



Global Centres

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

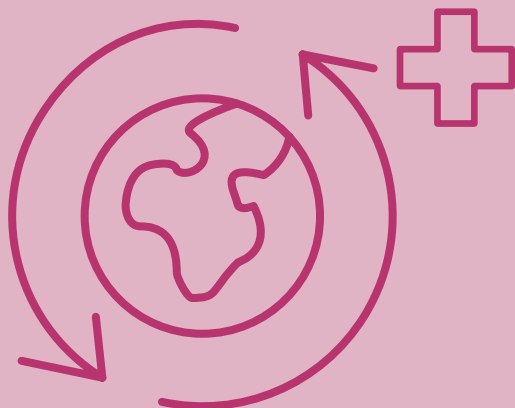
Global
Health
Centres

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS AND SESSIONS

Global Actions for Sustainable Health for People and Planet

2nd Interdisciplinary Conference of the DAAD-funded Global Centres
for Health and Pandemic Preparedness

10–12 of September 2024, Berlin, Germany





The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is pleased to kindly invite academics and research-active practitioners from DAAD-funded Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Preparedness and their partner networks, from other DAAD-funded projects working in the field of Global Health and Pandemic Preparedness, as well as from Humboldt Research Hubs funded by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to take part in the scientific networking conference “Global Actions for Sustainable Health for People and Planet” which will take place from 10th to 12th September 2024 in Berlin, Germany.

This is due to the conviction that international scientific collaboration across disciplines is particularly important when it comes to mastering global challenges. To enable education and research on Global Health and Pandemic Prevention in a globally interconnected way and at the same time to develop solutions that are promising in the respective local contexts, the DAAD launched the Programme of the Global Centres. Via this programme, the establishment of four Global Centres for Health & Pandemic Prevention (and equally four Centres for Climate & Environment), is being funded with grants from the German Federal Foreign Office. The international Centres are situated at higher education institutions in the Global South. There, local, international, and German scientists jointly build new and locally adapted expertise and promote suitable and effective solutions in dialogue with business, politics and civil society.

To foster the network of the Centres and similar initiatives and to offer a global, interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge on the topic of Global Health and Pandemic Prevention, DAAD organises a biennial conference series during the funding period of the Centres.

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Background

The COVID-19 pandemic presented us with an enormous challenge and has impacts on social, economic, and environmental systems, but at the same time, gave us an enormous opportunity to work together towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are all interlinked and are aiming at leaving no one behind. We have learned that we cannot meet the challenges alone. A multidisciplinary and collaborative global cooperation as a collective action is key in addressing the ‘Sustainable Health for People and Planet’.

The four Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Preparedness funded by DAAD and their partner networks have accelerated international partnerships to strengthen health systems for disease prevention and management and ensure equitable distribution of resources in low- and middle-income countries and in resource poor settings. With rapid advances in new innovative technologies and data-sharing capabilities, strategic partnerships between the private sector, academia and policymakers, the four Global Health Centres ([CAIDERA](#), [GLACIER](#), [G-WAC](#), [PACE-UP](#)) aim at ensuring equitable health outcomes addressing the ‘Sustainable Health for People and Planet’.

With the SDG targets as a common denominator and a focus on four geographically positioned Global Health Centres, this **2nd Interdisciplinary Conference of the DAAD-funded Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Preparedness** is aiming at building a comprehensive partnership between interested parties that reflects their strategic priorities and connects multidisciplinary actors from academia, research, industry, governmental organisations and policy makers.

This 2nd interdisciplinary conference of the DAAD-funded Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Preparedness will bring together multidisciplinary actors, with keynote lectures and parallel sessions covering thematic areas including, but not limited to:

- Epidemiology and Surveillance of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases (Preparedness, Response and Post-Crisis Care)



- Advanced Laboratory Diagnostics, Disease Monitoring, Treatment, Vaccination and Infection Control including Anti-Microbial Resistances (AMR)
- Community Engagement, Ethics and Social Sciences
- Digital Health
- Biosafety and Biosecurity

This conference provides an opportunity for senior scientists, clinical researchers, young investigators and PhD students from different Centres, networks or projects to present ongoing and/or planned research projects and/or their findings to a wider global audience working on similar topics in different contexts and ecosystems on different continents. It offers a unique platform for networking and collaboration between the Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Preparedness in emerging and developing countries addressing research priorities in Africa, Asia, Central and South America and Europe. In addition, opportunities are available to intensify networking between the individual Global Health Centres and the Humboldt Research Hubs funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and other invited global health networks.

Interdisciplinary panels will be held in the following five thematic focuses. All sessions will include a keynote lecture followed by selected abstracts presented as oral presentation. The target audience is research-active staff with postgraduate qualifications (MD, MSc, MPH, PhD), including physicians, veterinarians, entomologists, biomedical scientists, immunologists, epidemiologists, and alike. Posters on all thematic focuses can be presented during a general poster session.

