

**Executive Summary**  
**January 2010**



Global Health Equity Foundation

## VISION

To make tangible improvements toward global health equity.

## MISSION

Within communities:

- Explore opportunities and challenges
- Acknowledge and inform public and private opinion about the right to health
  - Enrich sustainable, practical knowledge

## DEFINITION\*

### Global Health Equity

*/'glə-bəl helth'e-kwə-tē / n.:*

Equality of opportunity for everyone to access healthcare, health education, prevention services, and impartiality in treatment.

\*Disclaimer: Global Health Equity Foundation proposes this definition to be universally accepted



Global Health Equity Foundation

## INTRODUCTION

Global Health Equity Foundation is a philanthropic organization with the intent of making tangible improvements toward global health equity by engaging in and interlinking research, advocacy and capacity building. We aspire to become the source for knowledge on health equity and a major contributor to human and community development worldwide. We believe Global Health Equity must become an essential and core discipline for global public health education and application in global health governance.

## STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

Global Health Equity Foundation engages in three core strategies:

### *Research*

Aimed at the collection, measurement, analysis, and presentation of quantitative data in order to make qualitative, influential recommendations to health leaders and grassroots actors with the result of improving health equity in their given population. These activities will produce research methodologies and tools for developing contextual solutions specific to the customs and culture of a given population.

### *Advocacy*

Aimed at raising awareness of health inequities, educating about current and potential solutions, and communicating specifically on behalf of displaced populations with regard to their lack of access to healthcare, health education, health prevention services and impartiality in treatment. These activities will produce effective and provocative media that will be widely distributed and available in a variety of formats.

### *Capacity Building*

Aimed at improving the local conditions for a given population with the goal of making a lasting, positive change in the way that this population gains access to healthcare, health education, health prevention services and impartiality in treatment. These activities will build on existing knowledge and experience and improve individual and group skills through training, coaching and community building.

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

Our strategies are interlinked through an exchange of results, methods and goals achieved in each activity. Activities are connected across strategies because we apply their outcomes, perspectives and insights in ways that reveal the interdependence they have on each other. We create opportunities for every strategy and activity to contribute to the success of others while maintaining the unique qualities of each. We have developed an expansive approach that compels us to be open-minded, fair and aware as we engage in Research, Advocacy and Capacity Building.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Tayeb Al-Hafez, MD founded Global Health Equity Foundation in 2007. Dr. Al-Hafez is a practicing physician who currently resides in San Francisco, California. He immigrated to the United States of America after completing his medical school education in his native country, Syria.

## Strategy: **Research**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Activity: **Equity Gap Analysis**

#### Introduction

Equity Gap Analysis combines values-based research and collaborative peer review, with the goal to define the overall gap that exists for disadvantaged populations in access to healthcare, health education, prevention services and impartiality in treatment. A collaborative and diverse network of health leaders, researchers, policy makers, academicians, sociologists, philosophers and economists will bring together the expertise needed to make a significant contribution to the understanding of health equity and its relationship to inequities suffered by disadvantaged populations. Initial research will first focus on the health inequities faced by displaced populations. The scope of research will then expand to other disadvantaged groups.

#### Philosophy

Effective and progressive public health leadership is a collaborative effort founded on thorough assessment, investigation and evaluation of challenges faced by a population. Knowing that policies generated by public health leaders affect entire populations on individual, regional and national dimensions, Equity Gap Analysis intends to engage these leaders by providing them with informative tools and data to further their understanding of the causes of inequities in health.

#### Contribution

To ensure Equity Gap Analysis research data remains accurate, accessible, and applicable, the Foundation will share the data and tools within the collaborative network, disseminate them to the global health community, and distribute them to research organizations. Research data will inform the production of *Advocacy* activities and recommendations for solutions will be made available to advance community development in *Capacity Building* activities.

#### The Future

Equity Gap Analysis will provide a basis for health leaders to make progressive and informed decisions related to public health policy and global health governance. Global Health Equity Foundation envisions that Equity Gap Analysis will significantly improve health equity by forging collaborative partnerships, and providing tools and contextual solutions at the local, regional and national dimensions.

#### Objectives

- Establish a multicultural, cross-national network of health leaders, health equity experts, policy makers and grassroots organizations in the field of health equity who are actively engaged in developing research tools, methodology and application
- Address the conditions for a specific population, including economic, geographic, environmental, political and social determinants that compromise or improve health equity
- Build replicable and adaptable models for identifying and understanding the relationship between desired outcomes of health policies and the actual conditions that preclude these outcomes

#### Approach

- Establish collaborative network
  - Build consensus among members for the meaning of key concepts, terms and definitions
  - Work together in conferences, workshops and seminars to focus on identifying and defining the overall gap in health equity for a disadvantaged population
  - Select initial disadvantaged (displaced) populations for research
- Develop research tools and methodology
  - Develop research methods
  - Apply methods to the collection, analysis and evaluation of data
- Provide recommendations for practical, sustainable solutions
  - Apply methodology to selected communities, evaluate for sustainable integration and adapt tools and methodology for replication

## Strategy: Advocacy

### 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Activity: Displacement aXis

#### Introduction

Displacement aXis advocates for the health equity of populations that are displaced, bringing awareness of these often neglected populations to the forefront of our global consciousness, and elicit compassionate understanding of the plights faced by displaced populations from health policy leaders.

