

International Politics and Diplomacy for Health for Emerging Leaders

EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME 2026



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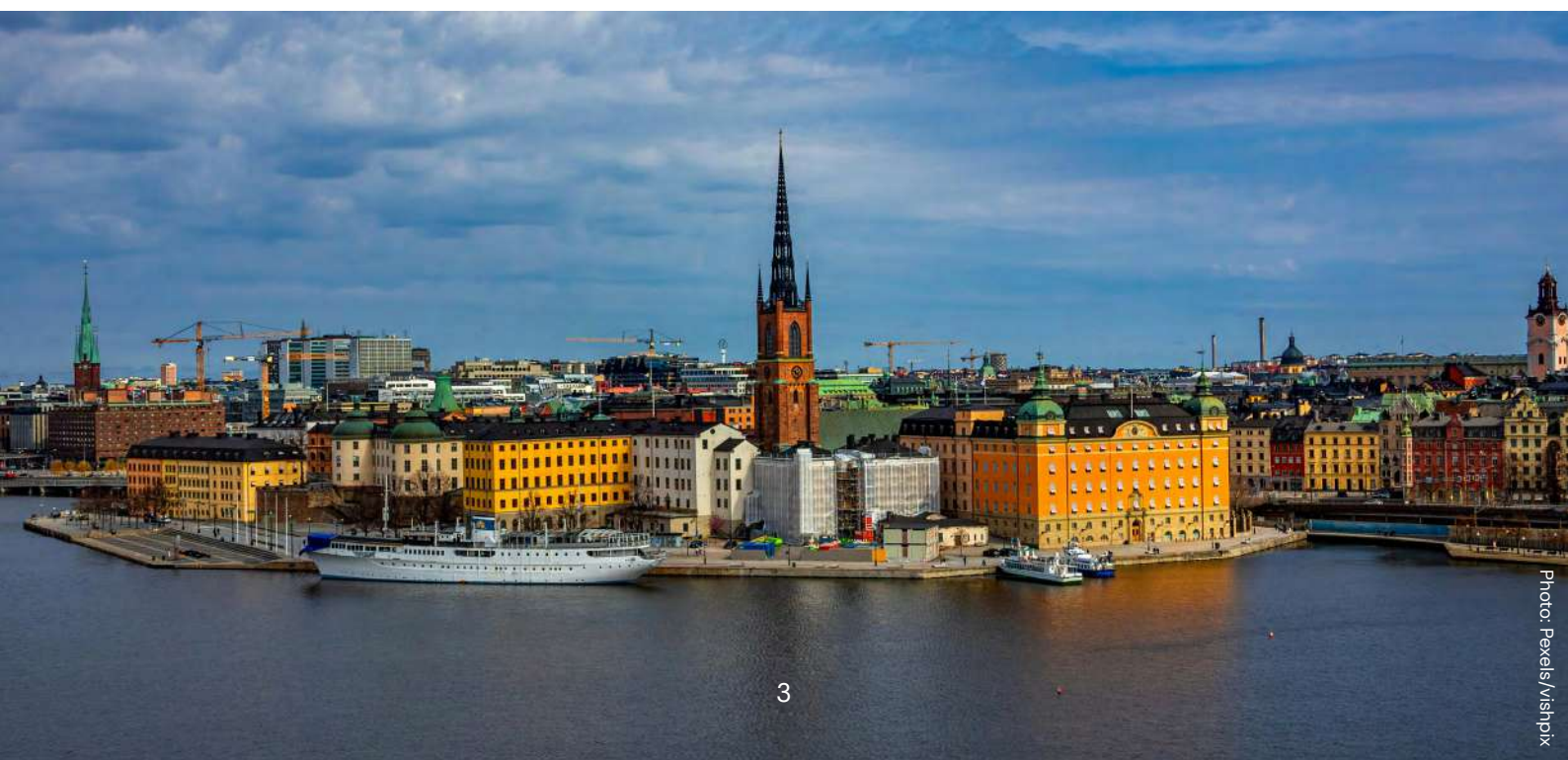
CENTER FOR
RESILIENT HEALTH



**Karolinska
Institutet**

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Background

Health diplomacy has been a cornerstone of some of the most remarkable global health achievements in the past four decades. From the eradication of smallpox to the mobilization of funds for developing treatments for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, and the significant reduction in child and maternal mortality – these achievements have only been possible through the collective efforts of actors successfully navigating the political landscape for health.

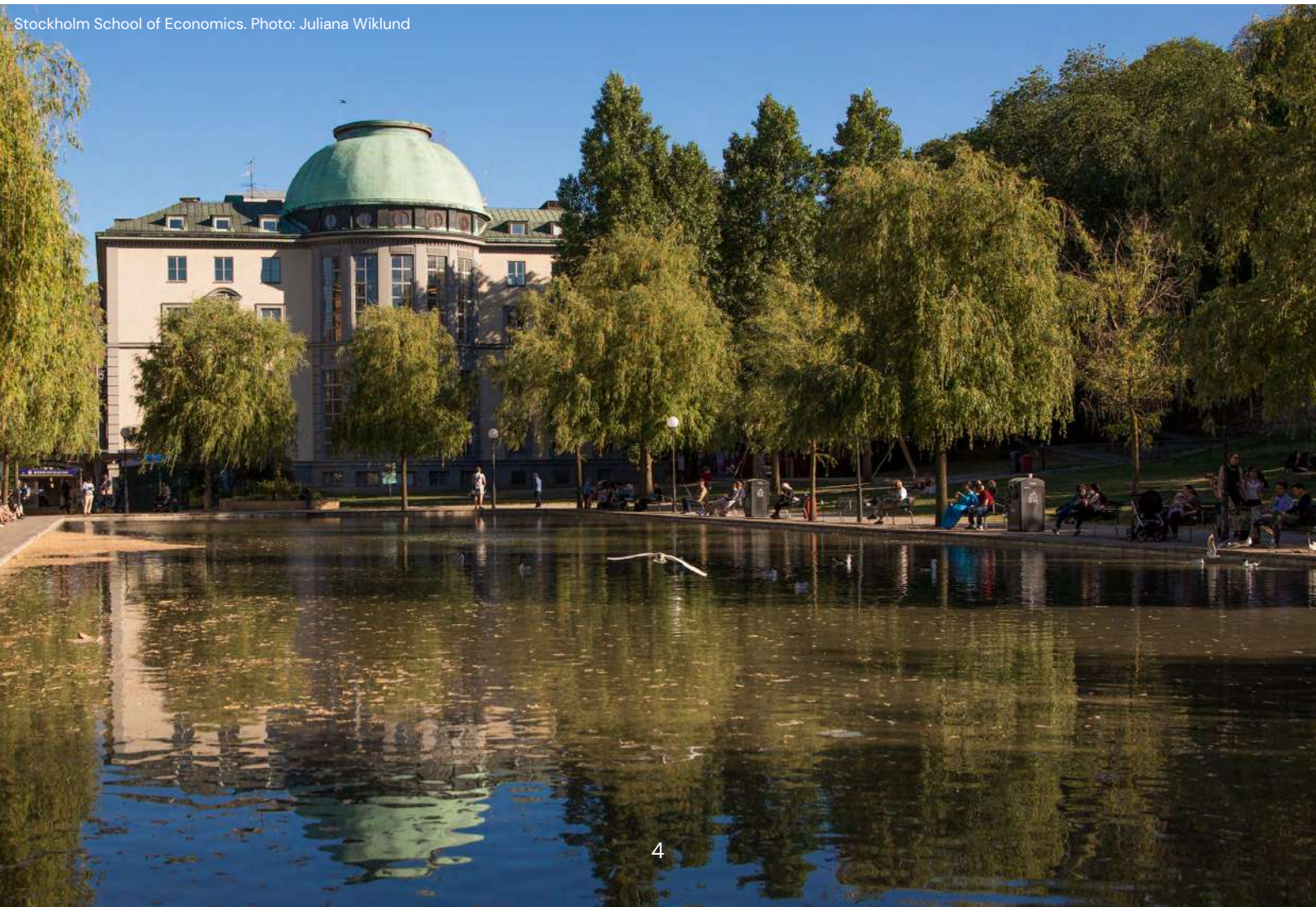
Health is not just a technical or medical issue, but a critical element of foreign policy for security, climate, humanitarian and international development cooperation. Partnership with civil society, academia and business can only develop with greater understanding and collaboration between different actors, where philanthropy also plays a crucial role. Health[GC2.1] is prominent on the agendas of regional organisations such as the African Union, the European Union and The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as economic blocs such as the G7 and G20. Several countries have even established dedicated ambassadorships (or equivalent) for global health.

Across the spectrum of stakeholders involved in global health there is:

- A growing recognition that improving health outcomes requires more than just evidence and technical expertise – it demands a deeper understanding of the political economy of health.
- A renewed appetite to invest in health diplomacy to strengthen competencies and capacity and to learn from each other.

