



Unité de santé internationale

Improving population health in low and middle income countries



Activity Report
2022-2024

Université 
de Montréal
et du monde.

UNITÉ DE SANTÉ
INTERNATIONALE
ÉCOLE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE



Université 
de Montréal


CHUM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Message from the Dean and the Director
5	The Team
7	About us
8	USI in 2022-2024
9	USI's Interventions Worldwide
10	Caribbean
12	Africa
16	Maghreb and the Middle East
19	Asia
21	Contribution to the Academic Mission
23	Knowledge Sharing



Message from the Dean



For 35 years, the Unité de santé internationale (USI) has pursued its global commitment to improving health and living conditions for populations. By mobilizing the strengths of the School of Public Health, the entire University, and a large network of partner institutions, the USI provides a powerful instrument of solidarity. This enables us to collectively contribute to global health, intervening in various regions of the world, including some of the most difficult-to-access areas, conflict zones, and regions marked by poverty.

This annual report, covering the period 2022-2024, highlights the scope and critical importance of the work carried out by the USI to reduce inequalities, facilitate access to essential services, uphold fundamental human rights, and reduce the vulnerability of disadvantaged populations. The projects presented in this report and the achievements that follow reflect a philosophy of intervention based on collaboration with other partners, active community engagement, and local capacity building.

The work of the USI relies on the determination of a large number of dedicated professionals at various levels, working to implement necessary changes and make a difference. This report serves as a way to recognize their efforts and honor their achievements.

Carl-Ardy Dubois
Dean,
École de santé publique de l'Université de Montréal (ESPUM)

The 2022-2024 period has been marked by the aftermath of the pandemic, political instability, wars, polarization of societal values, and the impacts of climate change. These challenges highlight social inequalities and their repercussions on the most vulnerable groups.

In this context, the USI and its partners are more committed than ever to deploy strategies that improve access to quality health services. These actions extend to conflict zones, urban centers, and remote regions. The USI continues its collaborations in West and Central Africa and the Caribbean while establishing new partnerships in Asia, particularly in Bangladesh and the Philippines, as well as in the Middle East. Its activities are also expanding in Tunisia and Morocco.

Requests for collaboration in specific areas are increasing, such as One Health, universal health coverage, and NEXUS approaches. Strengthening competencies in related disciplines (management, nursing sciences, medicine, midwifery, optometry, etc.) remains central to our actions. A strong emphasis is placed on modern teaching tools, such as simulation, distance learning, and educational technology, to ensure that partner countries have quality human resources in sufficient numbers.

With 35 years of global engagement, the USI has built an extensive network of active partners in over 34 countries. This community contributes to the development of adapted policies and programs, field interventions, and knowledge sharing to improve population health.

Congratulations to all our team, collaborators, and partners for their remarkable work!



Karina Dubois-Nguyen
Director,
Unité de santé internationale

Executive Committee

Committee Chairman

Carl-Ardy Dubois, Dean, ESPUM

Valérie Amiraux, Vice-Rector, Community and International Partnerships, Université de Montréal (UdeM)

Karina Dubois-Nguyen, Director, USI

Luc Boileau, National Director of Public Health, Province of Quebec

Patrick Cossette, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, UdeM

Hélène Salette, Executive Director, Secrétariat international des infirmières et infirmiers de l'espace francophone (SIDIEF)

Binta Tidiane Diallo, former World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Togo, Congo, Mali and ESPUM graduate

Christina Zarowsky, honorary professor, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and Preventive Medicine

The team

USI headquarters is located in Montreal, Canada. Its technical teams actively collaborate with local partners to implement and monitor project activities.



Karina Dubois-Nguyen
Director



Caroline Auguste
Coordinator



Amal El Maaroufi
Manager administrative
and financial



Linda François
Senior Coordinator



Steven Isaza Acevedo
Financial Management Officer



Marie Jobin-Gélinas
Gender Equality and
human rights



Redouane Lamrani
Administrative Technician



Islene Lazo
Senior Coordinator



Sirine Medioub
Administrative Technician



Marie Oujoud
Communication Officer



Marie-Douce Primeau
M&E and Development
Manager



Geneviève Rouleau
Senior Coordinator



Silvia Torrado
Accounting clerk



André-Paul Vénor
Senior Coordinator

In 2022-2024, Miriam Colon Castillo, Felipe Garcia Ortiz, Charles Giraud and Catherine Lemouzy were also employed at USI.



Some of the field staff from the Tumaini project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with Islene Lazo, André-Paul Vénor and Marie Jobin-Gélinas (USI).

About us

USI is a significant Canadian francophone university center attached to the ESPUM. It aims to improve population health in low-and middle-income countries. With its 35 years of commitment and expertise in global health, the USI focuses on reducing inequalities by strengthening health systems and local governance. It promotes a partnership-based, interdisciplinary approach focused on empowerment, development, and knowledge transfer.

