

# Connecting Changemakers and Democratizing Access to Global Health Resources – GloHub

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## Background

Global health is one of the fastest growing fields over the last few decades, whether we look at the dramatic increase in global health programs across the country or development of health-related nonprofits and organizations around the world. However, the E-learning global health education resources identified by the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are dated, disjointed, and difficult to navigate. While global health is a field with complex problems, which require innovative and interdisciplinary solutions, the current educational resources mainly cater to health professionals, leaving the potential of millions of innovators untapped.

This issue expands beyond the problems associated with resource discovery. Once resources are located, it is not financially feasible for most individuals to gain access to global health literature, as forty-two percent of research articles classified the field of global health are published behind a paywall. This not only poses an issue of access to any individual interested in learning about the field, but also affects those not linked

directly to an academic institution which can provide access to the global health resources. This model of access is infeasible not only to individual consumers, but also to universities, some of which spend 3.5 million dollars per year to gain access to global health resources.

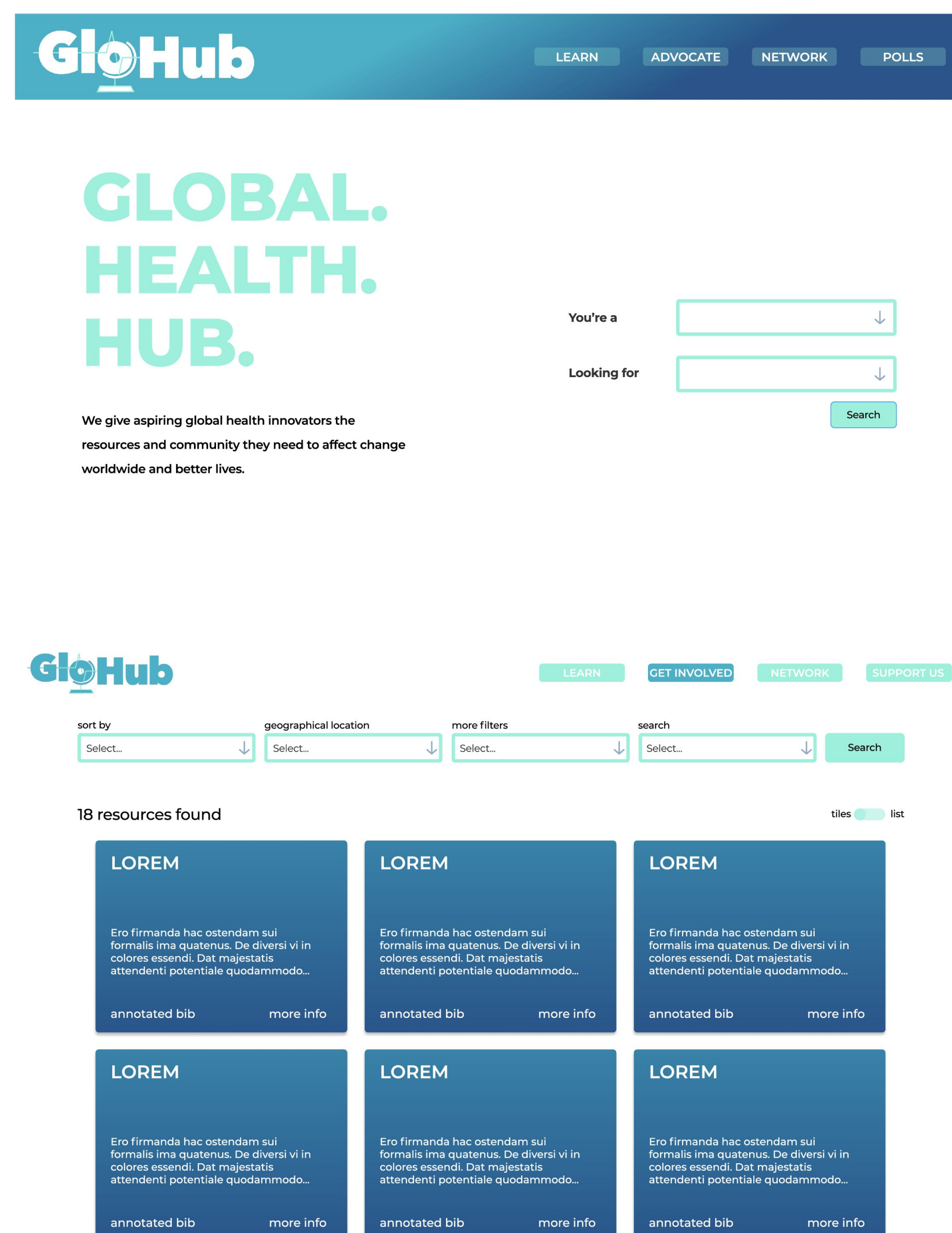
Once these resources are accessed, individuals hit a second roadblock of not being able to utilize the information: the transition from theory to practice. Global health by nature is a very applied field. Without access to knowledge of what effective and sustainable global health initiatives look like, well-intentioned individuals often end up building and engaging in initiatives that are unsustainable, can often be classified as voluntourism, and in many cases cause more harm than good. With access to resources that explain why programs (including some medical service trips with UConn student organizations) like this are ineffective, we will transition from unsustainable, white savior complex based service experiences to culturally competent, community-focused and -driven service opportunities.

