



Call for Applications: Emerging Voices for Global Health 2024

Linked to the Eighth Global Health Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR 2024) in Nagasaki, Japan, November 18 – 22, 2024



| What is the Emerging Voices for Global Health training program?

Emerging Voices for Global Health (EV4GH) is an innovative multi-partner blended training program for promising and emerging health policy & systems researchers, decision-makers, knowledge-brokers, implementers and other health system actors with an interest and potential to become influential global health voices and global/ local change makers. EV4GH coaches Emerging Voices (EVs) to participate in global health platforms, raise their voices in scientific and policy debates, and contribute to solving global health problems and improving health conditions. The EV4GH program is managed by an internationally representative governance committee consisting of EV alumni elected by previous EV4GH participants and several invited (liaison) members from EV partner institutes. EV4GH became a Thematic Working Group (TWG) of Health Systems Global (HSG) in 2015 and was reconfirmed as a TWG in 2021.

The Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp first initiated the Emerging Voices program. Currently, this is largely an alumni and partner institutes-driven initiative with an aim to empower health professionals from the Global South by providing intensive skills training and facilitating their participation in global health events. Since its inception in 2010, a total of eight EV4GH training programs were organized, all linked to the biannual international events of the Global Symposium on Health Systems Research and other regional and international events. The first edition of the EV4GH program (2010) was conducted in conjunction with the 1st Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Montreux, Switzerland. The subsequent editions were linked to the 2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Beijing, China (2012); the AIDS in Africa Conference (ICASA) in Cape Town, South Africa (2013); the 3rd, 4th and 5th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in



Cape Town, South Africa (2014), Vancouver, Canada (2016), and Liverpool, UK (2018), the (virtual) 6th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Dubai, UAE (2020) and the 7th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Bogotá, Colombia (2022). See the EV4GH website for more information on previous editions. Until now, 325 EVs from over 70 countries have participated in the EV4GH training program. Many EVs are now in different leadership positions in their countries, regions, and globally.

The EV2024 venture aims to expand the global network with new Emerging Voices from across the world, specifically, underrepresented countries and regions. EV2024 is supported by the Emerging Voices Governance Board, partner institutions, and the new EV secretariat hosted at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The current list of partner institutions is (in alphabetical order):

- BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, India
- Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp, Belgium
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
- Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG), Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Nagasaki University, Nagasaki, Japan
- Peking University Health Science Centre, Beijing, China
- The University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa
- University of the Western Cape (UWC), Cape Town, South Africa
- Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

| What is the EV2024 venture?

EV2024 venture is a blended learning training program and consists of an e-coaching and distance learning phase, followed by a face-to-face training phase held prior to the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research to be held in Nagasaki, Japan, in November 2024. It uses innovative training methods and activities to enable emerging health systems and policy researchers, practitioners, actors and change agents to present their work effectively and engage on various global health platforms and networks. In addition, the global EV alumni and facilitator network provides opportunities for networking and learning across contexts and regions. After the training program, EVs become members of the EV4GH thematic working group and can then join other thematic working groups of HSG.

| Stages of EV4GH 2024 venture

1. **Early December 2023:** Call for applications launch
2. **20 February 2024:** Deadline for applications (5 pm Bangladesh Standard time)
3. **21 February - 31 May 2024:** Review and Selection of new EVs
4. **June - July 2024:** Notification of acceptance to the program
5. **August - October 2024:** E-coaching and distance learning phase
6. **5 - 14 November 2024:** Face-to-face training in Nagasaki, Japan. This will include scientific



presentations, networking and communication skills, content training, and field visit to local health system facilities in Nagasaki

7. **15 November 2024:** Emerging researchers and other changemakers' pre-conference (/TWG event)
8. **18 - 22 November 2024:** Participation in the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Nagasaki, Japan
9. **23 November 2024:** Wrap-up session focusing on emerging beyond Nagasaki, Japan
10. **Beyond November 2024:** Participation in the EV4GH network (and other HSG thematic working groups) with other emerging researchers, professionals, peers, senior researchers, policymakers, and experts in health systems and global health. Some of the activities of the EV4GH network include regular discussion and information sharing in the Google group; webinars; regional meetings; residencies; blog writing etc.



Figure: EV4GH 2024 timeline

| What does the EV2024 venture offer to participants?

