



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH  
AND DEVELOPMENT

# Institute for Global Health and Development

Newsletter | Inaugural Issue



## Message from the Director

Welcome to this premier edition of the Institute's newsletter. We are pleased to begin these regular updates on the Institute's growing portfolio of research, events, and collaboration. In this issue, you will find introductions of the Institute and its scope of work, and the overall journey in 2021. On a regular basis, the newsletter will include short profiles showcasing key research initiatives underway and planned, as well as highlights of recent events. I hope you will find the content of this first edition informative and engaging, and invite you to share your feedback and potential contributions.

**Zulfiqar A Bhutta, FRS**

Distinguished University Professor & Founding Director

## About IGHD

The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) is a major initiative of the University to champion large-scale interdisciplinary research which connects all campuses, entities and faculty of the Aga Khan University and links to the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

Read about our vision and mission [here](#).

## What We Do

IGHD is focused on innovating and implementing effective solutions for some of the world's pressing health and development challenges. It aims to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the countries and regions where it serves and contribute to the Agenda 2030. Built on the strengths of the Aga Khan University, it aims to advance the health sciences leadership in Asia and Africa.

Learn more about the scope of our work [here](#).

## Our Focus Areas



- Climate Change and Environment Sustainability
- Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition
- Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
- Sustainable Development Goals

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## Research and Publications

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IGHD has undertaken crucial research initiatives in the areas of its thematic focus. The action-oriented research is contributing immensely towards improving well-being and quality of life of the people of Pakistan. The aim is to uplift the most inaccessible and underprivileged regions of the country and protect the vulnerable population from the challenges of their environment.

Two such studies are highlighted below:

### Exemplars in Family Planning

This project is led by a consortium of The Aga Khan University, Population Council, and SickKids in close collaboration with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Gates Ventures (GV). The primary aim of the research is to identify actionable drivers of success in exemplar countries that have accelerated progress on the voluntary use of modern contraception. The unpacking of the key factors that contributed to the scale, effectiveness, and sustainability of Exemplars in FP is an action-oriented, data-driven method to support decision-makers and drive further advancement in the field of family planning.

### EHSAAS

Also funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, it is a three-year programme that aims to mitigate stunting in children under 23 months of age by providing:

1. specialized nutrition food to pregnant women, lactating women, and children under 23 months
2. quarterly conditional cash transfer to increase the uptake of health and nutrition services
3. immunizations to mother and children
4. quarterly antenatal/ postnatal care
5. awareness on breastfeeding, sanitation and hygiene, diverse diet, etc.

To learn more about our on-going and published research, [click here](#).

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## Awareness & Engagement

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One of the highlights of 2021 was a series of informative and meaningful conversations with some of the leading global experts and thought leaders about the Institute's focus areas. Watch the recordings [here](#).

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## Events

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On December 21, 2021, IGHD hosted a roundtable discussion on climate change and health in Islamabad, titled **'The New Forefront for Action on Climate Change and Health in Pakistan'**. The objective of this discussion was to convene Pakistan's leading researchers and policy experts in the nexus of climate change and health and determine the future path towards establishing a network, coordinated research, policy formulation, and broad multi-sectoral national response. Click [here](#) to read more.

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## Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Pakistan

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*“In January 2021, SDSN Network’s Strategy Council approved the establishment of a National SDSN in Pakistan, hosted by the Institute for Global Health and Development at the Aga Khan University.”*

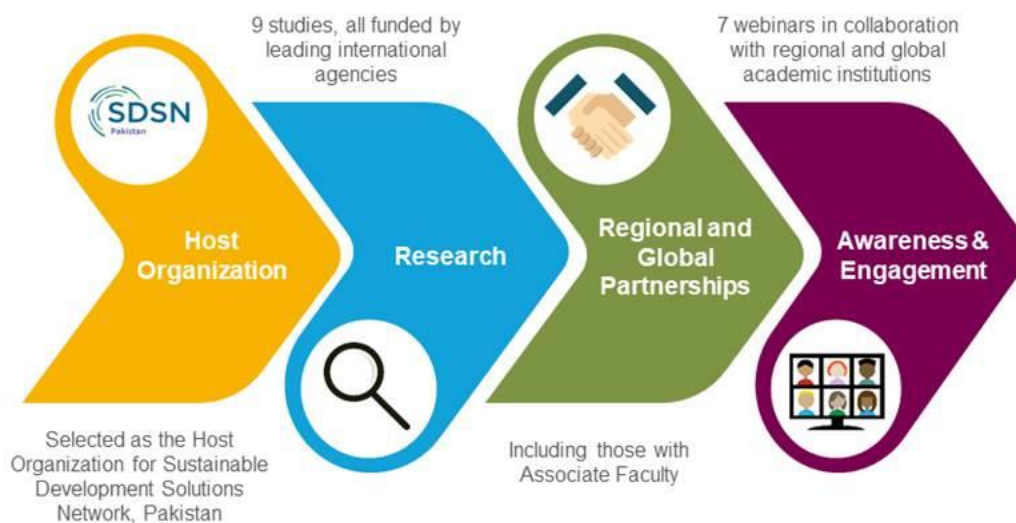
SDSN is the global consortium of countries working together to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation.

Hosting the Pakistan's national node of SDSN is one of IGHD's key milestones. AKU Pakistan is one of the 21 members in the national network. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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## Highlights from 2021

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## International Advisory Committee

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A group of world-renowned experts and thought leaders, provide their guidance to, and share their knowledge expertise with the Founding Director to steer the Institute towards its objectives.

To learn more about the members of this committee, [click here](#).



**Top row (left to right):** Dr. Michael H. Merson (Committee Chair), Dr. Azita Emami, Dr. Haile T. Debas  
**Bottom row (left to right):** Dr. Richard Horton, Dr. Agnes Binagwaho, Dr. Hoda Rashad

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## Core Team

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**Diana Mackay**  
Global Practice Lead



**Dr. Jai K. Das**  
Assistant Director & Assistant  
Professor



**Masooma Raza**  
Manager, Communications

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## Collaborate With Us

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The Institute invites expressions of interest from faculty members at AKU or 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 AKU. Cross appointments from external institutions are possible, with the process involving an assessment of potential conflict of interest and a commitment of adherence to AKU's Human Resources and other policies.

To submit an expression of interest, [apply here](#).

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We would like to hear from you. Share your comments, queries, and suggestions with us at [ighd@aku.edu](mailto:ighd@aku.edu).

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