

## **Strengthening Global Health Education in the UAE: an Assessment of the Current Landscape and Future Directions: A Policy Brief**

### **(Executive Summary)**

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### **1. Introduction**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has made significant strides in strengthening its healthcare system and contributing to global health initiatives. However, there remains a critical gap in global health education within the country, which hinders its ability to fully address both national and global health challenges. Global health education is essential for equipping future professionals with the knowledge and skills to tackle transnational health issues, ranging from infectious to non-communicable diseases and climate change-related health impacts. This brief emphasizes the need for the UAE to expand and integrate global health education across both undergraduate and postgraduate programs, ensuring a skilled workforce capable of contributing to global health solutions and advancing health equity and sustainable development goals.

## **2. Research Question(s)**

Is there a need for global health education among health science and non-health science students in the UAE?

## **3. Research Methods**

A literature review regarding global health education in the UAE was conducted. All relevant articles and websites were carefully reviewed. We plan to conduct a quantitative cross-sectional study among university students in the UAE and other countries to assess the students' knowledge of, attitude towards, and preferences for learning global health. The survey data will be collected using an online self-administered questionnaire, managed using SPSS, and analyzed using R.

## **4. Key Findings**

It was found that the UAE faces significant gaps in global health education despite its strategic position and commitment to global health. While there are some global health programs and courses, they are limited in scope, particularly at the undergraduate level. There is a need to integrate global health education more comprehensively across both undergraduate and postgraduate curricula in UAE universities. By expanding global health programs and incorporating related courses into various disciplines, the UAE can better prepare its future workforce to address both local and global health challenges. This approach will strengthen the healthcare system, contribute to the UAE's leadership in global health, and support its efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and health equity worldwide.

## **5. Implications**

The findings suggest that for the UAE to strengthen its global health initiatives, policymakers and stakeholders should prioritize integrating global health education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, ensuring that both health and non-health science students are equipped to address transnational health challenges. This includes expanding global health courses and programs, fostering collaborations between UAE universities and international institutions, and establishing dedicated global health research centers.

## **6. Conclusion**

In conclusion, this brief recommends introducing global health courses within various programs to promote a transdisciplinary approach. Collaborative efforts among universities and global health institutions will further strengthen this educational foundation. Future research should investigate the attitude of students toward the incorporation of global health into the curriculum.