

Spring 2026

# THE EMERGING VOICES FOR GLOBAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER



*The official bi-annual newsletter by EV4GH*



# Table of contents

About EV4GH & Map of the Alumni Network.....	1
Welcome Note from the Communications Task Force Lead .....	2
Message from the Governance Board Chair .....	3
Message from Governance Board Co-chairs .....	4 - 5
EV4GH Board Meeting in Dhaka .....	6
Statement on the Impact of Conflict on Health and Health Systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region .....	7 - 8
Alumni Updates.....	9 -10



# Welcome Note from the Communications Task Force Lead

---



**Dear Emerging Voices members, alumni, and friends,**

I am delighted to share this edition of the EV4GH newsletter with you. As we move through 2026, the value of the Emerging Voices for Global Health network feels more important than ever. In the past year, EV4GH has continued to grow as a community of early-career and mid-career health policy and systems researchers, practitioners, advocates, and leaders committed to equity, solidarity, and critical engagement in global health. Across regions and generations of EVs, the network continues to offer a rare space for connection, reflection, mentorship, collaboration, and collective imagination about the future of health systems and global health governance.

We are living through a period of profound uncertainty. Conflicts, forced displacement, climate-related crises, shrinking civic space, economic instability, and attacks on health rights continue to deepen health inequities across the world. At the same time, the global health field itself is being challenged to confront difficult questions about power, financing, institutional legitimacy, and whose knowledge counts in shaping health agendas. In such a moment, professional networks like EV4GH are not simply spaces for updates or announcements; they are spaces where we can sustain dialogue, build solidarity, challenge each other's thinking, and remain connected in our efforts to advance health equity.

The Communications Task Force hopes to continue strengthening these connections by making the work, ideas, achievements, and reflections of EVs more visible across the network. I encourage you to use the EV4GH platforms – including LinkedIn, Google Groups, WhatsApp, webinars, newsletters, and other shared spaces – to stay engaged, share opportunities, celebrate each other's work, and participate in the critical conversations our field urgently needs. If you are not yet connected to these spaces, please reach out to the Secretariat for information on how to join.

In this issue, we share updates from across the EV4GH community, highlight recent activities, and celebrate the continued contributions of EVs and alumni around the world. I hope this newsletter offers a reminder that we are part of a vibrant, thoughtful, and committed community.

Enjoy the read!

Sincerely,

**Dr. Zahra Zeinali**

EV4GH Governance Board Member  
Communications Task Force Lead

# Message from the Governance Board Chair

As we move forward into another exciting phase of the Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH) journey in 2026, I am continually inspired by the strength, solidarity, and growing impact of the EV4GH alumni network. What began as a fellowship initiative has evolved into a vibrant intergenerational community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and changemakers who continue to shape conversations and actions for more equitable global health systems.

Our alumni remain the heart of EV4GH. Their ongoing engagement, mentorship, collaboration, and leadership demonstrate the enduring value of the EV experience far beyond the fellowship year itself. Across regions and disciplines, EV alumni continue to amplify underrepresented voices, foster meaningful partnerships, and contribute to more inclusive and people-centered global health spaces.

As preparations for the EV2026 venture advance, we are excited to welcome a new cohort of Emerging Voices to the EV2026 Fellowship Programme. We are encouraged by the strong interest received from emerging researchers, practitioners, policymakers, communicators, and advocates across the world. We would also like to sincerely acknowledge and thank the many colleagues, alumni, and partners who expressed interest in supporting the application review process. Their willingness to contribute time and expertise reflects the collective spirit and shared commitment that continue to strengthen the EV4GH community. The EV2026 programme will continue to strengthen capacities for communication, critical engagement, collaboration, and leadership in global health.

Preparations for the broader EV2026 venture are also well underway. Building on the rich legacy of previous cohorts, EV2026 aims to create further opportunities for dialogue, peer learning, solidarity, and collective action across our global network.

On behalf of the Governance Board, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all EV alumni, facilitators, partner institutions, and friends of EV4GH



whose dedication continues to sustain and strengthen this initiative. We are especially grateful to our donors and institutional supporters whose financial and strategic contributions made the EV2024 venture possible. We warmly acknowledge the support of the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Co-operation, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government, Nagasaki University, Universidad de Antioquia, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, University of the Western Cape, Peking University Health Science Centre, Community Partners International, BMJ Publishing Group, Institute of Public Health Bengaluru, African Population and Health Research Center, and BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health for their invaluable support to the EV2024 venture. We deeply appreciate their commitment to strengthening inclusive global health leadership and sincerely hope for the continuation of their support and collaboration in the upcoming EV2026 venture.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to Health Systems Global for its continuous support to EV4GH as a Thematic Working Group. This longstanding relationship has provided an important institutional home for Emerging Voices and has enabled generations of young researchers and practitioners to participate meaningfully in global health dialogue and action.

