GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (GEOHealth)

Keeping up with Global Health and Development

West African GEOHealth Center - GAMBIA

FUNDED BY:

www.unigambia.gm/geohealth

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Our Mission and Vision

Mission
The Fogarty International Center is dedicated to advancing the mission of the National Institutes of Health by supporting and facilitating global health research conducted by U.S. and international investigators, building partnerships between health research institutions in the U.S. and abroad, and training the next generation of scientists to address global health needs.

Vision
The Fogarty International Center’s vision is a world in which the frontiers of health research extend across the globe and advances in science are implemented to reduce the burden of disease, promote health, and extend longevity for all people.
Projected global deaths for selected causes of death, 2002–2030

- Cancers
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Stroke
- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- Other Infections
- Traffic Injuries

Year: 2013, 2020, 2030
Water Supply

Water Storage
Waste Management
Animal Waste and Drinking Water Sources
Insect Breeding Sites
Industrial Pollution
Burning of Waste
Indoor air pollution
Workplace Injuries and Illnesses
Limited Access to Services
Inadequate Preventive Services
Poor Public Awareness
Planning Grants for Hubs of Interdisciplinary Research and Training in Global Environmental and Occupational Health

GEOHealth

2-year Needs & Opportunities Assessment ----> 2014
Development of the West Africa GEOHealth Hub

The University of The Gambia &
The University of Iowa
Development of the West Africa GEOHealth Hub

Research, Research Training, Curriculum Development

Environmental & Occupational Health

RURAL HEALTH

• Water quality
• Workplace safety (agricultural work)
• Agricultural health (pesticides)
• Toxic waste (dumping)
• Disaster preparedness and response
Development of the West Africa GEOHealth Hub

2-year Needs & Opportunities Assessment ----> 2014

Three Step Process:

1. **Contact** all relevant academic institutions, NGOs, government agencies to assess potential for collaboration.

2. **Construct** a database of environmental & occupational health research and training resources in the sub-region.

3. **Convene** a sub-regional consensus workshop to organize partners and develop a plan to better meet regional needs.
WHY a GEOHealth Center in The Gambia?

1. Clear sub-regional needs.
2. Ten-year successful collaboration with The University of Iowa.
3. University of Iowa experience with capacity building and rural health.
4. Qualified and capable UTG staff.
5. Strong and supportive in-country partners.
6. Enthusiastic administrative support at all levels.
7. Demonstrated regional connections.
8. Strong approach and methods.

Only a start – need to get to work!
Background Data and Reports
Problems and Needs
Develop Plan for Training

Project Strategy

The University of The Gambia
The University of Iowa

Contacts

Government Agencies
Research Centres

NGOs (Health & Env.)
Academic Institutions
Project’s Major Timeline

January - June

- Identify & Collect Data
- Construct Data Base
- Conduct Survey
- Make Local Contacts and form Country Task Teams

July – November

- Analyze Results
- Convene sub-regional consensus workshop
## A. Environmental Health Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Risk</th>
<th>Priority for Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
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</table>

- Surface water contamination
- Saline intrusion into fresh water
- Ground water contamination
- Animal excreta
- Human excreta
- Marine pollution
- Indoor air pollution (cook stoves, dust, chemical fumes)
- Outdoor air pollution (traffic, factories, dust)
- Electronic waste (computers, phones)
- Solid waste (rubbish, plastic bags)
- Toxic waste (chemicals)
- Erosion
- Drought
- Sea level rise
- Soil degradation
- Deforestation
- Biodiversity loss
- Disease vectors (Mosquitos, rates, cockroaches, flies)
- Floods

## B. Occupational Health Issues (Hazardous Working Conditions)

- Traffic Injuries (job-related)
- Occupational injuries (falls, burns, eye injuries, sharp objects)
- Indoor air pollution (smoke, dust, chemicals)
- Musculoskeletal injuries (muscle strains, fractures)
- Stress (mental/emotional job-related stress)
- Pesticide exposure and toxicity
- Metals exposure and toxicity
The goal of this project is to conduct a needs and opportunities assessment through focus groups and interviews with health leaders in the region.
Role of Country Task Teams

1. Ensure the broadest possible participation in the NOA, including the private sector, and local authorities, as well as representatives of international organizations and programs;

2. Facilitate access to relevant ministries and other institutions to obtain documents and data;

3. Help organize information about their country;

4. Contribute, as required, to a sub-regional consensus workshop;

5. Facilitate the preparation of the proposal for establishing the West Africa GEOHealth Hub
Information to be Collected from each of the Participating Countries

- Health status of the population
- Environmental and Occupational risk factors for human health
- Occupational and environmental health policies, strategies, regulations and plans
- Institutional capacity prevent occupational and environmental health problems
- Current research and research/training activities
All Health Is Global