

Global Health Reporting for K-12 Education Grant Program

Participants in the K-12 Education Grant Program focused on Global Health will propose an education project that uses at least one of the news stories below to engage at least 500 students and/or educators in making local connections to pressing global health topics.

Curated projects are organized by the following themes, but many engage multiple issues and regions: disparities in health care access, the impacts of global aid and policies, reproductive health, socio-economic and racial equality, pharmaceutical practices, and health research and innovation.

Disparities in Health Care

["A Day in the Life: Crisis Hits Hospitals in Iraq"](#)

By Susan Schullman for *Daily Maverick*

Region: Iraq (Middle East)

Issues: disparities in health care access, children, climate, war & conflict

Format: text, photography

[Journalist Overview](#)

Iraq, a country already grappling with political, economic, and security challenges, is now in the grip of an escalating climate crisis. The effects are clear in southern Iraq, where climate-driven migration by its rural population is driving people into its urban areas and overwhelming its health centers, hospitals, and, notably, its medical and support staff.

Hospitals, which used to see 1,000 patients a day, are now seeing 4,000-10,000 a day—overwhelming staff forced to deal with the surging patient population on resources that have not kept pace. Staff are demoralized. Doctors are leaving in droves, leaving even fewer to cope with the increased numbers. "More patients, more problems," said a weary doctor. "And without the resources, more bad outcomes."

["Could a Conflict-Borne Superbug Bring On Our Next Pandemic?"](#)

By Eli Cahan for *Rolling Stone*

Region: Iraq (Middle East); Ukraine, Russia (Eastern Europe)

Issues: disparities in health care access, war & conflict, outbreaks & epidemics, health science

Format: text, photography

[Journalist Overview](#)

The relationship between conflict and spread of drug-resistant bacteria—the so-called "superbugs"—has been one of increasing concern since the American invasion of Iraq. Ever since that time, epidemiologists have recognized the potential for military conflict to exacerbate the transmission of antimicrobial-resistant organisms (AMRs) like Iraqibacter. That means citizens in places already the least able to respond to health crises—Ukraine, certainly, but also Gaza, Syria, and Yemen—are facing additional threats due to AMR bugs. Recent CDC reports show that the AMR problem is worse than it has ever been in the U.S.; U.N. reports are raising similar alarms across the globe. As the war in Ukraine pushes on, AMRs are increasingly threatening its soldiers, its civilians—and the rest of Europe.

[Long COVID in Mexico: Neurological and Psychiatric Symptoms](#) [Spanish and English language]

By Alice Pipitone and Quetzalli Blanco for palabra. and Proceso

Region: Mexico (North America)

Issues: chronic and invisible illness, socio-economic and racial equality, mental health, health infrastructure

Format: video, text, photography

Journalist Overview

This reporting project documents what patients with severe neurological and psychiatric symptoms due to long COVID face in Mexico: from medical gaslighting, to occupational disability and the risk of suicide.

The project follows the daily lives of two patients suffering from long COVID-19. They are getting inappropriate or no treatment at all because neither public nor private insurance covers their illness. The reporting looks for the motives for Mexico not recognizing long COVID. The research also provides comparative international context. Interviews were held with health sector officials and authors of the most relevant international studies on long COVID, among others.

["A Growing Trend: Opting Out of Childhood Vaccinations"](#)

By Andy Pierrotti for *Atlanta News First*

Region: Georgia (North America), American Samoa (Oceania)

Issues: vaccine safety, misinformation/disinformation, health science

Journalist overview

Recent measles outbreaks throughout the United States in 2025 have reignited concerns over declining vaccination rates. According to health officials, these outbreaks are largely fueled by vaccine misinformation and hesitancy, contributing to a resurgence of preventable diseases.

Doctors believe the anti-vaxxer movement is quickly turning into a public health crisis. This reporting project takes viewers on a road trip to a remote tropical island to see what the U.S. can learn from its mistakes.

