF completely reframed that for me. It taught me that real, lasting change happens when you create bold, intentional networks that cut across sectors, disciplines, and borders."*

The Global Health Focus (GHF) program has been a transformative catalyst in Ayomide Sina-Odunsi's global health career, providing clarity, confidence, and a powerful network to navigate a complex field. Initially uncertain about how to pursue his aspirations in global health, Ayomide's involvement with GHF sparked through a connection with Prof. Don Eliseo Prisnoll and a friend offered a fresh perspective that shaped his trajectory.

One of the most significant lessons Ayomide gained was understanding that global health success depends not just on technical expertise but on cultivating bold, intentional networks that cross disciplines and borders. GHF reshaped his thinking, emphasizing the importance of presence over perfection, integrity, deep listening, and courage to ask challenging questions. This approach enabled him to embrace leadership roles without needing to be the most senior expert, fostering impact through collaboration.

Since joining GHF, Ayomide has taken on increasingly influential positions, managing programs, shaping regional health strategies, and mentoring emerging leaders.

He credits GHF not only for the skills and knowledge but also for the mindset shifts that encouraged him to dream bigger and pursue greater impact with confidence.

Academically and professionally, GHF opened doors for Ayomide to publish research papers, technical reports, and commentaries, and present at international conferences experiences that were new to him before the program. He also co-founded the AB Global Health Initiative Nigeria, a nonprofit focused on building future leaders in the field.

Driven by values of equity, integrity, compassion, and courage, Ayomide aspires to lead transformative, community-driven health systems that are resilient and equitable, especially in fragile contexts. His ultimate goal is to shape health policy, mentor Africa's next generation of leaders, and leave a legacy of justice and impact, which are goals deeply rooted in the foundation GHF helped builds.



**ISAAC OLUSHOLA**

*"My GHF experience was a turning point. It was a positive catalyst to a lot of wonderful things that came to happen after. You know, we have both negative and positive, but this was a positive catalyst"*

Isaac's journey with Global Health Focus (GHF) began through observation. He watched a friend grow remarkably after attending the Global Emerging Leaders Programme and this sparked his interest. That programme became a turning point for Isaac, acting as a powerful catalyst that ignited his growth in research, leadership, and health advocacy. From his first GHF experience in Uyo, he encountered passionate young professionals, transformative lectures, and the realization that Public health is not just a second choice programme. It is something that can influence and make a huge impact in the world.

GHF challenged his perceptions, exposed him to practical leadership, and offered mentorship from Prof. Don, whose hands-on approach encouraged learning by example and this shaped Isaac's professional behavior, grant writing skills, and ability to transform ideas into action. Through GHF, Isaac progressed from mentee to mentor, from research assistant to co-facilitator, co-authoring papers and supporting international research projects in places like Sierra Leone.

GHF's ripple effects were evident in Isaac's founding of a Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) chapter at the University of Calabar and launching a hub in a refugee settlement in Ogoja.

These experiences cemented his belief in humility, honesty, and the value of collaborative leadership.

Beyond technical skills, GHF nurtured Isaac's global mindset, connecting him with networks, conferences, and funding opportunities. His first research paper, first professional job, and first international trip were all GHF funded. Today, Isaac serves as an Associate Editor at the Public Health Challenges Journal and has secured a fully funded PhD at the University of Bristol, having also gained admission to Oxford.

GHF's impact on Isaac exemplifies the power of mentorship, community, and structured support in advancing health equity. The skills, confidence, and exposure he gained benefit young public health professionals, refugee communities, and academic networks across LMICs. His story proves that, with the right ecosystem, impossible dreams become attainable goals and bold leaders emerge to transform global health. He enjoys travelling, planting and nature. His favourite thing in the world is Plantain.



## BOYIGA BODINGA NUGA

*"Attending the GHF program allowed me to learn from a diverse group of peers and experts worldwide. It reinforced the importance of teamwork, collective effort, and embracing different perspectives. I have come to appreciate that addressing global health challenges is not a solo endeavor; it requires building trust, sharing knowledge, and working together towards common goals."*

Global Health Focus (GHF) has been a pivotal influence on Boyiga Bodinga Nuga's career, shaping his approach to global health through a deep appreciation for collaboration, networks, and multisectoral solutions. His journey with GHF began after meeting Prof. Don Eliseo Priso III in Japan and participating in the 2016 Global Health Course. This experience was eye-opening, providing clarity and guidance for his career path and instilling a commitment to lifelong learning and partnership.

Boyiga learned that complex health challenges require more than technical expertise; they demand strong, trust-based networks spanning sectors and disciplines. His work managing emergency health responses and public health interventions in Nigeria, Kenya, and Ukraine reinforced this, as he saw firsthand the importance of collaboration with local communities and stakeholders. GHF's diverse peer group and expert mentorship helped strengthen his leadership and strategic planning skills, emphasizing teamwork and collective action.

The program's influence is evident in Boyiga's career progression, enabling him to lead complex health programs across borders, respond effectively to outbreaks, and advocate for vulnerable populations.

Through collaborations such as the AB Global Health Initiative, which he helped organize, he has contributed to strengthening health systems in Nigeria, focusing on integrated approaches including primary health care and non-communicable disease programming. Boyiga aspires to continue building impactful partnerships and fostering community resilience, driven by values of service, integrity, and continuous learning. His ultimate goal is to be a leader who inspires collective action, influences policy, and drives sustainable health improvements worldwide, especially for migrant and vulnerable communities.

A particularly rewarding aspect of his work has been witnessing students from GHF-related courses thrive, securing scholarships, research opportunities, leadership roles, and careers in global health and highlighting the lasting ripple effect of the program's impact on individuals and communities.



