



THE CANADIAN COALITION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH (CCGHR)
An Overview

The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR or “the Coalition”) is a Canada-based global network of people and institutions committed to ***promoting better and more equitable health worldwide through the production and use of knowledge.***

WHO WE ARE:

We are a charitable, non-profit organization convinced that research is a critical tool in reducing global health inequities. We support our members of whom more than 40% live and work in the developing world. Some of us are academics—researchers, educators and administrators. Some of us lead non-governmental organizations (NGOs): others are based in government agencies. Many of us are students who want to find careers that respond to the world’s inequalities. Connecting us all is our shared vision and passion to use knowledge to improve health and reduce inequities, and the conviction that Canada can better promote, coordinate and support global health research.

We understand “global health research” to mean the production, synthesis and use of knowledge that prioritizes equity and improved well-being for all people worldwide. This includes trans-national health issues and multi-disciplinary collaboration. Global health research informs policy at the local, national and global levels to improve programs, practices and health behaviour.

WHY WE'RE HERE:

- **Global Health Inequities:** Millions of people worldwide do not have access to essential health services. For example, each year 8 million children die needlessly and half a million mothers die unnecessarily during pregnancy;
- **The 'Know-Do' Gap:** Much knowledge about what could make a difference is available, but individuals and institutions in developing countries often do not have access to this information, or lack the capacity to apply this knowledge.
- **The '10/90' Gap:** According to the Global Forum for Health Research, only 10% of the world's health research funding goes towards addressing the most pressing health issues affecting the poorest 90% of the world's population.
- **Limited Linkages between Researchers and Policymakers:** There are few incentives for individual researchers to connect their knowledge with larger processes. Researchers often believe that their work is finished when it is published. Similarly, policymakers often do not seek out existing knowledge that may be of critical value to their policies.
- **Lack of Capacities:** Capacities to produce and use health knowledge, at the individual, institutional and system levels in developing countries, are weak.
- **Need for greater coordination amongst Canadians:** Canada has tremendous and unique expertise and resources to address these issues, but Canadian efforts are often fragmented. Our collective understanding about how to collaborate more effectively, including with developing country partners, is limited.

WHAT WE DO:

Our work is organized into three program areas:

1. Capacity development:

Here we concentrate on strengthening the knowledge and skills of individuals, institutions and “systems” to produce, synthesize and use global health research. Programs under this area include our well-regarded Coalition Institutes, a series of global health research Forums, and a Country Partnerships Program, in which we work with partners in Cameroon, Central America, Mongolia, Zambia and elsewhere to strengthen research capacities. This special initiative features an innovative, globally-relevant approach to strengthening knowledge-based national health systems through country-specific partnerships. New activities under development in this program area include mentorship and leadership programs for global health research.

2. Policy influence:

This program aims to create greater support for global health research by influencing institutional, national and global policies. With the aim of improving and promoting Canada’s role in global health research, this program area focuses on the emerging field of knowledge translation, and pioneers techniques of bringing producers and users of research together. The program also works to share results with audiences in Canada and beyond.

3. Networking:

The Coalition’s membership—both individual and institutional—is the primary vehicle for driving our spirit of innovation and learning. This program provides incentives to ensure dynamic network participation among members using innovative information and communication methods. We also aim to promote effective, respectful and sustainable “South-Canada” research partnerships to address and solve problems that affect us all.

LOOKING AHEAD:

In 2009 we undertook a comprehensive review and developed a 5-year strategic plan (2010 – 2014). During this five-year period we aim to contribute to reduced health inequities through:

- strengthening the abilities of a new cadre of global health researchers and leaders in both Canada and the global South;
- developing strong and sustainable partnerships and research collaborations involving Canadians and developing country partners;
- demonstrating success in raising awareness and influencing policies that support the production, synthesis and use of knowledge to solve important global health problems;
- supporting a strong and dynamic network of members better able to plan, produce, synthesize and use policy-relevant and equity-oriented knowledge;
- continually monitoring and evaluating (M&E) our work and, “learning by doing”, using this learning to adjust programming and enhance our performance and contributions, in partnership with like-minded institutions and organizations around the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit us at: www.ccghr.ca

Or contact us by phone at (819) 459-2494

Or write to us at 569 ch Riverside, Wakefield, QC J0X 3G0 or by e-mail: ccghr@ccghr.ca

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Capacity Development Program Area Co-Chairs

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Institutional Members

Currently the following universities are CCGHR institutional members (listed from west to east):

- University of Victoria
- University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University
- University of Calgary
- University of Alberta
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Manitoba
- Western University
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- University of Waterloo
- University of Guelph
- McMaster University
- York University
- Ryerson University
- University of Toronto
- Brock University
- Queen’s University
- University of Ottawa
- Carleton University
- McGill University
- Dalhousie University
- Memorial University