

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

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Prof. Liz Green Heads HIA Conference in Madrid



June's two day Health Impact Assessment (HIA) meeting in Madrid was a great success for Prof. Liz Green, Public Health Wales. She co-organised and co-chaired the event with partners from the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and Spain's Ministry of Health.

The event focused upon institutionalising HIA with conversations covering a wide range of related topics. Presentations and panel-led discussions included titles like *Using Foresight in HIA*; *Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches to Evidence and Data*; and *How to Utilise Legal Mechanisms for HIA*.

Liz led on *Capacity Building and Training for Competency in HIA: Welsh Experience*, while her Public Health Wales colleague, Kathryn Ashton, presented on *The Use of HIA in Public Health Protection Interventions*. Nicola Evans, Welsh Government, spoke on *The Development of the HIA Regulations*. Counterparts from all the regions of Spain highlighted tremendous HIA work done spanning the country.

Amongst the delegates, thirty European countries were represented. 70 of whom attended in person, while a further 637 joined in via the livestream.

Liz gave special thanks to EUPHA's HIA section, President Piedad Martin-Olmedo and Vice President Odile Mekel, and all the steering committee, who supported and hosted the event.

Diana De Nominee at King's Garden Party

Nominated by the Department of Education in recognition of her knowledge sharing about global anaemia, Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia, International Health Activity Group (NHS Wales) member Diana De (Reader, at Cardiff University) was invited to celebrate her contribution at the King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Diana will be accompanying British Haematology Society experts to implement cluster teaching of nurses and midwives in Zambia, this September.



Welsh and Japanese Nursing Students Meet in VR Classroom

In other Cardiff University news, second year nursing students donned VR headsets in May and met with nursing students from Institute of Sciences, Tokyo within a bespoke designed VR environment. Students learned about each other's culture, healthcare and language. All discussions took place in real time.

Here is a short [video](#) showing some of the key highlights Diana hopes that this type of global engagement will become embedded into the Global Health module for 25/26. This pilot will also be disseminated more widely, as part of educational enhancement and innovative pedagogy.

NEW LAUNCH: IHCC Progress Report 2022-2024

This latest Progress Report for 2022-2024 on the International Health Coordination Centre (IHCC) demonstrates that it continues to raise the profile of international health activity in Wales, highlighting the achievements, mutual learning, and benefits of international partnerships over the previous two years.

The examples of International Health activity demonstrate how project delivery challenges can be overcome, and the benefits of international working with mutual learning and best practice developed from these connections.

Prof. Liz Green, Consultant Lead for the IHCC and Director of the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit, Public Health Wales, said:

"The IHCC is delighted to increase opportunities for international collaboration and mutual learning in Wales. The results of this report demonstrate the impact of these learnings both in Wales and with our international partners.

"The areas we are looking to build upon in the next two years include supporting a joined up strategic approach, expanding the Charter for International Health Partnerships and building on the International Health strategy in Public Health Wales."



In Memorium: Claire O'Shea

The international health community mourns the passing of Hub Cymru Africa head Claire O'Shea. She died peacefully at home on 12th May 2025 surrounded by her family.

Known as a passionate civil society leader and campaigner for social justice, her impact was profound. She dedicated her life to making the world a better place in education and health, loneliness, inclusion and global justice. Joining Hub Cymru Africa in 2019, Claire was a leader in global solidarity and international development.

An articulate advocate for the importance of helping those in need, regardless of borders, her passion for global solidarity never diminished, even as her own health deteriorated.

Everyone at Hub Cymru Africa, the wider sector and beyond are heartbroken by the loss, but Claire's legacy in global solidarity will continue to be felt for years to come. We owe it to her to continue her work, advocating for change, demanding justice and creating a more equal world.



Health Equity and Aid Withdrawal in Nigeria

Dr Stanley Ukpai presented at Public Health Wales, WHO Collaborating Centre's directorate meeting in April. Dr Ukpai discussed the impact of aid withdrawal for Nigeria and the potential impact on its health system.

With the world's highest malaria mortality rate ([WHO, 2023](#)) and a maternal mortality ratio of 917 per 100,000 live births (Unicef, 2020), reductions in aid could unravel decades of progress.

