



Moving Beyond  
Solidarity Rhetoric  
in Global Health

Quarterly Newsletter | Jan - Mar 2026

# FROM LISTENING TO SYNTHESIS: CONSOLIDATING LESSONS FOR SOLIDARITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH

## A WORD FROM THE PROJECT LEAD

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we move through the first months of 2026, I find myself returning to the Czech philosopher, Jan Patočka's idea of a solidarity of the shaken. Having lived through the 'shaking' of certainties that accompany wars, political and ideological conflicts, Patočka was deeply aware of how fragile and ambiguous our societies are. Out of this emerged the idea of solidarity as a bond between people who, having lost comforting ideals about meaning and progress, commit themselves to living truthfully and responsibly in a disoriented world.



Across the global health landscape, similar words echo — "the system is broken," "no longer fit for purpose" — and they are not wrong. Persistent inequalities, fragmented structures, weak accountability, international bullying, and a rising tide of nationalisms are pulling countries inward at the very moment our shared vulnerabilities demand we move closer together. And amidst this, the language of solidarity has too often been invoked, and deployed for tokenistic or instrumental ends rather than structural transformation. The Global Health Solidarity project seeks to change this status quo.

Through our cross-continental research and dialogues, communities across different regions have shown us that solidarity is a lived practice, woven into everyday acts of care, sustained through relationships, and expressed in the courage of those who continue to reach toward one another despite hardship. It is from these voices that we have developed a set of solidarity principles for global health: structured prompts for reflection to help actors identify what solidarity demands within their own roles and organisations.

In February 2026, we convened a workshop bringing together researchers, funders, multilateral institutions, civil society organisations, and advocacy groups to engage deeply with the principles. We are now updating them in light of that feedback. In the months ahead, we will hold broader dialogues to introduce and refine the principles, exploring together how they can be embedded in practice and give rise to practical tools for accountability and implementation.

We are grateful for your presence in this work. Together, let us continue to move towards building solidarity in the global health space. As the Akan people of Ghana say: "Dua koro gye mframa a, ebu." "A single tree that faces the wind alone will break."

Best regards,

**Prof. Caesar Alimsinya Atuire**

Project Lead, *Moving Beyond Solidarity Rhetoric in Global Health (GH-Solidarity Project)*

# LATEST STORIES AND REFLECTIONS FROM OUR WORK ACROSS THE GLOBE



## What does Solidarity really require of Global Health Systems?

This question anchored the Global Health Solidarity Convivial Workshop, convened by [EthicsLab](#) at the University of Cape Town from February 16-18 2026. The workshop marked a critical reflection point in a research process that has been underway since 2023: a shift from listening, dialogue and knowledge-gathering towards synthesis, framework-building and rigorous interrogation of how solidarity can be structurally embedded in global health systems.

Over two intensive days, project team members and invited participants engaged substantively with a core tension that runs through much of the global health literature — the gap between aspirational language and the practice of solidarity. Discussions were organised around two aims:

- Refining the solidarity propositions for the global health ecosystem (arising from the project research and dialogues since 2023), and
- Discussing the practical applications of the propositions for how global health systems are designed, governed and held accountable.

The outcome is a set of solidarity principles, now entering a broader phase of stakeholder engagement and regional feedback, grounded in the understanding that meaningful solidarity must be accountable to the lived realities it claims to serve. The full workshop report will be available on the website soon.

Invited Participants were: researchers, policymakers, funders, practitioners, advocacy groups, and civil society leaders

[Read the Full Story Here](#)



**WATCH  
NOW**



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# Global Health Solidarity Webinar

*Theme: What Differences Does Solidarity Make?  
Emerging Insights from a Global Qualitative Study*



## First Webinar of 2026: Findings on the Core Characteristics of Solidarity

The Global Health Solidarity Project's first webinar of 2026, under the theme "What Difference Does Solidarity Make? Emerging Insights from a Global Qualitative Study," brought together researchers and participants from across the global health space to reflect on early findings from a qualitative study spanning 75 interviews across multiple WHO regions. Rather than treating solidarity as a fixed ideal, the webinar presented how people working across different contexts understand it, recognise it, and expect it to shape action.

