



STRATEGY 2026 – 2030

Solidarity in action

A strategic vision for health equity

Contents

Context and values	3	Strategic priorities	9
Introduction	3	Pillar 1. Platform and networking	10
Vision, mission and core values	5	Pillar 2. Advocacy	11
Priority areas for 2026–2030	6	Pillar 3. Science	12
Strategic approach	8	Pillar 4. Education	13
		Annex	14

Context and values

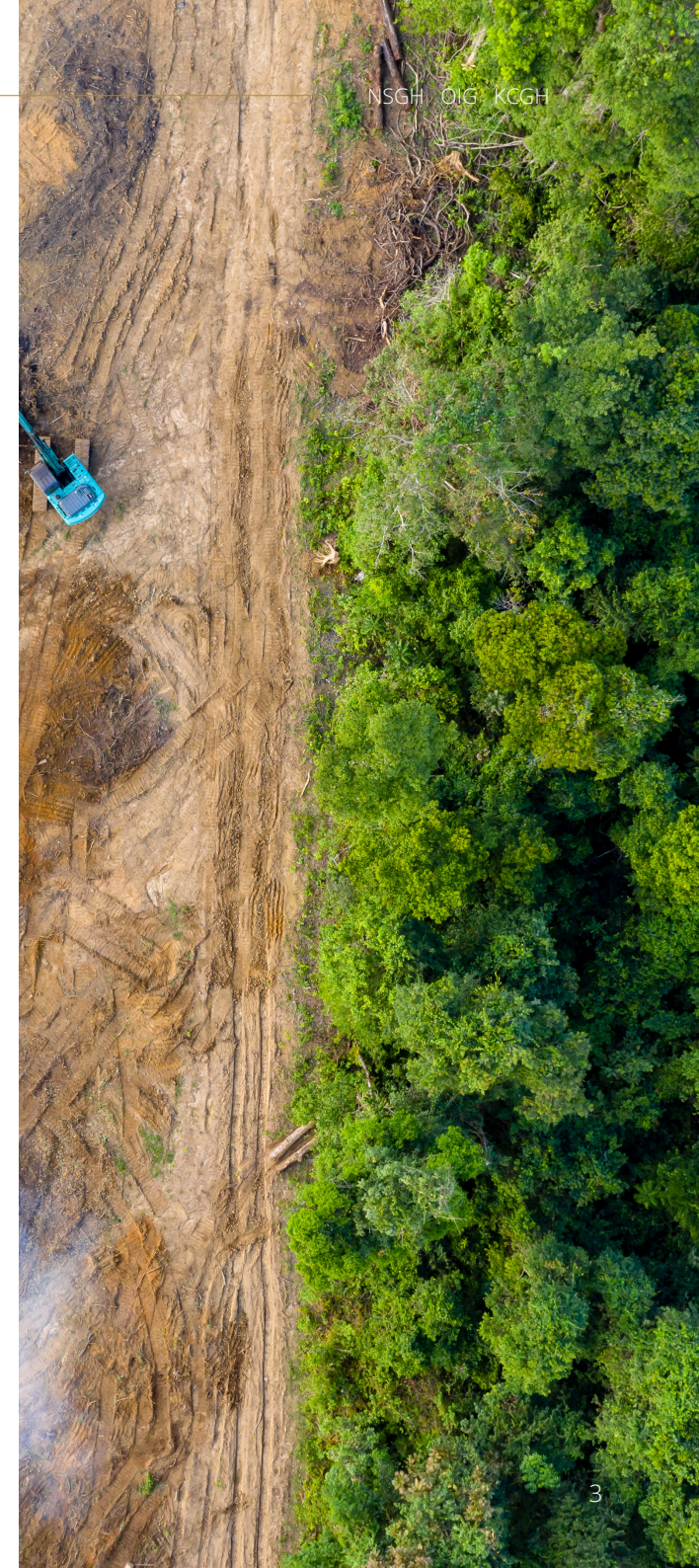
This strategic plan is written at a time when the world faces intersecting crises: armed conflict and displacement, planetary overload and accelerating climate change – each deepening existing inequalities in the social and economic determinants of health. We live in a period of profound geopolitical uncertainty, marked by rising conservatism that threatens long-fought rights, particularly in the domain of sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as an erosion of solidarity and widening divides between rich and poor, both globally and locally.

