

Global Health Reporting 2026 Teacher Fellowship

Participants in the Examining Interconnected Health Inequities Through Global Reporting program will design and teach a short learning experience (one to three class periods) that centers **at least one** of the news stories below and culminates in an activity exemplifying empowered action.

Please review the stories below and identify one to two that could engage your students this fall. In your fellowship application, you'll be asked to share which story you selected and why you think that story will connect with your students.

Curated projects are organized by issue area, but many engage multiple issues and regions. You may choose which issues to center in the lesson you create. The full range of global health topics includes: disparities in health care access, the impacts of global aid and policies, climate and environment, research and innovation, marginalized communities, and war and conflict.

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Healthcare Access

[Tragedy in Paradise](#)

By Andy Pierrotti and Luke Carter for *Atlanta News First*

Region: Samoa/Asia, United States, North America

Issues: Misinformation & Disinformation, Health Science, Children & Youth

Format: Text, Photo, Audio, Video

Journalist Overview:

Recent measles outbreaks throughout the United States in 2025 have reignited concerns over declining vaccination rates. According to health officials, these outbreaks are largely fueled by vaccine misinformation and hesitancy, contributing to a resurgence of preventable diseases.

Doctors believe the anti-vaxxer movement is quickly turning into a public health crisis. This reporting project takes viewers on a road trip to a remote tropical island to see what the U.S. can learn from its mistakes.

[When Drugs Don't Work](#)

By: Paul Eccles, Andela Milivojevic, Jason Martinez, Rocío Romero, Fabiola Torres, and Alicia Tovar for The Bureau of Investigative Journalism and Salud con Lupa

Region: Colombia/South America

Issues: Health Science

Format: Text, Photo, Infographics

Journalist Overview:

Much of the world's medicines come from India, so much so that it's known as the world's pharmacy. Many of these medicines are safe and effective. However, recent high-profile scandals have led to tragic deaths and raised serious concerns about drug quality for a range of products, from cough medicines to chemotherapy drugs. Critics say that regulators don't adequately hold manufacturers accountable and that companies are allowed to operate with minimal oversight. So the scale of the problem is not fully understood.

In this project, TBIJ and its reporting partners will shine a light on the weaknesses in safety nets that are letting bad medicines reach sick patients, tracing accountability from hospital harm back through the supply chain.

[Chemotherapy at Risk](#)

By: Jason Martinez, Rocío Romero, Andela Milivojevic, Fabiola Torres, and Paul Eccles for the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and Salud con Lupa

Region: Peru, South America

Issues: Health Sciences

Format: Text, Photo, Infographic

Journalist Overview:

If you or someone close to you has ever waited for chemotherapy at a hospital, only to find the medication unavailable, you know what that anguish feels like.

It isn't always due to lack of funding. In several cases, the problem in Latin America was—and continues to be—in

public procurement. Between 2019 and 2025, Peru's Ministry of Health purchased 19 batches of cancer drugs with serious quality failures: bacteria, glass particles, and concentrations lower than those declared on the label.

More than 140,000 vials were destroyed. These were treatments that never reached patients when they were needed most. In at least one case, defective products were distributed to hospitals and administered before any alert was issued.

These medications came from five laboratories in India, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical exporters, which supplies more than 100 countries. Those companies still sell to the Peruvian state, and the system that allowed these purchases remains intact.

[Number 62: Families Rally Amid Cuts to Rare-Diseases Research](#)

By: Deepa Fernandes for *The World*

Region: Cyprus, United Kingdom/Europe, United States/North America

Issues: Health Science, Children & Youth

Format: Text, Photo, Audio

Journalist Overview:

The developmentally disabled community is at a precipice. President Trump's cuts to special education, Medicare, and scientific research have trickled down to impact the most vulnerable. This reporting project blends the personal with the political. The reporter's own child was number 62 in the world diagnosed with a rare genetic condition called Nicolaides-Baraitser syndrome (NCBRS). Her "special" school in California, her summer "crip" camps, her art program—spaces where this intellectually disabled teen thrives—are threatened.

