

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

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Global Health Partnerships Cymru Conference (GHPC) 2025: Transforming Policy – Advocacy for Global Health Equality



GHPC 2025 speakers included new Chair of GHCP **Israa Mohammed** (above), and **Julian Rosser**, who replaces the late **Claire O'Shea** as HCA's Head of Partnership.

'A timely gathering' and a 'powerful call to action', September's GHPC 2025 left delegates motivated, moved and impressed by a wealth of strong speakers, exhibitors and workshop leaders.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), opened with a video message centred upon the importance of connection, collaboration and collective action.

Over 130 public health professionals, policymakers, academics, and development practitioners from around the world heard his appreciation for vital partnerships like GHPC and its parent Hub Cymru Africa (HCA).

Welsh Government Affirms Support

Both partnerships were recipients of a Senedd endorsement delivered in person.

Sarah Murphy, Welsh Labour Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, reaffirmed the support of Welsh Government for HCA and GHPC.

The Minister further spoke to the importance of global partnerships per se, highlighting success stories through the Wales and Africa programme.

The conference was funded by both Welsh and UK governments, organised jointly by GHPC and HCA, and hosted by Public Health Wales.



*The **GHPC 2025 Conference** was a passionate call to action. Reiterating, as always, how collaboration remains at the heart of building a fairer, healthier global future.*

Dr Sumina Azam, National Director of Policy and International Health, delivered the keynote address on Health Equity in a Globally Responsible Wales. Dr Azam reflected on how global issues contribute to inequalities within Wales; noting, “Wales has a lot to share with the world, and Wales can learn a lot from the world.”

Israa Mohammed, Epidemiological Scientist (Advanced) in Health Protection at the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC), and GHCP’s new Chair, was jubilant about the event. “This conference was a huge success, bringing together leaders from Wales and around the world for a day that was both innovative and deeply inspirational.

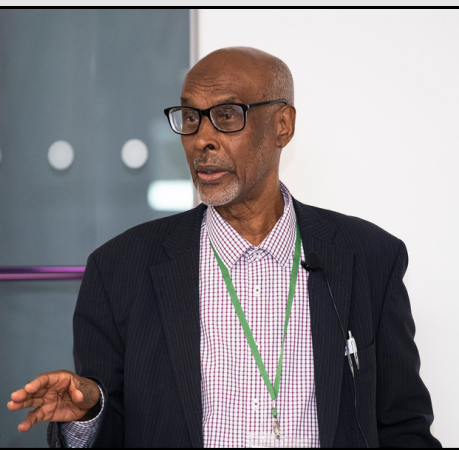
“It marked the first conference since the Wales and Africa Health Links Network evolved into Global Health Partnerships Cymru, an important milestone in our shared journey of partnership and solidarity.

“On behalf of GHPC, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Hub Cymru Africa team, both staff and volunteers, for their outstanding support in organising and managing this event.” Israa extended thanks to many others too.

Global Health Partnerships Cymru is part of the **Hub Cymru Africa** partnership board and supports 29 active health links – charities and organisations in Wales that work with partners in low- and middle-income countries, particularly across Africa.

GHPC remains open to supporting any health professional or health link looking to get involved. Email: [Israa Mohammed](mailto:Israa.Mohammed@globalhealthpartnerships.org) or [globalhealthpartnerships](https://globalhealthpartnerships.org)

by Simeon Ayoade & Israa Mohammed. Images: Nick Treherne





"Thank you so much for inviting me to speak at such an inspiring and inclusive event. Everyone is doing incredible collaborative work that is improving global health and saving lives, spreading hope and solidarity in these particularly difficult times." **Sarah Murphy MS**

Delegates heard powerful accounts from **Dr Ahmed Alshantti**, a Cardiff NHS doctor from Gaza, and **Professor Tom Potokar**, Trustee and Founder of Interburns. Both speakers offered poignant reflections on the collapse of health systems and attacks on healthcare workers in conflict zones.

Ben Simms, CEO of Global Health Partnerships, delivered an impactful talk on decolonising global health. Sessions on global citizenship, health equity, advocacy in Wales, and the role of diaspora health workers proved thought-provoking and energising, setting the stage for continued collective action.

"The day was hugely inspirational. I learned a great deal and met some wonderful people." **Pippa Britton**, Chair of Public Health Wales



Amanda Daniel, GHPC Committee Member and Lead Nurse Specialist (IPC Community Care, HARP, Health Protection Division, PHW), said:

*"The conference was a powerful and timely gathering. Hosting it at Public Health Wales for the first time underscored PHW's crucial role. **Dr Sumina Azam** captured this beautifully in her keynote speech: 'International health is fundamental to a healthier and fairer Wales.'*

I was especially proud of GHPC Chair and dear colleague **Israa Mohammed**, who, alongside doctors working in Gaza, shared profoundly moving personal stories — a powerful reminder of the human cost of conflict and the urgency of collective action.