However, a gap exists in **integrating governance, diplomacy, development, and business insights with political science and public health disciplines**, and learning opportunities are limited.

Stockholm School of Economics. Photo: Juliana Wiklund





Karolinska Institutet Aula Medica. Photo: Ulf Sirborn

Introduction

Addressing the need for learning opportunities in health diplomacy, Karolinska Institutet and the Stockholm School of Economics have launched The Partnership for International Politics and Diplomacy for Health. The aim is to **equip** emerging generations of health leaders with health diplomacy skills, **build a network** of organisations and individuals committed to the improvement of health, **generate insights** about the evolving nature of health diplomacy, and **engage** in the international dialogue on what a reformed international ecosystem for global health could look like.

The leading component of The Partnership for International Politics and Diplomacy for Health is the annual Executive Programme – ‘Politics and Diplomacy for Health’.

The first programme was concluded in 2024 and brought together 28 mid-career professionals from 21 countries spanning all regions of the world and the second one in 2025 enrolled an additional 28 fellows. Based on the strong interest in previous programmes and positive evaluation from the fellows, the yearly programme is now planned for the longer term.

Our vision and mission

We have created this Executive Programme because we want to see an expanded cadre of health diplomats from across the world able to drive health improvements.

Our mission over the first four years is to equip more than 100 emerging health leaders from the public and private sectors, and civil society, with the skills to effectively navigate global and regional political settings of importance for health.

Our approach

We have designed the Executive Programme to prioritize experiential learning over traditional teaching methods, focusing on real-world applications that empower future leaders. Our work is grounded in collaboration and exchange, bringing together diverse expertise, perspectives, and experiences.

While our programme is informed by the theories that have shaped and explained why the world is as it is today, our focus is on the practical aspects of health diplomacy and considering what is likely to be required for future health leaders to succeed.

How we do it

We deliver the programme around a practitioner-to-practitioner model rather than traditional teaching – bringing some of the most experienced leaders in the global health sphere (faculty) together with the course participants.

The programme focuses on unpacking and learning from faculty about political processes and contexts for decision-making for health, at the regional and global levels. It addresses a set of skills and ways of working which constitute global health diplomacy.

Through discussion, participants gain personal insights from faculty about both successful and unsuccessful health diplomacy efforts, and what they can learn for the future of health diplomacy.

The Learning objectives

Our Executive Programme is designed to cover six important dimensions of and competences for health diplomacy:

1. **Transformative leadership** – how to identify and maximize/seize **windows of opportunity**?
2. The dynamics of **formal and informal decision-making** – where and by whom are real decisions taken?
3. **Fostering trust, building networks, and nurturing relationships** – how to do it?
4. Understanding and learning from **entrepreneurship** and the private sector.
5. **Managing uncertainty and coping with failures** – embracing failure, being courageous, and understanding oneself and one's adversaries.
6. **Effective communication** – why do style, language, and timing matter?

Across these six dimensions, the cross-cutting theme of **passion and clear personal values** will also be present.

Methodology and programme structure

The programme will comprise five online workshops, and a five-day masterclass in Sweden.

Canvas will be used as the online learning platform to support the program – accessing sessions, materials and enabling chats and communication.

A practitioner-to-practitioner approach

The programme will be built on the sharing of real present or past personal experiences from navigating regional or global political contexts for health (including storytelling). There will be opportunities to learn from both successes and failures and be inspired by recognized senior leaders as well as from fellow participants (peer-to-peer learning). There will be no or very limited traditional teaching.

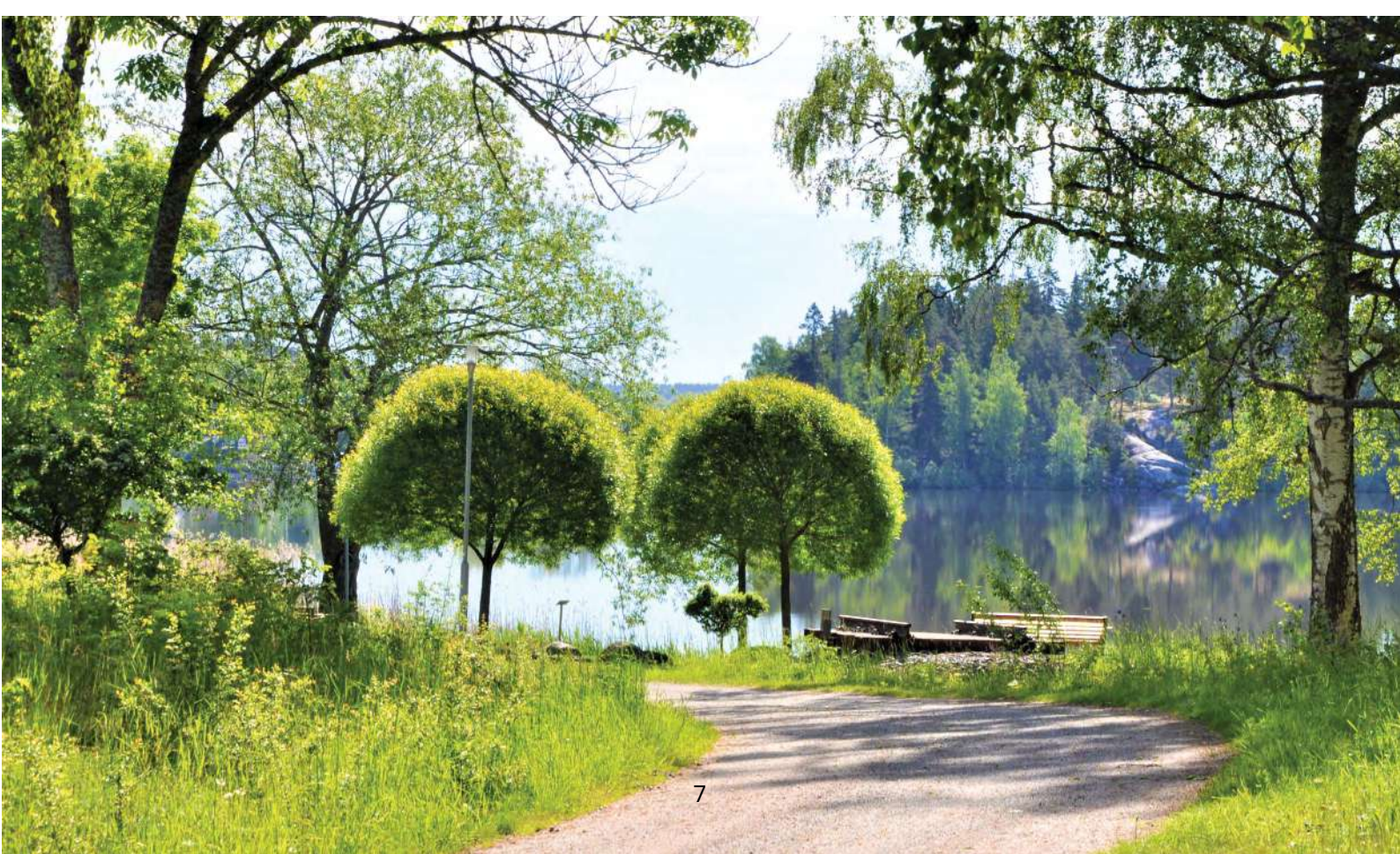
The participants will also be given the opportunity to connect with previous fellows before the programme starts.

Assignments

A tabletop negotiation exercise will take place during the masterclass where the participants will be divided into delegations with the task to negotiate an agreement.

Learning material – pre-reading

Participants will be guided by relevant reading material (books and short articles) as well as existing short online video sessions and podcasts.