THEMATIC FOCUS 1

Epidemiology and Surveillance of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases (Preparedness, Response and Post-Crisis Care)

Emerging and re-emerging pathogens have recently caused epidemics, as demonstrated by several outbreaks. This session aims to provide insights into the epidemiology of emerging and re-emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases as well as outbreak detection, early management and infection control mechanisms. While pathogen spillover risk is increased by several factors such as deforestation and changes in land use and agriculture, the nature, frequency and intensity of human-wildlife contact have led to zoonotic spillover of pathogens, which are considered a major cause of emerging infectious diseases. This session will aim to disentangle measures of prevention of zoonotic spillover in the context of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Equally, the session aims to provide insights into the response of allied governments and international agencies such as the World Health Organisation to post-crisis preparedness, response and aftercare.

The session draws on the in-depth expertise of international experts working proactively on the epidemiology and surveillance of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and zoonoses.

THEMATIC FOCUS 2

Laboratory Advanced Diagnostics, Treatment, Disease Monitoring, Vaccination and Infection Control (AMR)

Bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa are common causes of infectious diseases and rapid identification of the causative pathogens is crucial for appropriate diagnosis and for establishing successful therapeutic and preventive measures. Despite the lack of infrastructure and appropriate diagnostic facilities in resource-limited settings, the four Global Health Centres aim at building and expanding capacity in advanced laboratory diagnostics that are part of disease surveillance and more effectively support vaccination programmes. Equally, the infection prevention and control (IPC) measures should be implemented to prevent the further spread and worsening of the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) that has become a 'silent' pandemic and threatens global health security and requires attention of policymakers and governments, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The lack of reliable data and the complexity of understanding the transmission of multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) pose a major challenge in global health. The chain of AMR transmission and defining drivers of AMR remain unknown and need real-time proactive detection, accurate data collection, recording and surveillance methods in place.



The session draws on the in-depth expertise of international experts working proactively on the Advanced Laboratory Diagnostics, Treatment, Disease monitoring, Vaccination and Infection control (AMR).

THEMATIC FOCUS 3

Community Engagement, Ethics and Social Sciences

Health, its importance, approaches to health and risks for health, are perceived differently by different individuals, groups and institutions. Shedding light on the socio-cultural and ethical aspects of health-related issues allows for a deeper understanding of external influences, attitudes and norms that affect surveillance, uptake of preventive measures, pandemic response and every other aspect of healthcare. Engaging (with) the community – within an institution, on a local level or a certain profession – for research purposes bears high potential in developing (more) effective and target group oriented solutions. In a research setting, community engagement can span from participatory research and citizen science to focus group discussions and stakeholder workshops, participating observation to media analysis.

The session aims at a high-level exchange on research approaches to the topic ‘Sustainable Health for People and Planet’ as well as a discussion of good practices for knowledge transfers between research and (researched) community. The main focus of the session is on joint discussions. The target audience of this session includes – additionally to the above-mentioned ones – disciplines such as anthropology, philosophy, social sciences, psychology, and alike.

THEMATIC FOCUS 4

Digital Health

Strengthening health systems is key to ensuring all people have access to health services and treatment. Digital technologies may help countries to improve access to health services and reduce poverty. This session will discuss the possibilities for already existing mobile phone-based interventions developed for disease surveillance and their potential for extension to pandemic prevention, preparedness and control, especially early detection of infectious diseases and outbreak response will be elaborated. The session aims to provide an overview of the range and types of digital technology available, as well as insights on how to increase the acceptance of scientifically recommended, but sometimes unpopular or otherwise cost-ineffective interventions. Besides the role of partnerships with non-academic partners in developing interventions and products as well as building up trust will be discussed.

THEMATIC FOCUS 5

Biosafety and Biosecurity

The recent COVID-19 pandemic, global biological threats and the evolving conflicts and instabilities across the world compounded by the possibility of rogue states or terrorist deliberately using biological agents as weapons highlight the importance of biosecurity and biosafety. The European Committee for Standardization (CWA 15793, 2011) defines laboratory biosafety as the containment principles, technologies and practices that are implemented to prevent the unintentional exposure to biological agents or toxins. Biosecurity describes the protection, control and accountability for biological agents and toxins within laboratories in order to prevent loss, theft, misuse, diversion or intentional release. Biosafety and biosecurity are considered fundamental to protecting the laboratory workforce, the public and environment from exposure to and intentional release of harmful biological agents. Since the adoption of the revised International Health Regulations by the 58th World Health Assembly, the world has made efforts to strengthen biosafety and biosecurity through the Biological Weapons Convention and the United National Security Council Resolutions.

