

Global Surgery Amsterdam

Policy plan
2024-2026



GLOBAL
SURGERY
AMSTERDAM



www.globalsurgeryamsterdam.com

General information

Name and Status

Stichting Global Surgery Amsterdam (GSA) is a not-for-profit foundation established under the laws of the Netherlands and has its registered seat in Amsterdam.

ANBI

The Dutch abbreviation ANBI means “Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling”, or Public Benefit Organization. GSA is awarded the ANBI status.

Due to this status, the tax rules for public benefit institutions (ANBI) in the field of donation, inheritance and the deduction of donations (income and corporate tax) apply. Only institutions that the Tax Authorities have designated as ANBI can use the tax benefits. This recognition is also important for the people who care about the Foundation. They can only receive a donation deduction for income tax (IB) for donations to an institution that has a decision from the Tax Authorities.

GSA meets all of the following conditions:

- GSA is committed to at least 90% public interest.
- GSA is not for profit in all its generally useful activities.
- GSA and the people directly involved in the institution meet the integrity requirements.
- The directors or policymakers of the institution may not dispose of the institution's assets as if they were their own assets. There must be separate assets.
- GSA may not hold more assets than is reasonably necessary for the work of the institution. Therefore, equity must remain limited.
- The remuneration for directors is limited to an expense allowance or minimum attendance allowance.
- GSA has a current policy plan.
- GSA has a reasonable ratio between costs and expenditure.
- Money remaining after the closure of the institution is spent on an ANBI with a similar purpose.
- GSA complies with administrative obligations.
- GSA publishes certain data on an internet site.

RSIN/Fiscal number and Chamber of Commerce number

RSIN number: 858985664

Dutch Chamber of Commerce number: 79099720

Contact details

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January 2024 to December 2026

- 1. Mission Statement:** Improve access to essential surgical care around the world by pursuing education and research, and the development of technology. GSA is committed to advocate for, support, and implement initiatives that enhance surgical capacity, strengthen health systems, and improve surgical outcomes in low- and middle-income countries.
- 2. Objectives:** Global Surgery Amsterdam (GSA) is an international research and educational institution committed to addressing critical challenges in global surgery. Our goal is to pioneer sustainable initiatives aimed at enhancing access to safe surgical interventions, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. By designing comprehensive training programs, innovative training tools, and conducting research, GSA strives to empower local healthcare providers and institutions. We prioritize collaborative partnerships with governments, healthcare entities, and international organizations to foster the development and implementation of lasting solutions that elevate surgical care delivery worldwide.
- 3. Programs and Services:** In pursuit of its objectives, GSA has established its efforts on three key pillars:

A. Training and Education:

GSA organizes surgical training programs, workshops, and educational initiatives to strengthen surgical care. The aim is to make essential surgical care accessible in a sustainable manner for patients that need it the most.

Training plays a pivotal role in GSA's mission to enhance surgical care and capacity. Our training initiatives encompass both on-the-job and off-the-job approaches, ensuring comprehensive skill development and knowledge transfer among healthcare professionals. The development, implementation and distribution of educational materials and courses is an important activity of the organization.

On-the-Job Training: On-the-job training programs are designed to provide practical, hands-on experience to healthcare workers within clinical settings. Through these initiatives, participants have the opportunity to directly engage in surgical procedures under the guidance of experienced mentors. Key aspects of on-the-job training include:

- **Mentorship by Experienced Practitioners:** Trainees work closely with skilled surgeons and medical staff, benefiting from their expertise and guidance throughout the learning process.

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- **Practical Skill Development:** Participants actively participate in surgical procedures, gaining proficiency in various techniques and protocols.
- **Real-Time Learning:** On-the-job training allows trainees to encounter diverse surgical scenarios in real-time, fostering adaptability and critical thinking skills.
- **On-the job-training is directly linked to patient care.** GSA supports surgical and outreach activities by supporting health care providers in underserved populations to provide essential surgical services, in collaboration with local institutions.

Off-the-Job Training: Off-the-job training initiatives supplement traditional learning approaches with multimedia tools and educational resources. These initiatives are designed to enhance accessibility and flexibility in training delivery, reaching a broader audience of healthcare professionals.

