



GLOBAL HEALTH 2021

Conversations on **COVID** *Webinar Series*

AIMS: COVID-19 RESPONSE IN LMICS



HEALTH, EDUCATION,
EVIDENCE-BASED
LEARNING



ACCESSIBLE
COMMUNICATION VIA
ZOOM & YOU TUBE



SHARE BEST
PRACTICES TO
MAINTAIN



SUPPORT
PARTNERSHIPS &
COLLABORATIONS

WEBINAR SERIES IMPACT



20 WEBINARS



1,577 LIVE Participants
11,316 Recorded
Online Views



Audiences From
71 Countries



104 Speakers



225 Evaluation
Respondents
(12% of live participants)

TOPICS COVERED IN 2021



Funding
Challenges



North-South & Health
Partnerships



Lessons from
HIV & Ebola
Epidemics



NGO
Health &
Development NGO
Response



COVID & Mental
Health



Gender
Dimensions of the
COVID Pandemic



Leveraging
Research
& Evidence



Human Rights &
Competing
Priorities



Protecting
Health Workers



COVID-19 Health
System Impacts in
LMICs



Positive Power of
Communities



Planetary Health
Response



NCD Services
Ethiopia



Malnutrition



Social Inclusion,
Disability, and
Vulnerable Groups



Men & COVID-19



Healthy School
Communities



Vaccines



INTRODUCTION

WEBINAR SERIES: CONVERSATIONS ON COVID— AN INITIATIVE OF THE IRISH GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK - 2020

The **Irish Global Health Network** in collaboration with **ESTHER Ireland** and with the **ESTHER Alliance of Health Partnerships**—which is also hosted by the IGHN Secretariat—launched a new **Conversations on COVID** webinar series on March 20, 2020. The webinar series was aimed at healthcare and development workers, serving to educate, inform, and share best practices and evidence-based responses around COVID-19 in lower-and middle-income countries (**LMICs**).

The series which totalled **20 webinars** in all proved to be a resounding success, with a total of almost **13,000 (12,893)** views. More than **104 speakers** participated to share their experiences and knowledge. Speakers came from more than **28 countries** with a high international presence as illustrated in *Fig 1*. Audience registration reports demonstrate that the series was attended by participants in **71 countries** around the world as illustrated in *Fig 2*.

From early on in the series, as a result of **Monitoring and Evaluation** captured during these live web events, it became obvious that there was an urgent need to fill gaps, both in terms of sharing information and evidence-based best practices to help support development workers, particularly those working in low-resource settings overseas.

[Conversations on COVID M&E Respondent Analysis]

WHERE ARE YOU BASED?

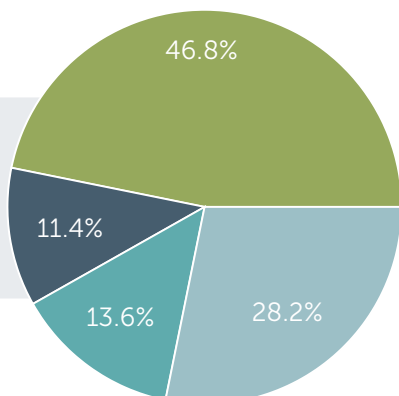


Fig 1.

- Ireland - Dublin
- Ireland - Elsewhere
- Europe - Outside Ireland
- Rest of the World

CHALLENGES + SOLUTIONS

1

SOURCING SPEAKERS

Utilise personal connection and networks

2

Covering many themes in response to demand

4-5 Speakers per webinar from a range of backgrounds

3

Disseminating information in a digestible format

Dedicated webinar summary pages
online listed speaker summaries,
webinar recordings, specialist resources
and further in-depth information

LESSONS LEARNED



Create templates for webinar content guides, facilitator scripts, webinar summary documents, online m&e submission forms
dedicated webinar round-up pages



Social media: targeted promotion of speakers and affiliated organisations in advance of and post event



Monitoring & evaluation: develop custom online evaluation forms and deliver during webinar to assess information gaps and demand for future content. Augment with online polls for rated feedback



Fig 2.

