



*Health for All Now!*  
**People's Health Movement**

# **PHM 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **THE POST COVID STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH AND THE ROAD TO MAR DEL PLATA**





*Health for All Now!*  
**People's Health Movement**

# **PHM 2023 Annual Report**

## **The Post Covid Struggle For Health**

### **And The Road To Mar del Plata**

**PHM Annual Report Jan 2023-Dec 2023**

**Table of contents**

**I. Introduction**

**II. Global Programmes**

**II. A. Health for All Campaign (HFAC)**

- 1. Thematic Circle on War, Conflict, Occupation, Forced Migration and Health**
- 2. Thematic Circle on Gender Justice and Health**
- 3. Thematic Circle on Equitable Health Systems**
- 4. Thematic Circle on Environment and Ecosystem Health**
- 5. Thematic Circle on Nutrition and Food Sovereignty**
- 6. Thematic Circle on Trade and Health**
- 7. Other Activities**
- 8. Way Forward: Synergies between different circles and programmes**

**II. B. Democratizing Global Health Governance**

**II. C. Capacity Building and the International People's Health University**

**II. D. Global Health Watch: Promoting a Robust Critical Economy based Analysis of Health**

**III. Regional and Country Level Activities**

- 1. PHM Campaigns in South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP)**
- 2. PHM Campaigns in Brazil**
- 3. PHM Campaigns in Julio Monsalvo southern region**
- 4. PHM Campaigns in Andean region**





*Health for All Now!*

## **People's Health Movement**

- 5. PHM Campaigns in Meso-america**
- 6. PHM Campaigns in Europe**
- 7. PHM Campaigns in East and Southern Africa**
- 8. PHM Campaigns in West and Central Africa**
- 9. PHM Campaigns in South Asia**
- 10. PHM Campaigns in India**
- 11. PHM Campaigns in Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**
- 12. PHM Campaigns in North America**

### **IV. PHM Movement Building**

- 1. Movement Building in South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP)**
- 2. Movement Building in Brazil**
- 3. Movement Building in Julio Monsalvo southern region**
- 4. Movement Building in Andean region**
- 5. Movement Building in Meso-america**
- 6. Movement Building in Europe**
- 7. Movement Building in East and Southern Africa**
- 8. Movement Building in West and Central Africa**
- 9. Movement Building in South Asia**
- 10. Movement Building in India**
- 11. Movement Building in Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**
- 12. Movement Building in North America**

### **V. Preparation for People's Health Assembly 5**

### **VI. PHM Global Organisation**

## **I. Introduction**

This Report reflects the activities carried out by the global programs, thematic circles, regions, countries and, in general, the PHM activists during the year 2023 around the world in their struggles to contribute to achieving Health For All, a strategic objective set by the PHM since its constitution in 2000.

These activities have been developed in an external context of growing contradictions of class, gender, ethnicity and caste, because of the accelerated convergence of different crises resulting from the deepening of socioeconomic inequalities, climate change, wars, conflicts and forced migrations. Everything has occurred in a scenario of tensions and geopolitical, economic and social confrontations between a declining imperial hegemonic power that has unleashed an escalation of violence at a planetary level to sustain itself and multiple emerging powers that, from the global south, dispute the sovereign direction of the economic, financial, technological, social and health policies, the relationship with nature and the security of the world.

The PHM's actions have also been developed in an internal context of intense preparation for the Fifth World People's Health Assembly, first agreed to take place in Santiago de Cali – Colombia and then in Mar del Plata – Argentina. Changing organizational situations of the PHM in Colombia, and political and economic situations in Argentina when an unexpected change of government occurred, strained the internal forces of the PHM to make the maximum formative event of its policies and strategies a reality to face the bottlenecks that prevent it from moving forward effectively. in the coming years in achieving Health For All.

Compared to the previous year, this time changes were made to the structure of the report. The reports of the thematic programs and circles were grouped in section II; the activities of regions and countries in section III; in section IV those of movement construction; and in sections V and VI those on the preparation of the Fifth World People's Health Assembly and those on the global organization of the PHM.



*Health for All Now!*  
**People's Health Movement**

The activities of the Health For All Campaign were expressed through its thematic circles, highlighting solidarity with the people of Palestine in their fight against the genocidal government of Israel, access to safe and quality abortion and the fight against gender violence. , the denunciation against the privatization of the PHC and the campaign for the transformation of health systems, the people's health court against Shell & Total in Africa, the alliance with other agroecological and food sovereignty movements, among others. The program for the democratization of global health governance maintained its activities aimed at monitoring WHO decisions in its EB and WHA and denouncing the anti-popular content of its health policies, while seeking better links with regions and thematic circles. Two IPHU face-to-face courses were developed in Africa and Europe. And the GHW began the organization and planning of its seventh edition, and the process for the publication of several booklets for edition number six.

Meanwhile, the denunciation and mobilization campaigns, as well as the building of the movement through them, were intense in different countries and regions of the world. Those in support of the Palestinian people and against the genocide and ethnic cleansing to which this people have been subjected by the Zionist government of Israel were highlighted; against the commercialization and privatization of public and health services, the defense of the rights of health workers and support for community health workers, and for the transformation and decolonization of health systems; the defense of common goods, ecosystems and against extractivism; the fight against transnational corporations linked to the food system and for food sovereignty; the criminalization of abortion and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women; the organization and support of grassroots community processes in their fight for health and participation in different events of networks and affiliated and friendly organizations; the construction of new PHM country circles and new alliances with other social movements and organizations in health-related struggles. In these processes, the Latin American and Caribbean region stood out, forming new leaderships, building and consolidating new country circles, generating alliances, among others.

Although two regions, India and West and Central Africa, did not submit their reports, this report shows that the PHM consolidated itself as an alternative global movement, grew and qualified its struggles for the achievement of health for all. However, important challenges have remained on the fight agenda that must be the subject of exchange and discussion at its Fifth World People's Health Assembly to more effectively confront the global, regional and local powers that have prevented improvement in human health and of all living beings on the planet.

## **II. Global Programmes**

In this section we mainly describe the PHM's four global programs activities which including Health For All Campaign (HFAC) mainly through its six thematic circles, the International People's Health University (IPHU), Global Health Watch (GHW) and Democratizing Global Health Governance (DGHG).

### **II.A Health for All Campaign (HFAC)**

The Health for All Campaign (HFAC) is one of the four programmes of PHM. It is a global organizing framework for different mobilization actions by civil society networks and social movements around the world. HFAC is where broad groups of PHM activists come together and connect PHM's global activism with local activism. PHM developed the Health for All Campaign to serve as an umbrella for more specific activism around six priority social determinants of health, called Thematic Areas. This vision must be facilitated through a coordinated effort and facilitation with the global secretariat, thematic groups, regional circles/chapters and the global level programmes to ensure movement building including forms of action, networking, and knowledge development to inform strategy and practice and dissemination, resource mobilization, networking and leadership beyond the six thematic areas/groups..

The role of PHM is to facilitate a process among activists coming together under each thematic group to foster solidarity, exchanges, alliance building, and joint intervention aimed at policy at the global and country level. Under HFAC this is largely done by thematic circles alone in collaboration with various regions, other networks, or organizations.

Here is a summary and the list of some of the activities undertaken by the six thematic circles in 2023:

## 1. Thematic Circle on War, Conflict, Occupation, Forced Migration and Health

- **The War, Conflict, Occupation, Forced Migration and Health** thematic circle responded to the developments in Palestine after October 7, 2023. An open meeting was held to strategize PHM's response to the crisis; multiple webinars region-wise were launched to shed light on the situation as well as bring together activists responding to the issue ([See details here](#)). The circle coordinated the PHM Global's statement/ response to the crisis. The meetings and discussions can be found on the [PHM's YouTube channel](#). The circle also launched a campaign in solidarity with the health workers in Gaza. This campaign also organized webinars (<https://phmovement.org/watch-our-new-webinar-building-solidarity-gazas-health-sector>), a solidarity campaign with the AWDA health and community association and AWDA hospital director Dr. Muhanna (<https://phmovement.org/dr-ahmed-muhanna-palestine>), it embarked upon a fundraising campaign for AWDA focusing on the provision of basic goods as gasoline, medical equipment, food, and water.
- The online gallery campaign of the War and Conflict circle, focusing on cases of health workers facing repression worldwide, continued to grow in 2023 with several cases from Myanmar, Brazil, Mexico and so on. For instance- here is the case of Aye Nyein Thu from Myanmar: <https://phmovement.org/aye-nye-in-thu-myanmar>
- In April 2023, the War and Conflict Circle organized a webinar on "Stigmatization of health workers in contexts of armed conflict". Please find the recording and details [here](#)-



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

<https://phmovement.org/en-es-stigmatization-of-health-workers-in-contexts-of-armed-conflict-19th-april-23-2-pm-utc/>

## 2. Thematic Circle on Gender Justice and Health

- The Gender Justice & Health Circle played a crucial role in organizing the movement's activities for the International Day of Action for Women's Health on May 28. The Circle reached out to a panel of human rights experts and experienced activists in the field of gender rights and public health. These individuals facilitated a dialogue on holding health systems accountable for combating gender-based violence (GBV). Zuleikha Rafiq from Afghan Women's Network (AWN), Payal Shah from Physicians for Human Rights joined as external resource persons who were joined by PHM gender circle members moderating and facilitating the panel. This was conducted virtually through an online webinar on "Gender-based violence: Voicing demands for Comprehensive, Caring & Accountable Health Systems Response to Survivors" in May 2023. Link to view details-  
<https://phmovement.org/gender-based-violence-voicing-demands-comprehensive-caring-accountable-health-systems-response>
- Like previous years, this year too, the **Gender Justice and Health** thematic circle observed the International Day of Safe Abortion on September 28. A campaign was launched on September 28 2023 that emphasized our demands for 'Access to safe, quality, and legal abortion' and mobilized voices toward strengthening global solidarity on feminist and public movements. Link to view the activity on the website: <https://phmovement.org/28-september-international-safe-abortion-day>.
- Confronting colonial violence during the sixteen days of activism-the thematic circle led a strengthened call during the sixteen days initiative; November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) – December 10 (International Human Rights Day) in response to the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people, the sexual violence in conflict-ridden Tigray, the forced displacement of the people consequent to war, conflict, and violence from Myanmar, South Sudan, Ukraine, and in many other parts of the world. A solidarity letter and call for action was circulated within PHM and other progressive circles & affiliates, to bolster solidarity with the human and health rights defenders and movements in these locations and in other countries and regions that are resisting the wrath, the misogyny of fundamentalist and violent States and communities. Link to call for action: <https://phmovement.org/stand-against-gender-based-violence-join-16-days-activism>
- Furthermore, as part of this campaign, a webinar on "Confronting Colonial Violence and Occupation" was organized on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The webinar and the 16 Days campaign provided an opportunity for renewed expressions of solidarity with the people of Palestine. Different feminist speakers and health rights advocates joined as speakers for this webinar that was attended by both young activists and other PHM members from different countries/regions. This



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

webinar further enhanced PHM's opportunity for amplifying the voices from the ground and for an expression of solidarity.

- The thematic circle also collated a draft with the content and details of issues for the Gender Axis development for the upcoming PHA 5.
- The thematic circle pursued the plan for holding a gender thematic South Asian regional convening. Efforts were made to build synergy between a regional event and gender dialogues and initial conversation with the regional coordinators and gender circle members in the region was undertaken. This, however, could not be fully materialized and had to be withheld due to the viability of available funds for supporting an offline/physical event.

### **3. Thematic Circle on Equitable Health Systems**

- PHM Health Systems thematic circle developed a policy brief/critique in response to the World Bank document "Walking the Talk- Reimagining Primary Health Care (World Bank, 2021). Link <https://phmovement.org/phm-policy-brief-world-banks-rethink-primary-health-care>. The policy brief was developed to inform on recent developments in the policy discourse around Primary Health Care (PHC) at the global level. We hope this would help health activists leverage some positive developments in this discourse to shape national policies, as well as alert and educate countries on some problematic aspects of these proposed design changes that should be negotiated with, or even resisted.
- The circle supported PHM Kenya in the process of IPHU Kenya, developing curriculum and resource persons support (See details under IPHU section).
- The circle has been very active in preparing commentaries for the [WHO Tracker](https://who-track.phmovement.org/UNGA) as well as the UN General Assembly Meeting (UNGA78) (<https://who-track.phmovement.org/UNGA>) to outline the PHM positions. The monthly circle meetings have been used to understand the situation in different countries through our activists, take inputs, and form a PHM position based on that.
- Latin America formed a regional thematic circle on Health Systems and "Buen Vivir", which is working with several themes.
- Dr. T Sundararaman, coordinator of the Health System circle was invited by the subcommittee on Global Health of the German Parliamentary to discuss "Universal Health Coverage and the role of health insurance systems". We focused on providing PHM's perspective from a Global South perspective and what the focus on insurance schemes has meant for the Low and Middle Income countries (LMICs) often to their detriment. Inputs were taken in the thematic circle meeting from members from various countries to prepare a response. The presentation (<https://phmovement.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/02%20Presentation%20on%20UHC%20and%20Insurance%20from%20Sundar%20%20PHM.pdf>) was well received and discussed.



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

- The circle co-organised a webinar with the Food and Nutrition circle on "Commercial Determinants of Health (CDoH) - Concept, cases and challenges for activism". See details later
- The monthly circle meetings have been used to understand the situation in different countries through our activists, take inputs, and form a PHM position on issues coming up in global meetings in the form of resolutions or reports. In this year a total of 11 thematic circle meetings were held.

#### **4. Thematic Circle on Environment and Ecosystem Health**

- The PHM Environment and Ecosystem Health thematic circle was one of the co-organisers of the People's Health Tribunal of Shell & Total in Africa. The online tribunal was held in the week of 13<sup>th</sup> May and translated into different languages-English, French, Arabic, Spanish and Swahili. Community screenings were held across the world, mostly in Africa, but with one in [London](#). Testimonies were shared from directly affected communities in South Africa, the Niger Delta, Mozambique and Uganda, and a verdict was delivered by movement leaders from these countries. Please find the verdict and other details here <https://peopleshealthhearing.org/pht2023/verdict/>. The collective is in the process of debriefing and discussing the next steps, including how the verdict can be used as a tool for campaigns, legal cases and community organizing against extractivism and for reparations.

#### **5. Thematic Circle on Nutrition and Food Sovereignty**

- The People's Health Movement Equitable Health Systems along Nutrition and Food Sovereignty together with the Public Health Resource Network organized a webinar on "**Commercial Determinants of Health (CDoH) - Concept, cases and challenges for activism**". The objective was to present the latest [Lancet series on Commercial Determinants of Health \(CDoH\)](#) (the series had some PHM members as its co-authors), discuss country cases that relate the framework of the CDoH with concrete situations in healthcare and food/nutrition, and to critically assess the challenges for activists and social organizations to resist and oppose the corporate and commercial pressures associated with the CDoH. The webinar can be viewed here: (<https://phmovement.org/webinar-commercial-determinants-health>)
- In Latin America, the regional circle has started a series of meetings with MAELA – the Agroecological Movement of Latin America to find synergies and common actions with PHM for the future.

#### **6. Thematic Circle on Trade and Health**

- The Trade and Health Thematic Circle has continued monthly meetings which provide an opportunity to update each other on current issues in trade of relevance to health and to share analyses. New participants in these discussions will be most welcome. The Circle has also worked on the development of a blog named Political Economy for





Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

Health - <https://pehblog.phmovement.org/>. The idea is to provide a platform for discussion of the applications of political economy to the struggle for health.

## 7. Other Activities

- During the Covid-19 pandemic, deep and extensive social impacts were felt throughout the globe, way beyond the public health crisis. The responses of governments and the international community made evident the structural inequality and injustices of the current economic and political order, with dramatic effects in the Global South. To document some of the people's experiences, lessons and struggles for health and life during the Covid-19 pandemic, the People's Health Movement (PHM) called for case studies from organizations and social movements in the Global South. The final peer reviewed case studies can be read here- <https://phmovement.org/covid-case-study-series>. These case studies included the theme of solidarity initiatives and collective actions, lawsuits against public authorities, challenges to powerful interests, and experiences of self-organization and community care.
- Ahead of **United Nations 78th General Assembly** (UNGA) meeting held from 20th to 22nd Sept, 2023, PHM circulated its position papers in response to the three health-related items: Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR) and Tuberculosis. The commentaries were developed with inputs from PHM activists and allies across many countries. The position papers can be found here- <https://who-track.phmovement.org/UNGA>
- The PHM Advisory Board for the WHO Working Group on Climate Change and Health also produced important feedback for the Civil Society proposal for a WHA77 Resolution on Climate Change and Health. The document is here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n26w4eJ92zGQD7nhv6HZSM23YbUC2hMb/edit>
- The World Health Organization hosted the 5th Global Forum on Human Resources for Health from April 3-5. PHM co-organised in one and its members joined as speakers for two other sessions during the forum. More details can be found here: <https://www.who.int/teams/health-workforce/about/5thglobalforum-hrh>
- PHM attended in person other meetings, such as the event “Why Health Justice Matters: the Covid Pandemic – Global South Lessons, Reflections and Intersection with Climate Justice”, that took place on April in Rio de Janeiro: <https://rio2023.org.za/>.
- PHM also joined in the “Latin American Conference on Building and Strengthening Universal, Inclusive and Sustainable Health Systems”, that took place in Brasília in June. The meeting produced an important political declaration proposing an agenda towards the conquest of the universal right to social welfare and health in Latin America: <https://phmovement.org/declaration-latin-american-conference-building-and-strengthening-universal-inclusive-and>.
- Several PHM members also participated actively in the XVII Latin American Congress of Social Medicine and Collective Health, which took place from July 17 to 21 in

Buenos Aires, Argentina.

<https://phmovement.org/phm-alames-congress-latin-american-integration-health-needs> PHM participated in several sessions. The meeting also produced a political declaration.

Details here: 1-

<https://phmovement.org/alames-strengthened-its-congress-held-buenos-aires-argentina>

- The People's Health Movement expresses its solidarity and support to the Moroccan people for the material destruction and human suffering caused by the September '23 earthquake. <https://phmovement.org/solidarity-moroccan-people>
- PHM expressed its solidarity with the Libyan people after the floods that have left a whole community devastated with thousands dead and so many more affected. <https://phmovement.org/phm-stands-libyan-people>
- Remembering September 11, 1973: 50 years of struggle for social justice and health equity-<https://phmovement.org/remembering-september-11-1973-50-years-struggle-social-justice-and-health-equity>
- PHM Global Coordinator attended the 8th International Via Campesina Conference held in Bogota - Colombia, December 1-8 2023. The conference was a huge success and the PHM Global Coordinator participation focused on presenting PHM in a Round table: "Articulating alliances towards food sovereignty Nyeleni" in order to build a lasting alliance with the Via Campesina and other organizations and social movements attending the Conference like FIAN, the participation of PHM in the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (<https://www.foodsovereignty.org/nyeleni-process/>) working towards a Global Forum on Food Sovereignty (Nyeleni) 2025, and on how to raise funds.



