



GLOBAL BRIGADES RESEARCH GUIDE



Thank you for your interest in supporting and collaborating with Global Brigades, by dedicating your time to further its research and evaluation efforts. In order to ensure the feasibility of your proposed research project and its alignment with Global Brigades' mission, we ask that you please complete this application process. Within this guide you will find information regarding the research process, proposal requirements, and Global Brigades terminology.

Research Process Outline

Step 1- Connect with an M&E Associate

- Depending on which country you are looking to conduct research in, you will want to reach out to the corresponding Monitoring and Evaluation Associate:

Honduras: Maddison Staszkiwicz (maddison@globalbrigades.org)

Nicaragua: Kim Baker (kim.baker@globalbrigades.org)

Step 2- Introduce yourself and your proposed research

- Send an email to your Associate including:
 - Your name
 - Your brigade and month/year of your brigade (if applicable)
 - Brief introduction to your topic in mind

Step 3 - Set up an introductory call

- Prior to drafting your proposal, it can be helpful to receive some recommendations from your Associate. This call can also help with developing your research question, expectation setting, and logistical considerations.

Step 4- Draft your proposal

- For instructions on writing your proposal, see "Research Proposal Requirements," page 4

Step 5- Submit proposal

- Email the first draft of your proposal to your M&E Associate. The Associate will provide feedback, as well as obtain feedback from Global Brigades' Director of Impact & Evaluation.



Research Process Outline (cont.)

Step 7- Coordinate logistics

- If your research is being conducted in a GB Program country, and you require resources beyond those typically allocated to a brigade, be sure to communicate to your M&E Associate so that your needs can be met. This includes but is not limited to: extra documentation (if going through IRB), hiring an interpreter, extra transport, etc.

Step 8 - Conduct Research or acquire GB data

- If you are conducting your research within the GB Program country, this is the step where you will collect your own data. If you are working with GB to utilize our already collected data, this is when your Associate will share that data with you.

Step 9 - Analysis and write-up

- Here is the exciting part where you really get to dig into the research and discover your findings! In your write-up, please be mindful of using Global Brigades terminology, as well as avoiding generalizations (see page 5).

Step 10 - Share your findings with Global Brigades

- Global Brigades is highly interested in your analysis and report findings! In sharing our resources and data, we require that you in-turn share your results back to us. Your data has the potential to inform programming decisions or create more awareness about a global health or development issue.



Research Proposal Requirements

- 1) Written Research Project Proposal – Including:
 - a. Introduction/Background
 - b. Objectives
 - c. Methodology
 - d. Expected Outcomes (Include any publication intentions)
 - e. Project Timeline
 - f. Project Budget
 - g. Project Funding Source(s)
 - h. Additional Needs/Considerations

**If you are submitting a proposal to conduct research in a GB Program country, independent of a scheduled brigade or internship, you must include these additional items:*

- 2) Two Professional/Academic Letters of Reference
- 3) Background Check.

When preparing your proposal please take the following into account:

- **Participant Protection, Privacy & Consent:** If your proposed research involves human participants or any potential use of personal data please include an explanation of how human subjects will be protected, and their privacy and consent be guaranteed. Additionally, please be sure to verify with your affiliated academic institution (if applicable) whether your proposal is subject to any requirements for approval by an Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- **Budget & Funding:** As Global Brigades does not manage a budget for external research projects, it is important that you are prepared to secure funding. If your proposed research involves field work on the ground in Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama or Ghana, please take into account the associated logistical costs. For details reach out to Global Brigades Director of Impact & Evaluation. Also, reach out to Global Brigades when developing your project timeline to check on the potential alignment to concurrent field activities, including brigades or community visits.
- **Global Brigades Staff Involvement:** Take into consideration the level of participation or support you will need from Global Brigades staff (if any) whether it be virtually or on the ground. This will allow Global Brigades to help determine feasibility, plan accordingly, and make any necessary budget adjustments.



Global Brigades Terminology

When writing about Global Brigades and our community partners we highly encourage you to use the terminology below. Global Brigades has a commitment to representing our community partners in a both an accurate and ethical way. While you conduct research with Global Brigades, we ask that you make this same commitment.

The Empowered 100:

The Empowered 100 is Global Brigades' commitment to empower 100 rural Honduran, Nicaraguan, and Panamanian communities that represent about 65,000 persons to permanently rise out of global poverty. The second objective of The Empowered 100 is to learn from this effort to create a blueprint to end rural poverty in Latin America in our lifetime.

Empowered Community:

Term to refer to communities that have completed the Holistic Model. This term should always be capitalized. An Empowered Community is one that has reached their goals in healthcare, WASH, and economic development. They now have the infrastructure, knowledge, leadership, and economic capacity to continue growing.

Holistic Model:

Global Brigades community development model. This is the official name of the model. The term should always be capitalized.

partner community/community partner:

Any community that we are working with whether it be in project planning, active implementation, or follow-up. The use of either partner community or community partner is dependent on context. Each are acceptable. For example "Global Brigades works in 100 partner communities" OR "Global Brigades works with 100 community partners" both work. This term does not need to be capitalized.

Healthcare; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH); & Economic Development:

The three components of our model that align with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals #3, #6, #8 respectively.



Global Brigades Terminology (cont.)

Word Replacements

- Village/villagers → community/community members
 - This is a self-derived definition from our community partners. Global Brigades uses terminology that individuals use to refer to themselves and others that live in their area.
- Third-world country → developing country
 - The categorization of first, second, and third-world countries is historically rooted in the Cold War. “Third world country” is a political term that has since become outdated. Global Brigades instead refers to our operating countries as “developing countries” as they are *developing* towards a more prosperous future.
- Mission → Brigade
 - The term, “mission,” has a significant religious context. Global Brigades has no religious affiliations. We define “Brigade” as the approximate week-length of times that volunteers partner with our organization in a GB operating country.
- Poor → Under-resourced
 - The term poor can be a pitying word that does not represent the strength and perseverance of communities. Instead we prefer to simply recognize that some communities and/or individuals lack the resources to overcome obstacles to development.

Generalizations and assumptions to avoid:

- That one or several communities involved in your study represent all rural demographics of the country you are researching in, or of Central America as a whole
- That there are no current or previous efforts from governments or local actors, even if a country is under-resourced
- That communities themselves are not knowledgeable about an issue and/or are unable to work towards their own health and development goals
- Implications or actions that can be taken on your research. While research is knowledge-giving and often times enlightening, be realistic with what immediate actions can be taken with your results or how your findings will be utilized.