

Author Guidelines

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Scope and Audience

Global Health: Science and Practice is an open-access, peer-reviewed online journal that aims to improve health practice, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Our Journal is intended to provide a forum for public health professionals who design, implement, manage, evaluate, and otherwise support health programs.

Articles should reflect new thinking, careful analysis, and clear writing that can be translated into action to improve public health practice. We accept manuscripts reporting on research studies as well as observational and experiential knowledge that offer generalizable insights to improve health programs.

We are especially interested in manuscripts that emphasize the details of *how* programs are implemented. [Read about specific article types.](#)

Clear and concise communication is necessary for busy public health professionals and for individuals for whom English may not be the primary language. Therefore, we encourage clarity, brevity, and articulation of key points in several summary formats. [Read more about our writing tips.](#)

We include articles on all **global health topics**, including but not limited to:

- Child Health
- Communicable and Emerging Communicable Diseases
- Disaster Preparedness and Response
- Environmental Health
- Family Planning/Reproductive Health
- Gender
- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria
- Maternal Health
- Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Non-Communicable Diseases/Injuries
- Nutrition
- Tuberculosis
- Water and Sanitation
- Youth

The journal embraces an **interdisciplinary approach**, comprising such fields as epidemiology and biostatistics, and covers a range of **cross-cutting issues** that impact and support the health system, such as:

- Health Communication/Healthy Behavior
- Health Information System
- Health Policy and Advocacy
- Health Systems Financing
- Human Resources/Training
- Knowledge Management
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Leadership, Management, and Governance
- mHealth/eHealth
- Performance and Quality Improvement
- Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation
- Scale up

We welcome articles on a wide range of **programming models**, such as clinic- or community-based services, mobile outreach services, and private-sector approaches.

No Publication or Access Charges

There is no charge to the author to publish articles in *Global Health: Science and Practice*. Readers may also read the full text of all *Global Health: Science and Practice* articles free of charge.

Criteria for Publication

Accepted articles will typically comprise the following attributes:

- Original (not under consideration or published in other journals or publications)
- Cover practical programming implementation issues, with information on **what** the program entailed and **how** the program was implemented
- Broad program applicability
- Actionable
- Scalable
- High impact potential
- Provocative, compelling findings or insight
- Grounded in evidence
- Motivating

In general, accepted articles will provide information to help advance the field of global health and influence thinking and practice. Read more about the [criteria that peer reviewers consider](#) when recommending acceptance or rejection of manuscripts.

Types of Articles

We generally consider the following article types. Please consult the section on [How To Prepare and Submit Your Manuscript](#) for guidelines on how to set up each type of manuscript. While we do not set explicit limits on length of published manuscripts, we provide general guidelines below to encourage authors to be concise.

Original Articles. These may be **research-based** or focused on systematic **experiential knowledge** gained from implementation and management of health programs. Length: 4,000-5,000 words (excluding abstract and references)

We are especially interested in Original Articles that explore the details of **how** programs are implemented and the factors that facilitated success or failure.

Commentaries. This category includes debate articles and analysis pieces on important public health issues, as well as conventional commentaries that discuss a specific article recently published. Key statements and assertions should be supported with evidence. Length: 1,000-1,500 words

Viewpoints. Viewpoints are opinion-based essays that describe the perspectives of an author(s) on significant public health issues in an insightful way. Length: 1,000-1,500 words

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. Manuscripts that fall under this category are critical reviews of studies or interventions using a formal process or using statistical analysis to integrate data from a number of independent studies. These should be structured similarly to Original Articles. Length: 4,000-5,000 words

Stories from the Field. These pieces are poignant, personal, programmatic portrayals of an actionable, generalizable point. For this approach, use a story-telling method to illustrate key programmatic lessons. Story-telling has the particular ability to reach people in a way that penetrates, registers, and even moves. We are looking for an experience that has happened to you or someone with whom you are familiar that is relevant to implementing programs. It should illustrate a valuable principle, idea, or lesson that likely is generalizable to other colleagues in similar situations. It could be in the first person or a narrative style. Length: 1,000-1,200 words

Letters to the Editor. Letters to the Editor discuss articles published recently in *Global Health: Science and Practice* or issues of general interest. Letters not selected for publication in a forthcoming issue may be posted as online comments. Readers may submit brief comments online from the full-text view of articles, which, after moderation, will be posted with the article. Length: 400 words

Style and Format

Global Health: Science and Practice accepts manuscripts written in English. Spelling should be based on U.S. English. Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the [Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals](#) published by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

We do not set explicit limits on the length of manuscripts submitted, but we encourage authors to be concise in order to reach our audience effectively. In some cases providing more detail in appendices may be appropriate.

Formatting approaches such as **subheadings, lists, tables, figures, and highlighting key concepts are highly encouraged.**

Summaries and single-sentence tag lines or headlines—abstracted sentences containing keywords that convey the essential messages—are also standard. It is anticipated that content may also be repackaged into shorter derivative components such as an “Issue Highlights” compendium that could be distributed through email.

