



2024

Annual Report

Report prepared for Irish Aid
Reporting period: January
2024 - December 2024



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2024 IGHN ACTIVITIES



Strategic Area 1: Facilitate networking and learning through high quality events and sharing information

MEMBERSHIP AND REACH



3,376
Members



1,196
Instagram
Followers



1,648
Facebook
Followers



3,050
X
Followers



3,490
LinkedIn
Followers

LIVE EVENT IMPACT



4 Live Web Events



3 in-person events



269 Live attendees



834 Online Views



Audience From
40 Countries



58 Speakers



85% positive evaluation
response

TRAINING AND LEARNING



1 Global Health
Summer School



29 Participants
Including 3
Scholarships



57% of
Participants
From Overseas



78% Positive
Evaluation
Response



71% Would
Recommend to
a Friend



1 Global Health
E-Module
Developed

2024 PODCAST NUMBERS



9 episodes



Over 1200
listens



Over
80 listens



First Episode
Released



Over 40
Listens

Strategic Area 2: Facilitate engagement in global health through partnerships and linking individuals and organisations



21 Partners and
Co-Hosts



5 Incubator
Organisations



SOT Presence in
5 Universities



4 Partnerships
Newly Accredited



11 Partnerships Received
Small Grant Funding



1 Strategic Paper
for Partnerships
Programme



7 SOT In-Person
Events



1 New Small
Grant Round



14 Countries Impacted by
Small Grant Funds



www.globalhealth.ie

Executive Summary

In 2024, the Irish Global Health Network (IGHN) managed to engage a high number of Global Health professionals and enthusiasts with innovative and educational in-person and online events, emphasising leadership, advocacy, learning, and global health networking. Our biggest event of the year was our 2-day conference that took place at the Royal College of Surgeons, in Dublin. This year's theme was Fostering Humanity: Promoting Health Equity for a Better Planet. The event was filled with inspirational speakers, workshops, panellists and abstract presenters that tackled several global health themes, with a specific attention on the importance of equity for all. The conference brought together diverse members from across the IGHN Network including students, health and development professionals, as well as our health partnerships from Ireland and low-and middle-income countries.

Significantly, IGHN extended support to students and young professionals across five Irish universities, fostering creative responses to critical global health challenges. Activities centred around equity, global health activism, general practice, reproductive health, and substance use, showcasing our commitment to multifaceted engagement.

This year marked a pivotal transition for the ESTHER Ireland Programme as it became fully integrated into the Irish Global Health Network (IGHN). Following extensive consultation with stakeholders, a comprehensive strategy was developed, and the programme was rebranded as the IGHN Partnerships Programme. The rebranding from ESTHER Ireland to the IGHN Partnerships Programme reflects our commitment to advancing global health through strategic, equitable partnerships. By supporting meaningful collaborations between Irish institutions and their international counterparts, IGHN underscores the value of partnership-based approaches to global health challenges. This strategic evolution demonstrates IGHN's dedication to empowering health partnerships that are rooted in mutual respect, equity, and shared learning, ensuring their long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

In 2024, IGHN experienced an increase in engagement, witnessing growth in membership and social media following. Collaborations with other Irish organisations on events proved to be crucial in expanding our reach, setting a strategic precedent for future endeavours. Our objective for 2025 is to sustain and expand this growth, build new partnerships, and diversify engagement with various organisations.

In 2024, IGHN hosted and co-hosted 3 in-person events, and 4 online events, with 58 leading Irish and international speakers. Over 1,100 guests attended or tuned in to our live and recorded events, representing over 40 nationalities worldwide.

The massive success of IGHN events has led to wide recognition among our global health peers regarding the expertise and niche position the Secretariat has developed in hosting high-level international events. Our reputation is such that other organisations and coalitions that we participate in, have designated us as the Irish organisation of choice for hosting collective flagship events.

A notable highlight of the year was the Conflict and Health series, a 4-part live webinar series hosted in partnership with Comhlámh and Trócaire. Held from June to August 2024 the series examined impacts of conflict and crisis on health in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Palestine, and Ukraine. Topics included mental health, food security, infectious diseases, and

the destruction of health infrastructures. Gathering over 500 views and overwhelmingly positive feedback, the series inspired actionable change, with more than half of attendees planning steps forward. IGHN plans to continue promoting this successful series to deepen awareness and action on health and conflict in 2025.

In 2024, IGHN prioritised the development of fundraising strategies for long-term sustainability



and financial resilience of the Network. While the funds raised in 2024 were moderate, efforts were concentrated on narrowing the gap between costs and returns on events. Future fundraising plans for 2025 include the return of IGHNx, grant-making initiatives, and training programmes.

As we reflect on 2024, IGHN embarked on an exciting new chapter: establishing a dedicated training unit to advance global health education, meet workforce needs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Strategic management of communication channels continued to be a priority in 2024. We saw a significant growth on our

LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook platforms, with LinkedIn and Instagram showing the largest growth for the second year in a row. This was due to a concerted effort on our part to utilise



these two platforms to the fullest. For LinkedIn we focused our efforts on developing an online global health community for networking and providing a space to share resources and opportunities for those interested in pursuing a career in global health. To engage and retain a young audience base, we mainly focused on Instagram, using compelling images, at-a-glance infographics, and videos. We collaborated closely with the IGHN Student Outreach Team (SOT) to increase our presence both online and offline among university students and young professionals. Going forward we plan to continue this effort of engaging, connecting, and increasing our audience across all platforms, and explore creative ways to keep our social media presence fresh and interesting.

In 2024, we continued our long-standing partnership with the Trinity Centre for Global Health, who are now kindly hosting IGHN in their offices. This is a strategic partnership aligned around the goals of promoting global health teaching and learning across the Island of Ireland and in low- and middle-income countries. We are grateful for the support of the Trinity Centre for Global Health, and we look forward to continuing our relationship.

We continued our commitment to advocacy in 2024. In January 2024, alongside 14 other organisations, we added our signature on a [letter to An Taoiseach](#), Leo Varadkar, renewing our deep concern about the evolving humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and calling on the government to intensify their efforts to prevent further mortality and morbidity. In September 2024, we joined over 60 other organisations in signing a [letter to An Taoiseach](#), calling for increased funding to address Ireland's under-resourced mental health services. Despite rising demand, critical areas of mental health care remain underfunded, leaving many without timely access to necessary support. This collective action underscores our commitment to the urgent need for

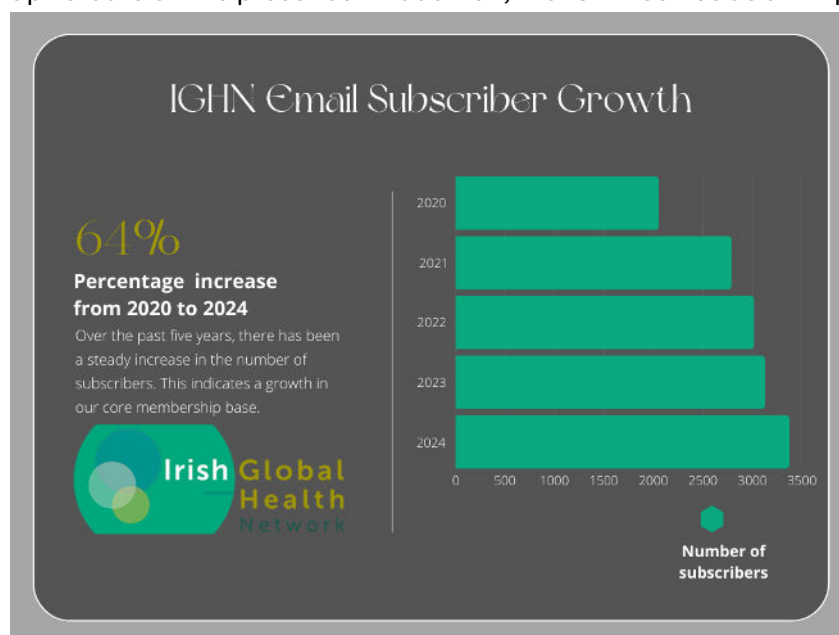
adequate investment to build a more resilient and inclusive mental health system in Ireland, that meets the needs of individuals and communities across the country.

IGHN membership experienced good growth in 2024 with a total of 247 new subscribers over the course of the year. Our membership now has a solid base of 3,376 people, with a further cross network social media audience of 13,729 followers, an increase of over 1,800 followers this year.

Our engagement is well above industry average on all channels, with the IGHN social media post volume averaging 406 posts per quarter, with a total of 17,584 engagements across all posts for the year. This represents an overall 5.2% engagement rate per impression, where anything above 3.5% is considered high by industry standards. The combined membership including our core membership base and our social media accounts now stands at 17,105 (3,376 members + 13,729 social media followers). This does not include the visitors to our site in 2024, but those who have indicated their willingness (opted-in) to engage with us directly.

We believe in responding to the needs of our members. As part of its commitment as a network, to facilitate and serve emerging and fledgling global health networks in Ireland, the IGHN has an established Incubator Programme, supporting 5 organisations: Women in Global Health Ireland; Doctors for Vaccine Equity, the Ireland Africa Alliance for NCDs, Irish Doctors for the Environment, and Amal Women’s Association. While we did not welcome any new organisations to the programme in 2024, our focus has been on deepening our support for the existing networks. By nurturing their growth, we ensure they have the tools, expertise, and guidance to thrive in their missions.

The IGHN helps facilitate the online presence of these separate entities by developing dedicated web portals on the globalhealth.ie website. Each organisation now has standalone audiences of their own hosted within our platforms. Our role has been to build skills in several areas including online moderation, event planning and coordination, along with maintaining an up-to-date online presence. In addition, the IGHN serves as an important conduit to the



broader sector of global health, and aggregates information for these networks among its own membership, including event information and campaign materials, events, and statements.

In 2024 we hired an external M&E consultant to review our framework. The review resulted in a new framework and theory of change to be used for the IGHN 2024 M&E. To keep pace of the high

volume of systematic data and to evaluate every event we hosted, we kept record of all of our activities, event evaluations, and other measurement statistics on a dedicated M&E spreadsheet that assists with capturing relevant KPIs, details about our activities and events in a systematic format, and serves as a repository for the feedback received at our online and offline events. We continue to use the software solution Sprout Social, which records and documents the impact of the organisation's communications efforts in real time. These data visualisations and reporting frameworks have proved valuable to our efforts and have helped illustrate the engagement rates through improved analytics, which has informed our reporting and improved our understanding of where efforts are best placed. Through Sprout Social, we collate the organisation's social media activities on a monthly basis.

The IGHN Board met four times in 2024 and the Finance Sub-Committee met twice. Meetings were systematically recorded.

Throughout 2024, IGHN adhered to the annual theme of 'Humanity and Health: Reimagining Equity for All,' aligning events and activities accordingly. A comprehensive review of the IGHN Theory of Change and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework resulted in a renewed focus on the impact of IGHN activities and initiatives.

Looking Forward

As in previous years, IGHN remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing global health through strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts. Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to embark on a growth journey towards greater impact, equity, and sustainability.

Strategic Focus

Facilitating Networking and Learning: In the coming year, IGHN will continue to prioritise the facilitation of high-quality events and information sharing to foster networking and knowledge exchange among our members and stakeholders. With a renewed strategy for training, learning, and partnerships, we aim to provide comprehensive education and development opportunities for health professionals, students, volunteers, and all individuals passionate about global health.

The successful TED-style 2023 event, IGHNx, will return in 2025 with engaging speakers, providing a platform for dialogue, innovation, and collaboration among global health stakeholders.

Enhancing Engagement Through Partnerships: IGHN recognises the pivotal role of partnerships in amplifying our impact and reach. In 2025, we are committed to expanding our network of collaborations, forging new partnerships, and linking individuals and organisations to drive collective action in addressing global health challenges.

