



## Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research

Strategic Plan: 2020 to 2024

Think Globally, Act Locally & Globally

### I. Background

Founded in 2003, the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) is a knowledge network promoting equity in health worldwide. We are a member-based, not-for-profit organization representing global health students, researchers and practitioners at institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across Canada and globally.

We envision a network of Canadian researchers and global partners working collectively to improve the health of populations globally. This is accomplished through fostering Canadian leadership, advocacy for global health research, strengthening capacity, networking and facilitating harmonized, effective, sustainable and equitable partnerships.

### II. Vision, Mission and Values

**Vision:** Promoting better and more equitable health worldwide through the production and use of knowledge.

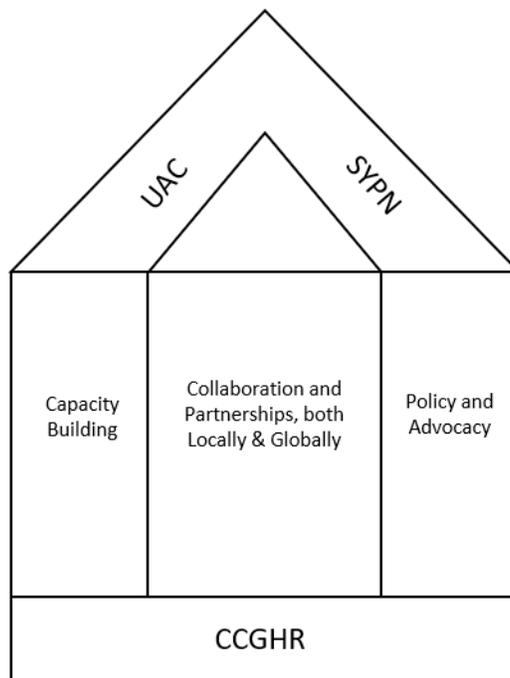
**Mission:** To promote global health research as a model and a driver of collaboration, partnership and equity in the creation, co-production and translation of knowledge for evidence-informed decision-making and improved health and well-being globally.

**Values:**

- **Equity:** We are dedicated to reducing disparities, redistributing social, political and economic resources, and increasing individual and collective choice.
- **Inclusiveness:** We value knowledge as a collective product that involves all levels of expertise including lived experience.
- **Learning:** We are committed to the principles of “evaluative thinking,” seeking to understand, document and review our performance to continually improve.
- **Sustainable solutions:** We work towards achieving balanced, harmonized engagement leading to sustainable results.

- Local leadership: We strive to strengthen national health research systems at home and globally as well as invest in leaders who can push for knowledge informed decision making.
- Gender equality: We believe that understanding and integrating gender equality issues in all aspects of our work is essential to our broader goals of reducing disparity.
- Mentorship: We believe in supporting and building the capacity of students and young professionals in global health across the globe through a variety of integrated resources.
- Planetary health: We believe that human health is intimately connected to the health of the planet in its broadest sense.

### III. CCGHR Programs



*Figure 1 - The 5 programs of the CCGHR*

*CCGHR: Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research*

*SYPN: Students and Young Professionals Network*

*UAC: University Advisory Council*

**Capacity Building Program:** The Coalition will work actively to develop capacities to support relevant equity-oriented research and its effective use, helping to reduce the “know-do gap.” We will focus on activities that support individual skill building and institutional research capacity. A high priority focus will be placed on activities that strengthen the capacity to document the health impacts and mitigation strategies to deal with the climate crisis.

**Goals:**

- Maintain and strengthen online and in-person resources in support of global health research and training.
- Support emerging global health research networks in resource challenged settings.
- Support regional global health networks in Canada.

**Indicators of success:**

- # of capacity building activities held and # reached through
  - Coalition institutes
  - Webinars
  - Workshops
  - Conferences
- Capacity building resources developed and on the CCGHR website.
- # of new capacity building collaborations or partnerships established.
- # and expanded the reach of Coalition Institutes held.
- The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) — Active participation in CARTA programs through provision of reviewers for each request, participation of CCGHR SYP members in CARTA Post Graduate Workshop, successful admission of at least two CARTA fellows into post doc programs or courses at Canadian institutions, and continued participation in CARTA partnership meetings.
- Collaborations with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), CARTA, the Canadian Institute For Advanced Research (CIFAR), the African Forum for Research and Education in Health (AFREhealth) and other organizations with similar values through participation in committees and working groups, forums, attendance at conference, and participation in mutually agreed global health collaborative events.

***Collaboration and Partnerships Program:*** Collaboration and partnerships are key components for effective and sustainable organizational performance in the field of global health research. Over the past decade CCGHR has developed strong and sustainable country research partnerships upon which this program can build and expand within Canada and globally.

