

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Top Highlights & Content

On the Global Stage for Advocacy to Influence Policy

Shaping Global Health Governance

Addressing Gender Inequality

Partnerships and Collaborations

Global Health Spotlight

Echoes of Progress from a Momentous Launch in 2021

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INSPIRING **PEOPLE**
ACCELERATING **DEVELOPMENT**
TRANSFORMING **LIVES**

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Inspiring **People**. Accelerating **Development**. Transforming **Lives**.

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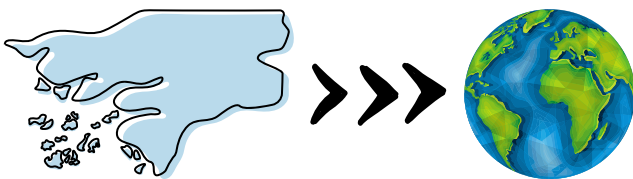
INTRODUCTION

Inspiring **People**. Accelerating **Development**. Transforming **Lives**.

ABOUT US

The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) is a non-profit, which aims to promote transformative and structuring actions in the field of global health and human development. We work to improve global health, promote gender equality, expand knowledge production and stimulate development in Guinea Bissau and beyond.

Guinea Bissau-based with **Regional Footprints** and **Global Reach**



OUR VISION

We envision a society where wellbeing is a universal right and not a privilege, and where social justice and equity are at the forefront.

OUR MISSION

We aim to catalyse transformational change through quality research, analysis, advocacy and policy recommendations, to achieve equitable access to quality health care, gender equality and economic opportunities for all.

WHAT WE DO

- Promote and conduct health research to generate knowledge and advocate for the adoption of evidence-based policies.
- Support professional and institutional capacity and skills development in the domains of research, health, and human and economic development, particularly among vulnerable communities and in underprivileged areas.
- Advance the gender equality agenda for women's leadership in health and development.
- Advocate for transformative pro-equity theories and practices in health and development, governance and public policies, adapted to the needs of low and middle-income countries.
- Contribute to the reduction of social, economic and gender inequalities and promotion of human rights and sustainable development.

OUR TEAM

Meet the vibrant and diverse team at IGHD!

Comprising mainly of youthful individuals hailing from various corners of the globe, our team is fueled by passion, creativity, and a shared commitment to global health. With diverse professional backgrounds and a strong representation of young women, we embody gender equity, inclusivity and optimism. Despite working remotely from different parts of the world, we unite seamlessly to advance IGHD's agenda, each bringing our unique perspectives and talents to the table.

Together, we're shaping a brighter future for global health and development!



Pokuaa Oduro-Bonsrah
Project Management
and External Relations



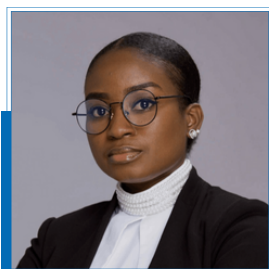
Purity Wambui
Research and Policy
Analysis



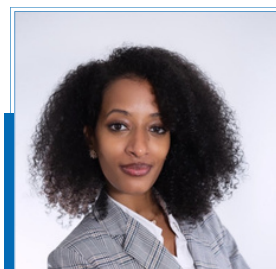
Madhumita Varma
Policy and Advocacy



Fabio Batista Gomes
Administration and
Finance



Sandra F. Abruquah
Governance



Ariam Rosina Kibrom
Research



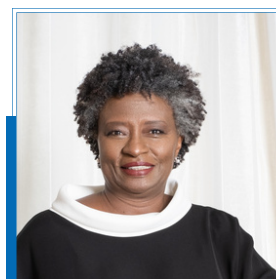
Silvanus Manyala
Social Media and
Communications



Michele Mayuba
One Health



Eve Dorin-Blanchard
Resource Mobilization



Magda Robalo
President and Co-founder



TEAM EXPANSION

WELCOMING **NEW TALENT**, EMBRACING **GROWTH!**

We are thrilled to welcome new team members who have recently joined us in our mission to support global health and development initiatives. With their diverse backgrounds, expertise, and passion for global health and development, they bring fresh perspectives and valuable skills to our team. Together, we are excited to collaborate and drive positive change in global health and development, working towards our shared goal of improving healthcare access and outcomes for communities around the world.



Eve Dorin-Blanchard
Resource Mobilization

Eve is a recent Masters in Development Studies graduate, passionate about human rights and global health. Eve gained her first experience working for NGOs in Australia and Canada while doing her Bachelor's degree. She then completed her Interdisciplinary Masters in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. In Geneva, Eve gained further experience working for NGOs with a focus on global health, human rights, and conflict.

Before IGHD, Silvanus interned and volunteered for various non-profit and professional organizations where he handled a wide range of social media management duties including creating brand visibility to key external stakeholders by developing and implementing effective communication and brand profiling strategies. He graduated from the University of Nairobi (Kenya) with a Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree. His interest and passion lie in using communication as an advocacy tool to promote health education and awareness, bridge the healthcare information gap and empower the public on wellness issues.



Silvanus Manyala
Social Media and
Communications



Michele Mayuba
One Health

Michele is passionate about improving public health and health equity among marginalised populations and finds great fulfilment in taking part in projects that impact human health. She appreciates and implements the One Health approach in her work and has worked with NGOs in Kenya and internationally such as the International Student One Health Alliance (ISOHA) and One Health Commission that advocate for the One Health approach. She is a Bachelor of Pharmacy Graduate from the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

FORGING AHEAD



Last year was exceptional in many ways. We look back with pride at how much we were able to achieve in just two years since IGHD was launched, particularly the progress we made over last year. But we also recognize that it needs to be more compared to our ambition, our associates' potential, and our people's needs.