Together, we continue to build a more connected, inclusive, and equitable future for global health.

With appreciation,

**Bachera Aktar**

EV4GH Governance Board Chair

## Message from Governance Board Co-chair

---



### Dear Emerging Voices for Global Health family and friends,

To borrow Sir Jeremy Farrar's words from the European Science Diplomacy meeting, citing Lenin: "There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen." This year has felt exactly like the latter. We are living through a period of constant and overlapping crises. These include preparations for war, a global health funding crisis, disruptions to essential health services such as TB, HIV, and malaria, widespread misinformation, erosion of trust in science, an intensifying climate emergency, and the persistent risk of another pandemic driven by emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases.

These challenges require creative and collective solutions. EVs have been "emerging" for many years, and many from previous cohorts have now fully emerged. EVs have been contributing meaningfully in their countries, across regions, and at the global level.

This year's venture is a crucial one for our EV4GH community. Like many others, our community has been affected by current global affairs, and our solidarity will be essential as we navigate this period.

We are working hard on fundraising and partnerships to support EV4GH. Living with uncertainty is something we must accept and adapt to, and our EVs continue to stand for one another. I sincerely ask for your support in any form so that our prospective EVs can experience the same opportunities, learning environment, and sense of community that shaped all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Soe Yu Naing'.

**Soe Yu Naing**

EV4GH Governance Board Co-Chair

## Message from Governance Board Co-chair

---



### Dear EV community,

It is a privilege to address you as a recently elected co-chair of a network that, since its inception, has worked to reshape who participates in global health conversations and how. EV4GH is, above all, a living community: diverse, thoughtful, and committed to advancing more just and equitable health systems.

In the upcoming months, the Governance Board will have the responsibility of leading some core components of the programme: the distance learning process, the face-to-face engagements, and our strategic partnerships with allied institutions such as Health Systems Global and other collaborators. These pillars are deeply interconnected and are designed to offer a coherent, rigorous, and practice-oriented learning experience that responds to the evolving challenges of health systems globally.

For the upcoming cohort, both our distance learning and face-to-face components are evolving. We are moving towards a more outputs-driven approach, placing greater emphasis on tangible products, applied learning, and real-world engagement. This represents a shift from previous iterations of the programme, with a stronger focus on ensuring that the next EVs not only build skills, but also generate concrete contributions that can influence policy, practice, and discourse in global health.

The distance learning component will continue to serve as a space for co-creating knowledge, prioritising participatory, reflective, and action-oriented approaches, while more intentionally

guiding participants toward producing outputs that matter in their contexts. Similarly, face-to-face engagements, particularly those linked to the HSR2026, will emphasise active contribution, collaboration, and visibility through these outputs.

Our work with partners remains central to the sustainability and reach of EV4GH. Strengthening collaboration with our institutional partners and expanding our alliances enables us to broaden the network's influence and deepen its impact across research, policy, and practice.

We are equally committed to staying connected with you. We hope to count on your participation in the next EV4GH Business Meeting during the upcoming HSR 2026, where we aim to collectively reflect on the future of our network and engage in open discussions on how to navigate emerging funding landscapes and the evolving challenges facing global health.

EV4GH's strength lies in its people, in your collective energy, critical thinking, and commitment to action. As co-chair, my role is to help create the conditions for this network to continue growing, connecting, and driving meaningful change.

Thank you for being part of this community.

Warm regards,

**German Andrés Alarcón Garavito**  
EV4GH Governance Board Co-chair

# EV4GH Board Meeting in Dhaka



The meeting was held from 10–13 November 2025 at BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh in a hybrid mode with all the Governance Board members of EV4GH both in person in Dhaka and online along with secretariats. The discussion primarily focused on the overall planning and preparation for the EV4GH 2026 Venture, including how the venture would be organized, the structure and content of the face-to-face sessions, the redesign of the distance learning component, training methodologies, participant engagement, logistics management, budgeting, fundraising, partnerships, and operational coordination. From the HSG Board, Karen Ann Grepin and Felix Abrahams Obi were present in the partnership discussion session and made significant contributions to the meeting.

The meetings focused on strengthening EV4GH's selection process, redesigning the distance learning and face-to-face fellowship structure, improving reviewer and mentorship systems, and refining thematic priorities while maintaining EV's inclusive and critical identity. Key discussions also covered fundraising and donor engagement strategies, long-term sustainability planning, partnership coordination with institutions such as MBRSG, ITM, Health

Systems Global, and BRAC USA, as well as operational preparations for EV 2026 in Dubai. Overall, the discussions emphasized improving program quality, financial sustainability, participant engagement, institutional collaboration, and global outreach through more structured, interactive, and solution-oriented approaches.

