



WORKING TOGETHER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: IRISH GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK

## STUDENT OUTREACH TEAM

*2-YEAR STRATEGY*

*OCTOBER 2019 - 2021*

### THE IRISH GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK

The Irish Global Health Network (IGHN) is an Independent network of people from different backgrounds, sectors and disciplines who are concerned with health inequities and issues that impact on the health and development of populations at a global level, with a particular commitment to those living in middle and low-income countries.

Established in 2004, the IGHN has within its membership health and development professionals, students and others with an interest in, and a commitment to influencing education, advocacy and policy work within the non-governmental organisation (NGO) sector, health sector and academia. Its membership is both local within Ireland and global. Membership is open to any individual who has an interest in global health, regardless of disciplinary background.

This strategic plan builds on our prior achievements and has a fresh focus of building traction around annual cross cutting themes and connecting individuals and institutions working in global health, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

GOAL 1: BUILD CAPACITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH

GOAL 2: PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR INCREASED KNOWLEDGE, DIALOGUE AND NETWORKING

GOAL 3: SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT IN GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH FACILITATION OF HIGH QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL 4: INFLUENCE GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY BOTH IN IRELAND AND INTERNATIONALLY

### STUDENT OUTREACH TEAM OVERVIEW AND VISION

The Student Outreach Team (SOT) is an **inclusive** network chaired by the IGHN, where membership is open to any student with an interest in global health and based in a 3rd level institution in the Island of Ireland. Currently, there are nine participating universities; University of Limerick, University College Cork, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, Technology University Dublin, NUI Galway and Queen's University Belfast.

### GOALS

1. To increase awareness of global health topics in Ireland.
2. To promote global health research in Irish Universities.
3. To hold global health-related events for students and the general public.

4. To form partnerships with youth organizations in Ireland that share the same goals.
5. To support students interested in pursuing a career in global health.

## VISION

Our vision is to see that every student on the Island of Ireland with an interest in global health is supported, motivated and inspired to be an advocate, and pursue research and career opportunities within the sector.

## WHAT WE DO

The SOT is composed of students with a passion for global health who are currently studying in a 3rd level institution on the Island of Ireland. Each member represents a University by planning and organising projects or events that relate to global health challenges. The IGHN supports the SOT by building the students' capacity in the global health field.

The SOT holds regular online meetings to coordinate events and advocacy, as well as to discuss the latest developments in global health. One representative per university acts as the point of contact with the IGHN secretariat, and the rest of the members form a sub-committee. All members devote their time to the SOT on a voluntary basis. To achieve the SOT's mission, three strategic focal areas and accompanied actions for 2018-2023 have been identified.

## STRATEGIC FOCAL AREAS FOR 2018-2023

1. Creating a National Presence

2. Events & Trainings

3. Promoting GH Research & Careers

## AREA 1: CREATING A NATIONAL PRESENCE

- Spreading the word. The SOT will become active on social media around world health days, in response to media coverage of health issues, and during IGHN events. We use the following communication channels:
  - Instagram account (@irish\_forum\_for\_global\_health).
  - Facebook (Irish Global Health Network).
  - Quarterly newsletter for students (using a mailing list via MailChimp).
  - Each rep will create a local presence through their respective universities.

## AREA 2: EVENTS & TRAININGS

- Each SOT rep will hold at least one event throughout the academic year. This could be a webinar, conference or fundraiser, for example.
- Access to Medicines Ireland (AMI) collaboration
  - AMI is a national organization advocating for fair access and pricing and new and improved R&D to medicines in Ireland.
  - The SOT will work alongside AMI by forming a small working group.
  - The SOT will help to promote AMI by attending their events and raising awareness about access to medicines in Irish Universities.
  - The SOT will actively participate in AMI's annual conferences.
- Global health workshops for Transition Year students

- Outreach into secondary schools
- Using a full-day lesson plan created by IGHN
- Dublin (Donabate), and other cities as possible
- Support students and young professional applications to represent the IGHN at external events and conferences, for example:
  - Young Physician Leaders, Berlin World Health Summit (represented by Dr Sadhbh Lee in 2019).
  - Copenhagen Global Health Case Challenge (represented by Nicole Connors and Hongying Chen in 2019).
- Creation of an annual ‘Global Health Challenges’ team competition
  - Similar to those held in Copenhagen and Geneva, this annual competition will aim to provide a platform for tertiary students in Ireland to be creative and innovative while working collaboratively.
  - A call will be made for teams of 2 to 5 students to create an innovation to help solve a global health challenge. Each year there will be a different theme.
  - The students will be provided with expert support and coaching prior to presenting their proposals.
  - An evening reception will be held, open to the public, for the teams to present their final ideas. A prize and the opportunity to take their project forward will be presented to the winning team.
- Key Correspondents

The IGHN has trained Key Correspondent (KC) citizen journalists for a number of years. The SOT will continue to support and recruit Key Correspondents. KCs work to cover global health events and conferences in the form of written reports, event previews, op-ed, and other media such as photos, videos and podcasts. Their work is published in the IGHN communication outlets, website and annually in *Finger on the Pulse*, the annual KC publication, offering a panorama of the latest issues in the field of global health.

### AREA 3: PROMOTING GH RESEARCH & CAREERS

- Student - Researcher matching. We will work to offer a matching service for global health researchers and students. This will allow for summer research opportunities and part-time projects.
  - Create a database of students in search of research opportunities.
  - Create a LinkedIn network of researchers.
  - Work with Communications and Event coordinator to establish a reciprocal communication stream between academics and students.
  - Encourage students to apply to the international Global Health Mentorships (GHMe) programme
- Career advice with Dr Greg Martin.
  - Dr Martin will work with the SOT to create videos and podcasts about careers in global health.

### GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### OUR KEY PARTNERS

We work closely with a wide range of academic and NGO partners inside and outside of Ireland co-hosting events and producing publications. The current SOT partners are: [WHO's Global Health Workforce Network Youth Hub](#), [Evidence Aid](#), [Global Health Mentorships](#), [EUPHANxt](#), [Global Health Next Generation Network](#), [Universities Allied for Essential Medicines](#) and the [Association of Medical Students Ireland](#). We are always open to collaborating with more youth organizations, to get involved email [info@globalhealth.ie](mailto:info@globalhealth.ie) .

#### OUR FUNDING

We receive an annual budget from the IGHN secretariat. Occasionally, participating universities where SOT's are present also contribute funding to our events. The SOT is open to fundraising opportunities and sponsorship by foundations who hold our utmost values.

Our M&E framework has been developed alongside this strategic framework to allow assessment of progress against the plan. Targets and measures will be monitored on an annual basis and will be agreed alongside the annual work plan. The IGHN secretariat and board review the SOT's activities on a quarterly basis.