Our strongest achievement was the partnerships we established with grassroots, civil society and multilateral organizations, academic institutions, think tanks, the private sector, country governments and global health initiatives.

We focused our advocacy efforts on calling out gender inequality, raising awareness on the neglect of women's health, stressing the urgent need to converge efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage, accelerating efforts for robust pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response and on the global health architecture and its governance, calling for a balanced, equitable representation at decision-making bodies of global health initiatives.

In charting our path forward, we look to 2024 with great optimism and pragmatism, despite the turbulence our world faces today.

Cognizant of the multiple geopolitical and financial challenges on the horizon, we are committed to driving transformative change across geographies, demographics, and stakeholders. We remain faithful to our core agenda of empowering women, supporting governments to embrace innovation through evidence-driven policies, advocating for pro-equity governance, and tackling the challenges that are on the way to achieving equitable access to quality health care.

We thank all our partners and stakeholders for their trust and collaboration.

Learn more about our progress and partnerships through our various activities in 2023 in this report.



Dr Magda Robalo
President and Co-founder



ON THE **GLOBAL** STAGE FOR **ADVOCACY** TO INFLUENCE **POLICY**

AFRICA HEALTH AGENDA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (AHAIC) 2023

RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR AFRICA: RE-ENVISIONING THE FUTURE NOW

The Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) 2023 united Africa's leaders, innovators, policymakers, and health workers to integrate climate and health discussions. Hosted by Amref Health Africa, Ministry of Health Rwanda, African Union, and Africa CDC, it highlighted the crucial link between climate change and health, aligning with global goals for 2030. AHAIC concluded on International Women's Day, emphasizing African women's influential leadership in global health. Discussions focused on resilient health systems for Africa, sexual and reproductive health rights, gender-responsive health systems, women-led innovations, and women's roles in health and climate action, echoing the call to #EmbraceEquity.



AHAIC 2023

Resilient Health Systems for Africa: Re-envisioning the Future Now

5-8 MARCH, 2023

Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda



"It is the first time that a global health conference in Africa has focused on climate change as a determinant of health. We know that climate change and health are intrinsically interconnected. Yet, for decades they have been treated as two separate issues," said Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Group CEO of Amref Health Africa, who continues – *During AHAIC 2023 we will explore the nexus between climate change and health, including rapid global warming, pandemic preparedness, food security and nutrition, innovation, research and development, gender and conflicts".*



Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly

#WHA76



The 76th session of the World Health Assembly took place in Geneva from 21-30 May 2023 under the theme **“WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.”**

Among several important topics on the agenda were discussions on:

1. Universal Health Coverage: Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage
2. Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies: Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience and
3. The World Together: Member State-led processes to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

Beyond attending several sessions and debates, the President of IGHD also had the opportunity to interact with Dr Tedros Gebreyesus, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and several other stakeholders, including Ministers of Health and members of their delegation, partners, and former WHO colleagues.





World Resilience Summit

Partnerships to Prevent Future Pandemics

24 May 2023 | Campus Biotech | Geneva, Switzerland
- In Collaboration With Geneva Health Forum

PREVENTING FUTURE PANDEMICS

World Resilience Summit Roundtable

The World Resilience Summit (WRS) 2023 organized a set of roundtable discussions tailored for select high-profile stakeholders and policymakers, emphasizing proactive measures against pandemics and other health security threats. These discussions aimed at advancing the objectives outlined in the draft Pandemic Accord and foster the creation and enhancement of robust health systems through robust public-private dialogues.

We participated in Roundtable II organized in partnership with PREZODE Initiative under Preparedness “The Untapped Potential of Public-Private Partnerships for Resilient Health Systems” with a focus on how business and finance can be part of capacity building and early warning systems.



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THE KIGALI GLOBAL DIALOGUE 2023

The Kigali Global Dialogue 2023 convened more than 300 policymakers, academics, civil society representatives, and private sector delegates from 70+ countries. Hosted by the Observer Research Foundation America (ORF America), Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Rwanda Governance Board, and Rwanda Convention Bureau, the second edition aimed to address pressing sustainable development issues. It was also a G20 international outreach event for India’s Presidency and a BRICS discussion forum under South Africa’s presidency, with more than half the speakers being women.

WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT: ACTIVATING THE LEVERS TO UNLEASH WOMEN’S ECONOMIC POWER

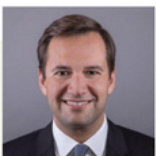
We joined a panel discussion at the Kigali Global Dialogue on **“Women-Led Development: Activating the Levers to Unleash Women’s Economic Power”**. During the discussion, experts examined the pivotal role of two interconnected factors in promoting women's economic equity: health and access to digital technologies. Highlighting the importance of addressing women's healthcare needs and preferences, as well as ensuring equitable access to digital tools, the panel emphasized these as foundational pillars for women's empowerment. Specific recommendations were outlined to strengthen these foundations, focusing on investments in women's health and digital inclusion.

Dr. Magda, representing IGHD, shared insights on strategies for communicating with policymakers to advocate for investments in women's health, gender equality, and socioeconomic development. The discussion underscored the significance of prioritizing these areas to advance women's economic empowerment globally.

WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT: ACTIVATING THE LEVERS TO UNLEASH WOMEN’S ECONOMIC POWER



PRUDENCE NONKULULEKO NGWENYA
Director Women, Gender and Youth (WGYD), African Union Commission, Swaziland



RICARDO BAPTISTA LEITE
CEO, I-DAIR, Switzerland



JACQUELINE KITULU
Chairperson of the Board, Rocket Health, Kenya



MAGDA ROBALO
President and Co-Founder, Institute for Global Health and Development, Guinea-Bissau



BARATANG MIYA
CEO, GirlHype Women Who Code & Women Tech Policy Hub, South Africa



Magda Robalo

President and Co-Founder, The Institute for Global Health and Development
Guinea-Bissau



FOREIGN POLICY HEALTH FORUM AT #UNGA78

During the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York City, Foreign Policy (FP) convened policymakers, experts, and thought leaders to discuss pressing global issues such as the energy transition, food security, pandemic preparedness, and digital transformation. The FP Health Forum coincided with the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, offering a platform to assess progress and renew commitments towards achieving universal health coverage by 2030.

