

EMPOWERING CHANGE

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENT'S YEAR-END REVIEW



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT



. ANNUAL 2024 .



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta

DIRECTOR IGHD

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

“As we conclude 2024, I am proud to reflect on a year of exceptional accomplishments and impactful initiatives at the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD). This year has been a pivotal one, marked by innovative research, transformative collaborations, and significant contributions to global health and sustainable development.

One of the standout moments of the year was the IGHD Annual Conference on Climate Change, Agriculture, Human Nutrition & Development in Pakistan, held on November 29–30. This landmark event brought together global and national thought leaders to address the critical challenges posed by climate change and its multifaceted impact on health, agriculture, and nutrition. The conference underscored the need for collaborative, evidence-based solutions and set the stage for actionable strategies to build resilience in vulnerable communities.

In addition, 2024 saw the launch of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Climate Change, Health & Development, the groundbreaking HEAPS project, and our work on heat stress vulnerability among pregnant women. These efforts, alongside key workshops and webinars, reinforced IGHD's role as a leader in addressing the intersection of climate change and health.

I am also immensely proud of the continued recognition of our faculty and students, including international accolades for their groundbreaking research, and the progress of programs like Supporting Women in Science, which are shaping the next generation of global health leaders.

This newsletter captures the essence of IGHD's work over the past year, showcasing the resilience, dedication, and innovation that define our community. I invite you to explore these stories and celebrate the collective achievements of our team and partners.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we are shaping a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future.

”



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

ORGANIZED BY IGHD

CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE, HUMAN NUTRITION & DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN

IGHD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE, HUMAN NUTRITION & DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN



The **IGHD Annual Conference on Climate Change, Agriculture, Human Nutrition & Development in Pakistan**, held on **November 29–30, 2024**, at the Aga Khan University’s Main Auditorium in Karachi, brought together leading voices in climate resilience, agriculture, and nutrition. Co-hosted by IGHD and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Pakistan (SDSN-PK), the event provided a critical platform to address the challenges posed by climate change and its multifaceted impacts on Pakistan’s agriculture, health, and nutrition sectors.

The conference facilitated in-depth discussions on the intersections between climate change, food security, and health, featuring keynote addresses by prominent speakers, including Prof. Sir Andrew Haines (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), Dr. Lynette Neufeld (Director Food & Nutrition, FAO), and Mr. Haris Gazdar (Collective for Social Science Research, Pakistan).



From left: Dr. Lynette Neufeld, Mr. Haris Gazdar, Dr. Janta Kumari, and Prof. Sir Andrew Haines



“ As one of the region’s leading institutions, we recognize our responsibility to tackle multifaceted challenges like climate change ”

- Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin
PRESIDENT
AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

The event was further enriched by the presence of distinguished figures, including the President of Aga Khan University, Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin, who emphasized the university's role in fostering interdisciplinary research and partnerships to develop transformative and sustainable solutions to address the pressing challenges of climate change.



The two-day conference underscored IGHD’s leadership in driving evidence-based solutions and concluded with actionable recommendations for research and policy, reaffirming the importance of collaboration in building resilience against the impacts of climate change.

WHAT WORKS CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT, BERLIN

Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta and Dr. Jai participated in the **What Works Climate Solutions Summit**, held in Berlin from June 9–12, 2024. This high-level conference emphasized evidence-based climate policy and aimed to catalyze the synthesis of evidence on climate solutions for upcoming climate change assessments, particularly the IPCC's 7th Assessment Report, along with other avenues for scientific policy guidance.



The summit gathered leading experts on climate solutions, key institutions curating scientific policy advice on climate change, and evidence synthesis communities. The goal was to address the critical need for robust, effective, and just climate solutions to meet international climate goals and limit warming to well below 2°C. The discussions emphasized the importance of reducing vulnerabilities and adapting to prevailing climate impacts.



Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta delivered an insightful presentation titled 'Setting Research Priorities to Understand the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Biology, Health, and Development: A Focus on Women, Children, and Vulnerable Populations Globally.' Dr. Bhutta highlighted the urgent need to prioritize research that examines the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable groups, emphasizing the importance of targeted interventions to mitigate health risks and promote resilience.



Dr. Jai presented on 'Research Priorities for Addressing Climate Change and Human Health and Nutrition: Gaps,' where he discussed the current gaps in research that need to be addressed to develop comprehensive strategies for improving health and nutrition in the context of climate change. His presentation underscored the necessity for a multidisciplinary approach to tackle these complex challenges effectively.

