joep lange institute

2025 PROGRESS REPORT

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JLI PROGRESS REPORT 2025

WHO WE ARE

The Stichting Joep Lange Institute for Global Health and Development (JLI) is inspired by the life and work of the late Professor Joep Lange. Prof Dr Joep Lange was killed with his partner and colleague Jacqueline van Tongeren in the downing of flight MH17 while on their way to the AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia. Joep was one of the leading scientists in HIV, a thought leader and innovator in HIV and global health. In the spirit of Joep Lange, JLI challenges the status quo with new perspectives and innovative approaches in health.

Healthcare is a public good, but especially in developing countries, the public sector cannot provide quality healthcare to all. Health systems function insufficiently, and large parts of the population are excluded from basic, quality health services – among them most of the poor. Health markets in most developing countries are stuck in a vicious cycle of low-quality care, low and unpredictable demand and lack of investments.

JLI/Financial Times Future of Healthcare Event

Our health data is personal and we have rights to our property. Sharing is essential to maximize individual and societal benefits but we must be in control to decide what we do with it.

MICHIEL HEIDENRIJK, BOARD MEMBER JLI

MISSION, VISION, GOALS

OUR MISSION

Accelerate human development through innovations that strengthen systems for health and health financing.
History has taught us that building these systems, grounded in trust and solidarity, is a long-term endeavor. However, with the advent of mobile technology, what took us decades in the past to achieve can now be done much faster.

In health, mobile technology holds the key to the development of inclusive and sustainable health financing systems. It makes it possible to reach everybody at close to zero marginal cost and creates unique opportunities for health financing by allowing for direct, instant and transparent access, payment and delivery initiated from the client. Furthermore, the better use of data can improve utilization, cost and the delivery of health services (in real-time) for the benefit of society.

In addition to JLI supporting work streams that Joep started, we act as an international Global Health Think Tank that provides the space for innovation in health and convenes dialogue and collaboration.

GOALS

Daring ideas need space to develop. This drives JLI and makes us push where others won't and don't. We believe pragmatism, science and activism should be combined: we need to be confrontational and convincing at the same time, by displaying evidence from practice and research.

With this in mind, JLI has the following goals:

DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES AND DATA OFFERS SOCIETIES FOR BETTER HEALTH COVERAGE

SPARK DEBATE BY CHALLENGING CONVENTIONAL THINKING AND ADVOCATING INNOVATIVE NEW SOLUTIONS FOR MORE INCLUSIVE GLOBAL HEALTH.

BECOME THE PLATFORM WHERE HEALTH POLICY SHAPERS TURN FOR INSPIRATION, GUIDANCE AND EXCHANGE.

OUR AGENDA

To further sharpen the impact JLI wants to make, we are focusing our attention to 3 main agenda areas:

1

USING DATA IN HEALTH TO BENEFIT SOCIETY

Find solutions to appropriately scale the use of health data to guarantee benefits for the people while mitigating risks

2

FINDING INCLUSIVE HEALTH FINANCING MODELS

Transform traditional financing models to make access to quality health care more inclusive

3

PUTTING PEOPLE IN CONTROL OF THEIR OWN HEALTH NEEDS

Provide the individual and communities with tools to manage their own health needs and care