Globally, it's a similar story: research grants disappearing, loss of support services, severe shortage of trained professionals. Families being asked if they want to institutionalize their young adult. "It feels like we're back in the early 1900s," a British father said, describing the options presented to him when his son, number seven in the world with NCBRS, turned 18.

This project uses one rare syndrome to illuminate challenges for people with developmental disabilities. The 330 NCBRS youth are medical mysteries scattered around the globe. No matter their country, from those with decent welfare-safety nets, to those with none, these young people are falling through social, educational, and medical cracks.

[Poland's Demographic and Healthcare Crisis](#)

By: Marta Panas-Goworska and Andrzej Goworski for *Wyborcza.pl*

Region: Poland, Ukraine/Europe

Issues: Health Inequities

Format: Photo, Text

Journalist Overview:

The emigration of young doctors, an aging population, and collapsing rural hospitals are fueling a deepening crisis in Poland. Data in 2025 show a physician shortage (over 30% vacancies in some regions).

Ukrainian physicians are helping to fill the gaps in Poland's public healthcare system, but tensions are rising. Several doctors lost their right to practice due to insufficient Polish language skills, and anti-Ukrainian sentiment among both patients and medical staff is growing.

Reporting in this project includes interviews with migrating doctors, patients in "health deserts," and policymakers.

[Future of Change for Neurodiversity in the U.K.](#)

By: Erin Johnston for the Pulitzer Center

Region: United Kingdom

Issues: Mental Health, Health Sciences

Format: Photo, Text

Journalist Overview:

One in seven people in the United Kingdom identifies as neurodivergent, yet many struggle with inadequate support from early childhood through adulthood.

With over 212,964 patients awaiting autism assessments as of December 2024, delays in diagnosis and post-diagnostic care are leaving individuals without important resources. This project explores what people, places, and systems are creating space for the neurodiverse community in the U.K.

This reporting project centers on neurodivergent researchers and how they're advocating for change in their community. U.K. neurodivergent researcher and advocate Sophia Parvizi-Wayne founded Kanjo Health, a platform that uses AI to provide pre-diagnostic insights for families of children navigating attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism. Dr. Brian Irvine, a neurodivergent researcher at University College London, employs his insight as a neurodivergent person to mentor neurodivergent students and conduct participatory research.

In this project, Parvizi-Wayne and Irvine, along with other neurodivergent researchers and advocates across the U.K., share how their lived experiences shape their advocacy work and passion for change. This project also highlights systemic challenges and innovative solutions created by neurodivergent people for neurodivergent people.

Climate & Environment

[*Clean Energy for Export, Dirty Air at Home*](#)

By: Vo Kieu Bau Uyen for *Mekong Eye*

Region: Vietnam/Asia

Issues: Environment and Climate Change, Rainforests, Extractive Industries, Pollution

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

This project investigates air pollution linked to Vietnam's wood pellet industry, which supplies biomass fuel to power plants in South Korea and Japan as part of their clean-energy transition. As these countries ramp up biomass power to cut emissions at home, Vietnam has become their vital source of wood pellets.

Yet this energy shift has transferred environmental and health costs to a less affluent country. At numerous pellet factories across Viet Nam, sawdust from drying and grinding processes drifts into nearby homes and farmlands, while emissions monitoring is often minimal or nonexistent. Residents are left exposed to persistent dust pollution that threatens their health and livelihoods.

[*Wildlife Farming and the Emergence of Deadly Infectious Diseases*](#)

By: Jane Qui for *Nature* and *Knowable Magazine*

Region: China/Asia

Issues: Environment and Climate Change, Rainforests, Extractive Industries, Pollution

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Wildlife trade is often associated with the poaching of animals in the wild. In China, however, the vast majority of wildlife trade is supplied by the raising and breeding of non-domesticated animals. This involves hundreds of millions of animals of hundreds of species, including those susceptible to coronavirus infection. Until recently, the biosafety risks of such operations were unclear.