Currently, Nigeria allocates just 4.1% of its national budget to healthcare, which falls short of the 15% target set by the Abuja Declaration. International aid has played a vital role in supporting health programs that have successfully reduced HIV/AIDS prevalence to 1.4% (Unaids, 2023) and decreased malaria deaths by 20% since 2010.



Dr Ukpai argued that sustainable health systems must draw from local ingenuity and collective will. support for their efforts, champion domestic equitable resource distribution, and cultivate a collective commitment to health as a universal right.

Collaboration is key for the journey ahead, in particular, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play a vital role in promoting accountability and fostering partnerships. One such organisation is the Development Research and Projects Centre, a mission-driven Nigerian NGO, dedicated to addressing emerging and urgent development and humanitarian challenges, including health challenges.

If you would like to receive a copy of the presentation or learn more please get in touch with Dr. Ukpai at: s.ukpai@drpcngr.org

The Impact of Conflict on Public Health:

The Syrian Experience

There is no doubt that conflict paralyzes public health sectors and leaves scars that take years to heal. The Syrian experience is the best example of this in the modern era, as the war that lasted for 14 years, leaving more than a million dead and millions wounded and missing people.

The Syrian regime's suppression of the popular revolution that broke out against it in 2011 led to the collapse of the infrastructure and health system, as most hospitals and health centres were destroyed and healthcare workers were deliberately targeted (Fouad et al., 2017), in addition to the shortage of basic medicines. This limited access to healthcare led to the spread of epidemics and diseases, particularly in prisons and detention centres that lack even the most necessities of life.



As for the impact on nutrition, military operations have led to the destruction of vast areas of agricultural land, crops, and forests. In addition to the siege and deliberate starvation policy imposed by the regime around opposition-held cities. In 2016, more than 40,000 civilians were under siege in the city of Madaya (Parsons, Fallon and Kieval, 2016), where they were forced to eat animals and leaves to survive.

Climate is an important aspect of public health. For years, the use of warplanes, tanks, and missiles have led to extremely dangerous levels of pollution (Jaafar and Rodríguez-Seijo, 2025) across the entire region. In the summer of 2013, government forces used internationally banned chemical weapons to bomb the Damascus countryside and killed more than 1,300 civilians by suffocation while they were sleeping (BBC, 2013), most of whom were children.

The impact of this war was not only local but also global, as it led to the export of millions of refugees to neighbouring countries, even reaching Europe, especially Germany, which is home to more than a million Syrian refugees! In addition to the impact on mental health and the prevalence of depression and PTSD disorder among Syrians (Peconga and Høgh Thøgersen, 2019).

Although the war has almost ceased, last December, its effects require many years of treatment.

The "Médecins Sans Frontières" organization has already launched the mobile clinics initiative on last January 21st to provide medical care such as medical consultations and mental health support to populations facing an acute shortage of health services, as it was able to see 576 patients in 2025.

The idea of a mobile clinic may be a quick and ideal solution in a country full of destruction that lacks health facilities, and it seeks to expand the scope of its services to meet the growing needs of the population.

Malek Mhd Al Dali, Bangor University

The 9th UK–Africa Health Summit: Shared Solutions for Health for All

The 9th UK–Africa Health Summit, organised by Global Health Partnerships (GHP, formerly Tropical Health Education Trust) on the 18th and 19th of March, took place at a critical juncture in the international health landscape.

With a shifting global narrative and a backdrop of financial disengagement, this summit marked an essential moment for countries in both the Global North and the Global Majority to re-evaluate their commitments to equitable and effective health partnerships.



Attendees included:

- Government Officials
- Policymakers
- Academia
- Research Institutions
- Non-Profit Organisations

Ben Simms, Chief Executive Officer GHP, stated that this Summit was a time for recognising initiatives that have contributed to shaping health outcomes in the UK and African countries, foster hope and discuss solutions and “to celebrate the people we learn from”.

The evolving narrative surrounding international health partnerships (IHPs) and the move toward a bi-directional partnership model exemplified by concepts such as reverse innovation and emphasizes mutual learning and shared benefits between the UK and partner countries. It signals a broader, more inclusive, and collaborative approach to co-development, knowledge exchange, and mutual accountability.