Most articles should include a **Single Overriding Communication Objective (SOCO), or key message**, described in 1 or 2 sentences. Read about [how to prepare your manuscript](#) for more information.

Writing for Impact Tips: Interesting, Simple, Concise, and Scannable

1. **Keep our key audience of public health practitioners in mind.** How does your intervention or research impact public health *practice*?

2. **Provide sufficient detail about key programmatic elements.** We are of course interested in *whether* an intervention or program was successful. But because our objective is to help others benefit from your experience and because we work in complex systems, it is often crucial to describe in some depth *how* you implemented your intervention and *what* it was that led to success or failure. Similarly for “lessons learned,” try to focus on those lessons that would be generalizable and what it might take to apply them to other situations.
3. **Present information clearly.** Use clear, straightforward language and simple sentence structure. We also encourage you to use personal pronouns (I, we, you, they) and the active voice so that readers can connect with the information. For example: “We considered the following aspects” rather than “The following aspects were considered.” Employ the inverted pyramid writing style when appropriate, starting with the conclusion and then adding additional details and non-essential information.
4. **Be concise.** Break up long sentences with shorter ones. Cut out unnecessary words, sentences, or paragraphs. Use lists, rather than paragraphs, where helpful.
5. **Write for easy scanning.** Use bulleted lists, bolded keywords, meaningful headings and subheadings, tables, and figures. Convey keywords in the title itself for which readers might search.

References

Global Health: Science and Practice follows [Citing Medicine](#), the National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) Style Guide for references, also adopted by ICMJE’s Uniform Requirements. References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in parentheses, *not as footnotes or endnotes*. Include a list of all references cited at the *end* of the article, in the order in which they were mentioned in the text.

Specific examples of how to cite a journal article, book, and monograph on the Internet follow. For a fuller set of examples, see the list of [Sample References](#) typically used by authors of journal articles, maintained by the NLM for the Uniform Requirements.

Journal article (List the first six authors followed by et al.)

Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Caplan AL. Solid-organ transplantation in HIV-infected patients. *N Engl J Med*. 2002 Jul 25;347(4):284-7.

Book

Murray PR, Rosenthal KS, Kobayashi GS, Pfaller MA. *Medical microbiology*. 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby; 2002.

Monograph on the Internet

Foley KM, Gelband H, editors. *Improving palliative care for cancer* [Internet]. Washington: National Academy Press; 2001 [cited 2002 Jul 9]. Available from: <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309074029/html>.

How To Prepare and Submit Your Manuscript

Global Health: Science and Practice will soon be accepting manuscript submissions online. In the interim, we ask that you submit your manuscripts via email to submissions@ghspjournal.org.

- Please submit the **main manuscript** as either a Microsoft Word document (DOC, DOCX) or in rich text format (RTF).
- Each **illustration and figure** should be submitted separately, not embedded in the manuscript, as PDF, DOC/DOCX, PPT/PPTX, EPS, PNG, TIFF, JPEG, or BMP files. It is the responsibility of the authors to ensure that illustrations and figures are at a high enough resolution to produce good-quality reproduction in the published article. Resolution of illustrations, figures, and other images should be approximately **300 dpi** (dots per inch).

Because *Global Health: Science and Practice* operates a [double-blind peer review system](#), we ask that you **do not include any author-identifying information in the main manuscript for Original Articles, Reviews/Meta-analyses, Commentaries, and Viewpoints**. Instead, include a separate title page with the title of the manuscript and author names and affiliations.

In general, manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the [Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals](#). The following are suggested formats for specific article types.

Original Articles and Reviews/Meta-Analyses

- **Title Page.** This should include the title of the article (in 20 words or fewer); full names, institutional addresses, and contact information for all authors; and an indication of the corresponding author. **Author names should be listed only on the title page to ensure anonymity during peer review.** Article titles should be concise and informative. Search engines often use words in article titles for information retrieval; therefore, the title should contain keywords for which readers might search.
- **Key Message.** In one or two simple sentences, explain the “single overriding communication objective (SOCO),” or key message, of your manuscript, including the significance for action. What is the main take-home message that you want your readers to remember as a result of reading your article?
- **Abstract.** The abstract should be no more than 350 words and should convey results and conclusions. Please do not cite references in the abstract.
- **Main Body.** The structure of the main body of the manuscript can take on different forms, especially for manuscripts reporting on program implementation issues. The conventional IMRAD format (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion) for scientific articles, or variations of it, may be appropriate. For program implementation articles, the headings may be Background, Program Description (including details of *how* the program was implemented), Results, and Discussion, but please choose a different format if it makes sense.
- **Appendices** (if appropriate).
- **References.** [Read our instructions for preparing references.](#)

- **Illustrations and figures.** Please submit as separate files. Each illustration and figure should be numbered with a short title, and should be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- **Tables.** Tables should also be submitted as separate files, numbered with a short title, and cited in text in consecutive numerical order.