20 WEBINARS: CONVERSATIONS ON COVID-19 SPEAKERS

Featuring 104 Speakers from
28 countries around the world

WEBINAR TOPICS

Topics for webinar content were selected on a needs-basis. In the early days of the pandemic, for example, CEOs of Ireland's humanitarian and development agencies, **Concern Worldwide** and **GOAL**, discussed how NGOs could best respond and shared their different approaches and plans for the future in meeting the challenges of the pandemic. North-South partnerships were the focus of another, in which the experience of emergency doctors, health systems experts and representatives of the HSE and THET shared their learnings about what the components of a "best response" could look like.

Other early iterations of the webinar series included an analysis of the lessons learned from HIV, Ebola and other epidemics and the benefits of behavioural research. Experts from the **Global Fund**, the **Economic and Social Research Institute** and the **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine** all shared important learnings to help inform the broader global health audience about what worked for other epidemics and crucially what didn't.

As the series progressed, different topics became the subject of focus, for example, the impact of mental health and stigma on vulnerable groups; the gender dimension of the pandemic—with webinars focused on women and men in two separate events; the need to protect healthcare workers; the positive power of communities; malnutrition and a consolidated planetary health response to the pandemic.

As the year drew to a close, and the world began to see signs that the situation was improving, the focus of webinars shifted to maintaining healthy school communities, and questions of access around the distribution of vaccines. At all times, the topics were responsive and flexible to the rapidly changing situation, striving to be relevant and taking into account the feedback of participants to maintain the strong momentum of their engagement which was consistent throughout the year.

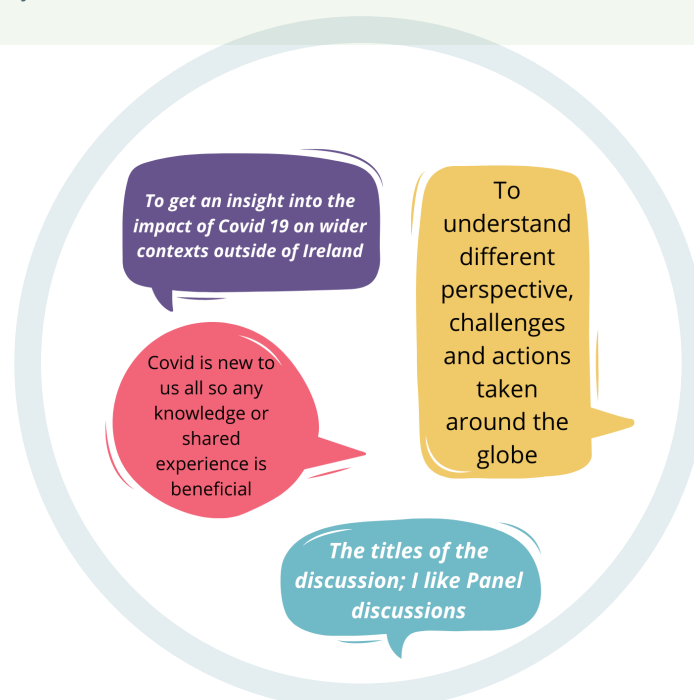
A number of topics directly or indirectly addressed the challenges of maintaining health services in the context of the pandemic. Topics covered during the series included the following: funding challenges; north-south and health partnerships; lessons from HIV and ebola epidemics; the NGO response; COVID and mental health; gender dimensions of the pandemic; leveraging research and evidence; human rights and competing priorities; protecting healthcare workers; COVID-19 health system impacts in LMICs; the positive power of communities; a planetary health response; NCD services Ethiopia; malnutrition; social inclusion, disability and vulnerable groups; men and COVID; healthy school communities and vaccines.



- Striking gender, geographical and local-global balance
- Serving as online connection for those working in rural areas in global South
- Responding with flexibility and responsiveness to rapidly changing situation
- Constantly striving for increased interaction with audience and prioritising participation from global South

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In broad terms, 12 different organisations co-hosted with us on individual webinars, participants from 28 NGO and health and global organisations directly partnered in terms of their participation and engagement with content; in addition to representatives from a further 14 educational institutes who also collaborated. Finally, we had the live participation of representatives from the Sudanese, Ethiopian and Mozambique ministries of health and the involvement of several professional experts internationally serving either to represent their organisations' and also in an independent capacity.