- Develop writing and presentation skills, boost networking opportunities and skills, technical training and use of social media and other communication methods for disseminating evidence and policy advocacy.
- Introduce and boost knowledge about global health governance, health policy and systems research and other topics related to the theme of the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, including via interaction with senior global health experts during the face-to-face phase and symposium attendance.
- Introduce and initiate participants into Health System Global (HSG), a network that brings together health policy and systems researchers and practitioners worldwide, including a two-year (from 2024 venture to the next venture) membership to HSG.
- Present and engage in a pre-conference with invited senior researchers and policymakers.
- Facilitate participation and networking of EVs with other emerging and senior health systems



professionals, senior researchers, policymakers and experts in health systems and global health.

- Become part of the EV4GH network: a global network of members that, among other activities, provides curated information on workshops, courses and conferences.
- Opportunity to engage further as EV alumni towards capacity building, mentorship opportunities, research collaborations and national & international partnerships.
- Facilitate skills to publish in journals, global health blogs, or on social media and communicate more effectively on the global stage.

| Who is eligible to apply?

EV2024 applicants can apply for two tracks - Track 1) Researchers involved in health policy and systems research (researchers track), and Track 2) Health professionals, activists, policymakers, knowledge brokers, health journalists, and other health system actors (other health system actors track). All applicants must have been **born on or after 1st January 1984**.

Track 1: Researchers' track

This track aims to attract applications from emerging researchers involved in health policy and systems research. Applicants must also submit an abstract for the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Nagasaki, Japan and have at least two of the following:

- A Master's degree in health or a health-related field
- Be enrolled in a doctoral-level program in health or a health-related field
- Have at least two years of work or research experience in public health or development
- Experience and/or knowledge of working in low- and middle-income countries

Track 2: Other health system actors' track

This track aims at other emerging health professionals, activists, policymakers, knowledge brokers, health journalists, and other health systems actors. Applicants must fulfill one of the following:

- Be involved in a decision-making, implementation or practitioner role within health services or a health system in a low- or middle-income country.
- Be a passionate voice for strengthening health systems within their local/national health systems as an activist, health journalist, or patient advocate or otherwise be involved in advancing health equity and social justice in their setting.

Tracks 1 & 2:

- The EV4GH venture is in English. Participants need to have a reasonable command of the English language (written and spoken) to participate. All documents needed for the application should be in English (and/or have English translation (see below)).
- For both tracks, special consideration will be given to those who explicitly include the



planetary and political dimension of health systems and services in their work and challenge power in whatever form, based on good evidence.

- Focus will be on applicants from the Global South, but candidates from the Global North can apply as well, if they have some relevant (long-term) experience in the Global South, and/or are currently working on health policy and systems research issues in the Global South. Please see the Scholarship details at the end of the call.
- Accepted participants should be able to participate in the training program in full. This includes participation and presence in both the distance e-learning phase and the face-to-face phase in-person in Japan from 5 – 23 November 2024. Applicants who cannot participate in full and can undertake only part of the program will not be eligible to participate in the program.
- Considering the location of the EV2024 venture in Nagasaki, Japan, we look forward to the application of participants from within the region.

| **Expected outcomes EV2024 participants:**

1. Oral and poster presentations, and writing policy briefs skills.
2. Improved knowledge of tools and strategies to become a more effective health systems and policy change agent.
3. Oral and Poster presentations/policy briefs presentations during pre-conference (in an innovative format) in Nagasaki, Japan.
4. Individual/joint blogs at the International Health Policies (IHP) platform, hosted by the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp (ITM), either in the months before the EV venture, during the symposium in Nagasaki or in the year after.
5. Participation in the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Nagasaki, Japan.
6. Scientific and other innovative forms of disseminating key messages.

| **Application material and process**

The application must be submitted in English.

Track 1: Researchers' track

- **Abstract** (Title of maximum 25 words + an abstract of maximum 400 words in English). If you submitted an abstract in French/Spanish, we will need an English translation of the same.
- **Short CV** (maximum two A4 pages): The CV should be clearly structured. You may use this 4-part CV structure as a template for your CV: Section A: Personal details; Section B: Education & Research information; Section C: Other professional experience; Section D: any other information which might be of interest for reviewers (for this track). If you want, you can also add the link to a short video (maximum 3 minutes, YouTube or Youku) explaining the work and research you're doing (optional)
- **Motivation letter** (maximum one A4 page): A well-articulated letter of motivation on why you



want to participate in the EV4GH 2024 training. The motivation letter is a crucial part of the selection process and must argue convincingly why you are an excellent candidate for this track. Explain your key strengths and areas you still need to work on. The motivation letter should also include details of two referees (name, contact details).