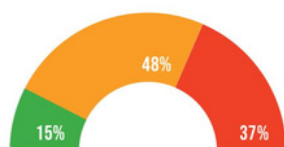
Through public briefings and roundtable discussions, participants explored how to mobilize resources for healthcare innovation, foster partnerships between governments and civil society, and ensure equitable access to healthcare. Dr Magda Robalo, representing IGHD, participated in a session on **"Seeing the Bigger Picture: Universal Vision and the SDGs"** emphasizing actionable solutions for a more accessible healthcare system.



NaCLO FOR AFRICA

The "NaCLO for Africa: Hygiene as an Essential Health Requirement for the Development of Low and Middle Income Countries - Challenges and Results" Symposium in Parma on 6 October 2023, brought together diverse partners such as AMREF Health Africa who presented their case history on NaCLO 30L, a tool capable of producing one of the most effective disinfectants in the world, sodium hypochlorite (NaCLO), even in the most difficult contexts. It was widely used during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. We participated in the Symposium and presented an overview of the progress to date on the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations 2030 Agenda, addressing the influence of geopolitics on global health and highlighting the urgency of skill transfer, research collaboration, local industry development, and hygiene, water, and sanitation improvement. Discussions revolved around water quality monitoring in local communities and innovative solutions for NGOs combating epidemics, pandemics and outbreaks of communicable diseases.

A CONCERNING PICTURE OF SDG PROGRESS AT THE MIDPOINT:



- ON TRACK
- MODERATELY OR SEVERELY OFF TRACK
- STAGNATION OR REGRESSION

BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF SDG TARGETS WITH TREND DATA.



UNGA LIFE SCIENCES: BCIU ROUNDTABLE ON WOMEN-CENTERED CARE

COMBATING THE BREAST CANCER BURDEN IN AFRICA (INVESTMENT IN NCD – UHC)

To genuinely enhance women's health outcomes, consistent funding should prioritize high-quality services and include cancer-related care within Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Initiatives should focus on enabling early screening and prompt detection, minimizing delays in accessing advanced treatments. Such sustainable investments not only alleviate the burden of diseases like breast cancer but also enhance global health outcomes and optimize resource utilization within health systems, fostering societal value in the long term.

During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2023, the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and Roche co-hosted a roundtable discussion in New York, NY to address the breast cancer burden in Africa. Attendees assessed progress and challenges since the last High-Level Meeting (HLM) on UHC, with contributions from various stakeholders including governments, private sector entities, multilateral organizations, NGOs, donors, and advocacy groups. The aim was to facilitate mutual learning and explore opportunities for partnerships to integrate breast cancer into UHC initiatives. The discussion emphasized key investment opportunities and innovative approaches for implementation, showcasing successful case studies and ongoing projects to translate policy into action. Overall, the event highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing breast cancer within the broader context of UHC, with a focus on sharing best practices and fostering actionable strategies for both low- and high-income countries.



This session facilitated dialogue among stakeholders from public and private sectors to explore avenues for expanding sustainable services and funding for breast cancer programs in Africa, aligning with global Universal Health Coverage (UHC) objectives. Amidst current global complexities and setbacks in achieving SDG 3.4 by 2030, investing in health remains imperative. The discussion aimed to raise awareness of breast cancer challenges in Africa, underscore the repercussions of inaction, and promote impactful national strategies to reduce mortality rates and enhance access to life-saving interventions and care.

FIRST WHO AUTUMN SCHOOL ON QUALITY OF CARE AND PATIENT SAFETY

CAPACITY-BUILDING COURSE AIMED AT THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND PROFICIENCY IN QUALITY OF CARE AND PATIENT SAFETY

To advance awareness and initiatives regarding quality healthcare and patient safety within the WHO European Region, WHO/Europe convened its inaugural Autumn School on Quality of Care and Patient Safety from October 23rd to 27th in Lisbon, Portugal. This event, organized in collaboration with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Education, Research, and Evaluation of Safety and Quality in Healthcare at the NOVA National School of Public Health in Lisbon, marked the commencement of a series of training courses designed to enhance expertise and promote scientific understanding in these critical areas across the Region. We are proud to have contributed to the curation of the course.



About the course

The program offers an in-depth exploration of cutting-edge advancements in healthcare quality and patient safety. Tailored to empower high-level participants, including managers, healthcare professionals, and policy-makers, the course aims to foster an understanding of key concepts and practical methodologies for driving positive transformations in health systems.



46TH WORLD HOSPITAL CONGRESS

The World Hospital Congress serves as a distinctive global platform uniting the International Hospital Federation (IHF) Members and leaders from hospitals, healthcare services, and organizations worldwide. Offering a valuable networking opportunity, each Congress features tracks dedicated to addressing prominent trends and common challenges in the healthcare sector.

IGHD had the opportunity to collaborate with the organizers on a Session on Digital Health as a pathfinder to promote access to healthcare in Portuguese-speaking countries. Expert-led sessions, along with invitational forums, workshops, masterclasses, scientific posters, and industry exhibitors, foster knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation. This convergence of international expertise provides healthcare leaders with insights to enhance service delivery within their contexts. The 2023 edition, co-hosted by the Portuguese Association for Hospital Development, the Portuguese Association of Private Hospitals, and the Portuguese Association of Hospital Managers, received the high patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic.