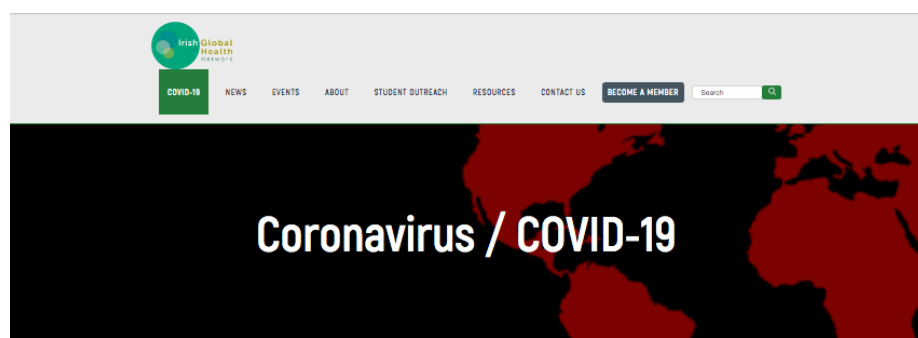
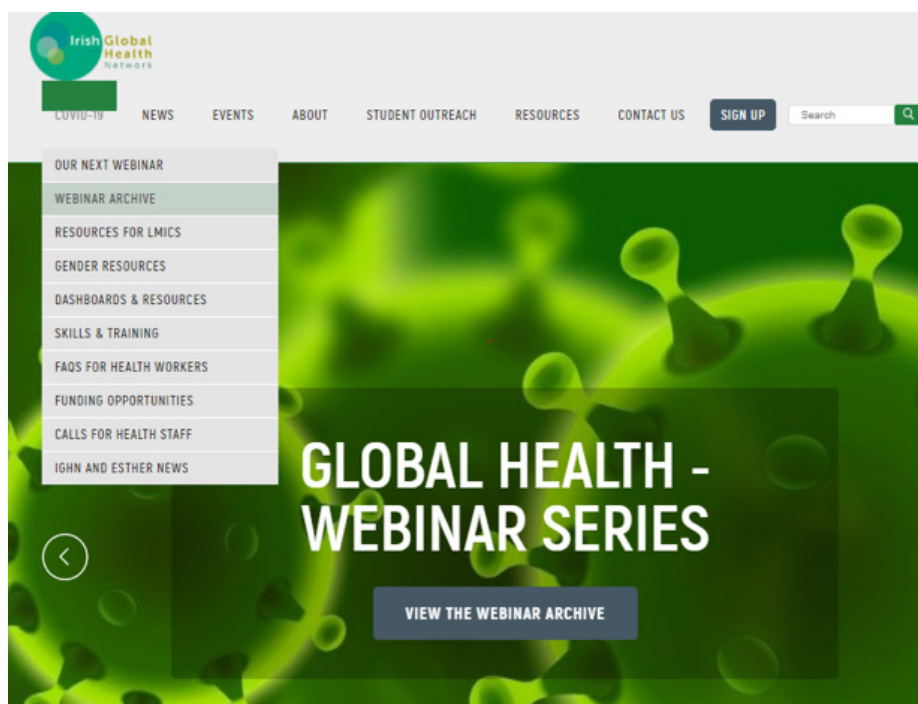


COVID MICROSITE

In **March of 2020**, as a result of the COVID outbreak, a new COVID-19 microsite was installed on the IGHN website as part of an attempt to supplement the work of the webinars and point participants to resources relevant to the global health community.

Given the large influx of requests to the IGHN for additional and relevant resources, the microsite became a repository of information and resources for the webinar series.

A dedicated archive page for each of the webinars was created in which the individual speaker video clips, a summary of their points in bullet format, some stand out quotes and a list of resources shared during the webinar were all included. The COVID portal accounted for approximately **30%** of pageviews over the course of the year with **65,611** total views.



Resources Page for Health Professionals and Global Health Workers

The purpose of this website section on COVID-19 is to bring together relevant published data from a global health perspective on the coronavirus outbreak. Much of the information has been sourced from third party sites including our World in Data, John Hopkins University, The World Health Organization, ESTHER Ireland resources and our own IGHN selections. We will continue to develop this section throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.