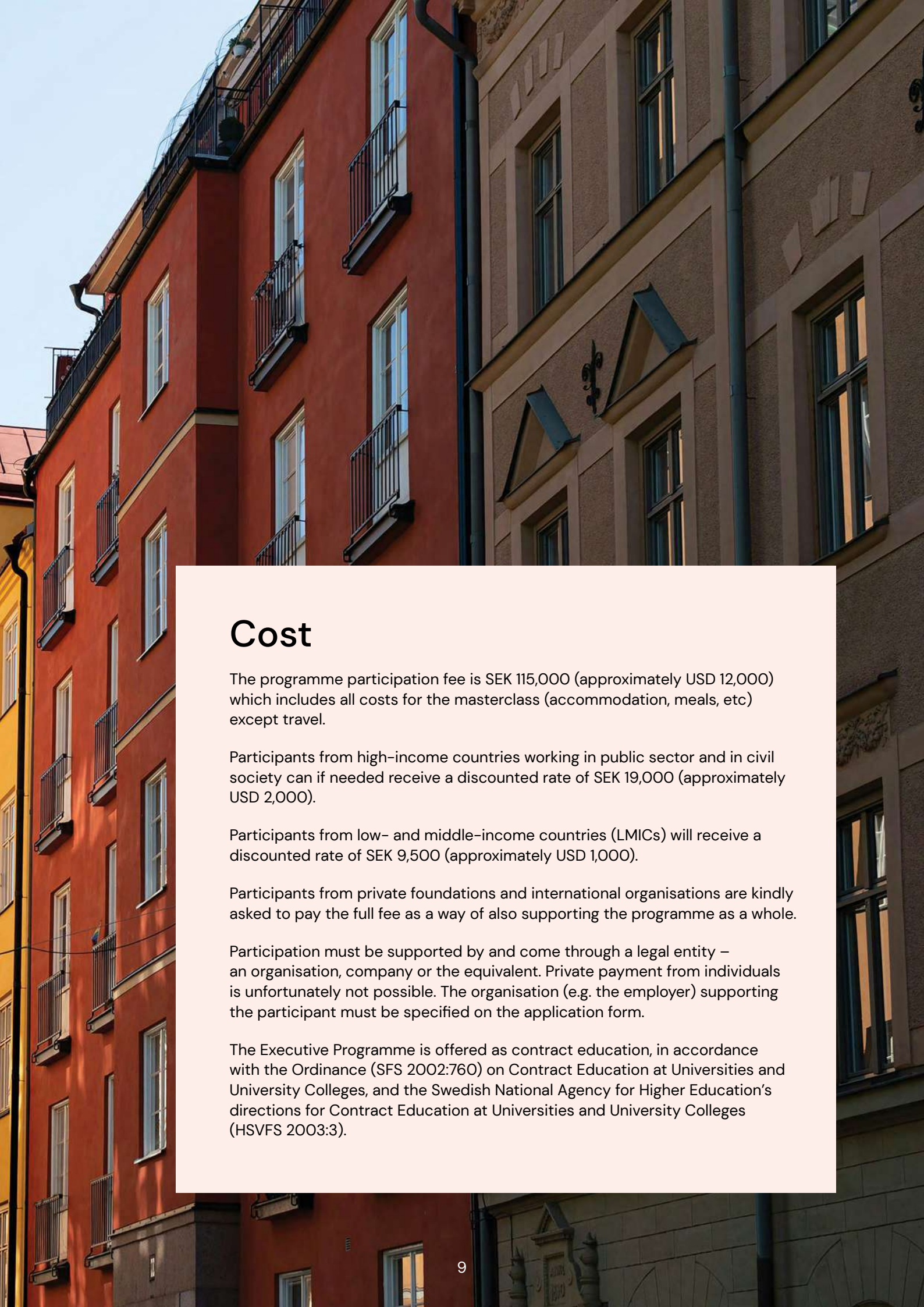


Participants

The programme will enrol up to 28 mid-career professionals from all regions of the world and will have a geographically representative and gender-balanced mix of participants from the public and private sectors and civil society.

As an Executive Programme we are seeking to attract participants with;

- Specific experience from having managed or contributed to political processes of relevance to health at regional or global level.
- 10-15 years of senior relevant and professional working experience from either public or private sector, civil society, international organisations or foundations.
- Proven commitment to and knowledge about health trends and improvements.
- Excellent knowledge about the international system of relevance to health.
- Strong motivation for how this programme will contribute to their continued career development, and ability to meet the required time commitment.



Cost

The programme participation fee is SEK 115,000 (approximately USD 12,000) which includes all costs for the masterclass (accommodation, meals, etc) except travel.

Participants from high-income countries working in public sector and in civil society can if needed receive a discounted rate of SEK 19,000 (approximately USD 2,000).

Participants from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will receive a discounted rate of SEK 9,500 (approximately USD 1,000).

Participants from private foundations and international organisations are kindly asked to pay the full fee as a way of also supporting the programme as a whole.

Participation must be supported by and come through a legal entity – an organisation, company or the equivalent. Private payment from individuals is unfortunately not possible. The organisation (e.g. the employer) supporting the participant must be specified on the application form.

The Executive Programme is offered as contract education, in accordance with the Ordinance (SFS 2002:760) on Contract Education at Universities and University Colleges, and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education's directions for Contract Education at Universities and University Colleges (HSVFS 2003:3).

Certificate

The programme has the status of an Executive Programme, and a certificate will be provided jointly by the Stockholm School of Economics and Karolinska Institutet. Participants must have participated in at least four of the online workshops and the masterclass in its entirety.

Programme timeline

The programme will consist of five online seminars and an in-person five-day masterclass in Sigtuna, Sweden. Prior to the masterclass, individual check-ins between fellows and the programme directors will take place.

The online seminars will take place on 1, 22 April, 13, 28 May and 24 June 2026 and run for two hours each (13.00 –15.00 CET).

The masterclass will be in person only and take place close to Stockholm 8–12 June 2026 starting Monday lunch and finishing Friday lunch.



Professional network and institutional collaboration

The Fellows will be part of a growing network of colleagues (former Fellows and faculty) – the Health Diplomacy Community. A web platform is established to support communication and exchange as well as recurrent events and seminars.

The Health Diplomacy Institutional Network (36 institutions with presently ten programmes specifically relating to health diplomacy) also constitutes an opportunity to access an even larger community of practice.



On-line workshops

Seminar 1 – 1 April

13:00 – 13:45 | Welcome and presentation of the programme and participants

13:45 – 14:45 | **An introduction to Health Diplomacy and Politics** with Anders Nordström, Gunilla Carlsson and Tobias Alfvén

14:45 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

Seminar 2 – 22 April

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **A reset of the international ecosystem for health? – the role of health diplomacy** with Helen Clark

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

Seminar 3 – 13 May

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **The logic of politics and what role can health diplomacy play?** with David Miliband

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

Seminar 4 – 28 May

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **Health diplomacy in an intergenerational perspective** with Thoraya Obaid

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

Seminar 5 – 24 June

13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome back – a check in

13:15 – 14:30 | **An Asian outlook, the role of philanthropy and what health diplomacy can do** with Gabriel Leung

14:30 – 14:50 | Discussion about what we heard

14:50 – 15:00 | Summary and what's next

Masterclass

Monday 8th June

Health politics, reforms and an evolving landscape

11:00 – 12:00 | Arrivals

Welcome and registration as you arrive in Sigtuna. This is the time for participants to settle in, receive their materials, sign up for 'Group Walk & Talk' session groups, and network informally before the sessions begin.

12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch

13:00 – 14:15 | Introductions

Participants will introduce themselves and share their backgrounds and expectations. This session will also cover an overview of the program and objectives, as well as allow participants to establish group norms notes to ensure active participation and a collaborative environment.

This first day will explore the dynamics of political reforms for health focusing on current movements and how geopolitical and regional factors influence health diplomacy, policies and outcomes.

The objectives are that the participants should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the political dynamics of navigating major reforms processes of relevance to a government, an organisation and to the international system for health at large;
- situate global health and health diplomacy within broader development and policy frameworks, demonstrating its relevance to wider societal goals.

14:15 – 14:45 | Coffee break

14:45 – 16:00 | The evolving international health ecosystem – reforming an organisation and contributing to the modernisation of the system at large with Sania Nishtar

Sania Nishtar is the CEO of Gavi and former Senator and Minister in Pakistan. She co-chaired WHO's High-Level Commission on Non-communicable diseases.

16:00 – 16:15 | Break

16:15 – 17:30 | Wellbeing as the goal and driving force for reforms with Katrín Jakobsdóttir

Katrín Jakobsdóttir is the former Prime Minister of Iceland and WHO Champion for the European Well-being Economy Initiative.

17:30 – 18:00 | Introduction to negotiation exercise

18:00 – 19:30 | Dinner

19:30 – 21:00 | Informal evening interactions with Sania Nishtar, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Peter Piot, Elhaj As Sy and José Luis Castro

Tuesday 9th June

Transformative leadership – challenging contexts, managing risks and windows of opportunities

8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 1

Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.

This day will focus on leadership and how to recognise and leverage critical moments when strategic actions can lead to significant advancements.

What makes transformative leadership different? What are windows of opportunities and how to use them? Taking risks when and how to cope with failing?

The objectives are that the participants should be able to:

- demonstrate leadership skills and drive change and innovation;
- assess and take calculated risks in complex environments;
- manage uncertainty effectively and adapt to evolving challenges.

9:00 – 10:15 | **Leaders who seek windows of opportunities** with Peter Piot

Professor and former president London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, founding Executive Director of UNAIDS.

10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee break

10:45 – 11:30 | **Challenges and opportunities – my journey** with José Luis Castro

José Luis Castro, Cuba, WHO Special Envoy, Chronic Respiratory Disease and former President and CEO of Vital Strategies.

11:30 – 12:30 | Group Walk & Talk

Interactive walking sessions with the resource people of the day (in groups previously signed up for) to discuss insights from the morning session while networking informally.

12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch

13:30 – 14:15 | **The Accra reset – a window of opportunities** with Elhaj As Sy

Elhaj As Sy is the Chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation Board

14:15 – 15:30 | **Preparation for negotiation exercise**

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 | **Continued preparation for negotiation exercise**

18:00 – 19:15 | Dinner

19:30 – 21:30 | **Visit to Skokloster**

An evening visit to the historic castle Skokloster for some cultural exchange, relaxation, and informal networking.

