Global Strategies empowers communities in the most neglected areas of the world by improving the lives of women and children through healthcare.

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Letter from Josh & Nicole

2023 has been a pivotal year for Global Strategies as our work reached more communities than ever before. Thank you to our partners, supporters and volunteers for making this possible.

In the 2023 Annual Report, you will learn about how Global Strategies’ digital innovations are being used widely on a large scale even as we remain deeply rooted in our core programs. We believe it is this dual nature of work that makes Global Strategies so unique: our digital innovations aim to impact global problems affecting millions of people even as our direct care programs connect us to the real-world, daily challenges of specific communities and clinics. These two aspects of our work are complementary, ensuring that our innovations are well-designed for health systems with considerable constraints.

In the coming year we will be connecting with our supporters and sharing our vision for the future. We look forward to seeing you.

We could not do this work without your generous gifts and support. Thank you for being a part of Global Strategies.

Nicole Rubin, Chair
Dr. Joshua Bress, President

Impact Highlights

7,539 Pregnant women and children receiving HIV and nutrition care
5,578 Survivors of gender-based violence receiving care
32,000 NoviGuide assessments made, to date
156 Healthcare workers receiving training and support
100 Hospitals/clinics providing post-violence care
As of November 1, 2023, healthcare workers around the world have used NoviGuide 32,000 times to improve care quality in their communities. Most of those uses have been with our Newborn Essentials software, a set of interactive digital pathways that help nurses, midwives and doctors care for small and sick newborns in settings without neonatal specialists. The translation of the newborn software into French led to a rapid increase in use with our partners in eastern Congo. With new sites and partners coming on board, we expect to surpass 100,000 uses in 2024.

“It is deeply satisfying to reach this scale,” says program manager Jean Armas, “These thousands of uses are happening in labor wards and neonatal units on the frontlines of addressing the #1 cause of child mortality—not surviving the critical newborn period.”

NoviGuide’s Reach: Diagnostic Expansion and Potential

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The NoviGuide’s scale is just one of the major milestones achieved this year. Global Strategies President Dr. Joshua Bress presented the software’s core technology at MEDINFO, a large medical informatics conference in Australia. NoviGuide was also nominated for the Prix Galien in the Best Digital Health category in New York City.

“As the use of NoviGuide expands and we share our work with our groups, we are learning how we can be most helpful,” explains Dr. Bress. “Many hospitals want to use the newborn software, but just as many organizations reach out to us about using the NoviGuide platform for other global health priorities. We started off trying to solve a neonatal problem, but along the way we developed a platform that works for any clinical guideline.”

Global Strategies is using the NoviGuide platform to grow its clinical library thanks to grants the organization has received to develop algorithms related to women’s health, sexually transmitted infections and emergency medicine. The work is already underway and will be combined with the effort to help newborns; many sexually transmitted infections, like HIV and syphilis, affect both mother and child. By 2024, Global Strategies will have digital pathways addressing all common sexually-transmitted infections for settings where testing is available, but also for low-resource contexts where healthcare workers must treat solely based on symptoms. 

“We are trying to help patients by helping healthcare workers,” says Director of Software Design and Development Elon Danziger, “The more NoviGuide does, the more likely nurses will pick it up when delivering care.”
This year our neonatal nurse training program in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The program is led by Nurse Elysa Samvura, together with physician leaders Drs. Eulalie Vindu, Stan Hangi and Marlene Mapendi Dcundy, to bring high-quality, locally-led neonatal nurse training to the North Kivu Province. Today, nearly every large birth center in Goma has had nurses trained by this high-impact initiative based in the provincial capital.

“In settings like the United States a neonatal nurse is a recognized specialty, but more than that it is an identity,” says DRC Program Manager Dr. Givano Kashemwa, “We wanted to bring that level of professionalism to our community.”

The program is life-saving. Nurses from throughout Goma and its suburbs travel to the HEAL Africa Tertiary Hospital to receive side-by-side mentorship in newborn care from expert Congolese nurses. “These skills cannot be learned overnight,” says Jean Armas, Program Coordinator. “What makes Global Strategies’ program unique is that it gives nurses protected time to work in a busy neonatal unit.” Nurses leave the program with essential skills and professional connections. These connections ensure the progress continues after the nurses return to their home institutions. Alumni from the program have created a peer network for clinical questions, neonatal transfers and ongoing professional development.

“Neonatal mortality is the leading cause of child mortality worldwide,” says Dr. Kashemwa, “The treatment isn’t a medicine, it’s a nurse. I’m proud to be building a professional neonatal nurse network where it is needed most.”

**Financials:**

**Income: FYE 2023**

- Grants 69% $871,320
- Contributions 13% $159,660
- In-Kind 11% $139,889
- Other 7% $85,078

*Complete audited financial statements can be found at globalstrategies.org*

**Expenses: FYE 2023**

- Program 83% $1,165,550
- General & Administrative 13% $187,031
- Fundraising & Development 4% $48,072

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10th Anniversary: Neonatal Nurse Training Program

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