These global dynamics define the context in which the collaboration between Netherlands' Society for Global Health (NSGH), Training Institute Global Health (OIG) and Knowledge Centre Global Health (KCGH) operates. The field of global health itself is undergoing rapid transformation. Over time, our scope has expanded beyond the biomedical focus on disease and geography to embrace a holistic vision of health, equity and sustainability – one that recognises the interdependence of people, planet and systems. Processes of globalisation, migration and worldwide regulation in areas such as environmental protection, public health, human rights and trade all shape the realities in which we work.

At the same time, environmental change and human activity have accelerated the emergence of new diseases, intensified the effects of climate change, and revealed the fragility of health systems worldwide. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are facing a dual burden: a persistent struggle with infectious and poverty-related diseases, alongside a growing epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Meanwhile, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – driven by global travel, trade, and industrial food systems – represents an escalating threat to global health security. These developments highlight how interconnected epidemiology, health systems and social structures have become.

Within this global context, the Netherlands cannot be viewed in isolation. Its health system, professional landscape and academic institutions are increasingly linked to global health trends. The recognition of the professional profile International Health and Tropical Medicine (IGT) in 2012, the launch of the renewed training programme in 2014 and government support for the training institute since 2016 all reflect the growing national engagement in global health. This commitment was reinforced by



the establishment of the KCGH in 2020 with support from the Ministry of Health (VWS).

Our strategic plan represents both continuity and change. It articulates how, over the next four years, we position ourselves in response to these evolving global challenges – not merely to confront them, but to foster solution-oriented thinking, creative alliances, and equitable partnerships. For the first time in our shared history, we present a joint strategic vision that embodies our common values and ambitions. The process of developing this strategy exemplifies the strength of our collaboration – from joint policy development to coordinated implementation – demonstrating the unity of purpose, diversity of expertise and added value of working together.



Netherlands' Society for Global Health (NSGH)

As the professional association for global health professionals, we organise our activities around the pillars platform, education, research and advocacy. We unite global health professionals in a network and community of practice through our working parties. We strengthen awareness and understanding of global health, and for this, we invest in knowledge transfer through formal and non-formal dissemination of knowledge. We promote and share scientific knowledge and raise our voice wherever human rights and equitable access to care are under threat.



Training Institute Global Health (OIG)

We train medical doctors to become Physicians in Global Health (AIGs). As a training centre, we enhance knowledge and awareness of global health among healthcare professionals. We educate doctors with a focus on health equity, sustainability (planetary health) and are committed to building the capacity of health professionals to become competent, resilient healthcare providers.



Knowledge Centre Global Health (KCGH)

We promote active societal awareness and builds and shares knowledge on global health in the Netherlands. We do this by offering a platform for knowledge exchange through symposia, webinars, and e-learning, and by supporting health professionals, policymakers, politicians and the public in promoting health equity and sustainability (planetary health).

Vision, mission and shared values

VISION

A world in which avoidable and unjust differences in health no longer exist.

MISSION

The three collaborating organisations – NSGH, KCGH and OIG – are committed to achieving health equity and universal access to quality healthcare for all people. This means removing the barriers that prevent individuals – wherever you are and whoever you are – from accessing high-quality care.

SHARED VALUES

Over the past decade, the collaboration between NSGH, OIG and KCGH grew into a modern partnership that is grounded in a joint vision and mission and based on a set of core values that guide our work.

For us, inclusivity is not just a word – it is a principle that shapes our identity. We work with, and bring together, people from many walks of life: doctors and nurses, social scientists and engineers, researchers and community workers – all united by a shared commitment to health equity and universal access to health.

Our work spans the full global health landscape – from tropical and neglected diseases and other disease-specific priorities to public health and health systems strengthening – while taking interdisciplinary approaches to address the broader challenges of climate change, migration and planetary health.

Although we are based in the Netherlands, our outlook is global. We seek to contribute ideas, partnerships and solutions that resonate far beyond our borders.

Through collaboration, research and education (including Continuous Professional Learning activities for healthcare professionals in the Netherlands and abroad), we are committed to health equity and a sustainable future. We speak out when human rights and access to care are at risk – both in the Netherlands and worldwide. Today, the collaboration of NSGH, OIG and KCGH stands as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and action – where diversity strengthens our vision, and where every voice has a place in shaping a healthier, fairer world for all.