## **8. Way Forward: Synergies between different circles and programmes**

- The work detailed above allowed and was enabled by interlinkages across thematic circles and organizations, PHM programmes and regions. To give only a few examples: the Latin American region has its thematic circle on health systems and “Buen Vivir”, which has been working on issues such as the transformation and decolonization of health systems and policies, privatization of health and health sovereignty, health systems reforms in the region and counts with representatives from more than 12 countries.
- PHM’s response to WHO meetings through the [WHO Tracker](#) has relied on inputs and perspectives of members and experts from different thematic circles for its commentaries. The Health Systems circle has been specifically active in bringing together comments for the UN high level meeting on UHC and the 154th WHO Executive Board meeting.
- The webinar on Commercial Determinant of Health (CDoH) brought together thematic circles and organizations working on the issue.
- The War and Conflict circle has been crucial in building and guiding PHM’s response to the crisis in Palestine.
- Similarly, the gender justice thematic group attempted to respond to the situation in Palestine and the statements and campaign material on abortion and GBV and the input to the CASH policy of PHM.
- Despite all these activities, strengthening HFAC internally is a key activity among the thematic circles as well as in the regions. We are learning how to move forward on language challenges. It depends on a constant work of mobilization and awareness raising. The two ways it can be addressed are with volunteers and by stimulating regional meetings and circles.

## **II.B. Global Health Governance**

### **1. WHO Watch Programme**

The WHO watch programme is part of the Global Health Governance Programme and aims to capacitate young PHM activists in the workings and relevance of global institutions such as the WHO. The programme follows the two annual meetings at the World Health Organization - the Executive Board meeting which takes place in January-February, and the World Health Assembly held in May.

#### **EB Watch, January 2023 (Geneva)**

The watch team was comprised of (1) Jyotsna Singh (2) Lauren Paremoer (3) Dian Maria Blandina (4) Marta Caminiti (5) Aletha Wallace (6) Chiamo Seraphine (7) Sarai Kestra (8) Candelaria Araoz Falcon (remotely)



Challenges organizing the watch: The watch took place on a limited budget, and the decision was therefore taken to have a small team with minimal representation from the global south. Due to unusually strenuous circumstances, the team had to receive remote assistance from two experienced Watchers, Ben Verboom and Judith Stolz, to enable them to deliver the required output. The delegation could only obtain 4 badges through Medicus Mundi International (MMI), and 2 other badges to enter the meeting venue were secured through other organizations in official relations with WHO.

Pre-watch activities: The pre-EB workshop was hosted, free of charge, at the PSI offices in Ferney-Voltaire. During the workshop the team developed collective analysis and statements on 14 agenda items (longer versions were recorded and posted on social media, shorter versions were read from the floor of the EB). See complete EB152 Agenda and documents [here](#). We also developed a [Policy Brief](#) on Agenda Items 5 (UHC) and 12.1 (Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies).

Activities during the EB meeting: watchers engaged delegates and shared our policy brief and positions, collected delegates' contact details for the purposes of future advocacy, took notes of discussions and used these as the basis for Daily Briefs (Day [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#)) which were distributed to delegates and on PHM platforms. They also participated in the daily [EB Today](#) meetings using these as a basis for summarizing the previous day's discussion. Policy briefs and Daily briefs were written in English and translated into Spanish and French prior to distribution and publication on PHM Website. The Watchers diligently offered real-time updates on social media during the EB meeting. Many who were unable to attend in Geneva kept abreast of and interacted with the Watchers' insights on these proceedings. The Watch Team also made time to contribute to [People's Dispatch](#).

## **WHA76 Watch, May 2023 (Geneva)**

### ***Composition of the Team***

The watch team was comprised of: (1) Candelaria Araoz Falcon (GHG Coordinator, participated as a watcher in some respects) (2) Jyotsna Singh (Communications) (3) Lauren Paremoer (SC representative GHG) (4) Dian Blandina (GHG coordination group member attending as watcher, Indonesian based in Germany) (5) Ben Verboom (Watcher, Canadian based in UK) (6) Leah Shipton (Watcher, Canadian based in Geneva) (7) Juliette Mattijsen (Watcher, Dutch and French, based in France) (8) Mariana Lopes Simoes (Watcher, Brazilian based in Germany) (9) Chiamo Seraphine (Watcher, Cameroon) (10) Axelle Ebode (Watcher, first generation French; Family based in Cameroon) (11) Facundo Fernandez (Watcher, Argentina) (12) Marta Caminiti (Watcher, Italy) (13) Kübra Yalcin (Watcher, Denmark)

### ***Challenges in organizing WHA Watch***

*Access to venue:* NSAs were issued only 6 badges for every organization in official relation to access to the venue. We managed to obtain badges for all 13 PHM delegates through MMI (4 badges), IBFAN (2 badges), Medicus Mundi (2 badges), Movendi International (1 badge), Oxfam (3 badges), and World Federation of Public Health Associations (1 badge).





*Cost constraints:* travel costs were expensive, especially for Southern Watchers. We were able to work within the allocated budget by making some adjustments. (1) the GHW7 meeting was taking place in Geneva on 15 May. Flights for Jyotsna and Candelaria were paid out of that budget on condition they contributed to the meeting (2) Lauren was invited to attend a Medico meeting on 11 Februar. and she covered some expenses herself (3) To ensure the travel budget was not overspent, we focused on recruiting watchers based in Europe, but where possible, with connections to the global south (4) Kübra Yalcin was self-sponsored by MSF meaning no costs were covered by GHG/PHM;

*Visa complications:* three watchers who were originally selected needed visas. Of the three only Chiamo managed to obtain a visa.

### ***Activities in Geneva during WHA76***

The work in Geneva during the WHA includes capacity building for the WHO Watchers. During a preparatory workshop the watchers analyze the WAH agenda items from a critical health perspective supported by expert resource people who are health activists part of the movement globally. The input from the workshop is used by the watchers for all the advocacy activities including Statements and Policy Briefs disseminated and shared during the WHA.

The watchers also present the PHM analysis in various civil society events that take place during the WHA such as the civil society meetings set up by G2H2, a joint press releases, side events, and interviews. They also presented at the WHAtoday, which is a daily civil society meeting during the WHA.

In addition to the development of statements and Policy briefs, the watchers also develop a Daily Brief every evening of the WHA. This is shared with the global movement and keeps health activists informed about the deliberations of that day. They also contribute several articles to the People's Health Dispatch.

Below is a more detailed description of all the different activities that take place during the WHA watch.

*Workshop:* Most watchers arrived in Geneva 14 May. The pre-WHA76 workshop took place from 15-19 May and the workshop generally ran from 9am-6pm daily. Resource people from PHM, MSF, WHO Secretariat, Society for International Development, PSI, Queen Mary University, and TWN participated in the meeting. PSI generously offered us the use of their boardroom. PHM affiliated resource people came from country circles in Lebanon, South Africa, India, Australia, Colombia, and Canada. Eight women and eleven men participated as resource people. Fanny Polet of Viva Salud came to observe and participate in the workshop.

Watchers were provided with a link to the PHM Sexual Harassment policy as part of the pre-workshop communications. During the workshop we made a collective analysis of 22 agenda items (with a watcher leading a presentation on each item, followed by resource people providing an input), and did thematic sessions on (1) Introduction to WHO-Watch, (2) Introduction to PHM and the Alma Ata Declaration, (3) Pandemic Treaty and IHR amendments, (4) What is advocacy?, (5) Communications at WHA Watch and (6) Contextualizing WHO: political challenges, historical legacies. Some workshop time was also allocated to writing policy briefs and statements in smaller working groups.

The full schedule of the workshop can be found [here](#).



*GHW7 meeting:* On the afternoon of 15 May the watchers attended the GHW7 meeting.

*G2H2 Civil Society Meeting:* On 20 May the team attended the in-person G2H2 civil society meeting, during which Jyotsna, Marta and Chiamo presented on “What is to be done/demanded to achieve Health for All”. They respectively focused on activism for intellectual property rights reform to ensure equitable access to medicines, the need to invest in public health systems in both the global north and south, and the need to integrate mental health and grassroots activism into government initiatives to institutionalize country-level universal health coverage schemes.

*Side Event:* Lauren participated in a side event aimed at generating Member State support for a resolution, to be tabled at WHA77, on social participation in health processes. The invitation to participate came through Save the Children, who through G2H2 reached out to PHM to be the civil society representative on the panel.

*Press Conference:* On 24 May People’s Health Movement (PHM), Society for International Development (SID), Public Services International (PSI) and Third World Network (TWN) held a Press Conference in Geneva, Switzerland to highlight issues of serious concern regarding financing of the World Health Organisation (WHO). We issued a Press Release thereafter. The Press Conference and Release resulted in media [Health Policy Watch](#) and [TWN Information Service](#). [DAWN](#) (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era), carried out impressive social media campaign based on our Press Release.

*Interviews:* During WHA76/7 the team conducted interviews with:

- Namibia: Jerry Mika, Deputy Permanent Representative, Geneva Mission (English)
- Brazil: Ricardo Weibe Nascimneto Costa, Vice Minister for the Health of Indigenous Peoples (Portuguese)
- MSF/Doctors without Borders: Francisco Viegas, MSF Access Campaign, Interview focused on the Pandemic Treaty.

The People’s Health Dispatch published the following articles:

1. The WHO Watch team wrote a curtain raiser article outlining the broad issues of the Assembly: [What to expect at the 76th World Health Assembly](#)
2. A Watcher, Dian Maria Blandina, wrote a timely article on 75 years of WHO: [75 years after its foundation, WHO struggles for sovereignty](#) (Eng) and [75 años después de su fundación, la OMS lucha por su soberanía](#) (Esp). The article was picked up by one media in Brazil and translated into [Portuguese](#).
3. The WHO Watch Team interviewed Ricardo Weibe Nascimento Costa, Vice-minister for the Health of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil, regarding the new resolution for Indigenous people’s health and reported it: [World Health Assembly resolution on the health of Indigenous peoples is a landmark moment](#) (Eng).
4. The WHO Watch Team wrote a commentary on Israeli occupation in Palestine: [Activists demand better scrutiny of Israeli occupation’s impact on health of Palestinians](#) (Eng).



5. The WHO Watch Team reported on the newly established WHO's replenishment mechanism: [Is corporate influence on World Health Organization set to increase?](#) (Eng).

*Informal meetings with Spanish delegations:* Candelaria took responsibility for this and met with:

- Argentina: Carla Vizzotti, Minister of Health, Argentina – indicated they wanted to have an exchange about the pandemic treaty in particular, and that they are open to civil society consultations with PHM. They also requested to participate in the Socio Environmental Health National Congress where Román Vega is invited and PHM Southern Cone will be participating. Gianni Tognoni from the PPT will also be attending this congress.
- Colombia: Jaime Urrego, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Colombia – he was interviewed by Facundo Fernandez (watcher from Argentina) and invited to the Argentine Congress of socio-environmental health, which he indicated he will attend virtually.
- South Centre: German Velazquez indicated that he would like Roman to contact him personally and that he is very interested in attending the PHA5.
- Brazil: Ricardo Weibe, Vice Minister for Health of Indigenous People indicated they have close relations with Abrasco and that they would like them to be interlocutors also with PHM. He was very interested in the PHA5 as well. Arranged a virtual meeting with Fernando Zasso Pigatto, President of the National Health Council of Brazil.
- WHO: Susana Gomez, El Salvador, ex PAHO and WHO consultant in the Global plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous People. They will start a process of consultation with Civil Society and Indigenous People (within others) and want to contact PHM for that process regarding our presence in so many countries.

*Statements:* During WHA76 the watchers produced 13 statements on different agenda topics. These individual statements were combined into grouped statements, as per the WHO NSA Office requirements, for reading from the floor. The individual statements were used for videos to be uploaded to Twitter. As we had several French and Spanish first language speakers, some statements were recorded as videos in these languages alongside the English videos. Ana, Gargeya and the resource people contributed to editing the statements.

*Daily Briefs:* The Watchers produced notes of discussions in each of the WHA committees and plenary. These notes were used to produce Daily Briefs, which were published each morning starting on 23 May and summarized the discussions of the day before. Briefs were done in English, French and Spanish. See complete list and documents [here](#).

*WHA Today:* It is a daily civil society meeting organized by PHM, G2h2 and MMI for the last 3 years during WHA and Executive Board. This time, at lunchtime each day, the Watchers presented a summary of the discussions of the previous day and morning session during WHA Today, an informal online civil society lounge dedicated to tracking debates at WHA76 and to sharing CSO experiences at the meeting.



*Policy Brief:* Drawing on workshop discussions, the PHM Tracker and inputs by Sundar on NCDs and UHC developed for the Colombian delegation, the watchers compiled a Policy Brief on the following agenda items that was shared with member states during WHA76,

- 15.1 Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience (HEPR)
- Advancing equity through the INB and the IHR amendment processes
- 12: Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)
- 13.2: UNGA on the prevention and control of NCDs, and mental health
- 16.5: United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)

*Submission to the Colombian Delegation:* GHG contributed to developing a pre-WHA76 submission to the Colombian delegation which focused on (1) increasing space for CSO participation in WHA and EB meetings; and (2) recommending interventions in the INB Pandemic Treaty Negotiations and IHR Amendment Process that can contribute to creating legally binding provisions to foster equity during health emergencies/pandemics.

## 2. Regional GHG Meetings

In addition to capacity building and advocacy at global level, the GHG programme also included regional work capacitating regional PHM health activist on the Pandemic Treaty Accord and IHR. In addition to joint learning about the Pandemic Treaty Accord and IHR, the second part of the workshop included discussion on advocacy actions the region could take together to support the demand of the Africa Group for equity.

### **African CSO Meeting on Pandemic Treaty, November 2023 (Johannesburg and online)**

The meeting was co-hosted by MSF (specifically, Candice Sehoma of the Access Campaign). They generously offered us free use of their venue.

Physical attendees included Peninah Khisa (PHM Coco member and ESA rep), and Tonnie Fofana (Mali, WCA alternate rep) and Erick Kambale (DRC, WCA primary rep). The other organizations in the room included Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), SECTION27, MSF Access, Stop Stockouts Project, and various members of the Cancer Alliance. Online we had representatives from KELIN, PVA Africa, SEATINI and EQUINET. Naadira Munshi (previously from PSI) also joined, as well as some PHM South Africa SC members (Melani Alperstein, Elroy Paulus).

The concepts and issues were very new to participants and some were less engaged than others but KM Gopakumar (TWN), Rachael Crockett (DNDi) and Yuan Hu (MSF Access) did very useful presentations on the Pandemic Treaty, Revisions to the IHR (TWN), post-trial access and benefit sharing provisions (DNDi) and IPR barriers to access to medicines (MSF Access).

In terms of concrete steps we proposed:

1. Creating a mailing list for all participants to stay in touch



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

2. Meeting monthly from now until May to build our knowledge and discuss actions
3. Draft an open letter calling on the INB bureau to take Africa and Equity group proposals seriously - for endorsement by regional organizations
4. Building public awareness of the Treaty process and public support for pro-equity measures
5. Maybe reaching out to Dr Matsotso - the TAC people I think have links to her from when she was DG - to call for greater CSO participation & transparency in the process.

### **3. Contributions to Tracker Commentaries for EB154 by ex-Watchers;**

The WHO tracker is not only a great resource for the WHO watchers, it also offers an opportunity for the watchers to contribute their critical analysis. Overall the WHO tracker is coordinated, edited and finalized by David Legge and below WHO watchers contributed in the draft comment on specific topics of their interest and expertise.

- Sarai Keestra contributed to commentary on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
- Juliette Mattijisen contributed to commentary on Climate Change, Pollution and Health
- Chiamo Seraphine contributed to commentary on Global Health and Peace Initiative
- Nafis Faizi contributed to commentary on Draft Global Action Plan for Infection Prevention and Control and Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses
- Matheus Falcao contributed to commentary on Immunization Agenda 2030 and Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses
- Lauren Paremoer contributed to commentary on Report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response, WHO's Work in Health Emergencies, and Sustainable Financing: WHO Investment Round

### **4. Contributions to People's Health Dispatch**

The articles below were drafted and written in collaboration with members of the GHG team and/or Watchers.

- Chiamo Seraphine, "[WHO EB endorses Global Health and Peace Initiative, calls for continued strengthening and financing surge](#)." 20 February 2024.
- "[Will WHO members seize the moment to fight against inequities?](#)" (Contributed comments and edits). 25 January 2024.
- Jyotsna Singh, "[What ebola teaches us about facing pandemics](#): Interview with Francisco Viegas (MSF Access Campaign)." 16 June 2023.
- WHA76 Watch Team - Marta Caminiti, Dian Blandina, Mariana Lopes Simoes, Juliette Claudine Mattijisen, Facundo Fernandez, Chiamo Seraphine, Ben Verboom, Axelle Ebode, Lauren Paremoer, Candelaria Araoz Falcon, Jyotsna Singh. "[World](#)



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

[Health Assembly resolution on the health of Indigenous peoples is a landmark moment.](#)” (English and Spanish). 15 June 2023.

- WHA76 Watch Team - Marta Caminiti, Dian Blandina, Mariana Lopes Simoes, Juliette Claudine Mattijsen, Facundo Fernandez, Chiamo Seraphine, Ben Verboom, Axelle Ebode, Lauren Paremoer, Candelaria Araoz Falcon, Jyotsna Singh, [“Activists demand better scrutiny of Israeli occupations’ impact on health of Palestinians.”](#) 3 June 2023.
  - WHA76 Watch Team - Marta Caminiti, Dian Blandina, Mariana Lopes Simoes, Juliette Claudine Mattijsen, Facundo Fernandez, Chiamo Seraphine, Ben Verboom, Axelle Ebode, Lauren Paremoer, Candelaria Araoz Falcon, Jyotsna Singh, [“Is corporate influence on World Health Organisation set to increase?”](#), 29 May 2023.
  - WHA76 Watch Team - Marta Caminiti, Dian Blandina, Mariana Lopes Simoes, Juliette Claudine Mattijsen, Facundo Fernandez, Chiamo Seraphine, Ben Verboom, Axelle Ebode, Lauren Paremoer, Candelaria Araoz Falcon, Jyotsna Singh, [“What to expect at the 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.”](#) 20 May 2023.
  - Jyotsna Singh and EB152 Watch Team, [“At World Health Organisation, the future of health care is being decided, and contested.”](#) 27 February 2023.
  - Jyotsna Singh and EB152 Watch Team, [“Who will finance pandemic preparedness and response? Interview with Nicoletta Denticco \(SID\)”](#) 12 February 2023.
  - EB152 Watch Team - Aletha Wallace (Belgium); Dian Maria Blandina (Indonesia/Germany); Marta Caminiti (Italy); Sarai Kestra (Netherlands); Chiamo Seraphine (Cameroon). The team is being assisted by Lauren Paremoer (South Africa), Jyotsna Singh (India), Candelaria Araoz Falcon (Argentina) and Gargeya Telakapalli (India). [“Food for Thought: The UN Decade of Nutrition at the WHO”](#). 4 February 2023.
  - Jyotsna Singh and EB152 Watch Team, “WHO Executive Board to discuss outbreaks of diseases, old and new, financing and universal health coverage.” 30 January 2023.
  - Dian Maria Blandina, [“Sudan’s crisis and the hidden hands of the IMF](#), May 2023.
- Dian Maria Blandina, [“75 years after its foundation, WHO struggles for sovereignty”](#), May 2023. [

## **5. Participation in Press Conferences**

The GHG programme advocacy work includes participating in press conferences to advocate for the PHM political economy analysis on specific topics of Global Health.