THE 11TH EDTCP FORUM

The 11th European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDTCP) Forum, a biennial international event, convened from November 7th to 10th, 2023, at the Palais des Congrès de Paris, France. The Forum served as a platform for the presentation and discussion of cutting-edge research addressing poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. Hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of France and ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases, the event marked the 20th anniversary of EDCTP's establishment. The Forum attracted diverse stakeholders, including representatives from research institutions, universities, the scientific community, healthcare providers, governments, regional bodies, regulators, civil society, and public and private research and development partners. Over 600 participants from different regions and research fields contributed to the multidisciplinary nature of the Forum.

The theme for the Eleventh EDCTP Forum was **“Partnering for Global Health Research Innovation and Impact in Africa - Celebrating EDCTP: two decades and beyond.”** The focus was on fostering partnerships to address infectious diseases in Africa, with an emphasis on research innovation and impact. The Forum covered a range of topics, including capacity development, networking activities, and collaborative initiatives aimed at alleviating the burden of neglected diseases.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Eleventh EDCTP Forum successfully brought together stakeholders from various sectors, fostering collaboration, and celebrating two decades of impactful research and initiatives. We joined a Plenary Debate on Inequalities in Global Health, moderated by *Catherine Hankins* from McGill University, Canada, and included *Prof Nkando Luo* from Global One Health Institute, Lusaka Environmental Health University, *Prof Margaret Gyapong* from University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana, and *Dr Francisco Saúte*, Director General of the Manhiça Health and Research Centre, Moçambique. The dynamic debate evolved around thought-provoking arguments for and against the motion *"Resetting of local priorities is essential to progress against inequalities in global health"*. Panellists argued on the need for comprehensive, context-specific approaches, accountability in goal-setting, and the continuing impact of historical factors such as colonization on priority-setting in global health. The audience's shifting opinions reflected the complexity of the motion, under discussion, emphasizing the ongoing challenges and opportunities in advancing global health equity.



Stakeholder relations

The multidisciplinary nature of the Forum provided a rich environment for networking and collaboration. IGHD representatives engaged with diverse stakeholders, including research institutions, universities, and other organizations working at the nexus of clinical research and broader global health issues. Their interactions facilitated the exchange of experiences, the highlighting of key IGHD activities, and the exploration of potential collaborations and initiatives aligned with the mission of the Institute.

PARIS PEACE FORUM



The Paris Peace Forum 2023 proved to be a pivotal gathering of global leaders, experts, and organizations committed to addressing the world's most pressing challenges. The event served as a platform for fostering dialogue, cooperation, and innovative solutions in various domains, including peace, security, development, and global health.

The event centred on bolstering health systems resilience against pandemic threats through the “Always On” agenda. With the increasing frequency of infectious outbreaks due to climate change, the discussion emphasized the need for end-to-end resilient health systems. Key areas discussed included detection, supply chain, R&D, and primary healthcare services.

Through Dr Magda Robalo, we joined other panellists including Anne-Claire Amprou (French Ambassador for Global Health), Priya Basu (Executive Head of the Secretariat, Pandemic Fund), Eloise Todd (Co-Founder, Pandemic Action Network) and Ines Hassan (Director, The Global Health Security Consortium) in a discussion on “*creating pandemic resilient health systems*”. With the increasing frequency of infectious



disease outbreaks due to climate change, the discussion aimed to present strategies at local, regional, and global levels, focusing on implementing prevention, surveillance, and vaccine manufacturing programs. The overarching objective was to collectively enhance preparedness for both pandemics and climate-related health challenges.

Dr Magda emphasized the global significance of discussing pandemic-resilient health systems within the framework of the "Always On" agenda, aligning with the forum's overarching theme of achieving consensus amid global rivalry. She underscored the importance of maintaining a people-centric approach in health discussions, recognizing it as pivotal for saving lives, sustaining well-being, and supporting economic growth. Drawing on past successes, including high-level summits during the United Nations General Assembly, she advocated for breaking the cycle of panic and neglect during global health crises. Looking ahead, Dr Robalo highlighted the need to address the impact of climate change on health, emphasizing the crucial role of resilience and tenacity. Her key recommendations included advocating for effective global governance, ensuring equitable resource distribution, and leveraging multilateralism to navigate diverging global health agendas.



Reflections on the Scale-Up Program

Dr Magda Robalo reflected on her mentoring experience with the Scale-Up Program. Grateful for being offered the opportunity, and happy to have accepted the challenge, she emphasized the dual learning experience with her peer mentor and project implementers. Dr Robalo expressed a keen interest in continuing such endeavours, highlighting the value of sharing experiences and knowledge for effective project implementation. For her, the most rewarding aspect was the project's tangible growth and progress over the year, where she contributed her expertise in public health, experience as a former Minister of Health, and a vast network to introduce experts and institutions, expanding the project's reach and partnerships. Speaking on One Health, she stressed the need for increased investment and collaboration in bringing together animal health, environmental health, and human health to address zoonotic disease risks.



Stakeholder Relations

Our representatives, Ms Pokuaa Oduro-Bonsrah and Ms Purity Wambui actively participated in diverse sessions, workshops, and discussions throughout the forum. The two had the opportunity to network with a diverse range of stakeholders, including government officials, non-profit organizations, and industry leaders. These interactions paved the way for potential collaborations, knowledge-sharing, and the exploration of joint initiatives with other organizations, aimed at advancing global health and development goals.



WORLD
HEALTH
SUMMIT

The World Health Summit is a unique international platform for global health. It brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society from around the world to set the agenda for a healthier future by inspiring innovative solutions for better health and well-being for all. The World Health Summit strengthens exchange, stimulates innovative solutions to health challenges, fosters global health as a key political issue and promotes the global health debate in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The premier global health conference, the World Health Summit (WHS), unites political, scientific, private sector, and civil society stakeholders worldwide.