SHARED VALUES

Health equity and universal access to health: human rights for all, not only for the privileged

Inclusivity and diversity

Collaboration and partnership based on equality

Solutions thinking coupled with continuous education

Solidarity

Priority areas for 2026–2030

Global health is a vast, multidisciplinary field covering both disease-specific areas and cross-cutting domains such as health equity, planetary health and digital innovation. In setting our strategic priorities for the coming years, we will build on the continued evolution of the focus of our work and our collaboration – bringing together a wide community of global health professionals, including medical and biomedical specialists, social scientists, nurses and paramedics, public health experts, health economists and medical engineers.

This interdisciplinary foundation is central to our agenda of enabling cross-fertilisation and strengthening collaboration between fields. We do this by maintaining our longstanding expertise in infectious diseases and clinical global health, yet also opening up to other disciplines active in the field of global health. The history and the evolution in focus is reflected in the wide array of working groups and their activities that form the backbone of our collaborative work in global health.

In the coming years, we will further advance our expertise and strengthen our professional community by:

- Expanding our role in resilience and health preparedness, aligned with national and international agendas, with increased collaboration with external partners.
- Reinforcing and rejuvenating existing working groups, specifically mental health and tropical infectious diseases.
- Establishing new working groups such as oncology, NCDs, planetary health and medical technology, among others.
- Further strengthening 'migration & health', already firmly embedded in our work through the annual congress and partnerships with third parties.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our strategic priorities are structured along two axes: health and disease-specific themes and cross-cutting approaches. See the [annex](#) for a more detailed overview of our eleven strategic priority areas and approaches.

HEALTH AND DISEASE-SPECIFIC THEMES



Infectious diseases and outbreaks

Preparedness, AMR, One Health, equitable access to vaccines and care



Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and child health

All domains in SRHR, child health and development



Chronic diseases and mental health

Integrated NCD and mental healthcare, prevention, early diagnosis and determinants of health



Specialised clinical care

Ophthalmology, ear, nose and throat (ENT) and dermatology, improving access and quality in all settings



Emergency medicine, surgery and anaesthesia

Acute and surgical care capacity, trauma and peri-operative care, strengthening acute and humanitarian response and crisis-readiness

CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES



Reducing health inequities

Equity in health, addressing migration and health, reconstructing/ decolonising global health, structural determinants in health and gender inequities



Primary Healthcare (PHC) and prevention

Affordable first-line care, health promotion, strong referral and continuity systems



Health systems and policy

Governance, financing, universal health coverage (UHC) and global workforce challenges



Planetary health

Climate and health, biodiversity loss, sustainable healthcare and climate-resilient healthcare/systems



Resilience and health in crisis settings

Health in conflict, disasters and displacement – emergency care, psychosocial support and preparedness



Digital health and innovation

e-Health, mHealth, artificial intelligence (AI) and data, focusing on governance, ethics, equity and access

Strategic approach

As our collaboration continues to grow - in both planning and implementation - we will build on our collective strengths and complementary expertise. The story of NSGH, OIG and KCGH is one of transformation and collaboration. The box to the right summarises our foundations and complementarity, which underlie our strategic approach to addressing global health challenges.



Netherlands' Society for Global Health (NSGH)

NSGH, the former Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health (NVTG), was established in 1907, with a prime focus on tropical medicine and international health and gradually expanded its focus to improving global health worldwide, including also addressing the underlying determinants of health. Our membership is diverse, and besides functioning as a professional association for AIGs, we offer a platform for a wide community of professionals working in global health, such as medical sociologists, biomedical researchers, nurses and policy makers.



Training Institute Global Health (OIG)

With a long history in training medical doctors in the field of global health, in 2012, the government formally mandated OIG to provide the postgraduate training of physicians in global health. The training equips medical doctors with the competencies to work in an international setting, at the crossroads of clinical care and public health, working for disadvantaged populations. The programme includes residencies (in surgery or paediatrics; obstetrics and gynaecology; a low-resource setting); practical training days and the core course in public health and health equity.



Knowledge Centre Global Health (KCGH)