Through our IGHN Partnerships Programme, we will continue to support high-quality partnerships aimed at strengthening health systems. Catalytic grants will remain at the core of our approach, providing the essential momentum to foster collaboration, spark innovation, and accelerate the growth and sustainability of these partnerships. With our renewed strategic focus on Impact Measurement and Sustaining Funding—alongside our ongoing commitment to partnership quality—we aim to equip partnerships with the tools and skills needed to quantify their impact and secure funding for long-term sustainability.

Ensuring Sustainability: Challenges around sustainability and reducing reliance on external funding remain at the forefront of our strategic agenda. However, we see these challenges as

HUMANITY AND HEALTH REIMAGINING EQUITY FOR ALL: STRATEGY 2023 - 2028



opportunities for innovation and growth. Through fundraising efforts, strong governance and financial oversight, and by emphasising the provision of training and educational resources, we aim to build a more efficient, effective, and sustainable network.

We are optimistic about fundraising opportunities in 2025, particularly through our

IGHNx event and training programmes. These initiatives will play a crucial role in ensuring the financial sustainability of IGHN and supporting our ongoing efforts in advancing global health.

Responsive and Tailored Approach

As we navigate the evolving landscape of global health, IGHN remains committed to being



responsive to emerging issues and tailoring our communications and activities accordingly. For example, in response to ongoing conflicts in various regions, we launched a webinar series in 2024 on conflict and health, providing valuable insights and perspectives on this critical issue.

For 2025 we are already planning on engaging events that will spark discussions, innovative thinking and advocacy actions. With a strategic focus on networking, learning, partnerships, sustainability, and responsiveness, we look forward to another year of impact, growth, and collaboration.

Background

Established in 2004, The Irish Global Health Network is comprised of a diverse network of individuals and organisations, including students, academic institutions, NGOs, the HSE, private sector, government, donors, and the general public. Their interests are spread across a wide range of sectors and fields relating to global health and development including nutrition; emergencies; non-communicable diseases; maternal and child health; water, sanitation, and hygiene; communicable disease; environmental health; and refugee health. We aim to contribute to improvement in the health of individuals and populations globally by creating networks that will promote research and education and advocate for investment in global health. As a network, we work both proactively and responsively. We work to identify and explore key issues and cross-cutting global-local themes that are important for the health community in Ireland and beyond.

Our vision: Maximising Ireland’s contribution to a world in which all people of all ages have the opportunity to achieve and sustain good health and wellbeing.

Our mission: Our mission as a network is to facilitate learning, connecting, influencing and engaging for individuals and institutions within the global health community in Ireland and worldwide.

Our current strategy ‘Humanity and Health – Reimagining Equity for All: Strategy 2023 – 2028’ was published in early 2023 and guides our work, while an operational work plan and strategic framework based on our Theory of Change (ToC) supports a yearly implementation. The foundation of our ToC lies in building and sustaining an efficient and effective network, paired with high quality communications, on the basis of which all strategic focal areas and actions are implemented and built upon. In order to achieve these strategic goals, we engage in a number of activities including communications, events, training, and outreach, within our three strategic focal areas:

- **Area 1)** Facilitate networking and learning through high quality events and sharing information;
- **Area 2)** Facilitate engagement in global health through partnerships and linking individuals and organisations;
- **Area 3)** Ensure an efficient, effective, and sustainable network.

This new strategy was published in early 2023 after a thorough review and update of the previous strategy by members of the IGHN secretariat and Board of Directors.

Our primary means of engaging with our members on a day-to-day basis is via our bi-monthly IGHN newsletter and through daily broadcasts on our social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Linkedin](#), [Youtube](#) and [Instagram](#)). An additional specialised newsletter for our health partnerships is sent out 6 times a year providing up-to date news, resources, training and funding opportunities for this audience. In parallel, we work in partnership with other organisations to organise events such as webinars, conferences, lectures, training, workshops, seminars, and other learning opportunities including podcasts.



This report is structured to highlight key updates in a number of focal areas of the M&E Framework by strategic area.

Strategic Area 1: Facilitate networking and learning through high-quality events and sharing information.

Area 1 focuses on our ability to connect individuals and institutions across disciplines to innovate, coordinate, and learn from one another. To achieve this goal, we provided high quality learning opportunities and facilitated several key events and conferences. We also utilised a unique conduit for information via our weekly mailers and social media platforms, within the global health community in Ireland, and accessed by our members, Irish Aid, and the wider global health community. We disseminated focused communications around specific global health topics for dedicated issues and continued to produce our weekly newsletters.

IGHN Events

Our 2024 events garnered excellent reception, boasting impressive attendance and active participation. With in-person and online events, we saw huge success. For some events, we subsequently uploaded them to our YouTube channel and sustained promotional efforts through our newsletter and various social media platforms. This strategic approach resulted in a noteworthy increase, often doubling, or even tripling the number of views for each event. Refer to the table below for a detailed breakdown of the events.

IGHN Events and Co-hosted Events 2024					
Date	Title	Live Participants (in-person)	Live Participants (online)	Recorded YouTube Views	Total Views live participants and YouTube recordings
8th April	IGHN Film Screening: The 8th	50	-	-	50
26th June	Conflict and Health: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts - Palestine episode	-	28	161	189
10th July	Conflict and Health: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts - Ukraine episode	-	20	96	116
7th August	Conflict and Health: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts - DRC episode	-	43	69	112
14th August	Conflict and Health: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts - Sudan episode	-	52	221	273

19 th – 23 rd August	Leadership Essentials in Global Health – 5 Day Summer Programme	29	-	-	29
2nd and 3rd October	Irish Global Health Network Conference 2024 – Fostering Humanity: Promoting Health Equity for a Better Planet	190	-	144	334
Totals	Total (Does not include SOT events – which are aggregated in later sections)	240	143	691	1,103

Events Summary

1. IGHN Film Screening: The 8th

On April 8, 2024, the Irish Global Health Network proudly hosted a screening of *The 8th* at the Light House Cinema, Dublin. This was our first event in 2024, bringing attention to critical issues of reproductive health and rights. *The 8th* is a powerful documentary capturing the tireless efforts of activists during Ireland's historic movement to repeal the Eighth Amendment in 2018. By revisiting this landmark event, the screening aimed to inspire dialogue about equity in reproductive health, a core aspect of IGHN's commitment to global health advocacy.



The film screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring Ailbhe Smyth, Dr Jennifer Okeke and Maeve O'Boyle, which led to insightful discussions, fostering understanding, and solidarity within the community.

Over 75% of attendees who completed the evaluation form reported the event to be “extremely useful”, while 100% of respondents liked the format of the event.



2. Conflict and Health Webinar Series: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts - Palestine episode

The Conflict and Health Webinar Series opened with an episode dedicated to the health implications of the ongoing situation in Palestine on 26th June. The discussion highlighted the impact of military occupation and violence on the physical and mental well-being of the Palestinian population. Esteemed speakers included Professor Nick Maynard, Marie-Aure Perreaut and Walaa AlAbssi, who highlighted the

challenges faced by healthcare providers, including access restrictions and the destruction of medical facilities. The session was moderated by Dr. Caroline Murphy and Dr. Nadine Ferris France, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of humanitarian and health-focused interventions.

Poll results from this event showed that 60% of respondents found the webinar “extremely useful”, while 80% of respondents had planned actions because of the event.

3. Conflict and Health Webinar Series: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts - Ukraine episode

Focusing on the health impacts of the war in Ukraine, the episode held on the 10th July, addressed the harsh consequences of conflict on healthcare delivery and population health. Renowned healthcare professionals took part in the event as panellists, including Dr. Iryna Mogilevkina, Dr. Glenn Goss and Professor Gerard Bury, shared insights on the challenges of providing care in active war zones and the strain on health systems caused by displacement and trauma.

The discussion, led by Unarose Hogan, highlighted the global response and the role of international health organizations in alleviating the crisis.



On the event evaluation form, 100% of respondents reported the event to be “extremely useful” or “useful”.

4. Conflict and Health Webinar Series: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts – Democratic Republic of Congo episode

The episode about the DRC, held on the 7th of August, highlighted the devastating effects of prolonged conflict on health systems and communities.



Edouine Kirere, Isidro Carrion Martin and Paolo Sordini, experts in global health and humanitarian response, discussed the intersection of violence, displacement, and outbreaks of infectious diseases. The destruction of healthcare infrastructure and the exploitation of natural resources were key topics. Moderated by Dr. Nadine Ferris France, the session emphasized strategies for rebuilding and strengthening health systems amidst ongoing conflict.

On the event evaluation form, 60% of respondents reported the event to be “extremely useful”, while 100% of respondents liked the format of the event.

5. Conflict and Health Webinar Series: Exploring Health Challenges in Current Conflicts - Sudan episode

The series concluded on August 14, with an episode discussing the conflict in Sudan and its profound health repercussions.

Dr. Nuha Ibrahim provided a background on the humanitarian crisis, followed by a panel discussion with global health professionals such as Dr Magid Abubakar, Dr. Abda Hakim and Dr. Luca Li Bassi, offering perspectives on the destruction of health infrastructure and mass displacement.

The conversation explored the critical role of diaspora communities and NGOs in providing relief and advocating for sustained health support.



Poll results from this event showed that 70% of respondents would very likely attend future IGHN events, while nearly 60% of respondents had planned actions because of the event.

6. IGHN Summer School 2024: Leadership Essentials in Global Health

Irish Global Health Network 2024

Leadership Essentials in Global Health

In-Person Summer Programme

Avail of scholarship opportunities before **May 15 deadline**

SECURE YOUR PLACE

Date: August 19-23, (five-days intensive)

Location: Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin

Learn hands-on skills to lead global health and development projects

For more info and registration details:
www.globalhealth.ie/ghleadership-2024

The inaugural IGHN Summer School 2024 was a resounding success, with 29 participants attending, including three scholarship recipients and SOT representatives. Hosted at Trinity College Dublin's Centre for Global Health, the programme's accessible central location attracted 57% of attendees from overseas, reflecting its broad appeal.

The course offered an excellent programme that covered a wide breadth of global health topics, delivered by diverse and knowledgeable speakers under the guidance of Course Director, Dr. Sadhbh Lee. Participants praised the course's combination of didactic lectures, interactive activities, and

real-world case studies, which provided valuable insights and practical knowledge.

Key highlights included:

Positive Feedback: 85% of participants found the course to be excellent value for money, with 78% rating the course and instructors as very good to excellent overall.

Recommendation: 71% of attendees said they would recommend the course to a friend.

Format and Structure: The course's interactive and practical format, effective classroom setting, and balanced scheduling were highly commended. Participants appreciated the inclusion of sufficient breaks and the ability to complete the course in a few consecutive days.

Networking Opportunities: The event facilitated valuable connections among participants, fostering a sense of community and collaboration in the global health field.

This first-ever summer school set a strong foundation for future offerings, establishing IGHN as a leader in delivering impactful global health training. Its success reinforces IGHN's commitment to equipping health professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to address today's complex global health challenges.

7. IGHN 2024 Conference - Fostering Humanity: Promoting Health Equity for a Better Planet



The 2024 Irish Global Health Network (IGHN) conference was gathered under the theme 'Fostering Humanity: Promoting Health Equity for a Better Planet,' and was co-hosted with the RCSI Institute of Global Surgery on 2nd and 3rd October 2024. Across the two days, over 200 in-person attendees and 100 speakers, abstract presenters and moderators were present at the RCSI College Hall in Dublin, Ireland.

The theme focus on Day 1 was Advancing Health Equity and on Day 2 Resilience in Health. Day 1 started with an introduction to fostering inclusive and equitable practices in global health and ended with a report launch: Enacting an Ethic of Responsibility and Care in Global Health Partnerships. Day 2 included an IGHNx taster session on Climate Change and related health challenges delivered in a TEDx style, panel discussion on equity, stigma and mental health, and the John Kevany Lecture.