The meeting played a significant role in shaping the overall direction and implementation framework of the EV4GH 2026 Venture. It helped clarify the full program structure, operational strategy, financial planning, and partnership engagement required for successful execution. Overall, the meeting served as a comprehensive pre-planning and strategic structuring session for EV4GH 2026 Venture, laying the foundation for how the venture will be organized and implemented smoothly.



# Statement on the Impact of Conflict on Health and Health Systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

---

As members of a global health community committed to equity, justice, and the protection of health as a fundamental human right, we express deep concern about the ongoing and escalating conflicts in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, particularly in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran. We also recognize that these crises are unfolding alongside other devastating conflicts and humanitarian emergencies, including in Sudan, Myanmar, and elsewhere, where violence, displacement, and attacks on civilian infrastructure continue to undermine health, dignity, and survival.

Across the region, conflict is not only causing immediate loss of life and injury; it is also eroding the systems that people rely on to survive. Health workers, patients, ambulances, hospitals, primary health care centres, supply chains, and public health infrastructure have all been affected. WHO has reported that the recent escalation in the Middle East has killed and injured civilians and health workers, damaged health facilities, disrupted services, and made it harder for people with injuries and chronic conditions to access life-sustaining care, including dialysis, insulin, and essential medicines.

In [Palestine](#), the health system continues to face catastrophic strain. In Gaza, prolonged blockade, repeated attacks, shortages of medicines, medical supplies and fuel, and the suspension or obstruction of medical evacuations have severely constrained the delivery of life-saving care. In the West Bank, movement restrictions, checkpoint closures, and documented attacks on health care continue to delay ambulances, disrupt mobile clinics, and obstruct access to services.

In [Lebanon](#), renewed attacks have placed an already fragile health system under severe pressure. Attacks on health care have affected facilities, ambulances, and health workers, while displacement has increased needs for shelter-based health services, disease surveillance, mental health and psychosocial support, and continuity of care for people with chronic conditions. WHO has reported repeated attacks on health care in Lebanon since March 2026, alongside rising demand on public hospitals and primary care services.

In Iran, the recent attacks have also had serious health consequences, including civilian deaths and injuries, attacks on health care, displacement, environmental hazards, and disruption to essential services. Damage to health facilities and infrastructure has immediate consequences for trauma care, maternal and newborn health, chronic disease management, and mental health, while also threatening longer-term health system resilience.

[The attack on the Pasteur Institute](#) is particularly concerning given the institution's long-standing role in Iran's public health system, including infectious disease prevention and control, vaccine production, diagnostic capacity, research, education, and technological development. Extensive damage to this century-old institution and its buildings affects capacities for surveillance, research, training, laboratory services, and preparedness for future public health threats. Attacks on oil, energy, and water infrastructure also raise wider environmental health concerns, including risks related to air pollution, chemical exposure, and water safety.

We stand in solidarity with affected communities, health workers, researchers, students, and colleagues across the region. We call for the protection of civilians, health workers, health facilities, humanitarian workers, and essential infrastructure in accordance with international humanitarian law. We also emphasize the urgent need for sustained humanitarian access, restoration of essential health services, protection of public health systems, and accountability for attacks on health care.

For the EV4GH community, this is also a reminder that health policy and systems research cannot be separated from the political conditions that shape

people's lives. Conflict, occupation, displacement, sanctions, militarization, and attacks on civic and health infrastructure are health systems issues. As a network, we reaffirm the importance of critical dialogue, solidarity, and evidence-informed advocacy in defending the right to health and supporting more just, resilient, and accountable health systems across the region and beyond.