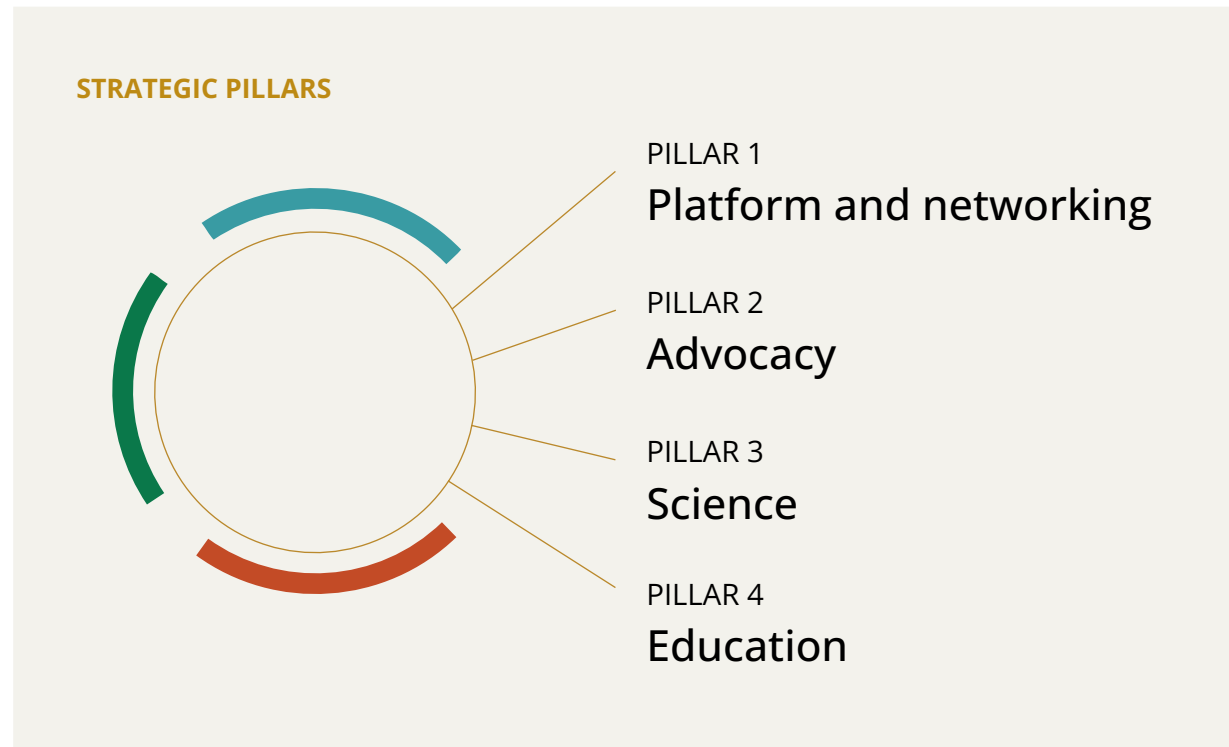
In 2020, KCGH was established with a prime core mandate to stimulate awareness among the general public regarding current issues in global health. For this, the KCGH organises symposia, webinars, e-learning and supports health professionals, policy makers and others in enhancing health equity and planetary health, in the Netherlands and worldwide.

Strategic priorities

This strategic framework sets out the shared priorities and objectives of NSGH, OIG and KCGH.

It is organised around four interconnected pillars: Platform and networking, Advocacy, Science and Education, which together form the foundation of our collaborative agenda.

Depending on the topic, type of activity and required expertise, each organisation will take the lead where most appropriate, ensuring a coordinated, complementary and coherent approach to achieving our shared goals.



Pillar 1 | Platform and networking

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We foster the active exchange of knowledge, experience, and expertise in global health – within our collaboration, with our partners and across the wider public domain.

OBJECTIVES

Enhance visibility of our collaboration including the renewed identity of the NSGH, and promote our shared expertise among global health professionals and the wider public through conferences, round tables, publications and other events.

Strengthen engagement among NSGH members, KCGH affiliates, working groups and AIGs in training through newsletters, the website, social media and regular meetings.

Diversify and expand our membership base by attracting new members, encouraging the establishment of new working groups (e.g. NCDs/ chronic diseases, planetary health), revitalising existing ones (e.g. tropical infectious diseases, mental health) and promoting inclusion across disciplines, backgrounds and regions.



Pillar 2 | Advocacy

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We identify and amplify key global health issues – raising awareness among the public, policymakers, and academics – and drive collective action together with our partners and stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

Implement the strategic plan developed by the newly established Advocacy Commission.

Mobilise expertise of our members, affiliates and trainees in close collaboration with partners to address pressing global health challenges in the public domain.

Engage actively in national and European alliances around relevant topics in global health.

Contribute to policy and political dialogue revitalising existing ones (e.g. Tropical Infectious Diseases, Mental Health) and promoting inclusion across disciplines, backgrounds and regions.

Pillar 3 | Science

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We promote scientific research and the dissemination of knowledge and expertise across all domains of global health.

OBJECTIVES

Implement the scientific agenda developed by the newly established Science Council.

