Technical Supporting Information

Annex I:

Developing Public Health Wales' International Health Strategy

October 2023

Contents

I. Rationale

"… What Wales is doing today the world will do tomorrow.
Action, more than words, is the hope for our current and future generations."
Nikil Seth, Direct of Sustainable Development, United Nations, 2015

Since Public Health Wales' International Health Strategy was published in 2017, there have been significant changes in the global landscape.[i] In a 'borderless' world, local health threats can become global, and global emergencies can have local effects. Social, environmental, and economic imbalance and extreme events threaten all, although the poorest and most disadvantaged are often the hardest hit, perpetuating inequalities within and between countries.[ii] In parallel, there is a rapid advance of science and technology within what is known as 'the Fourth Industrial Revolution,'[iii] posing challenges and opportunities, for example, improved use of artificial intelligence and the speed of development of the COVID-19 vaccine. This is creating a global transformation of unprecedented scale, scope and complexity, requiring an integrated response involving stakeholders from across the world, from the public and private sectors to academia and civil society.

The Global Risks Report 2023[iv] outlines a landscape of interconnected future risks across the categories of economy, environmental, geopolitical, societal and technological. Over the next ten years, four of the top five global risks are environmental (Table 1). Welsh communities face social, economic, and environmental challenges, as described in the report 'Generation 2050: Better Long-Term Decision Making'.[v]

Table 1. Future global risks and Welsh sustainable development challenges

Global Risks 2023[vi] Top 5 global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term	Important issues facing the UK today according to UK adults, 2023[vii]
Short term (2 years) 1. Cost of living crisis 2. Natural disasters and extreme weather events 3. Geo-economic confrontation 4. Failure to mitigate climate change 5. Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarisation **Long term (10 years)** 1. Failure to mitigate climate change 2. Failure of climate-change adaptation 3. Natural disasters and extreme weather events 4. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse 5. Large-scale involuntary migration **Newly emerging or rapidly accelerating risks** • Natural ecosystems: past the point of no return	1. The cost of living 2. The NHS 3. The economy 4. Climate change and the environment 5. Crime 6. Housing 7. International conflict 8. Education 9. Industrial action 10. Immigration 11. EU exit 12. Employment 13. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

• Human health: perma-pandemics and chronic capacity challenges • Human security: new weapons, new conflicts • Digital rights: privacy in peril • Economic stability: global debt distress	4

II. Wales as an outward and forward-looking nation

> *"People in Wales have big hearts […] in a small country."*
> *Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1984*

Wales' global health history dates back to 1985 with the unique **Dolen Cymru Health Link**[viii]. The Welsh Government **'Wales and Africa' Programme**, launched in 2006, has taken a holistic approach to development work.[ix] Many health and related professionals across NHS Wales have taken part in the programme, gaining skills and experience in lower- and middle-income country settings, supported by the **Wales and Africa Health Links Network**[x] and **Hub Cymru Africa**[xi].

The UN SDG report states, '*knowledge about sustainable development, global citizenship and peace enables individuals to take appropriate action and positively contribute to the well-being of their communities*' and recommends that this is mainstreamed in education and society. Wales is leading the way on this and remains the only country to have legislated for sustainable development through the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** (WFG Act).[xii] Other countries and regions are investigating similar legislation.[xiii]

Figure 2.1: Key commitments for public health in Wales.

Top left, the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on Goal 3 'Good health and well-being'. Top right, the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals. Bottom, the Well-being of Future Generations Act Five Ways of Working
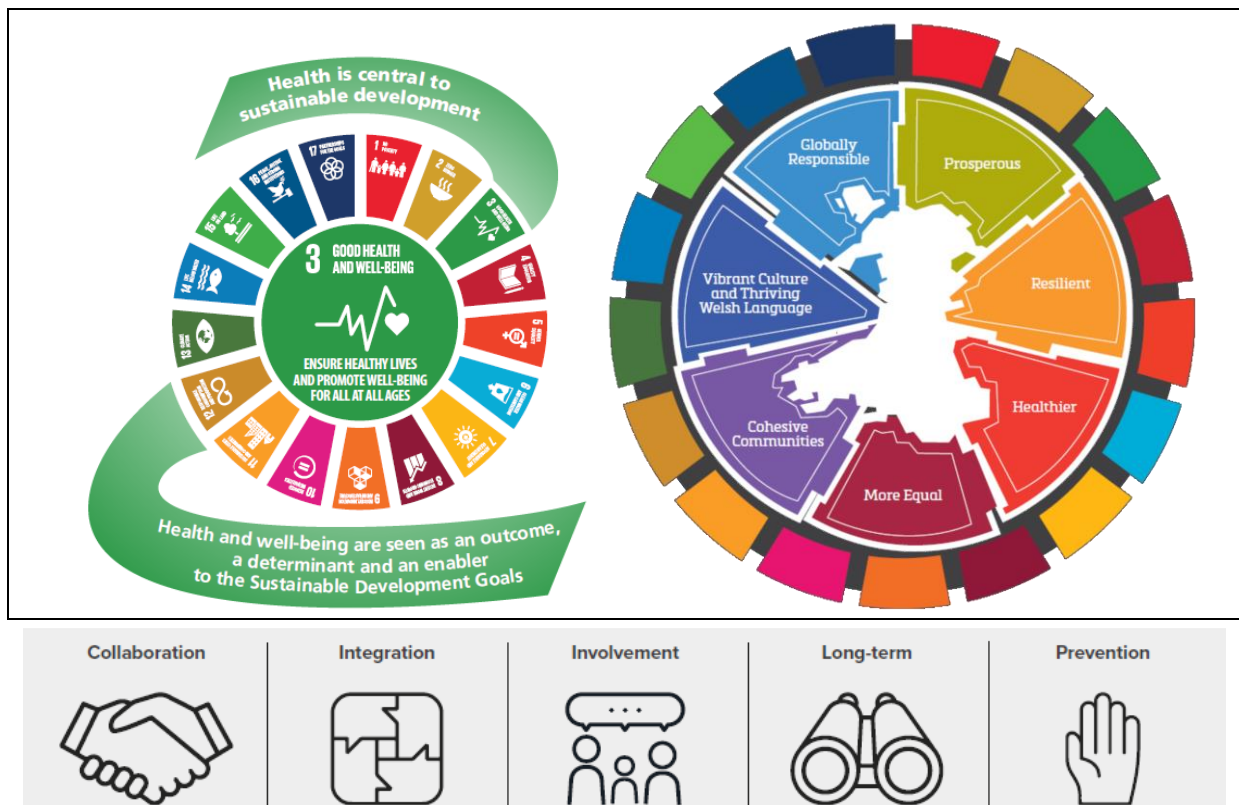
The **first five-year review** of WFG Act's progress, noted room for improvement within the 'Globally Responsible Wales' goal, recommending that Welsh Government focuses on global citizenship and leadership across Wales.[xiv] Public Health Wales has made its own contributions to progress across Wales including, the development of global citizenship training for NHS Wales staff[xv] and a sustainable development toolkit.[xvi]

Welsh Government published **Wales' International Strategy (2020)**,[xvii] along with five Action Plans relating to key areas.[xviii] The Welsh government's International Strategy for Wales sets out three core ambitions:[xix]
- To raise Wales' international profile
- To grow the economy through exports and inward investment
- To establish Wales as a globally responsible nation

In 2020 the Welsh government signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**[xx] with the WHO Regional Office for Europe to accelerate progress towards health equity in Wales and the European Region whilst developing and sharing solutions and expertise through collaboration with WHO and its Member States, networks and partners.

In 2021 Wales published a **recovery plan for health and care services**, focusing on:[xxi]
- Reducing health inequalities to achieve a fairer Wales
- Building more responsive primary and community care
- Creating supportive mental health services
- Supporting and building a resilient workforce

Welsh Government International Activity Reviews

In 2021, Welsh Government commissioned two international reviews. One focused on all Wales' international health partnerships, [xxii] the other on partnerships with Africa.[xxiii] The reports concluded that Wales has not been maximising the international opportunities available due to lack of a coherent strategy and coordination, and a lack of focus on global demands. They identified that Wales has, however, been a pioneer in developing structures to support international health work and was recognised as a positive example by other UK nations, putting it in a good position to progress further. A summary of the recommendations is presented in Box 2.1.

