DSPD Directory

Global Health Programme
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Background and mission
The Global Health Programme (GHP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (The Graduate Institute) contributes to shaping the interface between foreign policy, economics, development and health. As new trans-border health challenges need to be resolved jointly by countries working together, health is moving further beyond the purely technical realm and is becoming a critical element in foreign policy, security policy and trade agreements. This represents a shift from an approach in which international health is mainly considered in the context of development policy, to one where global health transcends borders and is marked by a sense of collective responsibility for health. The programme aims to analyse the growing links between these fields and a variety of new actors.

The Graduate Institute, where the Global Health Programme is based, is the result of the merger of two academic institutions specializing in international relations and development studies. It offers master’s programmes, which may be specialized (international law, international economics, international history, politics, political science) or interdisciplinary (international affairs, development studies), as well as doctorate programmes. The Graduate Institute also conducts academic research in the areas of trade, conflict, migration and global health, and offers ongoing training designed to fulfil the needs of a wide range of international public and private actors.

The director of the Graduate Institute is Professor Dr Philippe Burrin. The director of the Global Health Programme is Professor Dr Ilona Kickbusch.

How does the Global Health Programme advance social development?

Areas of interest
The Global Health Programme advances social development by focusing on applied research and capacity-building in three key areas: global health diplomacy and governance, the power shift in global health, and the role of Switzerland. It does so by running executive education courses in Geneva and worldwide, master’s courses at The Graduate Institute, by participating in conferences, organizing high-level symposia, conducting research and producing a variety of publications including a case study series on global health. It regularly publishes articles, a working paper series, and a newsletter published every two months. It is also co-editor – along with Scientific Publishers – of a new publication series on global health diplomacy.
With its focus on applied research, the programme aims to influence policy-makers at international level. The venues in which health-related negotiations are held have, in many cases, shifted to the United Nations, making the UN an increasingly important venue for these critical negotiations. The analysis of these shifts places the Global Health Programme in a unique position, offering an outsider’s perspective whilst monitoring these changes.

**Innovation in global health diplomacy and governance**

Global health diplomacy is concerned with the negotiation processes that shape and manage the global policy environment for health and its determinants. These are increasingly being conducted not just by public health experts representing the health ministries of nation states, but also include many other major players, for example, from other ministries, from civil society, from foundations and from the private sector. The Global Health Programme invests in capacity-building in this field by offering short-term executive education courses on this topic. Courses are held annually in Geneva and, out of this, partnerships have emerged for courses in Canada, the USA, China and Kenya. The capacity-building model that the Global Health Programme uses for its courses builds on lessons learnt from the United Nations Development Programme through its ‘capacity development’ model. The approach takes the existing base of capacities as its starting point and supports national efforts to sustain them, taking into consideration priorities determined at national/regional level as well as the desired results.

The global health landscape has changed considerably in recent years: the number of organizations dealing with health issues has increased exponentially and health is no longer dealt with exclusively by governments. Global health governance considers this complex landscape and how it influences the health dialogue. The Global Health Programme is involved in ongoing research projects on this topic, for example, on the role of Asian actors in global health governance and on the coordination mechanisms for global health.

**The power shift in global health**

The power shift in global health considers the role of the emerging economies, regional groupings and foreign policy actors in global health, and, in particular, how these actors are redefining power relations in a multipolar world by forming new types of coalitions and alliances. The Global Health Programme provides a better understanding of the shifting power balance in global health by analysing the growing influence of emerging economies and the powerful role played by foundations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. It organizes annual high-level symposia, ‘Negotiating Health in the 21st Century’, on a variety of topics such as the power shift in global health and regional voices in global health governance. The ideas generated in these symposia generally result in a series of publications.

**The role of Switzerland in global health governance**

The programme continues to consider the significant role that Switzerland has played and continues to play in global health. It works in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health on a variety of projects as well as with a range of other actors present in the Geneva area – including the Global Forum for Health Research and the Geneva Health Forum. In order to highlight the significance of Geneva as the ‘global health capital of the world’, a Directory of Geneva Global
Health Actors was published in May 2009. The directory lists 85 actors actively involved in global health in Geneva. It is a practical reference guide and aims to foster cooperation and facilitate networking among the different global health stakeholders.

Why does the Global Health Programme value its partnership with the United Nations?

Partnerships
The programme builds partnerships with a wide range of actors at international, regional and national level. It cooperates closely with, among others, the World Health Organization and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health. It is the host institution of the newly founded think tank, Global Health Europe: A Platform for a European Engagement in Global Health.

Global Health Europe aims to create a community that promotes synergy between the policy spheres of public health, foreign policy, development, and research for health in order to improve global health governance. Global Health Europe is unique in linking policy communities that have not yet systematically worked together in order to forcefully advocate for a determined political and financial commitment to global health by European actors, individual countries, groups of countries and European civic and business organizations. At its centre are the many European experts, institutions and organizations of excellence in both health and foreign relations whose knowledge and insight will help drive a strong European global health agenda based on analysis and evidence.

Furthermore, the GHP is a founding member of the Consortium for Global Health Diplomacy (CGHD). CGHD brings together institutes and programmes that work to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the link between global health and foreign policy. The overall aim of the consortium is to act as a catalyst for the development and growth of such centres, institutes and programmes, and networks around the world, in particular in developing countries and emerging economies. It aims to develop and strengthen interdisciplinary research at the interface of global health and foreign policy, education and training in global health diplomacy, as well as advisory services on global health policy development and policy coherence. CGHD is a partnership of 14 institutes and programmes based in Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

Apart from being a founding and active member of these networks, the Global Health Programme sees particular value in its partnership with the World Health Organization as part of the United Nations System. It is in the process of becoming a WHO Collaborating Centre and, as such, is dedicated to advancing the goals and objectives of the United Nations. It continues to work closely with WHO, in particular, with the ethics, trade, human rights and health law unit on trade, foreign policy, diplomacy and health, and looks forward to exploring further opportunities for cooperation within the United Nations.