**ZHINYA KAWA OTHMAN**

*"This exposure not only deepened my understanding of critical issues but also helped me develop practical skills and strengthen my confidence. The supportive and empowering environment of the GHF network made this experience especially valuable and memorable."*

Although Zhinya Kawa Othman has not yet participated directly in a formal Global Health Focus (GHF) program, her engagement with the GHF network has been profoundly transformative. Since first encountering GHF in 2021 at the Kurdistan Health Summit, she has actively connected with a diverse community of global health professionals who have generously shared knowledge, experiences, and collaborative opportunities. This exposure has broadened her perspective on global health challenges, leadership, and advocacy, especially in low- and middle-income countries like her own region.

Through the supportive and empowering GHF environment, Zhinya has developed confidence to take on leadership roles and engage meaningfully in health initiatives that influence both local and global health outcomes. She highlights the importance of collaboration across disciplines and borders, youth-led advocacy, and evidence-based approaches to drive sustainable change. Her learning emphasizes that leadership is less about formal titles and more about initiative, adaptability, and using one's voice to promote health equity and justice.

Academically, Zhinya's involvement with GHF has bolstered her research productivity, increasing her peer-reviewed publications from three to fourteen within just ten months, often collaborating with GHF colleagues and contributing to the GHF Digital Health group. The peer mentorship she received within the network has been a key source of guidance and motivation, offering constructive feedback and a safe space for idea exchange. This mentorship nurtured her leadership development by sharing experiences and practical lessons, helping her navigate challenges effectively.

Looking forward, Zhinya aspires to lead impactful initiatives in pharmaceutical science, digital health, and global health, with a focus on underserved communities like Kurdistan. She aims to improve healthcare access, strengthen health systems, and bridge the gap between research, policy and practice, driving meaningful and lasting change in her region and beyond. GHF helped Deborah realize that the world is full of open doors, and she has the keys to walk through them.





**ADEBOWALE ADEYEMI**

*"All my existing publication on Google scholar has a trace to GHF. Additionally, I have received job, grant and scholarship recommendation through GHF"*

Adebowale Adeyemi's journey in global health was profoundly shaped by his early encounter with Dr. Don Eliseo Priso III through the Global Health Focus (GHF) program in 2016. This mentorship was pivotal in helping him clarify his career path and provided crucial guidance at key moments. Adebowale emphasizes that the personal 1:1 mentorship he received was invaluable in navigating challenges and staying focused.

GHF influenced Adebowale's mindset by introducing him to a new way of thinking about health, encouraging him to think globally while acting locally. This perspective helped him understand how local healthcare can be influenced through global insights. He also learned the importance of self-growth alongside service, realizing that prioritizing personal development enhances one's ability to contribute meaningfully to public good.

One of the most significant benefits of GHF was the robust professional network it provided. Adebowale connected with peers and colleagues from various universities, gaining a strong support system and collaborative opportunities. This network continues to influence his academic and professional life, reflected in his research publications many of which are directly linked to GHF collaborations.

Through GHF, Adebowale has received job opportunities, grants, and scholarships via recommendations from the community. The program's influence also helped him develop a research focus in outcomes research, with a life goal to ensure people worldwide receive timely, cost-effective prevention and treatment through research, intervention, or policy change.

Driven by values of service, continuous learning, and excellence, Adebowale remains committed to making impactful contributions to health systems. Outside his professional pursuits, he enjoys playing board games and taking vacations, which help him maintain balance and focus.



**ADRIANA VIOLA  
MIRANDA**

*"GHF also inspired me to apply for the RSTMH grant, which allowed me to be the Primary Investigator of a research affiliated to this first job. I also interpreted for the Gates Foundation while they met with the Provincial Health Office in Indonesia, using the English skills I gained while consistently meeting with and speaking for GHF."*

Adriana Viola Miranda's journey with Global Health Focus (GHF) began in late 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic when she courageously reached out to Professor Don despite feeling inexperienced. This bold step opened doors to multiple research projects and deepened her engagement with global health. She later participated as a speaker in GHF's Global Health Emerging Leaders Programs across Morocco, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste, and organized events including the COY17 panel session in Egypt.

GHF profoundly expanded Adriana's network and exposed her to inspiring global health leaders from diverse countries. The program's interactive design and real-world examples enhanced her learning, while mentorship from Prof Don boosted her confidence, helping her overcome initial language barriers and public speaking challenges. She also embraced cultural differences, enriching her global perspective.

Her involvement with GHF led to numerous research publications, notably a paper on strengthening virology research in ASEAN that connected her with a senior consultant, helping her secure her first job as a TB researcher before even graduating as a doctor. This position, along with collaborations with Prof Don and GHF members, advanced her career and research credentials.

Adriana's GHF network also facilitated her role as a health economics research consultant, and eventually Director of Program and Monitoring, Evaluation & Research at 1000 Days Fund, an influential Indonesian non-profit focused on stunting reduction and partner of the Ministry of Health. She credits GHF with enhancing her skills to represent her NGO internationally, successfully apply for grants (including the RSTMH grant), and grow as a global health advocate.

With around 35 publications and awards such as the Diana Award 2024, Adriana's GHF experience has been transformative both professionally and personally. She cherishes lifelong friendships, a global support system, and a profound sense of service. Her aspirations include working with WHO or governments and continuing to mentor others through GHF to drive equity and positive change worldwide.



**REMY NDAYIZEYE**

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*"Don's mentorship through GHF provided the foundation I needed to step into leadership and pursue a distinct goal: to develop sustainable programs from the ground up."*

Remy's journey with Global Health Focus (GHF) is a story of inspiration and purpose. It began unexpectedly in 2012, when a chance introduction to GHF founder Don at a Kigali hotel turned into a pivotal encounter. As Don shared his vision for global health, Remy was deeply moved, marking his first real exposure to the field. That moment ignited a passion in him for systemic change and laid the foundation for his future in global health.

While still in medical school, Remy felt drawn to addressing the root causes of illness rather than just treating symptoms.

Inspired by Don's mentorship, he pursued leadership roles and program development to create lasting health impact. After years of preparation, he launched Rwanda's first GHF course in 2015, eventually helping expand the program across several African countries.