Box 2.1. Summary recommendations from the international health activity review across Wales structured into 3 themes.

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1. Build Core Structure:
• Collate information on international health activity routinely.
• Build strong relationships across and between governments.
• Review government involvement in international networks.
• Build capacity for international health activity.
2. Promote excellence:
• Create an Institute of Global Health in Wales.
• Celebrate success.
• Advance established health-related businesses.
3. Seize opportunities:
• Build and promote a "Brand Wales".
• Accelerate NHS innovation and adoption of new solutions.
• Explore options linking healthcare and commerce.

NHS Wales' commitment to international learning and partnerships

NHS Wales' commitment to international health dates back to the Welsh Government document, **Health Within and Beyond Welsh Borders: An Enabling Framework for International Health Engagement.**[xxiv] Published in 2012, it identified four areas for priority action for Welsh health workers:

1. Welsh health workers as global citizens
2. Strengthening our links
3. Heightening the visibility of NHS Wales and the Welsh health community
4. Benchmarking and comparison

The framework established a unique pan-Wales body, the **International Health Coordination Centre** (IHCC), within Public Health Wales (Box 2.1). A number of benefits have already been achieved for the NHS and Welsh citizens, such as the development of the **Charter for International Health Partnerships in Wales,**[xxv] the Charter Implementation Toolkit and the Global Citizenship E-learning modules. Other achievements are detailed in the IHCC Progress Report 2018-2022.[xxvi]

The role of the IHCC

Based within the WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being Directorate at Public Health Wales, the IHCC is a focal point for information sharing, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and networking for Welsh Health professionals with UK, and global partners. It brings together all Welsh Health Boards and NHS Trusts, promoting and facilitating international health partnerships, sharing and amplifying international learning, benefits and opportunities.

The IHCC has successfully established a strong network of key stakeholders, including Welsh Government, Wales and Africa, NGOs, and UK, European and global partners and networks.

Part of its role is establishing and maintaining **common principles** of international health partnerships is at the core of our work: These are:

- Organisational responsibilities
- Reciprocal partnership working
- Good practice
- Sound governance

III. Wales as part of the UK Global Health approach

The UK's spending on official development assistance has decreased,[xxvii] and the structures around this have changed with the creation in 2020 of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). An Integrated Review of security, defence, development and foreign policy positions the UK as 'Global Britain' and commits to leading on achieving the SDGs by 2030. There is a strong focus on aligning development activities with domestic economy and security, including global health security.[xxviii] The **International Development Strategy** emphasises strengthening economies through trade, with benefits for the UK.[xxix]

The functions of Public Health England have been divided between two new organisations, one of which is the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the other the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and a Public Health Wales member became its first Chair in 2021. The UKHSA holds most international public health functions for the UK as a whole, providing opportunities for global engagement. UKHSA intends to collaborate and lead on national, regional and global partnerships, to promote UK expertise and drive improvements in data-sharing and global health security, and reduction of health inequalities at scale. Much of this work is centred on COVID-19, vaccination and antimicrobial resistance. Capacity-building work appears limited to supporting disease prevention, surveillance and response mechanisms in LMICs.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published in May 2023 a **Global Health Framework**[xxx], with four key objectives identified. These focus around strengthening global health security via strengthening pandemic response and preparedness, reforming global health architecture, health system strengthening to address key health risks for mothers, children, babies, women and girls and advancement of UK leadership in science and technology to strengthen the global health research base.

Establishing a Four Nations Global Public Health Forum
The Four Nations Forum is being established in 2023 to support information sharing on global public health issues and initiatives across the four UK nations. The Forum will identify opportunities to collaborate on international health system strengthening activities in support of UK/Four Nations commercial interests and workforce development and support ways in which devolved nations can contribute to a coherent UK global public health offer.

IV. Implications of Brexit

The full extent of the impact of Brexit on public health and sustainability is still yet to be seen. Regulations, legislations, and polarising political and societal views, amongst other factors, will have a range of direct and indirect impacts upon the health and well-being of both people within the UK and beyond UK borders.[xxxi] Since Brexit, net migration from the EU has almost halved since 2016.[xxxii]

Following Brexit, the UK no longer has automatic access to the EU's Early Warning and Response System or the EU Health Security Committee. The UK Government published the **Public Health Protection and Health Security Framework Outline Agreement**, in order to strengthen strategic and operational cooperation between the UK Government, the Devolved Administrations, and UK public health agencies.[xxxiii] The UK Government also developed the **Health Security (EU Exit) Regulations 2021**.[xxxiv]

The Senedd published **Provisional common framework: public health protection and health security** which sets out how governments and public health agencies will work together in light of these changes, governance structures, and takes into account the UK's international commitments.[xxxv]

The **Trade and Cooperation Agreement**[xxxvi] places a duty on the UK and EU to inform each other in a timely manner of health security threats, which it defines as a *'life-threatening or otherwise serious hazard to health of biological, chemical, environmental or unknown origin which spreads, or entails a significant risk of spreading, across the borders of at least one Member State and the UK'*[xxxvii]

A recent **Welsh Health Protection System Review** recommended continuing and strengthening four nation and international links and academia; and to strengthen/pursue new agreements with other UK nations for health protection emergency response and to share experiences internationally in areas such as surveillance.[xxxviii]

Potential **implications of Brexit to Public Health Wales International Health Work** were recently assessed, including reduced membership of EU bodies, EU funding opportunities, and migration between the EU and UK.[xxxix] **Recommendations** for Public Health Wales to mitigate negative impacts on international health activity include:

1. Realise and enhance the full potential of our strategic partnerships
2. Strengthen and expand strategic networks and partnerships across the UK
3. Expand and develop new European and global links and opportunities
4. Ensure opportunities for staff development and growth and mitigate workforce issues

Work was carried out in 2021 and 2022 to assess the combined impacts of Brexit, the climate emergency and COVID-19. The 'Triple Challenge' assessments[xl] identified that these three events will have dynamic and multifaceted effects in Wales, including on key determinants of health and well-being such as food insecurity, environmental policy and regulations, and employment conditions.[xli]

Other significant challenges such as the cost-of-living crisis have also exacerbated the pressures and cumulative and compounding impacts.

V. The Strategic Context

The global strategic context for international health and facilitators for international health working are many. They range from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which the UK and Wales have embraced through to national drivers such as the Well-being Goals with a focus on 'A globally responsible Wales'.

Table 5.1. International

UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals
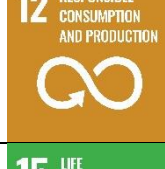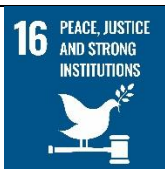
1 NO POVERTY	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	2 ZERO HUNGER	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	5 GENDER EQUALITY	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	Reduce inequality within and among countries	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13 CLIMATE ACTION	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	15 LIFE ON LAND	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development		

Table 5.2. National

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

Well-being Goals		Description
Goal 1 A prosperous Wales		An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
Goal 2 A resilient Wales		A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
Goal 3 A healthier Wales		A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
Goal 4 A more equal Wales		A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).
Goal 5 A Wales of cohesive communities		Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
Goal 6 A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
Goal 7 A globally responsible Wales		A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

VI. Methods

Strategic context and alignment

The original strategy was developed using a mixed methods approach, comprising a rapid literature review and extensive engagement and consultation. It reflected the concurrent global, European, UK and national contexts and considered anticipated trends and future forecasts.

The strategy refresh followed a similar but simplified methodology, comprising a literature review and consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.

Literature review

To inform the strategy refresh, a scoping review was undertaken by Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) to determine the contextual changes and implications for international health activity, including:

- Climate emergency
- Inequalities
- COVID-19 and recovery
- Migration
- Brexit

Consultation and engagement process

To identify key topics of interest, experiences, ideas and priority areas, a wide inclusive consultation and engagement with Public Health Wales' staff and key external, including international, stakeholders from all relevant organisations and sectors have been carried out during the development of the original strategy, as well as the update. The methods used are outlined here.

1. Online consultation through web-based structured survey to inform the refresh

The online survey for the original strategy development was open to all interested stakeholders (internal and external to Public Health Wales) for a period of two months. Participant recruitment was undertaken both directly through email invitation, and through word of mouth, events, and circulation in internal and external e-bulletins. It received 97 responses from Public Health Wales staff and other organisations across the public, third and academic sector.

