The Nossal Institute
2017 - 2021

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
The Nossal Institute for Global Health
Applied Research

The Nossal Institute for Global Health

The Nossal Institute works on practical solutions to pressing global concerns. We combine real-world experience with the scientific rigour of one of the world’s top universities. Our big picture perspective helps us to understand complexity and change and to integrate that understanding into country and regional strategies. Our work benefits from the flexibility and responsiveness of the Institute’s not-for-profit company.

The productivity, security and resilience of nations, communities and families are founded on good health. Our team of applied researchers works towards overcoming the contemporary challenges of equitable and sustainable health service delivery and health promotion in Asia, the Pacific and across the globe. We work in countries and regions undergoing rapid change, where aging populations, changing lifestyles, issues of social inclusion, and increasing risk are the key concerns.

We support regional and global partners committed to transforming our world, working holistically towards relevant, resilient and inclusive health systems and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Unless otherwise noted, all photos are from iStock and are representative of our work.
Our Work

Within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne we establish and extend the evidence base for strengthening health systems and extending universal health coverage to ensure access to health care and to promote well-being across our region’s diverse communities.

Partnership and collaboration are the foundation of our work. We value and take pride in our long-standing relationships with government and non-government partners, development agencies, universities and the private sector across many countries.

We generate and communicate knowledge. We advise on health system design, policy and implementation. We educate the next generation of health professionals and train and support development workers and decision makers. We draw on global expertise in governance and financing, maternal and reproductive health, child health, disability, and the challenges of aging populations.

Primary Care Reform in Uttar Pradesh

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is investing in a primary care pilot program in Uttar Pradesh under which a private sector contractor will manage public primary care provision through a performance based contract. The Nossal Institute has been appointed to evaluate the program through a series of surveys of the population and of primary care facilities as well as exit interviews with patients in order to understand how the pilot affects health seeking behaviour and the care received. This includes a process evaluation using a realist evaluation framework to understand how the program achieves its results.
Capabilities

The Nossal Institute is multi-disciplinary. We draw on academic and professional expertise from a broad range of disciplines, sectors and regions for our applied research, teaching and leadership:

- Health systems governance
- Design, management and financing of health service delivery
- Health workforce skills development
- Primary care strengthening and reform
- Maternal, sexual and reproductive health
- Social inclusion and equity, including persons with disabilities and others with access and functioning needs
- Risk, resilience and sustainability within service delivery
- Data, metrics and measurement.

UNICEF HSS

In 2016 the Nossal Institute was contracted by UNICEF Headquarters in New York to develop a blended learning program in health systems strengthening. The course is for UNICEF staff and their government and development partners who work in health, nutrition, supply chain management and other sectors. Together with consultants from India, UK, Panama, USA and Kenya, we developed a 12-module online program that is followed by two weeks of face to face teaching. The content covers health planning, health financing and financial protection, human resources for health, supply chain management and other health system topics. In 2017 our first course commenced with 101 participants representing more than 60 countries.
Disability Inclusion for Health and Development

Development is only sustainable if it is equitable. Inclusive development and health service delivery increases security and broadens opportunities for all. By ensuring disability perspectives in research, policy and practice, the whole of society benefits. Our work delivers practical targeted and mainstreamed solutions for real world impact. We work to ensure equitable participation in development for persons with disabilities and others at risk of exclusion.

From 2017 - 2021, we aim to:

1. Improve disability data, measurement, and the monitoring of progress towards national, regional and international commitments to disability inclusion.
2. Improve access to health care and development actions for persons with disabilities.
3. Better understand and address the relationship between disability and disproportionate risk to build inclusive and resilient societies.

The Nossal Institute is working with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on the midpoint review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022. In-country reviews have included support to ESCAP Member States on disability data and reporting on related Incheon Strategy goals. The team has also provided technical guidance on the outcome document of the upcoming high-level review of the Decade. Improved Incheon Strategy reporting brings wider benefits to governments and stakeholders by facilitating reporting on commitments to disability inclusion within key international frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.
Health Systems Governance and Financing

We support the development of strong health systems governance and financing in Asia and the Pacific to enable countries to adapt to changing health needs, in particular to improve equity in the distribution of and access to health services. We build on our existing body of work developed through a range of long-term activities in a number of countries (including India and Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam), the DFAT-funded Health Governance and Health Financing Knowledge Hub, the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (WHO), the Asia Network for Health Systems Strengthening and the DFAT-supported Australia-India Institute Taskforce on Tobacco Control.