Wednesday 10th June

Formal and informal decision making, networks and trust

8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 2

Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.

This day will cover the dynamics of formal and informal decision-making processes.

The objectives are that the participants should be able to:

- recognise and navigate political dynamics and power structures across diverse contexts;
- demonstrate awareness and understanding of formal and informal political decision-making processes, including the powers and influence of various stakeholders;
- build trust, nurture relationships, and form effective networks across sectoral, geographical, cultural, and political boundaries.

9:00 – 10:15 | **The secrets of behind closed doors negotiations and diplomacy** with Toshi Ezoe
Satoshi "Toshi" Ezoe serves as Senior Assistant Minister for Global Health, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan.

10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee break

10:45 – 11:30 | **Communication, trust and cultural understanding** with Hanan Al Kuwari
Hanan Al Kuwari is adviser to the Prime Minister on health affairs and former Minister for Health, Qatar.

11:30 – 12:30 | Group Walk & Talk

Interactive walking sessions with the resource people of the day (in groups previously signed up for) to discuss insights from the morning session while networking informally.

12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch

13:30 – 15:15 | **Continued preparation for negotiation exercise**

15:15 – 15:30 | Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 | **What is happening before and after board meetings?** with Helen Evans
Helen Evans, Professor University of Melbourne and former deputy Executive Director for both Gavi and the Global Fund.

18:00 – 19:30 | Dinner

19:30 – 21:00 | **Garden Talk – Taking risks and managing failure** with Gunilla Carlsson and Anders Nordström

Thursday 11th June

Private and public sectors crossovers

8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 3

Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.

This day will examine the dynamic between private and public sectors in global and regional health settings.

The objectives are that the participants should be able to:

- see how one can bridge the gap in terms of ways of working, culture and communication between private and public sectors;
- understand how the private sector impacts and can contribute to political and health policy decisions.

9:00 – 10:15 | **What we faced during the COVID-19 pandemic** with Per Alfredsson

Per Alfredsson, Senior Vice President, Global Biologics Operations, AstraZeneca, Sweden.

10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee break

10:45 – 11:30 | **How philanthropy is bridging private and public actors and opportunities** with Aparajita Ramakrishnan

Aparajita Ramakrishnan is Director, Family Planning at the Gates Foundation.

11:30 – 12:30 | Group Walk & Talk

Interactive walking sessions with the resource people of the day (in groups previously signed up for) to discuss insights from the morning session while networking informally.

12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 | Tabletop negotiations

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 | **How are private sector actors and innovations contributing to global public health?** with Mark Dybul

Mark Dybul is Professor at Georgetown University and former Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and United States Global AIDS Coordinator.

18:00 – 19:30 | Dinner table debriefings

19:30 – 21:00 | **Informal evening interactions** with Mark Dybul, Aparajita Ramakrishnan, Richard Horton and Ebere Okereke

Friday 12th June

The future – what will come next?

8:30 – 9:00 | Recap of Day 4

Summary and reflections on the previous day's sessions, allowing participants to review and prepare for the day's topics.

This theme will examine the future of regional and global health and the implications for how to navigate an evolving political landscape.

- How will the global ecosystem and the political dynamics change, and what will be the implications?
- Is there a future for multilateralism?
- How will approaches, tools and “tricks” for health diplomacy adapt?

9:00 – 10:00 | **Reflections on what is happening now, what will come next and the implications for health diplomacy** with Richard Horton and Ebere Okereke

Richard Horton is the Chief Editor of The Lancet.

Ebere Okereke is a Public Health Advisor.

10:00 – 11:00 | **Group discussions with the guests** including coffee

11:00 – 11:30 | **What did we hear and discuss?** – discussion with Richard Horton

11:30 – 13:00 | **Evaluation and next steps**

This session will allow participants to evaluate the masterclass, reflecting on the content, structure, and overall experience. This session aims to gather insights that will inform future iterations of the program.

Additionally, it will allow participants in pairs to reflect on their personal learnings and the practical applications of the knowledge and skills acquired during the masterclass and how they would like to move forward on their global health diplomacy journeys and work lives.

13:00 – 13:45 | Lunch

13:45 – 14:30 | Departure

Faculty

Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand

David Miliband, former Foreign Secretary, United Kingdom

Thoraya Obaid, former Executive Director for UNFPA

Gabriel Leung, Executive Director, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Sania Nishtar, CEO Gavi and former Senator in Pakistan

Katrín Jakobsdóttir, former Prime Minister of Iceland

Elhaj As Sy, Board chair Kofi Annan Foundation and former Secretary General International Red Cross Federation

Peter Piot, Professor, founding Executive Director of UNAIDS

José Luis Castro, WHO Special Envoy, Chronic Respiratory Disease

Toshi Ezoe, Senior Assistant Minister for Global Health, Japan

Hanan Al Kuwari, former Minister of Public Health, Qatar

Helen Evans, Professor University of Melbourne

Per Alfredsson, Senior Vice President, Global Biologics Operations, AstraZeneca Sweden

Aparajita Ramakrishnan, Director, Family Planning, Gates Foundation

Mark Dybul, Professor Georgetown University, former Executive Director GFTAM

Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet

Ebere Okereke, Public Health Advisor

Fellows, faculty and programme leadership 2026



FELLOWS



ABDUL-FATAWU SALIFU

Executive Secretary, NAP+ Ghana, Coordinator
DHRP & CESI, Alternate Board Member UNITAID
Communities Delegation

Tamale,
Ghana

Abdul-Fatawu Salifu is a public health practitioner, licensed nutritionist, and community advocate with wide experience advancing health equity and community-led responses to HIV, TB, and malaria. He is the Alternate Board Member of Unitaid Communities Delegation and Executive Director of the Ghana Network of Persons Living with HIV, championing community engagement, youth leadership, and equitable access to innovative health technologies. His work focuses on strengthening partnerships, leading national and global advocacy efforts, and bridging grassroots realities with policy processes to promote inclusive, people-centred health systems that prioritise vulnerable and marginalised populations.



ABDULLAH M. ALARIFI

Director-General of Global Health
– Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia

Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia

Abdullah M. Alarifi is a public health and global health leader serving as Senior Adviser to the Deputy Minister of Health for Population Health in Saudi Arabia and Director-General of Global Health. He leads the development of the National Population Health Strategy and represents Saudi Arabia at the WHO, including as an Advisor to the Executive Board. A long time global health educator, he holds an MBBS from King Saud University, an MPH from Cardiff University, and is board certified in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. He is a Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health, completed executive leadership training at Oxford, and has published over 30 papers on population health, global health governance, and health system strengthening.



ABEBE BEKELE

Dean, School of Medicine, Deputy Vice
Chancellor, University of Global Health
Equity, Professor of Surgery

Kigali,
Rwanda

Abebe Bekele is the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Research Affairs and founding Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda. A Full Professor of Surgery, he holds faculty appointments at UGHE, Addis Ababa University, the University of Rwanda, and Duke University. Formerly CEO of Black Lion Teaching Hospital and Dean of Medicine at Addis Ababa University, he has over 26 years of experience in surgical and medical education. A fellow of multiple academies, he serves as Secretary General of COSECSA, Editor in Chief of the East and Central Africa Journal of Surgery, and has published more than 140 works focused on global surgery, trauma, oncology, and medical education.

FELLOWS



AHMED OSMAN

Regional Manager for MEA region,
ACCESS Health International

Cairo,
Egypt

Ahmed Osman is a senior public health and health diplomacy professional with over 12 years of experience across government, multilateral cooperation, and the private sector in the Middle East, Africa, and the GCC. He has held leadership roles within the Egyptian Ministry of Health, the Egypt Healthcare Authority, and the Office of the President, contributing to national health reform, UHIS, implementation, and international health cooperation. He has led major donor-funded programs with partners such as the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, and JICA, advancing health system strengthening, primary healthcare reform, crisis management, and population health initiatives affecting millions. His work spans health governance, financing, service delivery transformation, and cross government coordination.



ANGKANA LEKAGUL

International Health Policy
Program Foundation, Thailand

Bangkok,
Thailand

Angkana Lekagul is Secretary General and a senior researcher at the International Health Policy Program (IHPP) Foundation, working at the intersection of health policy, diplomacy, and global governance. She holds a PhD in Health Policy from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a Certificate in One Health from the University of Florida. Since 2015, she has engaged in WHO Executive Board and World Health Assembly processes, translating global commitments particularly on antimicrobial resistance into national and regional actions. She leads the Technical Secretariat of the Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) and manages the PMAC Strategic Institute, advancing policy dialogue, trust-building, and collective action.