For the refresh, participants were recruited for an online survey from across Public Health Wales using email invitation via a variety of mail lists, as well as word of mouth. In addition, key external stakeholders were invited to contribute. The survey was open for four weeks (October 2022). We received a total of 45 responses from individuals and teams.

The surveys collected data on the following:

- Individual involvement in international health activity
- Individual awareness and usage of the Public Health Wales International Health Strategy
- Benefits and priorities of international health work
- Comments and suggestions on the current strategy

2. Pulse survey

A short, 2-question survey was available on the Public Health Wales staff intranet page for one weeks' duration in October 2022. We received a total of 93 responses.

The questions asked:

- Have you heard of Public Health Wales' International Health Strategy 2017-2027?
- Have you/would you like to incorporate any international health activity as part of your role?

3. Semi-structured interviews

The original strategy conducted 70 face-to-face meetings, most of which were conducted through semi-structured interviews, and were held with senior internal and external stakeholders.

For the refresh, semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with 13 key stakeholders within the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Public Health Wales, and 10 stakeholders from across Public Health Wales. The interviews aimed to capture and map international health activity within Public Health Wales, and explore the challenges, facilitators and developments in international health.

4. Mapping of our International Reach

The original strategy included mapping of Public Health Wales' historical and on-going international relations and activities, focusing on the benefits and impact of our work for Wales and beyond through a pro-active engagement process across the organisation.

The strategy refresh has updated the map of international health activity conducted by Public Health Wales and its staff since 2018. A range of different projects and partnerships were selected as case studies as examples of good practice (Appendix III).

5. Alignment

During the refresh of the organisational International Health Strategy, Public Health Wales was updating their Long-Term Strategy. The International Health Strategy was considered an enabling strategy to the Long-Term Strategy, and areas of alignment identified and included, for example, within the strategy map (Figure 2.1).

Alignment with other international and global health strategies was also considered through triangulation of key themes from these documents, with emerging themes in the organisational International Health Strategy (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1. Alignment of Public Health Wales International Health Strategy (refreshed) with key relevant international, national, and organisational strategies

	WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019-2023	IANPHI Roadmap for action on health and climate change	IANPHI Road Map National workforce capacity	World Economic Forum Global Health and Healthcare Strategic Outlook	European Union Global Health Strategy	Welsh Government International Strategy	Public Health Wales Long Term Strategy
Date published	2019	2021	2022	2023	2022	2020	2023
Cross-cutting theme							
Global health security	■		■	■	■		
Health promotion and disease prevention	■		■	■	■	■	■
Health equity	■		■	■	■		■
Strengthening Public Health systems, capacities and workforce	■	■	■	■	■		■
Achieving the UN SDGs	■	■		■		■	
Climate change, planetary health and One Health	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Migration and population mobility						■	

Analysis and testing of emerging findings

Themes were identified from the scoping review, survey, and interviews and subsequently triangulated to inform the refresh of the strategy.

The original strategy undertook two formal stakeholder workshops and two further engagement sessions within wider workshops. For the refresh, 16 external organisations were approached to contribute to the engagement process (Table 6.2).

Emerging findings and strategic direction for the updated strategy were presented to Public Health Wales Directorate meetings, group workshops, and Board Development meeting for discussion and feedback. The draft Strategy was updated following feedback using an iterative approach.

Table 6.2. Organisations approached for engagement for the strategy refresh

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	Hwb Cymru Africa
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Bevan Commission	NHS International Health Activity Group
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board	Powys Teaching Health Board
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Swansea Bay University Health Board
	Tropical Health and Education Trust
Faculty of Public Health Global Health committee	UK Health Security Agency
	Welsh Government
Health Education and Improvement Wales	
Health Education England	

Governance

We have continuously engaged with our Board, directors and senior management, including multiple briefings, presentations and incorporating feedback during the development of the original strategy and the refresh.

Engagement findings: 2022

Our engagement work for the refresh focussed on identifying people's involvement with international health activity; perceived benefits and priorities; and feedback on the current strategy. High level thematic findings are presented, including barriers and facilitators to international health activity, which were reported by interview respondents (Table 6.3). Survey and interview findings were triangulated with the scoping review, to identify priority themes and areas for international health work (Figure 6.1).

Results from the international health activity mapping conducted across Public Health Wales can be found in the supplementary material.

Table 6.3. Barriers and facilitators to international health activity

	Barriers	Facilitators
Organisational support and infrastructure	• Lack of financial resources / funding opportunities • Human resources insufficient • Existing workload	• Available funding • Digital working facilitates connections abroad
Making connections	• Challenging to identify key stakeholders • Takes time to establish connections • Conflicting interests	• Existing networks/contacts • Relationships with government
Practical considerations	• Time zones • Language barriers	

Figure 6.1. Priority areas for consideration during the refresh of the organisational International Health Strategy, as provided by engagement findings and scoping report.
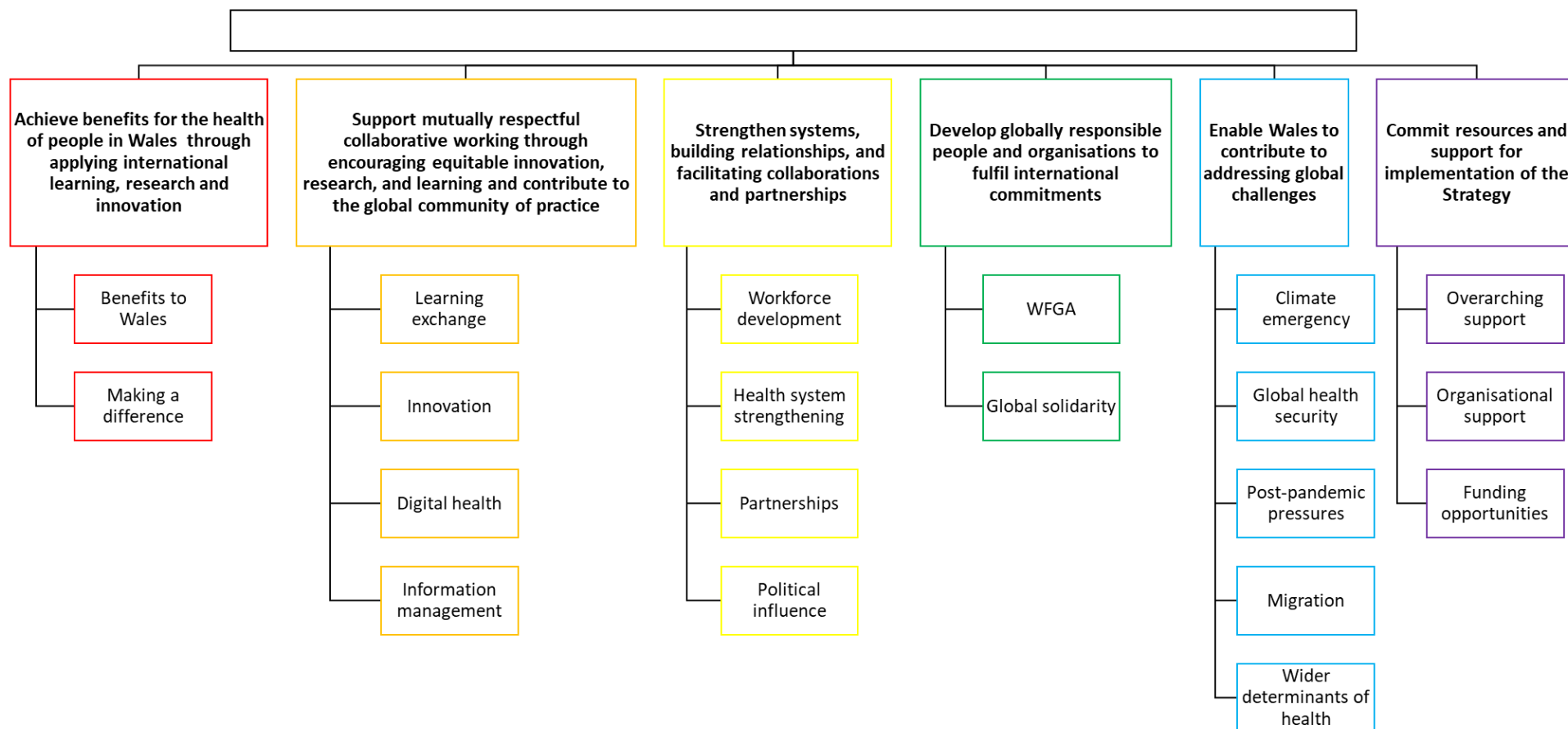
VII. Mapping our Global Health outreach and activity

Public Health Wales has a distinctive and varied contribution to the global health agenda, with far reaching collaborations and internationally recognised expertise in various fields of public health. While ensuring and enhancing its national role and responsibilities, our organisation has committed to driving positive change and sustainable development globally, aligning with and supporting the unique Welsh legislative and policy context in collaboration with the NHS and other stakeholders.

