

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

IGHD and University of Oxford Sign Strategic MoU to Strengthen Global Health Research and Capacity Building through The Global Health Network

Bissau, Guinea-Bissau (2nd December 2025).

The **Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD)** is pleased to announce the signing of a landmark **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **University of Oxford** to enhance research capacity, advance scientific collaboration, and expand access to high-quality research methodologies across Guinea-Bissau and the wider region. This strategic partnership is established within the framework of **The Global Health Network (TGNH)**, a WHO Collaborating Centre and a global platform dedicated to strengthening health research systems worldwide.

The MoU marks a significant milestone for IGHD, positioning the institution as a **locally led TGNH Centre** that will serve as a regional hub for capacity building, knowledge mobilisation, and collaborative research initiatives.

Key Areas of Collaboration

Under this agreement, IGHD and the University of Oxford will work together to:

- **Establish a fully functional TGNH Centre at IGHD**, creating a long-term platform for training, mentorship, and research excellence.
- **Strengthen regional research capacity** through locally tailored training and professional development, expand equitable access to research tools and open-access resources via a digital hub, and map national and regional research landscapes to identify capacity gaps and guide strategic investments.
- **Develop and submit joint grant proposals**, leveraging Oxford's global network, including WHO, CEPI, EDCTP, PAHO, and other partners, to expand IGHD's scientific footprint.
- **Support long-term programme sustainability**, ensuring IGHD serves as the lead applicant on competitive grants while benefiting from Oxford's experience in research governance and coordination.
- **Integrate IGHD into global scientific and policy networks** to expand its visibility and influence in health systems research and implementation science across the Global South.

A Transformative Step Forward

This collaboration represents a significant advancement for IGHD's mission to promote high-quality, locally led research that informs policy, strengthens health systems, and improves population health outcomes. The partnership will accelerate the development of a skilled scientific workforce, expand access to global research frameworks, and foster stronger South–North and South–South collaboration.



Quotes

Dr. Magda Robalo, President of IGHD: *"This partnership with the Global Health Network hosted by the University of Oxford, marks an exciting and strategic step forward for IGHD. It strengthens our commitment to locally led research*

and positions our institution within a global ecosystem of excellence. Together, we will unlock new opportunities for research capacity building, innovation, and evidence generation that directly benefit our communities."

Christine, The Global Health Network (TGN): *"This MoU represents an important milestone in formalising a long-standing partnership, built on a shared commitment between IGHD and The Global Health Network. It provides a strong foundation for deeper collaboration in research, capacity strengthening, and knowledge exchange, with a focus on equity and local leadership in Guinea-Bissau. This partnership is a meaningful step towards generating more locally led research that is both impactful and responsive to the needs of the communities in the country and beyond."*

About IGHD

[The Institute for Global Health and Development \(IGHD\)](#) is an institution dedicated to strengthening health systems, developing research capacity, and advancing equitable, evidence-based solutions to improve health outcomes in Guinea-Bissau and beyond.

About The Global Health Network

[The Global Health Network \(TGN\)](#), based at the University of Oxford, is a WHO Collaborating Centre and global knowledge platform designed to support research in low-resource settings by providing open-access tools, training, and applied research support for health professionals worldwide.

For more information

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