In this project, science writer Jane Qiu investigates wildlife farming across China. She traces the beginning of the industry to the era of "open reforms" in the 1990s and how that might have caused the SARS outbreaks in the 2000s. Thanks to strong lobby groups—consisting of academics, government officials, and traders—wildlife farming bounced back after a temporary setback and enjoyed a renaissance in the 2010s, which might have led to the emergence of COVID-19.

[*Climate Change and the Spread of Viruses: What Brazil's Fight Against Dengue Can Teach the World*](#)

By: Lucila Pinto for *Nature*

Region: Brazil/South Africa

Issues: Health Science, Outbreaks & Epidemics, Environment & Climate Change

Format: Text, Photo, Infographics

Journalist Overview:

As a result of climate change and globalization, diseases are reaching regions where they were previously unknown, while those already present are becoming harder to control. Health systems face new challenges and must adapt quickly, while societies as a whole struggle with the impact of increasingly frequent and severe outbreaks.

Brazil, a country long familiar with dengue, is now experiencing record-breaking outbreaks. In 2024, the country faced its worst epidemic in history. This year's outbreak, though less severe, is also one of the highest on record.

Journalist Lucila Pinto investigates how Brazil is responding to this growing crisis, focusing on the intersection of science, public health, and social impact. Brazil is one of the first major countries to confront dengue on such a scale. Its strategies offer a case study in how health systems might respond to emerging diseases worldwide.

[Ghana's Lost Forests](#)

By: Ibrahim Khalilulahi Usman and Jennifer Ambolley for *Ghana Business News*

Region: Ghana/Africa

Issues: Rainforest, Extractive Industries, Environment & Climate Change

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Ghana's Lost Forests is a comprehensive and in-depth investigative project dedicated to exploring the alarming impact of illegal gold mining on Ghana's vital forest ecosystems.

Over the past two decades, the country has witnessed the loss of more than 1 million hectares of forest, an area that reflects not only a staggering environmental crisis but also the intricate human stories that accompany it.

This project will delve into the complex narratives of local communities, revealing the struggles and challenges they face as their natural resources are stripped away. It will highlight the direct consequences of deforestation, including the severe loss of biodiversity and the ecological balance that sustains both wildlife and human populations. Furthermore, it will examine the socioeconomic ramifications of this crisis, such as displaced communities, weakened local economies, and the health risks associated with mining activities.

[Overlooked Toll of Climate Change on Kashmir's Gujjar-Bakarwal Community](#)

By: Safina Nabi for *FP* and *Dialogue Earth*

Region: India/Asia

Issues: Environment & Climate Change, Indigenous Rights, Migration & Refugees, Labor Rights

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Climate change has significantly disrupted the traditional travel patterns, living, food security, and belongings of nomadic pastoralists in Jammu and Kashmir. Sudden climatic events pose significant challenges, and there is often no available help. These abrupt changes severely impact their physical and mental health, and they have limited access to basic health care facilities. Women, in particular, face reproductive health challenges. During climatic crises, they often use unhygienic water and cloth, making them prone to infections and diseases, further affecting their mental health.

[Can Lahore Ever Breathe Again?](#)

By: Alina Ajaz for *The Pulitzer Center*

Region: Pakistan/Asia

Issues: Environment & Climate Change, Pollution

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Reporting from Lahore and surrounding areas, journalist Alina Ajaz explores how the city's battle against smog is influenced by social class, governmental regulations, and the need to survive. Through interviews with government representatives, climate experts, kiln workers, and student activists, this reporting project investigates the human cost of air pollution and the initiatives being taken to bring about change.

[Species That Save Us](#)

By: Dino Grandoni, Katty Huertas, Melina Mara, Mark Johnson, Hailey Haymond for *The Washington Post*

Region: United States & Canada/North America, Panama/South America

Issues: Health Science, Environment & Climate Change

Format: Text, Photo, Video

Journalist Overview:

The loss of species around the world due to habitat loss, climate change, and other human activities—what many scientists consider a mass-extinction event on par with the dinosaur-killing asteroid—is a tragedy in its own right.