Remy's core motivation was to empower African health professionals to lead in global health through critical thinking, research, and self-driven change.



**ABRAR GAMAL  
ABDALLAH ALAWAD**

*"After graduation for GHF, I joined the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) as a pharmacist in the Directorate General of Global Health, where I contributed to global health pharmacy programs and participated in the COVAX initiative in collaboration with GAVI. As a result, Sudan received 828,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine."*

Abrar Gamal Abdallah Alawad's involvement with the Global Health Focus (GHF) Pharmacy Program in 2017 was a transformative milestone that shaped her career path and deepened her commitment to healthcare accessibility. Inspired by the program, she focused on improving access to essential medicines and vaccines, recognizing healthcare as a fundamental human right. The experience highlighted the critical importance of collaboration among diverse health professionals, equipping her with teamwork skills necessary to address complex global health challenges.

GHF provided Abrar with a comprehensive understanding of global health issues, particularly related to equitable access to essential medicines in resource-limited settings. This knowledge guided her to pursue a specialized career as a Technical Specialist for Essential Medicines and Vaccines. Her commitment to sustainable pharmacy practices was reinforced, emphasizing the need to ensure long-term availability of quality medicines and vaccines for underserved populations.

After completing the GHF program, Abrar joined Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health in the Directorate General of Global Health, contributing to global health pharmacy programs and playing an active role in the COVAX initiative. Her joint efforts helped Sudan secure 828,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Seeking further experience, she later joined the UNHCR team as a focal point for essential medicines projects serving 60,000 refugees in East Sudan. Her international exposure expanded through her work with the UN MONUSCO mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and support for the Uganda office, where she engaged in high-level advocacy to improve medicine accessibility for refugees.

Abrar has collaborated with the Global Health Women network, publishing research with colleagues led by Goodness Odey. Looking ahead, she aspires to join the WHO as an international advisor focused on national drug policies, health supply chain strengthening, and reducing substandard medicines by 60%. Ultimately, her goal is to ensure that a majority of populations in Africa have access to quality essential medicines and vaccines. She sees herself as a future leader driving impactful change on the continent.



**YUSUFF ADEBAYO  
ADEBISI**

*"GHF showed me that youth-led change is not only possible but essential, and that collaboration and mentorship are key to achieving sustainable impact. I vividly remember a session with Professor Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno—his presentation stirred something deep within me. It ignited a conviction that I could drive real change in global health."*

Yusuff Adebayo Adebisi is a globally recognized public health researcher, advocate, and mentor whose journey in global health was profoundly shaped by his participation in the Global Health Pharmacy Program (GHF Nigeria, 2017). At the time, he had not published a single scientific paper. Today, he has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications, been ranked among the top 50 researchers in Nigeria (2020–2025, Scopus), and has mentored over 150 young professionals across Africa.

GHF was the catalyst for this transformation. A session led by Professor Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno sparked in Yusuff a conviction to pursue a purpose-driven career rooted in equity, evidence, and youth empowerment. The program not only provided technical knowledge and global health insight, but also connected him to a vibrant network of peers and mentors, which has since become central to his leadership journey.

Currently, Yusuff serves as Director for Research and Thought Leadership at Global Health Focus. In this role, he leads impactful global initiatives, co-authors high-level publications, mentors emerging researchers, and drives evidence-informed advocacy. He has also secured over six figures in USD grants to support health equity research.

Academically, he holds a Master's in Global Health Science and Epidemiology from the University of Oxford, funded by the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship, and is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Glasgow, supported by the UK Research and Innovation Economic and Social Research Council.

His accolades include the prestigious Diana Award for his work in youth capacity building and public health advocacy. His mission is to generate impactful research that informs policy and improves lives in low- and middle-income countries.

Yusuff's core values are equity, compassion, integrity, and purpose over prestige which guides his work and interactions. Beyond academia, he enjoys football, reading, mentoring youth, and engaging in conversations that inspire change. His journey is a testament to the power of mentorship, collaboration, and vision in global health.



**SAMAR MOHAMED ALHAJ**

*"I connected with Professor Don right after graduating the program, I was referred to Yusuff Adebisi for mentorship and they both mentored me until I started publishing papers and participate in conferences like 33rd FAMSA general assembly and scientific conference in Kenya, Nairobi"*

Samar Mohamed Alhaj's global health journey began in 2017 at the Global Health Focus (GHF) Programme hosted by Ahfad University for Women in Sudan. What started as an eye-opening experience quickly evolved into a career-shaping path filled with research, mentorship, and advocacy.

Shortly after completing the program, Samar connected with Professor Don Eliseo and Yusuff Adebisi, who became pivotal mentors in her research journey. Their guidance led her to publish academic work and participate in the 33rd FAMSA General Assembly and Scientific Conference in Nairobi, where she contributed to an abstract on mental health and substance abuse. She also co-authored chapters such as "Women and Food Security in Africa" and "Gender Dimensions of Disasters in Africa" highlighting her dedication to addressing gender equity and health disparities in vulnerable communities.

Her research network quickly expanded through collaborations with Goodness Odey, Aishat Alaran, Melody Okereke, and Aniekian Ekpennyong. These partnerships enriched her academic development and fostered lasting personal connections. One of her proudest achievements remains her contribution to the Health Disparities, Disasters, and Crises book alongside a passionate team of female researchers.

Samar is eager to pay it forward by mentoring emerging researchers through the GHF network. She envisions a future where clinical practice and academia merge to uplift public health in Africa, and where peace returns to Sudan allowing its youth to thrive.

She values discipline, kindness, and the courage to pursue what she believes in. Outside her medical pursuits, she finds joy in reading history and anthropology, and appreciating cinema.

One of her most significant milestones was receiving the THRSP Award, affirming her potential and opening new doors in global health research and connecting her to a global community committed to impactful change.