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

Strengthening health systems
and hospital management

Capacity building and
development of health human
resources

Sexual and reproductive health
and rights

Community mobilization

Training and knowledge
transfer

Gender equality

VALUES

- Equality** USI ensures that its projects lead to gender equality and encourage mindset changes to achieve this. Through advocacy activities, it aims to realize the right to health of target populations.
- Integrity** USI demonstrates integrity and transparency in fulfilling its mission. It upholds high ethical standards and commits to responding to the best of its abilities to the expectations of beneficiaries and partners through its Code of Ethics.
- Equity** USI is committed to implement necessary mechanisms to ensure that women, children, and vulnerable or marginalized groups have equitable access to healthcare.
- Partnership** USI collaborates with multiple institutions, including universities, NGOs, governments, international organizations, public health institutes, hospitals, community groups, and civil society organizations in Canada and abroad.
- Innovation** USI continuously seeks to improve itself and integrates innovative practices to advance its projects.



USI in 2022-2024



13 projects
13 countries of intervention



69M \$CAD project portfolio



8 funding partners



40 professors and
students from UdeM
mobilized



30 scholarships holders
From 10 countries
410K \$CAD allocated in
scholarships



Over 9 302 792 direct
and indirect beneficiaries
reached



10 health centers built or rehabilitated and 40 strengthened with equipment and essential medicines

35 years of commitment

Creation of USI, attached to the UdeM Faculty of Medicine under the interest of several professors in global health including Pierre Fournier who became the first director. Lucien Albert appointed director.

A global health branch is created at the Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM). USI begins to carry out activities with the CHUM.

USI becomes part of ESPUM following its creation.

USI celebrates 35 years of commitment and expertise

1989

2002

2014

2024

1998

2012

2015

Expansion of USI mission following the recommendations of an interfaculty committee, composed of professors and deans.

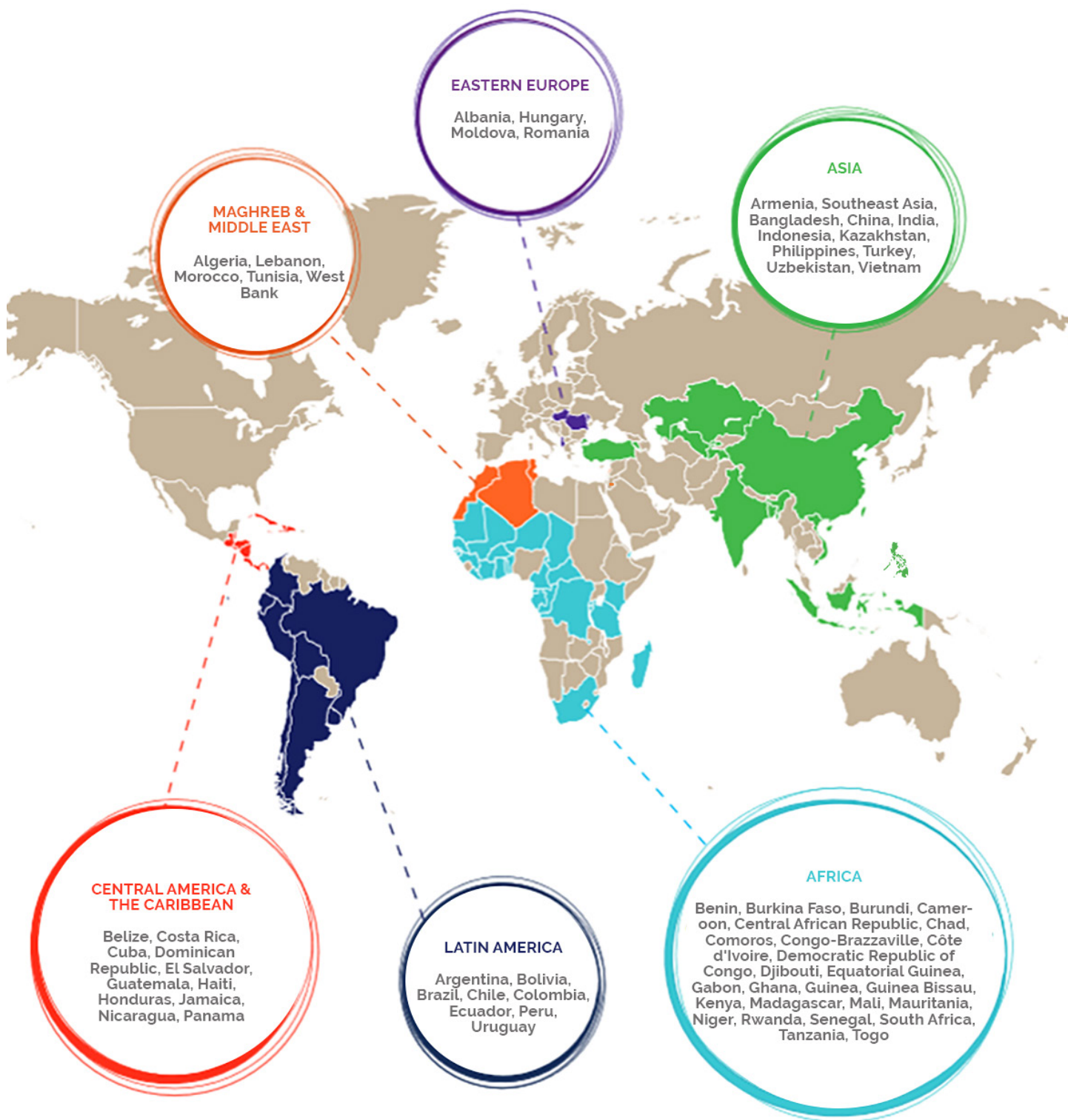
Privileged partnership with the CHUM, which enables to expand its network of healthcare professionals and its expertise in hospital expertise.

