



# NEWSLETTER | ISSUE NO. 5



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### HEAT RESILIENCE FOR ALL

Wellcome Trust-funded Research on Effective Interventions for Vulnerable Populations



The **Institute for Global Health and Development**, in partnership with the **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine** and **University College London**, spearheads a study to develop **heat mitigation interventions** for vulnerable populations in **urban** and **rural** areas of **Pakistan**. Supported by the **Wellcome Trust**, this research aims to combat the adverse impacts of heat by creating locally **tailored** context-specific **intervention packages**.

### NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE (NAFLD)

Pfizer-Supported Study Sheds Light on Burden and Markers of NAFLD in Pakistani Youth



Under the **Pfizer** Competitive Grants Program, a pioneering research **study** will be conducted by the **Department of Medicine** in collaboration with the **Institute for Global Health and Development** at Aga Khan University, under the supervision of **Dr. Om Parkash**, **Dr. Aysha Almas**, and **Dr. Jai Das**. This study aims to estimate the **burden** of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Non-Communicable Diseases among **adolescents** and **young adults** in the province of **Sindh, Pakistan**.

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

### A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Routine Antibiotics for Infants Less Than 6 Months of Age with Growth Failure/Faltering

**BMJ** Journals



A systematic review commissioned by **World Health Organization** aimed to synthesize **evidence** from current literature on the effects of systematically given, routine use of **antibiotics** for **infants** under **6 months** of age with growth failure/faltering.

[LINK TO PUBLICATION](#)

### COVID-19 VACCINES

How Efficient and Equitable Was the Initial Vaccination Process?

**MDPI**



This review **assesses** the **efficiency** and **equity** of the initial **COVID-19** vaccination process, considering the disparities in vaccination.

[LINK TO PUBLICATION](#)

## IGHD IN THE NEWS

### DR. JAI K. DAS EMPOWERS CHILD HEALTH

Appointed to the International Pediatric Association's Committee on Nutrition

Dr. Jai K. Das, a distinguished expert and Assistant Director at the Institute for Global Health and Development, has recently been appointed to the prestigious International Pediatric Association's Committee on Nutrition for the term 2023-2025. Additionally, Dr. Das holds the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health at Aga Khan University. With his profound expertise and experience in the field of child health and nutrition, Dr. Das is poised to make significant contributions in spearheading impactful initiatives and addressing emerging issues in this critical domain.

For further information about the International Pediatric Association and its endeavours, please [Click Here](#)





## WEBINARS, ACADEMICS & CONFERENCES



### THE ROLE OF THE MICROBIOME IN GLOBAL HEALTH

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Speakers Zulfiqar Bhutta, Co-Director of SickKids Centre for Global Child Health and Founding Director of the Institute for Global Health and Development, and John Parkinson, Senior Scientist in Molecular Medicine, shared their insights and expertise on the significant impact of the microbiome on global health. Following their talks, an open discussion was held with panellists Shaun Morris and Deborah O'Connor, providing an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas.

### THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS: EAST TO WEST PERSPECTIVES, CHALLENGES, AND SOLUTIONS

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The pilot Global Virtual Classroom programme facilitated a four-week online student research forum on climate change's health impacts. Students from the University of British Columbia and Aga Khan University collaborated across disciplines, co-creating original research. Guided by esteemed mentors, including Dr. Fozia Parveen, Dr. Tara Ivanochko, Dr. Zafar Fatmi, Dr. Michael Brauer, Dr. Jai Das, and Dr. Videsh Kapoor, participants fostered cross-cultural collaboration and explored innovative solutions.



### COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF AKU WITH AKU-ISMC

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The Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations (AKU-ISMC), London, marked Aga Khan University's remarkable 40th anniversary with an impactful event. Renowned speakers illuminated critical global health issues, emphasizing Pakistan and its social determinants. Discussions delved into power dynamics and politics shaping health and well-being, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Kumanan Rasanathan and a distinguished panel of experts: Dr. Karl Blanchet, Dr. Shehla Zaidi, Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, and Dr. Jeff Tan.