From 2017 - 2021, we aim to:

1. Build on an existing body of work that supports improved health systems (promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative).
2. Combine the benefits of practical work and technical assistance with academic principles and procedures in health systems analysis.
3. Work in partnership with multilateral and bilateral development agencies and in-country planners and researchers to advance national health governance and financing strategies.
4. Support progress towards universal health coverage by developing interventions and strategies to provide increased access to quality health services, particularly for the poor.

The Nossal Institute is a lead partner in the presentation of the Flagship Course of Health Financing in the Asia-Pacific region. The course, which is tailored for regional and international workshops, was developed by Harvard School of Public Health in collaboration with the World Bank, with the intention of delivering a theoretical and conceptual framework to participants to understand how health systems work and perform. The Nossal Institute has led and managed Pacific Flagship Courses in Fiji in 2012, Papua New Guinea in 2015 and in Timor-Leste in 2016 and a regional Flagship Training of Trainers workshop in 2011.
Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health

We support countries to fulfil the Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescents 2016-2030. Our goal is to build strong health systems that will provide timely, quality maternal, sexual and reproductive health (MSRH) services that are acceptable, affordable and accessible for all.

From 2017 - 2021, we aim to:

1. Work with governments and development partners to design, implement and evaluate initiatives to improve maternal, sexual and reproductive health service quality and utilisation.
2. Undertake rigorous research to generate evidence for better MSRH outcomes.
3. Create a capable health workforce through education, training and practical interventions.
4. Strengthen monitoring and reporting of maternal, sexual and reproductive health in order to measure progress and identify needs.

Since 2011, the Nossal Institute has been supporting programs to improve access to maternal and newborn services for semi-nomadic pastoralist communities in Kenya and Ethiopia. We developed and conducted population based surveys and mixed methods research to understand the current health seeking practices and health service quality in Kenya, and successfully trialled a community scorecard to improve health service accountability. We are currently implementing an adaptation of the 2015 Mother Baby Friendly Guidelines in three health facilities in the central highlands of Kenya.
Education and Learning

Our education and learning program takes a whole-of-institute approach that guarantees academic excellence and real world relevance through the integration of insights stemming from our research and development practice. Academic rigor is ensured by working within the institutional framework of the University of Melbourne. Our educational approach is inclusive, student-oriented and dynamic, and we highly value engagement with students of diverse backgrounds and with varied career goals.

From 2017 - 2021, we aim to:

1. Extend our role in delivering high quality academic subjects through the University of Melbourne’s Master of Public Health and other degree programs.
2. Extend our design and delivery of tailored short-courses on issues of immediate importance for participants in Australia and across the Asia-Pacific region.
3. Continue our support of Doctoral Degree students, who will be the future leaders in global health, to advance capacity for research and policy implementation in the region.

The Nossal Institute leads the Global Health Stream of the Masters of Public Health, offering twelve subjects annually, which can be undertaken in short course format by professionals seeking to upskill. We offer courses in: Health Program Design and Implementation; HIV and AIDS - An Evolving Global Response; Comparative Health Systems; Environmental Challenges and Global Health; Disability and International Development; International Child Health; Law Enforcement and Public Health; and Primary Health Care in Jamkhed, India.

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"Generations from now, people will look back at universal health coverage as a critical turning point in human history. Ensuring that everyone has access to affordable, quality health care — no matter who they are or where they live — will prevent 10 million deaths by 2035... Universal health coverage will also offer benefits that go well beyond health, helping us reduce poverty and threats to global security, and create global economic stability."

– Seth Berkley and Tedros Ghebreyesus in statnews.com
Selected Clients & Locations

For more information, please visit www.ni.unimelb.edu.au
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