**THEOGENE UWIZEYIMANA**

*"Through GHF, I had my first international experience and made friends from Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and many other countries. That experience changed my perspective and opened up the world for me"*

Theogene Uwizeyimana's global health journey began in 2016, when a friend introduced him to the Global Health Focus (GHF) program during the GHC conference in Rwanda. At the time, he was an undergraduate student, simply looking for a reason to skip class. But what he found was far more transformative.

Listening to Prof. Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno speak about Ebola and Zika viruses awakened a passion Theogene never knew he had. "It completely woke me up," he reflects. That moment shifted his entire outlook. He began seeking role models, exploring the global health space, and imagining a career dedicated to meaningful community impact.

The GHF program introduced him to peers from across Africa, expanded his worldview, and taught him the core values of collaboration, networking, and growth. Despite initial shyness, Theogene embraced the challenges and opportunities that followed. He co-authored several health publications, led Rwanda's COVID-19 response paper, and became a sought-after speaker and panel moderator.

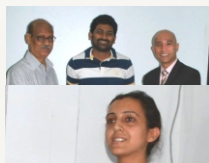
His growing expertise led him to the Global Health Corps fellowship, a role at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, and eventually, the Merck Foundation Best Young Researcher Award in 2023. These achievements paved the way for his current role as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie PhD Researcher at the University of Amsterdam.

Throughout this journey, he remained closely mentored by Prof. Don, as well as key figures like Blaise Ntacyabukura, Yusuff Adebisi, and Remy Ndayizeye. Their guidance helped shape his bold vision: a world with affordable healthcare for all, powered by intergenerational and cross-cultural collaboration.

Today, Theogene lives by the values of discipline, honesty, integrity, and authenticity. In his downtime, he enjoys movies, travel, and time with friends. Anchoring a life shaped by curiosity, connection, and purpose.

## The Journey So Far:

### | 4 | The Journey of the Global Health Emerging Leadership Programme



**The inaugural** Certificate Course in Global Health was held at the Asian Institute of Public Health, Bhubaneswar, India, from **15-17 February 2015**, laying the foundation for an international course aimed at developing critical thinking and leadership in global health.





This was followed by the Global Health Course held at the International School of Medicine, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from **6–8 May 2015**, marking the program's expansion into Central Asia and fostering academic collaboration in global health education



Following this, the Global Health Diplomacy Workshop was held from 27–29 July 2015 at the National Council Institute, Putrajaya, Malaysia. Organized as a capacity-building program for officials of the Ministry of Health Malaysia, the workshop aimed to enhance understanding of global health theories and concepts, and to strengthen the country's leadership and engagement in international health policy development, particularly in forums such as the World Health Assembly.



The program's first official foray into Africa began with the Certificate Course in Global Health held at the University of Rwanda, Kigali, from 10–11 August 2015, establishing a foundation for capacity building in global health on the continent.



Following the initial African course, the Certificate Course in Global Health was held at Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, on 8–9 February 2016. The program attracted young professionals and medical students from multiple countries, including Nigeria, Ukraine, Ghana, India, Pakistan, Namibia, Jordan, and Palestine. The event was organised in partnership with the European Medical Students' Association (EMSA).



**The first** Certificate Course in Global Health Pharmacy was held at Management and Science University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from **7–9 April 2016**. This marked the program's focus on the intersection of global health and pharmacy, engaging participants in discussions on health systems, access to medicines, and the role of pharmacy in global health frameworks.





Subsequently, the Global Health Course was held at the University of the Philippines Visayas in Tacloban on **2-3 May 2016**. The program engaged participants from multiple universities, hospitals, and institutions across the Leyte and Samar regions.



**The seventh** Certificate Course in Global Health was held at Maseno University, Kisumu, Kenya, from **19–21 August 2016**, with sessions conducted at Hillside Resort, Kisumu. The course brought together participants from Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Uganda.



The next course in the series was the Certificate Course in Global Health held at the University of Rwanda, Kigali, from **22-26 August 2016**. This extended program deepened engagement with health professionals in Rwanda, East Africa and West Africa and reinforced the sustained commitment to advancing global health education within the region.





The Global Health Workshop was held at Soochow University, Suzhou, China, on **24 September 2016**. The workshop brought together representatives from 16 leading universities across China, reflecting a growing interest in global health within the country.



The Certificate Course in Global Health was held at Lagos State University College of Medicine, Lagos, Nigeria, from **7–10 October 2016**. This marked the first course conducted in West Africa and the first in Nigeria, organized in collaboration with AB Global Health Initiative.



Subsequently, the Certificate Course in Global Health was held at the University of Burundi, Faculty of Medicine, Bujumbura, from **19–21 January 2017**. This course marked the expansion of the program into Burundi, further consolidating efforts to strengthen global health education in the Great Lakes region.



**The twelfth** project, the Certificate Course in Global Health, was held at La Sapiencia Catholic University College of Medicine, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, from **26-28 January 2017**, marking the program's first foray into Central Africa.





**The first** Certificate Course in Global Health Pharmacy in Africa was held at **Ahmadu Bello University**, Faculty of Pharmacy, Zaria, Nigeria, from **6-7 February 2017**. The course catered to pharmacists and pharmacy students from the Northern region of Nigeria. It provided a critical understanding of the determinants that shape the current global health situation and the important role expected of pharmacists to play. It was organised in partnership with AB Global Health Initiative



**The second** Certificate Course in Global Health Pharmacy was held at the University of Port Harcourt, Faculty of Pharmacy, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, from **9-10 February 2017**. This course was focused on pharmacists and pharmacy students from Southern and Eastern Nigeria. It was organised in partnership with AB Global Health Initiative.