Through corporate membership in global and European networks and participation in several collaborations, a range of benefits have been realised (Table 8.2). We have identified 112 international projects, networks, and partnerships throughout our organisational directorates (Figure 7.2). International health activities conducted by Public Health Wales include academic partnerships, shared learning, advisory roles, application of international methodology to work in Wales, and more (Figure 7.1). Case studies have been selected as examples of good practice and we recognise that there are many others (Annex II).

In March 2018, the Policy and International Health Directorate of Public Health Wales was designated as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre (CC) on Investment for Health and Well-being. This designation makes Public Health Wales the first and only WHO CC in this area of expertise globally and recognises its role in supporting investment in people's health and well-being and driving sustainable development. The WHO Collaborating Centre develops, collects and shares information and tools on how best to invest in better health, reduce inequalities, and build stronger and more resilient communities in Wales, Europe and Worldwide.

The full range of our international partnerships and projects can be found in Annex II: Mapping Public Health Wales' International Reach. Key strategic partnerships are described in Table 7.1.

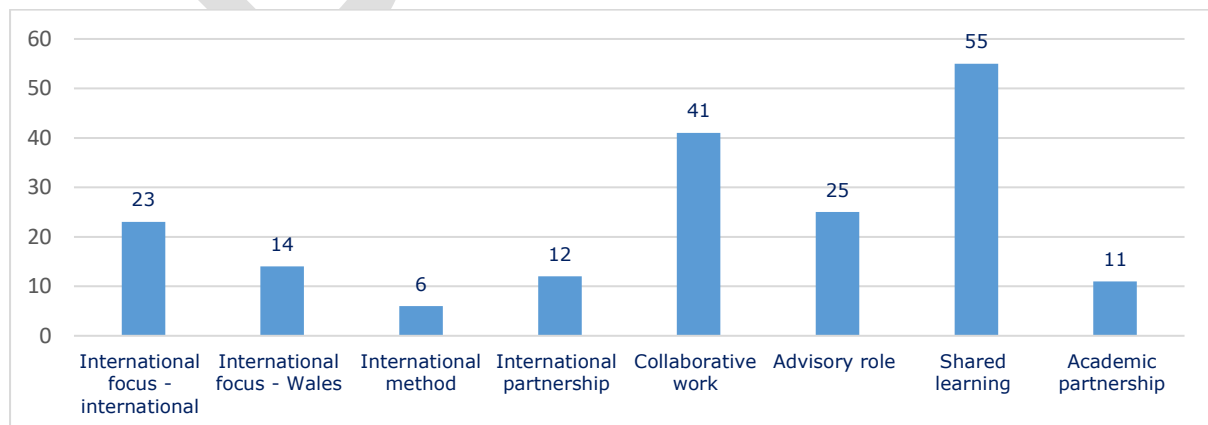## Figure 7.1. Mapping our international health assets: partnerships, learning, activities

Figure 7.2. Public Health Wales' international collaborations, partnerships, and networks. There are too many networks to include in this figure therefore a few examples are listed; a full list can be found in Annex I.
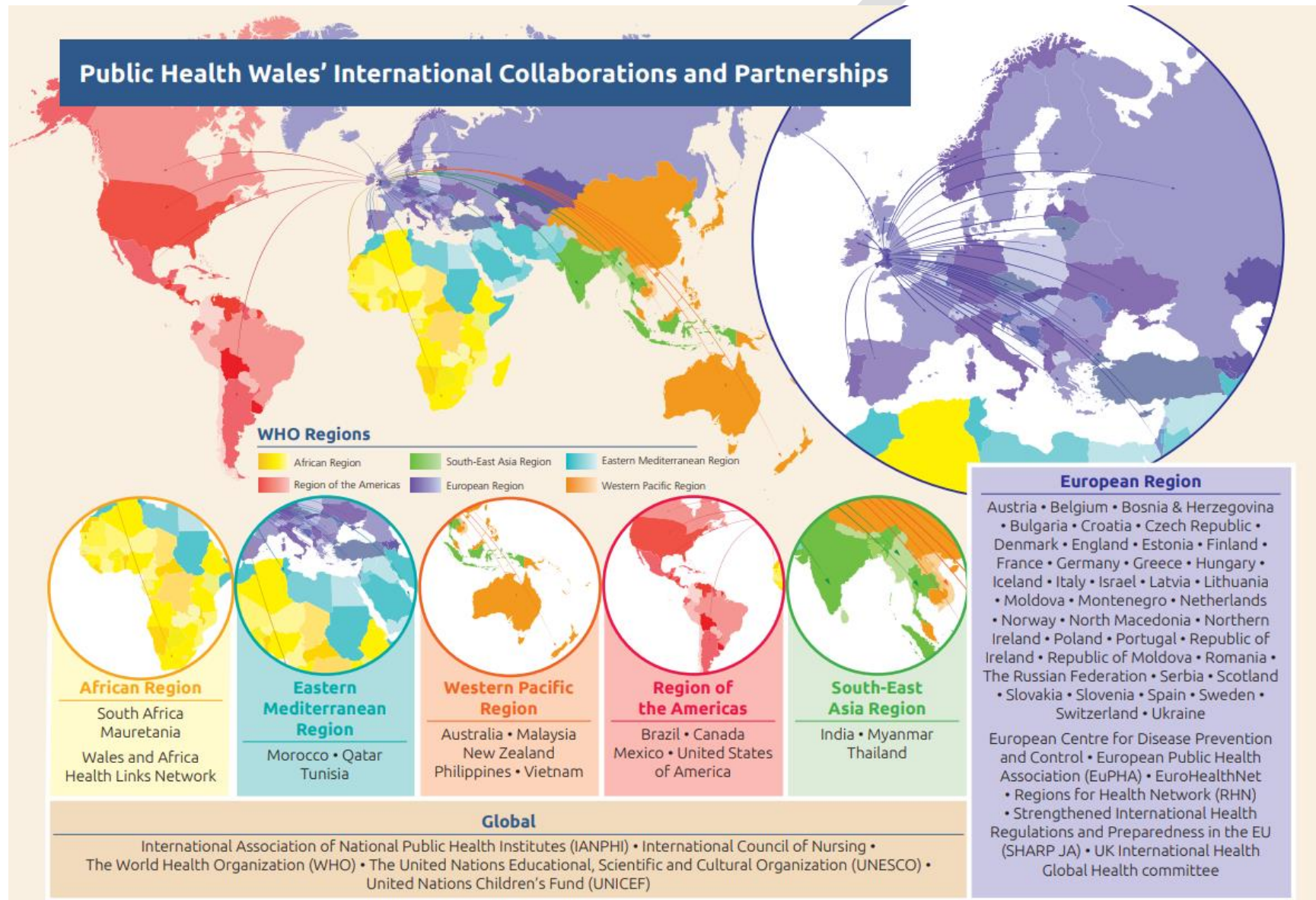
Table 7.1. Public Health Wales' strategic partnerships

WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO EURO) and the WHO European Regions for Health Network (RHN)	Public Health Wales has a dynamic relationship with WHO EURO, serving as the national focal point for the RHN and sitting on its Steering Group. Our staff also supports the Welsh Healthy Cities, working together with local government. Through this mutually beneficial partnership, we are actively contributing to European and global policy and decision-making processes. This has also raised our national and international profile. We have achieved a WHO Collaborating Centre status in recognition of our expertise and commitment in 2018 and were re-designated in 2022.
The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)	IANPHI improves the world's health by leveraging the experience and expertise of its member institutes to build robust public health systems using an evidence-based peer-to-peer support model. Public Health Wales is a full member of IANPHI and until May 2021, held the Chair of IANPHI's European Regional Network.[xlii]
Nursing Now Cymru/Wales	Nursing Now - a programme of the Burdett Trust in collaboration with WHO and the International Council of Nurses to raise the profile of nursing and its contribution to population health. Informed by the APPG triple impact report which highlighted investing in nursing will improve health, improve gender equality and support economic growth, and nurses contribute significantly to universal health coverage.
EuroHealthNet (EHN)	EHN is a not-for-profit collaboration of public bodies working at local to regional, national and international levels across Europe. EHN uses a partnership framework, supporting members' work through policy and project development, networking and communications. Public Health Wales is a full member of EHN and sits on the Board.
UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)	PHW works closely with the UKHSA on health protection and environmental health, sharing information on UK global health developments and activities. This enables us to explore synergies and opportunities for collaborative work.
The UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH)	PHW sits on the FPH Global Health Committee; and public health professionals across Wales take part in Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on a range of topics and specific geographical areas. This enables the sharing of information and learning; and collaboration on joint projects.

