



Norwegian Forum
for Global Health Research

NEWSLETTER

October 2026



Photo: Tor Strand

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Two Countries, over 6,500 kilometres apart, and a shared love of nature. Norway has its stunning fjords and the Scandinavian Mountains, and Nepal has the captivating Himalayas, with Mount Everest among them.

Both carved by ice and shaped by water, these landscapes sustain livelihoods and shape cultures that make the stories of the world.

CELEBRATING GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

This issue of the Norwegian Forum for Global Health research newsletter celebrates the two countries through the global health partnerships between Norway and Nepal.

Join us in exploring how researchers across these countries are tackling challenges in health care, disease prevention and responding to emerging health emergencies



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CELEBRATING GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

The Iprevent NCD project

The World Health Organisation reports that non-communicable diseases are a major disease burden in Nepal causing up to 70% of all mortality.

The IpreventNCD project is a research collaboration between presearchers in Norway, Nepal and Australia. The project aims to address the burden of NCDs among women of reproductive age, both during and after pregnancy.

The project will identify what the health system needs to address NCDs, co-design solutions and evaluate their implementation in Nepal.



Photo: Kjersti Mørkrid Blom-Bakke

Currently the project has completed its second objective in Bidur Municipality, Nuwakot. This means that pregnant women and those post-child birth worked with researchers and medical staff to develop strategies to prevent NCDs.

Challenges in real world research - Flash Floods in Nepal

Between August and September this year, glacial collapse triggered landslides during heavy rains of the monsoon season in Nepal killing over 1000 people with over 4000 reported missing. Nuwakot, one of the IpreventNCD project sites has been heavily affected as homes, markets and hydropower infrastructures were destroyed.

Thankfully project participants are confirmed to be safe. However, this disaster raises concerns for how the world and global health research can address the implications of climate change.

Due to global warming, Nepals glaciers are melting. This triggered the latest floods and is a warning of possible floods in the future to come. This latest disaster is a call for global action in preventing, responding to and preparing for climate related disasters.



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30 YEARS OF TRAINING THE NEW GENERATION OF HEALTH LEADERS IN NEPAL



Photo: Tor Strand

30 years ago, the Child Health Research Project started as a way to organize studies on child health within the Institute of Medicine at Tribhuvan University. During this period and through the Center for International Health at the University of Bergen, Prof. Tor Strand has led an uninterrupted research collaboration on nutrition, infectious disease, and child development.

Nine MD residents in pediatrics graduated when the training program began through a Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Education project (led by Halvor Sommerfelt). Since then, the MD pediatrics program has run without Norwegian support, and more than 150 medical doctors have become paediatricians.

Collaborations have grown stonger between the Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen and, Tribhuvan University in Nepal. PhD programs have been a successful academic exchange through training five Norwegian and five Nepalese scientists in child health research.

As a testament to the success of the program, one of the first medical doctor paediatric residents and subsequently Ph.D. student and Postdoctoral fellow at CiH, Prof Sudha Basnet now serves as the Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine and was recently appointed as the Chairperson of the Nepal Health Research Council.

On the 29th of November 2026 the research project and its partners will have a well deserved celebration in Kathmandu, Nepal. This is the beauty and power of collaborations in global health research. Making lasting change and real impact in lives across the world.

GLOBAL HEALTH NORWAY CONFERENCE

4th - 7th November 2026

University of Stavanger

Theme: Learning Together in Global Health: Exploring What Works – and Why

Conference Registration Open
until 21st October 2026

PHD AND POSTDOC CONFERENCE

Norwegian Research school in Global Health and Sustainable futures

1st - 3rd November 2026

PhD and PostDoc Conference
Sola Strand Hotel, Stavanger

GET INVOLVED

GLOBAL HEALTH IN NORWAY

NEW WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES IN NORWAY

This year, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences have been selected to support WHO policymaking through qualitative research.

Register to join the launch on the 12th November 2026.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU !!!

Share highlights from your research to be featured in our newsletter

Contact us at:
globalhealth@uib.no

CLIMATE AND HEALTH

Read recent paper: A call to Humanity in the wake of Nepals massive Himalayan Flash Flood