ARTHUR WYNS

Assistant Director, Australian CDC

Melbourne
Australia

Arthur Wyns is an Assistant Director at the Australian Centre for Disease Control, where he coordinates the Australian Government's engagement on climate and health for the COP31 UN climate conference. His former positions include COP28 senior health advisor to the Government of the United Arab Emirates, and climate advisor to the World Health Organization. Arthur founded the diplomatic initiative 'Friends of Climate and Health', which brings together climate change negotiators to explore entry points for health and wellbeing in the UN climate negotiators. He is the policy editor at the Journal of Climate and Health. Arthur lives in Melbourne, Australia.

FELLOWS



CECILIA WANJALA
General Manager Commercial Services,
Kenya BioVax Institute

Nairobi,
Kenya

Cecilia Wanjala is a founder member and General Manager Commercial Services at the Kenya BioVax Institute. She holds an MBA in Strategic Management and a Pharmacy degree from the University of Nairobi. She has extensive experience in the health sector, providing policy and strategic advisory services to strengthen service delivery. Dr. Wanjala has led successful innovation and commercialization efforts within state corporations and maintains a wide network across public and private sectors. She spearheaded the concept and business case for establishing local human vaccine manufacturing capacity in Kenya. Passionate about sustainable African manufacturing, she has co-authored chapters on this topic in *Cancer Care in Pandemic Times*.



CORINNA HEINEKE
Managing Director, Secretariat of
the Global Health Hub Germany

Berlin,
Germany

Corinna Heineke has worked in the non-governmental, academic, freelance, and quasi-government sectors, with different global health issues, policies, and programmes at the forefront of her career. She has been a manager or director of a number of programmes in the German cooperation – the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) – for more than 10 years, and her experience working on global health goes back approximately 20 years. She holds two Masters degrees in Political Science and Global Political Economy. Currently she heads the Secretariat of the Global Health Hub Germany, a network of more than 2300 non-state actors working on global health.



EMILIA CARO
CEO GEDYT

Buenos Aires,
Argentina

Emilia Caro is a global health leader and strategist working at the intersection of health systems, gender equity, and evidence-informed decision making. She serves as Global Chair of Women in Global Health and Executive Director of Fundación GEDYT in Argentina, where she leads initiatives to expand equitable access to colorectal cancer prevention and early detection. Emilia also leads the Argentine Alliance for Women's Health, a multi-stakeholder platform advancing gender-responsive health systems. With a background in molecular biology and health management, she focuses on strengthening governance, improving the quality of health decisions, and advancing women's leadership across the health sector.

FELLOWS



EMMANUEL TRONC

Head of Outreach and External
Engagement H2H Network

Geneva,
Switzerland

Emmanuel Tronc is a humanitarian professional with extensive experience in conflict settings, medical emergency response, and engagement with state and non state actors. Over two decades with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), he served as Head of Mission in contexts including Chechnya, Indonesia, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, and Afghanistan, later leading humanitarian diplomacy as MSF's main representative to the UN aid system. He has directed the Humanitarian Access and Negotiations Program at Conflict Dynamics International and worked as a Senior Humanitarian Researcher at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and has taught Master's-level courses on conflict and crises at Sciences Po Paris. He is a trained economist and holds advanced degrees in public health and political science.



GUILHERME GONÇALVES DUARTE

Executive Director – UNITE
Parliamentarians Network for Global Health

Lisbon,
Portugal

Guilherme Duarte is the Executive Director of UNITE, a global network of parliamentarians dedicated to advancing political leadership in global health. With a background in public health, diplomacy, and policymaking, he previously served as Health Counsellor at Portugal's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva (2020-2024), representing the country at WHO, UNITAID, and The Global Fund. He has also held national political roles in the Portuguese Ministry of Health and worked as a WHO consultant. Passionate about health governance and diplomacy, he focuses on strengthening political commitment to global health challenges through evidence-based policies and cross-sector partnerships.



JACK FISHER

Lead, Strategic Engagement and Impact
Bayer AG

Basel,
Switzerland

Jack Fisher is a versatile and purpose driven global health professional with over a decade of experience leading cross sector partnerships, public affairs, and strategic initiatives across the United Nations, civil society, and multinational companies. Within Bayer's Global Climate Health Group in the Chief Medical Office, he advances high level collaborations and external engagement on climate and health, grounded in a strong commitment to multi-stakeholder engagement, community mobilization and political advocacy. His work spans non communicable diseases, health systems strengthening, and climate related health challenges, uniting diverse actors to deliver health outcomes for underserved populations.

FELLOWS



JASMINE CHOI
Senior Analyst, Practice Manager
Eurasia Group

London,
United Kingdom

Jasmine Choi is a geopolitical risk specialist at Eurasia Group, leading healthcare practice analysis and advising multinational companies on global health, policy, and geopolitical risks. She guides pharma and medical device firms through risk mitigation strategies, stakeholder engagement, regulatory navigation, multilateral event participation – such as Davos, Munich Security Conference, World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings – and whitepapers. Previously, she supported the US Department of Veterans Affairs' COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial strategy, the US Chamber of Commerce healthcare initiatives and B7 private-sector inputs for G7 discussions, worked in public diplomacy at the US Consulate in Krakow, and represented the US at the 2022 G20 Youth Summit in Indonesia.



JENNIFER LIEBSCHUTZ
Team Lead for Policy, Planning and Strategy,
US Department of State

Washington D.C.
United States

Jennifer Liebschutz is the Team Lead for Policy, Planning, and Strategy in the Global Health Security and Diplomacy Bureau at the U.S. Department of State. She previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor at USAID, and as a Program Examiner for Global Health in the White House Office of Management and Budget. Jen served in 2022 as the Director for the Global COVID Response and Health Security at the U.S. National Security Council. She holds a Master of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. She lived in Cambodia for three years and enjoys bicycling around Washington, D.C.



JENNIFER SHONA MARTIN
Founder of Menstrual Rights Global

Glasgow,
United Kingdom

Jennifer S. Martin is a Scottish global health and gender equality leader shaping international policy across more than 50 countries. A PhD graduate of UCL and Founder and CEO of Menstrual Rights Global, she advances women's leadership and embeds feminist principles of power sharing within global decision making. She has steered high level consultations on gender equality, sustainability, economic development, poverty reduction and financing for global health, converting advocacy into measurable political influence. Representing Scottish women at the highest levels of international affairs, she brings Glaswegian grit, diplomatic authority and strategic clarity to the global stage.

FELLOWS



JOANNA SCOTT-NICHOLLS

London,
Global Fund Accelerator Team Leader, United Kingdom
Health Institutions and Health Security Department,
Global Health Directorate, UK Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office (FCDO)

Jo Nicholls is a senior global health adviser with over 20 years of experience leading policy, teams, and complex programmes in fragile and low-income settings. She has held senior roles with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the former Department for International Development, and the World Bank, working across global health architecture, immunisation, and child protection. Jo has managed major UK health portfolios in Malawi and Cambodia, led the China-BRICS health programme design, directed the UK's humanitarian response to Yemen, and overseen the World Bank's HIV/AIDS programme in Nigeria. She is currently seconded to MOPAN, leading analysis of multilateral health organisations and future global health architecture.



JUDITH KALLENBERG

Amsterdam
Senior Director, Global Health Access The Netherlands
Programs & Partnerships GSK

Judith Kallenberg leads Global Health Access Programs & Partnerships at GSK since 2023 after five years at Johnson & Johnson as External Affairs Lead for Global Public Health. Previously, Judith spent ten years at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, where she led the development of critical policies and vaccine portfolio prioritization for the organization as Head of Policy. She also lived and worked in Africa with the Clinton Health Access Initiative, supporting new vaccine introduction in Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi and Nigeria. Judith is Dutch, with degrees in Medicine and International Relations. She lives in Amsterdam with her partner, daughter and two cats.



LUCHUO ENGELBERT BAIN

Nairobi,
Head of international programs, African Kenya
Population and Health Research Center

Luchuo Engelbert Bain, MD, PhD, MSc (Bioethics), MBA, MPH, FAAS is a physician-researcher and empirical bioethicist working at the intersection of global health policy, health politics, equity, and diplomacy. His work focuses on operationalizing equity, advancing meaningful decolonization of global health, and strengthening ethical and political governance in research and health systems. He is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and Co-Founder of Global Health Otherwise, which aims to democratize evidence and knowledge systems, promote new ways of learning and practicing global public health, and advance Africa's health diplomacy agenda through proactive, accessible science communication and policy-relevant scholarship.

FELLOWS

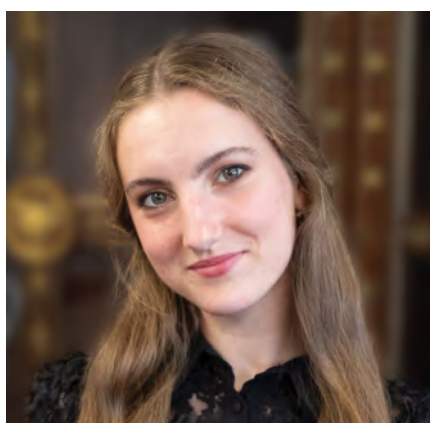


MINMIN WANG

Associate Research Professor,
Peking University

Beijing,
China

Minmin Wang is a Research Associate Professor at the China Center for Health Development Studies, Peking University, specializing in global health governance and health system innovation. Her work focuses on strengthening governance for non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and control, with particular attention to digital health and whole-of-society approaches. Dr Wang has contributed to global health policy processes through experience at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters and the country office. She has participated in multiple sessions of the World Health Assembly and the WHO Executive Board, providing technical and analytical support related to agenda-setting, policy negotiation, and implementation considerations. Currently, she serves as a think tank expert providing evidence-informed technical support to government partners.



