



The Health of Women, Newborns, Children and Adolescents in Conflict Settings: Improving Evidence and Guidance for Effective Action A Regional Focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan

AGENDA

DATE	Tuesday, August 10, 2021
TIME/DURATION	3-6pm (Karachi) / 2:30-5:30pm (Kabul) / 6-9am (Toronto) / 12-3pm (Geneva) - 3 hours
LOCATION	Zoom virtual platform (login details provided in calendar invite)

This workshop will aim to reflect on the current regional situation of WCH in conflict settings, with a particular focus on challenges in implementation, existing evidence and gaps, the impact of Covid-19, and identifying synergies to move forward together. The session will begin with high-level speakers (40 mins), followed by break-out groups for participants to discuss select themes (75 mins), and closing with a plenary session (55 mins).

Workshop moderated by: Mir Asghar Ali Khan, AKU

Time (PK)	Topics	Presenters
3:00 – 3:10pm (10 mins)	Welcome & Opening Remarks Setting the Context: Afghanistan & Pakistan	Helga Fogstad, PMNCH Shafiq Mirzazada, Govt of Afghanistan Rana Safdar, Govt of Pakistan
3:10 – 3:20pm (10 mins)	AF-PAK Regional Context, Key Findings & Evidence Gaps	Zulfiqar A Bhutta, SickKids/AKU/BRANCH Karl Blanchet, U of Geneva/BRANCH
3:20 – 3:35pm (15 mins)	Afghanistan & Pakistan Country Case Studies: Key Findings & Implications	Shafiq Mirzazada, Govt of Afghanistan Jai K Das, AKU
3:35 – 3:45pm (10 mins)	Regional (Implementation & Service Delivery) Perspectives: Afghanistan & Pakistan	Wais Qarani, ANMC Nabeela Ali, JSI
3:45 – 3:50pm (5 mins)	Group Discussion Overview	Mir Asghar Ali Khan, AKU
3:50 – 5:05pm (75 mins)	Moderated Break-out Groups* (+ 5-minute break)	Workshop Participants (4 groups of 7-15 people)
5:05 – 5:55pm (50 mins)	Moderated Plenary Discussion of Key Points & Summary: Working Together to Move Research and Policy Priorities Forward in the AF-PAK Region	Karl Blanchet, U of Geneva/BRANCH
5:55-6:00pm (5 mins)	Closing Remarks, Next Steps & Thanks	Zulfiqar A Bhutta, SickKids/AKU

Note: Full bios of all speakers and moderators can be found below.

* The following themes have been assigned to focus the discussions during the **Break-out Sessions**:

1. Challenges in implementation and strengths/leverage points in Pakistan
Moderator: Jai Das, AKU
Note-taker/Supporter: Shamsa Panjwani, AKU
2. Challenges in implementation and strengths/leverage points in Afghanistan
Moderator: Shafique Mirzazada, Govt of Afghanistan
Note-taker/Supporter: Asghar Ali, AKU
3. Gaps in evidence and policy: Immediate future avenues to explore in Pakistan
Moderator: Ellen Thom, WHO Pakistan
Note-taker/Supporter: Ruby Syal, SickKids/BRANCH
4. Gaps in evidence and policy: Immediate future avenues to explore in Afghanistan
Moderator: Wais Qarani, ANMC
Note-taker/Supporter: Mehr Shah, PMNCH

NOTE: Each group will have the opportunity to also feed into a set of policy briefs (which are also **Required Readings**) that focus on the following topics:

- i. health workforce (security)
- ii. leadership, governance and coordination; and
- iii. health financing.

These documents have been provided in the calendar invite that was sent out for the event - see "Reading Package" folder). A guidance document outlining further details about the moderated break-out groups has also been developed and shared with all those attending. Additional resources relating to WCH in conflict settings can be found at: www.branchconsortium.com.

The **Plenary Session** will focus on discussing key points and identifying overlaps between the groups and regions, such as common monitoring and evaluating measures, accountability measures, and regional synergies for working together in conflict settings.

Speaker and Moderator Bios

Helga Fogstad, Executive Director, PMNCH

Helga Fogstad is the Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH). Strongly committed to human rights, public health and gender issues, Ms. Fogstad has extensive experience in forging partnerships and consensus building to promote the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents. She is a health economist with more than 30 years of public health experience, including many years in developing countries at sub-national and national levels, as well as at the global level within multilateral and bilateral agencies. Prior to her time at PMNCH, Ms. Fogstad was the Director of the Department of Global Health, Education and Research at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). In Norad, she guided Norway's efforts to promote the rapid scale-up of proven cost-effective interventions with a special focus on the health MDGs for women and children. In this capacity, she was actively engaged in political mobilization and advocacy initiatives, particularly surrounding the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, and related UN commissions on information and accountability, and on life-saving commodities for women's and children's health. In this capacity she often represented Norway in global health structures and events.



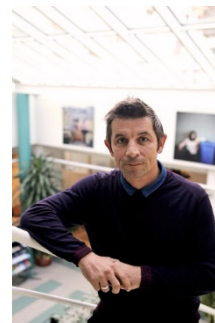
Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Founding Director, Institute for Global Health and Development, AKU and Co-Director, Centre for Global Child Health, Sick Kids Hospital, and BRANCH Consortium.

Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta is the Inaugural Robert Harding Chair in Global Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children, Co-Director and Director of Research at the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health and Founding Director of both the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, and Institute of Global Health and Development at Aga Khan University. Dr. Bhutta is a Distinguished National Professor of the Government of Pakistan, co-Chair of the Maternal and Child Health oversight committee of World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Region, and the Coalition of Centres in Global Child Health Chairman. He is a leading voice for health professionals supporting integrated maternal, newborn and child health globally. Dr. Bhutta leads large research groups in Toronto, Karachi and Nairobi with special interests in scaling up evidence-based, community setting interventions and implementation of RMNCAH&N interventions in humanitarian contexts. Dr. Bhutta obtained his MBBS from the University of Peshawar and his PhD from the Karolinska Institute. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. In 2020 he was awarded the honour of Fellow of the Royal Society.



Karl Blanchet, Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies & BRANCH Consortium

Professor Karl Blanchet is the Director of the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, and Professor in Humanitarian Public health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva. Karl was also the co-Director of the Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His research has focused on health system resilience and the development of priority package of health services in conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan or during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr Jai K Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, AKU

Dr Jai works as an Assistant Professor for the Division of Women and Child Health and is the Section Head of the Section of Public Health and Epidemiology at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. He has been actively involved in research including community and clinical based trials, population-based surveys, qualitative, mixed methods research and evidence based systematic reviews. He is also a lead author for the various Lancet series including 'Maternal and Child Undernutrition- 2013', 'Newborn and Neonatal Health- 2014', 'Stillbirth Series - 2016', 'Women's and Children's Health in Conflict Settings 2021' and Lancet undernutrition Series 2021. He is the author of more than 150 international peer-reviewed papers and contributed to more than 15 book chapters. He is also the editor of the book 'Pakistan, SDGs and Health'. His interests are related to the use of evidence in policy and programs, including estimates of burden of disease, estimating effectiveness of various interventions, development of research capacity and the strengthening of public health.



Dr Nabeela Ali, Country Representative / Chief of Party, JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc

Dr. Nabeela Ali brings 35 years of experience working with both the government and non-government (NGO and private) sectors for effective health programming in Pakistan. As an expert in public health and systems strengthening for RMNCH and Global Health Security. She has conceptualized large projects and programs and ensured successful implementation. Dr. Ali has worked at all four levels of health systems from federal, provincial to district and community level. She is a well-respected public health leader and practitioner. She has helped design national maternal, newborn and child health policies and strategies for national and provincial health departments, and has planned and implemented complex, highly successful public health programs considered as USAID flagship programs in Pakistan. Dr. Ali is recognized globally for her contributions in generating evidence for policy and design programs for poor and marginalized in Pakistan such as Chlorhexidine (CHX) for newborns cord care. A clinician and a public health expert, Dr. Ali holds both an MD/MBBS and an MPH. Dr. Ali is a proud mother of two sons and a daughter and is based in Islamabad.



Wais Qarani, President, Afghanistan Nurses and Midwives Council

Mr Wais Mohammad Qarani has completed his Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2009 and Masters of Science in Nursing in 2015 from the Aga Khan University School of Nursing in Karachi, Pakistan. Mr. Qarani has extensive nursing management experience in education and healthcare provision. Since April 2011 he is serving the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC) in #WCHinConflict different capacities; and currently he is the “Administrator/Director” for the Division of Nursing Services. Before this, Mr. Qarani was assigned through Jhpiego as “Technical Advisor” to the Afghanistan Midwifery and Nursing Education Accreditation Board; and he has also served AKU programs in Afghanistan as “Nurse Educator”. Besides leading and facilitating various small-scale quality improvement projects, Mr. Qarani has numerous publications. As part of his voluntarily services, he has served AKU Alumni Association Afghanistan Chapter as “President” during 2017-2019. Currently, he is the President of the Afghanistan Nurses and Midwives Council.



Ellen Thom, Technical Officer, WHO Country Office Pakistan

Ellen is a Public Health Practitioner with extensive experience in managing Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition including Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programmes. She has a master’s degree in international health obtained from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Scotland. She has worked with MOH, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and UN agencies at sub national, national and global levels. Ellen is currently leading the Healthier Population Through the Life Course Cluster in WHO Country Office Pakistan.



Shafiq Mirzazada, Deputy Minister for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Public Health, Afghanistan

Shafiq Mirzazada is currently the Deputy Minister for Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan. Before joining the government of Afghanistan, Dr. Mirzazada worked with a number of agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network in different capacities such as the Director for Academic Projects Afghanistan of the Aga Khan University, Chief Executive Officer and Country Program Director for the Aga Khan Health Service, Afghanistan, and the Aga Khan Foundation, Afghanistan. Dr. Mirzazada’s expertise range from research to program development and implementation in RMNCH. He brings more than 18 years of experience in public health, community health, research, capacity building, and policy development in health. Dr. Mirzazada is also a founding member of the Afghanistan National Public Health Association.