But new research is revealing the hidden ways that thriving populations of many plants and animals—including frogs, vultures, and wolves—underpin humanity's well-being. The decline of many of these species is already taking a toll on human health, leading to thousands of additional illnesses.

[Toxic Floods: When Climate and Oil Pollution Collide in South Sudan](#)

By: Marco Simoncelli and Buster Emil Kirchner for *Mediapart*

Region: South Sudan/Africa

Issues: Environment & Climate Change, Pollution, War & Conflict, Water & Sanitation

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

For decades, Unity State, South Sudan, has been plagued by a series of interrelated challenges: land disputes, political instability, ethnic strife, and, in recent years, flooding. The floods, exacerbated by climate change, have spread pollution even further and added to the plight of the area's residents.

However, the human and natural consequences of Unity State's large-scale oil contamination remain largely underreported. From the scarce academic and journalistic sources available, it has been found that oil pollution has severely affected drinking water, farmland, and grazing areas, and that it intersects with the aforementioned conflicts in various ways. Some reports even suggest that this has caused an increase in miscarriages and children being born with deformities.

Combining on-the-ground reporting with satellite analysis, this project explores the long-term consequences of oil contamination. While parts of the pollution's origins in Unity State have been documented (though inadequately), little attention has been given to what the future holds for the approximately 600,000 people living in oil-contaminated areas.

[The Desert of Toxic Waste](#)

By: Georgia Gee and Nelly Madegwa for *The Intercept*

Region: Kenya/Africa

Issues: Environment & Climate Change, Pollution, Extractive Industries

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

In the 1990s, ships were being sent to Kenya with tons of toxic waste from the U.S. and Europe. Locals and experts believe this waste was also brought to the Chalbi desert. Over the years, bags of whitish salt and ash were found buried in the area.

By the early 2000s, the cancer rate in the community was three times the national average. In 2021, a local chief reported 300 cancer cases in his village of 7,000—the majority of the cancer cases were women. Dozens of people, and thousands of cattle, have been dying every year. There are also ongoing court cases in which residents are demanding Kenyan officials to supply them with clean water.

In this project, journalists Georgia Gee and Nelly Madegwa traveled across Kenya to the desert, on the border of Ethiopia, to meet with community members and understand what happened to the toxic waste dumped throughout the land.

[The Vaal Triangle: South Africa's Deindustrialization Crisis](#)

By: Tristen Taylor and Nathalie Bertrams for *New Lines Magazine* and *Daily Maverick*

Region: South Africa/Africa

Issues: Labor Rights, Environment & Climate Change, Extractive Industries

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Journalists Nathalie Bertrams and Tristen Taylor investigate the slow decline of South Africa's Vaal Triangle, once the industrial core of the country's steel economy. Built around coal-fired power stations, steel mills, and heavy industry, towns like Vereeniging and Vanderbijlpark promised stable work for generations of workers. Today, factory closures, rising energy costs, and global competition have left the region facing job losses, economic stagnation, and growing social strain.

Through reporting across the Vaal Triangle, the project follows residents living through the erosion of an industrial heartland. Former steelworkers, small-business owners, union leaders, and community volunteers describe how the loss of manufacturing jobs reshapes daily life—from shrinking household incomes and access to healthcare to rising insecurity and political frustration.

[Deforestation, Agriculture, Mining, and Development Fuel Malaria Epidemic](#)

By: Eko Rusdianto for *Bollo.id* and *Project Multatuli*

Region: Indonesia/Asia

Issues: Environment & Climate Change, Health Science, Rainforests

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

The construction of the Nusantara Capital City (IKN) has been underway since 2022 and has cleared 256,142 hectares of forest in Indonesia. As forest land is converted, the ecosystem is disturbed, and people are displaced, the risk of malaria transmission increases.

This project looks into how the conversion of forest land and the displacement of people from various regions for the construction of the Nusantara Capital City have increased the risk of malaria transmission. This report found that the cycle of mosquito attacks never stops. When forests begin to be cleared, malaria spreads. When the forest landscape is transformed into settlements, *Anopheles* attacks decrease or even disappear, but *Aedes* mosquitoes, which carry dengue fever, increase. Researchers call it a "tangled thread" that can never be untangled.

