



Moving Beyond
Solidarity Rhetoric
in Global Health

Quarterly Newsletter | July - September 2025

THE FUTURE OF SOLIDARITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH: LESSONS, TOOLS, AND NEXT STEPS

A WORD FROM THE PROJECT TEAM

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to our quarterly update.

In this edition, we turn the spotlight to the South Asia Regional Workshop, where voices from across the region came together in a dynamic exchange on the meaning of solidarity in global health. Departing from our usual introduction and to bring those conversations to life, we feature a compelling reflection from Co-Investigator, Prof. Jantina De Vries, who beautifully captures the spirit of the workshop and the lessons it left us with.

In a phenomenal meeting organised by the GH-Solidarity Project, during the South Asia Workshop, we explored perspectives and experiences of solidarity from parts of the world that I knew very little about. Participants from India—including from Indigenous groups—and from Nepal spoke about solidarity in the context of the climate crisis, enduring caste discrimination, LGBTQ activism, health inequality, and much more.



Prof. Jantina De Vries, Co-Investigator,
Global Health Solidarity Project

I learned so much, but these three themes stand out:

- Almost without exception, participants linked **solidarity to a quest for justice—or a reaction to injustice**. Referencing Amartya Sen's *The Idea of Justice*, one participant spoke about a universal feature of human societies, which is that across time and place, people come together in reaction to a perceived injustice. Resistance to injustice—and an ethical aspiration for justice, even if not articulated or shared—emerged as foundational to solidarity.
- Second, **solidaristic acts can exclude and stigmatise people as well as include**—they are not necessarily “good” or “ethical” acts. What matters more is what those acts attempt to change, not how they do it. Furthermore, as participants articulated, a tool such as the solidarity index that we are trying to develop could further entrench the status quo and advance existing patterns of oppression and domination.
- Finally, **solidaristic acts don't just emerge out of nowhere**; instead, the acts arise out of a pre-existing network of relations, shared experiences and values, and material resources that allow groups of people to respond in the moment. A metaphor that came to mind is mycelium. Largely unseen, it connects plants and trees, and under the right conditions produces a mushroom. That mushroom is only possible because of the network of mycelium already in place. In the same way, acts of solidarity respond to an injustice but draw on pre-existing networks of activists, shared experiences, and shared values of resisting or living with injustice, and often resources.

Thanks to the participants for sharing their experiences and for giving me insight into the complex, layered, and rich tapestry of Indian life.

DISCOVER THE LATEST UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS FROM OUR WORK ACROSS THE GLOBE



Closing the Circle: Our Regional Solidarity Workshops Are Complete

The South Asia Workshop marked the fifth and final regional dialogue in a series dedicated to exploring and advancing critical understandings of solidarity across diverse contexts, and its significance for global health. Under the theme “Solidarity in Global Health: Perspectives from India & Nepal,” the workshop brought together researchers, funders, civil society groups, and community leaders to examine how solidarity is practised on the ground—how people organise, share power, and work together to confront inequities.

From 2023 to 2025, earlier workshops traced solidarity across diverse settings: in Australia (Pacific region), where island and Indigenous contexts shaped collective action; in Costa Rica (Latin America), highlighting feminist, community, and rights-based approaches; in Ghana (Anglophone Africa), centring frontline experiences and system-level equity questions; and in Guinea (Francophone Africa), focusing on community resilience and public-health solidarities amid crisis and recovery.

With this finale, we move from listening across regions to synthesising what we have learned about solidarity in different contexts and translating it into practical guidance for fairer, people-centred global health.

South Asian Voices on Solidarity

“It is unfortunate that my community is still labelled as a ‘scavenger community.’ I don’t like that word, but the system imposed it on us, stripping away our true identity. When you face discrimination, when society tells you that you don’t belong, you have to find your own way. In our ghettos and slums, solidarity is what sustains us — it is the love we show each other, the ways we come together to solve our own problems and to survive in this society.”

-Dr. Vimal Kumar – Movement for Scavenger Community (MSC), Assam





This workshop has shown me that solidarity does not have a single definition. Instead, it is a process that reflects our different experiences and perspectives. Bringing those differences into dialogue is what solidarity in public health looks like. It is the acknowledgment that we depend on each other, and that progress requires recognising and embracing that interdependence.

-Dr. Kavita Chauhan – Oxford Policy Management, Delhi

Solidarity at the global level has many dimensions. The key question is: who are the stakeholders? In international partnerships, we often talk about funders, beneficiaries, or implementers, but power relations between these actors are rarely equal. Solidarity, to me, means addressing these hierarchies and ensuring equity in decision-making. True solidarity cannot exist if some partners are simply complying with the demands of others.

-Prof. Sharad Raj Onta, People's Health Movement, Nepal



[Read About the South Asia GH-Solidarity Workshop Here](#)

Latin American Voices on Solidarity

In a vibrant dialogue rooted in lived experience and historical struggle, the “Reimagining Solidarity: Latin American Perspectives” workshop offered a refreshing and critical lens on how solidarity in global health can be grounded in justice, collective memory, and social transformation.

Participants from across Latin America—from community leaders and health activists to researchers and policymakers—shared how solidarity has been a tool for resistance against inequality, a way to reclaim dignity, and a path toward decolonised health systems.