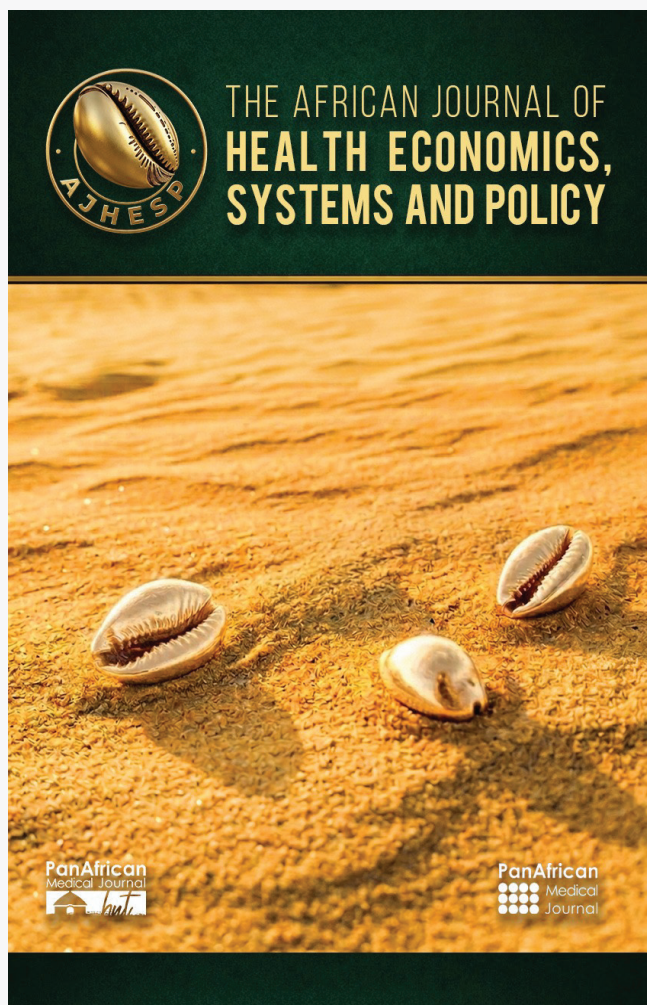
We encourage members of the EV4GH community to read the latest [WHO situation report](#) on the Middle East conflict for further details on attacks on health care, environmental health risks, displacement, and health system needs across the region.

# Alumni Updates

## 1. Launch of the The African Journal of Health Economics, Systems and Policy

We are delighted to share the launch of The African Journal of Health Economics, Systems and Policy (AJHESP), a new peer-reviewed, Open Access journal dedicated to advancing rigorous and policy-relevant scholarship at the intersection of health economics, health policy, and health systems.

AJHESP provides a much-needed platform for applied research that connects evidence generation with financing reform, policy design, and health systems strengthening across the African continent. By centering African health financing, policy, and systems challenges as a primary intellectual agenda, the journal seeks to create space for scholarship that is grounded in regional realities while contributing to global debates in health policy and systems research.



The journal operates in both English and French, reflecting a commitment to linguistic inclusion and the diverse knowledge ecosystems across Africa. We are also proud to note that several EV4GH alumni are part of the journal's editorial board, continuing the network's tradition of leadership, knowledge production, and service to the field.

## 2. Launch of the Charter for Feminist Health Systems

We are pleased to share the launch of the [Feminist Health Systems Charter](#), launched alongside the Melbourne Declaration for Gender Equality at the Women Deliver Conference 2026 in Melbourne. The Charter offers a powerful advocacy and accountability tool for reimagining how health systems are designed, governed, financed, delivered, and held accountable through feminist principles.



Grounded in the right to health, the Charter calls for health systems that are intersectional, decolonial, people-centred, inclusive, accountable, and responsive to structural inequities. It also highlights the importance of shared power, participatory governance, health workforce equity, equitable financing, and the central role of communities in shaping health systems that serve everyone.

We are proud to note that several EVs were involved in this important initiative, contributing to a growing global movement for feminist, just, and accountable health systems. We warmly congratulate everyone involved and encourage the EV4GH community to read, share, and use the Charter in advocacy, research, teaching, and policy engagement.

### 3. Alumni update: Dr Mzi Nduna

EV4GH alumna Dr Mzi Nduna is currently serving as Divisional Executive: Research Impact at the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa, where she helps lead work on research impact, scholarly publishing through HSRC Press, research ethics and governance, external capacity strengthening, and strategic partnerships. Mzi has shared some of her recent publications with the EV community:

**Pakhomova, T.E. et al., including Nduna, M.** 2025. Twelve-month trajectories of depressive symptoms and associated socio-structural factors among adolescents and young adults in Soweto and Durban, South Africa. *Journal of Affective Disorders*.

Jasmine, U.H., Nduna, M. & Nkala-Dlamini, B. 2025. Intergenerational continuity of protective parenting practices in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *PLOS One*, 20(2).  
[DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0300160](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0300160)

**Mayisela, S., Pillay, R. & Nduna, M.** 2026. Ubuntu in today's world: Theory in the making. In *Ubuntu: A multidisciplinary perspective to understanding and application*. AOSIS Books.

**Mayisela, S., Pillay, R. & Nduna, M., eds.** 2026. *Ubuntu: A multidisciplinary perspective to understanding and application*. AOSIS Books.  
[DOI: 10.4102/aosis.2026.BK538](https://doi.org/10.4102/aosis.2026.BK538)





**BRAC** SCHOOL OF  
JAMES P. GRANT PUBLIC HEALTH



**Belgium**  
partner in development

✉ [ev\\_secretariat@bracu.ac.bd](mailto:ev_secretariat@bracu.ac.bd)  [/ev4gh](https://www.facebook.com/ev4gh)  [@ev4gh](https://twitter.com/ev4gh)