## IN-DEPTH LEARNING WORKSHOPS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN POLYCRISES

### **Workshop 01 (July 26 to 28, 2023 - Dubai)**

#### **Climate Change, Environment and Health**

This workshop on 'Climate Change, Environment and Health' will be held from 26-28 July 2023 in Dubai, UAE. The event aims to bring together global experts, Aga Khan University faculty, and Aga Khan Health Services partners working in the field of climate, environment, and health. The workshop will focus on the impact of climate change, including air pollution and extreme weather events, particularly heat, on human health. Participants will explore strategies to mitigate these effects and have the opportunity to learn about the latest research, share best practices, and network with colleagues. The workshop will contribute to guiding Aga Khan University and Aga Khan Development Network towards prioritized strategies for population-level adaptation and mitigation of climate change, emphasizing the role of policy and governance at local and national levels.

### **Workshop 02 (August 16 to 17, 2023 - Nairobi)**

#### **Climate Change, Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition: Brainstorming for Research & Action**

This workshop, being held in partnership with relevant Aga Khan Development Network agencies and global climate and agriculture experts, focuses on the nexus between climate change, agriculture, food security, and nutrition with a specific focus on the geographies that Aga Khan University and Aga Khan Development Network serve. It will explore the impact of climate change including extreme heat, changing seasonality, water availability, soil fertility and its pathways to impacting human health, nutrition, and development. The workshop will also discuss the biotechnology, global value chain and ways for sustainable agriculture targeting the most vulnerable populations and the need for resilient food systems. It will aim to facilitate consideration of intervention to promote food security, and relevant research to optimize nutrition for all in complex long standing crises.

### **Workshop 03 (November 2 to 3, 2023 - London)**

#### **Climate Change, Disasters, Humanitarian Action & Preparedness: Brainstorming for Research & Action**

This workshop, being held in close collaboration with the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, aims to discuss the landscape of climate change and its impact on living conditions, conflict/insecurity, population migration patterns and humanitarian emergencies emanating therefrom. This is a common finding now affecting many parts of the world where Aga Khan Development Network and Aga Khan University operate. The workshop will also discuss urban and rural response strategies to extreme heat events, floods, glacial melting and consider both mitigation and adaptation strategies. The workshop will also consider the current evidence gaps and opportunities for enhanced learning for the Aga Khan Development Network family.

### **Workshop 04 (November 26, 2023 - Karachi)**

#### **Consolidating Recommendations for Action to Address Climate Change and Environmental Health Strategy for Aga Khan University**

The fourth workshop will be held in liaison with the conference on 'Climate, Environment and Health' on 26th Nov 2023 in Karachi and would aim to finalize the priorities to address the strategy for climate change and environmental health. The aim is to collate prior background work and pooling intellectual and other resources to complement investments and partnerships in analysing the recommendations from the workshops. The expected outcome will be a systematic prioritized list of actions and research questions by specific area that could be a focus of attention over the next 12-24 months, either within existing or fresh projects or Aga Khan Development Network. This exercise would also lead to the development of a final white paper of priority areas and recommendations for addressing priority areas.

### **Workshop 05 – Final Dissemination (November 26 to 27, 2023 - Karachi)**

#### **Annual IGHD Conference on Climate, Environment & Health**

The annual conference would be held in Karachi on Nov 27, with a Nov 26 evening launch which will be attended by representatives and leadership from Aga Khan University and respective Aga Khan Development Network agencies and national and international experts. In addition to considering issues of local and regional importance, the conference will aim to disseminate the proceedings from the previous workshops and delineate the core objectives and activities of Aga Khan University and Aga Khan Development Network in climate change and environmental health.

# ‘CHOICE’ PROGRAMME - TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

## INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE CHOICE PROGRAMME

The ‘CHOICE’ programme is a ground-breaking research project addressing urgent issues of Climate Change, Health, and Complex Challenges (CHOICE). It aims to enhance health, wellbeing, and tackle inequality through the implementation of Health and Health Related Sustainable Development Goals. Drawing upon the expertise of multisectoral think tanks and regional consortia, the programme works towards developing innovative solutions.

Supervising the programme is the esteemed Technical Advisory Group, comprising distinguished members from various fields. The Technical Advisory Group provides guidance, expertise, and oversight throughout the project. Members of the Technical Advisory Group include:

### **OMAR HAYAT** (Chair) Pakistan

Lt. Gen. (Ret) Omar Hayat is the former Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority and the Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority in Pakistan. For more than 35 years, he has held various command, staff, and instructional appointments.



