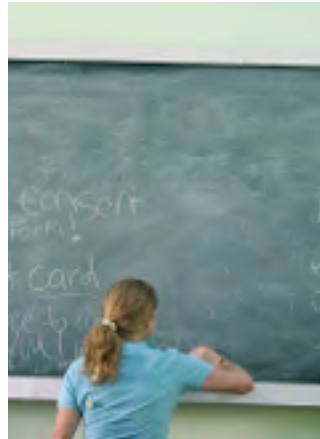


# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH LAB**  
LEARN | ACT | BUILD





**Global Environmental Health LAB**

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## Welcome to our first Annual Report!

On behalf of the entire Global Environmental Health LAB (GEH LAB) team, I would like to thank you for supporting our work and invite you to join us as we support progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals!

Our first full year in operation has been very busy and exciting. Our presence has grown in Myanmar, where we continue to collaborate with local universities in implementing impactful research projects and unique research-based workshops. Along with our collaborations in Myanmar, we have supported the academic and professional development of three research scholars and three interns.

Our work under the program, Community and Occupational Health Associated with the Sustainable Development Goals addressed health disparities in Myanmar relating to issues of maternal and child health, migration, and disaster response.

The preliminary results of our projects have been disseminated through regional and international conferences as well as through our partnerships with local government entities in Myanmar.

In 2016, GEH LAB also achieved important operational milestones including our formal designation by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization and the design of our new logo and branding. We welcomed dozens of new supporters and saw significant growth in our online presence and geographic representation.

GEH LAB will build on the momentum generated in 2016 and continue to focus on our mission of promoting and sustaining healthy environments.

Please enjoy our 1st Annual Report as a charitable organization and as always thank you for your continued support!

**Dr. Tomoyuki Shibata, Ph.D.**

*Executive Director*



# Our Mission

GEH LAB will promote and support safe and healthy environments on a local, regional, and global scale through conducting collaborative public health-related research, scientific engagement, and capacity-building activities.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GEH LAB focuses on the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals unanimously adopted by the United Nations to transform the world by 2030.

## How we are transforming the world...

### Global Scientific Research

- ▶ Collaborative public health research projects in Myanmar (Burma) and Indonesia
- ▶ International Research Program for young scholars and professionals
- ▶ Research dissemination through conferences and publications

### Scientific Engagement

- ▶ Scientific advising for governments, the private sector and communities
- ▶ Service delivery such as risk assessments, lectures and consulting services.

### Capacity Building

- ▶ Research workshops at universities abroad
- ▶ Hands on training and seminars
- ▶ Professional and academic development for students and professionals through internships and research programs

# Service





# Impact

## Capacity Building

In 2016, we provided extensive capacity building to faculty and students from Yadanabon University, University of Mandalay and the University of Medicine, Mandalay. The research-based workshops included lectures and hands-on training on topics such as epidemiological studies, research ethics, writing research articles, and development research grants.