In Berlin, Germany, and online from 15–17 October 2023, the event, themed **"A Defining Year for Global Health Action,"** inspired innovative solutions to shape a healthier future for all.



INCENTIVIZE EARLY WARNING FOR PANDEMICS SESSION AT THE WHS 2023

A Solidarity Mechanism for Fair Benefit-Sharing

At the World Health Summit on October 16, 2023, the Paris Peace Forum conducted a session titled "Incentivize Early Warning for Pandemics." Moderated by Justin Vaïsse, Founder and Director General of the Forum, the panel, featuring high-level experts delved into crucial discussions on pandemic preparedness and solidarity mechanisms. Their perspectives are steering future approaches, emphasizing the central importance of equitable benefit-sharing for scientific discoveries and innovations.

Access to genetic sequence data is essential for taking early action in response to a health danger, as the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated. Even though scientific institutions in the Global South frequently provide the data essential to develop new medical goods, these partnerships rarely result in payment or access to the medical countermeasures required to combat a pandemic. This disparity was glaring during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in discussions for a pandemic accord, the necessity of equitable benefit-sharing is noted as a crucial concern for pandemic preparedness.

"We are looking at the benefits as the finished product which needs to be shared with those that cannot afford it," Dr Magda said. *"The starting point should not be with the finished product. We need to consider the raw material as shared for others to generate benefits,"* she added.

To equitably share advantages coming from scientific discoveries and contributions to innovation and to reward participants, this session examined potential solidarity mechanisms. The ultimate goal was to increase the resources available for early detection and warning.



DIGITAL AND HEALTH SESSION AT THE WHS 2023 (Plenary)

Digital Health is the field of knowledge and practice associated with the development and use of digital technologies to improve health. It expands the concept of eHealth to include digital consumers, with a wider range of smart and connected devices. It also encompasses other uses of digital technologies for health such as the Internet of Things, advanced computing, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence including machine learning and robotics.

The emphasis on affordable and accessible healthcare is aligned with the WHO's vision of "Health For All." Digital innovations, therefore, can play a pivotal role in closing healthcare gaps in underserved communities.

"You mentioned affordable and accessible healthcare and I would like to add "equitable" and "quality" healthcare to the emphasis. Despite the digital divide that we know is prevalent, digital innovations have the potential to expand access, increase affordability and promote equitable access to quality health care. That will not happen by accident, we need to be intentional about it and design the programs in ways that promote equity. WHO has a Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025." Dr Magda remarked during a plenary moderated by Ilona Kickbusch, Founding Director, of Global Health Center and Co-chair of the World Health Summit Council.

WATCH NOW



THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFRICA

The International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) convened once again in 2023, providing a vital platform for African leaders to reflect on health challenges, share insights, and chart a course towards more resilient health systems. With over 5,000 delegates in attendance, the conference showcased Africa's prowess in science, innovation, and knowledge generation.

At CPHIA 2023, delegates participated in four days of plenaries, parallel sessions, and side events, fostering discussions on diverse topics ranging from emergency preparedness to universal health coverage. The conference highlighted Africa's role as a leader in driving progress and innovation in public health.

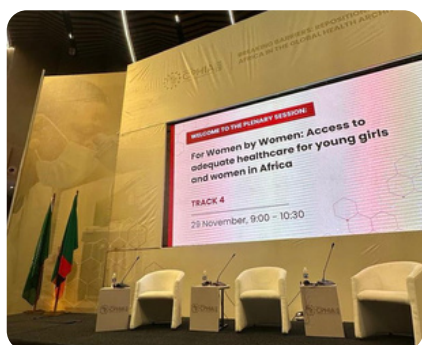
A Plenary session dedicated to Women's issues and curated by Drs Ebere Okereke, Tlaleng Mofokeng and Magda Robalo, focused on "Access to Adequate Healthcare for Young Girls and Women in Africa". This event underscored the importance of prioritizing women's health and leadership in shaping healthcare policies and programs.

In addition to in-person sessions, CPHIA 2023 also embraced virtual participation, enabling broader engagement and collaboration. IGHD, in collaboration with the Women in Global Health Lusophone Community Chapter, hosted an online webinar on gender equality and women's leadership in research across Portuguese-speaking countries.

The conference aligned with Africa CDC's vision for a New Public Health Order, addressing key issues such as emergency response, research and development, and private sector engagement. The discussions emphasized the urgent need for inclusive, equitable healthcare systems that prioritize the needs of all populations, especially women, children and the youth.

As African countries strive to realize a New Public Health Order, CPHIA 2023 played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the conference contributed to building a healthier, more prosperous Africa for the continent and the world.

Looking ahead, the insights gained from CPHIA 2023 will inform ongoing efforts to strengthen public health systems and address emerging health challenges across the African continent. With continued commitment and collaboration, Africa is poised to lead the way in shaping the future of global health.



SHAPING GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE

STRENGTHENING AFRICA'S VOICE ON BOARDS OF GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Achieving equitable global health outcomes entails ensuring the longest and healthiest life for all individuals. This ambitious objective necessitates effective, pro-equity global governance, inclusive representation, and robust implementation across various initiatives and programs aimed at promoting well-being. However, the governance of global health initiatives and programs often lacks sufficient emphasis on promoting equitable decision-making processes, representation, and balanced power dynamics.

A 2022 study revealed that approximately 75% of positions on global health boards were occupied by nationals of high-income countries (HICs), despite these countries representing only 16% of the world's population. This significant disparity leads to the under-representation of low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) and has implications for decision-making.