### **PAUL H. WISE**

United States of America

Dr. Wise is the Richard E. Behrman Professor of Child Health and Society at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies and co-Director of the March of Dimes Center for Prematurity Research at Stanford University.



### **NEHA SINGH** United Kingdom

Neha conducts interdisciplinary research to improve health services in humanitarian crises. As co-Director of the Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre and co-Programme Director of the MSc in Health in Humanitarian Crises, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, she specializes in health services, financing, and policy implementation.







## **SABINA F. RASHID**

Bangladesh

Sabina F. Rashid is the Dean and Professor at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health in Dhaka, Bangladesh. With extensive experience, she has founded key centres and secured substantial grants, contributing to research and policy influence in the field of public health.

## **BAKHROM MIRAKASIMOV**

Uzbekistan

Bakhrom Mirakasimov is the Rector of Westminster International University in Tashkent and an accomplished researcher. He is also the Managing Editor of Silk Road: A Journal of Eurasian Development. With notable consultancy experience for organizations like the World Bank, his publications are featured in esteemed academic journals.



## **LUKOYE ATWOLI**

Kenya

Lukoye Atwoli is a distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, and Dean at Aga Khan University - East Africa. He is a significant influencer of mental health policy in Kenya and has served as Vice President of the Kenya Medical Association and holds positions with the African Association of Psychiatrists, the African College of Neuro-psychopharmacology, and the World Psychiatric Association.



## **KASHIF IJAZ**

Carter Center

Kashif Ijaz, MD, is the VP for Health Programs at The Carter Center. He leads efforts against tropical diseases and improves global mental health. With CDC experience, he responded to Ebola and H1N1 outbreaks. Dr. Ijaz is an esteemed epidemiologist and published author specializing in malaria, tuberculosis, and public health.



## **NOELINE NAKASUJJA**

Uganda

Noeline Nakasujja, MD, is an esteemed Associate Professor and Chair of Psychiatry at Makerere University. Her research on geriatric psychiatry and cognitive impairment in HIV/AIDS has gained recognition. With a joint PhD from Makerere University and Karolinska Institute, she leads research on psycho-social interventions at the NIHR Global Health Research Group.



# WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM ABBAS JAFFER!

the Institute for Global Health and Development is thrilled to have Abbas join our team as the new Communications Manager. His experience, commitment, and results-oriented approach make him an invaluable addition to our team. We are confident that his skills and expertise will contribute significantly to our organization's mission and objectives.

### WHO IS ABBAS JAFFER? A SHORT BIO



Abbas is an accomplished and dynamic business professional with a proven record of executing successful projects across multiple geographies. His focus on delivering results, adaptability, and effective management skills have distinguished him throughout his career. Alongside his professional achievements, Abbas engages in diverse interests such as scuba diving, photography, and reading, seeking mental stimulation through activities like Scrabble and puzzles. Remarkably resilient, Abbas has triumphed over significant challenges, surviving major car crashes, rescuing a drowning girl at a young age, and demonstrating quick thinking during a heart attack. His wide-ranging pursuits and life experiences contribute to his unique perspective, making him an intriguing individual.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING EVENT

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH:

#### IMPACT OF EXTREME HEAT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN & POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Join us for an insightful webinar that explores the profound impact of climate change on maternal and child health. We will delve into the risks posed by heatwaves and discuss practical interventions to mitigate their effects. This event is a unique opportunity to hear from distinguished experts in the field and engage in a thought-provoking discussion.

#### SPEAKERS



**ANA  
BONELL**

The London School  
of Hygiene &  
Tropical Medicine



**JAI K.  
DAS**

Aga Khan  
University



**CHRISTOPHER  
BURMAN**

University  
College London

#### MODERATOR & HOST



**ZULFIQAR  
BHUTTA**

Aga Khan  
University

#### CLOSING COMMENTS



**AMINA  
ABUBAKAR**

Aga Khan  
University



14 JULY AT  
5:00 PM PKT (GMT +5)



ONLINE ON  
ZOOM

# CONGRATULATIONS TEAM IGHD

Congratulations to our Amazing Colleagues! A Big Round of Applause to:



**Zahra Ali Padhani**, Manager (research) at the Institute for Global Health and Development, embarked on her journey as a Research Assistant, but her unwavering dedication and collaboration with Dr. Jai Das and Dr. Bhutta propelled her to new heights. With a master's degree in Health Policy and Management, Zahra has made a profound impact through her prolific publication record, including over twenty-five peer-reviewed papers, two book chapters, and influential World Health Organisation reports. Her research has graced the pages of prestigious international journals such as Cochrane, BMJ, Journal of Global Health, Nutrients, and Lancet Global Health.