[Read More](#)



"Solidarity isn't about adding voices to a broken system — it's about dismantling the structures that silence them..."



The Global Health Solidarity Project at #Ethox2025

The Global Health Solidarity Project (GH-Solidarity) had a marked presence at the 2025 Oxford Global Health & Bioethics International (Ethox) Conference, which brings together the global health bioethics community to share research, exchange ideas, and build collaborations. This year's meeting focused on the ethical issues in global health policy, practice, and research most in need of sustained attention from researchers, funders, and policymakers.

Prof. Caesar Atuire, Principal Investigator of GH-Solidarity, delivered the opening keynote titled "Solidarity Ethics for a Renewed Global Health" setting the tone for a programme centred on practical, justice-oriented solidarity. He cautioned that if we invoke solidarity only in moments of crises, we begin to conflate solidarity with terms such as charity; and charity is not emancipatory.

GH-Solidarity project colleagues also contributed prominently: Imogen Brown made a presentation titled, "Say what you mean, but don't say it mean: Critical Discourse Analysis of commentaries in bioethics journals" and Dr Donna Andrews facilitated a conversation on "Climate change and pandemics, co-producing crisis: how could bioethics be enriched by critical forms of scholarship, histories, and theories?"

Together, these sessions advanced a clear message: embed solidarity and solidaristic practice in concrete ways that can transform policy and research, making global health initiatives more accountable, equitable, and attuned to the needs of the communities.

PERSPECTIVES ON SOLIDARITY AND THE SOLIDARITY INDEX



Developing a Solidarity Index for Global Health: Influencer Perspectives

Compiled by Hannah Healey, Graduate Fellow and PhD Candidate at Western University

Can solidarity be measured? Our new report compiled by Hannah Healey and colleagues explores this question through the perspectives of senior leaders in global health funding and research. Covering domains such as stakeholder engagement, resource allocation, accountability, and outcomes, it provides a practical lens on understanding and applying solidaristic practices in real-world health systems.

[Read the Report Here](#)

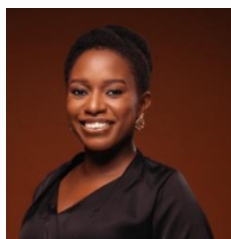
The development partners and big players are not yet considering solidarity as one of the effective ways of addressing public health issues. In my opinion, this is missing among development partners and funding agencies

– Influencer participant, Solidarity Index Report, 2025



Ugly mugs and 'No Sugar' -thinking about solidarity within art museums and during coffee breaks.

Written by Dr. Marlise Richter



Learning to name what I have lived: Reflections from the Global Health Solidarity Open Forum

Written by Agnetta Lucia Nabukenya

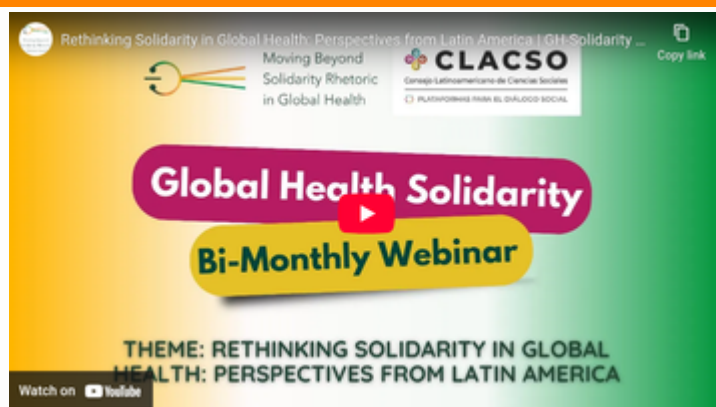
WATCH THE LATEST VIDEOS



How does solidarity hold when research budgets shrink?

Seye Abimbola, Associate Professor of Health Systems at the University of Sydney, offers a clear, grounded response—arguing for solidarity that redistributes power, protects dignity, and keeps communities at the centre when resources tighten.

[Watch here](#)



From feminist resistance and ancestral medicine to the decolonisation of global health frameworks, speakers at the 4th Bi-Monthly Webinar “Rethinking Solidarity in Global Health: Perspectives from Latin America,” offered grounded, uncompromising reflections on what solidarity really means in times of crisis.[†]

[Watch here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

GLOBAL HEALTH SOLIDARITY



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CALL FOR PAPERS

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GLOBAL HEALTH SOLIDARITY**

Abstract: 300 words
Send to: globalhealthsolidarity@gh.edu.gh

Submit your idea by October 31st

Is your work or research shaping the understanding of solidarity or adjacent concepts?
Share your abstract by 30th October 2025.

[More information on the Call for Papers Here](#)

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Global Health Solidarity

Bi-Monthly Webinar

Navigating Health and Solidarity: Refugee Perspectives and Practical Challenges



Thursday 16th October 2025



10:30 CEST | 08:30 GMT |
09:30 BST | 11:30 EAT

SCAN TO
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Join us on **Thursday 16th October 2025 at 10:30 CET** for the 5th Global Health Solidarity Webinar —an interactive dialogue centring refugee health, lived experience, and practice.

[Register to attend here](#)

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