

GLOBAL HEALTH AT GHPC



Through a growing portfolio of work, the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) partners with public agencies and private organizations around the globe to explore health systems, evaluate health programs, facilitate policy discussions, and support the development of sustainable, health-promoting programs.

The mission of the global health team is to foster a global approach to advancing health and well-being through participatory research, health-conscious policy, and person-focused programs, where knowledge is shared across borders to advance population health.

GHPC's Approach

GHPC recognizes that public health challenges are multifaceted and require comprehensive strategies that engage a broad range of stakeholders through a combination of program, policy, systems, and environmental changes. The global health team utilizes an iterative, participatory approach, working with stakeholders at all levels to strengthen capacity and develop scalable systems. Our alliance-based methods promote inclusion and empowerment, encourage behavior change, and facilitate replicability and sustainability.

Services	Subject Matter Expertise
Program design, monitoring, evaluation, and transition to community ownership	Health systems strengthening
Realist and transformative research and evaluation	Systems thinking
Environmental scans, literature reviews, and policy analysis	Systems mapping
Implementation science and technical assistance	Nutrition and food security
Strategic planning	Maternal and child health
Workforce development	Noncommunicable disease
	Behavioral health

Approach in Action

- Employs transformative research and evaluation methods that center on social justice and equity
- Includes capacity-strengthening activities in all program, evaluation, and technical assistance designs, and strives to work alongside host-country colleagues
- Prioritizes stakeholder participation and buy-in at all stages — design to implementation to reporting
- Ensures that stakeholders at all levels are kept informed and provided information throughout a project
- Codevelops manuals of operation for all projects in partnership with host-country colleagues to promote transparency, knowledge sharing, and community ownership

Project Examples

Conducting an Evidence Review for Behavioral Health Treatment

Ireland's Health Research Board engaged GHPC to conduct a realist review and synthesis of the global literature to inform best practices for the integration of treatment and services for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions. The review included an iterative and systematic search process, engagement with knowledge users representing both providers and individuals with lived experience, and multiple stages of data analysis and synthesis. The review identified characteristics that influence successful implementation and outcomes, as well as approaches to facilitating access and integrating mental health and substance use services.



Recommendations for action were provided at four levels: policy or system, organizational and provider, service and treatment, and individual and family.

Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Through Workforce Development

The Carter Center's Public Health Training Initiative in Sudan and Nigeria aimed to strengthen human resources for health education in collaboration with the Nigerian and Sudanese federal ministries of health to improve the training of front-line health workers and ultimately improve maternal and child health outcomes through strengthening health workforce development. GHPC worked with the Carter Center to develop monitoring tools and systems and to strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity among program stakeholders. GHPC also led the program's evaluation in both countries.



Studying Early-Life Nutrition for Preventing Later Mental Health Issues

Lack of mental health care is a global problem, resulting in increased focus on prevention, including gaining a better understanding of the link between nutrition and mental health. GHPC was part of an international, longitudinal evaluation assessing whether exposure to a protein-energy nutritional supplement during the first 1,000 days of life decreased odds of mental distress in adulthood among individuals living in four villages in Guatemala, where undernutrition, particularly protein-energy malnutrition, was prevalent. The study was published in the [*Journal of Nutrition*](#).



Improving Infant and Young Child Feeding in Kenya

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, through a partnership with UNICEF and the Kenyan Ministry of Health, conducted an analysis of critical foods insufficiently consumed by Kenyan children. In support of this work, GHPC conducted research and developed a recipe book that promotes safe and nutritious infant and young child feeding. GHPC worked with partners in the United States and Kenya to create a culturally informed recipe book that uses locally available and affordable ingredients for families representing Kenya's diverse food culture.