Global development spending is projected to reduce by 35% in the coming years. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) continue to face poor health financing, resulting in fragile health systems, inadequate health insurance schemes, and heavy reliance on external funding. These financial constraints have profound implications for critical health indicators, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and infant mortality, and overall progress toward the collective attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

In addition, LMIC health systems are likely to experience a significant decline in healthcare workforce capacity, driven by both reduced international support and increased migration of health professionals to higher-income countries. Despite these challenges, IHPs have demonstrated considerable value.


They:

- Address both domestic and global health priorities
- Strengthen sustainable and resilient health systems and workforces
- Improve equitable access to healthcare
- Build long-lasting relationships between institutions

The 9th UK–Africa Health Summit reaffirmed the importance of shared solutions and partnerships in achieving health for all. In a world of shifting priorities and financial disengagement, fostering collaboration built on trust, reciprocity, and co-creation is more important than ever. LMICs are also exploring ways to strike a balance between self-reliance and strategic partnerships.

The UK, with the help of research with GHP, have been exploring the engagement of its diaspora health workers who often have contextual understanding and cultural competence. This has informed ongoing research including the GHP’s Experts in Our Midst Report and Improving Diaspora Engagement for Health Workforce and Health Systems Strengthening in Kenya, Ghana, and the UK Study.

Zuwaira Hashim, Public Health Wales



Global Citizenship

A Globally Responsible Wales



In Wales, Global Citizenship is a globally responsible wellbeing goal indicator as part of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

The United Nations explains that 'Global citizenship is the umbrella term for social, political, environmental, and economic actions of globally minded individuals and communities on a worldwide scale... Global citizenship is embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals through SDG 4 – Quality Education'



Global Citizenship Values



Global Citizenship understands

- Global issues are local issues
- Appreciates different cultures & identities
- Ways to ensure health is a right for all
- Effects of inequities in Wales and the world
- Impacts of globalisation & interdependence
- Impact of climate change, conflict and natural disasters
- Respects and values diversity

Our Modules

- Global Citizen Core Module 1
- Art and Development Module 2
- Peace and Conflict Module 3
- Climate Change and Sustainability Module 4
- Globalisation and International Health
- Health, Power and Health

Global Citizenship

What words/phrases come to mind when you think of global citizenship?



What can you do?

- Challenge stereotypes
- Question viewpoints
- Being actively engaged with your community and the world - how you vote, work, shop, travel and campaign can all make a difference

Additional Resources:

- What you need to know about global citizenship education | UNESCO
- What is Global Citizenship? - Education resources | Oxfam GB
- Global Citizenship Case Studies | Welsh Centre for International Affairs
- Building a Wales of Active Global Citizens | Institute of Welsh Affairs

learning.nhs.wales
 search for 'Global Citizen Programme'



Horizon Europe New Research Call

The EU's research and innovation programme for 2021-2027, [Horizon Europe](https://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe/), has released information on new calls for research. These calls cover different clusters of the 2025 Work Programme (health, culture, environment and the Missions), as well as draft calls from the health cluster of the 2026-2027 Work Programme. Please look at the following [slides](#) presented by EuroHealthNet for more information.

If you have any questions or are interested in collaborating on one of these calls, please contact [Alba Godfrey](mailto:Alba.Godfrey@eurohealth.net).

Upcoming Events and Conferences

Global Health Partnerships Cymru Conference 2025

In person event Mon 8 Sep, 2025

Public Health Wales, 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall St, Cardiff CF10 4BZ

European Public Health Conference Webinar Series

2nd World Conference on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health

2 – 5 September, 2025

Guidelines International Network: Innovation and Partnerships for Health in All Policies

16 – 19 September, 2025

European Forum for Primary Care Conference

7 – 9 September, 2025

2025 Global Conference on Climate and Health

29 – 31 July 2025

International Convention Center of Brazil, Brasilia (in-person), Brazil



Get in touch

If you have any stories or international projects you wish to be featured in our upcoming newsletters, please email:

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