NATALIIA PIDMURNIAK

Medical resident, Youth medical diplomacy,
WHO Youth Delegate

Kyiv,
Ukraine

Nataliia Pidmurniak is a medical doctor and global health diplomat working at the intersection of health policy, diplomacy, and crisis governance. She serves as a Youth Advisory Board member to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, leading international medical diplomacy, and has represented Ukraine as the first Youth Delegate to the World Health Assembly and the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. She has chaired eight international delegations of Ukrainian medical students and negotiated over 200 international exchange agreements to ensure continuity of medical education during wartime. With a background in clinical cardiology, multilateral negotiations, and youth leadership in crisis settings, she focuses on health system resilience, decision-making under uncertainty, and building sustainable, trust-based international partnerships.



NELSON OTIENO OCHIENG

Director Health Equity, Healthy Heart Africa,
AstraZeneca pharmaceuticals

Nairobi,
Kenya

Nelson Otieno Ochieng is a global health and policy leader with ten years of experience delivering meaningful health programs across the Middle East and Africa. He has worked with governments, international organizations, and clinical societies to advance health equity through policy reform, and strategic planning particularly in non-communicable diseases. Nelson has helped develop national health policies for both communicable and non-communicable diseases in nine African countries. He is committed to improving access to equitable healthcare through strong governance, partnerships, and evidence-based advocacy. A medical doctor by training, Nelson is currently completing a Master of Science in Health Economics at Brunel University London.

FELLOWS



NICAISE NDEMBI

Deputy Director General and Inaugural
Director – International Vaccine Institute

Kigali,
Rwanda

Nicaise Ndembi, Ph.D., is the Deputy Director General and Regional Director of the IVI Africa Regional Office in Kigali, Rwanda. He is also an Associate Professor at the Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and a Research Professor at Kanazawa University, where he completed his Ph.D. in molecular virology. Prior to joining IVI, he served as Principal Advisor to the Africa CDC Director General and established the Partnerships for Africa Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), a continental framework for vaccine self-reliance. He also served as Deputy Incident Manager for the mpox–Marburg preparedness and response plan for Africa. Prof. Ndembi has authored over 300 publications, serves as Editor-in-Chief of two journals, and was named to the 2025 TIME100 Health list and the 100 Most Notable Peace Icons in Africa.



NOELLA BIGIRIMANA

Independent global health researcher
and strategic advisor

Kigali,
Rwanda

Noella Bigirimana is an independent global health researcher and strategic advisor with over a decade of experience in clinical research, epidemic preparedness, and health policy in Africa. She previously served as Africa Director at BioNTech's Global Health Office, advising on infectious-disease vaccine trials, and as Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, where she oversaw national public health programs and major partnerships. She helped coordinate the rapid launch of a Phase 2 Marburg vaccine trial within ten days of the 2024 outbreak under the 100 Days Mission. Earlier, she worked at the World Economic Forum on Precision Medicine and supported Guinea's post-Ebola recovery. Noella has served on Rwanda's national scientific advisory groups and the WHO Rapid Response Working Group, and is a PhD candidate at the Swiss TPH/University of Basel.



OLAYIDE AKANNI

National Coordinator, Tuberculosis
in Nigeria, TB Network

Lagos,
Nigeria

Olayide Akanni is a public health advocate and civil society leader with over 18 years of experience advancing HIV, tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health, gender, and human rights. She has supported multi-country advocacy, community-led monitoring, research, and policy engagement initiatives that strengthen community systems and expand equitable access to prevention, treatment, and care services within West Africa. She serves as the National Coordinator of the Civil Society for the Eradication of TB Network in Nigeria (TB Network) and is an Alternate Board Member (NGO Delegation) of UNITAID.

FELLOWS



PIA STEENSLAND
PPA & External Communications
Director, Pfizer Sweden

Stockholm,
Sweden

Pia Steensland is a pharmacist with a PhD from Uppsala University's Faculty of Pharmacy. After a postdoctoral fellowship at UCSF, she joined Karolinska Institutet, becoming an Associate Professor of Neuropharmacology in 2011. Her preclinical and clinical research focused on developing novel treatments for alcohol dependence, including collaborations with Nobel Laureate Arvid Carlsson. From 2018 to 2022, she served as a Member of the Swedish Parliament for the Christian Democrats, working on the Health and Welfare Committee. In 2023, she became Director of Policy & Public Affairs at Pfizer Sweden. Pia is driven by a strong commitment to shaping health policy through her combined experience in research and politics.



RENSKE HESSELINK
Director PDM Innovations, CEPI

Oslo,
Norway

Renske Hesselink is a biochemist with extensive experience in the vaccine industry and currently serves as Director of PDM Innovations at CEPI, where she advances technologies that enable rapid, scalable, and equitable vaccine development for outbreak response. She previously spent over a decade in the pharmaceutical industry working on formulation, analytical development, and drug product development for vaccines and biologics. Renske contributed to Janssen's Ebola vaccine during the West Africa outbreak, helping scale up manufacturing for clinical trials and epidemic control. She has also worked on stabilizing protein- and viral-vector vaccines for pathogens such as RSV and HIV. She holds an MSc in Molecular Sciences from Wageningen University and a PhD in Membrane Biology from the University of Leeds.



SUNATE CHUENKITMONGKOL
Deputy Director Scientific Affair
at National Vaccine Institute

Nonthaburi,
Thailand

Sunate Chuenkitmongkol is a medical doctor and Deputy Director of Thailand's National Vaccine Institute (NVI). She plays a central role in advancing the ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR) initiative, the region's framework for strengthening vaccine access and pandemic preparedness. Through AVSSR, she supports regional policy coordination, capacity mapping, information sharing, and human-resource development. Her work focuses on translating technical evidence into regional strategies, fostering collaboration among ASEAN Member States, and engaging international partners to build sustainable vaccine systems. Dr. Sunate helps position AVSSR as a core regional mechanism for long-term health security in ASEAN.

FELLOWS



TARCILE MBALLA-NGAMOUGOU

Senior Programme Manager High Impact Countries at GAVI the Vaccine Alliance

Geneva,
Switzerland

Tarcile Mballa-Ngamougou is the Senior Programme Manager for Nigeria at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, where she leads grant delivery and strategic partner engagement across Gavi's largest and most complex country portfolio. In this role, she co leads the Nigeria portfolio, providing senior leadership across large scale immunisation delivery, health system strengthening, and high level government and partner engagement. Tarcile works closely with Ministries of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and civil society partners to navigate complex political and operational environments. Prior to Gavi, Tarcile worked with the Aga Khan Foundation, leading multidisciplinary programmes and grant portfolios spanning economic inclusion, agriculture, climate resilience, and civil society strengthening across East and West Africa. She holds graduate degrees from Erasmus University Rotterdam and SDA Bocconi School of Management.



TEUTA TURANI

Head of IFFIm, GAVI the Vaccine Alliance

Geneva,
Switzerland

Teuta Turani is Head of the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), a financing mechanism that issues Vaccine Bonds to raise capital for Gavi's immunisation programmes. At Gavi, she previously led engagement with the European Union and supported resource-mobilisation and organisational growth strategies. Before joining Gavi, she served in Albania's Ministry of Finance and Economy as Adviser to the Minister and Head of the Domestic Borrowing Unit, managing the domestic debt portfolio and contributing to macroeconomic and financing policy. Her earlier roles include policy and market analysis at the Bank for International Settlements and multilateral financial coordination at the European Stability Mechanism. Teuta holds an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School and a BA in Business Economics from Ca' Foscari University of Venice.



TIRUNEH AMSALU BAYE

Technical Officer, Workforce Development Division, Africa CDC

Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia

Tiruneh Baye, MD, MPH, is a medical doctor and public health professional specializing in workforce development, leadership, and health systems strengthening. He holds a Doctor of Medicine from St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College and an MPH from the Addis Continental Institute of Public Health. His experience spans clinical practice, community programs, and technical leadership. Dr. Baye previously served as Technical Advisor for Workforce Development with the UK Health Security Agency, supporting EPHI and Africa CDC. He is currently a Technical Officer for Public Health Workforce Development at the Africa CDC. He also holds a Certificate in Instructional Design and contributes to the Africa CDC Global Health Diplomacy Fellowship and the University of Memphis Public Health Diplomacy Advisory Group.