Key features of off-the-job training include:

- **Digital Learning Resources:** GSA utilizes digital modules, and online platforms to deliver educational content to trainees.
- **Self-Paced Learning:** Participants have the flexibility to engage with training materials at their own pace, facilitating personalized learning experiences.
- **Remote Accessibility:** Off-the-job training initiatives enable healthcare workers to access educational resources from remote locations, overcoming geographical barriers to learning.
- **Interactive Learning Experiences:** Interactive elements such as quizzes, case studies, and virtual simulations enhance engagement and retention of learning objectives.

Education of medical students:

GSA actively engages in educating both national and international students about the principles and practices of global surgery. This educational outreach extends to participation in conferences and other platforms, where GSA shares insights and experiences to promote awareness and understanding of global surgical issues.

B. Research:

GSA takes an active role in initiating and supporting (PhD) research programs in partnership with local doctors and hospitals. This collaborative approach ensures that research endeavours are aligned with the needs and priorities of the communities served.

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C. Advocacy:

- GSA is dedicated to advocating for policies and investments that recognize surgical care as a fundamental element of both universal health coverage and broader global health agendas.
- Through our advocacy efforts, we aim to elevate the importance of surgical services within healthcare systems and ensure equitable access to surgical care for all individuals, irrespective of their socioeconomic status or geographical location.

4. Governance Structure:

General Board:

Responsible for strategic oversight, governance, and fiduciary duties, ensuring alignment with the organization's mission and values

Chair	Jonas Rosenstok
Secretary	Kerri Colman
Treasurer	Xander Pijnappel

Board of Directors:

Appointed to lead day-to-day operations, implement strategic initiatives, and represent the organization externally.

General director	Matthijs Botman
Program director	Jurre van Kesteren

Advisory Board:

Composed of experts in global health, surgery, public policy, and other relevant fields to provide guidance, expertise, and strategic direction.

Member advisory board	Jaap Bonjer
Member advisory board	Mark Bram Bouman
Member advisory board	Hay Winters

5. Financial Accountability and Management:

GSA's financial resources may consist of grants, donations, bequests, assets acquired by testamentary disposition and any further revenues. GSA will adhere to transparent financial practices, maintaining accurate records and ensuring compliance with accounting standards and regulatory requirements. Financial resources will be allocated prudently to maximize impact and sustainability, with regular monitoring and reporting on financial performance.

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6. Remuneration policy:

The 'DG-norm' (also called 'MFS II norm') was introduced by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of 2009. According to this salary standard, the directors of organizations involved in development cooperation do not earn more than the basic salary earned by a Director-General (DG) at a Dutch Ministry. GSA adheres to this norm and is also compliant with the 'VFI-norm' and the Dutch Standard Remuneration Act.

Board members and Advisory board members are unpaid. They receive no remuneration or expense allowance. They do have the right to request compensation for costs incurred, such as travel expenses or telephone costs.

7. Ethical Standards and Compliance:

GSA is committed to upholding the highest ethical standards in all its activities, including research, advocacy, and service delivery.

Compliance with relevant legal regulations, ethical guidelines, and professional standards will be rigorously enforced, with transparency and accountability as core principles.

8. Evaluation and Impact Assessment:

GSA will implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness and impact of its programs and interventions.

Feedback from beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders will be solicited and used to inform programmatic decisions and continuous improvement efforts.

9. Risk Management:

GSA will identify and mitigate risks associated with its operations, including financial, operational, legal, and reputational risks

Contingency plans will be developed to address potential disruptions and ensure the continuity of essential services and activities.

10. Partnerships and Collaboration:

GSA recognizes the importance of partnerships and collaboration in achieving its mission and goals. GSA will actively seek partnerships with governments, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, private sector entities, and community-based organizations to leverage resources and expertise

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11. Communication/publication:

Every year, GSA will keep its audience informed of the activities/projects undertaken through at least:

- An annual financial report
- A short substantive annual report

The annual financial report reflects GSA's performance in the relevant year. These performances are therefore expressed in figures. The substantive annual report and the news items provide brief and concise information about the activities carried out in that year and how those activities progressed.

12. Conclusion:

This Policy Plan reflects GSA's commitment to integrity, and impact in advancing global surgical care and addressing disparities in access to surgical services. By adhering to the principles and guidelines outlined herein, GSA aims to contribute meaningfully to improving surgical outcomes and promoting health equity worldwide.

This Policy Plan shall serve as a guiding framework for GSA's operations and shall be subject to periodic review and update to ensure alignment with evolving legal requirements, best practices, and organizational priorities.