

## **Theme: Collectively reclaiming global health equity: Restoring commitment to action in a fragmented and uncertain world**

The world stands at a critical juncture. Fragmented global health governance, declining funding, escalating polycrises, and attacks on science and human rights are eroding decades of progress toward global health equity. Yet, within this uncertainty lies an opportunity, not just to reimagine global health, but to act decisively from evidence, both old and new. The time for rhetoric has passed. We must do things differently. Now is the moment to reclaim equity, together, through concrete action, grounded in the foundational principles that health is a human right and that justice must guide every decision we make. In a world of shrinking resources and limited policy spaces, we need bold and equitable approaches that challenge the status quo and ensure no one is left behind.

For the Canadian Conference on Global Health (CCGH) 2026, we are calling on researchers, practitioners, policymakers, community leaders, advocates, students, and all those committed to global health equity, including colleagues with lived experiences and those from diverse fields, to join us in Montreal for three days of transformative dialogue and action. Tiohtià:ke/Montreal is located on unceded Indigenous lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which the conference will be held.

CCGH 2026 is not merely an exchange of ideas; it is a rallying point to restore our collective commitment to equity, social justice, and sustainable change in an increasingly unstable world. During the conference, we will move from examining the upstream determinants that perpetuate and exacerbate health inequities, to centring community voices and resilient health systems, to bridging evidence and innovation through accountable implementation and inclusive knowledge mobilization. Each day builds toward a singular purpose: translating our shared values into concrete action that transforms lives and systems.

The CCGH has a strong history and track record of welcoming global health colleagues from everywhere, and we are particularly committed to centring Global South leadership, decolonizing global health practice, and amplifying the voices of those most affected by health inequities. We invite you to bring your expertise, questions, innovations, solutions, and commitment to building a more equitable global health future together.

Join us in Montreal from October 16-18, 2026, as we reclaim global health equity and restore our commitment to action.

### **Subthemes**

#### ***Sub-theme 1: Addressing upstream determinants of health equity (Analyzing root causes and systemic barriers: Governance, power, financial stewardship for good governance, policies/politics, leadership)***

In an era of fragmented global health governance, political instability, and diminishing resources, achieving health equity requires confronting the systems, policies, and power structures that perpetuate inequity. This sub-theme examines the upstream root causes of health inequities among population groups, including governance failures/successes, funding mechanisms, political determinants, and economic barriers, while exploring pathways to dismantle these obstacles. Speakers are encouraged to consider decolonizing global health governance, centring Global South leadership in decision-making, and fostering South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange.

**Examples of topics (not exhaustive):** Global health financing; Canada's role in global health; National governments' engagement and leadership; Trust, misinformation, and attacks on science; Public-Private

Partnership; Politics and policies, leadership and power in global health; Protecting women's and minorities' health and rights; Mobility, migration and immigration; Climate change as an upstream-determinants; Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance.

***Sub-theme 2: Equity in action: Health systems, resilient systems and communities, and centring marginalized voices (Context-driven solutions: Who leads, and where change happens)***

True equity demands centring the voices, knowledge, and leadership of those most impacted by health inequities. This subtheme spotlights locally- and regionally-led, gender-transformative, and youth-inclusive solutions that strengthen health systems from the ground up, alongside Indigenous wisdom, to strengthen health systems and reaffirm primary health care and health service delivery as the cornerstone of universal health coverage and the right to health, in both stable and unstable contexts. Speakers will reflect local accountability and community participation; showcase regional/local approaches and experiences; and amplify early career researchers, community advocates, and practitioner voices.

**Examples of topics (not exhaustive):** Primary health care; Health service delivery, including in crisis settings; Local and regional health systems strengthening; Community and systems resilience and local leadership; Health equity and rights-based approaches; Community-driven innovations; Indigenous knowledge and health sovereignty (wherever they are based); Gender and youth leadership equity; Equity-based humanitarian technology; Person- and community-centered approaches; Protecting rights in crisis; Local-level health systems.

***Sub-theme 3: From evidence to impact: Practical approaches and tools for implementation and accountability (Translating knowledge into action: Bridging research to practice at all levels)***

This sub-theme explores actionable strategies to translate research, as well as novel, emerging and tested methodologies into real-world solutions across global health priorities. From pilots to sustained impact at scale, sessions will highlight tools, frameworks, and case studies demonstrating how health-related interventions are implemented, adapted, and evaluated across diverse contexts. From climate adaptation and AI applications to health systems strengthening, humanitarian technology, and sustainable financing, sessions will highlight tools, frameworks, and case studies for scalable implementation. Emphasis is placed on accountability, equity, and adaptive systems to ensure lasting impact in crisis and everyday settings. Speakers are encouraged to offer action-oriented, solutions-focused programming that demonstrates evidence of impact and learning, highlighting North-South, South-South and North-North implementation experiences and adaptations.

**Examples of topics (not exhaustive):** Climate change adaptation and mitigation innovations; System-level preparedness and health systems strengthening; Directions and application of AI in global health; Humanitarian technology - tools and care in conflict areas; Disease prevention and control; Health workforce strengthening; Sustainable financing mechanisms; One Health approaches; Antimicrobial stewardship; Adaptive health security; Learning health systems; Cybersecurity and digital protection; Accountability tools.