

Toward Decolonizing Knowledge Production in Global Public Health: Efforts by a Global Health Journal

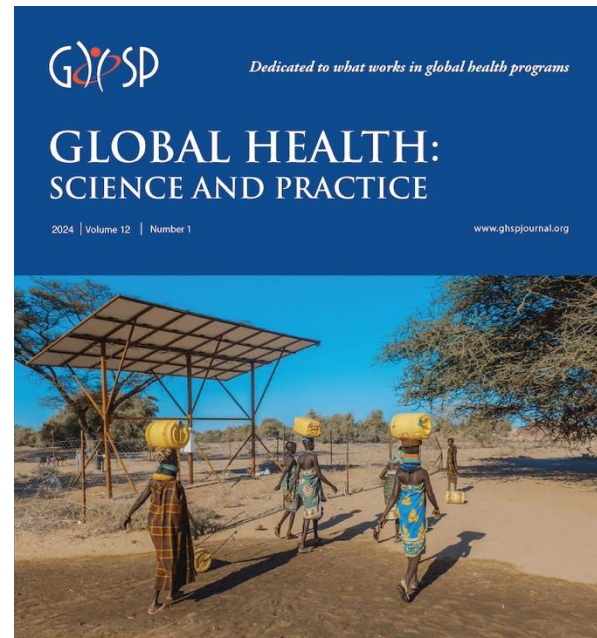
Natalie Culbertson, Managing Editor, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs

Sonia Abraham, Technical Editor, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs

Peter Waiswa, Associate Professor, Makerere University, Editorial Advisory Board Member

Overview of GHSP

- Launched in 2013
- Diamond open access – No fees for authors or readers
- Funded by USAID
- Independently published by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg SPH
- Focused on what works in programs in LMICs
- Peer reviewed, online
- 6 issues/year plus 1-2 supplements





GHSP's Stats, 2013–2024*

- 6300+ manuscripts submitted
- 1000+ published articles and editorials
- 100,000+ article accesses per month (avg)
- 21,500+ citations
- 2.5 Impact Factor
- 1.2+ million readers

* As of October 6, 2024

Article on Equity Efforts

Special Issue on 'Uncomfortable truths in international development: approaches to the decolonization of knowledge from development practice, policy and research.'

Ricca J, Abraham S, Waiswa P, Culbertson N, Hodgins S.

Toward decolonizing knowledge production in global public health: results of a multi-level intervention to improve equity of authorship at a global health journal. *Knowledge Management for Development J.* 2023;17(1/2):42-56. www.km4djournal.org

Efforts to Advance Equity in Publishing

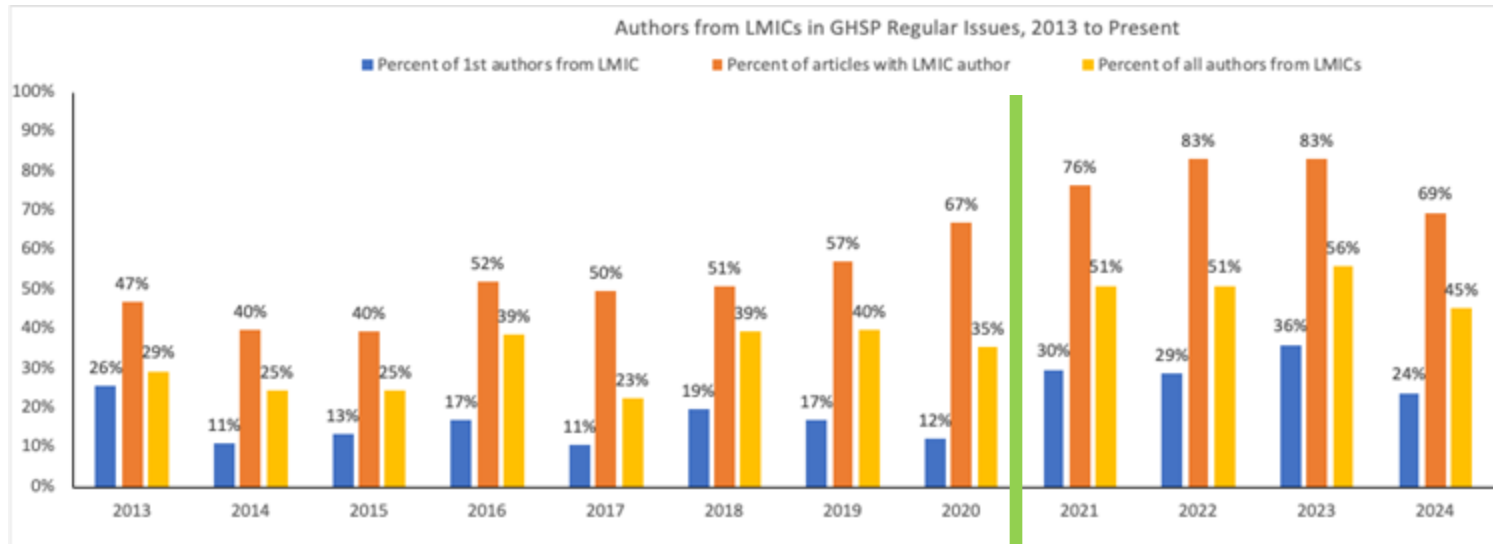
- Increase equity:
 - Knowledge production: No author processing charges
 - Knowledge access:
 - No fees for readers
 - Publish translations of articles and offer entire GHSP website and all HTML articles in more than 100 languages through Google Translate widget
- Increase gender, ethnic, and racial diversity of editorial team and advisory board members:
 - Recruited 2 associate editors from the African and Asian diaspora
 - Recruited 2 international associate editors in Africa and Asia

