Global Health Norway – Mandate

Version history: Revised from the 2017 mandate by the strategy group appointed by GHN. The document was drafted by the Chair (Ane-Marthe Solheim Skar, NIPH) based on the strategy group's work, revised following the Board meeting on 11 May 2026 and approved by email circulation

I. Background

Global Health Norway is a network for research, education and capacity building in global health, established in line with the Health&Care21 strategy in 2014. The mandate was established in 2017 and updated in 2026. The network aims to be a unified and leading global health community in Norway.

II. Name

Norwegian name: Global helse Norge (GHN)
English name: Global Health Norway (GHN)

III. Main Tasks

- Promote interest in global health work
- Strengthen expertise in global health research and education
- Help highlight the benefits of Norwegian efforts in global health
- Provide advice and expert input on global health issues
- Strengthen international competitiveness
- Promote collaboration between educational institutions, research institutes, health trusts, the business sector, NGOs and NORAD

Tasks are translated into specific actions through the strategy and annual work plans.

IV. The Board

The Board of Global Health Norway comprises nine institutions: Four representatives from the regional health authorities (Northern Norway, Central Norway, Western Norway and South-Eastern Norway), four from the universities (UiO, UiB, UiT and NTNU), and one representative from the research institute sector (the Norwegian Institute of Public Health). In addition, observers attend from Universities Norway (UHR), the Foundation for Industrial and Technical Research (SINTEF), the Research Council of Norway (NFR), the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Norad, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), the Forum for Global Health Research and the business sector. The institutions appoint corresponding deputy representatives, and representation at dean or scientific director level, as well as continuity, should be sought. Changes to the Board are considered and decided by the Board.

The Board shall consider the network's strategies, plans, budget and annual reports. The Board shall make decisions that enable GHN to carry out its main tasks as set out in the mandate and achieve the objectives described in the strategy. The Board annually reviews progress towards the objectives and implementation of the strategy and work plan.

V. Leadership and Secretariat

Leadership and secretariat responsibilities rotate among ordinary Board members for a period of three years. Collaboration between an educational/research institution and a health trust is expected, while the arrangements may vary.

The Secretariat manages the network's day-to-day operations, participates in Board meetings and any working groups, manages websites, organises meetings and conferences for which the network is responsible, and coordinates the website's editorial team. The Board shall ensure sufficient capacity for the secretariat function and an effective handover between leadership terms.

VI. Roles and Delegation of Responsibilities

The Board has overall strategic responsibility for GHN, including the strategy and mandate. The Board may establish working groups to follow up on specific tasks, or delegate responsibilities and funding to groups or forums that contribute to implementing GHN's strategy. When delegating, responsibilities, resources and reporting requirements shall be clarified.

The Editorial Group is responsible for visibility and communication.

The Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research (the Forum) is responsible for delegated tasks related to operational implementation and reporting, with the scope determined annually through the budget and work plan.

VII. Meeting Procedures

The Secretariat sends meeting invitations no later than one week before the meeting, and minutes preferably within one week after the meeting. Member institutions may propose matters for consideration by the Board. The Secretariat ensures that the meeting schedule, invitations, minutes and supporting papers are made publicly available on the website.

VIII. Costs and Budget

The Chair is responsible for the budget, which is reviewed and approved by the Board. Member organisations pay an annual membership fee to the institution of the current Chair. The membership fee and budget are approved annually by the Board. The institutions cover travel expenses and any remuneration for their representatives. Annual accounts are reported to the Board.

IX. Evaluation

The mandate is evaluated towards the end of the term, before a new Chair/Secretariat is selected. Progress towards objectives and results shall be evaluated in accordance with the principles and indicators described in the current strategy document, and the evaluation shall be conducted before the end of the strategy period. The Board may revise the mandate during the term if needed.