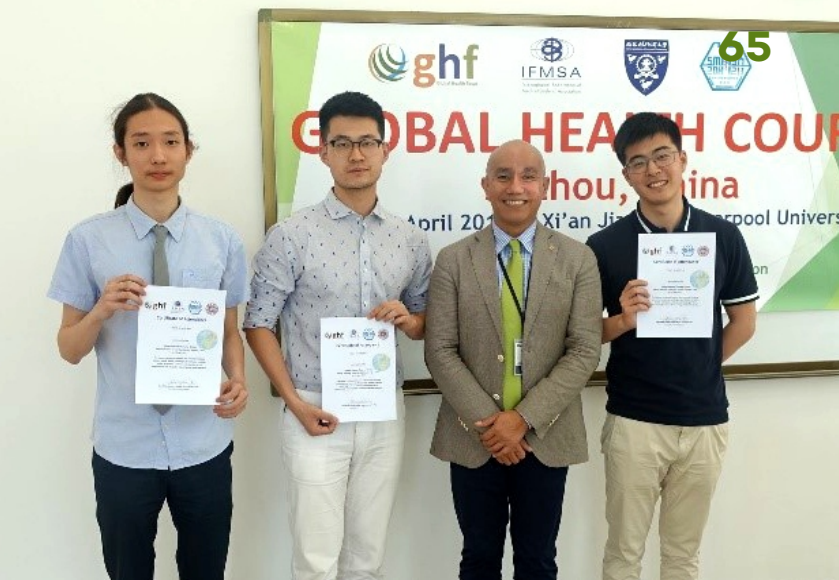


**The third** Certificate Course in Global Health Pharmacy was held at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, from **11-12 February 2017**. The course focused on pharmacists and pharmacy students from Western Nigeria. It was organised in partnership with AB Global Health Initiative



Following the course in Nigeria, the second Certificate Course in Global Health in West Africa was held at the University of Sierra Leone, College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from **15-18 February 2017**. It was organised in partnership with Pharmacare Initiative, Sierra Leone.





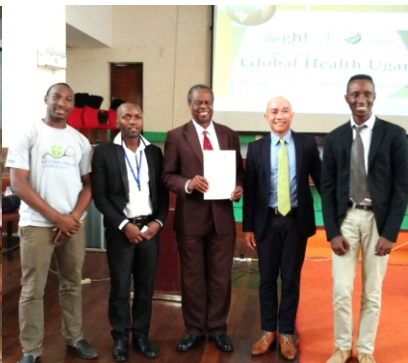
**The first** Certificate Course in Global Health in China was held at Xi'an Jiatong Liverpool University, Suzhou, China from the **15th – 16th April, 2017**, with participants from the College of Nanoscience (Soochow University), Pharmaceutical Administration (China Pharmaceutical University) and School of Medicine (Soochow University)



**The second** Certificate Course in Global Health in South Asia was held at the B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Nepal, from **30th April to 1st May 2017.**



**The first** Certificate Course in Global Health in the Horn of Africa was held at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from **20th to 21st June 2017**, bringing together young healthcare professionals and students to advance global health education. Another course was held at Aksum University, in Aksum, Tigray Region, in the northern part of Ethiopia, from 23rd to 24th June 2017



**The 16th** Certificate Course in Global Health was held at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, from **26th June to 1st July 2017**, further consolidating the course's presence in East Africa. The course was organised in partnership with the Social Association of Youth/DRC.



**The fourth** Certificate Course in Global Health Pharmacy in Africa was held at the University of Dodoma, Tanzania, from **4th to 6th August 2017**, marking the first time the course was organised with a pharmacy focus in East Africa.





**The first** Certificate Course in Global Health in Southern Africa was held at the University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe from the **10th – 14th August, 2017** featuring young professionals and students from across the country. The course was organised in partnership with University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences (UZ-CHS) student associations.



**The fifth** Certificate Course in Global Health Pharmacy was held at the University of Medical Sciences and Technology, Khartoum, Sudan, from **22nd to 24th December 2017**, drawing students from pharmacy and other healthcare professional groups.



**The 17th** Certificate Course in Global Health was held at Ahfad University for Women, Khartoum, Sudan, from **26th to 28th December 2017.**





**The first** Certificate Course in Global Health Nursing was held at the University of Khartoum, Faculty of Nursing, Khartoum, Sudan, on **29th December 2017**. It was attended by 120 participants from the University of Khartoum, Bahri University, Alzaim University, Sudan International University, Alneilin University, Shandi University, Omdurman Islamic University, and Senar University.



**The 18th** Certificate Course in Global Health was held at the University of Puthisastra in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from **5th to 6th February 2018.**



**The first** Certificate Course in Global Health Nutrition was held in Cambodia on **8th February 2018**. This programme focused on the crucial role of nutrition in enhancing global health equity in both opportunity and outcomes.



**The 19th** Certificate Course in Global Health was held at the University of the Gambia, Banjul, from **4th to 5th June 2018**. Participants came from the Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria.



**The 20th** Certificate Course in Global Health was held in Ghana at the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, Accra from the **7th – 8th June, 2018.**





**The 21st** Certificate Course in Global Health and the second in Southern Africa was held at the College of Medicine, University of Malawi, Blantyre Campus, Malawi, from **11th to 12th June 2018.**



**The 22nd** Certificate Course in Global Health and the third in Southern Africa was held at the School of Public Health, Boitekanelo College, Botswana, from **14th to 15th June 2018**, in collaboration with the Institute of Development Management (IDM).





**The 23rd** Certificate Course in Global Health and the fourth in Southern Africa was held at Brook Besor University, Lusaka, Zambia, from **2nd to 3rd October 2018**, in collaboration with Brook Besor University.



**The 24th** Certificate Course in Global Health and the first to be held in Northern Africa took place at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy in Rabat, Morocco, from **6th to 7th October 2018.**



**The 5th** Certificate Course in Global Health Pharmacy, and the first in the Middle East, was held at Dubai Pharmacy College, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It was organised in partnership with Dubai Pharmacy College.



**The 25th** Certificate Course in Global Health was held in China, with a specific focus on disasters and climate change, in Suzhou at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, from **17th to 18th November 2018.**



**The 26th** Certificate Course in Global Health, now renamed the Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme, was held at the Haining International Campus of Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, from **25th to 26th August 2019**. The programme was held to develop leadership in young doctors of China.