Commentaries and Viewpoints

- **Title Page.** This should include the title of the article (in 20 words or fewer); full names, institutional addresses, and contact information for all authors; and an indication of the corresponding author. **Author names should be listed only on the title page to ensure anonymity during peer review.** Article titles should be concise and informative. Search engines often use words in article titles for information retrieval; therefore, the title should contain keywords for which readers might search.
- **Key Message.** In one or two simple sentences, explain the “single overriding communication objective (SOCO),” or key message, of your manuscript, including the significance for action. What is the main take-home message that you want your readers to remember as a result of reading your article?
- **Main Body.** The structure of the main body for Commentaries and Viewpoints is flexible. Key writing considerations to keep in mind are to use clear, straightforward language, simple sentence structures, the active voice, bulleted lists, bolded keywords, and meaningful headings to help the reader scan the article easily.
- **References (if appropriate).** [Read our instructions for preparing references.](#)
- **Illustrations and figures (if appropriate).** Please submit as separate files. Each illustration and figure should be numbered with a short title, and should be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- **Tables (if appropriate).** Tables should also be submitted as separate files, numbered with a short title, and cited in text in consecutive numerical order.

Stories from the Field

Stories from the Field will be reviewed by our Journal Editors only. (They will not undergo peer review.) For these articles, we generally recommend a more traditional prose style that engages the reader. No specific outline is required; however, the following are some important considerations:

- Include the “**Five Ws and the H**” of journalism in your story: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.
- Begin with a **strong lead** that hooks the reader and that clearly introduces the main character(s) and central idea of the story.
- Ensure your story is mainly **about people**, not organizations. You can mention the organization, but it should not be an advertisement for it.
- Include a **photo** with your story, if possible, preferably one that conveys action. Please include a caption that explains what the photo shows and the name of the photographer.

Peer Review Process

Global Health: Science and Practice operates a double-blind peer review system, in which the identities of both reviewers and authors remain anonymous to each other.

Each manuscript submitted to *Global Health: Science and Practice* will be screened by our editorial staff, within two weeks of submission. Original Articles and Systematic Reviews/Meta-analyses that are considered appropriate for the Journal will then typically be sent to at least two peer reviewers; Commentaries and Viewpoints to at least one peer reviewer. We will consider authors' suggestions for reviewers to invite and those to exclude. Stories from the Field and Letters to the Editor will be reviewed by our editorial staff.

The role of peer reviewers is to recommend acceptance—either with or without revision or resubmission—or rejection of manuscripts. In the case of discordant reviews, the Editors may seek review by an additional expert. The Editors make the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection taking into account reviewers' recommendations. **We aim to issue a final decision on all articles within 12 weeks of submission.**

Publication of manuscripts by *Global Health: Science and Practice* is dependent primarily on their rigor, clarity, and potential impact, as judged by peer reviewers and the Journal Editors. **Main criteria on which peer reviewers will assess the manuscript include:**

- importance and relevance of the topic
- originality of the work that adds value to the existing body of knowledge
- substance
- sound study (or program) design and methodology (or implementation)
- sound use of evidence
- compelling conclusions that are actionable and based on the evidence presented
- presentation and clarity of writing

Manuscripts will be sent to a statistician for additional review if necessary based on recommendations from the reviewers and Journal Editors.

Authors can formally appeal an editorial decision, in which case the Journal Editors will review the decision in accordance with the procedures outlined in the COPE [Code of Conduct for Editors](#).

Editorial Policies and Practices

Global Health: Science and Practice follows the:

- [Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals](#) from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors
- [Guidelines on editorial independence](#) from the World Association of Medical Editors

- [Code of conduct and best practice guidelines for journal editors](#) from the Committee on Publication Ethics

Competing Interests

Global Health: Science and Practice requires authors to declare any competing financial or other interest in relation to their manuscript, in accordance with the [ICMJE unified disclosure form](#). The conflict of interest form will be integrated into the online submission process when we launch the platform. In the interim, the Journal will ask authors to submit the ICMJE unified disclosure form before publication of an accepted article. All declared competing interests, or a statement indicating that there are no competing interests if appropriate, will be listed at the end of published articles.

Open Access Policy

Global Health: Science and Practice applies the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#) to all articles that we publish. Under this license, authors retain ownership of copyright for their articles, but authors allow anyone without permission to copy, distribute, transmit, and/or adapt articles, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

Resources for Writing Journal Articles

We will do as much as we can to provide editorial support to authors whose primary language is not English. For authors with little experience in publishing journal articles, please consult other resources that provide guidance on how to write journal articles generally. For example:

- [AuthorAid](#), based at the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), provides **free** mentoring, resources, and training to support researchers in developing countries to publish their work.
- The European Association of Science Editors (EASE) produces and updates annually the [EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles](#), which is currently available in 20 languages. It provides simple advice for writing journal articles that are complete, concise, and clear, as well as practical tips for junior authors.
- SciDev.Net produced the following relevant practical guides: [How do I submit a paper to a scientific journal?](#) and [How do I write a scientific paper?](#)
- The World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean produced [A Practical Guide for Health Researchers](#), which includes helpful sections on [writing](#) and [publishing](#) a scientific paper.
- The [Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals](#) provides some general guidance on how to prepare research-based journal articles.