Advocate for the establishment of additional academic chairs in global health or planetary health.

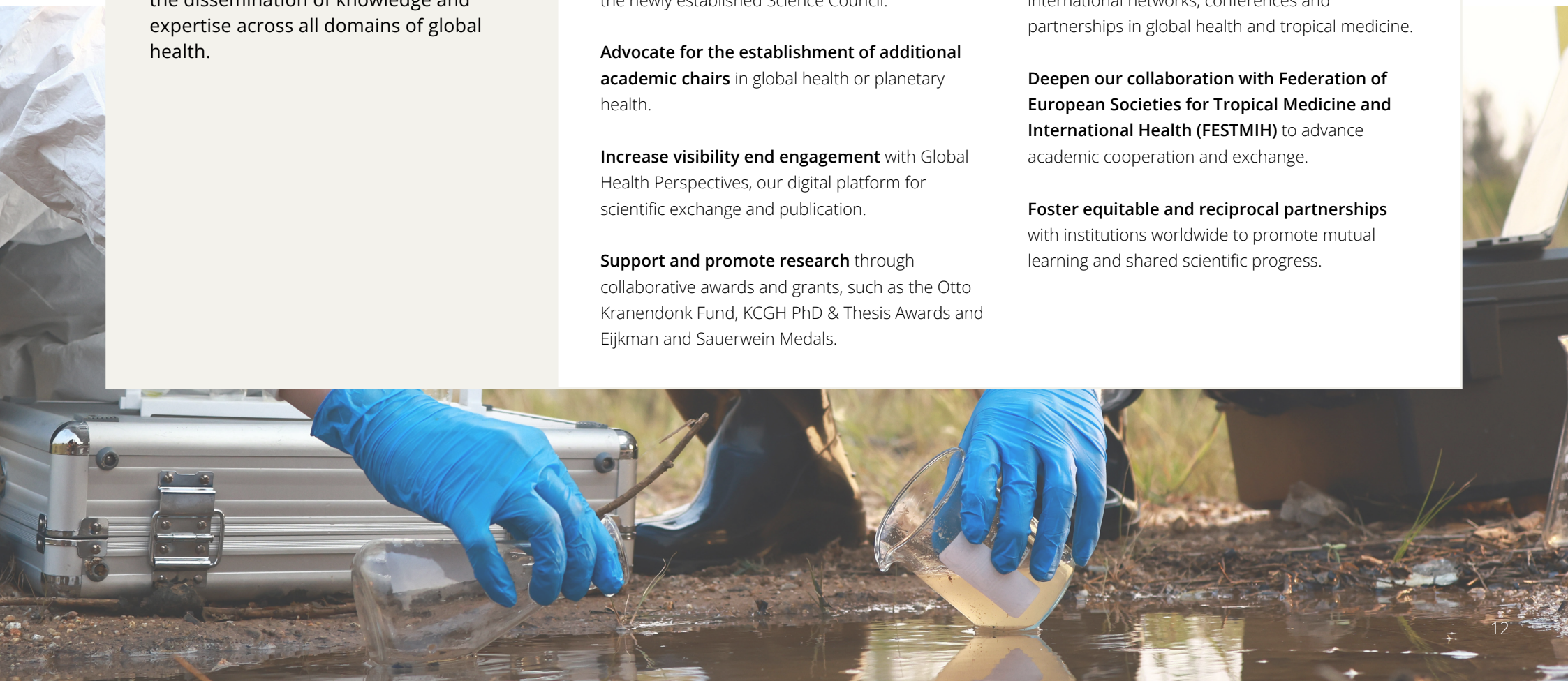
Increase visibility and engagement with Global Health Perspectives, our digital platform for scientific exchange and publication.

Support and promote research through collaborative awards and grants, such as the Otto Kranendonk Fund, KCGH PhD & Thesis Awards and Eijkman and Sauerwein Medals.

Strengthen participation in European and international networks, conferences and partnerships in global health and tropical medicine.

Deepen our collaboration with Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH) to advance academic cooperation and exchange.

Foster equitable and reciprocal partnerships with institutions worldwide to promote mutual learning and shared scientific progress.



Pillar 4 | Education

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Education lies at the heart of our collaboration. OIG serves as the institute responsible for training AIGs. As the founding organisation, NSGH safeguards the academic quality, societal relevance and future-readiness of the programme. KCGH acts as a knowledge intermediary, disseminating expertise and fostering a positive environment for global health education more broadly.