WEEKLY WEBINAR SERIES

PREVIOUS WEBINARS

LMIC'S: RESOURCES FOR COVID-19

WEBINAR SERIES – Irish Global Health Network and ESTHER Alliance for Global Health Partnerships

Webinar 20: Conversations on COVID-19 – Vaccines: the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic? Date: November 27th, 2020 Time: Friday at 1pm GMT As health officials become increasingly optimistic about the effectiveness of new Covid 19 vaccines, High income countries are purchasing sufficient numbers of vaccines to cover their entire population whilst lower and middle income ... [Continue reading](#)

Global Health



WHERE DID YOU
HEAR ABOUT
THE WEBINAR?



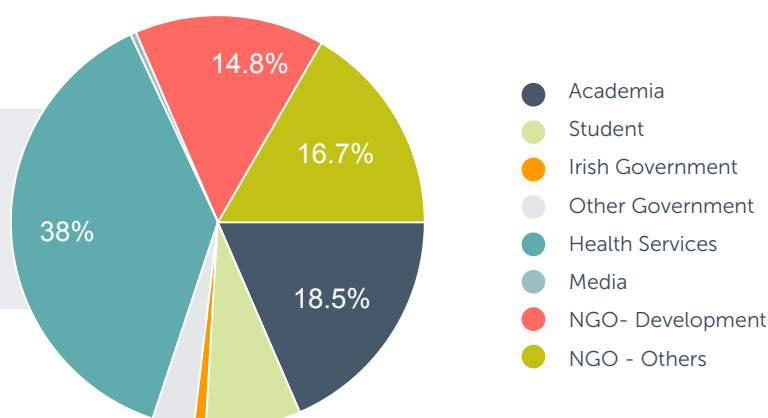
PROMOTION

The use of our social media platforms and weekly newsletter broadcasts, along with our website and microsite traffic, meant that we were able to promote the series and top line speakers to drive engagement for the webinars.

We invited speakers to share promotional materials with their own networks and further encouraged the participation of the broader global health community through the broadcast and tagging of speaker bio profiles across our social media sites.

We further promoted and advertised the series across a number of third-party voice aggregate sites such as Activelink, DevEx, Dochas and Reuters Alertnet.

WHICH SECTOR DO
YOU PRIMARILY
WORK IN?



PARTNERSHIPS

The webinar series gave us an opportunity to partner with organisations to provide high quality events and dedicated coverage on a range of important global health issues (see infographics to accompany this section for full spectrum of topics). This also meant we were able to build strong relationships across these organisations.

CO-HOSTS Webinar Series: Over the course of the year, we partnered with a range of organisations to co-host seven of the 20 webinars, among them: Women in Global Health; Irish Doctors for the Environment; The Health Service Executive (HSE); Supporting Occupational Health and wellbeing professionals, SOM; The African – European Parliamentarians Initiative, (AEPI); Access to Medicines, Ireland; DSAIreland; THET; Thena; Ministry of Health Mozambique; Addis Ababa Health Bureau; and Addis Ababa University.

Global Health Partners: In addition to facilitating hosting partners, we also worked closely to collaborate on presenting topical and timely webinar content with a number of health, climate, disability, educational and NGO organisations including: THET; WHO; Global Network of People Living with HIV, South Africa; Stop TB Partnership; Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Economic and Social Research Institute; TobaccoFree Research Institute Ireland (TFRI), Dublin; AccessIBSA project; Global Coalition of TB Activists, India; Women4Global Fund; Disability Inclusive Development; CBM; National Disability Authority; Medicines Law & Policy;

Our **Environmental/Health Partners** included, Change by Degrees; PH Lab; Energy Program at World Resources Institute India; and Irish Doctors for the Environment.

Ministries of Health Partnerships: In terms of ministries, we had representatives speak from the Ministries of Health in Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, the UK and Ireland.

Our INGO partners included: Concern Worldwide; GOAL; Dochas; Evidence Aid; Prepared in Pakistan; Centre for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI), Vietnam; Promundo-US; See Beyond Borders, Cambodia; MSF- Ireland; Brighter Communities Worldwide, Kenya; AFRICAID-Zvandiri, Zimbabwe and DSAIreland.