Appointment of Karina Dubois-Nguyen as Director.

USI Interventions Worldwide

Over 120 projects implemented in 34 countries over the past 35 years.

USI intervenes primarily in Francophone Africa and Haiti, but projects are also carried out in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.



Anne-Christy Orcel and Jonathan Simon, two graduates of the first cohort from optometry school in Haiti, during their internship at the School of Optometry of UdeM.



© Annelie Philibert, Université de Montréal.

Caribbean

Optometry Program - Phase II

Country: Haiti

Dates: 2022-2025

Partners: UdeM (USI, School of Optometry, School of Public Health), Optometry Giving Sight, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation, School of Optometry of Université d'État d'Haiti (UEH)

Funding: Optometry Giving Sight

Despite the country's sociopolitical context, most courses in the program are delivered virtually by local and international instructors. A partnership has been established with an internship site in the northern department of the country, where the first graduating cohort of 11 students completed a four-week internship. This hands-on experience provided exposure to various optometry techniques and ophthalmological pathologies.

Two graduates from the first cohort were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship for a four-month stay at the School of Optometry at the Université de Montréal to further enhance their technical skills.

Implemented in collaboration with the School of Optometry at the UEH, the project aims to improve access to eye health services and refractive error treatment for the Haitian population by promoting high-quality eye care services and enhancing their geographical accessibility.

To achieve this goal, the project focuses on the following key areas:

- Enhancing the quality of teaching and learning by strengthening the training program
- Supporting the sustainability of the training program through the development of a local faculty
- Increasing the number of qualified eye care providers to deliver quality eye care to the Haitian population, particularly in underserved areas
- Promoting the profession of optometry in Haiti

ACOSME - Support Project for the Mother-Child Health Continuum

Country: Haiti

Dates: 2016-2022

Consortium: USI/UdeM, CECI

Partners: Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP in french) and Department of North

Funding: Global Affairs Canada

Carried out in collaboration with the MSPP of the Republic of Haiti, the ACOSME project contributed to reducing maternal and infant mortality in Haiti. The project aimed to:

1. Improve the delivery (availability and quality) of an essential continuum of services that meet the needs and rights of mothers, pregnant women, and children ;
2. Enhance the use of healthcare services by women, their families, and young people ;
3. Raise awareness among Canadian audiences about health and rights issues affecting mothers, pregnant women, newborns, and children under five in Haiti.



© Georges Harry Rouzier



Key Achievements:

- Reached half a million residents of department of North
- Construction and equipping of three health centers
- Strengthening of 19 institutions in terms of service availability and quality of care for women
- Reduction in infant mortality rates in the region
- Increased attendance at prenatal clinics
- Improved access to healthcare
- Higher child vaccination rates
- Creation of innovative micro-projects
- Completion of six action-research studies

Haiti Support Plan

Country: Haiti

Dates: 2023-2026

Partners: USI/UdeM, MSPP, Department of North, UEH

Funding: Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services (MSSS in french)

As part of the Quebec government's «Committed to Haiti» program, implemented through the 2023-2026 Support Plan, USI received \$500,000 CAD in funding from MSSS for three sub-projects over a three-year period:

1. Support Project for the Northern Health Department in Haiti

- Focuses on improving access to primary healthcare for the most vulnerable groups.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) through the Northern Health Directorate.
- Collaboration with Women's Committees for Healthcare Services and the Departmental Coordination of the Ministry for Women's Affairs and Women's Rights.