Both days were organised around plenary sessions, parallel sessions, panel discussions and a myriad of colourful stands in the Board Room site for the Global Health Village. The setup

provided a vibrant hub for introductions, meet-ups, exchanges, networking, and opportunities to learn about different INGOs, Irish NGOs, institutions, and other actors during the 2 days.

The Speakers

The conference involved many global health professionals, that were invited as keynote speakers for our plenary sessions, or as panellist to engage in thought provoking sessions about health challenges. More than 30 speakers were involved in 3 panel discussions, some key independent presentations, a report launch, and the John Kevany Lecture. We covered themes such as equity, stigma, mental health, equity in partnerships, conflict and health, human rights, global health networks and collaborations, decolonisation, and many more.



The Sessions



Around 50 senior and junior researchers presented their projects in 4 main parallel sessions, each divided in 3 sub-sessions. With the parallel sessions we managed to cover all the main global health areas: equity, mental health, one health, health systems, migrant health, conflict, sexual reproductive health and rights, health education, health partnerships approach and all related areas of work. All sessions sparked great discussions, opportunities for connecting and interacting with interesting projects and data driven health innovations.

IGHN Partnerships Pathway at the Conference



Promoting a pathway through the conference for our ESTHER Partnerships facilitated the participation of our partnerships into the IGHN Conference 2024. Reflecting the integration of the ESTHER Programme into the IGHN ahead of its rebranding, this year marked the first time the annual Partnerships Forum was incorporated into the IGHN Conference. This integration provided a unique platform for health partnerships to engage with a broader audience and benefit from the diverse perspectives within

the IGHN network.

Key tailored elements of the conference that supported the participation and engagement of partnerships included:

- **Parallel Session:** *Demonstrating the Impact of the Health Partnership Approach*—featuring insightful presentations by ESTHER Partnerships.
- **Keynote Address:** Delivered by Christian Acemah from the Ugandan National Academy of Sciences, focusing on equity in health partnerships.

- **Invited Speaker Presentation:** Bonface Massah of Standing Voice Malawi, representing the Edenpark Medical Partnership with the Association of People with Albainism in Malawi, contributed to a compelling panel discussion.



- **Panel Discussion:** *Global Health Networks*—exploring the role of collaboration and connectivity in global health.

- **Launch:** Introduction of a consensus study on equity in global health partnerships, a critical milestone in advancing equity principles.
- **ESTHER Accreditation Awards:** Celebrating the achievements of partnerships committed to best practices and impactful collaboration.

This integration provided partnerships—comprising professionals from medical and academic institutions working with counterparts in LMICs—with unparalleled opportunities for networking, learning, and sharing insights. It was particularly rewarding to feature partnerships and keynote speakers from LMICs, amplifying their perspectives and fostering mutual exchange at this important event. The participation and response from the partnerships was very strong and they were engaged in all aspects of the event including presenting research, chairing sessions and participating in panel discussions.

The Global Health Village

The Global Health Village was a unique space within the 2024 IGHN Conference that provided an opportunity to have Irish NGOs, Higher Education Institutions, and other global health organisations gathered under one roof. Set up like a village, with individual stalls representing various organisations; it was a vibrant place for knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas. It also provided opportunities for networking, in the hope that this may garner future collaborations between organisations and attendees.



Workshops

The IGHN Conference 2024 featured two impactful lunchtime workshops that provided attendees with practical tools to address global health challenges.

On Day 1, Ellen Corby and Kelly O'Doherty led *“Get Set! Using Drama-Based Exercises to Deliver Shame-Free, Fun, Age-Appropriate Sexuality Education,”* an interactive session showcasing innovative, drama-based methods for teaching consent, respect, and healthy communication.

Day 2’s workshop, *“Beyond Awareness – Effective Support for Gaza,”* organised by the Gaza Paediatric Care Initiative (GPCI), Irish Health Care Workers for Palestine (IHCW4P), and Children Not Numbers (CNN), focused on actionable ways to support Gaza through humanitarian aid, advocacy, and partnerships with local organisations.

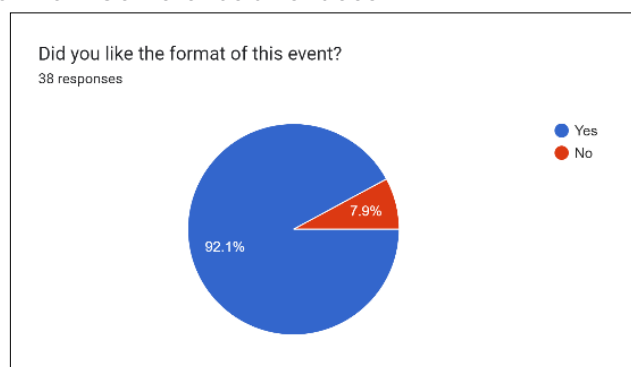


Evaluation

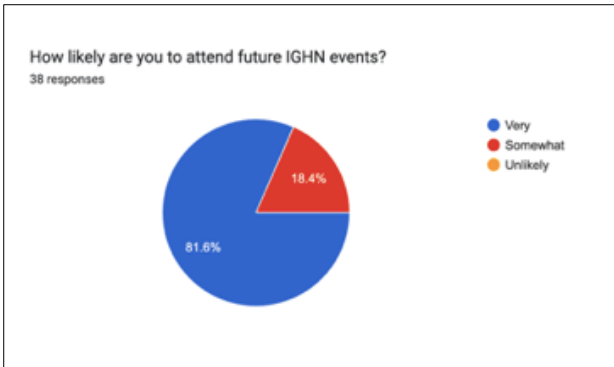
We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from Conference attendees.

Over 60% of respondents reported the event to be “extremely useful”, while over 90% of respondents stated that they liked the format of the event.

For 65% of the participants this was the first IGHN event they attended to, and 80% of participants stated that they would very likely attend future IGHN events.



Attendees ranked the quality of the Conference speakers highly and found Conference sessions to be relevant to their interests and professional needs.

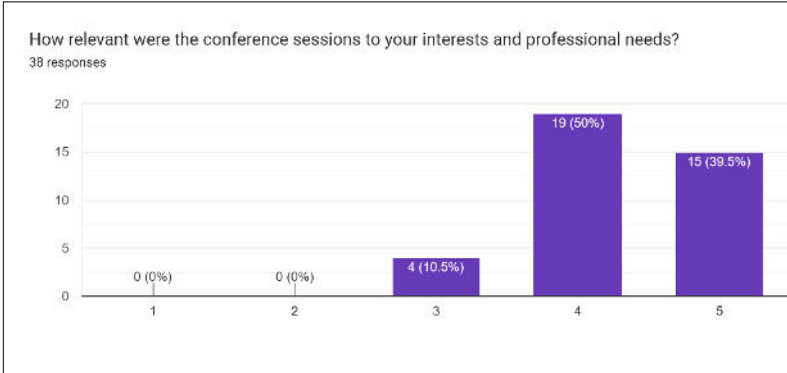
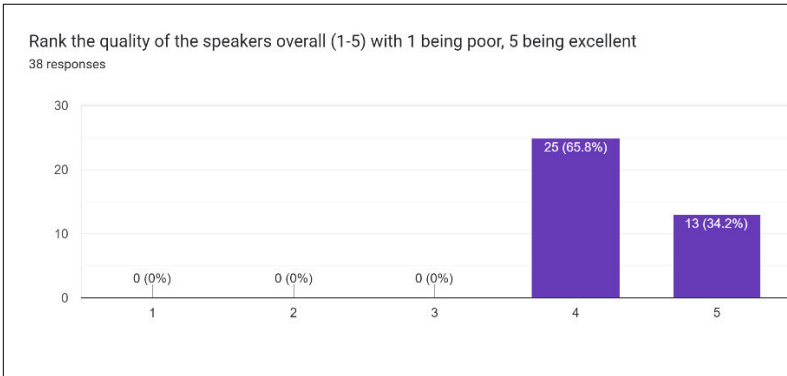


Over 84% of attendees reported making new contacts at the Conference, and more than 75% of participants left the event with planned actions.

Some areas for improvement identified included having shorter days, or more time between sessions, so they are less back-to-back and intense, and to have more of a focused theme rather than being so broad

and having a wide variety of themes.

As a team, we discussed reverting to a hybrid model for the conference in future years, like we did in 2022 with 1 day in-person and 1 day online. This model will reduce running costs associated with in-person format e.g. venue, catering, AV, etc, will allow for more inclusivity and broader reach by allowing attendance and participation from overseas delegates., and will help to alleviate the long days/fullness of the agenda as attendees are not required to be in person both days and can dip in and out of online sessions more easily.



What our attendees said

- Opportunity to listen to **many topics** I previously would not have considered at a conference.
- Good representation of people from different countries, **disability advocacy** and **advocates from marginalized groups**.
- Rich content, **networking opportunities**, great inclusion of students and **early career professionals**.
- The **quality and variety of the presentations** was extremely high.

8. Irish Aid Annual Professor Father Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS

Due to changes of the date and availability of students, the 2024 Father Michael Kelly Lecture was postponed. The Irish Global Health Network and Irish Aid will revise the purpose and format of the Father Michael Kelly Lecture for 2025 and onwards.



Podcast Summary

Decolonising Global Health Podcast Series

In late 2024, we recorded and released the first episode of our brand-new podcast series; Decolonising Global Health. This podcast series invites the audience to join us as we explore the meaning of decolonisation within the context of global health. The series evolved from the *Equity in Action* section of the ESTHER Newsletter, which examines decolonisation through the lens of our values-driven approach to partnerships. This approach prioritises equity between partners, local leadership, and the principle of reciprocity. In this podcast we aim to open up the conversation, challenge dominant narratives and reimagine the future of global health. We have invited diverse voices, including from our



partnerships network, to participate and will explore new viewpoints to creating a more equitable and inclusive global health landscape. This podcast is highly relevant to all members of the IGHN network, addressing a topic that is both timely and essential to fostering ethical approaches to development.

Episode 1 – Introduction to Decolonising Global Health

In this episode, we welcomed Brittney Mengistu and Moné Vasquez to talk about what Decolonising Global Health means to them, and how they practice decolonisation in their daily work.

Brittney is a feminist scholar, postdoctoral researcher, and lecturer in Global Health at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Moné is a mestizo-Mapuche scholar, researcher, and lecturer at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, where they are currently pursuing a PhD in Indigenous identity politics and its intersections with issues of food, water, knowledge, and territory.

This episode was released on 6th December 2024, and has already achieved a total of 40 listens across podcast platforms in its first month.



Episode 2 will be released in early 2025, our guest Christian Acemah from the Ugandan National Academy of Sciences will speak on the topic of decolonisation of partnerships.

Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope: Exclusive Interview with UNFPA's Jacqueline Mahon



This special edition podcast dives deep into UNFPA's *State of World Population 2024* report. Hosted by Nadine Ferris France, the episode features Jacqueline Mahon, UNFPA Principal Advisor for International Development Finance, who discusses the report's findings, the urgency of addressing SRHR inequalities, and the progress made since the

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Highlighting challenges and opportunities, this episode emphasizes the importance of collective action to ensure rights and choices for marginalized communities, offering a comprehensive perspective on the global state of SRHR. Produced by IGHN and IIPA, this insightful discussion inspires action towards a more equitable future. The interview has been released in May 2024 and gathered over 80 listens across all listening platforms.

Better Health, for a Better World

The podcast series "*Better Health, for a Better World*" debuted in 2023, created in partnership with Irish Aid to spotlight global health projects supported by the Government of Ireland in the Global South.