Boards play a pivotal role in major global health organizations and partnerships, such as the WHO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, and the Pandemic Fund. However, there are variations in board membership concerning size, tenure, rotation, representation, gender balance, power dynamics, and procedures for nominating members. It's essential to recognize that power imbalances may not always be apparent, as even equal representation between HICs and LMICs may not address disparities in access to information, support systems, and networks. IGHD is at the forefront of advocating for an equitable, balanced distribution of power in decision-making on the Board of Global Health Initiatives.

COMMENT | VOLUME 402, ISSUE 10403, P677-678, AUGUST 26, 2023

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Strengthening Africa's voice on boards of global health initiatives

Magda Robalo Correia e Silva • Pokuaa Oduro-Bonsrah • Purity Wambui • Mohamed Chakroun

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PlumX Metrics

FUTURE OF GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES:

The Lusaka Agenda, a product of global collaboration, signifies a pivotal moment in reshaping the global health financing landscape. It was unveiled on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) day on December 12, 2023, and represents the culmination of a 14-month engagement process involving multi-stakeholder dialogues in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (June 14), Wilton Park, UK (October 4-6), and Lusaka, Zambia (November 26). It builds upon existing initiatives and outlines five key transformations for the future of Global Health Initiatives (GHIs) and the broader health landscape. Additionally, it identifies immediate priorities to kickstart progress towards these shifts. The agenda lays the groundwork for coordinated action to advance these transformations and charts a course towards a shared vision of domestically financed health systems and UHC that leaves no one behind. Achieving these goals necessitates concerted efforts across all stakeholders, with a commitment to mutual accountability.

Read more [here](#).





This milestone underscores the commitment of diverse stakeholders towards shaping a future where health is a universal right.

Read the [Lusaka Agenda](#) – the final output of the FGHI process. We look forward to helping put the conclusions into practice to better support national health priorities and countries' progress towards UHC.

Let's propel the Lusaka Agenda into transformative action for global health!

Future of Global Health Initiatives

The Future We Want To See

ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUALITY

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF WGH LUSOPHONE COMMUNITY CHAPTER

On the sides of the 76th World Health Assembly, a milestone was reached as the Lusophone Chapter of the Women in Global Health network was officially launched, expanding to 50 chapters. IGHD galvanized and led the establishment of the Women in Global Health Lusophone Community.

Chaired by Dr Magda Robalo, the chapter aims to address gender disparity in health leadership within Lusophone communities, foster discussions among policy leaders, and identify champions to drive progress. With women forming the majority of the health workforce but underrepresented in leadership roles, the chapter emphasizes the urgency of action for equal opportunities. Leaders from Portuguese-speaking countries laid the foundation for the chapter, focusing on collaboration, awareness-raising, and challenging prevailing narratives. The launch signifies a commitment to empower women and strengthen health systems, aiming for transformative impact within Lusophone communities and beyond.



Founded in 2015 when four early career women, who initially met online, encountered an overwhelming response on social media on a range of issues. Five years after launching as a not-for-profit that was entirely powered by volunteers and had no income, Women in Global Health now has 50 Chapters. With around 6,500 members and 100,000 supporters in over 100 countries, we are nurses, midwives, doctors, public health professionals, health policymakers, community health workers, researchers, pharmacists, and private sector health workers.



WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH MEET & GREET

On October 16, 2023, Women in Global Health (WGH) gathered at the Geneva Lounge in JW Marriott Hotel Berlin for an enriching in-person meet & greet event. Hosted by WGH Germany on the sides of the World Health Summit, this signature gathering provided a platform for WGH Chapter members and interested allies to meet.

Attendees had the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, fostering meaningful relationships and collaborations. The event facilitated insightful discussions, allowing participants to share their experiences, challenges, and aspirations in advancing women's roles in global health.

The meet & greet served as a reminder of the importance of promoting supportive networks and amplifying the voices of women in shaping the future of global health.



ADVANCING UHC & GENDER EQUALITY

In collaboration with the WGH Lusophone Community, we hosted a webinar focusing on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Gender Equality in Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa (PALOP), also known as Lusophone Africa, with a special emphasis on women's health. Esteemed guest speakers, including Ms Maria José Costeira, Dr Paulo Salamanca, and Dr Jamila Bathy, shared valuable insights on critical health issues. Moderated by Dr Maria Mendes, the session delved into sub-themes such as Breast cancer in Lusophone Africa, HIV infection reduction objectives, and strategies for mitigating maternal and child mortality in low-income settings.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM

On 25th October, IGHD participated in a workshop organized on the margins of The International Hospital Federation's Congress. The Forum is a collaborative community for senior female executives from the International Hospital Federation (IHF) membership, who seek to advance gender equity in the healthcare industry while amplifying the impact of women leaders globally. The workshop brought together senior women and men leaders from across the IHF's international community and had high-level guest speakers, namely Gayle Capozzalo and Dr Sangita Reddy. Participants discussed the policy changes that can bring about transformative change in gender equity. The workshop was a unique opportunity for high-level exchange, learning, and identification of best practices, to help drive the agenda of gender equity in the healthcare sector.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Partnerships and collaborations play a pivotal role in advancing global health and development by harnessing collective expertise, resources, and networks to tackle complex challenges. By fostering alliances between governments, multilateral organizations, non-profits, academia, and the private sector, innovative solutions can be developed and scaled more efficiently. These partnerships facilitate knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and capacity building, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of health interventions. Moreover, they enable a coordinated response to global health crises, such as pandemics and natural disasters, ensuring a more resilient and equitable health system for all. Through collaborative efforts, we can address health disparities, promote universal access to healthcare, and achieve sustainable development goals, leading to healthier and more prosperous communities worldwide.