**The 27th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, in southern Nigeria from **28th to 29th August 2019**. The event was held in partnership with AB Global Health Initiative



**The 28th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State Nigeria, in southwestern Nigeria from **31st August - 1st September 2019**. The event was held in partnership with AB Global Health Initiative





**The 29th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme and the second in Northern Africa was held in Egypt at the Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development in Cairo from **3 – 4 September** ~~31st August to~~ **1st September 2019.**



**The 30th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held at the University of Calabar, Nigeria from **3 – 4 September 31st August to 1st September 2019** in collaboration with the Department of Public Health.



**The 31st** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria from **15 – 16 September 2021.**



**The 32nd** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held in Ghana at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, KNUST, from **11th to 12th October 2021.**



**The 33rd** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held in Sierra Leone at the FBC Multipurpose Hall, Sierra Leone from the **6th – 8th of October, 2021.**





**The 34th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held at the Department of Public Health, Astana Medical University, in Kazakhstan from **24th to 28th April 2023.**

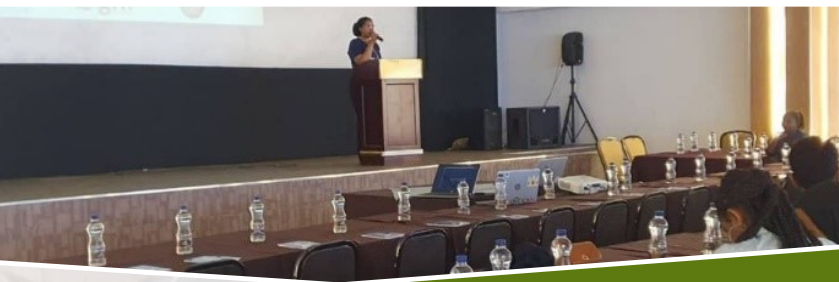


**The 35th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held at the Ramera Campus, University of Rwanda, from **5th to 6th June 2023.**

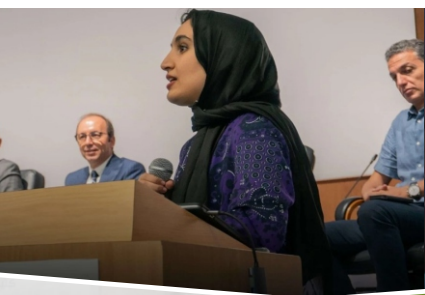




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**The 36th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme and was held at St Paul's Hospital College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from **5th to 6th June 2023.**



**The 37th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme was held at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Casablanca, Hassan II University of Casablanca from 7th to 9th July 2023. Participants were drawn from Morocco, Indonesia, Tunisia, The Gambia, Ghana, Palestine, Mali, Senegal, and Central African Republic.



**The 38th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme and the third in Southeast Asia was held at the Universitas Pembangunan Nasional (UPN) Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia from from **17th to 21st July 2023.**



**The 39th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme and the fourth in Southeast Asia was held at the Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ) in Timor-Leste, from from **7th to 11th August 2023.**



**The 40th** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme, and the third in the Horn of Africa, was held at the Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Training and Research Hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia, from **29th January to 1st February 2024**. It was organised in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, SIMAD University, Mogadishu, Somalia.





## GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAMME (GHELP) - SOMALILAND

GABILEY, 2024



**The 41st** Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme, and the fourth in the Horn of Africa, was held at the Gabiley National Library Auditorium, Gabiley, Somaliland, from the **29th January to 1st February 2024**. It was organised in partnership with TIMAD-ADDE University and Gabiley National Library, Somaliland.

GHF University Excellence (UE), founded in 2021 by Professor Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III under Global Health Focus (GHF), emerged as a bold response to a critical challenge: the glaring research inequity that separates developed and developing nations. This global initiative was born from the understanding that universities are the heartbeat of research production, yet many institutions in Asia and Africa struggle to compete on the global academic stage. The program focuses on empowering universities through hands-on training in strategic publishing, international collaboration, and navigating the complex world of global rankings. Led by Prof. Don and Jerico B. Ogaya, GHF UE has transformed from a vision into a movement that is reshaping the academic landscape across developing regions.

### **The Challenge: Bridging the Research Divide**

The stark reality of global research inequity cannot be ignored. As Professor Don explains, "Most major research production comes from universities, and our goal is to increase research output from these institutions, especially in the developing world." The challenges are multifaceted: limited research capacity among faculty, prohibitive costs of journal publication, and a widespread lack of awareness regarding how research impacts university rankings and funding opportunities.

Beyond these practical barriers lies a deeper issue—the need for evidence that truly represents diverse global perspectives. When research production is concentrated in high-income countries, the resulting knowledge gaps affect policy and practice worldwide, perpetuating cycles of inequity that GHF was founded to break.

### **The Solution: Strategic Empowerment Through Excellence**

GHF UE's flagship University Excellence Workshop serves as the cornerstone of this transformation. These comprehensive learning experiences cover essential topics for academic advancement: navigating global university rankings, strengthening institutional research culture, and developing competitive research agendas. Participants gain practical guidance on identifying cost-free and Scopus-indexed journals, creating impactful publications, and monitoring research impact through platforms such as Google Scholar, Scopus, AD Index, and Clarivate.

The program's strength lies in its comprehensive strategy. GHF introduced innovative teaching methods, including the backward design approach to research training, while helping universities adopt tailored strategies at personal, institutional, and national levels. By identifying and supporting research champions and super-champions, the initiative creates ripple effects that extend far beyond individual workshops.



# Global Reach and Meaningful Partnerships

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Since its inception, GHF UE has established an impressive global footprint, partnering with universities across over 30 countries spanning Asia, Africa, and other developing regions. From the Philippines to Kazakhstan, from Nigeria to Fiji, these collaborations have created a network of institutions committed to research excellence. The program has strengthened partnerships with universities in countries including the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Taiwan, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Tajikistan, Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Somaliland, Botswana, Morocco, Rwanda, and Egypt.