The findings presented by the team from [Western University](#), Canada, offered a rich account that challenges the tendency within the global health discourse to treat solidarity as either merely shared feeling or moral aspiration. Three core characteristics emerged from the data:

- First, solidarity is not reducible to shared sentiment; it is constituted through shared goals and interdependent responsibilities that bind actors across difference.
- Second, it is not passive — solidarity is made legible through action, and its absence is equally visible when action fails to follow declared commitment.
- Third, solidarity is transformative in character, with the potential to reshape not only relationships but the structures and assumptions that organise global health systems.

Taken together, these findings push back against thin or rhetorical uses of the term and open space for a more exacting conversation about what solidarity demands — institutionally, relationally, and politically — of those who invoke it.

[Read the Webinar Recap](#)

[Watch the Full Webinar Here](#)

“

You don't realise the value of collectiveness in this – the people who come and build together are putting pressure on the system to evolve... If communities can come together, there is no way they can be suppressed.

”

-Panel discussion participant,  
during the South Asia Global Health Solidarity Workshop, Sept 2026

## LATEST REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS



### [Understandings and practices of solidarity in global health: a scoping review of the literature](#)

*Written by Dr. Jae-Eun Noh, et al*



### [Meanings and practices of solidarity in global health: a qualitative investigation - study protocol](#)

*By Dr. Elysée Nouvet, et al*



## Book: States of Solidarity: How to Build a Society.

By Prof. Barbara Prainsack

### SOLIDARITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH: PERSPECTIVES FROM INDIA AND NEPAL

#### WORKSHOP REPORT



**South Asia Regional Workshop**  
The Royal Plaza Hotel, New Delhi

[Read the South Asian Workshop Report](#)



#### Solidarity:

Embodied and Enacted -  
Learning with the Rural Women's Assembly

*Southern African Workshop Report*

[Read the Southern Africa Workshop Report](#)

### ATELIER MÉSOAMÉRICAIN SUR LA SOLIDARITÉ ET LA SANTÉ MONDIALE

#### RAPPORT DE L'ATELIER



Musée Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia, Université du Costa Rica

[Rapport en français](#)

### MESOAMERICAN WORKSHOP ON SOLIDARITY AND GLOBAL HEALTH

#### WORKSHOP REPORT



Museo Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia, University of Costa Rica

[Read in English](#)

### TALLER MESOAMERICANO SOBRE SOLIDARIDAD Y SALUD GLOBAL

#### INFORME DEL TALLER



Museo Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia, Universidad de Costa Rica

[Informe en español](#)

“With charity, there is often an assumption about who is needy, whereas with solidarity, I do not think there is really an assumption about who is needy, but rather a question of who you can stand with in that sense.”

-Suzall, during Day 2 of the “Solidarity: Enacted and Embodied”  
Workshop, South Africa, Feb 2025

# WATCH THE LATEST VIDEOS

## QUESTION: WHAT SHOULD SOLIDARITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH & RESEARCH LOOK LIKE?

This is a compilation of reflections from speakers across our 2025 events, each offering thoughtful perspectives on how solidarity can move beyond rhetoric and help shape more just, inclusive, and accountable global health futures.

[Watch here](#)



A Solidarity of the Shaken:  
From Despair to Collective Action



**NTOBEKO NTUSI, MD, PHD**

President and CEO  
South African Medical Research  
Council (SAMRC), South Africa

In this video, Prof. Ntobeko Ntusi reflects on the growing fragility of global health and science in a time of eroding trust and intensifying global polarisation, and on the critical role funders can play in responding to these challenges.

[Watch here](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



Moving Beyond  
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Live in  
English,  
Français &  
Español

### OPEN FORUM

### Rebuilding Global Health on Solidarity Principles



Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
2026



09:00 EDT | 13:00 GMT | 14:00 BST |  
15:00 CEST | 15:00 SAST | 16:00 EAT |  
18:30 IST

SCAN TO  
REGISTER



At a time of growing uncertainty in global health, the need to move beyond rhetoric toward more grounded, actionable approaches to solidarity has never been clearer. The upcoming Open Forum, “Rebuilding Global Health on Solidarity Principles,” will create space to reflect on what it means to embed solidarity within the structures, decisions, and practices that shape the global health ecosystem. Join us on **Wednesday 22nd April, 2026 at 13:00GMT**.

[Register for the Open Forum Here](#)



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**SAVE THE DATE**

**FEEDBACK WEBINAR:  
ANGLOPHONE**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026, our **Feedback Webinars** will begin, bringing us back into conversation with participants from across our workshops to further explore and refine the potential solidarity goals emerging from the project. More details to follow.

## OUR PARTNERS



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**THANK YOU!**