FELLOWS



VERA SIESJÖ

Head of Ecosystem and Social Development,
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Beijing,
China

Vera Siesjö is a global leader with nearly two decades of experience advancing innovation in sustainable development, planetary health, and health systems transformation. At the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), she leads thought leadership at the intersection of health, climate, nature, and inclusion, shaping strategies that link human well-being with planetary resilience. Previously, she held leadership roles at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the United Nations Office for Project Services through the Defeat NCD Partnership, and ACCESS Health International. Vera has led pioneering work in health financing, digital health, and climate-health integration, and continues to support global collaborations and startups advancing innovation and equity in care.



YOUNGMI CHO

Director of Global Affairs & Communications,
International Vaccine Institute

Seoul,
South Korea

Youngmi Cho is the director of Global Affairs & Communications at IVI, leading membership engagement with governments, communications and media outreach, advocacy, and capacity-building programs. In this role, she oversees IVI's diplomatic affairs and donor state relationships in addition to the functions of the Global Council and IVI's Collaborating Centers. Her team also maintains the IVI brand, including editorial and design. Prior to IVI, Ms. Cho held positions at the Embassy of Denmark in Korea and the Australian Trade Commission as a Commercial Officer and Business Development Manager, respectively. She has a 20+ year career in diplomacy and multilateral coalition-building with a passion for global health.



YURIKO AKIYAMA

Deputy Director, Global Health Strategy
Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Tokyo,
Japan

Yuriko Akiyama has worked in the diplomatic service for 16 years and has an academic background in the history of medicine. She currently oversees multilateral health organizations and has experience in education aid policy and gender issues, bilateral relations with Pacific island countries, Nordic and Baltic countries. Posted at the embassies in the UK and Nepal for public diplomacy, she supported Japan's vaccine assistance through COVAX while in Kathmandu. Yuriko holds a PhD in History from King's College London, and in her book about historical research on modern Britain, she analyzed how knowledge of public health transformed the society.

FACULTY



APARAJITA RAMAKRISHNAN

London, UK

Director, Family Planning
Gates Foundation

Aparajita Ramakrishnan, Director of Family Planning at the Gates Foundation, leads global efforts to expand access to high-quality, voluntary contraceptive services and advance women's health, economic opportunity, and empowerment. She guides strategy to position family planning as a core driver of progress – integrated into national development, economic growth, primary healthcare, and gender equality – and to mobilize new and better-aligned financing, with strong local leadership for lasting impact. Aparajita joined the foundation in 2003, focused on program delivery with Avahan, led the Uttar Pradesh health delivery program and has since held leadership roles in strategy, implementation, and donor partnerships. She has worked for the government and private sector, including The Walt Disney Co. and McKinsey & Co. She holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and an A.B. from Harvard University.



DAVID MILIBAND

London, UK

Former Foreign Secretary UK

David Miliband is the President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), where he leads humanitarian operations in more than 40 crisis-affected countries and oversees refugee resettlement programs across Europe and the Americas. A former British Labour politician, he served as the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary 2007–2010 after holding several senior ministerial roles, and previously represented South Shields as a Member of Parliament from 2001 to 2013. Known for his long-standing commitment to global humanitarian issues, Miliband has been recognized internationally for his leadership, including being named one of Fortune Magazine's World's Greatest Leaders in 2016.



EBERE OKEREKE

United Arab Emirates

Independent Global Health Expert

Ebere Okereke is a physician and global public health leader with more than 30 years of experience across Africa, the UK, and international institutions. She is Global Health Adviser to the Director General at the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity and previously served as Chief Program Officer at Reaching the Last Mile and CEO of the Africa Public Health Foundation. Her earlier roles include Senior Adviser to the inaugural Director of Africa CDC, Senior Adviser at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and Consultant in Global Public Health at Public Health England. Her work spans health systems, health financing, health security, women's leadership, and African global health leadership. She is a mentor, speaker, and published author.

FACULTY



ELHADJ AS SY

Dakar, Senegal

Board chair, Kofi Annan Foundation;
former Secretary General, International
Red Cross Federation

Elhadj As Sy is the Chancellor of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Chair of Kofi Annan Foundation and Former Secretary General of IFRC. He has extensive experience in leadership roles in humanitarian, health and development sectors, having previously served at senior level with UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNDP, Enda Tiers Monde and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other agencies for more than 35 years.



GABRIEL LEUNG

Hong Kong, China

Executive Director, The Hong Kong
Jockey Club Charities Trust

Gabriel Leung is a Hong Kong physician and epidemiologist who serves as Executive Director (Charities and Community) at the Hong Kong Jockey Club, overseeing its major charitable initiatives. He formerly served as Dean of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong (2013–2022) and earlier held senior government roles, including Hong Kong's first Under Secretary for Food and Health. Leung is internationally recognized for his research on SARS, H7N9, and COVID-19, and for helping lead Hong Kong's response to the 2009 influenza pandemic.



HANAN MOHAMED AL KUWARI

Doha, Qatar

Advisor to the Prime Minister for
Public Health Affairs, Former Minister of
Public Health, State of Qatar

Appointed as Advisor to the Prime Minister for Public Health Affairs in November 2024, HE Dr. Hanan served as the Minister of Public Health from 2016–2024 and was Managing Director of Hamad Medical Corporation from 2007–2024, Qatar's largest public health provider. Under her leadership HMC transformed into an integrated academic health system achieving numerous international accreditations and awards.

FACULTY



HELEN CLARK

Auckland, New Zealand

Former New Zealand Prime Minister,
former UNDP Administrator,
patron, The Helen Clark Foundation

Helen Clark was the Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1999 to 2008, and served as a Member of Parliament from 1981 to 2009. She then led the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 2009 to 2017. Since then, she has held roles in a range of public good organisations and initiatives, including chairing the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and has recently become Chair of the Board of Gavi – The Vaccine Alliance. She is a member of The Elders.



HELEN EVANS

Melbourne, Australia

Professor, University of Melbourne;
former deputy Executive Director,
Gavi and the Global Fund

Helen Evans is an experienced leader and manager in both complex global health organisations and in the public sector in Australia with a particular focus on infectious diseases. She served as Deputy CEO at Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance based in Geneva from 2009 till 2014. Prior to joining Gavi, Evans was Deputy Executive Director at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria between 2005 and 2009. For the seven years prior to moving to Geneva, she headed the Australian Government's Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Professor Evans now lives in Melbourne where she has an honorary appointment as a Professor at the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne.



JOSÉ LUIS CASTRO

Geneva, Switzerland

WHO Director-General Special Envoy for
Chronic Respiratory Diseases. Founder
and Ex-CEO of Vital Strategies

José Luis Castro is a global health leader who was appointed in June 2024 as the World Health Organization's Director-General Special Envoy for Chronic Respiratory Diseases, bringing more than three decades of experience in public health to the role. He previously founded and led the global health organization Vital Strategies, scaling it into a multinational institution active in more than 80 countries, and earlier served as Executive Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Castro has been a prominent advocate for lung health, noncommunicable disease prevention, and stronger global health systems, frequently engaging in international forums to address the impacts of air pollution, tobacco, and chronic respiratory diseases. He holds degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Pace University and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts as well as a member of leading scientific and respiratory health societies.

FACULTY



KATRÍN JAKOBSDÓTTIR

Reykjavik, Iceland

Former Prime Minister of Iceland

Katrín Jakobsdóttir was the Prime Minister of Iceland from 2017 to 2024 and was the country's second woman to hold the office. A longtime member of the Left-Green Movement, she entered parliament in 2007 and chaired the party from 2013 to 2024. Earlier, she served as Minister of Education, Science and Culture and Minister for Nordic Cooperation. Jakobsdóttir holds both a BA and MA in Icelandic literature from the University of Iceland and previously worked in media and education. In addition to her national leadership roles, she served as Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders from 2020 to 2024.



MARK DYBUL

Washington, D.C., USA

Professor, Georgetown University;
former ED Global Fund; former
Head of PEPFAR

Amb. Prof. Mark Dybul is the Founding Co-Director and Chief Strategy Officer of the Center for Global Health Practice and Impact, and Professor in the Department of Medicine at Georgetown University Medical Center. A well-recognized global health expert and humanitarian, Dr Dybul served as Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and as the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, overseeing the implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).



PER ALFREDSSON

Stockholm, Sweden

Senior Vice President, Global Biologics
Operations, AstraZeneca, Sweden

Per Alfredsson is the Managing Director of AstraZeneca Sweden and Senior Vice President for Global Biologics Operations, leading the company's global biologics manufacturing network across multiple countries. With more than 25 years at AstraZeneca, he has held senior roles across Sweden, the UK, the US and Puerto Rico, including leadership of Global Supply Chain & Strategy and EMEA Supply. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Alfredsson co-led the AZD1222 vaccine program, overseeing the rapid establishment of a manufacturing network spanning over 25 partners in more than 15 countries and contributing to the global supply of more than three billion vaccine doses.