- K.M. Gopakumar (TWN), Francisco Viegas (MSF Brazil), Mohga Kamal-Yanni (PVA), Rachael Crockett (DNDi) and Lauren Paremoer (PHM), “Press Briefing on IHR and Pandemic Instrument.” 15 February 2024.
- K.M. Gopakumar (TWN), Jyotsna Singh (PHM), Lauren Paremoer (PHM), Baba Aye (PSI), Nicoletta Denticco (SID), Press Conference: “WHO heading towards

new disastrous era of health financialisation - WHA76 decisions on sustainable financing raises concerns". 24 May 2023.

## 6. Scholarly Publications Relating to GHG Work

The GHG programme advocacy work includes publishing to advocate for the PHM political economy analysis on specific topics of Global Health.

- Bandara, Shashika, Zahra Zeinali, Maria Blandina, Omid V. Ebrahimi, Mohammad Yasir Essar, Joyeuse Senga, Mehr Muhammad Adeel Riaz, Iwatutu Joyce Adewole, and Marie-Claire Wangari. "Imagining a future in global health without visa and passport inequities." *PLOS Global Public Health* 3, no. 8 (2023): e0002310.
- Paremoer, Lauren. "Negotiating Pandemic Preparedness, Response and Recovery in a Hierarchical Global System" in Health Justice Initiative, *Pandemics and the Illumination of 'Hidden Things': Lessons from South Africa on the Global Response to Covid-19*, 2023.

## 7. Contributions to Thematic Circles' Activities

The GHG programme supports the work of the PHM thematic circles. Below is a list of examples.

- Contributed comments to UHLM commentaries developed by the Health Systems Thematic Circle
- Guest Lectures on "Political Economy of Health and Health Governance" and "Health Systems Policies Readjustment and UHC Reforms", Nairobi IPHU (online), 28 and 29 November 2023
- GHG participated in the GHW7 planning meeting hosted in Geneva in May 2023. Subsequently two GHG members (Dian Maria Blandina, Lauren Paremoer) have joined the editorial collective for GHW7.

## 8. Webinars/Seminars/Guest Lecturers

Another advocacy activity of the HGH programme is to attend and speak at Webinars/Seminars and Guest Lectures to present the critical analysis of PHM on Global Health topics.

- "Participating in Global Health Governance", Guest Lecture by Lauren Paremoer for Global Health Policy and Politics", 30 January 2024, University of British Columbia (Invitation extended by Leah Shipton, WHA76 Watcher)
- "Reflecting on the possibilities and challenges of the Global Health Peace Initiative", G2H2 Policy Dialogue organized by the GHG Programme of PHM. Speakers: Ambassador Abdullah Al Harthy (Oman), Dr. Samer Jabbour (Syrian Center for Policy Research), Dr. Arief Rachman (MER-C), Unni Karunakara (Yale Law School). 19 January 2024.



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Gve3ztic6IPmfWF9QNjSDBPt\\_vR\\_ZF9o-N-uNuzIoMZrewyG2cgMhIPC51rbdbZY.Ik9WbljxDJFyihIa?startTime=1705667401000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Gve3ztic6IPmfWF9QNjSDBPt_vR_ZF9o-N-uNuzIoMZrewyG2cgMhIPC51rbdbZY.Ik9WbljxDJFyihIa?startTime=1705667401000)

- Panelist on Epidemic Ethics & UCT Ethic Lab Regional Webinar: Africa focusing on lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. Online, 11 December 2023. <https://epidemicethics.tghn.org/seminars/>
- “A New Pandemic Treaty: Potentials and Pitfalls”, presented by Lauren Paremoer at the Be-Cause Health General Assembly (online), 26 September 2023. (Invitation extended by Jasper Thys, WHA75 Watcher)
- “Informal meeting for non-State actors, Member States and WHO Secretariat - Agenda item 16.1: Achieving well-being: A global framework for integrating well-being into public health utilizing a health promotion approach”, moderated by Lauren Paremoer (online) (nominated to moderate by Thomas Schwarz of Medicus Mundi International), 12 April 2023.
- “Debt Trap, Health, and Revival of the 1974 New International Economic Order”, presented by Dian Maria Blandina in Medico International Health Forum at the Kongress Armut und Gesundheit, Berlin, Germany, March 2023. [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deqdCNSfdwU>].
- Dian Maria Blandina, “Fishbowl Discussion: Grassroots Perspectives”, participated as a resource person at a workshop for a summer school themed “Colliding Crises? Global Health Between War, Security, and Human Rights.” in Berlin, Germany, hosted by IPPNW, Charite, and Medical Peace Work, 18 September 2023. [<https://www.health-and-globalisation.org/summer-school/schedule-summer-school>].
- “The IMF and Health”, presented by Dian Maria Blandina at an online webinar titled “The New Face of Colonialism - A Catastrophe of Debt on Public Healthcare”, hosted by Equal Health-Campaign Against Racism, 13 October 2023.
- Dian Maria Blandina helped organize and participated in an in-person G2H2 Dialogue with Geneva Permanent Missions titled ‘Digging into the hardware of the Pandemic Treaty’ in Geneva, Switzerland, 12 October 2023. [<https://g2h2.org/posts/2023dialogue-pandemicprevention/>].
- Dian Maria Blandina participated in an in-person civil society retreat in Evian, Switzerland, titled ‘At the UN: Civil society in a state of exception – how to free ourselves from the Stockholm syndrome’, organized by G2H2 and Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, 8 – 10 November 2023.

## **9. Co-Convenor of EB Today, WHA Today**

- Moderated by Jyotsna Singh.
- For EB154, 8 meetings. For WHA76, 9 meetings. For EB152, 7 meetings.

## **10. Participation in CSO Political Processes/Forums**

- Member and Steering Committee Representative (Dian Maria Blandina), Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2). In this capacity, Dian participated in the G2H2 Evian retreat (November 2023) which was aimed at unpacking the issue of civil society’s exclusion from multilateral processes. Participated in the initial steps of



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

establishing a civil society group aimed at connecting various advocacy efforts across UN bodies, striving to enhance connectivity, transparency, and accessibility in international-level advocacy.

- Member of the People's Working Group on Multistakeholderism (Lauren Paremoer, Candelaria Araoz Falcon, Gargeya Telekapeli). Group convened by the Transnational Institute (TNI).

#### **11. National Work (South Africa) – WHO Clinical Trials Resolution 75.8**

- Lauren, as part of her work in the PHM South Africa country circle, is collaborating in a project with MSF South Africa and Health Justice Initiative (HJI) aimed at changing the regulatory landscape so as to ensure rules for authorizing clinical trials in the region are changed. In particular the objective is to ensure trials have binding post-trial access and benefit-sharing mechanisms attached to them. Activities completed include:

- 23 January 2024, meeting between MSF and PHM representatives with the Secretariat of the National Health Research Ethics Council to establish what work they are doing in this area
- 24 October 2023, PHM, HJI and MSF co-hosted a Roundtable discussion on post-clinical trial benefit sharing and transparency in South Africa (online). The workshop was attended by participants from Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF), Health Justice Initiative, People's Health Movement (PHM), University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Cape Town, American Public Health Association, Ezintsha, South African Medical Research Council, South African Health Technologies Advocacy Coalition, Department of Health

#### **12. National Work (Indonesia) – Pandemic Treaty & Health in War and Conflicts**

- 19 January 2024, Dian was invited by Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ) to give a briefing on the progress of Pandemic Treaty negotiations, in a meeting between Indonesian civil societies, TWN, and PHM, and to discuss a work plan for the Pandemic treaty advocacy.

- 17 January 2024, Dian was invited by Mer-C Indonesia to attend a briefing meeting on the health work in Gaza and Afghanistan and to give feedback in relation to the international governance processes.

#### **13. Notable Political Work of ex-Watchers (undertaken post-Watch)**

- Marta Caminiti and Alain Rossi Silva, contributing to organizing a “Public Pharma for Europe” conference, 15-16 March 2024, Brussels (Belgium)
- Dian Maria Blandina, contributed to organizing the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Association of Health Policy in Europe (IAHPE), 21-24 September 2023 in Thessaloniki (Greece)
- Through the GHG programme Sarai Kestra and Juliette Mattijsen met and both joined PHM. Post-Watch they have founded PHM Netherlands and have organized a series of public dialogues on the right to health (still ongoing).
- Judith Stolz facilitated PHM's connection with the Global Surgery Umbrella for collaborative efforts in advocacy and emergency response in Gaza.





Chiamo Seraphine at PHM Cameroon has helped to start a programme to advocate for the right to food in Cameroon through the different associations involved in the country circle.

## **II. C. Capacity Building and the International People's Health University (IPHU)**

The International People's Health University (IPHU) is a programme of the People's Health Movement focused on capacity building especially for a new generation of activists. The IPHU organizes short course opportunities for health activists from around the world; presents a range of learning opportunities, a growing collection of resource materials, and a wider network of resource people to progressively enhance its programmes. IPHU aims to contribute towards the goal of 'Health for All' by strengthening people's health movements around the globe, by organizing and resourcing learning, sharing and planning opportunities for people's health activists. Two regional IPHUs initiated by the PHM regions with other PHM structures are detailed below

1. PHM-Kenya hosted a six-day East and South Asia regional IPHU on health systems on **"Action for Equitable Health Systems—Advancing universal comprehensive primary health care in pandemic times"** from 27th November to 2nd December 2023. It was organized by PHM Kenya in coordination with the Equitable health systems thematic circle and the concerned regional PHMs of East and Southern Africa. The participants were 45 young health activists drawn from nine countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The six-day IPHU short course provided the activists with knowledge and skills to enhance advocacy for health rights, promote health for all goals and strengthen public health systems in communities they work in. The IPHU participants came together and developed recommendations for the East & Southern Africa region to consider and adopt. These cover the values of PHM, governance and accountability, transparency in financial resources, representation and collaboration. See the full report and videos made by the participants here-

<https://phmovement.org/struggle-health-iphu-nairobi-december-2023>





*Health activists and facilitators who attended IPHU in Nairobi*

2. In September 2023, PHM Europe organized an International People's Health University (IPHU) in Thessaloniki (Greece) which served as a platform to delve into key topics such as the right to health, global health governance, and social determinants of health. This IPHU was designed as a short course preceding the International Association for Health Policy in Europe (IAHPE) conference, providing participants with the opportunity to actively engage in both events (<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2023/09/23/capitalism-is-the-greatest-threat-to-public-health-warn-researchers-and-activists/>). Among the attendees were a significant number of students from Greece, alongside participants from other countries including Croatia, Georgia, Germany, and Italy. A **PHM Europe meeting** was held back to back with the IAHPE conference. The organization of the meeting was made possible through a combination of local funds through the IAHPE conference, a portion of the International People's Health University (IPHU) budget, and self-contributions from PHM members, demonstrating a collaborative effort to finance and organize important gatherings.



*IPHU participants join a demonstration for public healthcare in Thessaloniki (Greece)*

## II. D. Global Health Watch: Promoting a Robust Critical Economy based Analysis of Health

According to PHM's theory of change, generating and disseminating critical knowledge on health issues and health struggles worldwide is one of the key actions in order to generate change towards a healthier, more equitable, and more ecologically sustainable world. Knowledge is needed to inform campaigns and advocacy, two key social movement strategies. Knowledge is also important for the identity and the coherence of a movement, contributing to capacity strengthening and movement building.

The main effort of PHM for developing and disseminating such knowledge is the Global Health Watch (GHW) series. Since its first edition in 2005, GHW has been widely perceived as the definitive voice critically reporting on the state of the world's health. The book is published every three or four years commenting on the latest developments in global health determinants, status, policies, and programs, while focusing on continuities with popular struggles from the past. All GHW editions are freely available on the PHM website<sup>1</sup>.

In 2023, PHM started a **new cycle to develop the seventh edition of Global Health Watch (GHW7)**. This involved engaging in discussions around the publication structure, content, and process with a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- PHM governing structures, in particular its Global Steering Council;
- PHM constituencies and networks, including country circles, regions, and thematic circles;

<sup>1</sup> <https://phmovement.org/global-health-watch>



- GHW co-producing organisations (Medact, Third World Network, Health Poverty Action, Medico International, ALAMES, Viva Salud and Sama);
- other networks and social movements close to PHM that deal with issues strictly related with health and its social determination (e.g. FIAN, global human rights organisation that advocates for the right to adequate food and nutrition).

A dedicated meeting for developing GHW7 was organised in Geneva by Chiara Bodini and Ron Labonté, in their respective role as the GHW coordinator in the PHM Global Secretariat and the GHW representative in the PHM Global Steering Council, with the support of the WHO team in Geneva (in particular Lauren Paremoer, Candelaria Araoz Falcon, and Jyotsna Singh). The Rosa Luxemburg foundation supported the meeting through the grant they gave to PHM for GHW-related work in 2023.

The meeting took place on May 15th, 2023, in hybrid mode. 19 people participated in person and 14 people online. Five of the GHW co-producing organizations were represented (ALAMES, Medact, Medico International, HPA, Viva Salud), as well as PHM allied networks such as PSI. A representative from RLS also participated. Spanish-English interpretation was provided. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to sharing the evaluation within PHM on the lessons learned from GHW6 and the intentions and plans towards GHW7, opening the floor for additional thoughts and suggestions. Summary of the points raised in the discussion. The second part of the meeting was a brainstorming on the GHW7 structure and the key global health issues that this new edition should address.



*Participants at the GHW7 planning meeting in Geneva, 15 May 2023.*

In the second half of the year, the work on GHW7 continued through the following actions/processes:

- *Identifying GHW7 co-producing organizations*

In addition to the 'historical' GHW co-producing organizations (Medact, Third World Network, Health Poverty Action, Medico International, ALAMES, Viva Salud and



Sama), who have all confirmed their interest and role in collaborating with the production of GHW7, the Regional Network on Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (Equinet)<sup>2</sup> will also join as a GHW7 co-producing organization. Equinet is a network of professionals, civil society members, policy makers, state officials and others within the region who have come together as an equity catalyst, to promote and realize shared values of equity and social justice in health.

- *Nominating GHW7 editorial committee*

A recommendation originating from the evaluation of GHW6 was to nominate an editorial committee to better reflect the diversity within the movement, include more voices from the Global South, gender balance, and more young activists. Terms of reference for editorial committee members are: take commitment for a number of chapters, reach out to the relevant author/s and follow the writing process; be involved in the review process (including doing reviews and involving others in reviews); possibly contribute to one/more chapters; attend the periodic online meetings of the committee. The GHW7 editorial committee was then formed based on those indications, and currently includes the following persons:

1. Ron Labonte (Canada; PHM, coeditor of GHW7)
2. Chiara Bodini (Italy; PHM, coeditor of GHW7)
3. Rene Loewenson (Zimbabwe; TARSC, Equinet)
4. Dave McCoy (Malaysia; UN university international institute for global health)
5. Dian Blandina (Indonesia; PHM global health governance group)
6. Devaki Nambiar (India; George institute for global health and PHM India)
7. Matheus Falcao (Brazil; Brazilian Centre for Health Studies - Cebes and PHM Brazil)
8. Lauren Paremoer (South Africa; PHM global health governance group)
9. Penelope Milsom (UK; Medact)

- *Shortlisting possible publishers*

After the experience with GHW6, and feedback received through the consultation process, it was decided to discontinue the collaboration with Bloomsbury as publisher of GHW. This is related to the restrictions imposed by a commercial publisher on copyright (including translation rights), on the long time between manuscript submission and publication, and on the limited added value in terms of distribution and reach beyond PHM's own network. The following priorities and criteria were identified in order to explore other publishing opportunities:

- Find a publisher whose values and vision are aligned with PHM's (as it was with Zed Books);
- Possibility to release single chapters as they are ready, in pdf format, including translations;

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.equinetafrica.org/>



- Possibility to release book sections as they are ready, in pdf format, including translations;
- Possibility to publish the whole book when the entire manuscript is ready, retaining right to reprint and translate;
- Possibility to decentralize printing to reduce shipping costs and increase distribution;
- Support in online distribution of the book;
- Accessibility of costs according to country of distribution;
- If possible, support in distribution of hard copies (including through decentralized printing).

Based on these criteria, two possible publishers have been identified. The possibility of self-publishing also remains an option.

- *Drafting the GHW7 structure and roadmap*

After the GHW7 planning meeting in Geneva, the draft GHW7 outline was circulated among PHM networks to receive feedback, and then extensively reworked in the editorial committee. Together with the other key elements of GHW7 production process (co-producing organizations and editorial committee engagement, timeline, chapter production and publication strategies), the draft outline represents the core part of the 'GHW7 roadmap', an internal document that will guide the editorial committee towards publication of GHW7 in the first half of 2025. GHW7 is expected to be 350 page long, including 20 chapters divided into 5 sections dedicated to: the global political and economic architecture; the social determinants of health; health systems and policies; watching of global governance institutions; struggles, resistance, and alternatives. Each chapter will be structured in a way that outlines: 1) the problem dynamics/challenge, 2) a future positive vision, 3) key actions to achieve the vision and 4) case study examples of successful actions/struggles.

Finally, in September 2023 a contract was signed between PHM and People Tree Studio, an Indian based artist collective led by well-known Indian artist Orijit Sen, to produce **5 booklets (full-color comics) scripted from selected content of GHW 6 and related to the 5 axes of the fifth People's Health Assembly (PHA5)**: 1. Towards transformation of health systems; 2. Gender justice in health; 3. Ecosystem health: food, energy, climate; 4. Resisting forced migration and war; 5. Promoting ancestral and popular knowledge and practices. Together with the production of podcasts<sup>3</sup> from GHW6 chapters, producing visual booklets from GHW content responds to the need to disseminate more broadly the analysis and struggles covered in the book and make them more accessible. The booklets will be translated into different languages and published in March 2024 to support the mobilization towards PHA5.

### III. Regional and Country Level Activities

---

<sup>3</sup> See <https://phmovement.org/ghw-podcast>

In the following section we detail the key activities coordinated in and by the 12 PHM regions.