[Fukushima at 15](#)

By: Billy Ntaote and Retselisitsoe Khabo for *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*

Region: Japan/Asia

Issues: Environment & Climate Change, Pollution

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Four thousand workers struggle daily to control the ongoing disaster at Fukushima. In March 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami killed 20,000 people on Japan's eastern coast. Four nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant melted down and exploded. The radioactivity in the melted reactors is so intense that it destroys the robots sent to explore the damage. No one knows where the melted fuel is located or how deep it has burrowed below the reactors' concrete pedestals. The water used to cool the reactors is stored in more than a thousand tanks. Since 2023, this cooling water, supposedly cleaned but actually contaminated with 62 radionuclides, including cesium, strontium, and plutonium, is being released into the Pacific. Two spent fuel pools, packed with nuclear cores, have yet to be emptied. They sit precariously on top of Units 1 and 2, which are exploded tangles of metal ready to topple into the ocean.

Fukushima's 160,000 atomic refugees no longer receive housing subsidies. Radioactive soil from Fukushima—renamed "Happy Soil"—is being dumped into the prime minister's flower bed in Tokyo and other construction sites around the country. The government claims that the disaster is over. It is forcing resettlement and turning Japan into a red zone. Fukushima is the world's worst industrial accident, eventually costing over a trillion dollars. As Japan restarts its nuclear reactors, it is forgetting its atomic history and the geology of an archipelago that suffers more than 1,000 earthquakes yearly.

The Impacts of Global Aid and Policies

[Malaria: New Infant Treatment and Shrinking Foreign Aid](#)

By: Ridwan Karim Dini-Osman for *The World*

Region: Ghana/Africa

Issues: Health science, Children & Youth

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

In Africa, malaria remains one of the leading causes of death in young children. Every minute, a child dies from the disease—most of them under the age of five.

But a new medicine developed specifically for babies could be a turning point. It's called Coartem Baby—the first malaria drug in the world tailored for infants. It's just been approved in Ghana and could be rolled out by the end of the year.

But just as science is making progress, international funding for malaria prevention and research is in decline. Major cuts to U.S. foreign aid—particularly under the current Trump administration have left critical gaps in prevention efforts, drug development, and mosquito control programs. This project investigates how these cuts are affecting frontline malaria research, including gene drive experiments and vector control studies in Ghana.

[Global Health Under Construction](#)

By: Catherine Offord, John Cohen, and Martin Enserink

Region: Malawi, South Africa, Mozambique / Africa

Issues: LGBTQ+ Rights, Gender Equality, Children & Youth

Format: Infographics, Photo, Text

Journalist Overview:

The Trump administration's sudden dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2025 caused an earthquake in the world of global health, throwing into disarray programs to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and to provide nutrition, vaccination, and reproductive services. Many other wealthy countries have cut back on their assistance as well. Major international organizations like WHO have had to downsize and reorganize.

Now, the affected countries and the global health community are searching for a way forward. African countries have agreed on the "Accra Reset," a plan to become less dependent on foreign aid, starting with global health. Some want to get local industries more involved. New philanthropies are also stepping in. Journalists Catherine Offord, Jon Cohen, and Martin Enserink explore this radically changed, challenging landscape in a series of stories in *Science* magazine.

[When the Money Goes Away: Saving Lives in Uganda and Beyond](#)

By: Joanne Cavanaugh Simpson and Brian Simpson for *NPR* and *Global Health Now*

Region: Uganda/Africa

Issues: Health Science, Children & Youth

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Health workers across Uganda are struggling in the wake of chaotic cuts to U.S. government aid, creating resourceful ways to prevent suffering and death. Resilience in Uganda—which has long battled malaria, mpox, TB, and HIV—offers lessons and calls to action worldwide.