VIII. Evaluating progress and impact: realising benefits within and beyond Welsh borders

Benefits realised by international health activities within Public Health Wales are described in Table 8.2. Further details of international health work can be found in the case studies (Annex I) and the Mapping (Annex II).

Feedback across staff has also identified common challenges and facilitators for global and international health work, listed in Table 8.1. Addressing the challenges and making effective use of the facilitators require strong organisational support on a senior level (Board, Executive and Senior Leadership teams), as well as continuous cross-organisational engagement and communication.

Table 8.1. Barriers and facilitators to international health activity

Theme	Barriers	Facilitators
Organisational support and infrastructure	• Lack of (limited) financial resources / funding opportunities • Limited human resources • Existing workload, competing priorities	• Available funding • Digital facilitation • Existing connections abroad • Protected time
Making connections	• Challenging to identify key stakeholders • Takes time to establish connections • Conflicting agendas/priorities	• Existing networks/contacts • Relationships with government • Common goals/priorities
Practical considerations	• Time zones • Language barriers	• Remote / virtual working

Table 8.2. Benefits realised by international health activities

Benefit	Organisational impact
Global challenges require coordinated global action	Focus on global issues has spanned the work of multiple directorates, most notably those involved in COVID-19 response and recovery. For example, the Data, Knowledge and Research directorate were involved in the UK SIREN surveillance study, initiated by UKHSA to study immunity and vaccine effectiveness. Other directorates have been involved in COVID-19 advisory groups focused upon subjects including COVID discourse and vaccinations.

Support sustainable development and implement its principles	The evolving climate crisis and Welsh declaration of a climate emergency has increased the focus on sustainable development in Wales within the context of the UN SDG's and WFGA. The Policy and International Health directorate have undertaken a health impact assessment of climate change on health in Wales. Projects by the Environmental Public Health team include the 20 MPH speed limit, sex inequalities and environmental issues, and environmental incidence surveillance.
Develop new and foster existing connections to work towards common goals at global, regional, and local levels	The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on 'Investment for Health and Well-being' was designated in 2018 and re-designated in 2022, allowing for a continued collaboration as part of a global network of more than 800 Collaborating Centres in more than 80 countries. This network allows for a collaborative approach to work focused on global goals, as do existing networks such as the Regions for Health Network and the International Association of National Public Health Institutes.
Protect our nation and contribute to global health security	Global health security is prioritised through a range of projects including disease surveillance, vaccine preventable disease programmes and climate change adaption work, undertaken within the Health Protection and Screening directorate.
Develop enabling and globally responsible organisations	In order to promote the development of global citizens an e-learning resource was developed for NHS staff within Wales titled 'Global Citizenship'. This free online learning module is aimed at health professionals in Wales and for anyone in the NHS interested in learning more about Global Citizenship, what it is and understanding other health professionals' experiences and perspectives.
Strengthen the system to improve resilience, sustainability, and integration	The Improvement Cymru directorate have been supporting NHS Wales in managing the pressures around patient flow in hospitals. Working in collaboration with a US company, the directorate have been working with local authorities to reduce system wide pressures and in doing so are helping to strengthen the resilience of the hospital system and services whilst ensuring this service remains sustainable (Box 9.3).

Develop people and capacities	Public Health Wales aims to continually progress and develop staff members. The People and Organisational Development directorate promote workforce development through the provision of multiple staff development programmes including the Faculty of Public Health accredited courses for the UK Public Health Register program.
Optimise resources and income generation	The Data Knowledge and Research directorate are involved in a UK-wide register, Congenital Anomaly Register and Information Service (CARIS), which focuses upon child abnormalities. This work has helped Public Health Wales develop a partnership across the four nations which has enabled us to maximise resources across the UK.
Influence and stimulate positive change and innovation for people and communities	In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Horizon Scanning and Learning work stream was initiated with the aim of informing upon Wales' response to the evolving pandemic (Box 9.2). To ensure health in all policies is embedded in Wales, the WHIASU team conduct Health Impact Assessments (HIA) on matters known to influence health, including novel topics such as Brexit (Box 9.1) and COVID-19 policy responses which were replicated by international colleagues across the world.
Share learning, and enhance research and knowledge mobilisation	The majority of Public Health Wales' international health work is underpinned and fuelled through shared learning. Instances of shared learning range from collaborations with major health networks, to project specific advisory groups, providing advice on strategic and technical aspects of individual projects such as that established through the Welsh Health Equity Solutions Report Initiative (WHESRi). Shared learning opportunities provide several advantages to our work, such as gaining new perspectives on how to strengthen projects, increased engagement and deepening network partnerships; more importantly, it also serves as a means of accountability which is also key to Public Health Wales' work.

Cross-cutting global health challenges feedback:

- **Health inequalities:** the disproportionate impact of the wider determinants on vulnerable / disadvantaged individuals and communities is widening the health gap
- **Post-pandemic pressures** may limit capacity, resources, and engagement beyond immediate problems in Wales and internationally
- **Funding opportunities**: Brexit has impacted access to academic funds, networks and capacity building opportunities. The global economic downturn and associated crises have reduced the level of funding available for global health activities
- **Migration:** the movement of people within and between countries will influence disease patterns and public health needs

Key themes for international activity feedback:

- **Help achieve benefits for the health of people in Wales** – providing multi-disciplinary learning, alternative ways of thinking and working, and actionable intelligence to protect, improve and promote health and well-being; to influence the wider determinants and to reduce health inequities; and to strengthen our NHS and public health system.
- **Support mutually respectful reciprocal partnerships** between organisations and individuals (and peer-to-peer exchange) – sharing diverse perspectives and learning from experience, evidence, policies, good practice and methodologies can stimulate innovative thinking and the application of new approaches and tools that can benefit Public Health Wales, as well as our partners across Wales, the UK and globally.
- **Help strengthen (public) health systems within and beyond Wales with a focus on workforce and digital technology** – facilitate staff recruitment, retention, continuous professional development and skills building; and apply innovation in digital health, data and technology for better public health
- **Enable Public Health Wales (and Wales) to contribute to global challenges and solutions through developing 'globally responsible' organisation and public health professionals** – thus supporting the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the SDG's implementation; and Wales' role and impact on the global stage through co-operation, solidarity and advocacy.

IX. Public Health Wales' International Outreach

Annex II provides full information on Public Health Wales' international collaborations, partnerships, and networks; a summary is presented in Table 9.1. Selected good practice case studies exemplifying types of international health activity conducted by Public Health Wales are presented in Boxes 9.1-9.8.