This session will highlight key research activities related to the area of biosafety and biosecurity conducted across the four Global Health Centers and other initiatives. The impact of national policy frameworks and health security action strategies in strengthening biosafety and biosecurity practices across Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America will also be discussed.



TARGET GROUP

The conference is dedicated to senior scientists, clinical researchers, young investigators and PhD students related to one of the DAAD-funded Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Preparedness and their partner networks, to other DAAD-funded Projects working in the field of Global Health and Pandemic Preparedness, as well as to the Humboldt Research Hubs funded by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

We invite submissions from the five above mentioned thematic areas:

- Epidemiology and Surveillance of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases (Preparedness, Response and Post-Crisis Care)
- Advanced Laboratory Diagnostics, Treatment, Disease Monitoring, Vaccination and Infection Control (AMR).
- Community Engagement, Ethics and Social Sciences
- Digital Health
- Biosafety and Biosecurity

At the same time and place, the conference of the Global Centres for Climate and Environment with the theme “Imaginaries of Climate Futures –Cross-Regional Insights to get from Knowledge to Action” takes place. If any proposals fit in thematically with both conferences, overlapping sessions will be formed and included in both programmes.



MODALITIES – SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

We welcome proposals for individual presentations (10 min + discussion) that will be grouped to interdisciplinary panels according to the above-mentioned thematic focuses and moderated by experienced members of the DAAD Global Centres network, and proposals for whole sessions (60/75/90/105 min) made by groups of scholars/project teams, that complement the traditional panels with roundtables or interactive formats.

All proposals will be reviewed by the conference’s Advisory Board, which is made up of selected academics from the four Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Prevention.

We aim for a conference programme that genuinely reflects the scientific work currently undertaken at the DAAD Global Centres and other DAAD-funded projects in the fields of Global Health and Pandemic Prevention worldwide, as well as at the Humboldt Research Hubs .

A. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

(AS ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF 10 MINUTES LENGTH OR AS POSTER)

Proposals for individual presentations should provide the following information:

1. Name, academic title, position and institutional affiliation(s) (including the Global Centre for Health and Pandemic Preparedness/ Humboldt Research Hub or other DAAD-funded project), email address/contact details
2. Do you want to present a poster or an oral presentation? (either/or)
3. Title of the presentation (max. 20 words)
4. Thematic focus in which the presentation is to be classified (thematic focuses 1-5 named above, other, multiple options not possible)
5. Abstract of the presentation, including background, objectives, design or methods, results, conclusions or alternative headings that correspond to the format of the submission (max. 250-300 words, text only, no graphics or pictures)
6. List of authors (if applicable)
7. A short academic biography of the presenter (200 words)
8. Agreement to digital publication of abstract and biography in conference proceedings? (Yes/no)



B. WHOLE SESSIONS (WORKSHOPS, ROUNDTABLES AND OTHER INTERACTIVE FORMATS)

Whole sessions, organised by groups of scholars/project teams, are foreseen in different formats:

- **roundtables:** groups of scholars (up to 5 discussants) discuss themes/issues in front of an audience that ideally is included into the debate by the possibility to ask questions/ comment.
- **workshops, working tables or other interactive formats:** interactive sessions of smaller groups that work together on a certain topic instructed by the organisers of the workshop.

Proposals for whole sessions should provide the following information:

1. Title of the session
2. A description of the planned format (approx. 50 words)
3. Name, academic title, position, and institutional affiliation(s) of each active participant (i. a. including the Global Centre for Health and Pandemic Preparedness/Humboldt Research Hub or other DAAD-funded project)
4. An abstract of the theme/session content, in case of workshops incl. information on needed limitation of participants (approx. 250 words)
5. Desired length of the session (60/75/90/105 min)
6. Name of the moderator/chair
7. Name of the coordinator including contact details

Formats in which two or more Global Centres/different initiatives and/or academics of various disciplines cooperate are especially welcome and encouraged. Each Global Centre should hand in at least one proposal for a session.

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TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

The deadline for submissions is **Monday, 15th January 2024**. All proposals must be submitted in English language. Submissions will be possible via a portal, the link can be found from mid of September at www.daad.de/globalcentres/conference.

The DAAD will notify you most likely before end of March 2024 whether the Academic Advisory Board has selected your proposal for the conference.



CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The DAAD Global Centres Conference 2024 will be held in English.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Upon request, the DAAD is happy to offer applicants whose proposal has been accepted financial support in the form of conference grants, **subject to the availability of funds**. Conference grants include participation in the conference, travel, accommodation and board (breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks. i. a. evening receptions) for the duration of the conference. Further details will be provided after the conference proposals have been selected.

Further information will soon be available at www.daad.de/globalcentres/conference.

Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office