MoU WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF VERONA

A new collaboration between the Department of Infectious Diseases of the University of Verona, directed by Evelina Tacconelli, and the President of IGHD, Magda Robalo was solidified through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the two principals.

This collaboration aims to conduct research in infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, prevention, and pandemic preparedness. It will also be a priority to jointly apply for funding, and develop and implement joint initiatives, including organising training programs, webinars, symposia, and conferences.



IGHD JOINS PREZODE INITIATIVE

In 2023, we became a partner of the PREZODE initiative by signing the Declaration of Intent in Support of the Prezode International Initiative and were appointed to act as a member of its Steering Committee. We have served as a PREZODE's SCUP Project mentor and participated in PREZODE'S World Resilience Summit Roundtables during World Health Assembly, May 24, 2023, in Geneva & PREZODE'S Roundtable during the "Salon International de l'Agriculture, SIA2023 on 27 February 2023. Additionally, we co-authored several op-eds initiated by PREZODE in several renowned papers.

About PREZODE Initiative

The PREZODE community encompasses more than 230 members from scientific, academic, and associative backgrounds, including the governments of 25 countries. Members and collaborators of PREZODE endorse its core values, as stated in the declaration of intent. Therefore, they dedicate their mission to its global aim: Preventing zoonotic disease emergence in complex socio-ecosystems, through international collaboration, knowledge sharing and guidance for public policies.

The Initiative aims to enhance its dynamic through the enrollment of new members, thus engaging and ensuring efficient and international cooperation.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AFRICAN POPULATION AND HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER, KENYA

On the margins of the EDCTP Forum, we met with Dr Patrick Opiyo Owili, Program Coordinator at the African Population and Health Research Center to explore the establishment of collaborative avenues for strengthening research capacity in Guinea-Bissau and other African Portuguese-speaking countries and beyond, to inform policy and emphasized the need to enhance governance of health systems to improve equitable access to quality health care across Africa. We were particularly interested in the cross-continental partnership with a focus on leveraging each organization's expertise and strength to address health disparities and contribute to sustainable development.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES



Diplomacia e Negociação em Saúde

21 OUT
15h00 – 17h30
Centro de Cultura e Congressos
SRNOM. PORTO

SEMINÁRIO
COOPERAÇÃO EM SAÚDE E A CPLP

ENTRADA LIVRE

MODERAÇÃO:
Dra. Elisa Gaspar – Bastonária da OM de Angola e Vice-Presidente da CMLP

ORADORES:
Dr. Francisco André – Secret. de Estado dos Negócios Estrangeiros e da Cooperação;
Dr. Manuel Lapão – Diretor de Cooperação da CPLP;
Prof. Doutora Magda Robalo – Presid. Comunidade Lusófona - Mulheres na Saúde Global

SESSÃO DE ENCERRAMENTO:
Embaixador António Martins da Cruz – Ex-Ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros;
Dr. Carlos Cortes* – Bastonário da OM

*Sujeito a confirmação



Throughout the year, the collaboration and partnership with the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) was part of the IGHD agenda. It materialized for example during the CPHIA 2023 Official side-event, co-organized with the WGH Lusophone Community, where the CPLP was invited to provide a perspective on Women's Leadership in Health Research in countries of the Community. Another high moment of collaboration occurred during a Seminar organized by the Portuguese Medical Association on Health Diplomacy and Negotiation, under the theme CPLP and Health Cooperation. IGHD had the opportunity to review the Health Cooperation Strategic Plan of the Community and its relevance to the current global health challenges.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES, GHANA

In a meeting with Professor Margaret Gyapong, the Director of the Institute for Health Research and Coordinator of the Centre for Health Policy and Implementation Research at the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ghana, we discussed strategic alignments of potential collaboration to contribute to the goal of achieving equitable access to quality health care. We realized that there are remarkable similarities in our objectives, with shared interests in advancing health research and policy implementation. We further exchanged possible programs and joint initiatives to address critical health challenges.

GLOBAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

LAUDATION FOR PROF ROSE ROSE GANA FOMBAN LEKE 2023 VIRCHOW PRIZE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AWARD

Prof Rose Leke was recognized for her lifetime achievements in global health, pioneering infectious disease research for a malaria-free world, and unwavering dedication to advancing gender equality—contributing to a healthier world for all.

The Virchow Prize for Global Health is a major international award which recognises and celebrates outstanding lifetime achievements towards “Health For All” that are closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Laureates of the highly prestigious Virchow Prize for Global Health are honoured for their long-standing commitment to improving global health.



About Professor Rose Leke

Prof Rose Gana Fomban Leke was born in Cameroon and began her impressive academic career at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana, United States. Finishing her undergraduate studies, Rose Leke completed a master’s degree in Zoology at the University of Illinois, Champagne Urbana, USA, and later a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology at the Université de Montréal, which she obtained in 1979.

For over forty years, Prof Leke has demonstrated unparalleled dedication in advancing research, engagement and awareness for eradicating deadly infectious diseases alongside her continuous leadership in trailblazing for women and girls to succeed in science. Combined, these efforts have contributed immensely to mobilising for the attainment of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and “health and well-being for all”.

The most impressive contributions from the many roles Prof Leke successfully held and shaped since her earliest academic and scientific research beginnings are her continuous efforts to pioneer women and girls in science, and her tireless leadership in fighting for the eradication of deadly diseases affecting the most vulnerable. This led to the decision of the Virchow Prize Committee to award Rose Gana Fomban Leke the 2023 Virchow Prize for Global Health.



“The Virchow Prize Committee is convinced that Rose Leke has displayed remarkable dedication to nurturing the next generation of researchers, exhibited a unique record of achievements in crucial areas of civil society, politics and sciences and has shown exceptional resolve, consistency and leadership skills for decades.”