Table 9.1. Public Health Wales' international collaborations, partnerships, and networks

WHO Region	Country	Multi-country
African Region	South Africa Mauretania	Wales and Africa Health Links Network
Eastern Mediterranean Region	Morocco Qatar Tunisia	
Western Pacific Region	Australia Malaysia New Zealand Philippines Vietnam	Health Impact Assessment collaborations and shared learning around climate change
Region of Americas	Brazil Canada Mexico United States of America	
South-East Asia Region	India Myanmar Thailand	Academic and practical links to institutions and agencies in India
European Region	Austria Belgium Bosnia & Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Czech Republic Denmark England Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Italy Israel Latvia Lithuania Moldova Montenegro Netherlands Norway North Macedonia	Association of Directors of Public Health BCI Team British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry British Indian Nurses Association Chartered Institute of Environmental Health European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control European Health Forum Gastein Alumni European Public Health Association (EuPHA) EuroHealthNet EUROlinkCAT European network of population-based registries for the epidemiological surveillance of congenital anomalies (EUROCAT) European Union Cooperation on Science and Technology Four Nations Group Joint Scientific Advisory Group (JSAG) National Congenital Anomaly & Rare Disease Registration System (NCARDRS) Prevention of Non-Communicable Disease Using Trade Agreements (PETRA) Regions for Health Network (RHN) Royal Society of Public Health Strengthened International Health Regulations and Preparedness in the EU (SHARP JA) Transport Research Laboratory Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) UK Health Security Agency UK International Health Global Health committee

	Northern Ireland Poland Portugal Republic of Ireland Republic of Moldova Romania The Russian Federation Scotland Serbia Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Switzerland Ukraine	UK Public Health Register
Global		Faculty for Institute for Healthcare Improvement International Association of Impact Assessment International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) International Clearing House of Birth Defects (ICBDSR) International Council of Nursing Nursing Now Society of Health Impact Assessment Practitioners (SOPHIA) The World Health Organization (WHO) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA)

Case Studies

The following the following pages contain several case study examples of International health partnership working within Public health Wales over recent years.

Box 9.1. Case study: international focus to the work: Wales
The project presents information/learning from an international perspective, but the main focus of the work is on the Welsh context.

The Public Health Implications of Brexit in Wales: A Health Impact Assessment Approach - International work with a focus upon Wales

In 2018-2019, the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU), part of the Policy and International Health Directorate, World Health Organization Collaborating Centre, Public Health Wales, conducted a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on the United Kingdom's upcoming withdrawal from the European Union (EU). The HIA aimed to provide evidence on the emerging situation to help inform key decision makers in Wales to prepare for, and better understand, the potential population health and well-being impacts that may occur as a result of Brexit, and how any impacts could manifest themselves over the short, medium and long-term. As such, the HIA report focused on the distinct Welsh political, social, cultural and economic context.[1] [2]

This was the first application of an HIA to such a complex and evolving international situation as Brexit. The evidence highlighted the potential health impacts of changes to international structures and policies, including regulatory frameworks, trade policy & agreements, EU freedom of movement and sharing of public health intelligence upon population health in Wales.

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales:
The HIA provided numerous research recommendations, which have influenced and provided a framework for future PHW priorities of work, for example:
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTTP) HIA
- Building Resilience in the Fishing Sector in Wales

The HIA identified the breadth of population groups affected by the UK's exit from the EU and the wide-ranging nature of direct and indirect impacts, which helped to inform Welsh decision makers and action planning.

Benefits beyond Welsh borders:
This work has proved the value of HIA as a structure that can be used within a range of diverse contexts. This serves as an excellent example to external partners of the potential for HIA application to evolving and novel scenarios whilst at the same time enhancing Wales' reputation as world leading within the field of HIA.

Quote

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[1] https://phw.nhs.wales/news/the-health-impacts-of-brexit-risks-of-harmful-impacts-increase-whilst-chances-of-positive-impacts-remain-unchanged/the-public-health-implications-of-brexit-in-wales-a-health-impact-assessment-approach-a-rapid-review-and-update/
[2] Implications-of-Brexit_ExecSum_Eng.pdf (phwwhocc.co.uk)

Nerys Edmonds, Principal HIA Development Officer, shared: "*The Brexit HIA report is an example of the adaptability of the HIA framework to uncertain situations, providing a framework for discussion of health inequalities amidst evolving and emergent circumstances*".

Box 9.2. Case study: international focus to the work: International
The project presents information/learning from an international perspective which is the main focus of the work.

International Horizon Scanning and Learning

The International Horizon Scanning and Learning reports work stream began in April 2020 to support the evolving COVID-19 public health response and recovery plans in Wales. The International Health Division within Public Health Wales was asked to produce rapid reports compiling COVID-19 international evidence, experience and best practice. The reports encompass a range of topic areas to understand and explore solutions for addressing the on-going and emerging health, well-being, social and economic impacts of the pandemic. The evidence published within these reports has directly helped to inform policy and practice in Wales.

Topics for the reports are submitted by Welsh Government, for example via the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) International Intelligence subgroup, from within Public Health Wales, or from external partners. The report project team scope the international picture of policy and practice, reviewing websites, academic literature, and reports from a variety of sources. Findings are synthesised to produce a high-level summary of learning from other countries' lived experiences.

Since its inception, the work stream has developed in scope, and reports now focus on a range of priority public health concerns. In doing so, the work stream continues to provide timely evidence to help influence and inform evidence-based policy decisions here in Wales.

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales:
- The International Horizon Scanning and Learning reports provide evidence and examples of international (best) practice that have helped to influence COVID-19 decision-making here in Wales. The rapid nature of the reports has enabled these responses to be implemented in a timely manner

Benefits beyond Welsh borders:
- Sharing learning: reports are disseminated to a wide network of international stakeholders, and selected reports have been presented at international meetings and conferences

Quote
Anna Stielke, International Evidence Development Officer and project coordinator for the International Horizon Scanning and Learning reports February 2021-June 2022 shared *"Reviewing and synthesising international evidence, experience and learning has proven to be essential to inform and support decision-making on government and health system level to address public health challenges we face in Wales"*

Box 9.3. Case study: international methods

The methodology behind the project has been adapted to the Welsh context from an existing international method.

Real Time Demand Capacity Advisors

In 2021 the Improvement Cymru directorate began working collaboratively with the US organisation Real Time Demand Capacity Advisors (RTDCA). Improvement Cymru sought support from RTDCA to test their approach with the aim of building situational awareness and reducing length of stay in hours.

Working in collaboration with a selection of Health Boards, this work sought to apply RTDCA's methodology to the Welsh context. The aim of this work is to take a system approach within hospitals to help identify the constraints and problems within the system that can prevent discharges.

The work in Wales has been achieved over the course of an intensive week where Public Health Wales and RTDCA visit a hospital ward (RTDCA via video link), to observe and coach the current situation regarding unscheduled care flow and length of stay. The findings are fed back to the local teams in the form of coaching conversations and site meetings with the intention of developing more situational awareness and reducing length of stay in hours in order to create flow.

Having found ongoing or frequent barriers, local teams are then able to work on possible solutions to these problems, looking to how some of this pressure can be reduced and ensuring resources are directed to where they are most needed.

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales
By extending our reach beyond Welsh borders, using an international methodology and collaborating with an international organisation, we are able to work with experts in the field. Our level of knowledge in Wales alone is confined to Wales, so bringing in someone with international awareness can help make additional connections and provide a level of openness that isn't always available elsewhere. Applying this learning to the Welsh context will have system wide benefits that will, by extension, benefit the Welsh population.

Benefits beyond Welsh borders
RTDCA not only work within Wales to improve patient flow, but also collaborate across many other countries. For example, similar work regarding patient flow is being undertaken within the Netherlands. Having this level of international awareness offers the opportunity for bidirectional learning, for countries to connect with those experiencing similar concerns and learn from each other's experiences. We have been able to share our learning widely by presenting at international quality improvement conferences. This is beneficial both within and beyond Welsh borders.

Quote
Iain Roberts, Head of Programmes, Improvement Cymru, shared *"there is something quite special in bringing in international voices and understanding that people across the world face the same type of problems and challenges that we do and gain their insight. It's a real privilege to experience"*

Box 9.4. Case study: international partnerships
The project has come about as a result of an existing international partnership but has not been undertaken collaboratively with an external partner.

IANPHI Mission to Poland 2022

Membership of this international network is utilised across different directorates within Public Health Wales; this case study focuses on the Health protection and Screening Services directorate specifically.