Across eight episodes, the series delves into critical global health topics like gender equality, climate action, emergency response, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health. With engaging conversations and narratives, it amplifies the voices of partners and communities in countries like Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Sierra Leone.



The series resonated with audiences, accumulating hundreds of listens by the end of 2023, and continued to grow in 2024. IGHN promotional efforts, including social media campaigns, collaborations, and paid advertising, aim to further its reach as an educational resource. In January 2024, the highly anticipated bonus episode featuring Dr Mike Ryan from the WHO was released, marking another successful discussion that continues to inform and inspire global health advocacy.



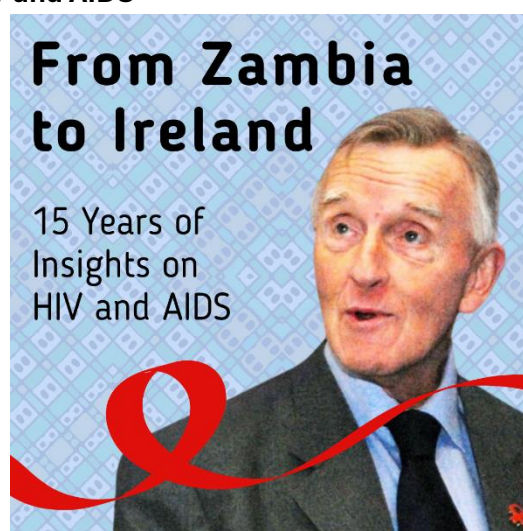
Dr Mike Ryan’s bonus episode alone gathered nearly 300 views and listens across YouTube, Spotify and Soundcloud. The whole podcast series, which managed to reach nearly 500 listens in 2023, has now more than doubled, reaching more than 1,200 listens on all platforms by the end of 2024.

Better Health for a Better World Podcast Episodes	Views YouTube	Listens Soundcloud	Listens Spotify	Overall total
Episode 1: Introductory Episode with Minister Sean Fleming	40	63	34	137
Episode 2 - Health and Climate Change - Kenya	34	36	29	99
Episode 3 -Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery - Zambia	23	63	11	97
Episode 4 - Health and Nutrition - Ethiopia	65	101	34	200
Episode 5 - Maternal and Child Health and HIV - Mozambique	33	13	16	62
Episode 6 - Health Systems Strengthening - Tanzania	118	24	18	160
Episode 7 - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - Zimbabwe	46	9	15	70
Episode 8 - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - Sierra Leone	70	15	20	105
Bonus Episode with Dr Mike Ryan	237	6	38	281
Total	666	330	215	1,211

From Zambia to Ireland: 15 Years of Insights on HIV and AIDS

This podcast series, where Professor Father Michael Kelly shares his wisdom through a special collection of addresses delivered from 2006 to 2020 during the Annual Irish Aid Professor Father Michael Kelly Event, was released in December 2021 and experienced a constant increase of streams over the years.

The podcast keeps on being relevant and promoted each year in honour of the World AIDS Day and the organisation of The Irish Aid Annual Professor Father Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS. The



event was postponed in 2024, due to unavoidable circumstances, but we look forward to its return in 2025.

The podcast series is available on [Soundcloud](#), [Spotify](#), the [Father Michael Kelly website](#).

Training and Learning

Introduction

As we reflect on 2024, IGHN embarked on an exciting new chapter: establishing a dedicated training unit to advance global health education, meet workforce needs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization.

Stakeholder Engagement and Insights

A comprehensive six-month scoping exercise was conducted over the period 2023-2024 to assess the training needs and priorities of IGHN's network. Through surveys, interviews, and consultations with key stakeholders—including academic partners from the University of Limerick, University College Cork, Queen's University Belfast, RCSI, and Trinity College Dublin—we identified critical gaps and opportunities. Collaborative discussions with global health educators and past board members provided insight for the development of the training function.

Landscape Analysis and Strategic Planning

IGHN undertook an in-depth analysis of global health training programmes across Europe and the U.S. to determine pricing structures, delivery models, and potential collaborations. Despite challenges in securing affordable residential options for a summer school programme, plans for a non-residential pilot course in the first year went ahead and proved a huge success. The project is covered in more detail in the sections below and the "Events" section above.

Following the development of a business case for the training unit, a number of initiatives were advanced in 2024. It was decided by the IGHN Board of Directors, that two of three identified opportunities in the business case document should become the focus of the year.

Key initiatives for the training unit in 2024 included:

1. Introduction to Practical Competencies in Global Health E-Module

Building on the in-person Achill training previously hosted by HSE and partners, this new e-module addresses a critical gap in preparing healthcare professionals from all backgrounds for overseas assignments in low-resource settings. Developed collaboratively with IGHN, HSE, health, NGO and academic partners, the module is currently under development and scheduled for completion in Quarter 2 of 2025. It will:

- Address practical and ethical skills for global health systems.
- Appeal to a wide range of health professionals seeking advanced training in global health.
- Prepare participants for roles in low-resource settings by covering topics such as cultural competency, emergency response, and mental resilience.

More than 20 course contributors were recruited by the IGHN training unit to develop course outlines on a number of topics across five core areas in global health. The development of this comprehensive course, with a self-paced learning time of approximately 5 hours.

Module Structure:

1. **Global Health Foundations:** Principles, SDGs, and disease management.
2. **Cultural Competency & Humanitarian Principles:** Ethical practices and team collaboration.
3. **Specialized Topics:** Reproductive health, disability, gender, and One Health principles.
4. **Emergency Scenarios:** Practical preparation for resource-limited settings.
5. **Psychosocial Resilience:** Strategies for mental well-being and logistical readiness.

2. Strategic Collaboration for Training Initiatives

Global Health Committee of the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies

In collaboration with the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, IGHN successfully supported the implementation of a new global health e-module for trainee doctors across Ireland. This initiative leveraged partnerships with the 17 postgraduate training bodies in Ireland, fostering knowledge exchange and broadening our impact. It also set the stage for IGHN to deepen engagement with the Forum while addressing specific skill gaps in global health. A key output of this collaboration was the decision for IGHN to manage the hosting and administration of the Forum emodule on the RCSI platform. In 2025, IGHN will oversee its administration, to expand the forum emodule reach as an open resource. The role of IGHN includes:

- Enrolling users, issuing certificates, and providing technical support.
- Promoting the module to a broad network of health workers.
- Providing semi-annual reports to the Forum's Global Health Subcommittee, detailing uptake and engagement among health workers.
- Integrating semi-annual reports with collated reports from other medical training bodies of the Forum to update Global Health Subcommittee with a view of the general uptake of the module across all training bodies

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

In 2024, the IGHN Training Unit benefitted significantly from a strategic collaboration with RCSI, facilitated by training lead Joan Bolger's part-time placement at the institution. This collaboration enabled Joan to gain hands-on experience with LMS hosting platforms, leverage connections with instructional designers in Pakistan, and access expertise in EU grant funding. In return, Joan provided communications support for RCSI's COSECSA collaboration programme, including the development of a news story celebrating COSECSA's 25th anniversary, which received international media attention.

Key Outcomes of the Collaboration with RCSI:

- LMS Hosting:** Decision to host IGHN’s practical competencies e-module as an open-source resource on RCSI’s LMS platform, ensuring accessibility for all health professionals. Now live at edu.globalhealth.ie
- Instructional Design Support:** Access to instructional designers in Pakistan, utilized by RCSI, to enhance the quality and delivery of training materials.
- EU Grant Expertise:** Leveraged RCSI’s expertise in EU grant funding to inform IGHN’s strategic funding applications.
- LMS Maintenance:** Support from RCSI’s technical team for updates and ongoing maintenance of the LMS platform which now hosts the Forum emodule for trainee medics, and will also serve as the hosting platform for future IGHN modules in global health, including the practical competencies for overseas assignments module.
- COSECSA Outreach:** Development and promotion of a news story marking COSECSA’s 25th anniversary in December 2024, reaching international media (published by the Inter Press Service – United Nations News Bureau, Global Issues – News site) as part of a reciprocal communications arrangement.
- Erasmus+ Grant Application:** Collaboration on an EU-wide global health academy grant application to Erasmus+ with partners in Valencia, Spain, and Copenhagen, Denmark, aimed at developing tailored global health competencies for the EU health workforce.



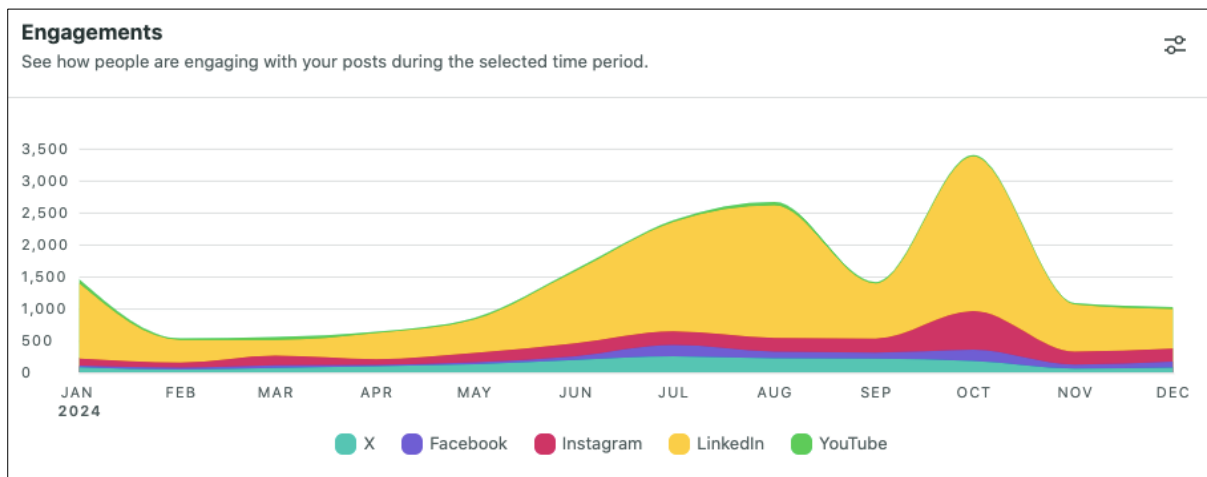
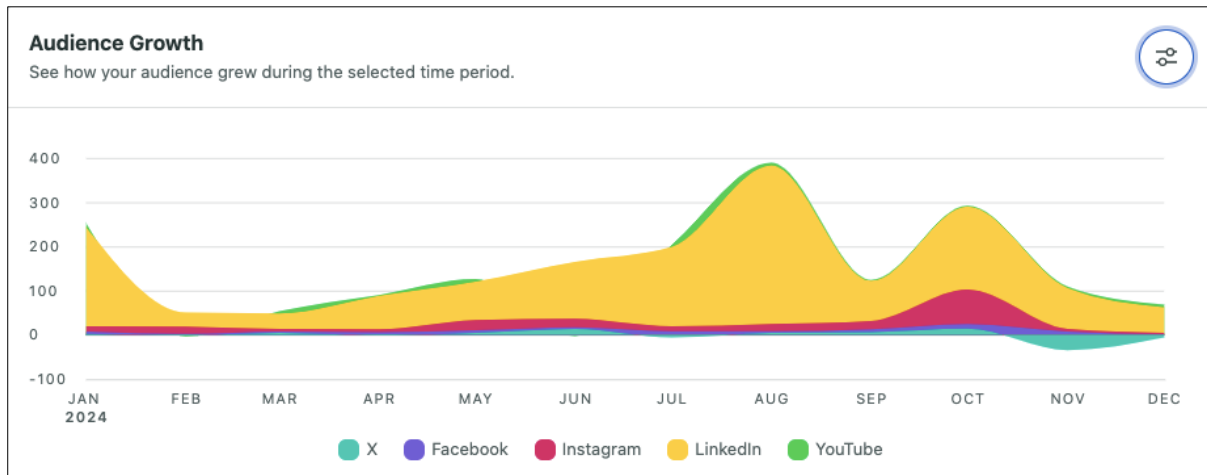
Communications and Membership

Membership Overview

IGHN Membership (Subscribers to the IGHN newsletter) have increased from 3,129 in 2023 to 3,376 members at the end of 2024. Our members represent an engaged cohort as evidenced by the open rate for our regular newsletter broadcasts. With an average open rate of 34% and an average click rate of 4.6%, both exceeding the industry average for nonprofits, we plan on improving even more the outreach and engagement with the help of our newsletter.