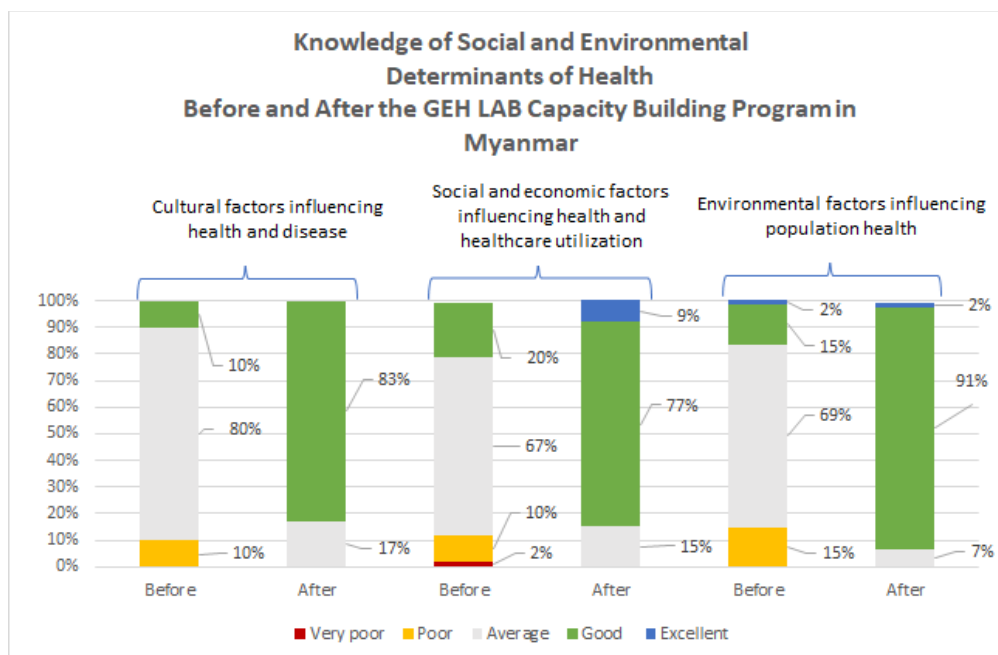
Students and faculty from the participating universities assisted with survey development and data collection in two regions, Mandalay Region, and Magway Region, capturing diverse populations in two of the three seasons. Approximately 750 surveys were collected in 2016.

In addition to training our local colleagues and learning about how we can have the greatest impact on public health in

**'In 2016, adult life expectancy in Myanmar averaged 65 years compared to 79 years in the U.S (UNICEF).'**

Myanmar, we provided research and professional development for 3 international research scholars in 2016. GEH LAB programs are designed to foster leadership and cross-cultural learning through meaningful collaborative research projects that our scholars complete from initiation to publication.

The impact of GEH LAB's capacity building efforts can be demonstrated in the chart below which is measuring the knowledge of social and environmental determinants of health before and after the capacity building workshops in Myanmar.



Milkowska et. al., 2016. Case Study in Myanmar: Understanding the Importance of Competencies of Global Health Trainees and Local Partners .



## Dr. Myin Zu Minn

Pro-Rector, Yadanabon University Mandalay, Myanmar

### What impact has GEH LAB had on your University?

Dr. Myin Zu Minn speaks to GEH LAB about the experience of the research and capacity building workshops on her university. She has a background in Zoology, and in addition to her university leadership position, she conducts research in vector-borne diseases, such as the Zika Virus.

### What are examples of success in your partnership with GEH Lab?

Previously (only) a small percentage of people in our university knew about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but after GEH LAB's first training, they learned about what all the SDGs mean throughout the world, I am happy for that. Second, they know well and are able to describe, for example, child health and maternal health, socioeconomic development, and communicable disease. They know also to consider the environmental impacts and conditions in their research. Our environment is mostly flooded, people in those communities face health, food, and sanitation problems. After we collaborated with GEH LAB we are happy that we can provide that service to our community based on the SDGs.

### What do you see in the future with your GEH Lab partnership and how we can grow together?

Our partnership is essential and we will do our best from our side and expect that from GEH LAB also. We have limitations in our budget and we need support from people throughout the world to implement what we need. This research will be for our people, regions, and our country. As you already know Myanmar is very underdeveloped, so we need to get support to motivate our students and teachers. Their hard work will benefit our communities. I hope most for the technological and financial support for good collaborative outcomes.

### What would you like to tell the world about Myanmar and Yadanabon University?

Our University is primarily a teaching university and secondly a research university. After collaboration with GEH LAB we want to help and support our community and their needs as much as we possibility can. We are missing the technical support in the community, but GEH LAB has filled this gap in our university. If we get more and more support, we can transfer the knowledge and experience to our people. I expect the most from our people to yours and I thank you for your support.