Displacement aXis is a collection of activities, produced in collaboration with field researchers, grassroots advocates, media industry experts and community health leaders. The activities will include a series of documentary films and photographic essays that depict the daily lives of displaced populations and bring to light the challenges faced by the organizations that currently provide aid to them at the local and regional dimensions.

Displacement aXis offers a unique alternative to conventional media messaging by bringing to light the experience of displaced people from around the world in a new, contemporary form of storytelling. These stories will answer fundamental questions such as, “How do people get displaced? What healthcare is available to displaced populations? Who is in charge of taking care of the displaced? What happens to those who are displaced?”

#### Philosophy

Displaced populations suffer from the ravages of war, civil conflicts and natural disasters. The complexity of health equity and the issues faced by those affected by catastrophic events is not easily communicated in traditional forms of news information delivery. Although public media bombards us with graphic images, video, and news footage depicting these dire situations, we are numb to the reality of these unfathomable events as they apply to our own lives. Displacement aXis is a striking and provocative call for us to become aware of the crisis of displacement.

#### Contribution

Displacement aXis proposes a new form of *Research* that taps into the power of multimedia and encourages the audience to intimately engage with complex data using alternative forms of communication. Displacement aXis media will also be available in accessible formats to classrooms and Access Health Library for the purpose of *Capacity Building* around the globe.

#### The Future

Displacement aXis will portray an accurate depiction of displacement and will disseminate displacement advocacy information to a large, diverse audience. Dissemination of the model of Displacement aXis will change how we perceive global health equity.

#### Objectives

- Advocate the right to health for displaced populations, effectively and efficiently
- Provide insight into the source of the problem of displacement and a perspective by which the general public may understand the magnitude of the issues faced by displaced populations
- Broaden awareness of the complexity and relevancy of the health inequities faced by displaced populations
- Inform public and private opinion about the challenges displacement poses for contemporary, civil societies

#### Approach

- Use documentary film, photographic essays and other forms of multimedia to accurately portray the plight of displaced populations
- Synthesize messages of the displaced into a personally compelling and meaningful documentary that accurately and realistically depicts the men, women, children, and families who are forced to flee, with a specific focus on their (lack of) healthcare
- Illustrate research data in compelling and understandable ways which show how displaced populations affect adjacent and surrounding populations
- Relate stories from places foreign and familiar, illuminating what it means to be displaced, and how displacement is a phenomenon that is neither distant or specific to a particular place

## Strategy: Capacity Building

### 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Activity: Access Health Library & Access Health Forums

#### Introduction

Access Health Library & Access Health Forums will bring together research, learning, and practice into a comprehensive and integrative system. Contributed to and managed by a community of experts, leaders, researchers and activists from around the world, this global access point will ensure a direct and organized connection to current, relevant and legitimate information about health equity. This will be a framework for community information management that allows for the capturing, sharing and building of knowledge, to be utilized in communities for the purpose of sustainable community development.

#### Philosophy

As global citizens, we must become cognizant of our interdependence on each other in order to achieve shared health equity goals on the local, regional and national dimensions. Furthermore, in order to understand what health equity means as a primary characteristic of a developed, civil society, exploring interdisciplinary fields of research, policy, philosophy, and activism is paramount. The growing expanse of disconnected health information and knowledge systems around the globe poses a uniquely modern challenge. Global Health Equity Foundation offers a solution to unite these geographically and logically separate systems.

#### Contribution

Connected with the Foundation's *Research* strategy, Access Health Library & Access Health Forums will publish the research data for the global network to retrieve, integrate and disseminate information. In conjunction with the Foundation's *Advocacy* strategy, the reach of the Access Health Library & Access Health Forums online system will extend through educational programs, public service announcements, advertising, and sponsorship.

#### The Future

Access Health Library & Access Health Forums will enable millions of minds around the world to share their current knowledge, make meaningful connections across information, learn from others' experiences, contribute ideas, inform a sustainable community practice and participate in the development of practical solutions for contemporary issues facing displaced populations.

By collaborating with the dedicated community of global health leaders and experts, Access Health Library & Access Health Forums brings together experiences, knowledge, and informed opinions that will allow for the vision of equity in health to become a reality.

#### Objectives

- To build a framework that weaves the global community dedicated to improving health equity together by connecting physically and culturally dispersed networks in efficient and creative ways
- The Library ~ to build a dynamic tool that will allow users to search for concepts and connect search results with other related concepts
- The Forums ~ to build a platform by which the global health equity network may discuss relevant topics
- To ensure distribution of knowledge offline for the purpose of community empowerment
- To enrich the global health equity discipline

#### Approach

- Information will be retrieved and connected from sources around the world, using technology designed for next generation web-based searching
- Information will include publications, articles, research data, multimedia, definitions, and bibliographies
- Informed by the successes of online social networking, community intelligence practices and peer review, discussions will synthesize information from the Library and connect experts with individuals
- Knowledge captured online will inform offline leadership coaching and training for the purpose of human capacity development
- The mix of experts, leaders and individuals will ensure that diverse ideas will converge and lead to new ways of thinking about global health equity, advancing progress in the realms of research, education and governance