 Total sends <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #0070C0;"/> 95,791	 Open rate <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #0070C0;"/> 34.0%	 Click rate <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #0070C0;"/> 4.6%
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Our social media platforms have grown from 11,853 at the end of 2023 to 13,729 at the end of 2024, an overall increase of over 15%. Our base of supporters has grown largely because of participation at our events throughout the year. A considerable increase in both newsletter subscribers and social media followers can be seen in the August to October months during which many of our events took place, such as the Summer School and the Conference. There is a positive correlation with increased events leading to an increase of subscribers and followers to our social media platforms, as can be seen in the below graphs.



IGHN Website

In 2024, our website experienced a notable growth in visitor traffic, with a total of 23,173 visitors recorded compared to 17,333 in the previous year, marking an 33.7% increase. This upturn can be attributed to the variety of events held throughout 2024. Particularly noteworthy was a surge in user engagement observed in August and October, aligning with the promotional activities surrounding the Summer School and the IGHN 2024 Conference.

Additionally, as part of the transition of ESTHER Ireland to the IGHN Partnerships Programme, a

COUNTRY	ACTIVE USERS
Ireland	6.8K
United States	2.4K
United Kingdom	1.5K
Poland	1K
Nigeria	799
India	761
Netherlands	496

landing page and additional webpages related to the Partnerships Programme were created on the IGHN website. Visitors to these webpages contributed to the increase of total visitors to the website in 2024; the Partnerships Programme landing page achieved a total of 131 views from 68 unique users since it went live in November, while the webpage for the open grant round achieved a total of 314 views from 200 unique users.

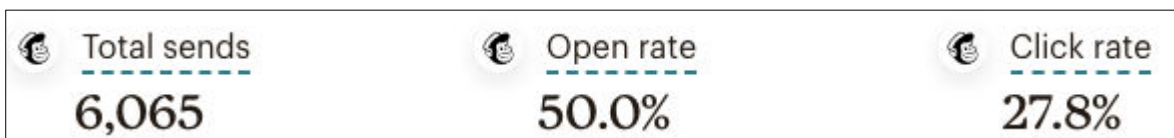
We had users from all over the world, with the most significant number of visitors coming from, aside from Ireland, the United States, the United Kingdom, Poland, Nigeria, India and the Netherlands.

The ESTHER Ireland website has long served as a source of information on ESTHER Ireland events and resources, including partnership updates, reference materials, and resources on the institutional health partnership approach from the ESTHER Alliance and other sources. In 2024, the ESTHER Ireland website had a total of 3,250 visitors recorded. There was a surge in visitors to the website reported in June, which aligns with both a newsletter sent around that time, and a concerted effort to communicate with partnerships regarding the strategic planning process, and the promotion of the Partnerships Pathway at the IGHN Conference. An aspect of the integration of ESTHER/IGHN Partnerships Programme into the IGHN was the transfer of current news, such as grant information and the *Equity in Action* blog, to the IGHN website. The ESTHER Ireland website will be maintained as a repository for ESTHER Alliance materials and will be updated accordingly, with links provided between the two websites. This approach ensures that, as the IGHN Partnerships Programme becomes further integrated into the IGHN, it contributes to increased traffic and better networking between IGHN and Partnerships, showcasing the full range of activities and events on offer.

Newsletters

There were 27 IGHN newsletters broadcast in 2024 including 7 dedicated event mailouts. We experienced high engagement on our newsletters throughout 2024, with an average open rate of 34% (which far exceeds the industry average for non-profits of 15%) and an average click rate of 4.6%. Ongoing AB testing of our network base indicates that open rates are maximised on Tuesdays, because of this we send our newsletters on Tuesdays. Our newsletters are a rich source of information that feature subject areas aligned to Irish Aid priority areas and our own annual theme of Humanity, Health: Reimagining Equity for All.

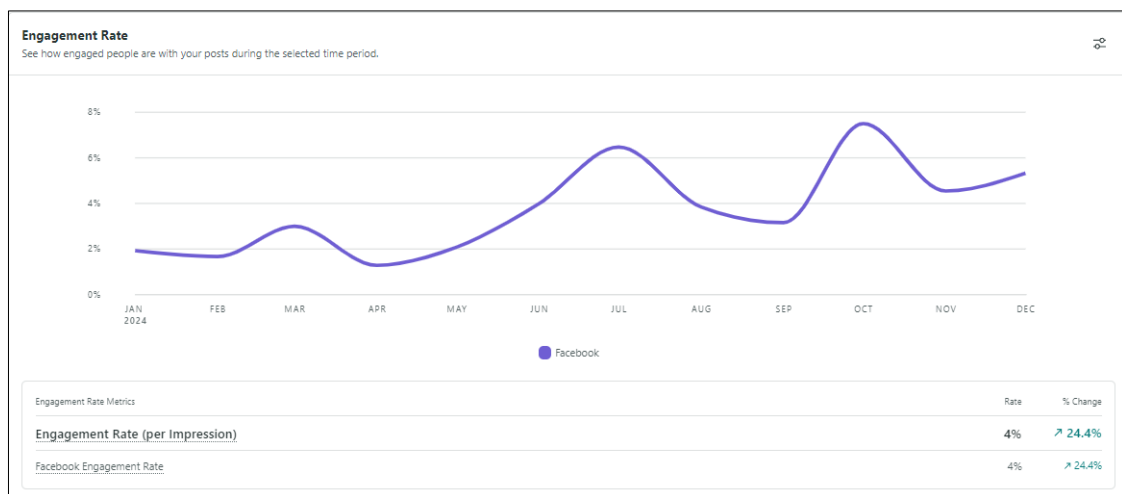
The specialised partnerships newsletter, *Partnerships Panorama*, was sent out 7 times in 2024, including one special edition to promote the IGHN Conference and the Partnerships Pathway as part of that event. The newsletter achieved outstanding engagement rates. It boasted an average open rate of 50% and an average click rate of 27.8%, underscoring the relevance of its content to its audience. The newsletter, distributed bi-monthly, reaches an audience of over 800 contacts.



Social Media Channels

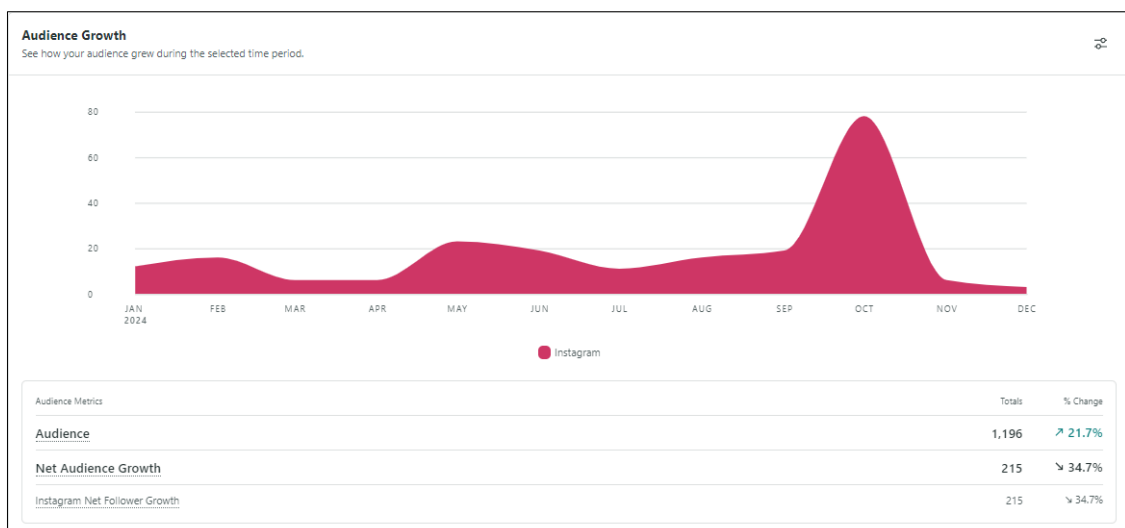
Facebook

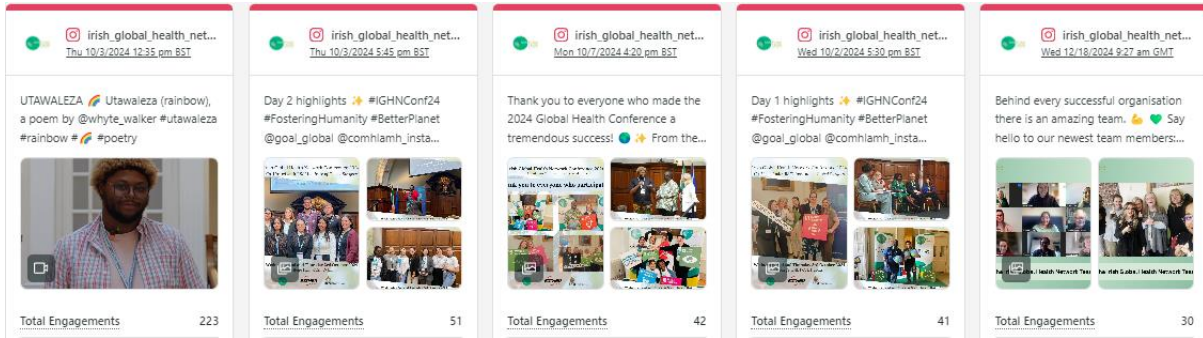
The IGHN Facebook account experienced an increase of 64 followers in 2024. We posted 330 posts and reached a total audience of 1,648. While post impressions decreased in 2024 compared to 2023, the engagement rate of posts increased by just over 24% in 2024 compared to 2023. Engagement rate refers to the number of times users engaged with our content as a percentage of impressions. This indicates how engaged people are with our brand. Despite the tendency of Facebook to be viewed as less valuable than other platforms in terms of social media relevancy and engagement in Ireland, we are continuing to use the channel because of the strong popularity among our Asian and African audiences.