Roland Göhde
Co-Founder & CEO
Virchow Foundation for Global Health

[▶ READ MORE](#)

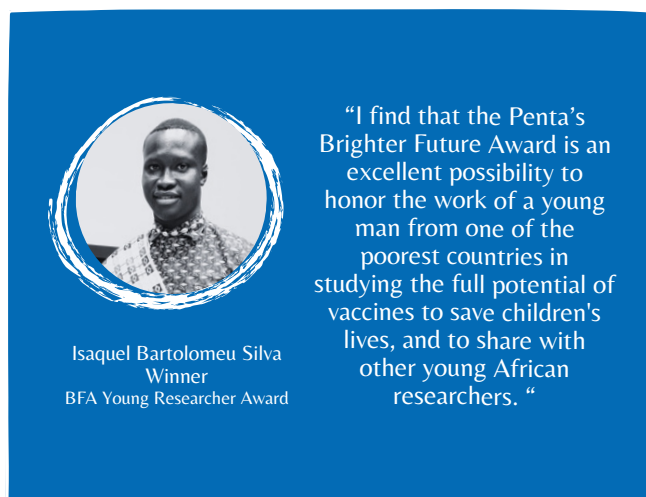
GLOBAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR ISAQUEL BARTOLOMEU SILVA

BRIGHTER FUTURE AWARDS (BFA) WINNER: YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

Isaquel Bartolomeu Silva's award entry emphasises his role in a clinical trial in Guinea-Bissau, investigating the broad protective effects of measles and BCG vaccines on mothers and children to enhance child immunity and ensure equitable vaccination access.

"Vaccination is considered one of the most effective discoveries in disease prevention, especially in low-income countries. Therefore, carrying out studies to provide knowledge about vaccines, especially in the implementation phase, is more than fair for humanity," says Isaquel. He later adds, *"Vaccines save lives and our work is general knowledge and foresight of this precious asset for all children."*



Bright Future Awards

Bright Future Awards (BFA) is a global initiative by Penta Child Health Research to recognise the champions who work to improve health outcomes for pregnant women and children living with infectious diseases worldwide. Penta is an international, independent scientific network dedicated to child health. Their work is the result of a passionate collaboration between healthcare professionals and researchers in more than 110 centres across 31 countries around the world. Through our studies and partnerships, we develop and deliver world-class research and training in paediatric infectious diseases to improve the lives of women and children, wherever they live.

READ MORE



About Dr Isaquel B. Silva

Dr Isaquel Silva is 34 years old and a Guinea-Bissau citizen. He holds an MD degree from the Latin American School of Medicine of Cuba in Guinea-Bissau and a Master of Epidemiology degree from CDC's Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Brazil. He is currently enrolled as a PhD student at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, where he continues to exemplify a tireless pursuit of knowledge and innovation in his mission to positively impact the lives of mothers and children.

Dr. Isaquel Silva's journey is a testament to his commitment to advancing maternal and child health and improving the health situation in his country. His educational background, international experiences, and research leadership showcase his determination to make a lasting impact in healthcare.

GLOBAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH AWARDS

AFRICA HEALTH AGENDA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (AHAIC) 2023

At AHAIC 2023, five remarkable African women were honoured with the **Women in Global Health Awards** for their exceptional dedication to enhancing and protecting the health and welfare of women, children, and communities. Our very own President and co-founder, Dr Magda Robalo, was among the awardees!



Congratulations once again to Dr. Senait Fisseha (Vice President of Global Programs, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation), Dr. Lia Tadesse (Minister of Health, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia), Dr. Matshidiso Moeti (Regional Director, WHO AFRO), Dr. Magda Robalo (President and co-founder, the Institute for Global Health and Development) and Dr. Sindi van Zyl (late). Dr. Sindi's contributions in the public health space were acknowledged with posthumous recognition.



[> READ MORE](#)



GLOBAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

CHAMPIONING PUBLIC HEALTH EQUITY AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

DR EBERE OKEREKE AWARDED AN HONORARY DEGREE FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH



Dr Ebere Okereke was honoured with an honorary degree for her remarkable contributions to public health. A distinguished global health expert, Dr Okereke has devoted her career to fortifying health systems and empowering women leaders in the field. Serving as CEO of the African Public Health Foundation and holding senior positions at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change and Public Health England, she has been widely recognized for her impactful work.

She was conferred with the honorary degree alongside the graduating class of 2023 at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) during a celebratory event held at the historic St George's Hall in Liverpool. This occasion marked a significant return for Dr. Okereke to Liverpool, where she previously pursued a postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Medicine at LSTM. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to combating communicable diseases and advancing global public health, with a particular emphasis on equity and amplifying diverse voices for positive transformation.



Dr Ebere Okereke
CEO
Africa Public Health Foundation

READ MORE



ECHOES OF PROGRESS

FROM A MOMENTOUS LAUNCH IN 2021

In 2021, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) marked its inception with a momentous launch event, uniting prominent figures in global health and development leadership. The event centred around the theme "women and leadership," hosting two insightful panel discussions that illuminated the critical role of women in shaping the future of healthcare. Distinguished speakers and experts shared their perspectives on advancing women's leadership in the field, emphasizing the importance of diversity and inclusion in driving innovation and progress. The launch catalyzed inspiring change and fostered collaboration towards achieving equitable and sustainable global health outcomes.

Photo collage of some of the guest speakers at the launch event:





INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

GUINEA-BISSAU

INSPIRING **PEOPLE** | ACCELERATING **DEVELOPMENT** | TRANSFORMING **LIVES**

INSPIRAMOS **PESSOAS** | ACELERAMOS O **DESENVOLVIMENTO** | TRANSFORMAMOS **VIDAS**