Zahra is going to the University of Adelaide in Australia for her Ph.D., her research work focuses on preconception health risk factors and interventions among adolescents and young people and their impact on perinatal, maternal, and child health.

**Alishia Shafiq**, a dedicated Research Associate whose expertise and commitment have made her an invaluable asset in advancing research at the Institute for Global Health and Development. With a strong focus on bridging the gap between human and AI research, she worked on a paper that systematically compared the two domains and studied the decision-making process behind the Community Mobilization and Community Incentivization trial.

Alishia will be going to John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York for her Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology.



**Shazwin Syed Ali**, a Research Coordinator and driving force behind the Institute for Global Health and Development's climate change project. With a sharp focus on heat-related challenges, she expertly prepared research tools and conducted stakeholder analyses. Her invaluable expertise connected key individuals and agencies, shaping effective interventions that make a real impact.

Shazwin will be going to Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia for her Master of Public Health in Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences.





**Maryam Hameed Khan** is a dedicated Research Associate at the Institute for Global Health and Development. She has made significant contributions to various projects, including an Evidence Gap Map of Interventions for Non-Communicable Diseases and Risk Factors among Children and Adolescents, where she played a vital role in search strategy design, data extraction, and manuscript development. Maryam is also leading the translation of research-based breastfeeding knowledge project, collaborating with the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation. In the field of public health, she has been actively involved in analysing trends and assessing the impact of devolution on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health, and Nutrition (RMNCAH&N) service provision in Pakistan as part of the Countdown 2030 initiative.

Maryam will be going to John Hopkins University for her Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.



**Faareha Ansar Siddiqui** is a dedicated and accomplished professional with a strong passion for improving the lives of people, particularly those residing in rural areas of Pakistan. Faareha began her career as an intern at the Institute for Global Health and Development, where her exceptional drive and commitment quickly earned her a permanent position as a Research Associate. In this role, she focused on addressing crucial issues related to childhood vaccinations and nutrition. Her valuable contributions to the field have been recognised through the publication of several papers in renowned journals. Faareha's research work also involved collaborating on reports commissioned by the World Health Organization.

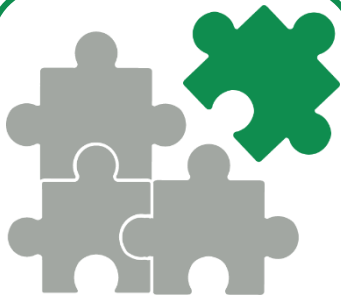
With her exceptional academic background, extensive research experience, and unwavering dedication, Faareha Ansar Siddiqui is set to thrive at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and contribute significantly to the field of public health, improving the lives of countless individuals around the world.



Your hard work, dedication, and passion have truly paid off, and we could not be prouder of your accomplishments.

Wishing you all the best as you embark on this new chapter in your academic journey. May you continue to excel, learn, and make significant contributions to your respective fields. The future holds great things for each of you, and we do not doubt that you will thrive in your endeavours. Keep reaching for the stars and making the Institute for Global Health and Development proud!

## COLLABORATE WITH US



The Institute for Global Health and Development invites expressions of interest from faculty members at Aga Khan University and other universities for cross-appointment as associate faculty. Associate faculty appointments enable the Institute to align and augment the depth and breadth of expertise for research activities through agreements lasting for a specific length of time and with agreed terms of reference.

Internal appointments involve a nomination and vetting process and must include the support of the Institute's Director and the Dean of the home entity at Aga Khan University. Cross-appointments from external institutions are possible, with the process involving an assessment of potential conflict of interest and a commitment to adherence to Aga Khan University's Human Resources and other policies.

The Institute reviews all expressions of interest once every year. You may submit yours anytime [here](#).