In May 2022, IANPHI organised a mission to Poland in order for member organisations to gain an insight into how they, as a neighbouring country, are offering support for Ukrainian refugees following the Russia-Ukraine war. The national director of Health Protection and Screening Services, Public Health Wales, joined the mission alongside staff from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Norwegian Public Health Institute. The purpose of the mission was to gain an understanding of the experience and challenges faced by the Polish National Public Health Institute and identify ways in which the IANPHI network can learn from and support the Polish experience whilst simultaneously reviewing the complex, multifaceted needs of refugees.[xliii]

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales:
There is always something that Wales can learn from other public health institutes, IANPHI provides a forum for sharing this learning. During the mission, information was shared regarding the recording of refugee statistics, the emerging health needs of refugees, the legislative provisions that had been made and the strategic coordination of the voluntary organisations. This information can help to inform Wales' own refugee plan and further support Wales' goal in becoming the world's first nation of sanctuary.[xliv]

Benefits beyond Welsh borders:
The visit offered bidirectional learning for all attendees. Wales was able to gain insight into Poland's response whilst at the same time, sharing details of the Welsh refugee response with other member organisations.
In addition to the mission, IANPHI is able to offer coordinated support to its member organisations; a good example of this is the support offered to the Ukrainian Public Health Centre. Offers of support from multiple member organisations were coordinated through IANPHI's secretariat and they were able to facilitate the necessary discussion to take enable these offers to be taken forward.

Quote
Meng Khaw, National Director of Screening and Health Protection Services, shared *"The IANPHI network facilitates shared learning, work programme coordination and a shared knowledge of the strengths of member organisations whilst at the same time supporting Wales' commitment to support public health institutes through collective training and development. It was therefore important to participate in the mission to share learning from Poland's experience in support of the crisis in Ukraine."*

Box 9.5. Case study: Collaboration with international partners
The project has been completed collaboratively between Public Health Wales and an international partner(s).

Nursing Now Cymru/Wales

Nursing Now was created from a global campaign born out of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health's "Triple Impact" report[xlv]. The report emphasised the triple impact of nursing and investing in nurses to improve health outcomes, gain greater gender equality, and stronger economies. The campaign's aim was to raise the profile and status of nursing worldwide.

As a response to this campaign, and by request of the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales, the Nursing Now Cymru/Wales group was formally launched in March 2019, led by Public Health Wales on behalf of Welsh Government. An All Wales steering group, chaired by Public Health Wales's Executive Director of Quality, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals, consisted of representation and participation from NHS Wales organisations, nurse leaders from Welsh Universities, Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of Midwives and the third sector.

The groups' purpose was to celebrate and share examples of nursing and midwifery practise from across Wales, highlighting the crucial role nurses play in improving and transforming health services, promoting health and preventing and reducing the impact of disease. Through the development of 5 key priorities, Nursing Now Cymru/Wales aims were to translate the high-level global Nursing Now vision into tangible, accountable, and deliverable objectives for Wales whilst harnessing and amplifying the work already being undertaken in Wales within each of these themes.

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales

The Nursing Now Cymru/Wales steering group provided a 'virtual table' within which members can share and generate knowledge, exchange best practice and harness opportunities in order to have a greater impact across Wales. Numerous examples of the successes of the steering group can be found within the report 'Celebrating Nursing and Midwifery in Wales'[xlvi], for example, ensuring that 'Making Every Contact Count'[xlvii] is included in every pre-registration nursing and midwifery programme offered by educational providers throughout the country.

Benefits beyond Welsh borders
The steering groups' aims were to initiate a two-way learning approach through project collaborations promoting nurse leadership in Africa. For more than a decade, the Wales and Africa programme has facilitated involvement in international development through collaboration with individuals, communities, the third sector and the public sector – including NHS Wales. Wales has led on several projects to promote nursing leadership in sub-Saharan Africa, with aims to contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Nursing Now Cymru/Wales have developed innovative ways to share their diverse work, including a short video series and case vignettes highlighting the range of different contexts nurses and midwives work in across Wales, including nurses in helicopters working in remote locations and nurses working with people who are homeless.

Quote
Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Executive Director Quality, Nursing & AHPs, shared *"Nurses and midwives are the backbone of health and care systems around the world and they deserve to know they are highly appreciated and valued for all the work they do in a wide variety of contexts and settings"*

Box 9.6. Case study: advisory roles
Public Health Wales is a member of a collaborative network within which we provide an advisory role to other organisations, offering advice and best practice.

Welsh Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)

Wales has a unique perspective when it comes to Health Impact Assessment (HIA). WHIASU is the only HIA support unit to be placed within a Public Health Institute in the world. As such, Public Health Wales has a great reputation for HIA, which has led to a multitude of collaborative opportunities. Many other international organisations, be that academic institutes, public health institutes or networks, reach out for advice, guidance, and support in undertaking their own HIA work. WHIASU is able to support this in many ways, including through the production of practical guides, toolkits, checklists, and quality assurance frameworks, as well as assisting with guidance, the creation of HIA units, undertaking webinars and conferences, and collaborating on academic journal papers. The advisory capacity of WHIASU helps support the development of HIA across a range of different international contexts and topics, whilst supporting its continued development in Wales through enhancing networks of mutually beneficial shared learning.

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales:
- The evidence gathered from HIA reports helps to inform future planning and decision-making within Public Health Wales and Wales as a whole
- Makes connections to public bodies in Wales and others
- Raises the profile of HIA and Health in all policies approaches
- Makes non health sectors see their impact on health and equity
- Increased profile and reputation
- The International Health Strategy's focus on bilateral learning gives WHIASU's work a strategic lever and a validation that the work, carried out across and between borders, is valued and important for Wales

Benefits beyond Welsh borders:
- The evidence can also benefit wider governmental and public health institutes internationally by applying this learning to their own unique legislative and regulatory contexts
- Public Health Wales further benefits from HIA through the reputation we hold as a world-leading support unit

Quote
Liz Green, consultant in Public Health, Policy and International Health, and Programme Director for Health Impact Assessment shared "*Wales is a world leader in HIA, but in order to influence what happens in public health we need to share and mobilise our learning across the world to make sure it evolves and advances*".

Box 9.7. Case study: shared learning and collaborative networks
Public Health Wales is a member of a collaborative network within which learning and best practice are mutually shared.

The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP): The Health Impacts of Air Pollutants

The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) is a UK Government led committee which advises the government on the health effects of air pollutants. Public Health Wales has an observer role within the committee alongside other public health professionals and partners from a range of specialist fields such as air quality science, atmospheric chemistry, toxicology, physiology, epidemiology, statistics, paediatrics, cardiology and academia. The committee aims to determine and quantify to what extent air pollutants harm our health. In doing so, it is hoped that both members of the committee and members of the public will be able to identify and address these specific harms.

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales

The evidence provided by COMEAP is global evidence, analysed from a UK perspective. Through its membership to the committee, PHW are able to utilise this evidence to gain a perspective on how changes in air pollution will affect the health of the people of Wales. Attention is then able to be focused upon implementing actions based upon this evidence to improve population health.

Benefits beyond Welsh borders

It is important to note the influence small countries like Scotland and Wales can have on Public Health, for example through their roles in promoting the smoking ban. We should not underestimate the impact that the actions we carry out in small countries can have internationally, both in UK and further afield. Lessens can be learnt internationally based upon our actions.

Quote

Sarah Jones, Consultant in Environmental Health Protection, shared '*Through being part of an international committee we are able to access the most up to date evidence that has been analysed and interpreted to a high level of detail from wide ranging perspectives. This is a real benefit to our work here in Wales.*'

Box 9.8. Academic partnerships
Public Health Wales has worked collaboratively with an academic organisation, either as part of a specific project or as part of a collaborative network.

Cost of Health Inequality to the NHS in Wales

The Health Economics and Modelling Team, part of the International Health Division Public Health Wales, are developing a report focusing upon the cost of health inequalities within Wales. The report, *Cost Associated with Inequality in Hospital Service Utilisation to the NHS in Wales*, was published in 2021 alongside an interactive dashboard offering an alternate way to explore the data within the report in more detail. All reports aim to shed a light on the financial costs associated with health inequalities to the NHS in Wales.

It has long been known there is a cost associated with health inequalities, however it has not always been possible to quantify this. Researchers within the London School of Economics developed a methodology to quantify these costs for England; the cost of health inequalities reports apply this same methodology to the Welsh context. Working in collaboration with UK universities, Public Health Wales are able to illustrate these costs to inform future decision making.

Benefits to Public Health Wales and Wales:
The work has been referenced in the Senate in discussions of hospital provision, exemplifying how the reports provide an evidence base and influence decision-making to benefit the Welsh population.