Professionals and Independent Consultants Webinar Series: We also worked with a number of professionals working either in an independent capacity or affiliated with organisations, including doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, senators, ministers, nutritionists, psychotherapists, psychologists, epidemiologists, journalists, WASH consultants, environmental health specialists, professors and lecturers, occupational medicine specialists, paediatric oncologists, environmental scientists, cardiologists, and epidemiologists.

Educational/Institutional partners included: Pathfinders Program, NYU Centre on International Cooperation; Martin Luther University; Addis Ababa University; Johns Hopkins School of Public Health; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud, Colombia; Urgench State University; RCSI; Maynooth University; IT Carlow; Queens University, Belfast and the Irish College of General Practitioners.

Conversations on COVID M&E Respondent Analysis

DO YOU HAVE
ANY SUGGESTIONS
FOR SPEAKERS?

Local speakers from
LMICs

For advocacy,
perhaps a
representative
from ENAR or
INAR?

Possible
contribution
from Irish
Embassy
personnel, in
some of the
LMICs, on their
experience of
the situation
there in the
current
Pandemic.

Occupational Health
Experts as Speakers

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Our monitoring and evaluation was two-fold. Firstly, during the webinar, live polls were conducted to serve as a live litmus reading about how the webinar was being perceived generally. These polls scored very high with an average of 95% of all participants reporting that they found the webinar either useful or extremely useful. Secondly, a more in-depth form was shared with participants to capture more detailed information about what future topics would be beneficial; what future planned actions had participants; how IGHN could improve content; suggestions to improve the events in general; why participants decided to attend events; suggestions for speakers and so on.

Conversations on COVID M&E Respondent Analysis

FUTURE PLANNED ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE WEBINAR

Introduce a gendered
perspective into discussions
about Covid 19 at every
opportunity

Integrating lessons
into advocacy
engagement and
accountability by
civil society

Share new knowledge
with colleagues

Read more
around
strengthening
community
systems, to
advocate for pro-
public health
strengthening
over short-term
epidemic
response

CONCLUSION

The webinar series was a massive undertaking and highly demanding of resources, but it was an initiative much loved and valued by the Secretariat as a channel to provide value to members. It inherently served as a steep learning curve which had the effect of transitioning staff into the new reality of hosting live events in the online space.

Instrumental in its success was the leadership of the Executive Director of IGHN who utilised personal global health contacts and drew on institutional partnerships to develop content and tailor its direction. The Global Health team in the HSE and the close relationship with RCSI from a national perspective was also pivotal in accessing speakers several of whom were household names as a result of their exposure in the Irish media throughout the pandemic. In addition, the links with North-South partners via the **ESTHER Ireland programme** and the **ESTHER Alliance for Health Partnerships** were crucial in terms of access to quality speakers, the rapidly changing pace of the situation across the world and the evidence-based practices that were proven to be effective.

The series served as a powerful growth factor for the organisation in terms of its membership base, its social media following, its website traffic and its weekly broadcasts. With the enlargement of the global health support base across all of these channels and the positive feedback received on the initiative as a whole, the IGHN has proved that it can offer real and lasting value in the global health space both in Ireland and internationally.

The Secretariat will look back on the COVID Conversations webinar series with pride and our ability to rise to the challenge of hosting online events while working remotely. As a small secretariat, we had to be flexible and agile, and we have been rewarded tenfold by the endless opportunities that have opened up for us in the online space.

WEBINAR SERIES FOCUSED ON LMICS

VISIT: [GLOBALHEALTH.IE/EVENTS/PAST-WEEKLY-WEBINARS](https://globalhealth.ie/events/past-weekly-webinars)

PARTNERS AND CO-HOSTS

ORGANISATIONS



MINISTRIES OF HEALTH

Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique

PROFESSIONALS

Doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, senators, ministers, nutritionists, psychotherapists, psychologists, epidemiologists, journalists, WASH consultants, environmental health specialists, professors and lecturers, occupational medicine specialists, paediatric oncologists, Environmental Scientist, Cardiologists, Nutritional Epidemiologist

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

Pathfinders Program, NYU Centre on International Cooperation; Martin Luther University; Addis Ababa University; Johns Hopkins School of Public Health; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Fundación Universitaria de Ciencias de la Salud; Urgench State University; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; RCSI; Maynooth University; IT Carlow; Queens University, Belfast; Irish College of General Practitioners; Dublin City University

CO-HOSTS