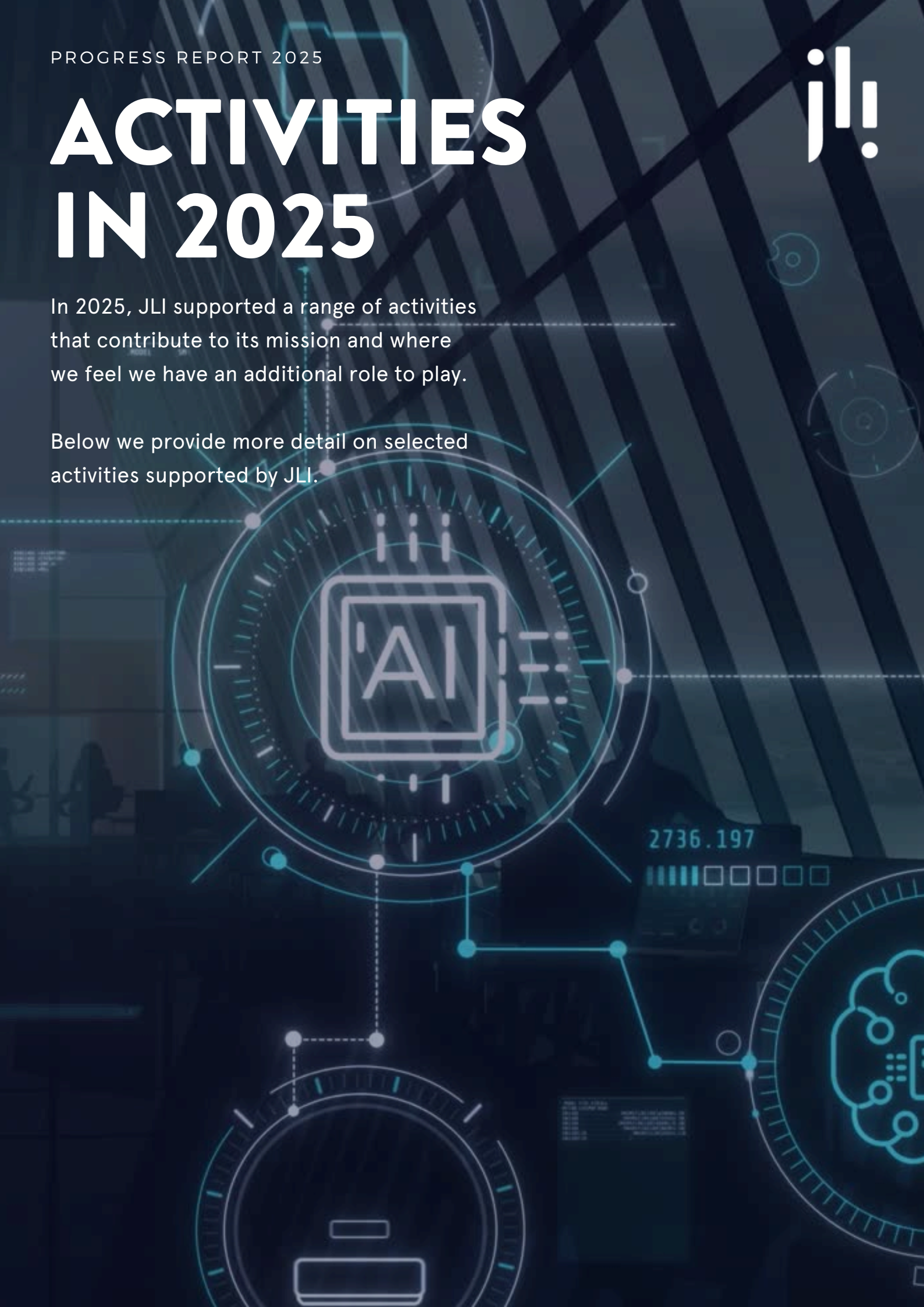
PARTNERSHIPS

In support of these three key agenda areas, and as a cross cutting effort, JLI seeks partnerships and collaborations to accelerate innovations that strengthen systems for health and health financing. Part of this effort towards the multilateral actors is supported by JLI's Center for Global Health Diplomacy satellite office based in Geneva, Switzerland.

ACTIVITIES IN 2025

In 2025, JLI supported a range of activities that contribute to its mission and where we feel we have an additional role to play.

Below we provide more detail on selected activities supported by JLI.



HEALTH DATA BENEFITING SOCIETY

joep lange institute

THE NATIONAL HEALTHCARE PLATFORM

Call for a Digital Delta Plan

Jan van den Berg, Gerard van Olphen, Onno Schellekens, Margriet Schneider[1]

Joep Lange Institute

March 2021

Jan van den Berg is in the supervisory board of several companies and will soon take on the position of chairman of the supervisory board at Achmea.

Gerard van Olphen is the former CEO of insurance firm Vivat and chairman of the executive board of directors of APG until 1 March this year.

Onno Schellekens is chair of the Joep Lange Institute.

Margriet Schneider is chair of the executive board at the Utrecht University Medical Center (UMC Utrecht) and chairs the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU).

[1] Please note: the authors have written this article in a personal capacity.

HEALTH DATA BENEFITING SOCIETY

JLI believes there is much to gain from sharing data in health. The value of data in health to make health systems fairer, more efficient and deliver better health outcomes can hardly be overstated. But of course, the risks are as big as the potential gains.