2. Visual Health for All: Supporting Quality Eye Care Services in Cap-Haïtien

- Implemented by the School of Optometry at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of UEH.
- In collaboration with the Cathy Pearson & Fortune Previl Memorial Clinic.

3. Strengthening Crisis Response Capacity for a Resilient Healthcare System (to come)

- A project supporting crisis management training for Haitian healthcare managers.
- Training conducted in collaboration with ESPUM and the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of UdeM
- Implemented through the DESS in Health Systems Management program and the National Unit for Health Emergency Management of MSPP.



AFRICA

TUMAINI – Health and Rights of Women, Adolescents, and Children

Countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo & Burundi

Dates: 2022-2027

Consortium: UdeM (USI and Observatoire Hygeia), Panzi Foundation

Partners: Denis Mukwege Foundation, Lawyers Without Borders Canada, Global Strategies

Funding: Global Affairs Canada

Implemented by USI and the Observatoire Hygeia of UdeM in collaboration with the Panzi Foundation, TUMAINI supports the activities of the Panzi Foundation and Panzi Hospital. Stemming from Dr Denis Mukwege's vision and with the support of the UdeM, the project strengthens holistic services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. It enhances the capacities of the Panzi Foundation in four health zones in South Kivu and one in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo), as well as in four territories in Burundi.

Key Components of the Project:

1. Improving the delivery and management of healthcare services.
2. Enhancing the sociocultural, financial, and geographical accessibility of healthcare services.
3. Promoting policies, legal frameworks, and healthcare services based on research-driven knowledge.

The project engages multiple faculties of Université de Montréal and incorporates a cross-cutting action-research component. Designed with an equity-based approach, the initiative prioritizes reaching the most marginalized and vulnerable populations. For sustainability and long-term impact, the project focuses on strengthening local resources, integrating environmental concerns, and advancing gender equality and human rights. These aspects are embedded into both specific interventions and cross-sectoral strategies, ensuring significant impacts at the local and provincial levels.

ASSK – Access to Health Services in Kinshasa

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Dates: 2018-2024

Consortium: Santé Monde and USI/CHUM

Partners: Ministry of Public Health (MSP in french), City-Province of Kinshasa

Funding: Global Affairs Canada



ASSK aimed to improve the health of women, children, and adolescents living in the province of Kinshasa. It targeted seven health zones and included two main components:

1. Improvement of essential health services, focused on building technical capacities and ensuring the availability of material resources to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare services, strengthened management capacities, hygiene practices, and biomedical waste management, prioritized women's, adolescents', children's, and newborns' health, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights.
2. Utilization of essential health services, focused on developing awareness and sensitization capacities among health center staff, general reference hospitals, and community actors to promote best practices in sexual and reproductive health, and aimed to increase financial and geographical access to healthcare services for populations in the targeted health zones.



Key Components of the Project:

- 28 officials from the Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene, and Prevention, along with project experts, received training in sexual and reproductive health and rights, while 49 individuals were trained in adolescent- and youth-friendly health services ;
- 156 adolescent peer educators from 16 schools across four health zones were trained in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights ;
- Two Adolescent Committees (CADO) were established in the Kasa-Vubu health zone and the Nkieme health area. These committees serve as a bridge between adolescents and health centers, conduct awareness campaigns on SRHR, and advocate for adolescent health and rights ;
- Two Women's Health Service User Committees (CFU) were established to improve community engagement in healthcare ;
- The use of childbirth services at the Kinkosi Reference Health Center increased significantly, from an average of 4 to 40 deliveries per month ;
- One scientific article and two project capitalization reports were published, contributing to knowledge-sharing and policy development.



YELLEN – Rights and Innovations in Sexual and Reproductive Health

Country: Mali

Dates: 2020-2025

Consortium: USI/CHUM, CECI

Partners: Regional Directorate of Health (DRS), Regional Directorate of Social Development and Solidarity Economy (DRDSES), Regional Directorate for the Promotion of Women, Children, and Families (DRPFEF), National Office of Reproductive Health (ONASR), Regional Federation of Community Health Associations (FERASCOM), and the Academies of Kayes, Nioro, and Kita.

Funding: Global Affairs Canada



In 2022, YELLEN launched the pilot project Ki La Di («to advise you» in Bambara) aimed at raising awareness among adolescents in the Kayes region about sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and gender-based violence.

The project uses digital tools such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and an Android application to provide information and interactive discussions while organizing awareness activities in the four targeted high schools. The goal is to prevent risky situations affecting adolescents' physical or mental health and to improve their knowledge of their rights, facilitating access to healthcare services and advocacy efforts.

YELLEN aims to contribute to reducing gender inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and adolescents in seven districts of the Kayes region: Bafoulabé, Diéma, Nioro, Ossoubidiagna, Sagabari, Séféto, and Yélimané.