**Goals:**

- Apply and disseminate relevant available evidence regarding effective and sustainable collaborations and partnerships.
- To contribute to the development of relevant tools and systems, and to promote their dissemination and use, including the *Harmonized Health Impact & Partnership Metrics to Accelerate Knowledge Sharing and Utilization Project*.
- To continue to strengthen the current “Country-Canada” Research Partnerships (with Zambia, Tanzania, Ghana), as well as explore opportunities to include other countries and to broaden and diversify CCGHR membership participation.

- To include research and action projects focused on the health impacts of the climate crisis, within the portfolio of partnership activities.
- To strengthen mutual beneficial and productive collaborations with like-minded organizations in Canada and globally.

**Indicators of success:**

- The CCGHR will be seen as a productive contributor to partnership scholarship, including continued development of its partnership appraisal tool.
- Stronger and independently sustainable national health research systems in our partner countries, including evidence of a positive contribution by Canadian partners.
- Research and action reports (including scientific publications) by partnership teams on locally relevant issues.
- The CCGHR will be recognized as a reliable, productive and desirable organizational partner in the field of global health research.

***Policy and Advocacy Program:*** The Coalition will engage with key decision-makers and the public to raise awareness about Canada’s leadership in global health, both locally and globally, and on the importance of research in the field. Our aim is to promote strategic, equity-centered, and evidence-informed investments in global health research. The Coalition is committed to advocacy on climate crisis (or health impacts of the climate crisis) as a "cross-cutting" challenge with activities appearing in all components of the strategic plan.

**Goals:**

- Successful advocacy for increased support of global health research from Canadian funding agencies.
- Advocate for increased support to health research networks globally.
- Successful knowledge translation activities to support policy change.
- Support research focused on the health impacts of the climate crisis.

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased levels of funding by Canadian funding agencies in support of global health research.
- Participation in key policy engagement events including national and international global health meetings and conferences.
- Active support of knowledge translation activities to CCGHR members and partners.

**IV. Students and Young Professionals Network (SYPN)**

Approximately 50% of the CCGHR’s membership is made up of students and young professional members. The Students and Young Professionals Network was established in 2014

to create a platform for engagement and mentorship among students and early career global health professionals. The SYPN is managed by the SYPN Coordinator and a volunteer team of SYP executives who organize professional development services, student chapter support, annual events, and learning opportunities. The SYPN endeavors to be responsive to global health challenges and incorporate activities that address the health impacts of the climate crisis and other pertinent issues in global health research and practice.

**Goals:**

- Serve as the principal platform for skills development, network expansion, mentorship and capacity-building for Canadian SYPs interested in global health research and practice.
- Provide innovative and unique services and supports to SYPs at any stage of their global health career and respond to any challenges.
- Support SYPs volunteering with the Coalition including SYPN executives, board members, and university chapters.
- Mobilize SYPs towards action on the health impacts of the climate crisis & other relevant or timely issues including, but not limited to professional development, representation of SYPs in national fora, consultations & discussions, and work in partnerships with local, national or global groups (e.g.: the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH), CCGHR Committees, etc.) to respond to such issues.

**Indicators of success:**

- Membership renewals and number of new memberships per year, including data on:
  - Geographic range
  - Demographics
- Quantitative and qualitative feedback from SYPs about satisfaction with services and supports offered.
- Number of applicants to annual CCGH SYP bursary.
- New partnerships with local, national or global groups responding to pertinent issues.
- Attendance of SYPs for webinar series and Coalition Institutes.
- Number of political advocacy training sessions (i.e. webinar, conference workshop, or student chapter activity).
- Activity of university student chapters measured through: number of new student chapters, membership outcomes, success of chapter's engagement with student body via workshops, speakers, or advocacy campaigns, etc.
- Engagement with climate crisis during student chapter activities, annual student forum, GHSYPS, and/or Coalition Institutes, presented in the form of theme, workshops, speakers, and on social media.

## **V. University Advisory Council (UAC)**

The University Advisory Council was launched in 2010 to foster greater collaboration and coordination among Canadian universities that are CCGHR institutional members, serving as a platform to move the global health research agenda forward nationally. Representatives from our 25+ member universities connect virtually on a quarterly basis and meet in person once a year. Together, they participate in issue-based working groups to discuss common interests, challenges and future goals. The UAC has committed to an evaluation process to be undertaken in 2019 to assess the role and impact of UAC liaison representatives at each member university in order to enhance the effectiveness of individuals, the UAC, and the CCGHR.

### **Goals:**

- Develop a research agenda for scaling up the CCGHR Principles for Global Health Research.
- Support integration of the CCGHR Principles for Global Health Research at institutional levels (e.g., university administration, curriculum design/competency mapping,), including the development of tools to support scale-up.
- Foster synergies in global health research across institutions, with a focus on leveraging collective voices and resources for setting standards of education, practice, and policy for global health research.
- Provide guidance on issues of governance for global health research within the broad landscape of health research systems, including universities, colleges, funding agencies, and research ethics boards.
- Nurture the next generation of global health research leadership.