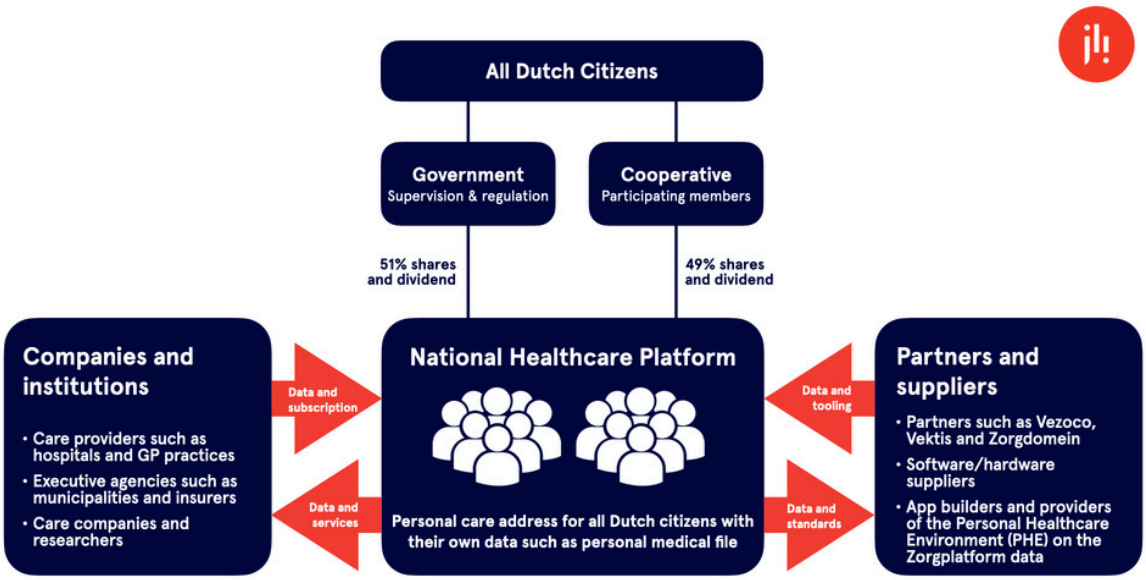
JLI pushes to find solutions that allows society to share health data and to create value from it, safely and in the interest of all. JLI also sees data as an asset, an economic input. We believe that data as an economic input could be governed through public-private partnerships for social capital development. Similar institutions have proven to be very effective in creating value for society, such as pension funds.

In the past, through our work with the University of Utrecht's professor Jan Luiten van Zanden, we gained a better understanding of the dynamics of today's 'data economy': why institutions as we know them fail to prevent excessive data-accumulation and data-abuse, and how institutions could work to assure the value of people's data flow back to the people, to society. The resulting article served as input to further explore what types of institutions could work to assure the value of people's data flow back to the people, to society.

Growing on this work, JLI, through the chairman of its board, Onno Schellekens, and together with Jan van den Berg (chairman of the supervisory board, Achmea) and others, pleaded for the establishment of a digital delta plan for healthcare, 'Het Nationale Zorgplatform.'

HEALTH DATA BENEFITING SOCIETY

Such a platform would be a publicly regulated infrastructure that enables us to collectively own our health data. It would also facilitate data sovereignty. This, under the backdrop of a clear need for a digital strategy for healthcare, which improves its management, and can make healthcare smarter, cheaper, and more personal. It would help to assist the digital transformation, which radically transformed many sectors, but has only sparsely penetrated the Dutch healthcare system. This initiative was reported on in the Het Financieele Dagblad as well as BNR.



JLI continues to promote the idea of a national health data collective and supports localized pilots to test and improve the concept, before the full ambition is realized. For example, JLI supported a joint initiative led by the Amsterdam Health and Technology Institute (ahti), in collaboration with the municipality of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam University Medical Center (AUMC), which lets people retrieve, manage, and share their own health data on their own terms. The platform assigns each individual a personal health data vault. Central to this concept is that the individual is in control of, and can decide who receives access to, his or her data. This, in conjunction with the other services that the platform provides (see the Digitale Voordeur Amsterdam website for more details), will provide individuals with more control over their own care while freeing up professionals to focus on what they do best. Further down the line, we expect that the collective value of these data vaults will flow back to the individuals, rather than to for-profit corporations or governments. The first phase of the program, which secured funding under the Integraal Zorgakkoord (IZa), was approved for EUR 12.2 million and started in April 2025, supported by a consortium of 10 health and wellness partners in Amsterdam.