It is based on the assumption that increasing the decision-making power of women and adolescents for better control over their health will promote the use of quality sexual and reproductive health services adapted to their needs.

It proposes an innovative collaboration model aimed at harmonizing the work of health service providers, civil society actors, particularly women's groups and decentralized local authorities.

YELLEN provides technical and material support to health structures and the public health system. It raises awareness and mobilizes communities in synergy with these interventions. It strengthens the skills of healthcare system actors to sustainably improve the quality and availability of care and increase the accessibility of health services.

ELUZO – Women Fighting Against Zoonoses

Countries: Senegal and Burkina Faso

Dates: 2023-2028

Consortium: UdeM (UdeM International, USI, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, ESPUM, and other faculties involved in the One Health hub) and University of Guelph

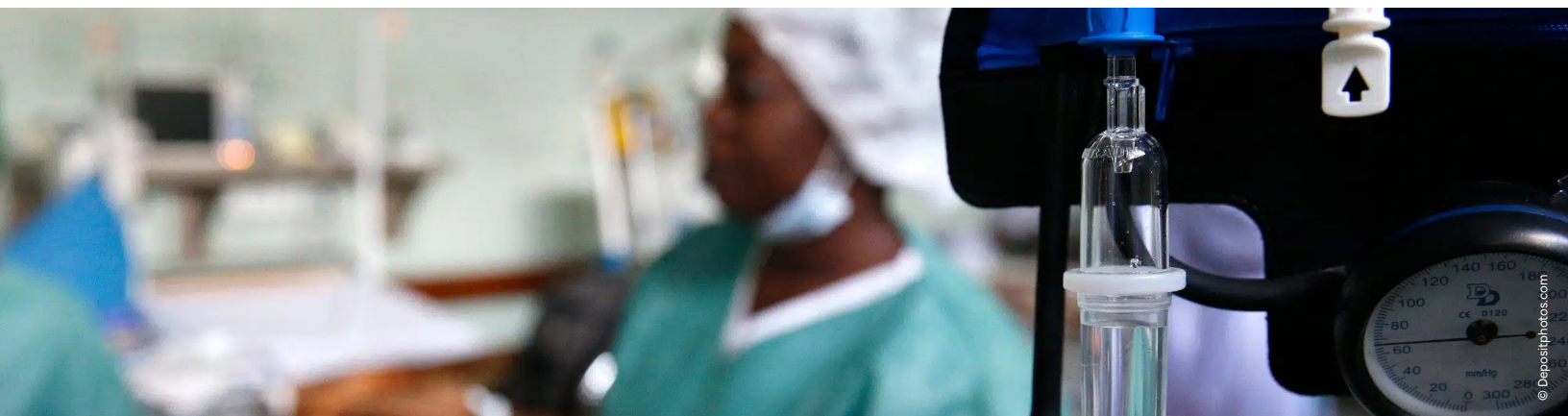
Partners: Société d'études et de recherche en santé publique, Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Institut de recherche en sciences de la santé, Association One Health Burkina Faso, Croix-Rouge burkinabé, Coopération pour le monde en développement, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, École inter-États de sciences et médecine vétérinaires, and Association Groupement d'intérêt économique ADAF YUNGAR

Funding: Global Affairs Canada



ELUZO – Women Fighting Against Zoonoses aims to improve community health and promote equitable One Health empowerment for poor women and girls in regions of Senegal and Burkina Faso where the prevalence of zoonotic diseases at the human-animal-environment interface is high. Its interventions are structured around three main pillars:

1. Strengthening community capacities and increasing the participation of women and girls in the fight against zoonoses.
2. Enhancing and integrating surveillance, prevention, and control systems while considering gender equality issues.
3. Empowering women and girls economically by protecting their livelihoods.



Support for Donka University Hospital

Country: Guinea Conakry

Dates: 2022-2024

Partners: Netsen Group, USI/CHUM, Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene

Funding: Netsen Group

This mandate was awarded to USI by Netsen Group, the concessionaire of CHU Donka, which manages the hospital under a concession contract signed with the Government of Guinea. USI's technical assistance focused on:

- Supporting the hospital's opening process for this university hospital with over 500 beds
- Providing advisory support on the hospital and care project
- Planning the gradual opening of all hospital services
- Governance, human resource management, service organization, and development
- Training and establishing structured operational mechanisms between the hospital, universities, and health sciences schools
- Implementing an internal quality evaluation system and monitoring and evaluation of results



© Nablus university

Maghreb and the Middle East

Technical Support Project to the Ibn Sina College of Nursing and Midwifery (ISC) in Nablus