## Transformative Impact: From Vision to Measurable Results

The impact of GHF UE extends beyond numbers, though the quantitative achievements are remarkable. The program has fostered strong research cultures, enhanced scientific awareness, and built institutional capacity through mentorship and leadership.

Universities have expanded their research portfolios, formed international partnerships, and increased joint publications, while exposure to global academic standards has advanced the internationalization of education.

## Direct Insights from Prof. Don Prisno Eliseo Lucero Prisno

"It's really important because the motivation behind establishing GHF University Excellence was to address research inequity. Most major research production comes from universities, and our goal is to increase research output from these institutions, especially in the developing world. Strengthening their research activities and production is essential so we can generate evidence that truly represents those regions. This ties directly to global health inequity, which GHF aims to tackle. Ultimately, we want to influence policy and practice at the global level, not just in health, but across all related areas."

## Our reach: Countries

- |     |              |     |             |
|-----|--------------|-----|-------------|
| 1.  | Rwanda       | 20. | Morocco     |
| 2.  | Kenya        | 21. | Malaysia    |
| 3.  | Nigeria      | 22. | Japan       |
| 4.  | Burundi      | 23. | China       |
| 5.  | DR Congo     | 24. | Nepal       |
| 6.  | Sierra Leone | 25. | Cambodia    |
| 7.  | Philippines  | 26. | Indonesia   |
| 8.  | India        | 27. | Timor Leste |
| 9.  | Krygyzstan   | 28. | Ukraine     |
| 10. | Ethiopia     | 29. | Egypt       |
| 11. | Uganda       | 30. | Kazakhstan  |
| 12. | Tanzania     | 31. | Somalia     |
| 13. | Zimbabwe     | 32. | Somaliland  |
| 14. | Sudan        | 33. | United Arab |
| 15. | Gambia       |     | Emirates    |
| 16. | Ghana        |     |             |
| 17. | Malawi       |     |             |
| 18. | Botswana     |     |             |
| 19. | Zambia       |     |             |



## Success Story: Biliran Province State University

The transformation of Biliran Province State University in the Philippines exemplifies GHF UE's potential. Since joining the program in January 2024, the university experienced a remarkable surge in research productivity—Scopus-indexed publications increased from 18 in 2023 to 96 by mid-2025. This dramatic improvement reflects broader institutional growth, with the university achieving the 14th spot among top research universities nationwide. The institution successfully hosted its first international research conference in 2024 and received multiple awards, including recognition from Times Higher Education and UI GreenMetric.

Quantitatively, many partner universities have improved their standings in global and regional rankings such as UI GreenMetric, UNAI, THE Impact Rankings, QS World and Asia Rankings, and CWUR. The initiative has driven growth in research outputs, including co-authored publications and the registration of intellectual properties such as patents and utility models.

### GHF University Excellence Impact Sequence



## Overcoming Challenges Through Innovation

The journey hasn't been without obstacles. Research capacity limitations, publication costs, and awareness gaps initially seemed insurmountable. However, GHF UE's comprehensive approach—combining personalized mentorship, institutional collaboration, and strategic partnerships—has proven effective. The program helped close motivational gaps by highlighting the value of research in terms of recognition, funding opportunities, and overall impact, reframing research as both an intellectual pursuit and an economic advantage.

## Looking Ahead: A Vision for Global Research Equity

As GHF UE looks toward the future, its ambitions remain as bold as its origins. The program aims to expand its international presence, especially in underrepresented regions, enabling researchers and institutions from the developing world to make significant contributions to global science, policy, and innovation. The long-term goals include increasing global recognition for these universities, boosting research output, ensuring that evidence from developing regions influences global policies, and nurturing future leaders to reduce research inequity.

Professor Don's vision remains clear: "Ultimately, we want to influence policy and practice at the global level, not just in health, but across all related areas." Through GHF UE, this vision is becoming reality, one university, one researcher, one publication at a time. The program stands as a testament to the power of strategic intervention and collaborative commitment in creating a more equitable global research landscape.

# | 6 | Recognized and Respected: Awards, Grants, and Endorsements: Diana Award



1 - 6



**Funmbi Okoya**  
2020 Awardee



**Yusuff Adebisi**  
2021 Awardee



**Greatman Owor**  
2021 Awardee



**Gabriel Oke**  
2022 Awardee



**Saad Uakkas**  
2020 Awardee



**Abdulhammed  
Babatunde**  
2023 Awardee



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7 - 12



**Hajar Bouali**  
2022 Awardee



**Goodness Odey**  
2022 Awardee



**Yusuf Babatunde**  
2023 Awardee



**Melody Okereke**  
2023 Awardee



**Regina Ukongim Ateb**  
2023 Awardee



**Adriana Viola**  
2024 Awardee

# RSTMH Grants/Projects

## Name & Title of Project

**Yusuff Adebayo Adebisi:** Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategies, Surveillance Systems and Laboratory Testing Capacity for COVID-19 Ife GHP 2017

**Hassan Alaka:** Knowledge, Attitude and Perception of Women on Female Genital Schistosomiasis in Rural Communities in Southwest Nigeria, Ibadan GHELP 2019

**Joseph Adole:** Knowledge and Factors Influencing Antibiotics Use in Pig Farming Among Farmers in Benue State, Nigeria, Calabar GHELP 2019

**Sarah Kuponiyi:** Bridging the Gap: Investigating the Implementation of Menstrual Health and Hygiene Policies in English-Speaking West African Countries, Calabar GHELP 2019

**Amos Oladunni:** Antimicrobial Prescribing Practices in COVID-19 Patients Admitted into Three Isolation Facilities in Ibadan, Oyo State, Ibadan GHELP 2019

**Aishat Alaran:** Neglected Tropical Diseases in Africa: Assessment of National Policies and Their Implementation in Nine Selected African Countries, Ibadan GHELP 2019

