

Charles Ssemugabo's Proposal for Strengthening the EV Network

I joined the Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH) network in 2016 following the distance and face-to-face training as well as participation in the fourth health systems symposium in Vancouver, Canada. Over the past four years I have been closely engaged involved in the activities of the EV4GH network including selection of new EVs, the Distances coaching programme, the EV4GH newsletter, the EV communication taskforce among others. My involvement with the network has given me sufficient experience over the years that I can leverage to support it in the capacity of a board member. Below are the proposed action points that I hope will strengthen the EV network over the next 2-years.

- 1. Consolidate the Existing Efforts:** Working with the secretariat and other board members, I will support and reverberate existing efforts to strengthen the EV network including supporting the EV newsletter that I have been co-edited since 2018, fast track the profiling of EV alumni on the website including establishing a provision for members to update their profiles individually or remotely on the network. In addition, I will advocate for regularly featuring of EV alumni who have excelled their respective field and/or regions. As a way of motivating members, I will lobby for establishment of awards that can be earned on an annual or bi-annual basis EV alumni. I will advocate for efficient use of EV4GH board task forces, to ensure that they have clearly defined goals and objectives, and routinely meet virtually to discuss and make progress on their respective tasks.
- 2. Open-up Regional Chapters:** My vision of the EV4GH network is to establish regional chapters that work towards achieving its objectives. While this is somewhat demonstrated through the board representation, there is minimal or no engagements at across the different regions as a group. Yet, regional or even country engagements have the potential to build a strong foundation for the network. Therefore, I will advocate for introduction and promotion of structured and functional regional chapters that meet routinely and have work plans and activities throughout the year. The regional Chapters will also act as a spring board for ensuring recruitment of EVs across the regional in the upcoming EV4GH ventures / programmes.
- 3. Re-invent Resource Mobilization for the Network:** Resources especially finances are a major obstacle to EV4GH activities. I will work with the secretariat and other board members to streamline documentation and branding of the EV4GH network. The documents and branding will be used to solicit for funding. We will also work towards establishing partnerships with organizations that are interested in supporting and empowering early career researchers and policy makers. These partnerships will be aimed at providing opportunities to individual EV4GH members as well as the network.
- 4. Spread EV4GH beyond Health Systems and Policy research boundaries:** Today, the EV4GH society is dominated by health policy and systems researchers and policy makers yet global health has more pressing issues like planetary health including climate change, emerging and re-emerging diseases, travel health among others. After 10 year of existence, now is the time to engage with others global organisations working in more pressing global health issues to identify and build capacity of passionate and younger researchers and policy makers to make a difference in their respective fields. To fulfill this, I will work with other board members and the secretariat to develop new approaches for recruiting EVs from other networks / fields through engagement with other professional organisations and partners.

The four proposed action points will be presented, discussed, refined and approved by the EV4GH board. Once approved, we will work with the secretariat to ensure that the action points are implemented and achieved within my 2-years of service.