This reporting project offers a solutions journalism approach, featuring the scientists, health workers, and policymakers leading innovative responses, including: AI tools to battle malaria or assist in emergency triage; primary care doctors being trained in HIV treatment; burgeoning local production of HIV medicines; the world's largest childhood malaria vaccine rollout; and public health emergency teams geared to zero U.S. support or guidance, among other evolving efforts.

[Asia's Timor-Leste Nation Copes With End of USAID](#)

By: Ted Alcorn for *The New York Times* and *The Lancet*

Region: East Timor/Asia

Issues: Water & Sanitation, Gender Equality

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Journalist Ted Alcorn reports on how the changes in U.S. development assistance are impacting people on the ground in Timor-Leste, where American aid as a share of the economy was formerly among the highest of any country. Together, Timorese and Americans had many aspirations including strengthening the health system, uplifting rural economies, addressing gender-based violence, and upgrading the capital's sanitation system. Abruptly, many of those endeavors are now in doubt.

[After the Exit: How USAID Scaledown Is Rewriting Kenya's HIV Battle](#)

By: David Owino, Duncan Lukoye, Juma Majanga and Edwin Mwai for KBC

Region: Kenya/Africa

Issues: Health Science

Format: Text, Photo, Video

Journalist Overview:

This reporting project examines how the scaledown of USAID support is reshaping Kenya's decades-long fight against HIV. For years, donor funding through programs such as PEPFAR sustained treatment, prevention, and community outreach, helping transform HIV from a death sentence into a manageable condition. But as the United States reduces its financial support, cracks are beginning to show in the system that once promised stability and progress.

[How Health Budget Cuts Are Harming People With HIV Around the World](#)

By: Steven Thrasher and Afeef Nessouli for *The Intercept*

Region: United States/North America, Uganda/Africa, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria/Middle East

Issues: LGBTQ+ Rights

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Through a series of investigative feature stories for *The Intercept*, journalists Steven Thrasher and Afeef Nessouli report on how unprecedented U.S. health budget cuts are affecting vulnerable LGBTQ+ people and communities in the U.S. and abroad, as well as other people living with HIV/AIDS.

The team gathers public health data and other research, interviews individuals, and questions government officials who hold power over the fate of life-saving programs. They also talk with those who must now find ways to provide aid. The pair documents the real-life consequences of slashing HIV treatment and other key support in certain regions in the United States. They also investigate how U.S. global aid cuts are playing out in South Africa, Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria, and among trans, queer, and HIV-positive migrants in Greece who've fled oppression in their home countries and face the risks from aid cuts as well.

[Peering Into PEPFAR's Future](#)

By: Andrew Green for *Foreign Policy* and *Devex*

Region: Zambia/Africa, United States/North America

Issues: Religion

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Since its launch in 2003, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has saved 26 millions lives and brought the world to brink of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Now the Trump administration is pursuing a radical reimagining of PEPFAR. Officials have terminated many of its programs and withheld its funding. Rather than channel the remaining funds through non-governmental organizations to provide HIV services, U.S. financing will flow directly to partner governments. This is billed as a way to consolidate services and save money by cutting out NGO overhead costs.

Under previous administrations, PEPFAR has already put this approach in place in four Zambian provinces. For this project, journalist Andrew Green traveled to those communities to investigate how this has changed HIV services and whether this plan can still help deliver an end to the AIDS epidemic.

[What Happens When the PEPFAR Bridge Program Ends?](#)

By: Larry Miller for *WUSA9*

Region: South Africa, Lesotho/Africa, China/Asia, United States/North America

Issues: Health Inequities

Format: Text, Video

Journalist Overview:

Journalist Larry Miller will investigate how South Africa and Lesotho are navigating a critical transition in U.S. global health policy. As the PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) Bridge Program expires in March 2026, South Africa faces funding uncertainty while Lesotho implements a newly secured five-year, \$364 million bilateral agreement.

Miller will examine why South Africa—with the world's largest HIV-positive population—was excluded from bilateral negotiations after political tensions over the Expropriation Act. Through interviews with health officials, front-line workers, and vulnerable communities, Miller will document how funding cuts affect treatment access and prevention programs.