# Partner Testimonial

'GEH LAB has filled a gap in our University'  
- Dr. Myin Zu Minn





# Research

**'Through GEH LAB I have traveled across the world to meet face to face with the people I was helping.'**

**- Liz Galarza, Research Scholar 2016**

## Collaborative Scientific Research

The 2016 research program, Community & Occupational Health Associated with the Sustainable Development Goals, followed an ambitious agenda established by the United Nations. The 2016 GEH LAB research projects included the following:

- ▶ Gender and Occupational Health: Street Vending, Housewives and Social Determinants of Health in Mandalay, Myanmar
- ▶ Labor Migration and Social Determinants of Health in Myanmar
- ▶ Understanding the Causative and Preventive Factors of Children's Health in Mandalay, Myanmar.
- ▶ Evaluating Factors Associated with Maternal Health in Myanmar
- ▶ Occupational Health Associated with Natural Disasters
- ▶ Designing Field Experience Programs in Global Health: The Importance of Competencies Evaluation in Local Partners

**Research Dissemination**

We presented on both our approach and our research findings at the largest public health gathering in the world, the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Denver as well as the 2016 Midwestern Universities for Global Health Meeting in Chicago. In 2016, we had 7 abstracts submitted to APHA, 2 to the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, 1 peer reviewed publication, and 6 conference presentations.





## How has GEH LAB Impacted your life?

### Research Scholar Testimonial

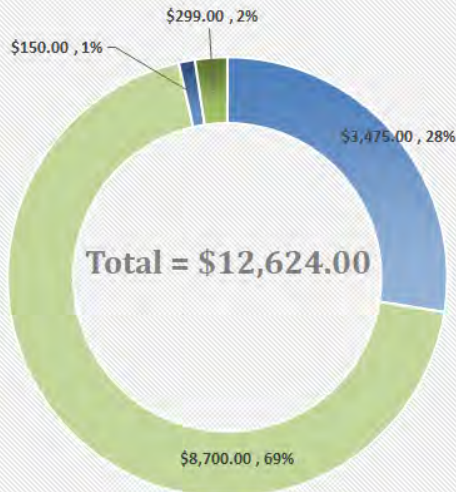
As a first-generation Mexican American in the United States, I felt a lot of pressure to be successful. I wanted to show my parents that their hard work and long hours of labor making less than minimum wage, were not in vain. I graduated high school with high honors and set out to be a pre-medicine major in college. I wanted to be a doctor to help people like my mother who was too embarrassed to go to the doctor because of her broken English. I wanted to be the first doctor in my family and serve as a role model to my little brother and young cousins. I wanted to reach the American dream. Fast forward almost 9 years, a mediocre undergraduate GPA, a biology degree and two jobs later, I sat in my car after my 9-5 job and I wondered if this was my version of the American dream. I knew I had to realign myself with the passionate young woman I was just 9 years before. Ultimately, I decided to go back to school to obtain my Masters in Public Health. In my first year as a graduate student at NIU, I met Dr. Shibata whose passion for science and helping the underserved inspired me. He offered me a chance to be a part of an organization whose mission was to empower people, like myself, to not stay complacent, but to continue cultivating our passions for a healthier world. Through GEH Lab I have traveled across the world to meet face to face with the people I would be helping, not just staring at their picture through a textbook or viewing their ID number in a dataset.

In a little over a year, through hands-on research and training, GEH LAB has equipped me with technical capacities that are not acquired in a graduate classroom. GEH LAB has taught me that what I want most in life is not reaching the American dream, but helping others reach their own version of the

Liz Galarza, MPH Candidate,  
2016 Research Scholar , 2017 Administrative Coordinator



# Revenue

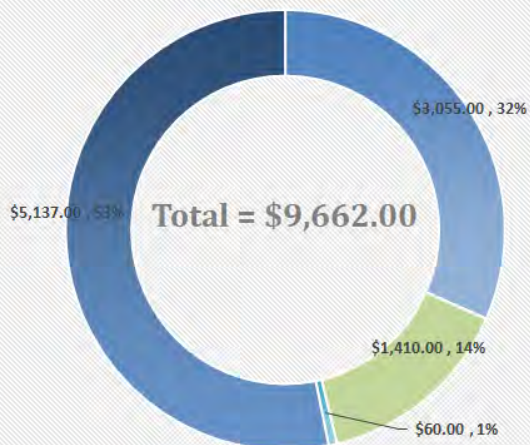


- Donor Contributions
- Program Fees
- Board
- In-Kind

# Financial



# Expenses



- Overhead/Operational Expenses
- Research Program Supplies/Equipment Expenses
- Conference and Training Expenses
- Research Program Expenses





Join Us!