OBJECTIVES

Monitor, strengthen and innovate the quality, sustainability and relevance of the AIG training programme through continuous evaluation and research.

Build and sustain academic partnerships with professors, lecturers and researchers nationally and internationally to advance education and capacity building in global health.

Actively involve working groups and collaborate with peer institutions and NGOs to ensure that education remains practice-oriented, globally connected and responsive to emerging challenges. exchange.

Annex Priority areas for NSGH, OIG and KCGH

The field of global health is broad and spans both disease-specific themes and cross-cutting domains such as health inequity, digital innovation and planetary health. In identifying our strategic priorities for the coming years, we build on the ongoing transition of our collaboration, which brings together a diverse community of global health professionals, including medical and biomedical specialists, social scientists, nurses, paramedics, health economists and medical technicians. At the same time, we maintain our longstanding expertise in infectious diseases and other disease-specific areas, reflected in the work of our thematic working groups, which continue to form the backbone of NSGH and remain integral to our collaborative activities.

In the coming years, we will further strengthen our knowledge and expertise in resilience and health preparedness. We will strengthen and rejuvenate existing working groups and establish new working groups. We will continue to further develop collaboration and expertise in migrant and health, which has been actively embedded in our agenda over the past two years through the annual global health day and intensive collaboration with our partners.

HEALTH AND DISEASE-SPECIFIC THEMES

Infectious diseases and outbreaks

This domain covers infectious diseases, pandemic preparedness and AMR. Priority areas include prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response, with strong emphasis on the One Health approach integrating human, animal and environmental health. Central principles are equitable access to prevention, treatment, care and vaccines.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights and child health

Advancing SRHR includes attention to family planning, maternal and adolescent health, safe motherhood, and prevention of gender-based violence. SRHR functions as a litmus test for sustainable and just health systems. Child health spans all aspects of child development, with priority given to early childhood care, equal access to essential services and reducing inequalities through rights-based approaches.

Chronic diseases and mental health

This area addresses the rising global burden of NCDs – including diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease – alongside mental health

conditions. Emphasis is placed on integrated care covering prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Key considerations include the social determinants of health, health literacy and strengthening individuals' capacity for self-management.

Specialised clinical care

This domain includes essential but relatively smaller clinical fields such as ophthalmology, ENT and dermatology. The focus lies on quality, accessibility and safety of services in both high- and low-resource settings, supported by stronger collaboration between specialties and levels of care.

Emergency medicine, surgery and anaesthesia

Emergency and surgical care are fundamental components of UHC, preventing avoidable mortality and disability across all contexts. Priorities include improving access, quality and safety of acute, surgical and peri-operative care, particularly in low-resource and crisis-affected settings. Areas of attention include trauma care, perioperative management, obstetric surgery and humanitarian care.

Annex Priority areas for NSGH, OIG and KCGH

CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES

Reducing health inequities

This priority focuses on ensuring that individuals receive the support they need to achieve optimal health, rather than providing the same to all. Key themes include migration and health, social and structural determinants of health, gender dynamics, regional inequities and health literacy. The broader agenda includes efforts to “reconstruct” or “decolonise” global health.

Primary Healthcare & prevention

PHC is central to achieving UHC and reducing health inequities, particularly through affordability, accessibility and culturally responsive care. Core elements include strengthening (community) health worker capacity, investing in health promotion and reinforcing referral systems. Robust PHC systems underpin sustainable and resilient health systems by enabling prevention, early detection, continuity of care and integrated service delivery.

Health systems and policy

This domain covers the organisation, financing and governance of health systems at local, national and global levels. Strengthening health systems, promoting equitable and evidence-based policy and advancing UHC are central aims. Areas of focus include addressing the global health workforce challenge and ensuring inclusive care.

Planetary health

This area explores the interdependence between human health and the natural environment. Core topics include climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. Priority themes include mitigation (sustainable healthcare), adaptation (climate-resilient health systems) and the recognition that protecting planetary systems is a prerequisite for protecting human health.

Resilience and health in crisis settings

This domain addresses health needs during and after conflict, natural disasters and displacement. The scope includes emergency response, psychosocial support, humanitarian action and strengthening preparedness for future crises. Key priorities are local capacity strengthening and interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration.

Digital health and innovation

This covers eHealth, mHealth, AI and data-driven care. Digital transformation can enhance access, efficiency and quality, while requiring careful attention to equity, governance, ethics and data protection. Digital health is viewed as a cornerstone of future-proof health systems.