Submission: After uploading the abstract on the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research website and receiving acknowledgement, please use this [link](#) to complete your application for the EV 2024 researchers' track. **Please note that you will need the unique ID from the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research abstract submission for completing this application.**

Track 2: Other health system actors' track

1. **Short CV** (maximum two A4 pages): The CV should be clearly structured. You may use this 4-part CV structure as a template for your CV: Section A: Personal details; Section B: Education information; Section C: other professional experience; Section D: any other information which might be of interest for reviewers (for this track). If you want, you can also add the link to a short video (maximum 3 minutes, YouTube or Youku) explaining the work you're doing (optional).
2. **Motivation letter** (maximum one A4 page): A well-articulated letter of motivation on why you would make an excellent candidate for this specific track and what you might gain from participation. The motivation letter is crucial in this respect. Please explain your key strengths and areas you still need to work on. The motivation letter should also include two references (name and contact details).
3. **An essay** (maximum 1500 words): Reflection on policy implementation or activism/brokering/journalism challenges experienced in your own work context, linked to the theme of the symposium, "*Building Just and Sustainable Health Systems Centering People and Protecting the Planet*". The essay should focus on one of the subthemes of HSR 2024.

Or, **A video** (no longer than 3 minutes) or any other creative format which makes a case for the messages you would like to bring to the symposium. The video can be uploaded on YouTube/Youko and the link may be shared in the application in a separate document.

Submission: For the Other health system actors' track, apply using this [link](#), here, keeping the above documents ready.

| Application steps

Track 1: Researchers' track

- Application via submission of an Abstract (Title of maximum 25 words + an abstract of maximum 400 words) through the HSR 2024 [Symposium website](#).
- Fill out the EV2024 Track 1 ([form](#)) and upload the following documents: 1) the (same) abstract you submitted to the symposium (+ English translated abstract, if the abstract was in French or Spanish); 2) Short CV (in English only); and 3) Motivation letter (in English only).

Track 2: Other health system actors' track

- Fill out the EV2024 Track 2 ([form](#)) and upload the following documents: 1) Short CV (in English



only); 2) Motivation Letter (in English only); and 3) Essay (in English only) or Video (in English only).

- Optional - the (same) abstract you submitted to the symposium (+ English translated abstract, if the abstract was in French or Spanish)

Application Submission Deadline: All the above should be completed by **20 March 2024 (5 pm Bangladesh Standard time (GMT+6)/11 am GMT/ 6 am EST/EDT/12 pm CET)** at the latest. If you have any queries/ questions, please contact the EV4GH Secretariat at ev_secretariat@bracu.ac.bd.

| Selection process

An advisory board consisting of past EV governance board members, independent EV4GH peer reviewers, and some senior members from partner institutes will review the application materials and help with the selection process based on a mix of transparent selection criteria.

| What does the EV2024 scholarship include?

A limited number of full and partial scholarships will be awarded to successful applicants. The full scholarship will cover participation in the three-month blended learning training program, the (approximately) 10-day face-to-face training (plus pre-conference/TWG event) and include participants' airfares to and from Japan, shared accommodation, meals, and materials, as well as participation in the 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Nagasaki. Partial scholarships shall fund only some aspects of the above. Scholarships shall prioritize low- and middle-income country participants. Participants from or based at high-income country universities and/or (research) institutions from the 'Global North', if selected, are expected to raise their own funds to cover all costs of participation in the EV4GH program and are considered self-funded.

Please note: As an intentional part of the EV venture, the accommodation for all EVs in Japan will be on a shared basis, whether selected for scholarship or self-funded. Successful EV selection cannot guarantee a successful and timely visa process, so if selected, we encourage participants to start visa applications as soon as possible.

Theme for 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research: Building Just & Sustainable Health Systems: Centering People and Protecting the Planet. Please see the details of the themes of the 2024 symposium at the [HSG website](#).