["Pakistan Floods Spark Cholera Fears Amid Other Rising Health Risks"](#)

By Faras Ghani for *Al Jazeera*

Region: Pakistan (South Asia)

Issues: climate change, health infrastructure, disparities in health care access

Format: text, photography

Journalist overview:

As floods continue to cause massive devastation across Pakistan, health experts have warned of potential health risks, including a cholera outbreak, if immediate preventive measures are not taken...Cholera is a bacterial infection transmitted through contaminated food and water. It can cause severe diarrhoea, vomiting and muscle cramps. It can kill within hours without treatment, though simple oral rehydration or antibiotics can save lives.

The Impacts of Global Aid and Policies

[The Children Left Behind in Global Health Cuts](#)

By Jon Cohen, Martin Eserink, and Catherine Offord for *Science*, NPR, and Press Play

Region: Nepal (South Asia); Lesotho, Eswatini, Guinea (Africa)

Issues: the impacts of global aid and policies, disparities in health care access, children

Format: audio, photography, text

[Journalist Overview](#)

The second Trump administration has made significant cuts to foreign aid, including many health programs. Billions of dollars were lost almost overnight. Journalists Catherine Offord, Jon Cohen, and Martin Enserink have investigated the effects of these cuts on communities and health systems, and in particular on the well-being of children. Their reports focus on malnutrition in Nepal, HIV/AIDS in Lesotho and Eswatini, and malaria in Guinea.

[Cuts and Consequences: The End of USAID](#)

By William Brangham, Molly Knight Raskin, and Morgan Till for *PBS News Hour*

Region: Kenya, Ghana (Africa); Bangladesh (South Asia)

Issues: the impacts of global aid and policies, disparities in health care access, children

Format: text, video

[Journalist Overview](#)

In this series, producer Molly Knight Raskin and *PBS NewsHour* correspondent William Brangham report on the impact of the Trump administration's decision to shut down USAID, the agency responsible for distributing more than \$40 billion a year to over 100 countries globally.

["Aid Cuts Hit Uganda Hard. With Worry and Grit, It's Finding New Ways To Save Lives"](#)

By Joanne Cavanaugh Simpson and Brian W. Simpson for NPR

Region: Uganda (Africa)

Issues: health inequities, health science

Format: text, photography

[Journalist Overview](#)

Health workers across Uganda are struggling in the wake of chaotic cuts to U.S. government aid, creating resourceful ways to prevent suffering and death. Resilience in Uganda—which has long battled malaria, mpox, TB, and HIV—offers lessons and calls to action worldwide.

["Ghana Battles Deadly Meningitis Outbreak Amid Shrinking Foreign Aid and Health System Struggles"](#)

By Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman for PRI's The World

Region: Ghana (Africa)

Issues: the impacts of global aid and policies, disparities in health care access, children, outbreaks & epidemics

Format: text, photography

[Journalist Overview](#)

Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman's reporting project investigates a deadly meningitis outbreak sweeping through Ghana's Upper West Region, exposing the fragility of the country's health care system amid dwindling foreign aid and limited resources.

Reproductive Health

[Complex Laws, Social Pressures Limit Abortion Access in India](#)

By Menaka Rao for India Spend and Suno India

Region: India (South Asia)

Issues: reproductive health, gender equality

Format: podcast, text, photography

[Journalist Overview](#)

More than one in seven unintended pregnancies globally occur in India. This project looks at the ways in which women seek abortions in India, especially unsafe, illegal abortions. It explores how limited access to abortion changes women's health and lives.

[Pregnant and Disabled in Malawi](#)

By Josephine Chinele and Ngulube Chisomo for Health Policy Watch and The Continent

Region: Malawi (Africa)

Issues: reproductive health, gender equality

Format: podcast, text, photograph

[Journalist Overview](#)

This project investigates and brings to the fore the untold discriminatory and unequal experiences of disabled women in accessing maternal care in Malawi.