Instagram

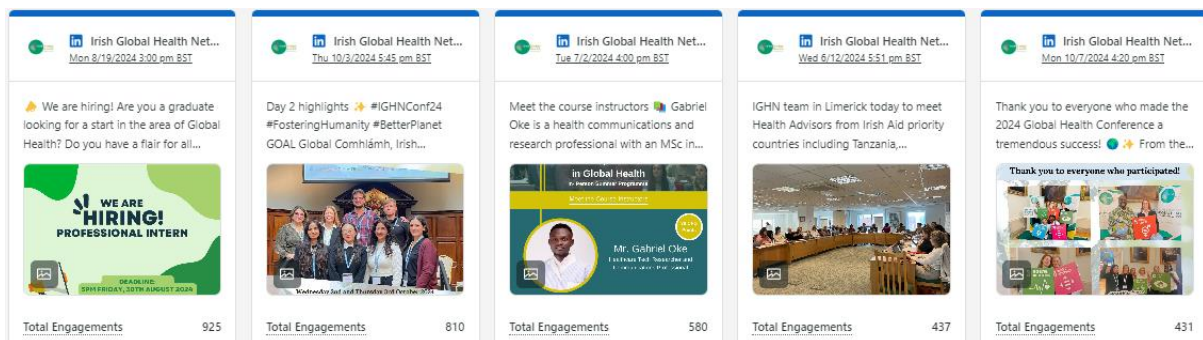
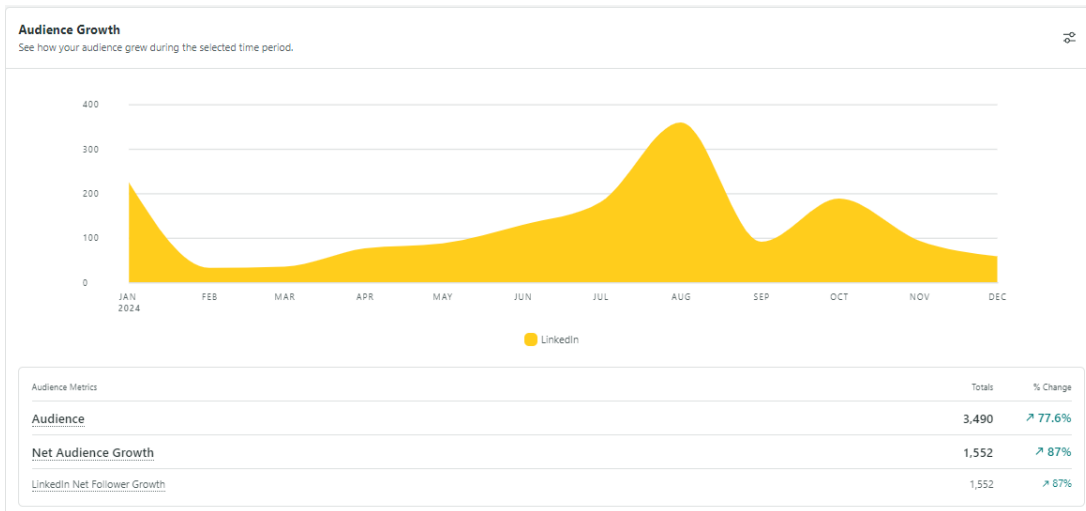
Our Instagram account saw an increase of 21.7% to 1,196 followers in comparison to 967 followers at the end of 2023. We posted 606 times on Instagram with impressions reaching 143,829 showing a 34.5% increase compared to 2023. Engagement on Instagram has increased by 5.7% since 2023, with 2,424 engagements in 2024 in comparison to 2,205 in 2023. Instagram is one of our best performing platforms. We have been increasing posting on Instagram to engage with our younger membership, and this platform has huge potential as an informative platform for all audiences in the future as we continue to grow.





LinkedIn

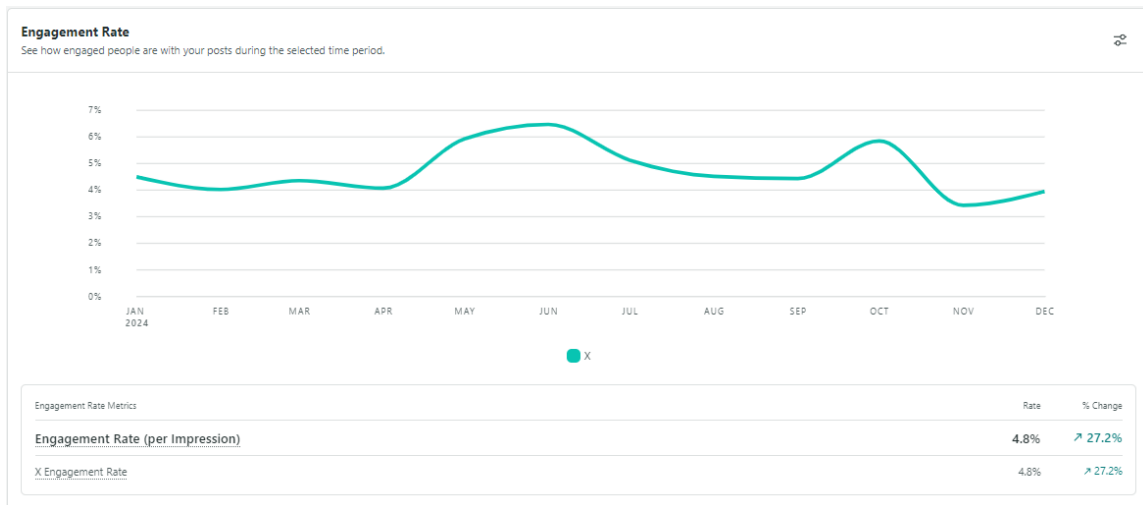
Our LinkedIn platform saw an outstanding 77.6% increase in audience with 3,490 followers in 2024. We published 333 posts with 128,978 impressions and 12,274 engagements. LinkedIn was our best performing social media platform in 2024. We plan to further develop our activities on this professional networking portal to build a resource for students and early career professionals interested in working in global health.



X (Formerly Twitter)

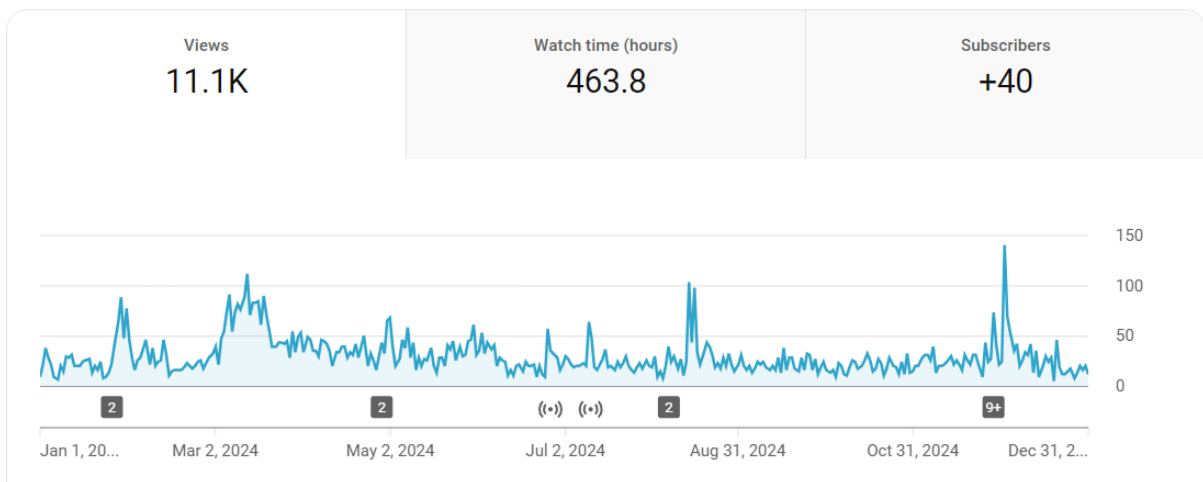
There were no significant changes in the following of this platform with a constant of around 3,050 followers. The change of ownership and rebranding of the platform in July 2023 might have negatively impacted the popularity of the network, with many accounts being deleted. In total 357 posts were published to X in 2024 with impressions reaching 33,300 (the number of times our content was displayed to users), which is 61% lower than last year. However, the

engagement rate of posts increased by just over 27% from 2023, showing that although use of the X platform has decreased, those who remain are an engaged audience.



YouTube

On YouTube we posted 47 videos this year, garnering 11,078 video views through 2024, representing an increase of 57% on 2023 figures. The profile has overall accumulated 98,698 video views and 4,340 subscribers in its lifetime. We had a slight growth (1%) in the number of subscribers in 2024. Many videos were uploaded towards the end of 2024, we plan to consistently promote these throughout 2025 and expect to see an even bigger increase in views as a result.



Strategic Area 2: Facilitate engagement in global health through partnerships and linking individuals and organisations

This section underscores IGHN's role as a facilitator, dedicated to fostering engagement in global health across diverse disciplines. Our commitment involves sustained collaboration with core partners to uphold and progress key alliances, ensuring the delivery of significant value to our members. Within this scope, we address the IGHN Partnerships Programme

(formerly ESTHER Ireland) and the Student Outreach Team in alignment with our strategic plan, aligning with reporting obligations defined by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework.

IGHN Partnerships Programme

New Strategic Direction and Rebranding in 2024

2024 marked a significant transition year for the IGHN in its dedication to supporting institutional health partnerships. Following discussions in 2023 between Irish Aid, the HSE, and the IGHN, it was decided that Irish Aid would directly fund the IGHN for the partnerships programme from 2024 onwards. This decision was greeted with enthusiasm from the IGHN Board and initiated a comprehensive consultation process, resulting in a strategy paper to shape the programme's future direction under new ownership.

The process included a desk review of ESTHER Ireland/ESTHER Alliance resources and other relevant literature. It also involved an in-person consultation with key stakeholders, including ESTHER partnerships, Board representatives, RCSI, HSE and IGHN staff, followed by an online consultation with 'Southern Partners' and other stakeholders, including an Irish Aid overseas health advisor and partnerships unable to attend the in-person workshop. Irish Aid was consulted separately as a key stakeholder. Following these consultations, a draft strategy was shared with the IGHN Board for discussion and with the HSE and Irish Aid for feedback. The final draft was approved by the IGHN Board in November 2024. In tandem to this, an external Irish Aid Consultant provided valuable inputs following a review of IGHN.

Strategy Paper Content



The IGHN Partnerships Programme Strategy Paper for 2025-2028 outlines a clear commitment to supporting sustainable, impactful health partnerships between Irish institutions and their counterparts in low- and middle-income countries. The strategy outlines three key priorities:

- 1. Strengthening Institutional Health Partnerships through Grants**
- 2. Enhancing Partnership Quality, Impact Measurement, and Sustainable Funding**
- 3. Establishing New and Diversified Sources of Funding for the IGHN Partnership Programme**

Under this new strategy we will continue to provide grants aimed at facilitating the development of partnerships for health system strengthening. We have found these grants to be catalytic in providing the initial momentum required to establish partnerships, especially with no comparable funding available elsewhere. As a new emphasis under this strategy we will focus on equipping partnerships with the technical skills and knowledge necessary to assess their impact and secure funding to help them build a robust evidence base. This will support partnership to clearly demonstrate their effectiveness, thereby enhancing their credibility and appeal to potential funders. With improved capabilities in impact measurement and fundraising, these collaborations will be better positioned for long-term

sustainability, amplifying their contributions to health outcomes in LMICs. Our third key priority, sourcing additional funding for the partnerships programme will facilitate the continuation and expansion of the programme.

These priorities, based on the findings of the consultation process, reflect IGHN's commitment to continuous improvement and adaptability in supporting health partnerships, ensuring they are well-prepared to address emerging challenges and opportunities in the global health landscape.

By emphasising partnership quality, measurable impact, and diversified funding sources, the programme is poised to support enduring collaborations that strengthen health systems with even greater impact. These strategic priorities are grounded in a shared vision of equity, reciprocity, and long-term commitment, aiming to effect lasting change through an effective and resource-efficient model.

Rebranding

In line with the integration of the ESTHER Programme into the IGHN, the programme was rebranded as the IGHN Partnerships Programme. A communications strategy for the rebranding was developed to ensure clear and consistent messaging throughout our communication channels and to maintain the value of the association with the ESTHER brand that had been developed over the past decade and was overwhelmingly positive. The rebranding aimed to strengthen the association between IGHN and quality partnerships within the Institutional Health Partnership framework, and offer our existing and future partners a recognisable mark of quality. This mark, through association and accreditation, will support partners in building their own reputations. By evolving our brand, we aim to attract broader support, deepen existing partnerships, and set a recognised standard of quality in institutional health programmes. The rebranding of the programme included the development of a new logo and colour pallet to support recognition and association with the IGHN.

This initiative continues to support high-quality health partnerships, aiming to deliver meaningful health outcomes in the Global South. As a core element of the IGHN's work, the programme has the greatest impact in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). By integrating the programme into the IGHN, we are enhancing the sharing of information, resources, and expertise across our partnerships in LMICs for the benefit of all.