The atmosphere was inspiring. The opportunities for networking and collaboration were invaluable. I also want to commend the excellent exhibitors. The energy in the room was palpable, and I hope we can build on this momentum to drive the strategy forward and support our partners."

British Society of Haematology (BSH) Collaboration with Colleagues in Zambia

by **Diana De** (Reader Adult Nursing,
Cardiff University)

This was the third visit by the British Haematology to support colleagues in Zambia. Our aim (4 medics, a nurse educator and a lab expert) was to improve care and management around blood disorders (Anaemia, Sickle Cell, Thalassaemia and Haemophilia) and promote safe blood transfusions across the capital's Lusaka's University Teaching Hospital and Ndola's Arthur Davidson Children's Hospital. Together, as health professionals, we were able to review many complex cases and lab films which made learning all the more bi-directional.

As the only nurse accompanying the BSH taskforce, my teaching expanded into the affiliated nursing schools. I was also requested to undertake some QA work to evaluate a training project between NHS England and the Zambian National Blood Transfusion Service aimed at promoting hamovigilance to improve maternity services and outcomes.

In summary, I engaged with 250 nurses (across the two sites). This included RNs working clinically, student nurses, and nurse educators. Early evaluations collated indicate that this BSH visit was a resounding success.

More information and photos can be found via [LinkedIn](#).



Ant and Dec with Diana De

Fellow passengers on the flight back to Blighty were light entertainment TV hosts Ant and Dec.

After a quick snap with nurse Diana De, the duo learnt all about the impressive work of BSH and Zambia.

(Below) Diana with the rest of the group from BSH in Zambia



'Sarah' FGM/C Movie Trailer and Movement Tour Dates

A poignant and true coming of age movie, *Sarah* focuses on a young Maasai girl living in the beautiful Loita Hills of Kenya. Starring Namurru Sarara, it lays stark the reality of female genital mutilation/circumcision and advocates against it.

The movie is primarily based on the real world experiences of **Sarah Tenoï**, who co-produced the movie. It captures the voices and stories of many other Maa women too.

Some appear on screen, as the completely amateur cast are all Maa, and perform their roles admirably.

Sarah is the first feature film created in the Kimaasai language (with English subtitles).



Watch the Trailer on YouTube: [SARAH Movie Official Trailer \(2025\)](#)

Where to Watch Sarah

[Sarah's Movement – UK Tour 2025](#) brought the movie to Britain. The tour has moved on to Kenya with dates until late 2025. There will be further free showings in Britain during March 2026, including one in Cardiff.

The movie streamed online later in 2026.

[Click for more information](#)

S.A.F.E. Kenya

Sarah Tenoï co-founded S.A.F.E. (Sponsored Arts for Education) Maa. It is part of the wider S.A.F.E. Kenya, which focuses on public health campaigns and education through the medium of Arts – tribal dance, plays and community workshops.

In recent years they have done a huge amount of work on changing beliefs and practices around FGM/C, and have recently produced a feature length film on this topic.

Rubella and Measles Gone from 21 Pacific Islands – Japan Latest to Eliminate

Limited resources did not derail a massive public health initiative in the Western Pacific. Collaboration was key to completion; and it was truly impressive.

That determined multi-agency push just eliminated measles and rubella from twenty-one nation islands in the Pacific.

Ember Hilvers (Healthcare Epidemiological Scientist (Advanced), Public Health Wales) commented, "My first response was 'wow, well done!' followed by 'how did they maintain high uptake rates – especially after the vaccine mistrust that developed in the pandemic?'"

She noted that while cost, geography, and transport pose challenges, "the hardest obstacle is changing attitudes at scale."

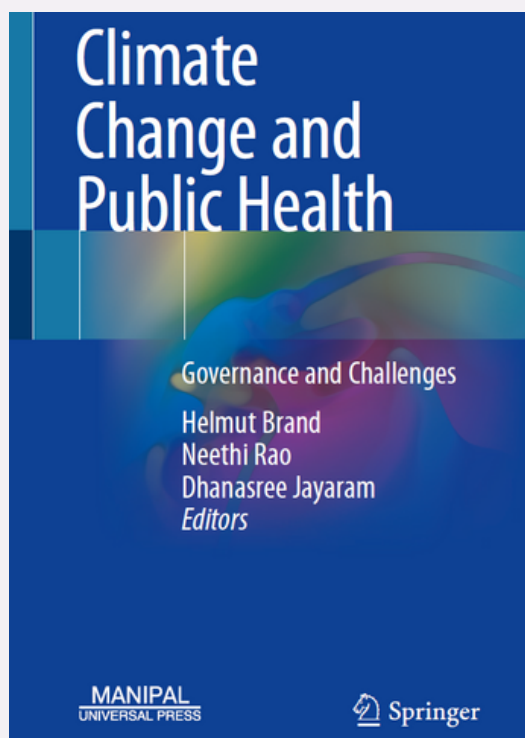
Read more in a [news release](#) issued by the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila.