["Argentina's Leader Takes Ax to Program That Drove Down Teen Pregnancy"](#)

By Natalie Alcoba, Leila Miller, and Anita Pouchard Serra for *The New York Times*

Region: Argentina (South America)

Issues: reproductive health

Format: text, photography

[Journalist Overview](#)

Argentina has blazed a trail for women's rights in Latin America, with massive movements against gender-based violence and in favor of legal abortion. But the election of libertarian President Javier Milei—who considers feminism a "ridiculous" fight and abortion "aggravated homicide"—has shifted the landscape. He has made good on his vow to take a chainsaw to public spending, shuttering the Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity, gutting a sex ed program, and slashing funding for reproductive health. This project goes outside the capital city to learn how women's organizations in four corners of Argentina are responding to the era of President Milei.

["Kashmir's Tribal Women Suffer Very Poor Menstrual Health. What's To Blame?"](#)

By Saqib Mugloo and Shefali Rafiq for Open Democracy

Region: Kashmir (South Asia)

Issues: reproductive health, gender and socio-economic disparities in health care, health education

Format: text, photography

Journalist Overview

This project is about the tribal women of Kashmir who are overwhelmed by stigma and taboos when it comes to their menstrual health. The project, through photos and supporting text, will show to the outside world the issues and problems faced by these women when it comes to their menstrual health.

Socio-economic and Racial Equality

[“A Deliberate Poisoning’: How a Banned Pesticide Haunts the French Caribbean”](#)

By Mathilde Augustin for The Guardian

Region: Guadeloupe, Martinique (Caribbean)

Issues: socio-economic and racial equality, pollution, food security

Format: text, photography

Journalist Overview

For more than 20 years, a toxic pesticide blanketed the banana fields of Guadeloupe and Martinique, two French territories in the Caribbean. Today, plantation workers and local communities are left to grapple with the lasting scars of exposure to the toxin.

[The Impact of Extreme Heat on Delivery Workers](#)

By: Jazmín Acuña, Maximiliano Manzoni, Romina Cáceres, Juliana Quintana, and Josué Congo for El Surtidor

Region: Paraguay (South America)

Issues: socio-economic and racial equality, environment and climate change, labor rights

Format: photography, text, infographics

Journalist Overview

El Surtidor, an independent news outlet from Paraguay, documented the work experiences of delivery app workers who have to deal with extreme heat, one of the consequences of climate change. The country is the most vulnerable in South America to the climate crisis.

Pharmaceutical Practices

[The Insulin Oligopoly and the Diabetes Epidemic in Latin America](#) [Spanish language]

By Fabiola Torres, Jason Martinez, Sergio Silva Numa, Pamela Huerta, Alicia Tovar, Daniela Guazo Manzo, Diego Quiceno Mesa, and Daniel Mitma for Salud Con Lupa

Region: Peru, Colombia (South America); Mexico (North America)

Issues: pharmaceutical practices, disparities in health care access, socio-economic and racial equality

Format: text, infographics

Journalist Overview

In 2023, the three pharmaceutical companies dominating the insulin market (Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi) announced a reduction in its cost in the United States. However, users in Latin American countries will not benefit from this measure and often have to spend an entire minimum wage to obtain a medication that is not always available in public pharmacies and is essential for maintaining their health.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), three out of every four people living with diabetes are in low- and middle-income countries, yet they also have the least access to insulin. Insulin remains largely inaccessible due to various pharmaceutical tactics aimed at extending their patents, discouraging the development of generic drugs.

[India's Crisis of Substandard Drugs, at Home and Abroad](#)

By Vidya Krishnan and Arshu John for *Himal Southasian*

Region: India, Bangladesh, Nepal (South Asia); Gambia (Africa)

Issues: pharmaceutical practices, disparities in health care access, socio-economic and racial equality

Format: text

Journalist Overview

The Indian pharmaceutical industry, worth around \$50 billion, is underpinned by lax regulations, domestic pharmaceutical companies that exploit these systems, and a political environment that allows unsafe drugs into both domestic and export markets. In particular, Indian manufacturers have been following (and getting away with) different quality safety standards for different markets, with the poorest countries often treated the worst.