### **Indicators of success:**

- Completion of institutional profiles by liaison members.
- Completion of key informant interviews with liaison members, with analysis and recommendations.
- Delivery of Coalition Institutes (# participants, event evaluations, documentation of post-event outcomes).
- Demonstration of growth in research harmonization efforts through reports from country “hubs”.
- Establishment of a working group on Curriculum and competencies.
- # trainees involved in carrying out projects emerging from UAC.

## Appendices

### Planned Activities

#### Capacity Building Program:

- Continued engagement with individual members, notably around the annual Canadian Conference on Global Health and through regional workshops and Coalition Institutes.
- Leverage the networks of Canadian global health researchers by working with researchers and networks within countries to promote harmonization and collaboration.
- Ongoing guidance on building equitable and sustainable partnerships for global health research.
- Leveraging women-to-women mentoring.
- Supporting research and collaboration to address climate issues in both local sites and more broadly.
- Supporting and facilitating the activities of CARTA through recruiting Canadian mentors, peer reviewers and other requests as needed and supporting opportunities for CARTA fellows to apply for post docs and courses in CCGHR member institutions.
- Actively collaborating with other partner organizations including CUGH, CARTA, CIFAR, AFREhealth and others.
- Continued development of resources that support research capacity, its conduct and equitable partnerships.
- On-going interaction with our membership to gauge effectiveness of programming as well as emerging needs.
- Responding to new opportunities to support members, developing appropriate resources and working proactively with partners to anticipate needs and share resources.

#### Collaboration and partnerships Program:

- Ongoing assessment of the available and relevant scholarship on collaborations and partnerships.
- Strengthen the on-going country partnerships program.
- Engage in intentional collaborations with like-minded organizations and networks within Canada and globally.
- Partner with organizations advocating for action on the health impacts of the climate crisis.
- To evaluate lessons learned to date and document this experience in the form of accessible reports and scientific publications.

#### Policy and Advocacy Program:

- Organizing and participating in key policy engagement activities in order to bring together global health researchers and policy actors in Canada and globally.

- Facilitating capacity-building for knowledge translation, including tools and practice opportunities to influence policy and funding for global health research.
- Promoting global health research within funding agencies, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Grand Challenges Canada (GCC).
- Ensuring effective collaboration with the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH).

### **Students and Young Professionals Network:**

- Coordination of events, such as annual summits and regional and national conferences.
- Sharing knowledge and opportunities to engage with relevant global health issues through SYPN platforms, including on health impacts of the climate crisis.
- Guidance and coordination of university-led Student Chapters.
- Representing students and young professionals in all CCGHR committees, activities, and national fora.
- Participating in the Working Group on Climate Change and Health (WGCCH) webinar series.
- Engaging in peer-to-peer mentorship.
- Offering professional capacity-building opportunities including professional application services, Coalition Institutes, conference bursaries, and political advocacy training.

### **University Advisory Council:**

- Support for planning and delivery of training based on core CCGHR resources (e.g., Coalition institutes and communities of practice based on CCGHR Principles for Global Health Research).
- Prepare proposals to fund a process of engagement to develop a research agenda for scaling up the CCGHR Principles for Global Health Research.
- Provide a platform for sharing recommendations for curriculum that aligns with established competencies global health research.
- Create networking opportunities for transdisciplinary research.
- Stimulate exchange among UAC liaisons about issues of governance and policy relevant to global health research (e.g., grant administration policies, research ethics review policies, internationalization policies and strategies).
- Foster research harmonization in Canada through information sharing about projects where there is potential for value-added coordination and collaboration.
- Support bilateral research partnerships are created for harmonization of Canadian contributions and different universities serve as maintenance “hubs”, in collaboration with Country Partnerships Programs.
- Support for planning and delivery of training based on core CCGHR resources (e.g., Coalition institutes based on CCGHR Principles for Global Health Research).
- Provide a platform for sharing recommendations for curriculum that aligns with established competencies global health research.
- Create networking opportunities for transdisciplinary research.

- Stimulate exchange among UAC liaisons about issues of governance and policy relevant to global health research (e.g., grant administration policies, research ethics review policies, internationalization policies and strategies).
- Foster research harmonization in Canada through information sharing about projects where there is potential for value-added coordination and collaboration.
- Support bilateral research partnerships are created for harmonization of Canadian contributions and different universities serve as maintenance “hubs”.
- Lead dialogue and consultation relevant to supporting institutional uptake of core CCGHR resources (e.g., CCGHR Principles for Global Health Research, CCGHR Partnership Assessment tool, KT Curriculum).