



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER™
**CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT**



2025 Annual Report



Letter from the CGHAD Team

Friends, colleagues, partners, and members of the global community,

The global health landscape continues to shift in profound ways. Around the world, and here at home, longstanding assumptions about global engagement, international partnerships, and investments in health are being reexamined. In this moment of uncertainty, the UNMC Center for Global Health and Development remains steadfast in its commitment to collaboration, education, and research that advance health equity and strengthen communities across borders.

Over the past year, CGHAD has continued to build momentum despite increasing challenges in the global health funding environment. Changes in national priorities and the loss or restructuring of key funding streams have required adaptability and renewed creativity. In response, we have leaned even more intentionally into partnerships, interdisciplinary collaboration, and student-centered programming. From immersive global learning experiences to sustained research relationships with international partners, our work reflects a belief that global health is not optional; it is essential to understanding and improving health locally and globally.

This annual report highlights the resilience, innovation, and dedication of our students, faculty, and partners. It showcases programs that continue to thrive, relationships that have deepened, and new opportunities that have emerged even in difficult times. As we look ahead, CGHAD is committed to strengthening collaborations, identifying new funding pathways, and preparing the next generation of public health professionals to lead with cultural humility, scientific rigor, and global perspective.

Your engagement and partnership matter now more than ever. We invite you to read on, connect with our work, and explore opportunities to collaborate as we navigate this evolving landscape together. With shared purpose and collective effort, we will continue to advance global health and development at UNMC—today and into the future.

With appreciation and resolve,

The Center for Global Health and Development (CGHAD) Team

Abbie Raikes, Wael ElRayes, and Danielle Thies



Our Team



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About Us

The UNMC College of Public Health's Center for Global Health and Development (CGHAD) is committed to improving the well-being and health of people across different global settings through excellence in science, practice, education, and training. The Center will accomplish its goals by implementing diverse academic and non-academic initiatives that raise awareness of global health issues, facilitate collaborations, and enhance human and institutional capacities to improve public health outcomes.



The Center accomplishes its mission in the related areas of education, research, and outreach through:

- The development of strategic partnerships with governments, academic and research institutions, private sector entities, and international organizations;
- The facilitation of collaborative research projects, which include both student and faculty exchanges; and
- Engagement with various local and international public health stakeholders through innovative programs that inform, educate, and involve local communities, civic leaders, students, and health service delivery workers.



Mission & Vision

To advance global public health knowledge and practices by facilitating transnational partnerships among public health scientists, professionals, and advocates.

To be an internationally recognized center of expertise and training for public health students, scholars, and faculty in global health and development.



Our Goals

1. Create bidirectional exchanges to build expertise in research and training within both the College and our partner institutions
2. Establish UNMC's reputation as a world leader in public health education, research, and practice
3. Create sustainable opportunities for UNMC scholars and students to experience and engage in global health collaboration
4. Expand our portfolio to include more opportunities for robust global health research programs and opportunities
5. Improve the health status of Nebraskans through new programs and research projects addressing global health concerns



Where We Work

The College of Public Health's Center for Global Health and Development is actively fostering partnerships with international institutions to enhance our students' global learning experiences and conduct research in communities, laboratories, and hospitals. These collaborations bolster our connections with people worldwide, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and fostering global connectivity.

Additionally, the Center is dedicated to forging partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders to develop responsive services, products, and technologies. Priority areas include fostering discussions, competitive grants, and synergistic efforts between academia, research, and the public and private sectors to fulfill our mission.





World Health Day

On April 30, 2025, the Center for Global Health and Development hosted its third annual World Health Day, continuing a growing tradition of elevating global health dialogue across the UNMC campus and beyond. At a time when global health systems are experiencing significant transition and uncertainty, the event provided a timely platform for reflection, collaboration, and renewed commitment to advancing health equity worldwide.

Bringing together faculty and students, World Health Day 2025 explored the interconnected nature of local and global health challenges, including emerging priorities, shifting funding landscapes, and the importance of sustained international partnerships. By convening diverse perspectives and fostering thoughtful discussion, the event reinforced a central theme of our work: improving health outcomes requires collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and borders, and strengthens UNMC's role as a hub for global health leadership in Nebraska and beyond.

The agenda featured three virtual speakers whose work exemplifies the reach and relevance of global health:

- Jumana Al-Abduwani, MD, PhD, consultant public health professional and director of international relations and organizations at Oman's Ministry of Health. Dr. Al-Abduwani is also a member of the WHO Advisory Group on Violence Against Children. He addressed "Global Health Diplomacy and the Health and Peace Initiative."
- Carlos Faerron Guzmán, MD, associate professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore and senior advisor to the Planetary Health Alliance at Johns Hopkins University. He also directs the InterAmerican Center for Global Health in Costa Rica. He spoke on the topic of "Planetary Health: Health in the Anthropocene."
- Marcela Carvajal-Suarez, PhD candidate in the UNMC Department of Health Promotion Department and the 2024 Suzanne and Ward Chambers Global Health Fellowship winner, presented on "An exploratory study of health and well-being among livestock workers in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region of Italy."