In a series of reports for *Himal Southasian*, Vidya Krishnan and Arshu John scrutinize pharmaceutical regulation in India, the processes through which manufacturers obtain licenses and export drugs, and the risks it imposes on developing nations. The investigation examines the vulnerability of South Asian markets to the Indian pharmaceutical industry—with a focus on Bangladesh and Nepal—and studies parallels with the case in The Gambia.

[From Pharma to Foliage: How Nigeria's Drug Crisis and Deforestation Are Endangering Lives](#)

By Abdulwaheed Sofullahi for *Hum Angle*

Region: Nigeria (Africa)

Issues: pharmaceutical practices, environment & climate change

Format: video, text, photography, infographics

Journalist Overview

This investigative reporting project explores the growing challenges in Nigeria's health care system due to rising drug prices and deforestation. With GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) exiting the Nigerian market and inflation driving up the cost of pharmaceuticals, many Nigerians are turning to traditional medicine as an alternative. However, this shift is complicated by the scarcity of medicinal plants, a direct result of ongoing deforestation.

Health and Research Innovation

["Decolonizing Research in Africa: Africa's New Force in Genomics"](#)

By Jon Cohen and Abdullah Tsani for *Science*

Region: Nigeria (Africa)

Issues: health and research innovation, vaccine equity, disparities in health care access

Format: podcast, text, photography

Journalist Overview

Launched in 2014, the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) has become a leading gene sequencing center in Africa and has helped track dangerous viruses in Nigeria and neighboring countries. It also is now a major force in building a stronger community of African researchers.

["In the Cradle of Cholera: Meet the Bangladeshi Scientist Who's Helping the World Fight Cholera"](#)

By Martin Enserink for *Science*

Region: Bangladesh (South Asia)

Issues: health and research innovation, vaccine equity, socio-economic and racial equality, pharmaceutical practices, community-driven solutions, and water & sanitation

Format: text, video

Journalist Overview

Cholera has made a comeback the past few years, driven in part by human conflict and climate change. Dozens of countries have seen outbreaks. Cheap oral cholera vaccines exist, but they are in short supply because there is no money in vaccines for diseases of the poor. If not properly treated, cholera can kill within a day. Firdausi Qadri, a senior researcher at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, has played an important role in the introduction of the current generation of cheap oral vaccines and has been a powerful advocate for their widespread use.

["Lassa Fever Is Surging in West Africa. Researchers Want To Know Why"](#)

By Leslie Roberts for *Science*

Region: Nigeria, Sierra Leone (Africa)

Issues: health and research innovation, outbreaks & epidemics

Format: text, photography

Journalist Overview

Long neglected as an obscure West African disease, Lassa fever has vaulted up on the international agenda, landing a spot on the World Health Organization's list of the world's most dangerous pathogens for which no vaccine or drugs exist. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations has made Lassa fever one of its top priorities and is trying to develop the first-ever vaccine.

Science Magazine documents the urgent efforts underway in Nigeria and Sierra Leone to understand what is driving the Lassa fever epidemics and how to treat the disease and stop its spread.

["How Billions of Hacked Mosquitoes and a Vaccine Could Beat the Deadly Dengue Virus"](#)

By Lucila Pinto for *Nature*

Region: Brazil (South America)
Issues: health science, climate change
Format: text

Journalist Overview

As a result of climate change and globalization, diseases are reaching regions where they were previously unknown, while those already present are becoming harder to control. Brazil, a country long familiar with dengue, is now experiencing record-breaking outbreaks. In 2024, the country faced its worst epidemic in history.

Journalist Lucila Pinto investigates how Brazil is responding to this growing crisis, focusing on the intersection of science, public health, and social impact. Brazil is one of the first major countries to confront dengue on such a scale. Its strategies offer a case study in how health systems might respond to emerging diseases worldwide.