## 1. PHM Campaigns in South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP)

### Australia

Australian PHM supporters have been vocal in opposing the AUKUS agreement and the basing of potentially nuclear bomb equipped US planes in northern Australia. The AUKUS agreement locks Australia into purchasing and building nuclear powered submarines at enormous cost and only useful in supporting US naval power in the South China Sea. A webinar was organised to have a discussion on the issue. Link: <https://phmovement.org/webinar-on-tensions-between-the-usa-and-china-in-asia-and-potential-impacts-on-peoples-health>

**WEBINAR BY**  
 PHM SOUTH EAST ASIA  
 PACIFIC REGION (PHM SEAP)

## ARE WE SLEEPWALKING INTO WAR?

Exploring rising tensions between the USA & China, risks of armed conflict and potential consequences for people's health.



**MODERATOR:** PAUL LARIS, COORDINATOR, PHM SEAP

**SPEAKERS:**

ROMAN VEGA, GLOBAL COORDINATOR, PHM

PROF WALDEN BELLO, SCHOLAR AND ACTIVIST, PHILIPPINES

PROF KENNETH J. HAMMOND, PROFESSOR,  
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

DR SUE WAREHAM, PRESIDENT,  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR, AUSTRALIA

DR TORU HONDA, PHYSICIAN, FUKUSHIMA, JAPAN

28 September, 2022;  
10 pm Canberra; 8 pm Philippines (12:00 UTC)

ZOOM ID: 832 7619 7418; PASSCODE: 218383 | YOUTUBE LIVE: PEOPLE'S HEALTH MOVEMENT



PHM supporters in Australia have been involved in regular rallies calling out the injustice and terrible health impacts of Israeli attacks in Gaza as well as the specific impacts on health care services and health workers. Unfortunately a webinar organized by the region on health impacts in Gaza was “zoom bombed” by men intent on disrupting and suppressing the truth of Gaza but we nonetheless concluded the webinar.

**WEBINAR: Saturday Nov 25**

**GAZA UPDATE**

The current situation, the destruction of health services, the challenges looming and the pathways for action.

**Speakers:**

**Mustafa Barghouti,**  
Physician, Activist, Member Palestinian legislative Council

**Dr Aed Yaghi,**  
Director Palestine Medical Relief Society in Gaza

**Mike Khizam,**  
Executive Officer of the Australian Friends of Palestine Association in South Australia

**Chair: Paul Laris**





Meanwhile PHM people in Australia have been taking part in rallies calling on their government to stop colluding with Israel in the Gaza genocide. This picture shows a scene from one of 10 rallies held on the steps of Parliament House, Adelaide.



David Legge, Fran Baum, Connie Musolino and Paul Laris have been involved in a research project charting the history of community health services in Australia from the inception in the 1970s, following a gradual process of decline to the present. Fran Baum continues to contribute to the PHM Advisory Committee. David has also been active with WHO Watch and trade issues.

### Malaysia

- Chan Cheek Khoon from the region has been active in advocating for peace and reducing the risks of war in the region to highlight the dangers posed by ramping up





Health for All Now!

## People's Health Movement

military responses to the increasing power of China in the region. He presented at 19th International Association of Health Policy conference Capitalism, Pandemics, and Public Health, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 21-24 September 2023, representing PHM War & Conflict thematic circle (See a slide from the presentation below). Also see link:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373517011\\_Towards\\_a\\_No\\_Nukes\\_Asia\\_Pacific](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373517011_Towards_a_No_Nukes_Asia_Pacific)

### PHM War & Conflict thematic circle *(Nuclear Working Group)*

**Multi-pronged thrusts (mutually reinforcing) for which PHM could seek partners to collaborate with:**

- campaigns to prohibit/ban nuclear weapons
- nuclear arms control & reduction
- NWFZs (strategic engagement and advocacy among targeted vulnerable populations)

**Priority campaigning targets (in East Asia/Western Pacific) (countries with bases; existing local anti-nuclear activist groups?)**

- Japan (Okinawa, Yokosuka)
- S Korea (Busan, Jeju)
- Singapore
- Philippines
- Guam
- Australia (Pine Gap, Darwin? Perth?)

**Existing groups and individuals that PHM could reach out to, to explore possibilities:**

- IPPNW (Carlos Umana)
- ICAN
- CND (Kate Hudson?)
- Code Pink (Jodie Evans?)
- Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action
- Scott Ritter
- Jill Stein (Greens USA)
- Sahra Wagenknecht (Die Linke?)

**What are PHM's strengths, potential contributions?**

- networked movement of people's organisations with grassroots outreach (broader base of health centered CSOs complementing IPPNW's)
- other strengths?

- Chee Khoon has used the example of Malaysia to explore and dissect the transformation taking place under neo-liberalism and the financialization of health care. The Malaysian Healthcare System in Transition: Global influences and local contingencies, presented at Inauguration Conference of the International Journal of Social Determinants of Health & Health Services (IJSDOHS), Universitat Pompeu Fabra - Campus de la Ciutadella, Barcelona, 19 May 2023

Link1:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370341188\\_The\\_Malaysian\\_Healthcare\\_System\\_in\\_Transition\\_Global\\_influences\\_and\\_local\\_contingencies](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370341188_The_Malaysian_Healthcare_System_in_Transition_Global_influences_and_local_contingencies)

Link 2: <https://youtu.be/J85My4UHUbI?si=rcgCIfjjsv95Bj5>

- Cheekhoon presented at People's Health Forum Roundtable #7, held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 November on "Evidence-based Health System Reforms?". He called for re-invigorating public provision of healthcare and a reinforced public sector to provide



Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**

timely, appropriate, no frills , quality care on the basis of need to all eligible care-seekers.

Link

1:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375379247\\_Evidence-based\\_Health\\_System\\_Reforms](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375379247_Evidence-based_Health_System_Reforms)

Link 2: <https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/689985>

## Philippines

- PHM Philippines, Health Alliance for Democracy, Council for Health and Development, and Karapatan launched the "Justice for Negros: A Campaign Against Hunger & Disease" through a "Lugawan para sa Negros" or "Rice Porridge for Negros" initiative. The event was held on Quezon City, Philippines, on 12 August 2023.



The fundraiser brought together doctors, nurses, other health professionals, health students, and health workers who stood in solidarity with the people of Negros. They made campaign contributions that exceeded the actual cost of the porridge, demonstrating their commitment to addressing the issues of hunger and disease in the region.

In addition to the porridge distribution, the event featured a photo exhibit, cultural performances, speeches, and a documentary film screening. These activities aimed to raise awareness about the prevalent hunger, disease, and human rights violations in Negros. Zara Alvarez and Dr. Mary Rose Sancelan were two of the martyrs of the region.

## 2. PHM Campaigns in Brazil



*Health for All Now!*  
**People's Health Movement**

During 2023, the main PHM Brazil actions were related to the preparations and participation of the 17th National Health Conference, the most important event for social participation in health in Brazil

It took place from 2 to 5 July in Brasília and brought together 4,048 elected delegates to deliberate on 31 guidelines and 329 proposals for the national health policy, drawn up at municipal, state and free conferences. The People's Health Movement had two delegates elected participating in the National phase.

 [Copy of conferencia-nacional-de-saude-600x450.jpeg](#)

 [Copy of 2116f55f-ef9d-4e34-bafe-c043785f9afe9.png](#)

Besides that, PHM Brazil organized and supported several preparatory events with other partners. One example was the Free Conference on Deprivatization of Health in Brazil that took place on May 29th and was organized with Cebes, UFRJ and USP. The event brought together 130 people and approved 10 proposals that were forwarded to the National Health Conference. Between March and May, PHM Brazil also supported the following pre-conference activities: Free Conference on Migrant Health, Free Conference on the Health of the Quilombola Population, Free National Conference on Popular Education in Health, Free Conference Protecting the fishing territory to guaranteeing the health of fisheries communities, Free National Conference on the Health of the Homeless Population.

 [Copy of Versão 1.jpg](#)

 [Copy of CONFERENCIA-NACIONAL-DE-SAUDE.png](#)

 [Copy of 345906945\\_1304314676961683\\_5483775007914941151\\_n.jpg](#)

PHM Brazil also was active in the critical formation of communities and activists. An example was the training course for multipliers to use the Alforja Educativa toolkit, an innovative pedagogical and educational tool that contributes to reflection, ecological awareness and belonging to nature. On the 15th and 16th of June 2023, a hybrid training course was organized by MSP Brazil in partnership with USP's Group for Advanced Studies in Planetary Health, ReACT Latin America and the Federal University of the Southern Frontier. The objectives were to discuss: (1) Planetary health and the role of childhood, (2) School health promotion and the Child to Child methodology, (3) Educational Alforja as a powerful tool for participatory learning about health. Participants included educators, university students from the fields of health, biological sciences and education, promoters and community health workers. PHM Brazil also presented the Alforja Educativa during the 12th Brazilian Congress of Agroecology.

 [Copy of 352218878\\_760838819165833\\_816308005726230606\\_n.jpg](#)

In November and December PHM Brazil dedicated itself to drawing up the 'Critical training cycle: the struggle for the right to health from global and Brazilian perspectives', to be held in 2024. This is a formative and preparatory activity for the PHA5, which in five meetings will address the main axes and themes of the assembly. The public is Brazilian activists and social movements, as well as students, health professionals.

PHM Brazil participated in the organization of two workshops during the 9th Brazilian Symposium on Health Surveillance. The first one was related to the health surveillance in populations exposed to agrotoxic products and the second one about experiences of territorial popular surveillance in quilombola, rural and fisheries communities.

The Brazilian circle also joined as a collaborative center of the PHM Global project named “Alternative approaches to Pharmaceutical Research, Productions, Access – strengthening public production and R&D in the health sector”, together with GTPI and Universities Allied for essential medicines (UAEM).

### **3. PHM Campaigns in Julio Monsalvo southern region**

#### **3.1. At the Regional and National levels**

In Argentina and Paraguay there was continued participation of PHM members in annual meetings and campaigns on:

- Public, Unique and Integrated, Universal Systems (Paraguay/Arg);
- The defense of water as a public good;
- The defense of Food Sovereignty, Agroecology, preservation of native and creole seeds, fight against agrotoxics, etc. (Paraguay and Argentina);
- Advocacy for the enforcement of the Mental Health Law in Argentina, and advocacy for its approval in Paraguay;
- Training of peasant organizations, health promoters and community health agents in the right to health (Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina);
- Support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Legal Regulation of Cannabis (Argentina);
- Defense of women's rights, against gender violence and diversity (Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), decriminalization of abortion in Paraguay;
- Argentine Federation of General Medicine (FAMG) Annual Congress in Neuquén organized by the Association of Rural Doctors of Neuquén.

#### **3.2. Proposal, preparation and launch of the 5th Peoples' Health Assembly (PHA5)**

The sub-regional co-coordinator, Carmen Baez, was appointed member of the International Organizing Committee (IOC) of the PHA5. When the Assembly was canceled in Santiago de Cali (Colombia), the Argentinean Country Circle elaborated a proposal in 10 days defining the Mar del Plata School of Medicine as local host and offering the self-management of the Argentinean participation based on the vast experience of events of our member organizations with this modality considering a friendly political context at that time.

By way of illustration, some of the activities developed during 2023 were:

- Integration of Coquito members in all Assembly preparation committees (Logistics, Mobilization, Programmatic, Communication, Security and Finance).
- Definition and design of the PHA5 logo and slogan together with a campaign on the concept of Good Living to support the political character of the slogan;
- Extended meeting with allied organizations for information purposes;



- Launching of the PHA5 for Latin America at the National Laicrimpo Meeting in Trenque Lauquen, Province of Buenos Aires (PBA) and global launching at the Congress of the Federation of General Medicine (FAMG) and health teams in Neuquén.
- Visit to Mar del Plata, to the director of the Higher School of Medicine (ESM), the Rectory of the National University of Mar del Plata, the health secretariat of the Municipality of Mar del Plata and hotel 13 de Julio where the PHA5 was going to be held.



¡Haciendo de la "Salud para Todos" nuestra lucha por el "Buen Vivir"!



### 3.3. Activities of the PHM Argentina's member organizations

#### *ALAMES Congress*

During the XVII Latin American Congress of Social Medicine and Collective Health in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 2023, several members of the sub-region and Román Vega, PHM Global Coordinator, participated as members of ALAMES. Within the scope of the congress we participated in different workshops and had a meeting with Gianni Tognoni to discuss the possible People's Tribunal during the PHA5. Also, we had a visit and meeting with the director and staff of Rosa de Luxemburgo in Buenos Aires to inform them about the PHA5.



### ***Red Jarilla***

20 years of collectively walking the territories. The collective recognized "a before and an after" of the network, since the pandemic.



### ***LAICRIMPO in Argentina and Paraguay***

- In November, the 34th National and Latin American Health Meeting LAICRIMPO was held in the city of Trenque Lauquen with the participation of about 450 people and Roman Vega and Hani Serag from PHM global;
- In the province of Misiones, 12 regional seed fairs were held;
- The alliance with MAELA was strengthened and virtual activities were carried out in coordination within the framework of the Continental Week of Native and Creole Seeds;



### ***Association of General Medicine of the Province of Buenos Aires (AMGBA)***

- The 1st. National Meeting of Therapeutic Neural Medicine was held

### ***Argentine Federation of General Medicine (FAMG)***



- Pre-congress activity at the joint FAMG-PHM ALAMES Congress;
- National Congress that gathered around 1000 health professionals,
- The motto was "Decolonizing knowledge, power and doing". The global launching of the PHA5 took place at the Congress;



### ***Mental Health Association (ADESAM)***

The struggle for the implementation of the Mental Health Law, the meeting "Patás arriba" with the participation of external users, family members, professionals, organizations related to mental health and neighbors.

### ***TATU Proposal***

- Workshops with women/ mothers on acute respiratory infections (ARIs), sexual and reproductive health, obstetric violence, violence against women and others;



### ***Other Activities in Paraguay- María Rivarola Movement***

- Autonomous realization of the first Laincrimpito in Asunción.
- An agreement was made to actively join Conamuri (National Coordination of Rural and Indigenous Women), an organization that fights for food sovereignty, the defense of native seeds, the promotion of agroecology (fight against agrotoxics) to the MSP circle in



Paraguay, at the international level since 2022 it was already integrated in the circle of food sovereignty.



- Leadership and participation in the articulation of "women free of violence". Training and participation in the March 8th March.



- Street action to raise awareness about obstetric violence in Paraguay, in front of the Ministry of Public Health.



- Joint demonstration with the National Peasant Federation, in front of the Ministry of Public Health on November 25, to denounce the lack of access to health care and institutional violence against women.



- Participation in the November 25th March against Violence against Women

#### ***Other activities in Chile***

- Popular and Community Health School (UAR): participation in design and implementation of Popular Health School (in conjunction with Universidad Abierta de Recoleta): designed to become a space for reflection and debate on the theory and institutional practice of public health in Chile today, and is aimed at community leaders who actively participate in territorial organizations related to health. (Held from May 11 to June 29, 2023).
- Lectures and discussions on how to re-found the health system.

#### **4. PHM Campaigns in Andean region**

Activities and campaigns were organized in all five Andean countries (Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the new Venezuelan circle).

In **Ecuador** provincial assemblies of PHM Ecuador and the FNSPE (National Front for the Health of the People of Ecuador) were organized in preparation of the national assembly. The first Provincial Assembly was in the Province of Manabí (November 12, 2022). Four more assemblies were held in 2023, in the provinces of El Oro, Pinchincha (January 25, 2023), Guayas (March 11, 2023), and Los Ríos (April 1, 2023).



In Ecuador several activities and campaigns targeted the frontal attack against the public health system, the proposal to eliminate taxes on products like tobacco, and the extractivist agenda of the Ecuadorian government putting at risk the livelihood of the Amazon peoples.

**FRENTE NACIONAL POR LA SALUD DE LOS PUEBLOS DEL ECUADOR (FNSPE)**  
Fundado 17 de junio del 2004

## ¡La catástrofe del sistema público de Salud y las elecciones del 5 de febrero!

En Ecuador los Hospitales y centros de salud están desabastecidos; carecen de personal, insumos, equipos, reactivos; los pacientes se complican o mueren por falta de atención oportuna y suficiente; todo esto sucede por la indolencia, desidia e irresponsabilidad del gobierno que, recortó el Presupuesto para el Ministerio de salud y del Seguro de Salud del IESS, en complicidad con el Consejo Directivo ilegal.

Para distraernos, este gobierno, convoca a una Consulta que, **NO** solucionará los problemas de salud, educación, trabajo e inseguridad.

Estamos ante un gobierno incapaz, mentiroso y corrupto que no atiende la salud y favorece la delincuencia y el narcotráfico.

**¡LA SALUD Y LA VIDA PRIMERO!**

**¡Votar 8 veces NO en la Consulta de Lasso!**

Guayaquil 15 de enero 2023

**Buscame en la casilla 3 de la papeleta de hombres**

**David Rosero**  
**¡TU CONSEJERO!**

Hay 45 candidatos al CPCCS, pero solo **David Rosero** ha luchado contra la corrupción; votemos por él, así garantizaremos una voz que hable por nuestras demandas.

**Oficina Regional**  
Guayaquil  
Calle Cacha 2801, Promocia Guayas  
Ecuador, Subsección Andina / CP 900506

**Síguenos**  
Tl: (593) 99925541  
Tl: (593) 99975610  
roscas@comunicaciondelospueblos.com

**En Internet**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Frente-Nacional-Per-La-Salud-de-los-Pueblos-del-Ecuador>  
<https://frenteportalasaluddelospueblos.com>

**PHM Bolivia** was one of the three candidates that proposed to host the People's Health Assembly 5. The circle launched its proposal counting with the full support of the Bolivian government. Later, Argentina finally was chosen as the venue for PHA5 .

PHM Bolivia was also present at the PMAC conference in January 2023. The activities of the circle in 2023 focused on the transformation of the health system.





*Health for All Now!*  
**People's Health Movement**



In August 2023 PHM Bolivia celebrated 9 years of organization. A virtual meeting was organized to celebrate the achievements and challenges that we have overcome in the struggle for the right to health. We were joined by Dr Roman Vega, PHM Global coordinator from Colombia.

As PHM Bolivia we founded International of Hope, with Dr Julio Monsalvo and others from Argentina, Dr Luis Weinstein from Chile with Alegremia and Amistosofia, popular health, popular education, popular art to build popular community power.



In November, 2023, Bolivian circle held an in-person meeting to promote agroecology and healthy food. Francisco from Vallegrande shared about the nutraceuticals from Chile . There was a proposal to build agro-ecological urban gardens and a corridor of citizenship and popular health.



Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**



Salud de los  
Pueblos  
Bolivia



Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**



#### REUNION PRESENCIAL COCHABAMBA

Lugar: Salón de Eventos Arcoiris, frente a Plaza Jaihuayco

Fecha: Sábado 25 de Noviembre, 2023. A las 15:00 hrs.