Reporting will investigate whether U.S. tariffs are constraining health-care budgets, and explore how China is expanding health diplomacy in the region.

[The State of HIV/AIDS Funding in Southern Africa](#)

By: Juana Summers, Vincent Acovino, Matt Ozug, Patrick Jarenwattananon for *NPR*

Region: South Africa, Mozambique/Africa
Issues: Gender Equality, Children and Youth
Format: Text, Photo, Audio

Journalist Overview:

Millions of people across Africa rely on HIV/AIDS treatment funded by the United States – through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR. PEPFAR received strong bipartisan support from U.S. lawmakers for decades. But today, the Trump administration’s attempts to cut and restructure foreign aid have created crippling instability for HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

Even after federal funding for PEPFAR was restored following public outcry, frontline workers now talk about a spike in AIDS-related deaths; a demoralized workforce; a lack of adherence to best practices; and an annihilation of the United States’ reputation. One career public health worker called it a “slow moving disaster.”

A team from NPR's *All Things Considered* traveled to South Africa and Mozambique to hear from the patients, health care workers, and researchers impacted by changes to PEPFAR funding.

[Surviving on Hope](#)

By: Taiwo Adebulu for *The Cable*

Region: Nigeria/Africa

Issues: Food Security, War & Conflict, Children & Youth

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

According to UNICEF, Nigeria had the highest number of malnourished children in Africa and the second highest in the world, with about 5.4 million children under the age of five facing acute malnutrition by 2025. This leaves millions of children surviving on little more than shrinking hope.

With the global funding cut by the US in January, the World Food Programme suspended some of its activities in Nigeria, while other agencies also scaled back nutrition programmes and therapeutic feeding, closed clinics, reduced outreach and left hundreds of thousands of acutely malnourished children without treatment.

This story will trace the real impact of the funding shortfall on Nigeria’s nutrition program. It will follow children and families on the frontlines of hunger; visit clinics overwhelmed by rising severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases; and investigate why, despite previous progress, the region remains perilously exposed. It will also explore what happens when international aid recedes — and whether a modest injection of funds like the US pledge can meaningfully offset the loss.

Health and Research Innovation

[*Vaccinating During Pregnancy To Protect Against a Leading Killer of Newborns*](#)

By: Leslie Roberts for *Science*

Region: South Africa/Africa

Issues: health sciences, outbreaks and epidemics, gender equality, children

Format: infographics, photography, text

Journalist Overview

Journalist Leslie Roberts reports on the slow efforts to develop a vaccine for pregnant women to protect against a leading killer of newborns. A little-known bacteria, group B streptococcus (GBS), is a major cause of stillbirths and newborn deaths—babies born infected often die their first day of life. Roberts describes the many scientific and political struggles surrounding this issue, the devastating toll of the disease that disproportionately affects Africans, and the

[*Facing Health Threats, South Africa May Be on Verge of Medical Breakthroughs*](#)

By: Ari Daniel

Region: South Africa/Africa

Issues: Health Science

Format: Text, Photo, Audio

Journalist Overview:

South Africa has nearly the highest global burden of HIV and is buffeted by other serious health threats. Simultaneously, the country may be on the cusp of a few extraordinary advances to save people's lives.

First, a group of researchers is launching trials of a promising vaccine combination they hope will trigger the body to create immunity against HIV. Second, the primary treatment of preeclampsia, characterized by soaring blood pressure during and after pregnancy, is delivery. Finally, scientists created a center in Cape Town to discover and develop drugs to fight malaria, tuberculosis, and antimicrobial resistance. The group is also starting an African liver database to determine dosing levels for Africans.

This reporting project covers laboratories and clinics at the edge of perhaps multiple medical breakthroughs, at the heart of which is Africans healing Africans in Africa.

[*The Quest for Addiction Treatment That Works*](#)

By: Deborah Becker for *NPR* and *WBUR*

Region: Italy/Europe, United States/North America

Issues: Health Inequities

Format: Text, Photo, Audio

Journalist Overview:

This reporting project involves an examination of an addiction treatment center in Italy that Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has said he'd like to replicate in the United States.

