

Health Partnerships and diaspora study

Terms of reference: Diaspora Project Research

Expected timeline: February 2020 - April 2020

About THET: THET has led on the Health Partnership approach since it was founded in December 1988. Health Partnerships harness the expertise of staff working in the NHS and the wider UK health system by supporting projects which link institutions in the UK with their counterparts in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). Over the last ten years, THET has managed funds for the Department for International Development (DFID) for this approach, and supported UK institutions to train 107,500 health professionals in Africa and Asia.

Project background: THET has a long track-record of thought leadership in relation to Health Partnerships. THET has been working with diaspora volunteers and associations for many years through our model of Health Partnerships.

African and Asian doctors make up approximately 15% of the doctors working in the NHS, and 6% of nurses. As a recent House of Commons Library Briefing Paper states, we have 'One NHS' and 'Many Nationalities'. It is not surprising therefore, that diaspora volunteers have played prominent roles in Health Partnerships.

Aim of this study: The purpose of this study is to support the research element of a project to explore the question:

How do health professionals in the UK who identify as being members of a diaspora benefit Health Partnerships?

This in turn will help to strengthen the Health Partnership model as it is applied across UK government and other donor communities.

Objectives of this study:

Gain a better understanding of the scale and nature of the contribution health professionals who identify as members of a diaspora are making to Health Partnerships.

Establish how health professionals who identify as members of a diaspora of a low-income or lower-middle income country benefit Health Partnerships.

Scope: The study may include all healthcare professionals registered to work in the UK, who identify as being members of a diaspora, from countries within THET's scope of work - low-income or lower-middle income countries.

Methodology:

Data collection. We propose using a combination of qualitative research methods, including a literature review, a survey, semi-structured interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Researcher:

Literature review. The project will begin by exploring themes associated with diaspora involvement in global health in the literature.

Define our inclusion criteria by:

- Establishing definitions for diaspora and diaspora engagement.
- Establishing a methodology for identifying diaspora engagement in global health.

Conduct a review of literature which will include a review of THET's own data and reports to identify all diaspora engagement in our Health Partnership programmes (including the Commonwealth Partnerships for Anti-Microbial Stewardship programme, the African Grants Programme, the Health Partnership Scheme, HEE volunteer placements, Innovation project, etc).

Data extraction and analysis. All documents that meet the inclusion criteria will be read in their entirety, and all text that references some form of benefit accruing from diaspora engagement in global health will be extracted for analysis. We predict that most of the texts studied during the search will be qualitative in nature. If this is the case, then the researcher will conduct thematic analysis and synthesize the findings. Having completed this analysis of the qualitative data from the review the researcher will then develop 'themes of benefit' to diaspora engagement in global health.

THET and the researcher:

Survey. The researcher to use these themes of benefit to develop a survey which will test these perceived benefits of diaspora engagement in Health Partnerships. Develop a strategy to disseminate survey across as many professions and regions as possible. The results of the survey will be collated and analysed.

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Interviews. We will then test the results of the survey in more detail by conducting semi-structured interviews with key informants identified during the previous phase of our research.

Focus groups. We will further test our findings in a sequence of focus groups. These groups will focus on U.K.-based diaspora volunteers from Ghana and Bangladesh, two countries that have significant diasporic presence in the NHS and who will also be the focus of Health Partnership work as part of UKPHS. the selection of two very different lower middle-income countries should allow for an interesting comparison and provide some insights into whether diverging cultural and social contexts can affect benefits of diaspora engagement in Health Partnerships.

Write-up. We will write-up our findings and develop a set of recommendations designed to inform good practice in relation to diaspora engagement in Health Partnership programmes. Dissemination and Stakeholder Engagement. Building on links with the Steering Group that will be convened to guide this project and our international community THET's team will engage with a range of stakeholders both in the U.K. and internationally to support the adoption of the report's recommendations. We will also work to disseminate this within the Health Partnership community and engage with diaspora associations. We will share the findings of this study in international forums notably the ESTHER Alliance and the WHO.

Deliverables:

Literature review. Conduct a review of literature (which will include a review of THET's own data and reports to identify all diaspora engagement in our Health Partnership programmes).

Data extraction and analysis. Thematically analyse and synthesize findings and develop 'themes of benefit' to diaspora engagement in global health.

Survey. Design a survey to test the perceived benefits of diaspora engagement in health partnerships with a cross-section of UK health professionals who identify as being members of a diaspora. Analyse results.

Proposed timings and budget.

22 days at £175 per day between February 2020 – end April 2020

Contractual responsibilities.

Reports to: The Policy and Learning Manager. The researcher will be responsible for managing the workload and deliverables in a timely and efficient manner as set out in this document. The researcher will have regular reporting meetings with the Policy and Learning Manager and will be expected to keep them informed on progress and key issues.

Knowledge Skills and Experience for the researcher.

To successfully undertake this assignment, the researcher should meet the following minimum requirements:

- Educated to Master's level in a relevant discipline or equivalent.

Essential experience.

An interest in diaspora engagement in global health.

A thorough understanding and experience in qualitative research methods.

A strong background in survey design.

General Competencies.

- Excellent analytical skills and attention to detail.
- Well organised and able to work within tight deadlines.

- Excellent written English.
- Able to work on own initiative.
- High levels of flexibility and commitment.

How to apply

The applicant must have current and valid right to live and work in the UK.

The candidate that meets the above requirements and is available within the time period indicated above should submit an expression of interest which describes how their background reflects the above competencies. They should also include a copy of CV and send these to Graeme@thet.org by **Monday 17th February 2020**.

Deadline for submission of expressions of interest: Monday, 17th February 2020.