Country: West Bank

Dates: 2022-2027

Implementation: French Red Cross and USI/UdeM

Partners: Faculty of Nursing Sciences at UdeM, Nablus University for Vocational and Technical Education, Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHE-SR), Palestinian Ministry of Health, Croix-Rouge Compétence, Palestinian Red Crescent

Funding: Agence française de développement

This project aims to contribute improving the quality of healthcare in the West Bank by strengthening qualified human resources through the development of the Ibn Sina College. Its objectives include the construction of a building adapted to the current and future needs of ISC resilient, energy-efficient, and gender-sensitive; the development of high-quality initial and continuing education programs tailored to the healthcare needs of the population for nurses, midwives, and other health professions; and the integration of gender issues into ISC's governance and training programs. USI supports the development and implementation of the gender strategies, the creation of a master's degree and the strengthening of research at ISC.

Skills for Employment Project in the Francophonie

Countries: Morocco and Lebanon

Dates: 2017-2022

Implementation: UdeM (USI, Vice-Rectorate for Community and International Partnerships, Faculty of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine, and University Pedagogy Center), Université St Joseph de Beyrouth (Faculty of Nursing, Occupational Therapy Institute, Public Health Institute), Université Balamand de Tripoli (School of Architecture, Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, Faculty of Health Sciences), Université Mohammed V de Rabat (University Entrepreneurship Center, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy), Université Cadi Ayyad de Marrakech (Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy), Fikra Foundation

Funding: Global Affairs Canada



Key Components of the Project:

- Creation of the first university program in occupational therapy in Lebanon ;
- Establishment of a family medicine program in Morocco ;
- Strengthening of the nursing sciences program in Lebanon ;
- Training and support for teams of university pedagogy multipliers, business creation advisors, and coaches for young entrepreneurs ;
- Adoption of inclusion policies prioritizing students and staff with disabilities ;
- Creation of sustainable structures to support students throughout their academic journey.



The Skills for Employment Project was a Morocco/Lebanon university partnership aimed at supporting four partner universities. It serves as a relevant example of the crucial role universities play as development partners. The project improved the alignment of services and training programs with labor market needs while promoting inclusivity in Morocco and Lebanon. Partner universities received support on multiple fronts, including governance, entrepreneurship, program development, university pedagogy, digital transformation, student success and academic journey support, as well as the integration of diversity and sustainable development considerations.

Collaborations with the Mohammed VI Foundation for Science and Health



Country: Morocco

Dates: 2023-2028

Partners: USI and various faculties of UdeM, including Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, and Education Sciences

A five-year partnership agreement was signed between the UdeM and the Mohammed VI Foundation for Science and Health.

The project facilitates various collaborations aimed at student and faculty mobility, as well as exchanges on academic topics such as research and innovation, learning and teaching through simulation, pedagogy in health sciences, and hospital management. These collaborations were established with different partners of the Mohammed VI Foundation, including the International Hospital, the University of Health Sciences, and the Center for Research and Innovation.

The members of the Moroccan delegation were accompanied by Karina Dubois-Nguyen, director of USI, Dr. André-Paul Vénor, principal coordinator at USI, and Dr. Réjean Hébert, previous dean and associate professor at ESPUM.

Certified training program for the Operationalization of the National Health Policy

Country: Tunisia

Dates: 2023-2024

Implementation: USI/UdeM and the Department of Management, Evaluation, and Health Policy (DGEPS in french) of ESPUM

Partners: World Health Organization Tunisia Office, Ministry of Health of Tunisia

Funding: World Health Organization



©Tunisia's Minister of Public Health

Tunisia's Minister of Public Health, Dr Ali Mrabet, accompanied by representatives of the Ministry and implementing partners.

The Certified training Program for the operationalization of the National Health Policy (PCO-PNS in french) project supported the implementation of the National Health Policy to achieve the government's 2030 vision, a health system reform aimed at progressively restructuring the organization of healthcare services, health financing, and governance. Around 100 executives and managers from various levels of the health network, representing all governorates of the country, benefited from a capacity-building program in management through certified training and coaching by Canadian and Tunisian experts.

Within a few months, the project enabled the planning of 18 large-scale operational projects addressing real professional situations. These projects are ready to be deployed at different levels of the healthcare system and align with the seven pillars of the new health policy (1. Governance, leadership 2. Financing and health insurance 3. Health human resources 4. Health information systems 5. Infrastructure and equipment 6. Drugs, medical devices and other pharmaceutical products 7. Health service delivery). The project's success and the enthusiasm generated through the training program validated the andragogical and pedagogical approach used.



Key Results of the Project

- Development of an educational toolkit of over 250 reliable and easily accessible resources to facilitate the transfer of acquired skills to new groups of Tunisian managers.
- 120 hours of training provided to 99 managers.
- Planning of 18 large-scale operational projects ready for deployment.

