

DEFINING THE RUTGERS GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE'S MISSION

THE PURPOSE

Improving the health and wellness of populations is a strategic priority of Rutgers—and reducing health care disparities and increasing health care equity are goals of many Rutgers research, teaching, and service initiatives. These endeavors reach across disciplines and engage faculty, staff, and students with governments, industry, nonprofits, and communities to address pressing global health challenges. There are many effective programs at the university that improve health for those in need and even more opportunities to create new models and solutions.

The Rutgers Global Health Institute is being established to support, coordinate, and grow new and existing global health programs across the university, and to position Rutgers as a leader in global health. **The institute needs a mission statement to inform external audiences and all of Rutgers about its purpose, and to focus institute faculty and staff and guide their decisions.** A great mission statement is clear, concise, and answers four essential questions: what do we do, how do we do it, whom do we do it for, and what value are we bringing?

THE PROCESS

The institute presented early mission drafts to seven faculty focus groups held across Rutgers' campuses in Camden, Newark, New Brunswick, and Piscataway. Some of the most frequent comments were:

- Reflect a multidisciplinary approach, open to all of Rutgers
- Make the kind of institution clear (an academic university and medical center, not an NGO, and not a government agency like the CDC)
- Global health is not necessarily an international effort
- Convey the importance of partnerships
- Focus broadly on health rather than just health care

With this early feedback in mind, institute staff reviewed the available mission statements of global health centers and institutes within 45 peer and aspirant institutions. We then brainstormed around the four essential questions for mission statements, incorporating insights from the faculty-wide survey on global health at Rutgers, as well as an extensive listening and learning tour involving individual and small group meetings across Rutgers. From this process, the following core elements emerged:

1. **What do we do?** We improve health equity and develop solutions to critical health problems.
2. **How do we do it?** We advance collaborative research, build community-driven partnerships, and expand global health education across fields and professions.
3. **Whom do we do it for?** The most vulnerable populations worldwide
4. **What value are we bringing?** Diverse strengths and disciplines across Rutgers

THE RESULT

Those core elements formed the institute's mission:

At Rutgers Global Health Institute, we improve the health of the most vulnerable populations and develop solutions to critical health problems worldwide. By bridging Rutgers' diverse strengths, we advance collaborative research, build community-driven partnerships, and expand global health education across fields and professions.