#### TEMARIO:

- \_ Rumbo a la 5ta Asamblea Mundial, Abril 2024 ARG
  - \_ Francisco Herrera desde Vallegrande expone sobre nutraceuticos en base a algarrobo.
  - \_ Propuesta de Huertos Urbanos Agroecológicos
  - \_ Corredor de los Cuidados y Salud Popular
- Evento libre y abierto. Bienvenidos nuevos participantes.  
Contacto: 67447294 (Vivi Camacho)



PHM Bolivia strongly condemned the bombardment of hospitals in Gaza by the Zionist and genocidal state of Israel. We emphasize that the liberation of Palestine is a fight against colonization and imperialism and reaffirmed our solidarity with the brave resistance of the people of Palestine.

PHM **Colombia** activists organized several activities in 2023, including the organization of the PHA5 as a core priority. In the first half of 2023 lots of efforts and work went into the preparation of the PHA5, which was originally planned to take place in Cali, in December 2023

(<https://phmovement.org/peoples-health-assembly-5-to-take-place-in-colombia-in-dec-2023>).

Due to various reasons, and despite all the preparatory work, it was decided to change the venue and time of the PHA5 to Mar del Plata, Argentina in April 2024.

PHM Colombia, together with the indigenous peoples of the Colombian Caribbean region, also denounced the impact of the coal mine in the Wayuu and Yukpa territories of the departments of Guajira, Magdalena and Cesar. This case was developed to be presented before the People's Health Tribunal being planned by PHM.

In Colombia PHM followed up on the national health reform, one of the key reforms of the Petro administration, by giving its input and actively supporting it in the national congress. Members of PHM Colombia from the Colombian National University and the PHM Global Coordinator started to support the Asociación de Cabildos indígenas del Caribe in discussing the Colombian Health Care System Reform, the building of the Indigenous Own Health Care System (SISPI, by its Spanish initials) and the intercultural relationships between the western and the ancestral health care systems.



Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**



#### Meeting with the indigenous Caribbean communities from Colombia

Nicolas Pierre, a young belgium medical doctor and health activist, visited the Arhuaco indigenous community in Valledupar and Pueblo Bello in the Colombian province of El Cesar. The visit took place during 17 days in October 2023 and was supported by the PHM Global coordinator. During this visit he took part in various activities in the EPSI-Dusakawi (a indigenous insurance organization), and in some indigenous health care services. He reported several difficulties that need to be addressed with the PHM support: “Poor budget and staff shortage to reach out to remote places/people. Suboptimal collaboration with the second line, especially private hospitals. Weight of traditions and stigma (about certain diseases, about women’s role, the view many indigenous people have about “colombian society”). Difficulty to articulate traditional and western medicines Difficulty for female workers with responsibilities to be respected and use their authority”.





Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**

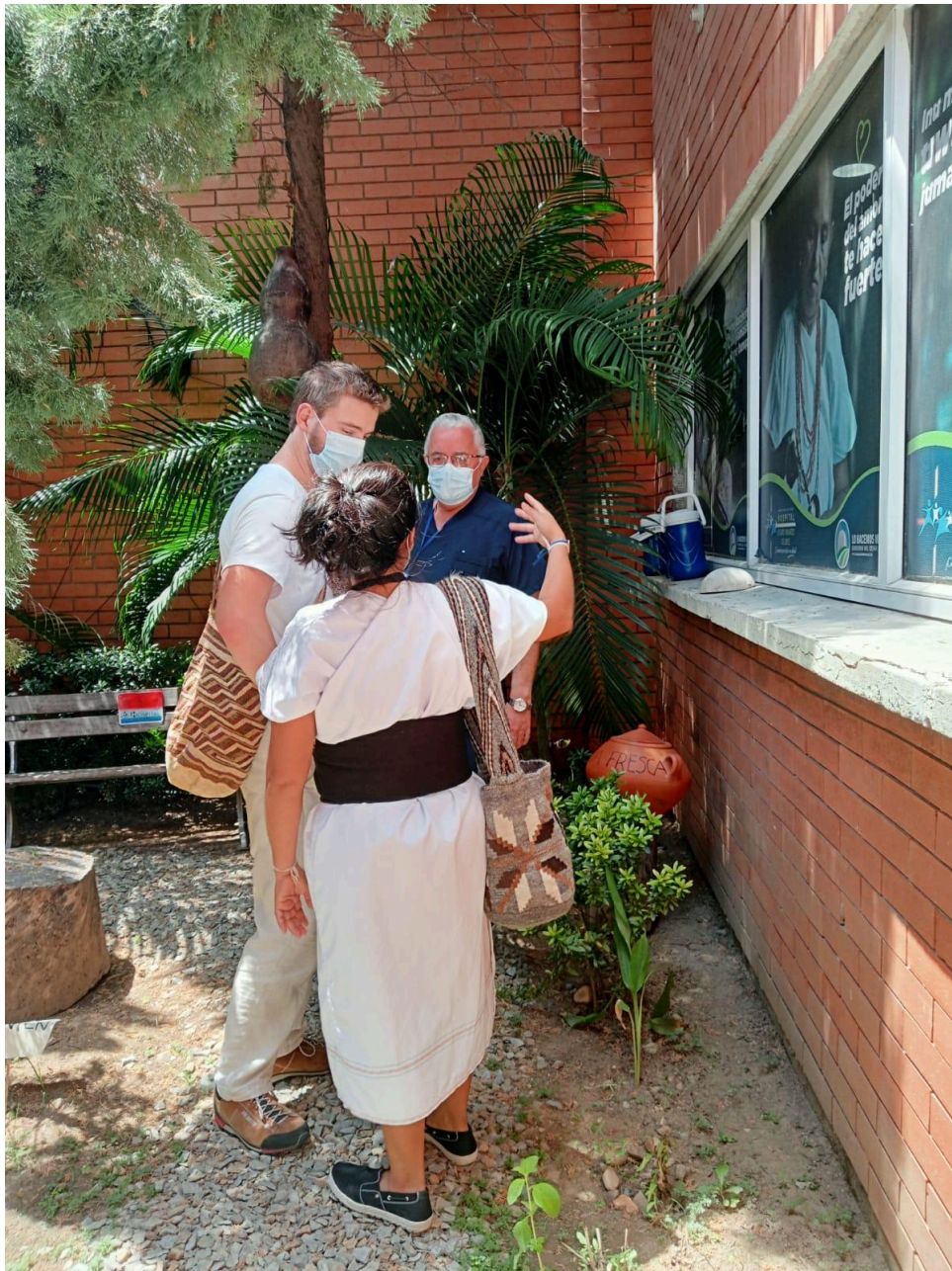


Dr Nicolas Pierre and several EPSI-Dusakawi and health care services staff members. Valledupar, October 2023

Nicolás also made several recommendations that the community and PHM need to follow to improve their situation: “Send other doctors/health professionals for visit; would strengthen the bond between “Bogota-based movements”/PHM etc. by some kind of personal touch, even though those people might be more like “visitors” not actually doing a lot there but being an excuse for closer collaboration; Helping out in the building of a health worker’s trade union; I have no idea how we could help for that, but it seems something concrete and useful; Helping out in writing and editing an advocacy book such as “Nuestra vision” of MPLP; it seems to me a good way to create a tool to advocate for their model of “health care in a traditional setting” and would be a good opportunity to politicize the best members of the EPSI team that would then be a kind of vanguard there”.



Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**



"We had the opportunity to invite him (Nicolas) to the Rosario Pumarejo de López hospital, in the city of Valledupar, where he was able to observe the care in the maternity wards. The hospital has a nursery of aromatic silvers that are used for pregnant women to prepare for labor..." (Dwrya Elena Izquierdo Martinez, SINTRASALUD's President)

The health workers trade union (SINTRASALUD) was created in December 2023 as a response to situations of labor harassment against women in the EPSI-Dusakawi. Most of the SINTRASALUD members are indigenous women working at the EPSI-Dusakawi. As the SINTRASALUD's President was elected Dwrya Elena Izquierdo Martínez. PHM global coordinator and the Colombian CUT (Unitary Trade Union Central) strongly supported this process advocating before the national and the regional offices of the Labour Ministry and against the opposition of Dusakawi Manager.





*Health for All Now!*  
**People's Health Movement**

Foro Salud, a **Peruvian** member of PHM, discussed the context of severe political crisis in Peru and placed these crises in context of increasing poverty in the country, and its impact on the right to health. To that end, a number of political advocacy activities with the state were carried out, in particular the Ministry of Health, and direct support was provided to organized groups of patients and users of health services in the country, both at the Lima level, the capital and in the interior regions of the country. These activities were carried out in the spaces of the National Health Council (CNS), with representatives of the Social Organizations of the Community and the 22 Working Committees that make up CNS. It also participated in other civil society forums such as the Round Table on Poverty Reduction (MCLCP), the National Human Rights Coordinator (CNDDHH), and the National Association of Centres (ANC) and its National Council for Social Development (CONADES).



In all these spaces the proposals of PHM are promoted from a perspective of fundamental right to health, the need for the transformation of our National Health System, and comprehensive and integrated approach to the social determinants of health; along with the approaches of gender, intercultural, eco-environmental, against exclusion, discrimination and the deprivation of rights to life, work and health.



There were also multiple activities in Lima and in the interior of the country, both capacity-building and direct support in protests against ministerial, governmental, regional and national efforts. Most of these protests were against the regime of Mrs Boluarte who assumes an "alliance" in collusion with the parties in the Congress of the Republic, mostly involved in corruption, human rights violations, and privatization of the many public systems of basic

services of the population, such as health, education, citizen security, housing and sanitation, among others. For this we have always had the support of PHM Andes directly, PHM Latin American and global PHM.



The two most important things of the year 2023 initiated by the **PHM Venezuela** circle were: 1) The consolidation of the MSP Venezuela circle; 2) Preparations to organize a National PHM Meeting and participate in the PHA5 in Argentina.

Regarding the situation of the Venezuelan health system, there is a diversity of opinions, which coexist with respect and tolerance in the PHM, but we agree in pointing out the negative impact on health and the health system that the blockade and sanctions of the USA and EU have upon them. We also agree on the need to combat corruption and correct the errors and improvisations that have characterized health management.

PHM Venezuela denounced the dismantling of the public health care system infrastructure, the insufficient number of personnel and the bureaucratization of its services. PHM activists demanded that a state of emergency be declared and urgent measures be taken to rebuild the public health system. PHM Venezuela also participated (online) during the World Health Assembly in May 2023 and intervened on various occasions.

## 5. PHM Campaigns in Meso-america

The Mesoamerican subregion is represented by its constituent PHM country circles and associated organizations that are part of the Community Health Promotion Regional Committee (CPRSC). There are organizations in Chiapas in Mexico, Guatemala (Asociación de Servicios Comunitarios de Salud - ASECSA), El Salvador (Foro Nacional de Salud FNS), Honduras (Consejo Desarrollo Integral para la Mujer Campesina - CODIMCA), Nicaragua (Movimiento Comunal Nicaragüense - MCN), Costa Rica (Red de Mujeres de Incidencia Social y Desarrollo - REMISOD) and Dominican Republic (Institución Social Colectivo de Salud Popular - COSALUP). The sub-region has official participation in thematic groups on Gender and Health, Extractivism and Ecosystems, War, Conflicts and Occupations. In addition to the activities in each country, there were many joint activities at the regional level.

The **CPRSC** held a series of activities in 2023. In the Dominican Republic, the 'Regional Meeting of Mesoamerica and the Caribbean on the Refoundation and Transformation of Health Systems' was held. In Guatemala, ASECSA's national and international seminar was held followed by a face-to-face committee meeting and the formulation of its strategic plan for the



*Health for All Now!*  
**People's Health Movement**

next 5 years. The Centroamerican and Caribbean Feminist Meeting was also promoted by CPRSC. In addition, the committee participated in discussions on the social movements network of Alames, the campaign for the transformation of the Health Systems and the thematic groups of Gender and Health, Extractivism and Ecosystems, War, Conflicts and Occupations of the PHM.

In **Costa Rica**, REMISOD carried out: actions against harassment and gender violence, monitoring of child and adolescent protection boards, active participation in the shadow report to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), walk for the rights of Nicaraguan women in prison and a march on May 1st (workers' day). It contributed to facilitate spaces for the accompaniment of women for their economic autonomy and promotion and organization of territorial women leaders. It was also involved in the monitoring of the work of the open government process of Costa Rica and monitoring of the Citizens Advisory Council on Climate Change.

In **Guatemala**, ASECSA has participated in and promoted a series of processes: the organization of ASECSA's national and international seminar in July 2023, production and dissemination of political positions on the electoral process, promotion of political training schools, monitoring of women's groups for their empowerment and economic autonomy and projects on disaster risk management with innovative ideas from the Mayan cosmovision. It organised capacity building for health promoters and midwives, construction of community health centers, empowerment of young people and women in sexual and reproductive rights, and advocacy in many issues together with Waqib Kej, Asamblea Social Popular, Cumbre Internacional de Mujeres Indigenas, Technical Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health, among others.

■ [Guatemala.png](#)

■ [Guatemala2.png](#)

In the **Dominican Republic**, COSALUP was involved in activities such as: implementation of the granny's garden which is an open field of sustainable agriculture and agro-ecological approach, conducting territorial technical meetings on collective health, training for women and young people in sexual and reproductive health, participation in a forum on natural medicine with midwives, healers and people related to health, participation in the Dengue prevention days, promotion of the 'Haciendo Salud' campaign in different territories, participation in the march on the decriminalization of abortion.

■ [Dominicana2.png](#)

■ [Dominicana1.png](#)

In **Nicaragua**, the MCN carried out: monitoring studies and systematisation of Nicaraguan health systems, strengthening the Community Health Network, participation in fairs and festivals for the right to health, monitoring the sexual and reproductive health strategy and MCN's health policy, carrying out training processes on sexual health, HIV, violence prevention and community surveillance, training of teachers and students on the prevention of sexual abuse. It organized resistance to the persecution of the MCN based on the country's context. In the theme of food sovereignty and ecology, it conducted activities on strengthening



the Climate Monitoring Network, workshops and talks on environmental protection and recycling, meetings with the National Risk Management Board and installation of family gardens.

#### ■ [Nicaragua.png](#)

In **El Salvador**, the FNS has participated in activities and processes such as: Follow-up to the System of Complaints, alerts and positions on climate emergencies, press conference with the Permanent Risk Management Board (MPGR), mobilisations in the framework of the international women's day, follow-up to the Environmental Fairs, advocacy with the Comptroller's Office on the supply of medicines, participation in the Salvadoran Coordinating Committee of Popular Movements and in Congresses of Movements, Follow-up to the Citizens' Alliance against the Privatisation of Water (ANCPA) and Against the Privatization of Health (ACCPS), a press conference on health in the country, positioning and activities on the General Law on Water Resources, active participation in the sectoral roundtable on sexual and reproductive health, positioning "The Salvadoran State violates mental health with the regime of exception", meetings of sectoral roundtables: Environmental, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Medicines, Positioning for Rural Women's Day.

In **El Salvador**, the FNS has participated in activities and processes such as: Follow-up to the System of Complaints, alerts and positions on climate emergencies, press conference with the Permanent Risk Management Board (MPGR) in the theme of environment.

It did mobilisations on the international women's day, actively participated in the sectoral roundtable on sexual and reproductive health and issued a political statement on "The Salvadoran State violates mental health with the regime of exception".

It was involved in advocacy with the Comptroller's Office on the supply of medicines, followed up to the Citizens' Alliance against the Privatisation of Water (ANCPA) and Against the Privatization of Health (ACCPS), conducted a press conference on health in the country, and conducted activities and on the General Law on Water Resources. It also participated in the Salvadoran Coordinating Committee of Popular Movements and in Congresses of Movements.

#### ■ [ElSalvador.png](#)

In **Honduras**, CODIMCA has taken part in several process such as the monitoring of social supply, training on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the draft bill of the new national health system, prevention of teenage pregnancy, the fight for the decriminalization of abortion, the comprehensive law on non-violence, the agro-ecological training process and agro-ecological milpa, and advocacy in the Municipal Women's Network.

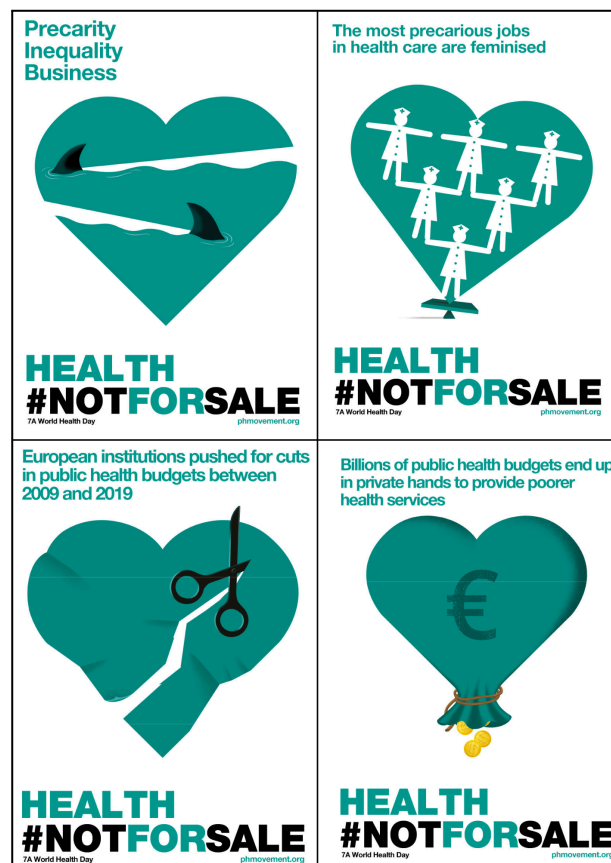
#### ■ [Honduras.png](#)

## 6. PHM Campaigns in Europe

Together with the European Network against Privatization of Health, many country circles in PHM Europe animated the **"This is Not Health" campaign ahead of April 7, People's Health Day**. The campaign aimed to raise awareness and initiate public discourse on the detrimental effects of health commercialization. Through various activities such as poster



actions, banner installations in public spaces, and hosting public discussions, the campaign mobilized people and communities to engage in dialogue and action against the commodification of health. Particularly powerful actions were observed in Belgium, Spain, and France, organized in a way to address specific challenges and concerns related to health commercialization within each country's context. The overall campaign sparked ongoing initiatives and collaborations that extend into 2024, including efforts to highlight the importance of health on the European Union (EU) agenda, particularly in the lead-up to the elections for the European Parliament in June 2024.



*Graphics for the 7 April Campaign, 2023*

In this respect PHM Europe, in collaboration with the European Network Against Commercialization of Health and the European Public Services Union (EPSU), is leading an **ongoing campaign aimed at placing progressive health policies at the forefront of the European Union's agenda**. This concerted effort seeks to advocate for policies that prioritize public health and equity over commercial interests, addressing critical issues such as access to affordable healthcare, protection of health workers' rights, and the prevention of the privatization of health services.