Now we must work so that everyone becomes a promoter of the training in their region - Participant Tayeb Hassen, Regional Hospital of Ben Guerdane



©Tunisia's Minister of Public Health



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ASIA

ProNurse - Women's Empowerment through the Professionalization of the Nursing Sector

Country: Bangladesh

Dates: 2021-2026

Implementation: Cowater International, UdeM (USI and Faculty of Nursing), Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing and Naripokkho

Partners: Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council, Bangladesh Nursing Association

Funding: Global Affairs Canada

The work environment is very important for keeping our body and mind healthy and productive. After the renovations of key learning facilities, supported by the ProNurse project, we now have a standard workplace to provide quality services. – Modina Khatun, Director of the College of Nursing, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

This project aims to strengthen the voice, influence, and autonomy of nurses in the healthcare sector in Bangladesh. It focuses on improving the quality of education provided to nurses in both the public and private sectors, enhancing the performance and professional status of nurses, and creating conditions that foster greater participation of nurses in the healthcare sector in Bangladesh. As part of this project, USI and the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Montreal contribute specifically to improving the quality of training for nurses and educators in both public and private sectors.

GRASP-UHC - Gender-Responsive Systems Approach to Universal Health Care

Country: Philippines

Dates: 2024-2029

Implementation: Plan International, Zuellig Family Foundation and USI/UdeM

Funding: Global Affairs Canada

The GRASP-UHC Project supports government efforts to improve health outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations, by providing affordable and equitable access to health goods and services. Through an integrated, rights-based, and locally driven approach, the project will contribute to improving health, including sexual and reproductive health, for the most vulnerable Filipinos, especially women and young girls.

Implemented in partnership with Plan International, the Zuellig Family Foundation, and USI, the project builds on the consortium's experience in underserved communities, its knowledge of the Philippine health systems, and recent consultations conducted in the four targeted provinces. The GRASP-UHC project operates in four provinces: Aklan, Eastern Samar, Ifugao, and Occidental Mindoro. USI supports action research, human resources in the integration of the gender dimension and strategies for the implementation of Universal Health Care(UHC).



Contribution to the Academic Mission

Internship Opportunity

USI contributes to the training of future global health leaders committed to sustainable and equitable health improvements for all worldwide.

On average, USI offers six internships per year, with three internships per academic term. The internship opportunities primarily cover global health topics, including environmental health and healthcare services administration.



Stéphanie Lynseh Bénao, Oscarine Arlène Teumi Nkendah, et Katherine Michaluk.

Internships can be conducted on-site in partnership, depending on security conditions, or remotely. Interns receive supervision and support from project coordinators, in accordance with ESPUM requirements.

Our 2022-2024 Interns

Stéphanie Lynseh Bénao, Mathilde Doré, Noémie Dulac, Bintou Gaye, Myrlande Jean-Pierre, Olivia Langelé, Bernadine Marcellin, Katherine Michaluk, and Oscarine Arlène Teumi Nkendah.



Development of an Open-Access Digital Educational Toolkit Katherine Michaluk, Master's in Public Health, Winter 2024 Session

Katherine joined the project in Tunisia. Her mandate was to compile and share relevant resources on best practices in health management with Tunisian managers targeted by the training program. At the end of her internship, Katherine had the opportunity to meet key stakeholders and present her results during the project's closing workshop in Tunis.

Testimonials ...

The opportunity offered by USI has taught me a great deal about interprofessional and intercultural collaborations. In addition to the team's warm and generous welcome, the strong support from my supervisor exceeded my expectations in terms of skill and knowledge development. This experience was both enriching in learning and truly inspiring. Olivia Langelé, Master's in Public Health – ESPUM, Fall 2022 Session

If you are looking for a high-quality immersive experience in the world of international public health, I highly recommend applying for USI's internship opportunities. Bintou Gaye, Master's in Public Health – ESPUM, Fall 2022 Session



USI develops and manages scholarship programs for ESPUM students and offers internships within its projects.

Strengthening a Global Network of Young Leaders Committed to Community Development

This program aimed to facilitate talent mobility between Canada and 138 countries. Through international experiences such as internships, research stays, study programs, and exchanges within partner organizations and the broader scholarship community, these young community builders strengthened their leadership, professional skills, and engagement with local and international community organizations. The program concluded in 2024.

Strengthening a Global Network of Young Leaders for Inclusion in Health and Sustainable Development in Response to Social and Environmental Vulnerabilities

This program focuses on talent mobility between Canada and Caribbean countries, aiming to train professional and research leaders in public health. Participants are exposed to the needs and best practices of interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration to implement the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals. The program is set to conclude in December 2025.