## Support GEH LAB

Thank you again to our 2016 Donors! We invite to become a sustaining donor and remind you that your donation of any amount will allow us to continue our research and capacity building efforts!

### Where your contribution goes:

\$25 = Supplies for 50 epidemiological surveys

\$50 = Travel for local participants to workshop and study site

\$100 = Research Poster printing for dissemination of results

\$250 = Software for Statistical Analysis (SPSS)

\$500 = Supplies for water quality testing

\$1000 = 1 Portable Air Quality (particulate matter) Device

\$2900 = Scholarship for 1 Research Scholar to the GEH-LAB

Research Program

### You can make a tax deductible donation at:

[www.crowdrise.com/gehlab](http://www.crowdrise.com/gehlab)

We thank you for your continued support!

Follow our 2017 Research Program on Facebook ([facebook.com/gehlab](https://facebook.com/gehlab)) and Twitter (@geh\_lab).

'The 3rd leading cause of death for children under 5 in Myanmar is respiratory illness (WHO).'

## Join our Team as a Research Scholar or Intern

We have rolling applications for the Research Program and Internships. Join us in our efforts to promote and support healthy and safe environments around the world! To learn more about the 2018 Research Summer Program contact us at [admin@gehlab.org](mailto:admin@gehlab.org)







## 2016 DONORS

Thank  
You!

Loo Adepoju  
Claire Allen  
Christopher Bateman  
Wendy Bostwick  
Jacqueline Coulson  
Alice Court  
Jennifer Gray  
Takuya Hamasaki  
Kie Kasuga  
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Richard Smith  
Avanti Wadugodapitiya  
Dara Wegman-Geedey  
Molly West  
Tomoyuki Yatsuhashi  
Fumio Yokomizo



# Leadership



**Tomoyuki Shibata, Ph.D., M.Sc.**

*Co-founder & Executive Director*

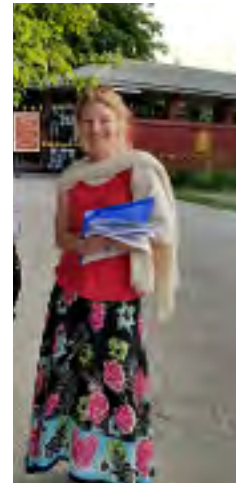
Dr. Shibata, Associate Professor of Public Health at Northern Illinois University has been passionate about using science to make a difference locally and internationally since he first visited the infamous landfill slum, called "Smokey Mountain," in Manila, Philippines.



**Heidi West, M.A.**

*Co-founder & Director of Programs and Operations*

As a passionate and resourceful international program director, Ms. West has dedicated her life to the realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to building an informed global community in support of multifaceted health and development issues.



## Board of Directors



**Wendy Bostwick, Ph.D., MPH.**

*President*

Dr. Bostwick is an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Her research areas include sexual orientation and health, mental health and health disparities. She has conducted extensive research on the health effects of stigma and discrimination and women's health.



**Helen Solo-Gabriele, Ph.D., P.E.**

*Treasurer*

Dr. Solo-Gabriele has over 20 years of experience in the fields of engineering and public health. Her multi-disciplinary work includes a diverse range of research and industry projects in both academic and non-academic institutions. She brings experience in research, education and administration as well as international experience in resource limited settings.



**Jennifer Gray, Ph.D., MPP**

*Secretary*

Dr. Gray is an Associate Professor of the Public Health Program at Northern Illinois University, College of Health and Human Sciences. She has worked with vulnerable populations and has expertise in work stress and end-of-life services challenges as well as health promotion behaviors and access to health services for persons with disabilities.





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