HEALTH DATA BENEFITING SOCIETY

Separately, based on JLI's thought leadership on the topic, PharmAccess is developing a proof of principle for a data cooperative. The health data cooperative allows patients to have agency over their health data. Patients are recognized as the rightful owners of their health data, giving them the ability to give consent on how it is accessed, shared, and reused—empowering them to benefit from the value their data creates.

In support of this agenda, JLI has launched a webpage dedicated to Health Data Collectives and will continue to engage on the topic with influential leaders in the insurance, medical and pension industries, as well as the Dutch government.

"We plea for the establishment of the National Healthcare Platform: a publicly regulated infrastructure that enables both old and new, and both private and public parties, to collectively own our digital and mobile technology and health data."

ONNO SCHELLEKENS
CHAIRMAN JOEP LANGE INSTITUTE

JOEP LANGE CHAIR & FELLOWS PROGRAM

In 2015, the Professor Joep Lange Chair and Fellows Program was set up by the Joep Lange Institute. This academic program is hosted within the Department of Global Health, Amsterdam University Medical Center (University of Amsterdam), and received support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry announced its support for the Chair at the commemorative ceremony for Joep Lange and Jacqueline van Tongeren, with the aim to promote collaborative research and achieve groundbreaking progress in health systems and service delivery in low- and middle-income countries.

The Joep Lange Chair and Fellows Program brings together experts from different backgrounds and geographies to collaborate on research that will help drive change in the field of global health. This multidisciplinary approach is echoed in the unique rotating character of the Chair, which will welcome up to five (partly concurrent) professors from different fields of expertise over ten years. In partnership with the top academic institutes in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States, the Chairs and Fellows will focus on building the knowledge base of global health and collaborate with organizations that can apply these insights to improve access to quality healthcare across the globe.

Although Chair 3 and Chair 4's respective research under the Chair & Fellows program ended in 2023, a joint initiative was initiated in 2025 between Chair 3 (Prof Anna Vassal, focusing on assessing the economic impact of innovative interventions in health and healthcare financing) and Chair 4 (Dr Catherine Kyobutungi, focusing on the management and prevention of non-communicable diseases, in particular Cardiovascular Disease)under which Long COVID data from Nairobi and Amsterdam cohorts will be harmonized, integrated and analyzed.

JOEP LANGE CHAIR & FELLOWS PROGRAM CONT'D

The year 2025 marked the final year of the Joep Lange Chair and Fellows Program, concluding a 10-year initiative dedicated to advancing equitable global health through interdisciplinary research, mentorship, dialogue, and capacity strengthening. Throughout its duration, the program honored the legacy of Professor Joep Lange by fostering collaboration between researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and early-career scholars committed to improving health outcomes globally.

This final year unfolded during a period of significant transformation in the global health landscape. Reductions in international development assistance, uncertainty surrounding major donor funding streams, and increasing pressure on health systems worldwide prompted renewed discussions about sustainability, equity, and locally led global health responses. Against this backdrop, the 2025 Joep Lange Chair and Fellows Symposium adopted the theme "Back to the Future: Systems, Societies, Solutions", reflecting on how global health can move forward while learning from past successes and failures.

Held in Amsterdam, the symposium brought together distinguished experts from across disciplines to discuss the future of global health amid funding cuts and shifting geopolitical priorities. Speakers explored topics including health systems resilience, pandemic preparedness, vaccine equity, implementation science, and the social dimensions of global health governance. The symposium emphasized the urgent need for collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable approaches that prioritize local leadership and equitable partnerships.

JOEP LANGE CHAIR & FELLOWS PROGRAM CONT'D

The 2025 Joep Lange Masterclass continued the program's longstanding commitment to mentorship and capacity building for early-career researchers. The Masterclass created space for interdisciplinary exchange and critical reflection on the future of global health research. In addition to the Symposium and Masterclass, the program facilitated a Fellows networking event aimed at strengthening connections among Joep Lange Fellows and affiliated researchers. The event reflected the spirit of the Joep Lange Chairs and Fellows Program by encouraging collaboration, peer support, mentorship, and cross-disciplinary dialogue among emerging global health leaders.

