



# Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research

Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research Meeting

Minutes

3 December 2021 13:00 to 14:00 on Zoom meeting

**Present:**

**Members:** Anne Hatløy, Dawit Shawel Abebe, Gunilla Kulla, Hans Hadders, Ingeborg Kathrina Haavardsson, Jon Øyvind Odland, Mahima Venkateswaran, Mary Taylor, Turid Austin Wæhlers, Shanshan Xu (minutes)

**Observers:** Elin Yli Dvergsdal, Karine Kålsås

**1) Approval of minutes from board meeting 26 October 2021**

Minutes approved.

**2) Tentative budget for 2022**

For 2021 the total use of funds is 62,062 NOK. Jon Øyvind suggested to apply the same amount of budget, 75,000 NOK from Global Health Norway (GHN) for 2022. Elin commented that GHN will consider to put aside 75,000 NOK for the Forum next year, Forum should send application to GHN for transferring money that Forum has left now for the next year. She also mentioned that the most important thing is to have activities to link to the budget.

**3) Work plan and discussion about possible activities for 2022**

**Elin:** The Research Council of Norway is revising the portfolio plan, and deadline is 20 February 2022. The Forum can go through the portfolios and give some inputs. The money that the Research Council putting for each call is not too much; Forum should try to get good strategies on how to get more money on these calls.

**Ingeborg:** The Forum is a membership-based organisation for researchers and has been valuable for intensive networking purposes. The Forum should be a place where the individual researchers can come and talk to each other. Webinar is a good choice, but we still missing out in person contacts. The relations we have tied before the digital time are extremely valuable, maybe the Forum could create one in-person event at each institution where it is connected through a year. We should not only go for webinars, in-person networking is important.



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**Anne:** The in-person meetings and networking between the researchers are very valuable. People are busy at their institution and might not be able to meet for an informal meeting. But it is possible to have a meeting once a year.

**Elin:** Forum could ask the GHN whether the Forum could be a collaborator, implementation taker of the one-day conference. Besides, there are lots of people and different topics at such conferences, Forum could also facilitate smaller meetings of different topics.

**Jon Øyvind:** It is good to keep the communication within the Forum to be at a lower level, for instance to build up the networking through smaller conferences.

**Mary:** It is important to get more interactions in the informal networking. The conferences are more about to give presentations or panel discussion. If we want to add value in terms of networking, we need to build interaction. The implementation of research in Global Health is going to be done by the people in low-resource settings, so the interaction could include the people in the research project that come from other countries or institutions.

**Dawit:** The activities of Forum could relate to global health projects that are implemented by Forum members. There are several projects that are addressing global health issues, Forum could be a meeting place for different project owners to meet and to exchange experience in terms of implementation of projects related to global health, not necessarily to research projects but also with several capacity building projects as well. Forum could invite different project members, NGOs to the one-day seminar or networking. This would put Forum in a very special place where Forum focuses on promoting global health both in research and capacity building, which could make Forum different from GHN.

**Jon Øyvind** commented that the main purpose of Forum is to promote global health research, not capacity building. He questioned whether the Forum should follow the original aim or go for a broader perspective.

**Dawit** commented that organizations develop pedagogical materials based on the research, although the research is not the main priority of the organization but they also do the research. Building connections with organizations could make Forum more visible.

**Mahima:** There are mixtures about how we engaged with Forum members and what we should do. It would be helpful if we can specify what the informal networking is.

**Jon Øyvind** suggested that specific networking could be some smaller conferences or seminars related to different global health topics.



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**Gunilla:** Students from many other smaller institutions in Norway do not know global health. Forum could provide some lectures and information to these institutions.

**Hans:** Forum's network has been changed from institutional level to individual memberships. How could Forum reach out to individual members, it comes back that Forum needs good meeting points. Forum needs to find good activities, which can disseminate the global health messages. Conference is a good point for the dissertation, meeting and networking, for instance, the Global Health Day. Forum could think about how to continue to be involved in such conferences.

#### **4) Meeting plan for spring 2022**

Jon Øyvind suggested to stick to the time of board meeting on last Friday of every month at 13:00. Next meeting will be held in week 4, Friday 28 January 2022, 13:00 on Zoom.

#### **5) AOB**