PHM Europe has also been engaged in raising awareness about the **harmful effects of policies favoring private interests in the pharmaceutical sector**, advocating for regulations that prioritize public health over corporate profits, particularly through the **Public Pharma for Europe initiative** (<https://publicpharmaeurope.taplink.ws/>) leading to a Public Pharma for

Europe Conference in March 2024. The campaign, driven by a coalition of right-to-health organizations and health experts, including PHM Europe, Medics for the People (MPLP), and Health Action International (HAI), seeks to revolutionize pharmaceutical policies in Europe, advocating for the establishment of a network of public research and development institutes. This network would ensure that new drugs are researched through public channels and remain in public hands, thereby curbing profiteering by Big Pharma companies and ensuring equitable access to essential medicines.

Additionally, PHM Europe has begun working on the establishment of a **working group on health workers' rights**, with the goal of hosting a conference or activist meeting in mid-2024. This initiative underscores the importance of improving working conditions and rights for health workers across Europe, particularly in light of rising prices for medicines and essential products, which strain public budgets and drain resources that could otherwise be used to employ more health workers and enhance their working conditions.

Closely linked to the outcome of the “This is Not Health” campaign, **PHM France organized the "Tour de France pour la Santé"** (<https://tourdefrancesante.gogocarto.fr/>), an initiative aimed to address critical issues within the French health system arising from privatization and commodification: from combating medical deserts to addressing deteriorating working conditions for health staff. Because it looked at the issues that were closest to the heart of different communities, the campaign attracted attention and participation across dozens of French cities. Through a series of events, rallies, and awareness campaigns, hundreds of people from diverse backgrounds came together to highlight the pressing challenges facing the French health system (photos and reports: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Tour-de-France-pour-la-Sant%C3%A9-61550724204018>; videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@TourdeFrancepourlaSante-Plfss/videos>). The initiative aimed to shed light on the consequences of privatization and commodification. The campaign saw the participation of many groups close to PHM France, including the trade union SUD Santé Sociaux.



*French health activists participating in the Tour de France pour la Santé*



In June 2023, **PHM Scotland convened the Scottish People's Health Assembly** in Glasgow (<https://peopleshealthmovementscotland.wordpress.com/2023-scottish-peoples-health-assembly/>), in response to the growing health crisis and the fragmentation within health activism. The Assembly aimed to provide a collaborative platform for organizations and groups involved in public health to address the pressing challenges facing Scotland's health landscape. The Assembly concluded with the production of the Civic House Statement (<https://peopleshealthmovementscotland.wordpress.com/home/activities/the-civic-house-statement/>), outlining the priorities that the right to health movement in Scotland will confront in the future. This statement serves as a roadmap for collaborative efforts to address Scotland's health crisis and advance the principles of health equity and social justice.

**PHM Georgia continued to work on enhancing the working conditions of health staff**, with a particular focus on nurses, amidst Georgia's transition from socialism to capitalism in healthcare. Recognizing the profound impact of this transition on the health system, PHM Georgia conducts analyses to understand the effects on healthcare delivery and workforce dynamics. They also seek to identify systemic barriers and advocate for reforms that prioritize the well being of healthcare professionals. Through targeted initiatives and advocacy efforts, PHM Georgia strives to empower nurses and other health workers.

**PHM Croatia has extended its health workshop program to medical high schools**, engaging students in discussions about the significance of trade unionizing in the healthcare sector. By introducing students to the concept of trade unionism, PHM Croatia aims to promote awareness about labor rights and collective action among future healthcare professionals. The circle also continues in its research efforts, delving into the history of labor organizing among nurses in Yugoslavia and Croatia. This ongoing inquiry provides valuable insights into the evolution of healthcare labor movements in the region. Moreover, in collaboration with PHM Georgia and the Center for Research on the DDR, PHM Croatia is actively involved in the development of a publication on the benefits of socialist health systems.

Members of **PHM UK actively contributed to the preparation of the People's Health Tribunal on extractive industries** (<https://www.medact.org/project/peoples-health-hearing/pht2023>), as part of their involvement in the PHM Ecosystems and Extractive Industries thematic group. PHM UK members worked with global counterparts, particularly from different African countries, to shed light on the social and environmental injustices perpetrated by extractive practices, advocating for systemic change to protect public health and promote environmental sustainability.



Health for All Now!  
People's Health Movement



Finally, activists from **all PHM Europe circles have shown a strong commitment to solidarity and support for Palestine**, engaging in various local initiatives aimed at raising awareness and advocating for the rights of Palestinians. These initiatives have encountered extensive scrutiny and repression by police and other institutions, and involved activists face surveillance, restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression, and legal repercussions. PHM Europe has also organized a series of conversations on healthcare in Palestine at the regional level, fostering a better understanding of the consequences of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the apartheid regime imposed on the people, and the dehumanization of healthcare during the current attacks on the Gaza Strip.

During the course of the year, PHM Europe activists have actively participated in the **People's Health Dispatch**, either through penning articles directly or by furnishing pertinent information to Peoples Dispatch reporters. This effort has facilitated the dissemination of the PHM perspective on significant developments within the health sphere, amplifying visibility for the movement on a broader scale:

- ❖ Tour de France for Health: [here](#)
- ❖ PHM Scotland Assembly: [here](#) and [here](#)
- ❖ Public Pharma for Europe initiative: [here](#)
- ❖ PHM Georgia activities: [here](#) and [here](#)
- ❖ April 7 campaign with European Network and EPSU: [here](#)
- ❖ People's Health Tribunal: [here](#)

## 7. PHM Campaigns in East and Southern Africa

### Kenya





Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**

In 2023, PHM Kenya has done substantive work on **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and accountability** as well as mobilizing and organizing communities and members to **respond to COVID-19 and vaccine apartheid and inequality**. PHM Kenya has been active in engaging activities either collectively with other CSOs or directly as a movement and has been able to conduct various activities to try and maintain the right to health conversation in all the available spaces with support from various partners.

For instance, PHM Kenya organized a **workshop to disseminate and discuss the Community Health Services Bill 2023 and Community Health Workers Bill 2022**. The workshop served as a platform for stakeholders to discuss and provide input on legislative initiatives related to community health services and workers, intending to advocate for policies that align with PHM Kenya's goals of achieving healthcare for all.

PHM-Kenya received funding from Medico International for a **multisector community-led approach towards promoting the role of citizen-led UHC accountability in Kenya**. PHM Kenya conceptualized a project that would disrupt status quo and challenge the elite narratives and space occupied by private interests to UHC with a view to fronting a more public and human rights-oriented approach to UHC. This includes advocating for progressive policy formulation at the county level ensuring the full participation of communities, focusing on Primary Healthcare as a basis for UHC and the prudent use of public funds to finance the program.

PHM Kenya has also carried out a project to **address various challenges facing the country's healthcare system, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic**. The project's overarching goal is to strengthen PHM as an alternative voice representing communities and citizens, with specific objectives aimed at enhancing advocacy, human rights-based approaches to health, and movement building. Another COVID-19 related activity is a project to **increase COVID-19 vaccination in Kenya** through a multispectral approach. It focuses on providing timely, reliable, and updated information about COVID-19 vaccines, addressing vaccine hesitancy, and dispelling myths through community engagement.

In the area of food and nutrition, a capacity building of community groups was organized together with African Population Health Research Center (APHRC), with the aim of equipping them with skills and knowledge to continue **champion for food security, food sovereignty and nutrition issues** in the informal settlement in Nairobi, at household and community level, to understand advocacy and networking tools to enhance the community campaign for a hunger free national. Through community radio talks, PHM-Kenya and APHRC continue to create awareness on the current food security and nutrition in Kenya including challenges and opportunities that shall help in the process for change.

### **South Africa**

2023 was a milestone in South Africa's health history, ending with the National Council of Provinces passing the National Health Insurance Bill. It has also been a year that the People's Health Movement South Africa (PHMSA) was very busy.

PHMSA has been actively involved in supporting Community Health Workers (CHWs) forums for self-organizing, running capacity building workshops, and with partner organizations is assisting CHWs with a legal case for employment, supported by Lawyers for Human Rights. It also joined a CHWs protest in Northern Cape (<https://www.dfa.co.za/news/care-workers-demand-decent-wages-b75db85a-d9b0-41c1-ad96-5d17435ee9ab/>).





Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**

In order to extend movement building at the grassroots level, PHMSA engaged in **Health Forum mobilization and support**. The Forums are encouraged to take up issues related to the social determinants of health (SDH) in their communities and advocate for their local and provincial governments to provide better services. Three new health forums were established: Phokwane and Kuruman are both in the Northern Cape Province and SOWETO health forum is in Gauteng Province.

Together with partner organizations, PHMSA has run awareness raising workshops that encourage and at times result in policy submissions, pickets, advocacy, protests and interventions in communities around the SDH.

For a video of PHM South Africa activities in 2023, see <http://tinyurl.com/mryhzzfz>

### **Burundi**

PHM Burundi has been advocating for **embedding public health into primary care interventions** to ensure local human resources for health are accessible in resource limited settings of the country. Local human resources are the foundation of all enterprises in the country; therefore, uplifting local community health workforce to execute integrated public health and primary care were the focus area in advocating for the central and local government authorities aligned to close community action cycles in designing, implementing and reporting of health programmes.

There are on-going meetings on **revisiting and introducing policy reforms** to modify the way we collect and pool resources or buy services from health care providers aligned to the UHC. The core objective of the advocacy is to uplift health system strengthening comprising of accountable systems of high quality public provision of comprehensive primary health care and of a fully functional referral system governed by need of care in local settings of Burundi.

### **Tanzania**

PHM Tanzania continued its commitment to advocating for stronger primary health care (PHC) in 2023, building on the successes and lessons learned from the previous year. Focus areas have been support to CHW advocacy efforts; sustain political will for community health and UHC and document progress on these issues; attending key conferences and events and engaging in mobilizations. Two Notable Success Stories in 2023:

- The government of Tanzania plans to introduce a new integrated and coordinated CHW programme in January 2024, recruiting 150,000 CHWs over three years.
- The Universal Health Insurance bill was signed into law on December 6, 2023, reflecting a collective commitment to primary health care reform.

### **Zambia**

In 2023, Zambia experienced the worst **cholera outbreak** in at least a decade. PHM Zambia called the government to fill up the understaffed gap of health workers, this resulted into the immediate and unprecedented employment of all volunteers from all cholera centers. At the peak of the outbreak, PHM Zambia members donated food and supplies to cholera patients.

### **Uganda**

In July 2023 PHM Uganda, in partnership with the “Global Health Diplomacy” course, organized a panel on “**Decolonizing health in Africa**”, aimed at practitioners in the Geneva global health space (health attachés in permanent missions, UN and International NGOs). The



panel benefited from the work and advocacy experience of PHM Uganda, where the discussions hugely reflected the voices and aspiration of Africans in as far as global health is concerned.

PHM Uganda also developed and shared with the global PHM two **case studies on Primary Health Care and Universal Health Coverage**. The two perspectives were a reflection of some of the scholarly articles by the movement in Uganda that were a means of their work experience.

In partnership with the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), and supported by Afya na Haki under the Advancing Regional Vaccine Manufacturing and Access in Africa (ARMA) Program, PHM Uganda participated in enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders to appreciate the **need for conducive trade related policies and regulatory frameworks for the promotion of local vaccine manufacturing and access in Africa**. It was geared towards influencing policies and steer the trajectory of vaccine-focused initiatives contributing towards the sustainable development and growth of the vaccine manufacturing in Africa.

A regional stakeholders' program on **availability and access to diagnostic services and commodities** in the region was organized in partnership with the Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS-Uganda). PHM Uganda conducted a survey, to assess access to Diagnostics, Vaccines and Treatment (DVTs) for selected health conditions, and readiness to respond to health emergencies in Uganda.

Finally, in response to the growing concerns about the role of development finance institutions (DFIs) in promoting public-private partnerships (PPPs) to increase the involvement of the private sector in health, STOP AIDS and civil society organizations including PHM Uganda developed a set of **principles to guide the funding and role of the private sector in global health**. These principles sought to address the escalation of investment of development finance in private health facilities by donors and global development institutions, and the narrative that supports an ever-expanding role for private actors to engage in global health. The principles were disseminated in a concluding webinar in order to reach the wider civil society organization groups.

## **8. PHM Campaigns in West and Central Africa (WCA)**

Report from the WCA region was not delivered.

## **9. PHM Campaigns in South Asia**

As a region, solidarity was extended to the member countries on their domestic issues such as to Sri Lanka on the economic crisis and the effect on the health services and with Nepal during the recent earthquake

In 2023, several regional meetings were held online to plan regional activities and the PHM South Asia Regional Assembly in Nepal. This regional assembly was held in Kathmandu on June 7-8, 2023 and consisted of four programmes

- a. South Asia Regional Launching of GHW6



- b. South Asia regional launching of PHA5
- c. Symposium with sharing of country health issues and identification of South Asia Regional common agenda
- d. PHM South Asia Regional Meeting



The Assembly was implemented in hybrid modality. There were fifty participants from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and PHM Global Secretariat (India) physically present in the Assembly. In addition, delegates from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka participated virtually in the events of the Assembly on both days.

The Assembly was organized in collaboration with People's Health Movement Nepal and Kathmandu based NGO Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RECPHEC). Some technical support was provided by Nepal Public Health Foundation.

**Sri Lanka:** Three quarterly journals of PHM Sri Lanka were published in the year 2023, and we conducted monthly meetings in each month (January to December 2023).

Sri Lanka's painful economic crisis is still worsening, with shortages continuing to affect its noted health care system, according to officials and medical practitioners. Despite international lending agencies and bilateral partners, especially India, helping with emergency credit, the health sector is still short of over 150 essential drugs. PHM Sri Lanka carried out advocacy and made attempts to influence programs to create a discussion about this in the country and to take reasonable measures in this regard to the relevant responsible parties.

The People's Health Movement in Sri Lanka with the collaboration of Sarvodaya Women's Movement organized a protest demanding the right to health during the International Women's Day Celebration 2023. This protest mainly focused on the theme of 'women victimized by prevailing economic crisis'. Voices raised about pressing issues such as unbearable utility expenditures, shortage of medicines, and all sorts of difficulties affect women while the gender-based inequalities in wages, opportunities, and violence still exist.

PHM Sri Lanka contributed to the PHM People's Dispatch on several occasions during the year.



Health for All Now!

**People's Health Movement**

<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2023/04/07/strengthening-public-health-services-imperative-as-crisis-continues-in-sri-lanka/>

Mr. Sirimal Pieris of PHM interviewed with [Peoples Dispatch](#) regarding the Health Crisis in Sri Lanka. Link here - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjSkBW\\_vUz8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjSkBW_vUz8)

PHM Sri Lanka took part in the stakeholder and partner discussions to review the draft charter for patients' safety and wellbeing. It is also focusing on patient engagement, a cornerstone for improving patient safety as well as discussion on the global status of patient engagement for patient safety. Members from PHM Sri Lanka actively engaged with the collaborative discussions to co-create commitments for Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan. World Aids Day 2023 was also observed with our partner organizations

Dabindu Collective organized an awareness program in collaboration with PHM Sri Lanka to focus on the rising problems of women workers working in free trade zones. It was learned during awareness campaigns that women from garment factories suffer seriously from menstrual poverty

**Pakistan:** Different health awareness campaigns were conducted this year in the context of community awareness and betterment, with active participation and dedicated efforts from members of the People's Health Movement (PHM) and the Pakistani chapter. Events/days like World Disability Day, World Population Day, World Breastfeeding Week, World Immunization Week were observed by PHM Pakistan members.

Numerous organizations in Pakistan, including the People's Health Movement (PHM) and its dedicated members, are adopting the Community Health Workers model to reach rural and remote communities. Community Health Workers, carefully chosen and trained by PHM members, conduct awareness campaigns and deliver certain Primary Health Care Services.

Amidst the 2022 flood, numerous individuals faced displacement, enduring harsh living conditions and various health challenges stemming from the lack of access to safe food and clean drinking water. Responding to this crisis, a significant number of medical camps were organized, with the active involvement and support of organizations like the People's Health Movement (PHM) and its members.

## **10. PHM Campaigns in India**

The report from the Indian region was not delivered.

## **11. PHM Campaigns in Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

All active country circles (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen) participated in the monthly / bi-monthly PHM MENA online meetings. Those meetings were particularly focusing, from January until September 2023, on the coordination of PHM MENA and in particular on the design of the region's inputs for the PHA5. Then and starting October





2023, several meetings were held to identify solidarity actions with Gaza / foster synergies / ensure that solidarity with Gaza is factored into the PHA program. Some actions were organized in collaboration with PHM Global:

- the liberation campaign for dr. Muhanna (hospital director AWDA Jabalya): <https://phmovement.org/dr-ahmed-muhanna-palestine>
- the fundraising campaign for AWDA health and community association in Gaza, in collaboration with Viva Salud and AWDA: <https://vivasalud.koalect.com/en-GB/urgence-a-gaza>
- international webinar on the 'Urgent Medical Crisis in Gaza' hosted by No Cold War, Viva Salud and the People's Health Movement': <https://phmovement.org/webinar-urgent-medical-crisis-gaza>
- testimonies from health workers in Gaza on the PHM online gallery: <https://phmovement.org/humanitarian-catastrophe-in-gaza>

The war against the people of Gaza was also very much part of the preparations of the PHA5, making sure the struggle for a free Palestine would be at the core of the Assembly (April 2024).

## **12. PHM Campaigns in North America**

No specific campaign activities in this period. Please refer to the section "Movement Building in North America".

## **IV. PHM Movement Building**

### **1. Movement Building in South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP)**

The South East Asia Pacific Region is wide and diverse. It includes Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, Timor Leste, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Fiji, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga, China, Myanmar, North Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. Key organisational challenges include the diversity of languages (approximately 15) and the lack of any significant PHM presence in several key countries, especially China. There has been little progress in addressing these challenges, although new links have been made with PNG and Timor Leste.

The more active countries have been the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia.

### **2. Movement Building in Brazil**

During 2023 PHM Brazil participated in many PHM spaces such as regional and global thematic circles, and improved its internal organizational structure, started a new Instagram page and renewed the local circle visual identity.

 [Copy of Logo\\_MSP\\_amarelo curto.png](#)

### **3. Movement Building in Julio Monsalvo southern region**

The Julio Monsalvo South Sub-Region is composed by Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile and is coordinated by Carmen Baez (Argentina) and Mariluz Martin (Paraguay).

#### ***Sub-region political context***

The political context in this year was changing in all countries. Paraguay and Uruguay have right wing neoliberal governments and Chile, although labeled as leftist, has not made significant progress structurally. Argentina was involved in an election contest between a peronist coalition accompanying a centrist candidate that was expected to win, but the elections were won by a nefarious ultra-right-wing character with 54% of the votes.

The struggle for public and universal quality health systems for all and against the diverse expressions and consequences of the poisoning agro-industrial system responsible for the illness and death of the people were, among others, the focus of the campaigns and actions of the MSP and allies in the countries of the sub-region.