While the formal program has come to an end, the collaborations, networks, mentorship structures, and research partnerships established through the Joep Lange Chairs and Fellows Program will continue to contribute to global health research, education, and practice in the years ahead. This multidisciplinary approach was echoed in the unique rotating character of the Chair, which welcomed four (partly concurrent) professors from different fields of expertise over ten years. In partnership with the top academic institutes in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States, the Chairs and Fellows focused on building the knowledge base of global health and collaborate with organizations that can apply these insights to improve access to quality healthcare across the globe. Chairs under the Joep Lange Chairs and Fellows Program were:

- Prof Dan Ariely, behavioral economist from Duke University
- Prof Mark Dybul, former Executive Director at the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Prof Anna Vassal, Professor of Health Economics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Dr Catherine Kyobutungi, Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center

More information can be found at jlc.aighd.org.

JLI CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY

The JLI Center for Global Health Diplomacy (JLI GHD) in Geneva promotes global health equity and cooperation through diplomacy, advocacy, and collaboration. The Center strives to harness the power of diplomacy to address pressing health challenges, foster partnerships among nations and advocate for policies. Also advocate for sustainable funding that prioritize the health and well-being of all individuals, regardless of geographical or socio-economic boundaries.

JLI PROGRESS REPORT 2025

JLI CENTER FOR HEALTH DIPLOMACY

By facilitating dialogue, sharing knowledge and building bridges between diverse stakeholders, JLI GHD aims to advance a healthier, more resilient world where everyone has access to quality healthcare and opportunities for a thriving life.

During 2025 JLI Center for GHD Geneva supported and was involved in following initiatives and projects:

EXTENDING THE DONOR BASE IN GLOBAL HEALTH TO NON-TRADITIONAL COUNTRIES

In 2025, JLI GHD continued the work on engaging non-traditional donor countries to facilitate political and financial support for Global Health Initiatives. Since 2023, JLI GHD has been establishing partnerships and contacts in fourteen Target Countries, potential donors that, until now, have either not contributed at all to Global Health Initiatives or well below their economic potential. Visits, Virtual Meetings, Roundtables and Workshops have taken place in the majority of the 14 target countries. The work has been supported by a grant from Coefficient Giving (previously known as Open Philanthropy (OP)) and The Gates Foundation. The development of funding from traditional donors – characterized by less political support for global solidarity and more emphasis on national interest, even in the development cooperation sector – has also affected many of the non-traditional donors JLI has been interacting with. These overall trends in ODA commitments have reinforced JLI GHD's mission and made the objective of mobilizing additional countries to start making commitments towards Global Health even more urgent.

JLI CENTER FOR HEALTH DIPLOMACY

INNOVATIVE FINANCING: DEBT-2-HEALTH (D2H)

As part of its work on Innovative Financing, JLI GHD is promoting the increased use of debt swaps. It is building on an initiative launched by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF) in 2007 (Debt2Health) where creditor nations forgive portions of debt in exchange for investments in health programs in debtor countries with the objective of strengthening health systems, increasing sustainable health financing and enhancing domestic ownership of health programs. The JLI GHD team received a grant from Coefficient Giving to advocate this financing tool in additional countries and facilitate workshops to increase visibility and viability. 2025 has shown a sharp increase in interest in this financial vehicle due to geopolitical developments. The JLI team has contributed to the creation of political interest in particular through its participation in the UN Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) hosted in Sevilla, Spain in June 2025. At that conference, JLI GHD organized one of the official side events on debt swaps with contributions from the Deputy Minister of Finance of Indonesia, the ED of the Global Fund, the Deputy DG for Development Finance of Germany and the Spanish Ministry for Economic Affairs which launched a new Global Hub for Debt Swaps on the occasion of FFD4. This hub has now been established together with the World Bank.

CLIMATE & HEALTH

In 2025 JLI GHD continued to support the Global Fund (GF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by facilitating and providing advice on the planning and implementation of their collaboration, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two funds during COP28's Health day in 2023, in the UAE. JLI GHD brought together partners, experts and stakeholders in both fields to discuss and start developing a framework/roadmap for their partnership. JLI GHD facilitated a joint trip with senior leadership of the Global Fund to the GCF HQ in Songdo, ROK. Both funds agreed to co-invest in countries highly vulnerable to climate change in Africa and identified Africa CDC as a preferred third party.