New Course: CPH 507 Introduction to Global Health

In Summer 2025, the Center for Global Health and Development launched its inaugural Introduction to Global Health course, welcoming an engaged cohort of 10 students. Designed as a 3-credit, fully online asynchronous offering, the course provides a broad and accessible entry point into global health for students across disciplines. Moving forward, it will be offered every other year in rotation with our travel-based course, *Learning Across Borders*, ensuring students have both classroom-based and immersive pathways to engage in global health learning.

The course introduces students to global health through diverse case studies, public health frameworks, and critical global challenges. Topics include global disease burden, maternal and child health, environmental and planetary health, health systems strengthening, ethics and human rights, and the expanding role of technology—including artificial intelligence—in health interventions. Throughout the semester, students examine how historical, political, cultural, and economic contexts shape health outcomes and influence responses across countries and regions.

By emphasizing global perspectives and systems thinking, the course equips students with foundational knowledge and cultural humility essential for engaging in cross-border health work.

Whether students plan to pursue careers locally or internationally, Introduction to Global Health fosters the analytical skills and global awareness necessary to address today's most pressing health challenges in an interconnected world.



Grants

In 2025, amid significant reductions in global health funding opportunities and a highly constrained grant environment, CGHAD successfully submitted five grant proposals to various federal and private agencies totaling **\$8,282,874** in requested funding.

Since the Center's relaunch in 2022, CGHAD has submitted grant proposals totaling **\$25,823,099**, demonstrating the Center's sustained dedication to global health research, education, and international collaboration.

Trainings

- First National Level Capacity Building Program for the Responsible Use of Life Research/Dual-use Research of Concern (DURC), Egypt December 2025 with support from the WHO Main Office, Geneva
 - Participants included 132 scientists, researchers, and professionals from 40 university and research centers.
- Saxony Egypt University from Policy to Actions in Public Health (Egypt) December 2025
 - Participants included 50 students and faculty from different Egyptian universities and colleges



Publications

DiLorenzo MA, LoPiccolo A, **EIRayes W**, et al. Institutional readiness to provide critical care to patients with viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) in the United States after the COVID-19 pandemic. *Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology*. 2025;5(1):e257. doi:10.1017/ash.2025.10167

Dormal, M., **Raikes, A.**, & Charles McCoy, D. (2025). Improving Measurement Efficiency of an Early Education Quality Monitoring Tool for Majority World Countries. *Early Education and Development*, 36(3), 640-662.

EIRayes, Wael, et al. “From National Diversity to Global Synergy: Comparative Lessons and Recommendations for Global Action”. *Journal of Emergency Management*, vol. 23, no. 5, Oct. 2025, pp. 593-11, doi:10.5055/jem.0957.

EIRayes, W., Malik, S., Akesson, B., Mahmood, I., Hafiz, M. G., Aldalaykeh, M., ... & Watanabe-Galloway, S. (2025). Mental health services among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh: perspectives from field service providers. *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*, 21(1), 17-35.

Hansen AC, Badri E, Almalla M, Cheran A, **EIRayes W**, Jacoby T, Mockler D, Massah B, Kushner AL, Denny J and Wild HB (2025). Civilian Sheltering Guidelines for Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas: A Scoping Review. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, 19, e114, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2025.117>

Merchant, A. N., Kaur, R., McCray, G., Cavallera, V., Weber, A., Gladstone, M., ... **Raikes, A.**, ... & Lancaster, G. (2025). Feasibility and acceptability of implementing the Global Scales for Early Development (GSED) package for children 0–3 years across three countries. *Pilot and Feasibility Studies*, 11(1), 1-21.

Thies, D. A., Navarro-Colorado, C., & Khan, A. S. (2025). 38. Till the next pandemic: National preparedness. In D. Fisher (Ed.), *Infectious Disease Emergencies: Preparedness and Response* (1st ed.). NUS Press.



Looking Ahead



Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report and to engage with the work of the Center for Global Health and Development. This past year reaffirmed the importance of global health education, research, and partnerships—even as the landscape in which we work continues to evolve.

As we look toward 2026, CGHAD remains focused on strengthening and sustaining global collaborations, expanding student-centered learning opportunities, and advancing research that addresses shared health challenges across borders. We will continue to seek innovative approaches to partnership-building, diversify funding strategies, and support faculty and students in navigating an increasingly complex global health environment. Our commitment to global engagement is rooted in the understanding that global and local health are deeply interconnected.

We are grateful for the continued support of our colleagues, partners, and friends, and we invite you to remain engaged with us in the year ahead. Through collaboration, shared expertise, and collective resolve, we will continue to advance global health and development at UNMC and prepare future public health leaders to meet the challenges ahead.



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