#### ***Sub-Region Governance***

The Julio Monsalvo Southern sub-region has a governance body called "Coquito" (small CoCo) with representatives from the 4 countries. It is composed of representatives of the largest and most active member networks of the Movement in the sub-region. During this year the Coquito decided to strengthen the thematic sub-regional Circles to provide the militancy with a space for participation and meeting to work on specific actions of common interest. And also to prepare activities to come together in the Assembly in a more concrete and collectively thought out way.

#### ***Sub-regional Thematic Circles***

- Circle of ancestral and popular knowledge: it was very active, expanded in number of members and extended to Latin America with a very good participation.
- Nutrition and Food Sovereignty Circle: In 2021 there was an initiative from this region to create a regional TC in Nutrition and Food Sovereignty. This idea was later taken by the Global TC and became operative, extending it to the Latin American Region that held two large meetings to prepare the activities for the Assembly.
- The Mental Health Circle prepared a document demanding that the Movement include this fundamental component of the health of the Peoples in the Assembly's agenda.
- Circle of Health Systems and Buen Vivir: The idea behind creating this circle at sub-regional level was initiated at the Julio Monsalvo region. After the 1st Meeting and Campaign for the Transformation of Health Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean during the pre-congress of Abrasco, in Salvador, Brazil, it was decided to extend it to the Latin American Region. Several colleagues from our sub-region participated in this important meeting.

### **4. Movement Building in Andean region**



The Andean region consists of 5 countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. They are part of the PHM Latin America Region (MSPLA). At present, the Andean region has an integrated Subregional Coordinating Committee, with 1 delegate from each country.

An example of renewed active circles is the Venezuelan one. In December 2022 PHM Andes had a first meeting via zoom with a dozen Venezuelan health activists. Two topics were discussed: a detailed explanation was given of what the PHM is and its structure and functioning, and it was pointed out that we were in the process of organizing the Fifth People's Health Assembly (PHA5). At that meeting the decision was made to establish an active country circle. In 2023 about twenty community and health workers became active in the circle. The circle has created an email list and a WhatsApp chat as a communication mechanism.

The 5 country circles are organized quite differently. In Peru, Foro Salud decided to become the nucleus of PHM Peru. In Venezuela, the actual coordination and organization of PHM Venezuela is in the hands of activists from various collectives in different cities and regions. In Colombia as in Bolivia most PHM-activists were also part of ALAMES, and in Ecuador the FNSPE, since 2004, is representing PHM. In all countries fraternal relations with other organizations are maintained.

## **5. Movement Building in Meso-America**

The PHM mesoamerican region maintained in 2023 their regular movement and capacity building activities, coordinated by the Community Health Promotion Regional Committee (CPRSC), which include PHM chapters and other organizations representing the movement in Chiapas, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic. Please check the Regional and Country Level activities for more information.

## **6. Movement Building in Europe**

PHM Europe continues to rely on the regional mailing list for circulating important information and updates on on-going activities. Plans and implementation plans are mostly developed through regular regional Zoom meetings, as well as meetings dedicated to particular themes that are also announced on the regional mailing list.

Organizational structures vary across different countries: in the UK, France, and Germany, formal PHM circles are established, with varying degrees of organizational registration. In countries like Belgium, Italy, Croatia, and to some extent, Spain, there exists a local organization serving as a central point for PHM activities, facilitating coordination and implementation. Additionally, in certain countries, PHM operates as an informal network comprising individuals from different organizations. The respective circles determine decision-making mechanisms at the country level, yet all circles actively engage in regional exchanges and contribute to the collective efforts of the region.

In 2023, PHM Europe continued to see a trend of **increased country-level meetings within PHM circles**. For instance, PHM France maintained its practice of hosting regular meetings, using local mailing lists, social media groups, regional mailing lists, and occasionally PHM



global mailing lists to disseminate announcements. In July 2023, **PHM Germany hosted a country-level meeting aimed at strengthening the local PHM circle** while reaffirming ties with other local groups. Participants, including activists from Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK, and Croatia, who had previously engaged in the WHO Watch program, joined the meeting to exchange insights and experiences. The meeting focused on the significance of grassroots movements in shaping public health discourse, tracing the continuity of PHM's advocacy efforts and its relevance in confronting global health inequities. Participants reflected on past achievements and on strategies to advance the organization's objectives, particularly in the context of PHA 5. Plans for strengthening the local PHM circle were outlined, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and capacity-building initiatives. Proposals to enhance collaboration with other local groups were reaffirmed continuously during the conversations. This proactive approach to organizing meetings, public events, and communication channels persisted throughout 2023, not only in PHM France and Germany but also in PHM Scotland, Greece, and Croatia.

In September 2023, PHM Europe organized an **International People's Health University (IPHU) in Thessaloniki (Greece) (See details under the IPHU section)**. These events played a crucial role in expanding the reach of PHM Europe and engaging new activists. Not only did they provide platforms for PHM Europe activists to reach out to new audiences and inform them about PHM Europe's mission and activities, but they also offered opportunities for activists who had not previously met in person to connect face-to-face. They supported the growth of the movement in the region by fostering networking, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among activists from diverse backgrounds and regions within Europe.

Another driver of this surge in activity has been the WHO Watch program, where participants became actively engaged in PHM Europe initiatives. Many activists from Europe typically attend WHO Watch activities in person due to relatively easier travel arrangements. Thanks to the WHO Watch, this year activists were successful in revitalizing a local group in the Netherlands, focusing on environmental health and health systems issues. Notably, at least half of the individuals who have remained active in PHM Europe over the past year are alumni of the WHO Watch program. Additionally, some alumni of WHO Watch have been engaged in processes surrounding the WHO Tracker and have contributed by writing reports for the People's Health Dispatch, further amplifying the impact and reach of their participation in global health governance initiatives.

To address the activation of countries that were not previously active, PHM Europe has implemented strategies such as leveraging participation in global health governance events, like WHO Watch and IPHU, to inspire local activism and establish new circles or groups in previously inactive countries. Additionally, PHM Europe has prioritized outreach efforts and collaborations to engage with people and organizations in these countries.

In 2023, PHM Europe continued to maintain strong collaboration with the European Network against Commercialization and Privatization of Health and Social Protection, with a focus on coordinating actions for April 7th across Europe, along with other joint events. Additionally, leveraging local affiliations and networking efforts, PHM Europe has established ties with various associations including Medics for the People, Medicus Mundi Mediterranea, Medact,





HPA, Viva Salud, Centro di salute internazionale (CSI), Medico International, Mezis, MMI, Organization for Workers' Initiative and Democratization (OWID), IAHPE, and ESE (North Macedonia). These associations not only directly contribute to PHM initiatives but also mobilize their own local contacts to participate in regional events, such as groups in the UK advocating for improved funding and access to care within the NHS, like Just Treatment. Furthermore, thanks to the efforts of various PHM circles and contacts, connections to trade unions and other workers' platforms have been strengthened. For instance, in France, the PHM circle maintains strong ties with SUD Santé Sociaux and Solidaires; in the UK, PHM UK and Scotland collaborate with Nurses United UK and professional health workers' organizations; in Turkey, the Turkish Medical Association actively participates in PHM activities; in Georgia, PHM activists engage as union activists within the Solidarity Network. Additionally, ongoing communication with the European Public Services Union, the European affiliate of Public Services International, further reinforces PHM Europe's commitment to advocacy and solidarity within the public health sector.

## **7. Movement Building in East and Southern Africa**

There is a PHM East and Southern Regional committee composed of members from the country circles in the region to support existing regional processes on activism for health, PHM's growth and coordination across its network of country circles. There has been progress in communication and coordination within the region through a mailing list, WhatsApp group created and monthly virtual meeting via Zoom.

From 27th November to 2nd December 2023, PHM-Kenya hosted and co-organised a six-day **regional IPHU on health systems** on "Action for Equitable Health Systems – Advancing universal comprehensive primary health care in pandemic times" (see details under IPHU section)

**PHM South Africa** held two important meetings in 2023:

- Strategic planning meeting for a five-year vision and activity planning;
- Annual General Meeting which brought in two young female health activists onto the steering committee.

Building from the grassroots through the forums and CHWs has helped PHMSA to extend the health movement. There are volunteers who assist at the community and the academic level. Working in partnership with other CSOs helps make the work lighter, and also extends the reach. However, there is a long way to go to build a sustained, solid movement as people tend to move in and out. Commitment increases and decreases in waves, largely due to very busy and challenging lives with all the problems experienced in impoverished communities. This is going to be made much harder because of budget cuts due to neo-liberal policies leading to austerity measures.

## **8. Movement Building in West and Central Africa**



The report from the West and Central Africa region was not delivered.

### **9. Movement Building in South Asia**

The South Asian region consists of all South Asian countries excluding India, which operates as a separate PHM region. However, in functionality the South Asian Region works in collaboration with PHM India almost in all activities. South Asian Region at present has four active country PHM circles consisting of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Following the IPHU in Thailand in 2022, we formed close contacts with other countries in Southeast Asia including Cambodia, East Timor, Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar and PNG.

To enhance coordination and facilitate efficient communication among our Pakistani colleagues involved in the People's Health Movement (PHM), a dedicated WhatsApp group was formed.

### **10. Movement Building in India**

The report from the Indian region was not delivered.

### **11. Movement Building in the MENA region**

The MENA region has 6 active country circles (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen). There was an increased mobilization towards joint solidarity actions with Gaza in 2024 (meetings, joint initiatives, etc.). The various thematic circles and GS members continued to engage with the IPHU participants from the 2022 Beirut IPHU. XX\

### **12. Movement Building in North America**

The North America Country Circle of the People's Health Movement (PHM North America) is formed by two countries: Canada and the United States of America. In 2023 The PHM NA reported on challenges in communication and coordination of the group, which has improved. We continue to be on each other's listservs and also communicate in group chats when necessary.

In Canada there have been more consistent meetings and more consistent communication. PHM-USA has become more active, with regular meetings and coordination. This has led to more cross-regional communications through the regional and country-level coordination structures.

Of note, PHM Canada made contact with activists in the French-administered territory of Martinique for the first time. Their future involvement in PHM will be determined by campaigns relative to their context, but also through regional and linguistic ties.



Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**

Countries active in the PHM-NA region

i. Anti-privatization – PHM-NA continues to work in partnership with PHM Europe, PHM Brazil and PHM India on [The Mapping Project](#) to identify global actors that push privatization, financialization, and commercialization of health (corporations, financial funds, consultants) with the aim of mapping common threats and common patterns. Activities include:

1. Continuing to have monthly research meetings to grow the project.
2. Environmental scan of activists, academics, and other advocates on the issue
3. Planning a training of other activists to conduct corporate and financial activities research
  - ii. continued work on the long-term care issue
  - iii. extractivism and health justice (12,000 word pamphlet-see below; research on medical oxygen access);
  - iv. significant support to global ecosystems/health group (?)
4. Erosion of Commons, increasing privatization of well-being, socialization of costs have been the main economic, social and environmental challenges influencing health in the PHM-NA region
5. PHM Canada has produced a document on visions of [post-extractive alternative futures](#).

[Beyond an Extractivist World: Why Imagining and Acting Upon Alternative Modes of Living are Crucial to Saving the Planet from Capitalism](#).

This working document released in 2023, and the content within, is the result of a partnership between different chapters of the People's Health Movement (PHM), namely, PHM Canada, PHM Ecuador, and PHM Ecosystems and Health Thematic Circle.

It reviews key topics such as defining the global extractivist problem and the factors driving it. Case studies are analyzed to demonstrate the severity of the mining impacts of Canadian companies in countries such as Ecuador, and the importance of resistance movements by local groups in achieving change. Suggestions for activism that can lead to a post-extractive world and ultimately, healthier communities and societies, are also included.

Our goal for this working document is to share our experiences of advocacy, activism, and inquiry against extractivism as members of the Canadian and Ecuadorian chapters of PHM, a broad network of health justice activists across the world. We believe an anti-extractivist lens is useful for a wide range of contemporary progressive social movements, including health justice.

6. The PHM-NA Country Circle has been active in three particular themes of the Health for All campaign activities: ecosystems and health; health systems – doing a lot of work on building cross-national solidarity; gender justice and health
  - a. The work of PHM-North America related to privatization of health is related to the work of the health systems circle. While neither PHM-USA nor Canada are active regularly with the health systems thematic circle but look for opportunities to engage when work overlaps.



- b. The region is heavily involved in the ecosystems/health group, being amongst its founding members and given historic ties with Latin American justice movements.
7. Other forms of movement building and organizational strengthening
- PHM-USA has resumed quarterly coordination calls which are aimed at mobilization and identifying opportunities for collaboration.
  - PHM Canada holds regular administrative meetings to discuss topics like communications, website, ideas/collaborations, responding to requests, strategic direction, finances, and other admin tasks
  - PHM-Canada's seasonal newsletter to wider network
- PHM-NA has been in contact with Comrades from Martinique with the interest to activate a country circle and expect that they would send delegates to participate in the PHA5
  - In terms of an organizing structure PHM-NA has chosen to remain a network of individuals, bringing in our other memberships and commitments into one space. We are known in the circles we operate in Canada and in the US for being good at fostering international connections, and at facilitating connections with activists in other regions.
  - Changes in the PHM-NA region
    - a. PHM Canada– not necessarily growth, but have noticed deepening of our engagement over the last months, so we are more committed to the connection – I think that does mean that the movement is “building” – we are seeing collectively more, and building things together more, which I think is important
    - b. There have been no changes within PHM-USA over the last year. Members are dispersed but maintain relationships and contact, including engagement with PHM global.
  - PHM-NA growth in 2023
    - PHM Canada has shown definite growth since 2019, but has been static over the 2023 period.
    - There was some growth in the USA country circle in 2023. Several people showed interest in the work at the country and regional level and came to quarterly calls. Relationships with partners also strengthened.
    - The development of the document on Anti-privatization, Resistance/Opposition to Extractive Industries.
    - On the regional committee and regional coordinator as a region we have been consistent about nominating new representatives to the Steering Council at the end of each term. PHM Canada operates by consensus so no clear coordinator type role, with shared roles of organizing and facilitating meetings and





activities. PHM US operates by consensus, however members volunteer to convene meetings.

## **V. Preparation for the People's Health Assembly 5**

In 2023, the People's Health Movement decided to organize the 5<sup>th</sup> People's Health Assembly, 5 years after the 4<sup>th</sup> edition in Savar, Bangladesh. The Assembly is the most important PHM political event, as it brings together about 1,200-1,500 health activists from around 70 countries, mostly from the Global South to meet, discuss and define the way forward. The Assembly will take place in April 2024, in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The second half of 2023, being a pre-Assembly year, was focused on the preparations, including the selection of sponsored participants in each of the 12 PHM regions worldwide, implementing the organizational structure of the PHA5, including the International Organizing Committee and five subcommittees (program, mobilization, financing, logistics and communication) and, especially, collecting inputs for the program elaboration through open consultations, among others. In every regional and country circle democratic processes were organized to prepare the participation of the region and country in the Assembly. On <https://phmovement.org/pha5> one can find all relevant information regarding the Assembly, going from logistical questions and the call for self-organized activities to the program.

## **VI. PHM Global Organisation**

### **1. Global Secretariat**

In 2023, for the second consecutive year, the PHM Global Secretariat operated based in Latin America, consolidating itself as a multidisciplinary core group with the organizational capacity to carry out and follow up on the work plan and achieve the goals proposed for the global movement, but above all with a great capacity to adapt and engage to evolving situations.

With nine members leading global programs and serving as liaison with the thematic and regional circles, the PHM Global Secretariat was integrated by: Chiara Bodini (Italy), GHW coordinator; Deepika Joshi (India) and Leonardo Mattos (Brazil), HFA coordinators; Yasser Ali Ebeid (Egypt), IPHU coordinator; David Verstockt (Bolivia), Finance coordinator; Miguel Garcia (Colombia), Communications officer; Candelaria Araoz Falcon (Argentina), GHG coordinator and Assistant to the Global Coordinator and Román Vega Romero (Colombia) as Global Coordinator.

The GS had the task of sustaining the PHM work plan and its global programs defined for 2023 and at the same time designing a work plan to develop, implement and coordinate the organization, planning, material production and technical support for the 5th People's Health Assembly by advising its international organizing committee as a mobilization,



communication, management and support platform to achieve the success of the assembly.

The launch of the 5th People's Health Assembly in November 2023 meant the consolidation of the collaborative, cross-border work of the global secretariat and its coordination with the local team in Argentina and the different IOC subcommittees focused on the realization of the Assembly in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in April 2024.

## **2. PHM communications**

PHM's Strategic Plan 2020-25 has laid out communications as an important part of its strategy of movement building and keeping its members and stakeholders informed of PHM's positions, scope and work. Effective communication helps the movement grow and position itself in the sector. It fulfills the need to reach new audiences including a broader cross-section of activists and the broader public. It allows the activities of global programs and regional circles to be documented, shared and fed into the global narratives of PHM. PHM has been expanding its online presence significantly. Through communications, we want to convey our understanding of the global and local political economy of health and determinants of health to achieve the goal of "Health for All".

In the development and implementation of the PHM communications strategy projected from 2022 to 2025, by 2023, PHM has made significant progress with actions that aimed to respond both to the comms needs and of reputational risk management of the Movement, to actions and achievements of the strategic work plan implemented.

Given that communication, as a process, is a transversal field to all lines of action, strategies and programs developed by PHM, the Communications Program at the Global Secretariat provides support to the Global Programmes, Regional and Country Circles, Steering Council, Advisory Council and the People's Health Assembly (PHA) International Organizing Committee (IOC). It also works extensively on content creation for website administration and community management activities in social media, as well as creating a cross border communications collaborative network for health.

### **Strategic communications**

- In 2023 the PHM Communications Programme was able to successfully develop and implement a comprehensive comms strategy 2022-2025 which was developed throughout the year in different phases and strategic goals, as a major accomplishment for the Global Secretariat.
- An important part of the implementation of the communications strategy included the redesign, upgrade and relaunch of PHMs website as part of its digital and social media engagement strategy.
- Another major accomplishment of the Programme in its Media Engagement strategy was the building relations with international media and different stakeholders as key elements to position the PHM and engagement with different groups of interest.