JLI CENTER FOR HEALTH DIPLOMACY

CLIMATE & HEALTH CONT'D

Following that agreement, JLI GHD organized a high-level meeting between GCF, GF and Africa CDC in the margins of the UN General Assembly in NY in September 2025. The work reflects a significant opportunity to mobilize resources to help unlock funding for LMIC on the nexus between Climate & Health.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

The JLI Center for GHD supported its director in the following roles:

- President of the Transform Health Coalition, the global coalition on Health for All in the Digital Age.
- Chair of HealthAI, the Global Agency for Responsible AI in Health.
- Chair of the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA), which unites 22 governments in Asia-Pacific who have committed to eliminating malaria in the region by 2030.
- Board member of Friends of the Global Fund Europe.
- Member of the governing council of the World Health Summit.
- Member of the Advisory Board of the Global Health Hub Germany.
- Supporting the Global Public Investment network (gpin) by attending Strategy and Advocacy Meetings, Partner Workshops, and other activities.

JLI became the host organization for the Global Fund Advocacy Network (GFAN) in 2021. GFAN's aim is to ensure the voices of Communities and Civil Society are heard, acted upon and strengthened. The GFAN network provides a useful platform from which JLI can promote initiatives under its agenda area "to provide the individual and communities with tools to manage their own health needs and care." GFAN has 1,200 individual members, 950 organisational members and is represented in 100 countries.

In 2025, GFAN continued its key regular activities aimed at informing, connecting advocates, and amplifying the work of our members. These included regular calls, monthly roundups, replenishment campaigning resources, and sharing the Global Fund 53rd Board Meeting report. Other regular activities also included regular blogs and supporting GFAN speakers as they engaged in various in-person activities during the replenishment year.

As part of our 8th replenishment advocacy activities, GFAN was present at key moments such as the WHS, FfD, and the Pledging summit, including hosting pre-meetings, hybrid watch parties, and side events with and for GFAN's members. GFAN hosted their 2025 annual meeting in Ottawa, Canada, in April 2025, bringing together over 100 partners from across the world.

For more information on GFAN's work in 2025, please see their 2025 membership report.

GFAN also continued to engage with newer workstreams, including:

- The continued work of the Unitaid advocates network (UAN)
- Francophone Engagement- which provided advocates from Francophone countries with opportunities to better integrate in the network, to make their priorities heard and reflected directly in their native language.
- HEAR-CSO-where GFAN, as a member of a coalition of CSOs, has been engaged in mapping and advocating for civil society and community involvement in national, regional, or global discussions on the future of the global health architecture.

Within GFAN's technical partner and sub-grantee role within the NVF for the GFA Phase IV portfolio, GFAN hosted an in-person NVF sub-grantees side meeting at their annual meeting in Ottawa and an all-sub-grantees annual call in October 2025. Additionally, GFAN supported with emerging opportunity grant applications, coordinating reporting, providing reporting analysis, etc.

Lastly, in 2025, we also finalized our strategy renewal process with the new 2026-2030 strategy planned to be launched in 2026.

For more details on GFAN's 2025 activities, please see GFAN's 2025 report to membership.

LIFE AND WORK OF JOEP LANGE

We continue to commemorate the passing of Joep Lange and Jacqueline van Tongeren and honour their achievements through a dedicated section on the JLI website. A timeline highlighting Joep's achievements and how this led to the establishment of the Joep Lange Institute can be found here.

DOCUMENTARY ON JOEP LANGE

To further honor Joep's legacy, JLI commissioned a documentary that will shed light on the impact Joep made during his professional life as a medical scientist and activist for better access to healthcare for all. The documentary was finalized towards the end of 2025 with a premiere planned to take place in 2026.
View the trailer below.

OUTLOOK 2026

In 2026, JLI will focus on furthering the concept of Health Data Collectives, alongside the work carried out by its Center for Global Health Diplomacy based in Geneva, Switzerland. Expansion of its current programs will be explored, while new topics and activities will be identified during the course of the year.

HEALTH DATA COOPERATIVES

As described earlier, JLI continues to promote the idea of a national health data collective and supports localized pilots to test and improve the concept, before the full ambition is realized. For example, JLI supported a joint initiative led by the Amsterdam Health and Technology Institute (ahti), in collaboration with the municipality of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam University Medical Center (AUMC), which lets people retrieve, manage, and share their own health data on their own terms. The platform assigns each individual a personal health data vault. Central to this concept is that the individual is in control of, and can decide who receives access to, his or her data. This, in conjunction with the other services that the platform provides (see the Digitale Voordeur Amsterdam website for more details), will provide individuals with more control over their own care while freeing up professionals to focus on what they do best. Further down the line, we expect that the collective value of these data vaults will flow back to the individuals, rather than to for-profit corporations or governments. The first phase of the program, which secured funding under the Integraal Zorgakkoord (IZa), was approved for EUR 12.2 million and started in April 2025, supported by a consortium of 10 health and wellness partners in Amsterdam.