This scholarship provided me with essential financial support, allowing me to complete my internship in health services administration at CHU Sainte-Justine from January 2024 to April 2024 within the Directorate of Quality, Evaluation, Performance, and Ethics (DQEPE), reinforcing my goal of becoming a health services manager.

Nissia Oracius, Master's in Health Services Administration – ESPUM

Thanks to the scholarship, I was not only able to successfully complete my master's degree but also expand my professional network and collaborate with experienced researchers and practitioners who greatly inspired me in carrying out my project.

Jennifer Jean, Master's in Public Health – ESPUM

ESPUM, the only French-speaking institution in the world accredited by **CEPH** and **APHEA**



Knowledge Sharing

BLOG ARTICLES

More than 35 blog articles have been published to share the expertise and achievements of USI and its partners in their common mission to improve global health.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

> Primeau, M.-D., Jobin-Gelinas, M., Maleko Mayabanza, C., Mayaza, M., & Blouin, G. (2024). Improving access and quality of primary healthcare through women and adolescents' user committees: A mixed-methods case study in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. National Library of Medicine.

> Primeau, M.-D., Hatem, M., & Lazo, I. (2023, May). Reproductive health and rights in DRC: Overview of service quality and access in four health facilities in South Kivu. 90th ACFAS Congress, Virtual Free Communication.

> Merry, L., Castiglione, S. A., Rouleau, G., Létourneau, D., Larue, C., Deschênes, M. F., & Ahmed, L. (2023). Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system development, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability for healthcare professionals in low- and lower-middle-income countries: A rapid scoping review. BMC Medical Education, 23(1), 498.

UNIVERSITY COURSES

USI team continues to expand its contributions in course sessions at ESPUM:

SPU 1002	Global Health Issues
ASA 6764	Project Management and Organizational Change
ASA 6734	Foundations of Global Health
SPU 6600	Globalization and Public Health
ASA 6765	Evidence-Based Management Practice
SPU 7601	Research Practices in Global Health





EVENTS

USI participates in and co-organizes scientific events to share its expertise and best practices and strengthen its network.

- > 2nd Congress of the Mukwege International Chair – November 2022, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- > Roundtable during International Development Week: The role of higher education institutions in achieving the SDGs, with UdeM International – February 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > Women in Global Health Research, with the UdeM Global Health Student Community (CESM) – March 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > Conference by Richard Ribon Fletcher (MIT): Mobile health applications for global health, with Mira Johri – March 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > 8th World Congress of Francophone Nurses: Special program on health challenges in emerging countries, with SIDIIEF March 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > CanWaCH Summit (Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health) on Global Health Impact: Tumaini Project status update with Marie Jobin-Gélinas and Islene Lazo (USI) – April 2023, Ottawa, Canada
- > 90th ACFAS Congress: Sakife photo exhibition and free communication on health and reproductive rights in the DRC with Marie Douce Primeau (USI) – May 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > 29th Congress of the International Council of Nurses: Poster presentation, Advancing nurse educator training in Bangladesh, ProNurse Project, with Geneviève Rouleau (USI) – July 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > Women Deliver Conference – With the Tumaini Project teams – July 2023, Kigali, Rwanda
- > CERIUM Conference, co-organized with USI: Do Africans have the right to health? – October 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > ESPUM Open House – November 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > The Green Belt of Ouagadougou, discussion led by Marie-Douce Primeau (USI), as part of a One Health and Urban Health event by UdeM International – November 2023, Montreal, Canada
- > Webinar – Health Financing: Learning from Morocco's experience with activity-based pricing, co-organized by CIRANO, ESPUM, and USI – January 2024, Montreal, Canada
- > Discussion: Developing best practices and collaboration between academia and NGOs, with Karina Dubois-Nguyen (USI) as a panelist – January 2024, Montreal, Canada
- > Conference: The resilience of women, girls, and communities in the face of gender-based violence, co-organized with USI, Médecins du Monde, and the Wallonia-Brussels Delegation – April 2024, Montreal, Canada
- > Discussion: West Africa's EcoHealth Chair – A story of collaborative, interdisciplinary, and participatory intervention and research, co-organized with USI and CReSP – April 2024, Montreal, Canada
- > 91st ACFAS Congress, Roundtable: Community health projects as pathways for social transformation in a context of polycrisis, organized by the University of Sherbrooke with participation from Geneviève Rouleau (USI) – May 2024, Ottawa, Canada
- > 15th Workshop of the International Network for Research on Inequalities in Child Health (INRICH), with Karina Dubois-Nguyen (USI) as a member of the organizing committee – May 2024, Montreal, Canada
- > 4th Congress of the Mukwege International Chair: «Sexual Violence and Childhood in War» – June 2024, Angers, France

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2022-2024 Activity Report

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2022-2024

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