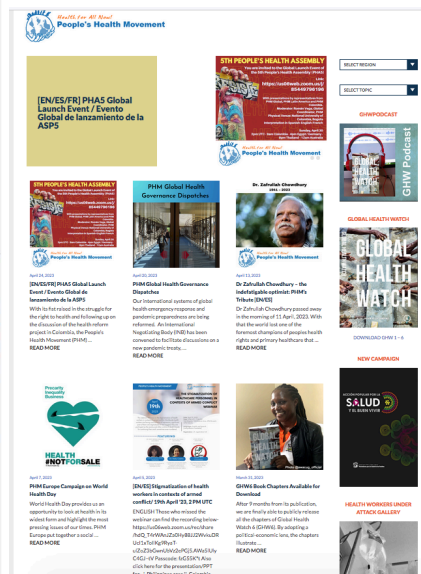
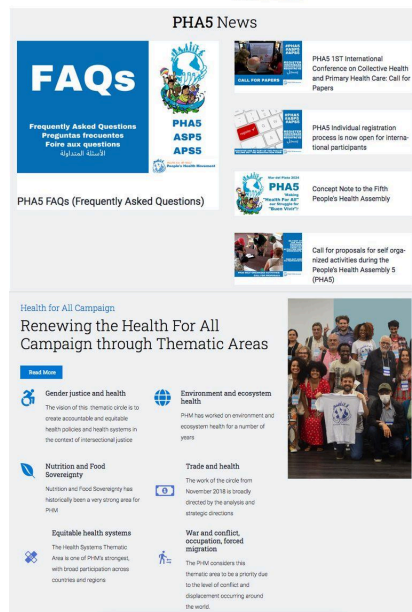
- In 2023, the PHA5 communications strategy was designed and began to be implemented in phases, ending the year in full swing.
- Providing counsel and support to the Steering Council and the Global Coordinator, including crisis management and appointed spokesperson for the movement, have been part of the expanding activities in communications management for PHM.

### **Communications support**

- Provided advice, follow-up and support in the coordination and provision of interpretation services in several languages for global events and movement coordination meetings.
- Logistical and content support for events in the form of making posters - sometimes in multiple languages, disseminating information about the event, backhand support for zoom, uploading videos on PHM's YouTube channel and disseminating them.
- Support for global projects in content creation and special coverage.
- Translation, review and proofread of special contents, internal materials and communications.

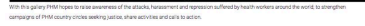
### **Web and Social Media Management**

- The design, improvement, update, launch and maintenance of the PHMs website is one of the most important achievements of communications for the Movement in 2023. PHM went from an outdated template, WordPress platform site, to an up to date template, Drupal platform page. The new site, with new look and feel, was released on april 29, 2023. This new site is more graphic oriented, has new features, sections and ways to organize content that allows it to showcase and promote its content with a better user experience, including different languages and special content. The uploads included announcements of PHM events, dissemination of PHM documents, collation of campaign materials and other such things. Before the launching of the new web, up to 50 articles and posts were published on the old PHM website on the WordPress platform in 2023. After the release of the new web, over 200 articles were produced and published on the refreshed landing page. This operation included the design and implementation of the new site, first upload of content, migration of content from one platform to the other of more than 450 posts from the wordpress page since it had started in 2017, and creation, upload and management of new material.



- The PHM website went through a progressive process of implementation of adjustments and improvements to the website in transition to the website redesign, including translated versions to Spanish, French and Arabic of 90% of the content.
- The creation of minisites on the PHM website: [Health Workers Under Attack](#); [Health Transformation Campaign](#) in Latin America, The Humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and other special content were an important part of the content creation within the content creation development.





Health workers, mostly women, around the world, have dedicated their lives to care for others defending human rights and peoples' health at a time when there are deep struggles defending the right to health globally. For these women, social leaders, health rights activists and advocates, their work has come at a high price, exposing themselves and their families to threats, imprisonment, attacks, and, in some cases, assassinations.




[Health Workers, Palestine](#)




Dr. Paulo Fleury, Brazil



Maria Cristina Cobo Mahecha,  
Colombia -


**People's Health Movement**



## Acción popular por la salud y el buen vivir

Acerca de

Introducción

KI1 de campaña

Atención primaria en salud, un modelo que puede mejorar la salud de los colombianos

Abrirnos al 13° Congreso Binacional de Salud Colectiva

Intervención de Jhina Urniga, Viceministra de Salud de Colombia, en el Consejo Ejecutivo de la OMS

Nuestra Futura es Pública. Declaración de Santiago para los Servicios Públicos

Encuentro por el buen vivir y la salud de los pueblos indígenas del Caribe

Encuentro con Ati Quigua, mujer indígena de pueblo Arhuaco, abogada y política.

Mathias Falquez, Coordinador del

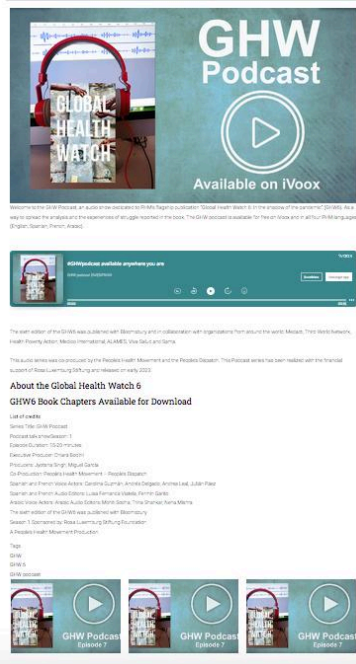
¿Quiérvanos desde siempre

Hago lo del MSP Guatemala

- Although produced in 2022, the GHW Global Health Watch podcast was launched in early 2023. 7 chapters, in 28 episodes, in four languages (English, Spanish, French and Arabic) were published every week, for 10 weeks, with its own social media strategy reaching a global audience with easy listening, downloading and sharing on any device anywhere in the world with notable results.



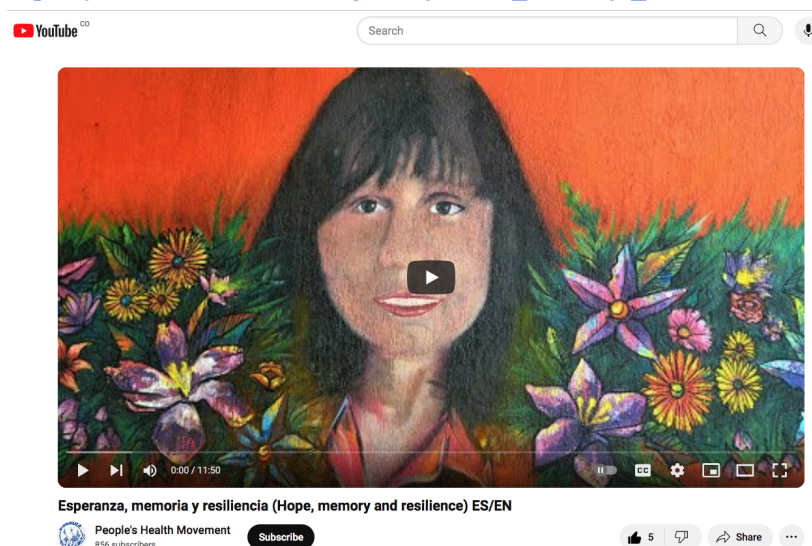
Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**



- In the development of the communications strategy, engaging media outlets and independent journalists and with the support of donors, PHM was able to produce its own, relevant, innovative and quality content, not only responding to the communication needs of the organization and its global programmes, but also to reach a diverse audience, producing and publishing four featured video stories for the Health Workers Under Attack Gallery:

1. Maria Cristina Cobo Mahecha, Colombia.

[https://youtu.be/tIJADCDlkXg?si=ujRS4tL\\_vC6Vhjs](https://youtu.be/tIJADCDlkXg?si=ujRS4tL_vC6Vhjs)



2. Lucrecia Salva Fuentes, México.

[https://youtu.be/6d6v6\\_U00to?si=iYvyYVE5cFbEqFHs](https://youtu.be/6d6v6_U00to?si=iYvyYVE5cFbEqFHs)



Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**

YouTube

Search



Bearing the care of others under the skin / Llevar el cuidado de los demás bajo la piel



People's Health Movement  
856 subscribers

Subscribe

11



Share



3. Dr. Paulo Fleury, Brazil. <https://youtu.be/Xf6vto6UMmM?si=JckVtfPz6IjwZ-Li>

YouTube

Search



Paulo Fleury: A story about the persecution of cannabis medicine



People's Health Movement  
856 subscribers

Subscribe

25



Share



4. Dr. Helena Paro, Brazil. <https://youtu.be/hJOrN-2l2pQ?si=ntiKbp85riEC5Y0u>

YouTube

Search



Dr. Helena Paro and the struggle for safe abortion in Brazil



People's Health Movement  
856 subscribers

Subscribe

3



Share



Clip



Save





- Also designed in 2022, in 2023 the minisite for “Convergent”, this minisite campaign for the transformation of health systems in latin america saw the light in 2023, produced in Spanish, English and Portuguese.
- In 2023 PHM engaged in the production, publication and dissemination strategies not just of PHM news, statements, documents, but also events coverage, special content and campaigns, with a positive impact into how the PHM communicates and it is perceived in different audiences.
- Comms followed up on news coming from PHMs participation on PMAC, WHO EB Watch, the WHA76 and the 78th UN General Assembly in 2023.



- In the development of the PHA5 comms strategy a minisite for the assembly was designed, implemented, launched and maintained. The PHA5 minisite its embedded in the main PHM webpage as a subdomain with special features such as a navigation menu, information posts, news, its own dissemination campaign in social media and PHM Channels.



**People's Health Assembly-5 to Take Place in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 2024**

Health rights activists, human rights activists, ethnic people's rights activists, health workers, health rights organizations, PHM's affiliated networks, partners and organizations members, health policy makers, academics, PHM Members and individuals are all invited to participate in the 5th People's Health Assembly (PHA5) of the People's Health Movement (PHM) to take place in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 7-11 April 2024.

The PHA is an important part of the PHM, as it provides a unique space for sharing experiences, mutual learning and the development of joint strategies for action. It is held approximately every five years. It attracts progressive social movements, civil society organizations and networks, academics, health activists, health workers and students from around the world. Previous Assemblies were held in Savar, Bangladesh (2000), Cuenca, Ecuador (2005), Cape Town, South Africa (2013) and Savar, Bangladesh (2018). Over the years, the Assemblies have been attended by between 1500 and 2000 people from 70 countries.







Health for All Now!  
**People's Health Movement**

## Social Media in 2023

### PHMglobal Twitter Account Analytics 2023

@PHMglobal X handle (twitter) started in 2023 with 6,322 followers and ended the period with 7,054 followers

Month	Tweet impressions	Followers New Followers
December	4.863	
November	8.117	
October	13.100	27
September	16.000	25
August	7.913	16
July	3.213	12
June	4.254	38
May	47.900	62
April	32.000	120
March	20.700	81
February	45.700	83
January	26.900	102

**YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/@peopleshealthmovement3650>

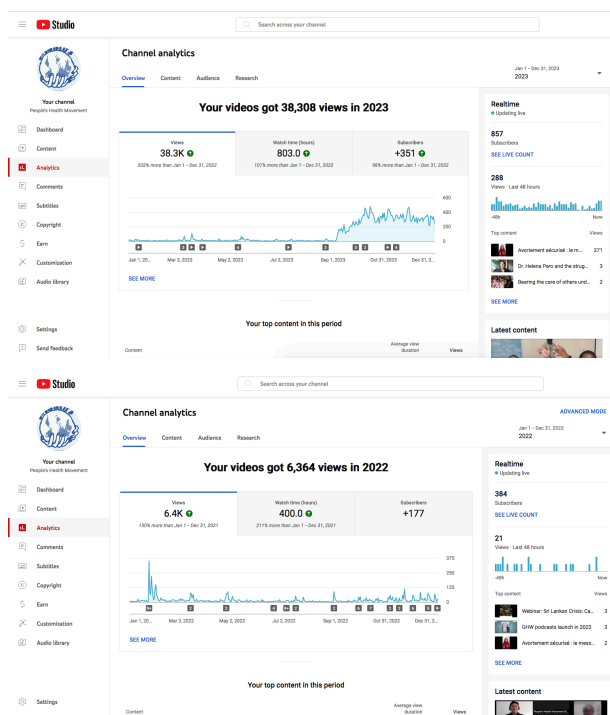
PHM uploaded 39 videos on its YouTube including a playlist for the WHO Watch meetings from the Watchers. Jumping from 6,364 views in 2022 to the outstanding number of 38,308 views, representing a 501% increase compared to 2022, a 98% increase in subscribers and a 101% increase on watch time in the same period. Having the PHA5 launch video followed by the Health Workers Under Attack Gallery case of Maria Cristina Cobo from Colombia as the most watched videos of the videos uploaded in 2023. A video published in October 2022 for the safe abortion campaign from Africa, as the most watched video in 2023 with a remarkable

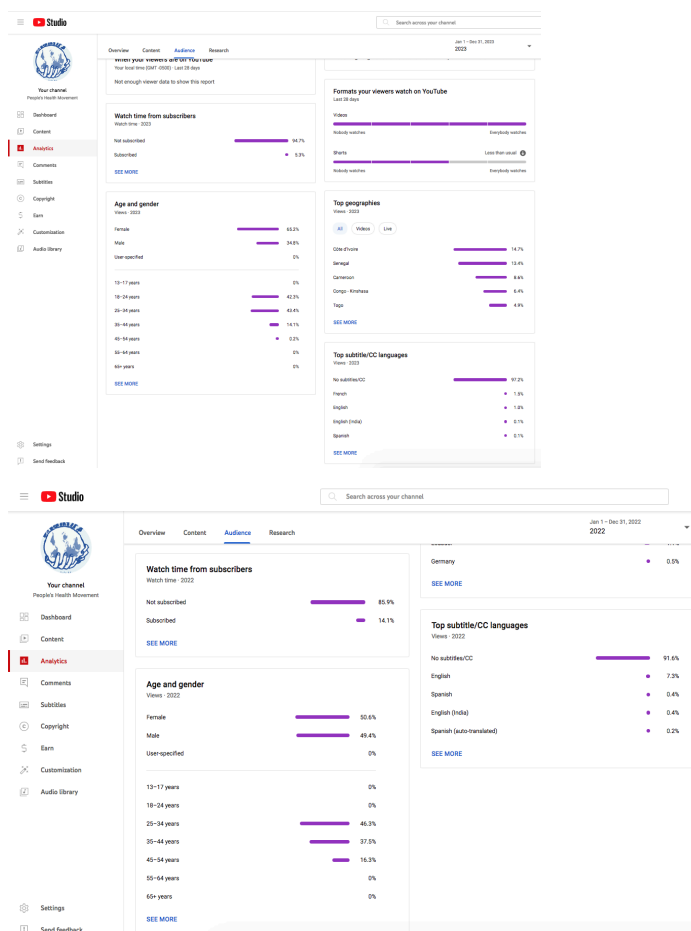


49,752 total views (at the time of this report), and locating it as the most watched video ever in the Channel.

Other interesting figure analytics for 2023 are:


- 94.7 % of watch time comes from non subscribers
  - 65.2 % of viewers of the Youtube Channel are registered as female representing a 15% growth from the previous year.
  - 85.7% of viewers are between 18 to 34 years of age. We can see that in the same period in 2022 PHM youtube viewers were between the ages of 25-54, so that is an interesting shift.
- The Top Geographies of PHM YouTube viewers in 2023 are located in Africa.





## Instagram

September 20, 2023 marks the launch of the movement's Instagram account (@globalPHM <https://www.instagram.com/globalphm/>) and coincided with the 16 Days of Activism for Sexual and Reproductive Health campaign. Only 6 months after the beginning of its activity and with 130 publications, it manages to have 270 followers, with 6,760 reproductions of its own content and in collaboration with affiliated organizations and in four languages. It is worth mentioning that the video inviting people to participate in PHA5 in Argentina has more than 1,100 views and a video of the launching of PHA5, shared by one of the allies, also has over 1,000 views.





globalphm

Edit profile View archive Ad tools


130 posts 268 followers 25 following

People's Health Movement  
Health for all now  
[phmovement.org/pha5-individual-registration-form + 4](https://phmovement.org/pha5-individual-registration-form+4)

Destacada New

POSTS REELS SAVED TAGGED



PMAC 2024

Where is PHM at PMAC 2024?

PHM has, for many years, created the platform for critical perspectives and voices from the Global South, including PHM and that the two have engaged and rights around the world people working in global health.

Since the first PHM, the People's Health Movement (PHM) has brought a cutting edge and cutting voices to PHM. We have been active in its International Organizing Committee (IOC) and a staff member in developing the annual report and conference materials, been on staff of that group and have been invited to the PHM every year since 2007. We were invited to the IOC for PHM 2014, and given the last opportunity to contribute to the annual report and other materials.

So why isn't PHM here in 2024?

PHM was at that we were no longer welcome at the IOC or at the conference.

We suspect the reason for this is the internationalist that has been in PHM, 2024 and through an article in the [PHM](https://www.phmovement.org/2024/01/24/why-is-phm-not-at-pmac-2024/) <https://www.phmovement.org/2024/01/24/why-is-phm-not-at-pmac-2024/> and a staff member in developing the annual report and conference materials, been on staff of that group and have been invited to the PHM every year since 2007. We were invited to the IOC for PHM 2014, and given the last opportunity to contribute to the annual report and other materials.

PHM 2024 is not here.

PHM is a global network of health activists, professionals, academics and organizations with a presence in more than eighty countries, most of which are low and middle income countries. Members of PHM 2024 are not welcome here and we do not welcome PHM 2024.

PHM 2024 is not here.

We invite you to join the PHM 2024. People's Health Movement and PHM 2024 are the same. We invite you to join the PHM 2024. People's Health Movement and PHM 2024 are the same. We invite you to join the PHM 2024. People's Health Movement and PHM 2024 are the same.

#FREEAHMEDMUHANNA

Webinar: Building solidarity with Gaza's health sector

Wednesday December 2-3 pm UTC

Palentine 4 pm (Beirut 3 pm EST)

Health for All Now! People's Health Movement

Register

REGISTRESE y participe en la ASP5 diligenciando el formulario de inscripción

1. Create a new account to log in  
2. Confirm the account in your e-mail address.  
3. Open the link to the individual registration form and fill in the information

Link in BIO

Register

REGISTRESE y participe en la ASP5 diligenciando el formulario de inscripción

1. Cree una nueva cuenta para iniciar sesión  
2. Confirme la cuenta en su dirección de correo electrónico.  
3. Abra el enlace del formulario de inscripción individual y complete la información

Link en la BIO

Register

INSCRIVEZ-VOUS et participez à l'APS5 en remplissant le formulaire d'inscription.

1. créer un nouveau compte pour se connecter  
2. Confirmez le compte sur votre adresse e-mail.  
3. Ouvrez le lien vers le formulaire d'inscription individuel et remplissez les informations suivantes

Lien en bio

## Communication campaigns

- Participation in and support for the September 28 Safe Abortion campaign (16 days activism Campaign), which included the launch of the PHM instagram account.
- Design, launch, implementation and sustainability of the campaign for the transformation of health systems in Latin America with a minisite embedded in the





*Health for All Now!*

**People's Health Movement**

PHM homepage and a communication toolkit for its dissemination for people to download, build and share messages and special campaign content.

- Design, implementation and sustainability of the PHA5 comms strategy, content creation and minisite towards the People's Health Assembly PHA5.
- Design, implementation, and dissemination of a launching campaign of the PHA5.
- Together with global allies PHM engaged in different campaigns in support of Gaza with the promotion of webinars, fundraising, and support for medical and health workers amid the war.