Separately, based on JLI's thought leadership on the topic, PharmAccess is developing a proof of principle for a data cooperative.

OUTLOOK 2026

HEALTH DATA COOPERATIVES CONT'D

The health data cooperative allows patients to have agency over their health data. Patients are recognized as the rightful owners of their health data, giving them the ability to give consent on how it is accessed, shared, and reused—empowering them to benefit from the value their data creates.
In support of this agenda, JLI has launched a webpage dedicated to Health Data Collectives and will continue to bring unique and influential thinkers and practitioners together to address issues around healthcare delivery through innovative approaches in both the Netherlands and globally.

DOCUMENTARY ON JOEP LANGE

The Joep Lange Institute continues to honor Joep Lange's legacy. As part of these efforts, JLI commissioned a documentary. The film will shed light on the impact Joep made during his professional life as a medical scientist and activist for better access to healthcare for all. The documentary is expected to be premiered during the course of 2026. View the trailer here.

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH FINANCING FOR HIV PREVENTION IN THE NETHERLANDS

In 2026, JLI will design alternative financing methods that better support HIV prevention in the Netherlands, including new PrEP modalities. The work involves describing the various stakeholders and their roles, and designing risk-sharing structures such as outcome-based agreements and health bonds— while spelling out how they work and who carries which risks.

OUTLOOK 2026

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH FINANCING FOR HIV PREVENTION IN THE NETHERLANDS CONT'D

A central aim is to make sure the costs and benefits are fairly shared among all groups involved, such as insurers, the government, and drug companies, and to fix the common problem where whoever pays for prevention isn't the one who sees the savings. Finally, the project will produce a roadmap and governance structure outlining how these financing methods could be implemented specifically for HIV prevention in the Netherlands. This initiative is supported by Gilead.

JLI CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY

Under the leadership of Christoph Benn, JLI's Center for Global Health Diplomacy has grown and matured over the past eight years. The Geneva team's work has expanded to such a point that establishing an independent structure in Switzerland offers the best position for the future. This step reflects both the progress that has been made as well as the ambition to further strengthen their mission and reach. Having reached such a level of maturity, reputation and funding success that makes establishing an independent structure in Switzerland a realistic option is a real achievement, and one that JLI is proud to have supported. JLI will work with the team in Geneva to facilitate a smooth transition during the summer of 2026. This marks a new chapter rather than an end, and both organisations look forward to future collaboration.

OUTLOOK 2026

JLI CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY

That said, JLI's Center for Global Health Diplomacy, initially still within JLI and during the course of Q3 under an independent entity, expects to focus on the following activities in 2026:

Extending the Donor Base in Global Health to non-traditional countries
The second phase of the project will extend into 2026. JLI GHD expects a continuation of the engagement with support from The Gates Foundation and Coefficient Giving. JLI GHD will deepen partnerships and contacts in the countries of the first two phases and establish partnerships and contacts with new Target Countries. Visits, virtual meetings and workshops will continue in some but not all of the existing target countries. New countries will be added while others will be paused/eliminated due to political and other circumstances.

Debt-to-Health
Continuation of the work funded by Coefficient Giving to expand the use of debt-for-health (D2H) mechanisms and convert sovereign debt obligations into health financing with the focus on Debtor Countries in Africa.

Innovative Financing
Advisory Role at Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention to promote Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda through increased use of innovative finance mechanisms including debt swaps for health and development.

Climate & Health
Continuation of the work on Climate and Health with GF and GCF.

OUTLOOK 2026

GFAN

GFAN's broad priorities for 2026 continue to be replenishment advocacy as it winds down, engagement in GC8 as needed, the launch and operationalization of GFAN's new strategy, renewing GFAN's Speaker's Bureau, continuing in GFAN's technical partner role in a hoped-for NVF for GFA Phase V, and hosting our 2026 annual meeting in Nairobi Kenya, in March 2026.

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