



Working group ‘Researchers in Global Health - Policies and Systems’

Terms of Reference (ToR) December 2022

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them” - Albert Einstein

Introduction

Be-Cause Health (BcH) is the Belgian Platform for International Health. It is composed of institutions and individuals working at the confluence of international health and development cooperation. It functions and produces results mainly through the following activities: annual general assembly, annual seminar and thematic working groups (WGs). The latter are the “working arm” of the platform and enable to lead policy dialogue on key issues.

Global health and its context have evolved radically in the recent decades with globalisation, population growth, and technological evolutions. The working group ‘Researchers in Global Health - Policies and Systems’ aims to provide a forum to consider, apply and integrate emerging approaches to global health research and practice, such as complexity thinking. This approach demands a transdisciplinary way of thinking and acting, and leads to a more comprehensive analysis, understanding and intervention of (global) health challenges. With these approaches our aim is to inspire (young) professionals from different disciplines to understand and address challenging problems in the global health context. Re-thinking global health is our main premise.

Mission and vision

The working group on ‘Researchers in Global Health - Policies and Systems’ (RGH-PS), part of the BcH platform, is an initiative of several Belgian universities and global health professionals in the early stages of their career. The working group hopes to provide a platform for discussion and a community of practice contributing to global health research and practice. The general objective is to bring young professionals together, to share knowledge, to foster interdisciplinary partnerships/work and to facilitate, to consolidate and promote evidence-based research and highlight the importance and relevance of global health topics. Where inclusivity, equality and connectivity are key elements in our approach.

Specific objectives are:

- To provide a community of practice for discussion, exchange and acquisition of new insights.
- To influence policy by e.g., bringing different sectors and actors together.
- To stay informed on developments and create (network) opportunities to collaborate with other experts and international actors.
- To foster learning opportunities amongst experts and researchers through collegial exchange on research, network events and workshops.
- To increase the visibility of the working group by producing policy papers and sharing knowledge and ideas.
- To contribute to more synergy between different actors and agencies within the field of development cooperation.

These objectives are accompanied by corresponding activities such as:

- Organising a working group meeting three times a year where roundtable discussions are held on a certain topic and/or guest speakers are invited and/or participants can present their own work.
- Four times a year, new global health policy and system topics are shared by the working group on social media, website and through a newsletter.
- Each year one seminar will be organised by the working group (e.g., with other different working groups of the platform)
- Establishing a virtual space for information exchange where participants share knowledge and ideas.

Structure and functioning

The working group on RGH-PS will consist of a management team and task forces which are in charge of the organisation of events (e.g., seminar), dissemination and outreach activities. This, together with structural tasks such as the coordination of the working group and the two platforms will be led by young global health professionals from different Belgium universities, from Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia.

Membership

Membership is on a voluntary and individual basis. To reflect the transdisciplinary and -sectoral purpose of the working group, membership is expected to include, but not limited to, current and future global health professionals from different universities, research institutes, government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). However, participants must be a member of BcH and share the vision, values and principles of the platform. They must also actively participate in research or activities related to global health policies and systems.