'Best Buy' NCD Solutions

A new 33 page publication by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Social Determinants of Health (SDH) team is available on its website for download.



Saving Lives, Spending Less: The Global Investment Case for Noncommunicable Diseases makes the case for cost-effective priorities in health investment. Read more and download on the [WHO site](#).



Climate Change Impact on Public Health Governance

Climate Change and Public Health: Governance and Challenges is a new book release by academic publishers Manipal Universal Press (MUP) in India.

Amongst a broad range of expert contributors is **Professor Liz Green**, head of the Welsh Health Impact Assessment Unit and International Health Coordination Centre at Public Health Wales. Her chapter is entitled *A HIA of Climate Change in Wales*. The book may be purchased from:

[Springer Nature](#)
(outside India)

[MUP](#)
(within India)

Commercial & Political Determinants of Health Conference Recordings

Recordings and slides are now available from Turning the Tide: Tackling the Commercial and Political Determinants of Health through Policy and Practice, Ireland's Joint Public Health Conference held virtually on September 18, 2025.

Hosted by the Institute of Public Health (IPH), which serves both Ireland and Northern Ireland, the event explored a key question: How can we turn the tide on commercial influences affecting health and well-being?

[Click for information and download](#)



Institute of Public Health Annual Report 2024

September 2025 saw IPH's publication of its Annual Report for the financial year ending 31st December 2024.

[Click for Information and Download](#)



10 Year Stagnation in EU Social & Health Inequalities

Progress has stalled for a decade in addressing social inequalities in health, according to a report launched in September 2025.

[Click for EuroHealthNet and download](#)

FIFA Global Health Education Animated Series Launch in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan

The power of football is being used to promote health in a range of topics aimed at children. Eleven animated videos (in eight languages) were revealed at events in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.



This forms part of a new initiative by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The Health Education Animated Series hopes to reach youngsters globally, particularly from under-privileged areas. It 'aims to build healthier, more productive generations', as a 'global educational resource for families, coaches, schools and pupils.'

The three-day launch saw Bulgarian footballing legend **Hristo Stoichkov** sharing tips and posing for photographs. As ambassador for FIFA's Football for Schools, his presence underscored how those initiatives tied together.

[Click for more
Information](#)

Dr Andrew Massey (FIFA's Director of Medical) and **Khlood Sebak** (FIFA Senior Health & Medical Projects Manager) led workshops attended by eighty Kyrgyz and Tajik children. After learning essential First Aid including CPR, each child received a 'Heart Hero Certificate'. They were encouraged put their new skills into practice as emergency response required. Over 300 children took home infographics in their own language explaining the importance of heart health.

Photographs by FIFA





Upcoming Events and Conferences



World Mental Health Congress: Mental Health and Social Sustainability

Barcelos, Portugal
October 30th – November 24th 2025
09:45 – 14:00pm

[Click for more
information](#)

18th European Public Health Conference 2025: Investing for Sustainable Health and Well-being

Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland
November 11/12th – 14th 2025
09:45 – 14:00pm

[Click for more
information](#)

Public Health Wales: International Health Forum

Microsoft Teams On-line Webinar
November 12th 2025
10:00 – 11:30am GMT

[Click for Event
Registration](#)

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene: Global Research in Progress

Online meeting – free for RSTMH members; £10 for non-members
November 20th 2025
12:00 – 17:00 GMT

[Click for more
information](#)

EuroHealthNet Country Exchange Visit: Improving Health for Highly Vulnerable Populations

Athens, Greece
November 24th – 25th 2025
MEMBERS ONLY

[Click for more
information](#)

Thought Leadership Series:

10 Years of the Well-being of Future Generations Act



Korina Tsioni
Programme Lead
Future Generations Leadership
Academy



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

Mefty Haider
Specialist Advisor: Climate Change and
Decarbonisation
Natural Resources Wales

**24 November
09:45 - 14:00**

**sbarc|spark
Cardiff**



Clive Williams
Group Environmental Manager
Sinclair Group



Caitlin Rodrigues
Research Manager at Principality Building
Society and Chair of its Race and
Ethnicity colleague network



**CYNNAL | SUSTAIN
CYMRU | WALES**

Thought Leadership Series: 10 Years of the Well-being of Future Generations Act

Sparc | Spark, Cardiff

November 24th 2025

09:45 - 14:00pm

**Click for more
information**

Climate Change and Zoonotic Diseases: Global Trends, Local Realities – a Looming Pandemic Threat?

Interdisciplinary Expert Centre on Climate Change and Health (IECCCH)

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg)

Online Event

November 27th 2025

13:00 - 16:00 CET

**Click for event
registration**



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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