Accreditation

The IGHN Partnerships Programme grants accreditation to established international health partnerships which have demonstrated the highest quality of partnership and reciprocity. Accreditation indicates that the partnership is committed to quality service delivery, to influencing health policy and the creation of a sustainable partnership which will have a long-term impact on health outcomes. To achieve accreditation, both northern and southern partners must jointly go through the process of completing the online accreditation form and this is then reviewed by the Partnerships Programme Team. The process can be helpful in supporting a partnership to identify areas where they can increase their commitment to equality.

Three partnerships were newly accredited during 2024 and an additional partnership was reaccredited. These partnerships were:

1. **Operation Childlife - MNH Tanzania: Operation Childlife & Muhimbili National Hospital (newly accredited)**
 OCL has been supporting MNH for the last 15 years, mainly through provision of super-specialized paediatric surgical services. Operation Childlife only operates where it has been invited, so our activities are always driven by local needs and priorities. OCL Volunteers have an excellent, long-standing relationship with their colleagues in MNH. All OCL Volunteers sign up to a Code of Conduct and Code of Medical Ethics, which includes Treating others with fairness, equality, dignity and respect.

2. **West of Ireland Kenya Partnership: Mayo University Hospital & Londiani Sub County Hospital (reaccreditation)**
 The Partnership also includes the Department of Health Services Kericho County and Brighter Communities Worldwide NGO. The partnership has a long history, over 15 years. The partnership is built on this history and is based on trust and confidence between partners. Decisions are made through partnership meetings and forums. Respect and equity are core principles of this partnership and are very evident through the achievements over time. The partnership currently focuses on three main programme areas – Trauma Care, Maternal and Perinatal Health and Non-Communicable Diseases (Diabetes and Hypertension).

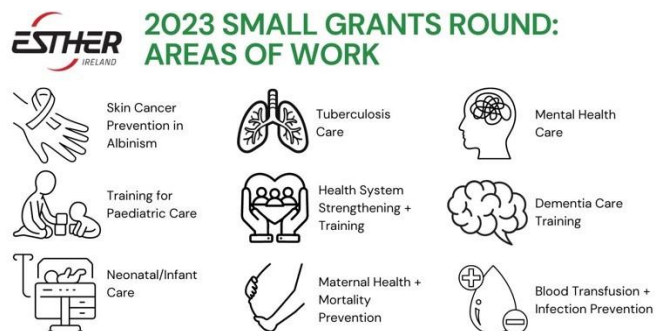
3. **Ireland - Sudan Microbiome Partnership: University College Cork & National Ribat University Sudan (newly accredited)**
 The partnership has continued despite conflict in Sudan and Sudanese partners dispersed geographically outside of Sudan. Collaboration includes joint research projects, multiple study analysis commitments, shared resources, student and faculty integrations, and had regular workshops (forensic odontology and oral microbiome and cancer) that benefit both UCC and National Ribat University.

4. **National College of Ireland and The Carter Center and Cotton Tree, Liberia (newly accredited)**
 The aim of the partnership is to investigate mental health stigma in both countries, so that together they can discover some of the core drivers of stigma cross-culturally. They work together to unearth the best ways to reduce stigma, with a focus on policy change and stigma reduction campaigns in both countries.

The accreditation process is considered by partnerships to be a prestigious mark of recognition for their dedication to equitable ways of working and is a source of pride.

Small Grants Programme

The 2023 grant round took place in late 2023, with successful applicants receiving their grants in February 2024. These partnerships were supported throughout 2024, with final reports due in February 2025. Overall, this Small Grants round saw 13 applications, 11 of



which were supported during 2024. The 6 highest-ranking applicants were approved for immediate funding by the IGHN. When additional funding became available later in the year, the next highest-ranking applications were funded through the HSE. The total amount administered by IGHN for the 2023 grant round was €48000. All 11 partnerships continue to be supported by the IGHN through the Partnerships Programme.

Partnerships funded are based in the following countries: Bangladesh (1x), Nepal (1x), Malawi (2x), Zambia (2x), Tanzania (2x), Uganda (1x), Kenya (1x), (ECSAR) East Central Southern Africa Region (1x). Detailed information on these partnerships funded can be found in Annex 1. The areas of work of the 2023 grant round recipients are illustrated below:

A new grant round opened on 26th November 2024 and closed on 24th January 2025. The 2024 IGHN Partnerships Programme grant round is designed to strengthen partnerships' capacity to demonstrate their impact by funding MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) activities. By prioritising MEAL, the IGHN aims to provide partnerships with the tools to assess progress, quantify outcomes, and build a robust evidence base.

For this grant round, partnerships were invited to submit proposals for activities that support them in demonstrating impact and building capacity in MEAL. This round also aligns with the new strategic direction of the IGHN Partnerships Programme, which focuses on fostering sustainable, high-quality collaborations with measurable outcomes. It is the first grant round to prioritise this approach.

Successful applicants, along with previous grantees, will benefit from training in MEAL, fundraising, and partnership quality during 2025.

The Student Outreach Team (SOT)



The SOT Representatives for the 2024/2025 academic year are listed on the dedicated SOT section of the IGHN website, which is regularly updated to reflect evolving roles: [SOT Representatives](#). Bláithín O'Reilly began her tenure as SOT National Coordinator in August 2024.

In 2024, collaborative efforts with undergraduate and postgraduate students across Ireland significantly contributed to the continued re-establishment of the IGHN SOT's presence, which had faced challenges due to unit disbandment and member disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the SOT has strengthened its national presence within IGHN and cultivated enduring partnerships with active representation in five universities across Ireland: Dublin City University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Galway, University College Dublin, and Queen's University Belfast.

All SOT members are guided by the SOT Strategy 2022–24, developed by the Student Outreach Team Coordinators with input from SOT Representatives. This strategy, shaped by student and young professional engagement, was vital in rebuilding momentum following a decline in participation during the pandemic. It aligns with IGHN’s overarching strategies and priorities, offering an overview of the SOT’s mission, strategic focal areas, member specifications, and a two-year roadmap to achieve its goals.

Notably, the strategy now includes the term “young professional” to broaden the SOT’s scope and embrace recent graduates who remain active within the network. Through this inclusivity, the SOT engages with graduates from a wide range of universities including the University of Limerick, University College Cork, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Dublin City University, Trinity College Dublin, University of Galway, University College Dublin, and Queen’s University Belfast.

These initiatives underscore the SOT’s commitment to fostering collaboration, innovation, and leadership in global health, ensuring its relevance and impact within the IGHN and beyond.

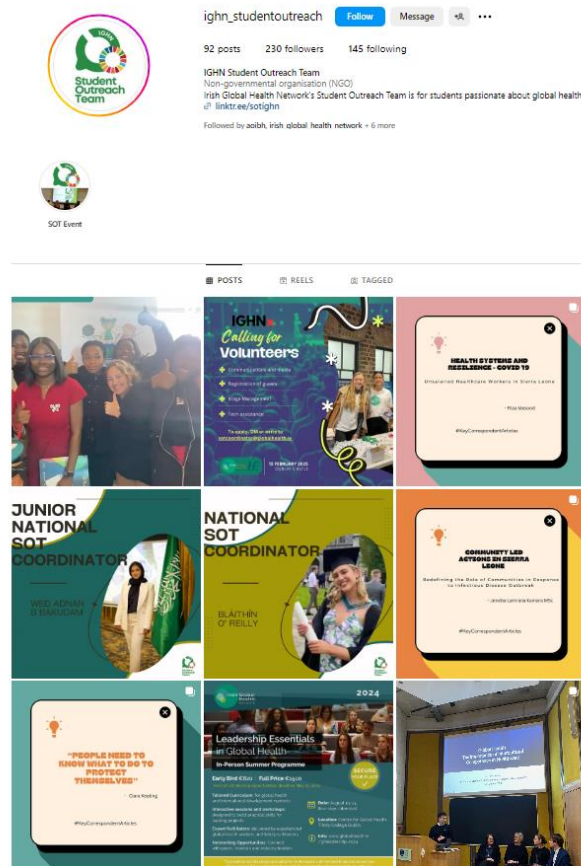
Partners

The SOT work closely with a wide range of academic and NGO partners inside and outside of Ireland co-hosting events and producing publications. These include RCSI, Global Youth Mobilization, Access to Medicines Ireland, Association of Medical Students Ireland, Goal NextGen, STAND, and Concern.

SOT Activities and Events 2024

To establish and maintain a nationwide presence, the Student Outreach Team (SOT) continues to utilise its dedicated Instagram account. This initiative is designed to engage effectively with young individuals on social media, recognising Instagram's high levels of youth involvement. The account remains a hub for curating and promoting content related to global health and international development. Additionally, it serves as a platform for sharing information, events, and resources specifically tailored for university students and young professionals. The management of this account is overseen by IGHN’s SOT intern.

In addition to the dedicated Instagram page, the SOT leverages the primary IGHN social media channels and newsletter to amplify its voice. These platforms play a crucial role in publicising and promoting



SOT-related content, with a particular focus on the events and podcasts organised by the Student Outreach Team.

October 1st: Pre-Conference Event



The SOT organised a pre-conference event in October with the theme “*Voices for Equity: Sparking Global Health Activism in the Next Generation*”, aimed at engaging young professionals and university students in discussions surrounding global health and the importance of advocating for global health equity. The event began with a Global Health Art Workshop, in which students were encouraged to draw, paint, or write anything that came to mind when they thought of global health. This was followed by a discussion about the artwork, poetry and stories they had produced. Following a short break, the

SOT regrouped for the speaker sessions. The group listened to inspiring talks from Eunice Phillip, Augusta Zuokemefa, Tejaswy Swathi Kovuri and Maya Tsapayi. Lastly the SOT pre-conference concluded with a networking session which was catered by KC peaches. This event provided a platform for the SOT to explore critical global health topics, meet and network with other SOT members as well as experts in the field, setting the stage for the main Irish Global Health Network Conference.



Attendees: 35

October 2nd-3rd - Contributions to the Irish Global Health Network Conference 2024



The SOT actively contributed to the Irish Global Health Network Conference 2024, themed *Fostering Humanity: Promoting Health Equity for a Better Planet*. Held at RCSI, the conference saw significant involvement from the SOT:

- **Volunteering:** Members of the SOT team provided invaluable support by volunteering at the conference, ensuring smooth execution of various sessions and activities.
- **Co-Moderating Parallel Sessions:** SOT members co-moderated talks during the parallel sessions. Each SOT member interested in co-moderating a session was paired with a later career professional, giving them the opportunity to learn moderating skills and network with global health professionals.
- **Art Display:** Artwork and poetry generated during the pre-conference event was showcased at the conference, providing

a creative perspective on global health themes and contributing to the conference's vibrant atmosphere.



Trinity College Dublin Events

March 6th: General Practice and Global Health

The SOT organised an event at Trinity College Dublin titled *General Practice and Global Health: Enabling Physician Involvement by Strengthening the Doctor-Patient Relationship*. This event featured insightful talks from esteemed speakers, including Dr Bridget Kiely, Dr Éimhín Ansboro, Dr Helen Kelly, and Dr Ralph O'Dwyer. The discussions emphasised the importance of fostering strong doctor-patient relationships to enable meaningful contributions to global health initiatives.

Attendees: 25



University of Galway Events



February 8th: Global Health Call to Action

Led by Elyse Guttier and Eunice Phillip, this talk emphasised the importance of taking action in global health. The event encouraged participants to engage with global health initiatives and highlighted practical ways to make an impact.

Attendees: 15

March 4th: International Perspectives on Reproductive Rights at University of Galway FemFest

As part of the University of Galway FemFest event, the SOT facilitated discussions on reproductive rights, featuring diverse speakers and case studies. These discussions

provided valuable insights into global perspectives on reproductive health as well as challenges faced.