The reporting contains expert scrutiny of the program's vocational and farming model and the controversial ideas behind some of its treatment methods. There will also be a review of the past scandal at San Patrignano and some of the history—and scandals—involving therapeutic community addiction treatment programs in the United States.

Marginalized Communities

[From Aid Work to Sex Work](#)

By: Kristen Gelineau and Bram Janssen for *Associated Press*

Region: Nepal

Issues: LGBTQ+ Rights, Gender Equality, Children & Youth

Format: Photo, Text

Journalist Overview:

After the United States slashed its foreign aid funding last year, more than 280,000 aid workers worldwide lost their jobs. Most of those workers live outside the U.S., in conflict zones or poor areas where other job opportunities are scarce. In impoverished Nepal, where a conservative culture leaves openly transgender people with few legal job options, the impact on aid workers' lives was crushing. Starving and scared, around 100 LGBTQ+ aid workers left jobless by the funding cuts have turned to sex work to survive, walking the streets alongside the very people they once fought so hard to help.

Associated Press journalists Kristen Gelineau and Bram Janssen traveled to Nepal to shadow former aid workers who dedicated years of their lives to helping prevent the spread of HIV in Nepal's marginalized communities. Having turned in desperation to sex work after the funding cuts, they now live in fear of contracting HIV themselves, and face frequent, brutal violence.

[Nepali Migrants Looted by Fake Vaccine Card Schemes and Medical Reports](#)

By Ramu Sapkota for *Malaysiakini*

Region: Nepal/Asia

Issues: Migration & Refugees

Format: Text, Photo

Journalist Overview:

Journalist Ramu Sapkota investigates how vaccine resistance or lack of access has given rise to fake vaccine certificates illegally sold to poor Nepali migrant workers seeking jobs abroad. Sapkota also investigates how Nepali migrant workers going to Malaysia and Gulf countries are being exploited in the name of fake medical reports and recruitment fees

[South Africa's TB Snake and Its Tail Wreaking Havoc in Lesotho](#)

By: Billy Ntaote and Retselisitsoe Khabo

Region: South Africa/Africa

Issues: Health Science, Labor Rights

Format: Text, Photo, Video

Journalist Overview:

This reporting project by Billy Ntaote of the MNN Centre for Investigative Journalism exposes how Lesotho continues to suffer from the scourge of tuberculosis (TB) and silicosis, a devastating legacy of decades spent working in South African gold mines. It reveals how Basotho miners, past and present, endure life-threatening lung disease, an opaque and inaccessible compensation system, and a healthcare infrastructure stretched beyond capacity.



Pulitzer Center

War & Conflict

[Drones and Pathogens: Ukraine's Scientific Front Lines](#)

By: Richard Stone for *Science*

Region: Ukraine

Issues: Mental Health, Health Sciences

Format: Photo, Text

Journalist Overview:

The Ukraine war has revolutionized drone combat, with both sides fielding a stunning variety of unmanned land, sea, and air vehicles. In 2025, Ukraine alone plans to make or purchase 5 million drones for reconnaissance missions, attacks, and other purposes. It is also in an arms race with Russia to develop electronic warfare technologies for disrupting navigation systems of enemy drones. This project looks at the critical role Ukraine's scientific community is playing in shaping the technological landscape of this and future wars.

As casualties mount on both sides, Ukraine has become ground zero for another invasion: bacteria that can withstand the world's most potent antibiotics. The rise of these nasty strains that wounded soldiers acquire in triage centers is ringing alarm bells across Europe, and in response European and U.S. health agencies have rallied to Ukraine's side to try to prevent the resistant microbes from spilling over its borders. This project goes behind the scenes of an all-hands-on-deck effort to equip Ukraine with diagnostic instruments and more powerful antibiotics, to train hospital staff in infection prevention, and rush in experimental treatments to fight extremely drug-resistant strains and save lives.