

# International Health and Development Training for Healthcare Workers

12-14 OCTOBER, 2018 | ACHILL OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE



## Summary of Experience from the 2018 Training Event

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Achill Outdoor Education Centre, Achill Island, Co Mayo

From Friday 12<sup>th</sup> through Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018, 36 participants and 10 facilitators braved stormy elements to attend the 2nd International Health and Development Training workshop at the Achill Outdoor Education Centre in Achill Island, Co Mayo.

The workshop was organised by the Health Services Executive (HSE) Global Health Programme in partnership with ESTHER Ireland; Comhlámh; the Irish Forum for Global Health; National University of Ireland, Galway; Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF); Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Ireland; with support from Irish Aid.



The workshop covered a range of topics for healthcare workers who were interested in volunteering or working in less-developed countries. It introduced key issues in global health and the nature of healthcare in resource-poor settings, and provided participants with the opportunity to explore key skills and competencies that are valuable for working in this area. Topics included Health & Development and the social determinants of health; perspectives on the development; why's of volunteering including good practice & Volunteer Code of Practice Principles.

Attendees participated in a number of practical and theoretical workshops and training activities e.g.: remote emergency care skills and problem solving in emergency scenarios; reproductive healthcare in resource poor settings; group work & role play; case studies; a sculpture exercise; candid discussions exploring participants' cultures and beliefs; self-care meditation and stress reduction techniques; and addressing topics such as infectious diseases and waste management. People who had worked or volunteered in less developed countries shared their fascinating experiences through presentations.



### Facilitators

- \* **Dr. David Weakliam:** Consultant in Public Health Medicine and Project Lead for HSE Global Health Programme.
- \* **Dr. Diarmuid O'Donovan:** Director of Public Health, HSE West, and Senior Lecturer in Social & Preventative Medicine at NUI Galway
- \* **Dr. Méabh Ni Bhuinneáin:** General Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist at Mayo University Hospital
- \* **Brid Boyce:** Quality Improvement Advisor, HSE National Quality Improvement Team.
- \* **Sive Bresnihan:** Training and Education Officer with Comhlámh
- \* **Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald:** Public health medical doctor with the HSE and National Public Health Lead on Social Inclusion
- \* **Serina Griffin:** HR and Recruitment Administrator, Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)
- \* **Nadine Ferris France:** Operations Director, Irish Forum for Global Health & ESTHER Ireland
- \* **James O'Brien:** Volunteering Leadership Advisor and Country Representative for Ireland, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
- \* **Tim Daly:** Director of the Achill Outdoor Education & Training Centre
- \* **Eimhin O'Reilly:** Communications & Events Coordinator, Irish Forum for Global Health & ESTHER Ireland





# Feedback on the weekend

*"I had very little knowledge of Global Health. I feel like I've gained a great insight into this area and I feel really enthused to look at how I can shape my skills to contribute"*

At the close of the weekend, we asked participants to complete an evaluation of their experience so that we could gather their feedback on the content and structure of the training delivered. Overall, the feedback was very positive and everyone had a great weekend. What people enjoyed most from the weekend was the fact that it brought together a diverse and like-minded enthusiastic group with opportunities to network and share skills and expertise. Participants suggested a module on information on current humanitarian emergency crisis management and the course organisers noted this for potential future workshops.

*"I really enjoyed learning and gaining experience from the other participants in the course as well as the sessions. I didn't expect such a variety of specialists and expertise so it was a brilliant added bonus"*

*"The gathering of 40 fascinating individuals in one remote location for a stormy weekend, from arrival on Friday to departure on Sunday. I was saturated in ideas and discussions".*

*"Gaps in knowledge to fulfil before working in the "field" and exposure to a dynamic, enthusiastic positive group of healthcare professionals"*

*"What to expect over seas, who to talk to when you want to volunteer, fantastic variety of experiences and seeing how people can do such a variety of things"*



## For More Information...

Check out the links below for a number of different ways to keep up-to-date and involved in global health work, including grant funding for overseas projects, networking, training programmes, and volunteering stories.

HSE Global Health Programme: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/other-quality-improvement-programmes/globalhealth/>

Gapminder: <http://www.gapminder.org>

Worldmapper: <http://worldmapper.org/>

Comhlámh: <https://comhlamh.org/>

World Health Organisation: <http://www.who.int/en/>

Irish Aid: <http://www.dci.govirishaid.ie>

MSF: <http://www.msf.ie>

VSO Ireland: <http://www.vso.ie/>

ESTHER Ireland: <http://www.esther.ie>

Irish Forum for Global Health: <http://www.globalhealth.ie>