Lastly, the global health space is very fractured, which is un conducive to an interdisciplinary field. If professionals are not connected, the efficiency of the global health workplace is drastically reduced. Even with similar models of research being conducted in different parts of the world, there is no platform which enables discourse and collaboration between authors of similar studies or founders of similar organizations; a communication solution, could exponentially increase productivity. Therefore, in global health, innovation often occurs at the intersection between areas plagued with health crises, and the innovators with direct access to these areas. These innovators are not always healthcare professionals, but rather individuals that are interested in applying the knowledge they have acquired in one field to impacting an unfulfilled need in the global health space.

**In efforts to address these issues, we developed GloHub: A web platform giving aspiring global health innovators the resources and community they need to affect change worldwide and build a future with health justice for all!**

## Goals

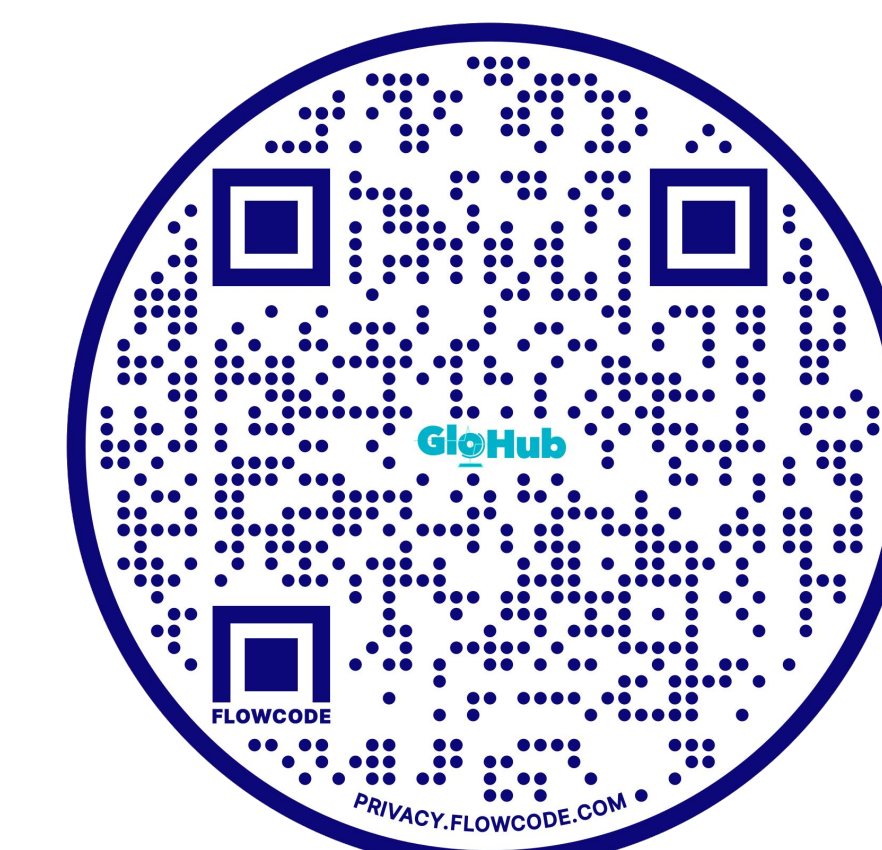
1. Democratize access: global health resources & research