Efforts to Advance Equity in Authorship

- Created policy to encourage authors to include LMIC authors when article is on an LMIC
- Implemented a reflexivity checklist to provide authors with structured guidance to document ways they:
 - Promote equity and inclusion in their research
 - Consider local needs and priorities in their research
 - Engage local stakeholders in planning, implementing, and sustainability
- Standardized policy that articles about an LMIC should be peer reviewed by at least 1 reviewer from that country

GHSP Author Reflexivity Checklist		
Manuscript title:		
All authors:		
Corresponding author:		
	Yes	No
1. Does the authorship include individuals whose PRIMARY affiliation is in the country/ies where the research/program activity was done? If no, please explain.		
2. Is the leadership, contribution, and ownership of this work by individuals from this/these country/ies recognized within the authorship?		
3. Is the leadership, contribution, and ownership of this work by each author correctly represented in the author contributions statement describing each author's role in the research or program and preparation of the manuscript?		
4. Does the manuscript describe how this research or program experience addresses local program and/or policy priorities?		
5. Have the authors shared what is reported in this manuscript with in-country stakeholders OR do the authors have a plan for how what is reported in this manuscript will be shared with in-country stakeholders? Please briefly describe (200 words or fewer):		
6. Does the manuscript describe how individuals in this/these countries were involved in study or program design and/or implementation?		
7. Does the manuscript include acknowledgement of other individuals who contributed to the research, program, or other aspects of this manuscript, but who are not recognized as authors, as well as a brief description of these individuals' respective contributions?		

Results of Policy Changes



- Increase in number of:
 - Articles with any author from an LMIC
 - Articles with 1st author from an LMIC
 - All authors who publish in GHSP from LMICs

Challenges Defining Local Voices

- Authors from LMICs living and working in their home country
- Authors from HICs living and working in a LMIC.
- Authors from LMICs living and working in a HIC
- Authors with both LMIC and HIC affiliations

Challenges to Publishers

- Are we inadvertently incentivizing tokenism with the strategy and measures we are using?
- How do we define “local voice” and elevate local power in the privileged field of scientific publishing?
- How do we ensure we are hearing the authentic voices of those from LMICs given the hierarchies of class, ethnicity, race, gender, age, and employment?
- What strategies can we employ to narrow the gap between LMIC and HIC first authors?
- How can we make the case for continued funding for diamond access publishing?

Challenges Facing Authors from LMICs

- Poor infrastructure for writing articles.
- Very limited funding for research and program evaluation.
 - Uganda govt gives 80\$M for research; How much of that is included for publishing? Encouraging other mechanisms for funding publishing?
- Donors may feel they own the knowledge and thus must publish it
- Young and early career professionals at disadvantage for getting funding to write and publish.
- Language barriers in English dominated publishing environment



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