Attendees: 25

March 12th: Addressing Substance Use – Understanding the Role of Harm Reduction



This engaging talk, led by PhD student Margaret Hester, explored harm reduction strategies in addressing substance use. Attendees also enjoyed free pizza, making it a popular and informative event!

Attendees: 15

October 9th: Global Health Movie Night

The SOT hosted a Global Health Movie Night, bringing together students from the University of Galway together



to watch “Bending the Arc”, a movie about Paul Farmer and the story about his work with Partners in Health and their global movement for health justice.

Attendees: 11

October 23rd: Bake sale for Breast Cancer Research

In collaboration with the Women in Medicine Society, the SOT organised a bake sale to support breast cancer research. This event raised €500 for the National Breast Cancer Research Institute!

Bakers: 6



Strategic Area 3: Ensuring an efficient, effective and resourced network

Area 3 focuses on how we use our small central staff and limited resources to wisely create the greatest value for our members and funders.

To achieve this goal, we worked as effectively and efficiently as possible to build and strengthen our internal governance and external networks.

Governance

1. In 2024, the IGHN Board convened for a total of four meetings, each one including a review of the risk register.
2. A couple of noteworthy changes to the Board Composition occurred during the year;
 - a. In April 2024, Sadhbh Lee resigned from her position as Board member.
 - b. In September 2024, Rosemary James resigned from her position as a Board member.
 - c. In November 2024, Christian Acemah, David Weakliam, and Mary Keogh joined as Board members.
 - d. In September 2024, Khalifa Elmusharaf was re-elected as a Chairperson of the Board.

Two Finance Sub-committee meetings were held throughout 2024 (February and April), with ad hoc meetings between Secretariat and finance-sub committee members as needed. The finance committee meetings focused on funding and financial management. The meetings of the finance sub-committee in 2024 focused on the following issues:

- Budget for the year 2024, fundraising strategies for 2024, and workplan for the year 2024.
- Staffing costs for the year 2024 with updates on changes during the year.
- Financial statements for annual audit report for the year 2023.
- Updates on funding from Irish Aid.
- Updates on operations expenses during the year.

Of note, our Finance and Administrative Officer was on sick leave and then resigned during Q2 and Q3 in 2024.

IGHN Secretariat

- Nadine Ferris France continued in her role as Executive Director in 2024.
- Maisie Jones progressed from Programme and Communications Officer to Network and Communications Programme Lead in 2024.
- Caragh Munn continued in her role as ESTHER Ireland Coordinator, which was renamed to IGHN Partnerships Programme Lead in 2024.
- Joan Bolger continued in her role as Training and Learning Lead in 2024.
- Violeta Prenga resigned as Finance and Administrative Officer in September 2024.
- Dawn Parkinson took up the position of Finance and Administrative Officer in November 2024.
- Eunice Phillip continued as Co-Coordinator of the Student Outreach Team in 2024, and in July 2024 Bláithín O'Reilly took up the post of Co-Coordinator of the Student Outreach Team supported by Junior Coordinator Wed Bakudam and SOT interns.

IGHN Interns

- Manasvini Moni September 2023 – February 2024
- Elaine Sly March 2024 – June 2024
- Tobi Olukoya March 2024 – August 2024
- Gabriel Oke March 2024 – October 2024
- Ivana Hussu May 2024 – Present
- Perpetua Loochi November 2024 – January 2025
- Shruti Vinod November 2024 – Present
- Arwa Hany Sharaby November 2024 – Present

Fundraising

In addition to the Training initiatives outlined above, IGHN focused on better understanding and developing partnerships for EU grants. One grant, the CERV EU grant was unfortunately unsuccessful but did receive a commendable score of 74, scoring above the 70-point threshold for a successful award.

Grant Applications

Building on the expertise gained through the CERV application, additional EU grant applications were initiated for submission in early 2025 by IGHN. The process of developing these applications has provided valuable learning opportunities, building the expertise of the IGHN Training Unit to successfully secure future grants. While the workload has been significant, the experience gained will strengthen IGHN's capacity to diversify funding sources, foster innovation, and broaden the scope for establishing new partnerships. The applications for early submission to the EU in 2025 include the European Union – Erasmus + Cooperation Partnership Grant and the EU4Health Programme which focus on celebrating women's leadership in global health.

A dedicated fundraising capacity in 2025 will strengthen efforts further.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Secretariat worked with an external consultant during 2024 to review the IGHN Theory of Change and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and resulted in a new Theory of Change and Framework. Following the review by an Irish Aid Consultant, further changes will be made to the M&E tools in 2025.

Strategic Partnerships



We are immensely grateful for our network of partners, who work with us to co-host events, workshops, online campaigns, advocacy initiatives and webinars. Our partners are also invited to speak at the conferences, panels, and the workshops we organise.

2024 was a big year for partnerships in IGHN, and this year saw an increase in strategic collaboration across partners in global health. Following in the footsteps of our 2022 conference, in 2024 we invited a huge variety of organisations to partner with us for the bi-annual IGHN conference, as well as for some smaller events, such as the Conflict and Health webinar series and film screenings. Throughout the year we had a total of 21 partners and co-hosts.

IGHN continues to seek collaboration with government, NGOs, academia, and the UN, and we plan to make a concerted effort to continue to partner with global health organisations in Ireland in 2025.

Trinity Centre for Global Health: The Centre for Global Health (CGH) in Trinity College are a multidisciplinary team of individuals who share the common goal of strengthening health systems to ensure that every individual has access to quality healthcare. IGHN have solidified our long-standing partnership with the Trinity Centre for Global Health, who are now kindly hosting IGHN in their offices, and at the end of 2023 we signed a new 2-year MoU to continue this arrangement. This is a strategic partnership aligned around the goals of promoting global health teaching and learning across the Island of Ireland and in low- and middle-income countries. We are grateful for the support of the Trinity Centre for Global Health, and we look forward to continuing our relationship.

HSE Global Health Team: The HSE Global Health Programme remains an important partner to the IGHN with an annual MoU signed supporting the ongoing bi-directional collaboration. The HSE Global Health Programme partnered with us on our 2024 Conference and are co-hosting our next IGHNx event planned for early 2025.

Women in Global Health: Women in Global Health Ireland (WGHI) is a group of individuals who represent academia, private sector, and non-governmental organisations. The IGHN has facilitated the online presence of this group by developing a dedicated web portal on the globalhealth.ie website. WGHI partnered with us on our 2024 Conference and we co-hosted a film screening with them in 2024.

Irish Doctors for the Environment: 2024 saw the deepening of an already established strategic partnership with the Irish Doctors for the Environment (IDE) as they signed up to our incubator programme. We provided support throughout 2023 and 2024 in the form of amplification of their events through our newsletter and social media channels. The IGHN has also facilitated the online presence of this group by developing a dedicated web portal on the globalhealth.ie website.

Network of Networks

2024 saw the continuation of strategic collaboration of the Dóchas, Comhlámh, and IDEA networks in which the sharing of information and resources and coordination of mutual events and activities were further amplified and reinforced during the year. One such example includes the partnering with Comhlámh on our Conflict and Health webinar series and the IGHN 2024 Conference event.

Campaign Partners

Access to Medicines Ireland: Our ongoing involvement in the advocacy and campaign group led to strategic collaborations throughout 2024, both in terms of our events hosting, our media outreach support for conferences and events, and as signatories and voice multipliers for the different campaigns active throughout 2024, such as the IGHN 2024 Conference.

HEAL: IGHN continued to be a member of HEAL in 2024. HEAL is a European not for profit organisation addressing how the natural and built environments affect health in the European Union. HEAL's vision is essentially about achieving better health through a better environment. Board member Sadhbh Lee is the primary link to HEAL. The key focus areas the IGHN will engage in are: 1. Environment and Health Policy; 2. Children's Environment and Health; 3. Climate Change and 4. Air Quality.

Financials

APPROVED BUDGET 2024			Actual	Actual	Actual
Description	Source of Income	Income FY24 predicted	Income	Expend	Variance
1- IGHN Programme	Irish Aid	€ 100,000.00	100,000.00	95,349.31	4,650.69
2- Health Partnerships Programme (ESTHER)	Irish Aid	€ 92,000.00	92,000.00	117,276.62	- 25,276.62
4- SOT Debate	Concern	€ 12,000.00	-	149.77	- 149.77
5- FMK	Irish Aid	€ 10,000.00	10,000.00	1,845.00	8,155.00
6-Training Programme	RCPI &HSE	€ 24,000.00	26,209.00	34,126.19	- 7,917.19
6.1 Fundraising activities Summer GH Training Course (Initiative 3)	Fundraising	€ 31,900.00	19,765.89	5,883.29	13,882.60
6.2 Fundraising activities Pre-departure training (Initiative 1)	Fundraising	€ 12,700.00			-
7- IGHN Annual Conference	Fundraising	€ 45,000.00	39,437.54	30,558.41	8,879.13
8-IGHN- SOT Initiative	Fundraising			650.00	- 650.00
9-IGHN Incubator Initiative	Fundraising			215.51	- 215.51
		€ 327,600.00	287,412.43	286,054.10	1,358.33
10- IGHN Small Grants Q4 2024 - For 2025	IGHN Reserve		18,000.00		
In-kind Contribution	Board	€ 65,500.00	€ 65,500.00		
Total		€ 400,100.00	370,912.43	270,354.10	2,716.66

Income Sources	% over total income for FY24	Actual
Irish Aid	52%	54%
Fundraising	22%	16%
Other NGO	9%	7%
IGHN Reserve incl deficits	0%	5%
In-kind contribution	16%	18%
TOTAL	100%	100%

Notes

- The indicated surplus relates to the fact that the annual Father Michael Lecture event did not take place in 2024. Specific Irish Aid funding for the event of €10,000, is currently held in deferred income although there was prior-cancellation expenditure of €1,912, the majority of which it is hoped will be offset against the FMK 2025 event costs.
- Due to resignation of Finance and Administrative Officer mid-year, changes in financial systems could not be applied until 2025.
- In-kind voluntary contributions from IGHN Board members, valued at €57,500 during 2024, continued to be a highly valued resource for IGHN. Giving of their time voluntarily, they collectively contributed 230 hours throughout the year providing support, guidance and oversight, while engaging positively and constructively with all Secretariat personnel. Additionally, the provision of meeting space and office facilities freely given by the Trinity Centre for Global Health, valued at 8,000, remains a highly appreciated resource.

Annex 1: Partnerships that received funding in 2024 through the Small Grants Programme

Sr. No.	Partnership	Band	Area of Work
1	Children's Health Ireland – Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Malawi	Band 1	Paediatric Care
2	College of Psychiatrists Ireland – University of Zambia	Band 1	Mental Health Care
3	Global Brain Health Institute – National Institute of Mental Health Bangladesh	Band 2	Dementia Care
4	Operation Childlife – Their Lives Matter Tanzania	Band 2	Paediatric Care
5	Mayo University Hospital – Londiani Sub Country Hospital	Band 2	Health System Strengthening + Training
6	Children's Health Ireland – Nurture Africa Uganda	Band 2	Neonatal/infant Care
7	Department of Public Health, Limerick – Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital Nepal	Band 2	Tuberculosis Care
8	Edenpark Medical – Standing Voice	Band 2	Skin Cancer Prevention
9	Irish Blood Transfusion Service – Tanzanian National Blood Transfusion Service	Band 3	Blood Transfusion + Infection Prevention
10	Royal College of Physicians Ireland (RCPI) – ECSACOG	Band 3	Maternal Health + Mortality Prevention
11	RCPI – Zambia Colleges of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS) (Equals Initiative)	Band 3	Health Systems Strengthening + Training