Benefits beyond Welsh borders:
Reporting the Welsh experience builds upon the growing body of evidence in relation to health care equity and its financial impacts, which can be shared beyond Welsh borders.

Quote
Rebecca Masters, Consultant in Public Health, shared *"There is a clear social gradient across health service use and a significant gap in terms of needs and provision; these reports aim to understand this and the associated costs further"*

X. Implementing the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act has been implemented through the use of the 'Five Ways of Working' for the development of the original Public Health Wales International Health Strategy, as well as the refresh (Table 10.1).

Table 10.1. Using the 'Five Ways of Working' to develop and implement the strategy

Five Ways of Working	International health strategy development and implementation
Long term	**Development** The strategy is looking to the future, following the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Welsh long term view reflected in the report 'The Wales we Want by 2050', and in line with Public Health Wales' Long Term Strategy. We have considered global trends, challenges and opportunities which would shape public health across the world and in Wales in the next 10-12 years. **Implementation** Implementing our Long-Term Strategy strategy will require planning and setting priorities and objectives for the short- (3 years), mid- (6 years) and long-term (10 years).
Prevention	**Development** Prevention is at the heart of public health as well as a steppingstone for ensuring global health security and sustainable development, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. A cross-cutting theme of the strategy is: 'Health promotion and disease prevention (addressing the burden of disease)'. The strategy has considered prevention as a guiding principle as well as a target when defining its priorities and objectives. **Implementation** Enhancing internationally informed preventative approaches to communicable and non-communicable disease, inequalities and health services is key element of our strategy implementation. International collaboration, sharing and using global health intelligence and learning from experience and good practice will support our national delivery.
Integration	**Development** The strategy is underpinned by the well-being goals and our IMTP, integrating information from various strategic documents, as well as experience, views and ideas from our staff and key external stakeholders. The challenges faced in Wales reflect many of the challenges faced internationally. Through international partnerships, collaborations and networks, learning, experiences, and products can be shared and contribute to objectives within and beyond Welsh borders. **Implementation** Considering how international work and engagement impacts on others, within and beyond Welsh borders and vice versa will be key the implementation process. The strategy also aims to reflect all well-being goals to their cross-cutting points, as well as linking with the SDGs, Health 2020 and our organisational priorities and objectives.
Collaboration	**Development** The original strategy was developed with organisational, local, national and international input as well as through a collaborative effort across all directorates and divisions. The refresh was conducted with engagement and consultation across Public Health Wales and selected external stakeholders. The enabling activities of the strategy have collaboration at their core, including: 'Strengthen and develop new and existing mutually beneficial and respectful interdisciplinary partnerships, collaborations, and networks'; 'Promote a collaborative and inclusive organisational culture for globally responsible

citizens through building relationships nationally and internationally and fulfilling international commitments'; 'Providing a space and support for sharing, exploring synergies, knowledge exchange, networking and building on our organisational assets, establishing an 'International Health Community of Practice''.

Implementation

The strategy has collaboration at its heart, building on both our historical and our new and emerging international networks, partnerships and projects. Most collaboration is not only cross-border but also across disciplines, sectors and governance levels.

Development

Involvement

The original strategy development process was inclusive with an open/public online consultation, engagement events and workshops, which provided opportunities for involvement across sectors, organisations and geographical areas. The refresh included wide cross-organisational and external engagement to ensure the strategy reflected the views and experiences of the organisation.

Implementation

Developing the strategy implementation plan, governance and monitoring structure and further application was based on wide discussion and consensus process across the organisation as well as involving external stakeholders and communities where possible and appropriate.

XI. Rapid Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

As an organisational strategy, population groups affected by the strategy include all Public Health Wales staff members. However, some groups may be differently affected by the strategy, including but not limited to people with caring responsibilities; disabled people; women; people undergoing gender reassignment; people of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin including non-English speakers, gypsies/travellers, migrant workers; and people who are LGBTQ+.

Staff members from these population groups may feel less able to access international travel opportunities. Public Health Wales's policies and procedures should be followed to mitigate these impacts. Increasingly, virtual opportunities are available for international health work which increase accessibility of international work. Examples of successful and impactful international health work undertaken from Wales can be found in the mapping and case studies (Annex II).

The strategy is available in English and Welsh.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

The majority of impacts identified are positive. Examples of impacts to Public Health Wales staff members across the wider determinants of health and well-being are described below (Table 11.1).

Table 11.1. Positive and Negative Impact to Public Health Wales staff members

Positive impacts	Negative impacts
Behaviours affecting health	
Through supporting the Long-Term Strategy, the strategy will promote healthy behaviours, and contribute to work to improve prevention and early intervention as well as broader public health activity.	None identified.
Social and community influences on health	
The strategy: • Promotes building professional relationships within and beyond Welsh borders • Supports the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the 7 Well-being Goals • Increases awareness of others' culture and traditions	Potential for tension if opportunities are not fair. Potential for reputational damage if staff members are not culturally competent.

Mental well-being	
Potential to learn and make a positive difference. Providing a sense of purpose and achievement.	Negative impacts may arise if individuals are not adequately supported.
Living and environmental conditions affecting health	
Increasing virtual opportunities for involvement with international health work, reducing carbon emissions.	Potential for poor road or community safety depending on location.
Economic conditions affecting health	
Learning from others outside of Wales may enable economic development or implementation of beneficial policies in Wales.	People with low disposable income may not be able to take up opportunities requiring travel.
Access and quality of services	
The strategy promotes health system strengthening, for example improving workforce recruitment, retention, capacity building, skills development.	Digital infrastructure is required to access virtual international health opportunities.
Macro-economic, environmental and sustainability factors	
The strategy facilitates progress towards overarching aims including the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the 7 well-being goals, and the Sustainable Development Goals.	Donated equipment may become waste if inadequate maintenance and disposal arrangements made, with negative environmental consequences to the local community.

Glossary

<u>Antimicrobial resistance</u> (AMR) is the ability of a microorganism, such as bacteria, viruses, and some parasites to stop an antimicrobial, such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials from working against it. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others.

<u>Biosafety</u> and <u>biosecurity</u> are related but differing concepts. Biosafety aims to reduce or eliminate exposure of individuals and the environment to potentially hazardous biological agents through the implementation of control and containment protocol. Biosecurity is the prevention of loss, theft or misuse of microorganisms and biological material and research related information through limiting access to facilities, biological materials and research-related information (CDC).

<u>Brexit</u> is a term used to describe the UK's exit from the European Union on 31 January 2020, following a referendum in June 2016.

<u>Communicable diseases</u> or infectious diseases are caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi; the diseases can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another.

<u>Non-communicable diseases</u> (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors.

The <u>European Union (EU)</u> is a unique economic and political union between <u>27 European countries</u> that together cover much of the continent. The EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The first steps were to foster economic cooperation: the idea being that countries that trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to avoid conflict. The result was the European Economic Community (EEC), created in 1958, and initially increasing economic cooperation between six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Since then, a huge <u>single market</u> has been created and continues to develop towards its full potential. The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 ("Brexit").

<u>Global health</u> is the area of study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide, including one's own country, where problems can transcend national borders and have a global impact.

<u>International health</u> more commonly covers issues which happen outside of one's own country, including cross-border cooperation and is sometimes used in reference to working with developing nations and foreign aid efforts.

<u>One Health</u> describes an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognises the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The goal of One Health is to encourage the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines, working locally, nationally, and globally to achieve the best health for people, animals, and our environment.

<u>Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion</u>, launched in 1986, defined Health Promotion as the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health. To reach a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, an individual or group must be able to identify and to realize aspirations, to satisfy needs, and to change or cope with the environment. Health is, therefore, seen as a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. Health is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities. Therefore, health promotion is not just the responsibility of the health sector but goes beyond healthy lifestyles to well-being.

<u>Planetary Health</u> is the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, well-being, and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems, political, economic,

and social, that shape the future of humanity and the Earth's natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish. Planetary health is the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends.

Health 2020 is the European health strategy and policy framework. It aims to support action across governments and societies to: "significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities, strengthen public health and ensure people-cantered health systems that are universal, equitable, sustainable and of high quality".

Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases of animals that can cause disease when transmitted to humans.

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