**Fortune Effiong:** Assessment of the Coverage, Design and Implementation Challenges of Community-Based Health Insurance Schemes (CBHIS) in 36 Nigerian Communities, Calabar GHELP 2019

**Adriana Viola Miranda:** Barriers to Accessing Tuberculosis and Diabetes Care Among Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Patients in Indonesia: A Mixed-Method Study, Indonesia GHELP

**Yusuf Babatunde:** Development of an Evidence-Based Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs Framework for Use in Primary Healthcare Settings in Nigeria: A Theory-Based Participatory Approach Ilorin GHELP 2019

**Adeyemi Sylvester:** Facility-Based Study of Comorbid and Multi-Morbid Non-Communicable Diseases Among Patients Living with HIV Infection in Nigeria, Ife GHP 2017

**Success David:** Access, Utilization and Barriers to Malaria Preventive Interventions for Children Under 5 in Flood-Affected States in South-South Nigeria, Calabar GHELP 2019

**Progress Agboola:** R21/Matrix-M Malaria Vaccine: Perception, Acceptability and Willingness to Pay Among Caregivers of Under-5 Children, Ibadan GHELP 2019

**Gabriel Oke:** Experience of People Living with Leprosy at Leprosy Settlements in Nigeria, Ibadan GHELP 2019

**Naomi Thomas:** Effectiveness of Community Campaigns and Onsite Testing in Reducing HIV Transmission in Kaduna State, Nigeria, Zaria GHP 2017

**Nafisat Dasola Jimoh:** Towards Promoting Rational Use of Antibiotics Understanding Antimicrobial Stewardship Practices in the Management of COVID-19 in 13 African Countries

**Elias Phiri:** Examining the implementation of antimicrobial resistance policy among One Health stakeholders, Drivers of Resistance in Uganda and Malawi (DRUM) Project, Malawi Malawi GHELP 2017

**Gladson Vaghela:** Accessibility of Free Health Care Services for Suicide Prevention: A Global Investigation

**Leonard Uzairue:** Impact of Infection Prevention and Control Implementation and COVID-19 Pandemic on Antimicrobial Resistance in Nigeria: A Study of Eight Hospitals

**Derrick Abila:** The cancer care pathway of refugees hosted in Uganda and receiving care at the Uganda Cancer Institute, Uganda

**Yusuf Amuda:** Risk of Zoonotic Pathogen Spillover at Human-Wildlife Nexus in a Biodiversity Hotspot in Ibarapa District, South-Western Nigeria: A Descriptive Study, Ibadan GHELP 2019



## 7 | What's Next? Looking Forward: GHF's Vision for the Next Decade and Call for Partnership

As Global Health Focus marks its first decade of impact, the organization stands at a pivotal juncture. The journey from a single question—"Why don't we bring global health programmes to the developing world?", to a network spanning Africa, Central Asia, and beyond has demonstrated that transformative change emerges from vision, commitment, and strategic collaboration rather than substantial financial resources alone. Yet the next chapter requires both innovation and institutional strengthening to sustain and amplify this impact.

### Strategic Priorities and Innovation

GHF's immediate aspirations focus on scaling proven programmes while exploring new frontiers. The Global Health Emerging Leaders Programme (GHELP) will continue as the organization's flagship initiative, developing young professionals who can assume leadership positions in international health organizations. The GHF University Excellence programme, which has successfully delivered research capacity strengthening that universities struggle to achieve independently, will expand its reach to more institutions across the Global South and Pacific regions.

Innovation drives GHF's future trajectory through thematic research programmes in emerging areas including artificial intelligence and digital health, global surgery, and other priority domains. Perhaps most ambitiously, GHF envisions establishing low-cost, high-quality academic journals that prioritize accessibility over profit, challenging the market-oriented publishing industry while providing platforms for researchers from developing regions. These journals would maintain rigorous quality standards while addressing the fundamental inequity that prevents talented researchers from sharing their work due to prohibitive publication costs.

### Organizational Evolution

GHF recognizes that its volunteer-driven model, while remarkably efficient, requires professionalization to achieve long-term sustainability. This includes developing stronger organizational structures, formalizing policies and guidelines, establishing permanent programmes, and creating diversified revenue streams that allow the organization to hire professional staff while maintaining its core values of altruism and accessibility.

### Call for Partnership

GHF seeks partners who share its vision of addressing research inequities and empowering the next generation of global health leaders. Universities interested in research capacity strengthening and internationalization can benefit from GHF's established networks and proven methodologies. Funding organizations and philanthropists have the opportunity to support a model that delivers exceptional impact at remarkably low cost compared to traditional development programmes.

Individual researchers, especially those from underrepresented regions, are invited to join GHF's growing network. The organization particularly welcomes collaboration from institutions willing to host global health clubs or societies, donors supporting scholarship and conference attendance for emerging leaders, and partners interested in co-developing innovative journal platforms or thematic research initiatives.

Together, we can continue building a more equitable global health landscape—one young leader, one research paper, one university partnership at a time.

# | 8 | GHF Global Health Youth Conference

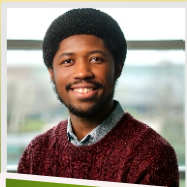
July 18, 2025 · Park Inn by Radisson, Kigali





Scan me for  
**more GHF  
Conference  
pictures** ↷





**Aniekan  
Ekpenyong**



**Goodness  
Ogeyi Odey**



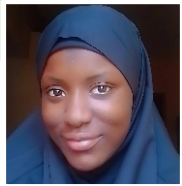
**Zhinya Kawa  
Othman**



**Esther Mukami**



**Owoisinke Victor**



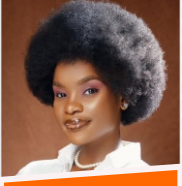
**Rasheeda Sariki**



**Margaret Attah**



**Francis Imoke**



**Mmesomachi Grace**

We are grateful to the remarkable individuals who have contributed their time, expertise, stories, and passion to this book. Each voice adds to the vibrant tapestry of GHF's journey and vision.