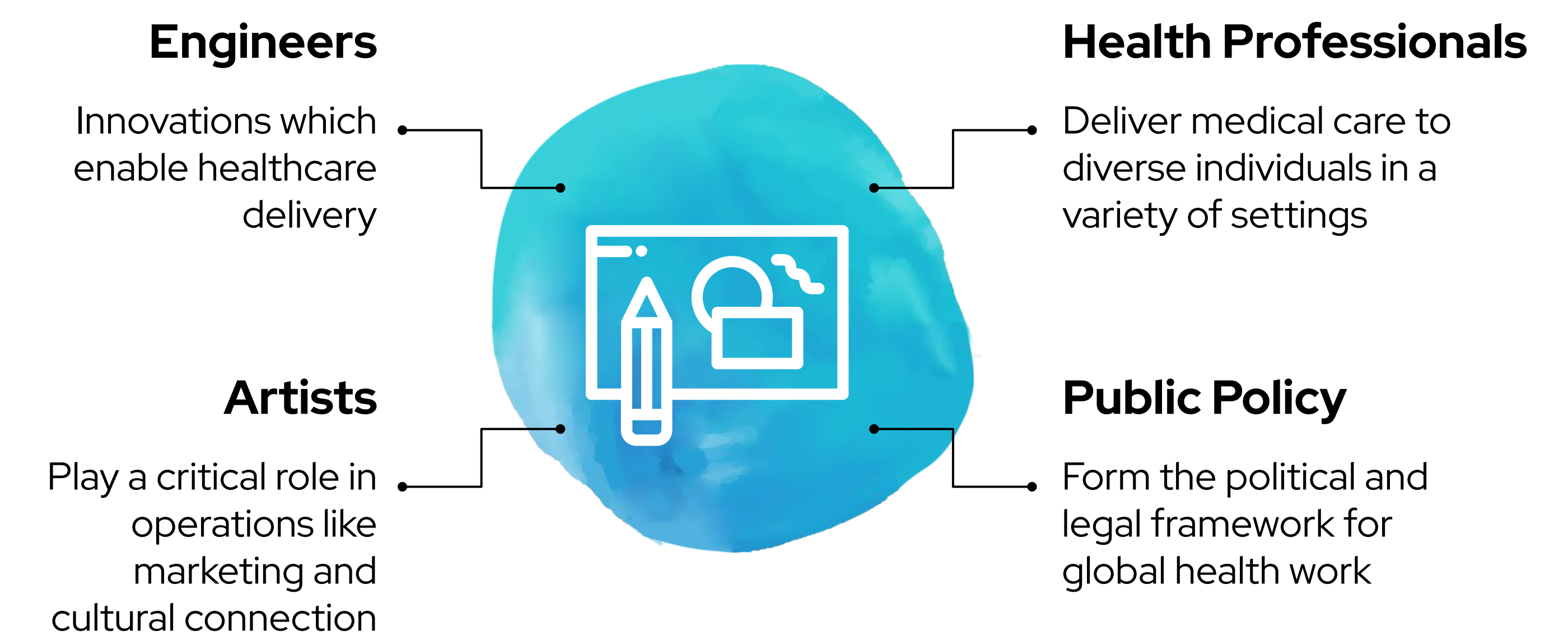
2. Enable advocacy: sustainable local and global solutions



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3. Foster collaboration: between all individuals interested in global health



## Acknowledgements

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