FACULTY



PETER PIOT

London, UK

Professor of Global Health and former Director, LSHTM; founding Executive Director, UNAIDS

Peter Piot is a Professor of Global Health and former Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He was the founding Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Professor Piot is one of the world's leaders in global health, and has made numerous original research contributions to the microbiology, epidemiology, clinical description, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases in Africa.



RICHARD HORTON

London, UK

Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet

Richard Horton is a British physician and the longtime Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet, a role he has held since 1995. He joined the journal in 1990 after medical training and research in hepatology, later serving as its North American editor before taking the top position. Horton is also an honorary professor at institutions including the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the University of Oslo, and has been active in global health through roles with the World Health Organization and United Nations expert groups. A prominent commentator on medicine and public health, he has authored several books and reports and is known for advancing discussions on planetary health and medical professionalism.



THORAYA OBAID

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Former Executive Director, UNFPA

Thoraya Obaid was the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations from 2001 to 2010. Throughout her career, Dr. Obaid has championed the causes of women's and young people's health and empowerment. In her role as UNFPA Executive Director (the first Saudi Arabian to head a United Nations agency), Dr. Obaid introduced a focus on culture to the Fund's development work, linking gender, universal values of human rights, and values of human worth promoted by all religions and found in all cultures.

FACULTY



SANIA NISHTAR
CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Geneva, Switzerland

Sania Nishtar joined Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on 18 March 2024. A trained medical doctor, Dr Nishtar has built an outstanding career over 30 years as a national and global leader. She served as a Senator in her home country of Pakistan; as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation; and as a Federal Minister with responsibility for re-establishing the country's Ministry of Health. Dr Nishtar has fulfilled several leadership positions in civil society and international organisations; founded a health reform non-profit NGO think tank in Pakistan; co-authored dozens of academic papers and books; and published in leading newspapers. A graduate of Khyber Medical College and King's College London, she has received many international awards; in 2020, the BBC named her among 100 inspiring and influential women around the world.



TOSHI EZOE
Senior Assistant Minister for Global
Health, Japan

Tokyo, Japan

Satoshi "TOSHI" Ezoe serves as Senior Assistant Minister for Global Health at Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare since April 2025, overseeing global health policy including on WHO, GHIs, G7/G20, promoting universal health coverage (UHC). As a health diplomat, he has led Japan's global health diplomacy, including COVID-19 response and G7 health agendas during his tenure at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He previously worked at UNAIDS and at Japan's UN Mission, leading high-level meetings on tuberculosis and UHC in NY. Dr. Ezoe holds an MD and PhD, as well as master's degrees in public health and public administration from Harvard University.

PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP



ANDERS NORDSTRÖM

Stockholm, Sweden

Programme Co-Director
Politics & Diplomacy for Health, SSE/KI,
ex-Ambassador for Global Health, Sweden,
ex-WHO ADG, act-DG and WR,
ex-Director General, Sida,
ex-Interim Executive Director, GFATM

Anders Nordström has had a distinguished career in global health, having served as the Ambassador for Global Health for Sweden and the Acting Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). His work has significantly impacted global health policies and practices, including his involvement in establishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Today, he continues to influence the field through board memberships and participation in advisory groups dedicated to health systems research and universal health advocacy.



GUNILLA CARLSSON

Évian-les-Bains, France

Programme Co-Director
Politics & Diplomacy for Health, SSE/KI,
ex-Minister for International Development
Cooperation, Sweden, ex-Assistant Director
General, UNAIDS, ex-member of EU Parliament

Gunilla Carlsson has made significant contributions to global health and development, joining UNAIDS in 2018 as Deputy Executive Director and later serving as its Executive Director ad interim. Her political career includes representing Sweden in both national and European parliaments and serving as the Minister for International Development Cooperation. Carlsson has also played a vital role in shaping global sustainability and development policies, including her appointments to high-level United Nations panels focusing on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.



MARTIN JEPSSON CAMPANA

Stockholm, Sweden

Programme coordinator and manager
Karolinska Institutet

Martin Jeppsson Campana was previously Counsellor for Health Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in Geneva, playing a fundamental role in Sweden's engagement in the WHO governing bodies, in inter-governmental negotiations and in establishing and maintaining relationships with WHO management and staff. Martin has also served as Sweden's National Counterpart to WHO at the Ministry and Health and Social Affairs in Stockholm. He has a master's degree in public administration from Stockholm University and has more than 15 years of experience as a civil servant in the Swedish Government.

PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP



TOBIAS ALFVÉN

Stockholm, Sweden

Professor/ Specialist Physician,
Department of Global Public Health,
Karolinska Institutet

Tobias Alfvén leads the Global Child Health and Sustainable Development Goals team at the Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet. He also heads the research network in global health and infectious diseases at Sachs' Children & Youth Hospital. Additionally, he co-chairs the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health (CESH), a collaboration between Karolinska Institutet and Makerere University. Furthermore, he serves as the Chair of the Swedish Society of Medicine and the chair of Agenda for Health and Prosperity.



KARL WENNBERG

Stockholm, Sweden

Professor / Scientific Director of House of
Governance and Public Policy at the
Stockholm School of Economics

Karl Wennberg holds the Barbara Bergström Chair in Educational Leadership and Excellence. His research focuses on the Economics of Education, Entrepreneurship, and Organization Theory. Currently, his work centers on organizational diversity, leadership, and the working environment in schools, particularly in the transformation of poorly functioning schools to more effective ones. He has lectured internationally and provided consultancy services for NGOs, governments, and private firms across Europe, Asia, North America, and Australia.



CLARA LUTHMAN

Stockholm, Sweden

Programme coordinator and manager
Karolinska Institutet

Clara Luthman previously served as Managing Director of the foundation Help to Help, which enables higher education for young talents in East Africa. Her work focused on developing educational programmes, building partnerships with the private sector, and leading the international team. With experience at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Public Health Agency of Sweden, and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in Geneva, she has expertise in global health policy and diplomacy.

PROGRAMME LEADERSHIP



MASHOOD DJALÓ

Guinea Bissau

Facilitator

Institute of Global Health and Development

Mashood Djaló is a results-driven professional with a Master's in International Studies and expertise in project management, research, and stakeholder engagement. Experienced in designing and monitoring initiatives with NGOs like Voz di Paz and currently serving as a Research Management and International Relations Associate at the Institute of Global Health and Development (IGHD). Skilled in policy support, compliance (AML), and community-focused programs. Fluent in Portuguese, English, and Creole, with proficiency in Fula. Proven ability to foster partnerships and deliver technical assistance to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.



SAMORY BADONA MONTEIRO

Guinea Bissau

Facilitator

Institute of Global Health and Development

Samory Badona Monteiro holds a master degree in European and transnational law and a LL.M. in international human rights and humanitarian law and is currently a PhD researcher in public international law. Samory started his career as a defence lawyer and then moved on to work at the ECOWAS Court of Justice, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights and the African Union Commission, where he held legal positions at the Office of the Legal Counsel and Conflict Management Directorate. Samory has been volunteering for health and educational projects in Guinea-Bissau and Italy for the past twenty years.

VIJAYLAKSHMI PRABHU

Stockholm, Sweden

Administrative assistant

Karolinska Institutet

Vijaylakshmi "Viji" Prabhu is an administrative professional from India with eight years of experience in back-office support and administration. Within the HSP group, she manages website updates, approves invoices in Agresso, and supports members with travel, accommodation, and other administrative tasks. She holds an MBA from Mumbai and a Bachelor of Commerce from Mumbai University, along with a Certified Diploma in Programming.



PETRA HELLBOM

Stockholm, Sweden

Educational technologist

Karolinska Institutet Executive and Professional Education

Petra Hellbom is an experienced producer of e-learning, developing interactive web-based courses, including production and project planning, interface design, layout, question development, narration, video production, interactivity, and LMS management. Before joining Karolinska Institutet, Petra worked as a web designer in the travel industry and as a team assistant at McKinsey & Company.

Health Diplomacy

Health diplomacy is the art and science by which governments, the private sector, civil society, and individuals navigate political processes to improve health outcomes. It operates in both domestic and international contexts, encompassing bilateral and multilateral agreements, the use of health as a foreign policy tool, and the finding of solutions to cross-border health challenges.

Global Health Diplomacy

A key subset of health diplomacy is Global Health Diplomacy, which operates at the intersection of health and international relations on the global stage. It encompasses global health governance, the coordination of efforts, and the negotiation of priorities among international organizations, states, and non-state actors. While its primary focus is global, it also intersects with domestic policies on complex issues such as climate change, crisis preparedness and response, and health financing.

Who are health diplomats?

Health diplomacy involves a wide range of professionals, reflecting the reality that health outcomes cannot be achieved by the health sector alone. Health diplomats include individuals working in Ministries of Foreign Affairs, government agencies, public institutions, the private sector (both corporate and not-for-profit), and humanitarian organizations. These professionals use the tools of health diplomacy to advocate for and advance health objectives across sectors.

www.globalhealthdiplomacy.se



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