



## PROJECT BRIEF

# GLOBAL HEALTH SOLIDARITY PROJECT

**Our goal is to shift understandings and practice of solidarity in global health so that solidarity can play an even more active role in increasing equity and justice.**

## The Challenge

Efforts to promote greater health equity for all have been accompanied by an increase in calls for solidarity, especially during crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic. However, at the global level, these appeals to solidarity have produced meagre results. Common conceptions of solidarity in global health are ambitious but ambiguous and under-theorised, making them inadequate and insufficient in providing the clear goals and tools needed to operationalise solidarity.

Our research is a five-year project funded by the Wellcome Trust. The project is implemented by the University of Ghana and led by Prof. Caesar Atuire at the University of Ghana and the University of Oxford, with six Co-Investigators in Australia, South Africa, Canada, Costa Rica, USA and Austria.

## Project objectives



**Employ a pluriversal approach** to generate an intercultural understanding of solidarity for global health, with a particular emphasis on de-silencing marginalised voices.



**Encourage exchange and dialogue** among scholars who work in the field of global health with a focus on solidarity but come from different cultures and disciplines.



**Generate a shared set of core goals** that the practice of solidarity in global health entails.



**Design metrics and produce a solidarity index and ranking** that will measure the practice of solidarity among global health actors. The initial solidarity ranking will target global health research funders but can later be expanded to other sectors.



**Nurture the growth of young scholars** in engaging across cultures, carrying out conceptual and empirical ethics research, and producing impactful research outputs.

## Approach

The project employs a **pluriversal approach**, which sees a world in which many worlds fit. The search for convergence is not an attempt to generate a single universal notion of solidarity that can be imposed in a colonising fashion, but an exploration through which we will identify how multiple understandings can fit better together in practice.

To bridge existing gaps in understanding and clarify conceptual confusion, we will conduct literature reviews, regional workshops, and empirical qualitative studies. To create practical tools for measuring solidarity among global health actors, we will engage in mapping exercises, organise deliberative workshops, and develop metrics.



Anglophone Africa Regional Workshop, Accra, Ghana (November 2023)

## Expected outcomes

The ultimate aim of this project is to shift understandings and practice of solidarity in global health so that it is better able to reach its transformative potential. We will do this by:

- **Broadening and enriching academic solidarity discourse** in global health.
- **Giving a space to silenced voices** to make important contributions to the global health conversation around solidarity.
- **Pushing academics and actors in the global health space to go beyond mere rhetoric** to generating and enacting measures for the practice of solidarity.
- **Offering actionable tools** that will allow actors and the public to be able to measure how actors are living up to solidarity ideals and standards in global health.

## Team

### Principal Investigator

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### Co-Principal Investigators

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Moving Beyond  
Solidarity Rhetoric  
in Global Health

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