

Case Study

National Health Service Scotland

Who was involved in the partnership and why?

The role of the health sector in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a crucial one. National Health Service (NHS) Scotland employs 10% of the country's workforce, and the way in which it operates as an organisation on local, national, and international levels has wider impacts on many other aspects of society. The Global Health Coordination Unit was established to facilitate and coordinate cross-sectoral health partnership work in NHS Scotland. Scotdec (a Scottish Development Education Centre) and Bridge 47 both identified this unit as an impactful potential collaborator, with the opportunity to bring global citizenship education (GCE) to the NHS in a way that was critical and challenging.

Collaborative activities

When the partnership was initiated, clear and effective communication was key, as well as making known the tangible added value of Bridge 47 and Scotdec as partners. Bridge 47 ensured to take into account partners' busy schedules and prioritised actions accordingly.

The partnership ran two needs-analysis workshops, to scope out what NHS staff in the Global Citizenship Champions network thought was needed and how the partnership could support this.

These workshops were instrumental in deciding the focus for the partnership. For the NHS partners, despite being redirected for a time during the covid pandemic, they felt that there was an even greater need for space to critically explore the role of the NHS in delivering the SDGs.

The partnership also successfully ran a training session online with NHS staff and created a [resource](#) for any NHS staff who wish to engage their colleagues in wider global issues and sustainability using a GCE approach.

Benefits and Impact

The interactive and participatory session was positively received, with a key takeaway being the need to break out of silos and collaborate through partnership. The hierarchical structure of the NHS makes for a challenging environment to create change, and so the session touched on how to overcome feelings of paralysis of action.

Staff were able to critically reflect on the determinants of health, question power dynamics and their own assumptions, and evaluate the crossover of their professional and personal values. The partnership challenged the notion of global citizenship as volunteering overseas, demonstrating that staff also can be global citizens at home.