The participation of Dr. Bhutta and Dr. Jai at this summit underscores IGHD's commitment to contributing to global efforts in addressing climate change and its impacts on human health and development. We are proud of their contributions and look forward to implementing the insights and strategies discussed at the summit in our ongoing and future projects.

IGNIT3 CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON NUTRITION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



On June 10, 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University (AKU) hosted a significant consultative workshop for the IGNIT3 project, titled "Nutrition for Health Professionals: Assessing, Managing, and Promoting Child, Adolescent & Maternal Nutrition." This workshop was an essential step in the development of an accredited online course designed to equip health professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to improve nutrition outcomes in Pakistan, particularly for women, adolescent girls, and children in high-burden communities.

The workshop took place at the University Centre on the 13th floor of the AKU Main Campus in Karachi and was also accessible online via Zoom for participants not located in Karachi. The event aimed to gather valuable input and feedback from country stakeholders to ensure the course content was contextually relevant and aligned with Pakistan's specific nutrition priorities.

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:



Engage stakeholders in the development process.



Outline the goals and intended audience of the course.



Describe the content development process.



Validate the course outline and ensure alignment with the country's context and priorities.



Develop country-specific case scenarios.



Integrate local protocols and guidelines into the educational content.



The workshop commenced with introductions and an overview of the IGNIT3 project, led by Amira Khan and Dr. Narjis Fatima. Participants then broke out into groups to review the course outline using a provided tool, followed by sessions to identify key country-specific nutrition resources, protocols, and referral pathways relevant to the course content.

The afternoon was dedicated to developing country-specific case studies, with each group assigned a different topic to ensure comprehensive coverage. The day concluded with group presentations on the developed case studies, highlighting the collaborative effort and expertise brought together during the workshop.

The IGNIT3 project, which stands for Increase Gains in Nutrition by Integration, Education, Evaluation, and Empowerment, is a five-year capacity-building initiative aimed at improving nutrition for the poorest and most marginalized populations in Ghana, Malawi, and Pakistan. This workshop represents a critical milestone in delivering targeted, integrated nutrition, health, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programming to build sustainable institutional capacity and improve nutrition within vulnerable communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

IGHD, CERP & PAS ADDRESS DEVELOPMENT CONSEQUENCES IN PAKISTAN

From September 1-2, 2024, IGHD, in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), hosted the symposium “Climate Change and Health & Development Consequences in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities.” The event brought together policymakers, researchers, and experts to address the escalating impacts of climate change on Pakistan’s health, agriculture, and economy.

The symposium covered a broad range of topics, including the severe economic toll of climate-related disasters, the effects of environmental degradation on agriculture, and the disproportionate impacts on rural communities and vulnerable populations. Pakistan's economy has already faced significant losses due to catastrophic events like the floods in 2010-11 and 2022, with experts warning that future heatwaves and floods could cost the economy up to 9% of GDP by 2050. The degradation of the Indus Delta and rapid glacier melting were highlighted as critical challenges in need of immediate attention.

SYMPOSIUM ON
CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT CONSEQUENCES
IN PAKISTAN: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
1st - 2nd September, 2024
Islamabad - Pakistan

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE SYMPOSIUM

- To bring together leading experts and stakeholders to discuss the multifaceted impacts of climate change on health and development, particularly focusing on vulnerable populations such as women and children.
- To foster meaningful dialogue and develop actionable strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change while exploring opportunities for sustainable development.

PATRON IN CHIEF

- Prof. Dr. Zaheer A. Malik

PATRON

- Prof. Dr. Zulfikar A. Bhutta
- Dr. Maroof A. Syed

CHIEF ORGANIZERS

- Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Baig
- Dr. Jai K. Des

ORGANIZERS

- Dr. Riffat M. Qureshi, PAS
- Muhammad Naseer, PAS
- Syed Abbas Alamdar Jaffer, AKU
- Akber Ali, AKU

ORGANIZED BY
Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS)
Institute for Global Health & Development,
Agha Khan University (IGHD-AKU)
Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP)



Among the notable speakers, Honorable Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of a collective response to climate change, stating that no single entity—whether a politician, judge, or institution—can tackle the crisis alone. He called for collaboration across sectors to develop long-term strategies for climate resilience.

The symposium emphasized the need for a coordinated, evidence-based approach to combat climate change in Pakistan, highlighting the development of a unified platform for science, innovation, and research. It called for improved governance, enhanced education capacity, and transformative action leveraging technology, indigenous knowledge, and collaborative research. By fostering partnerships between government, academia, and civil society, the event set the stage for effective strategies to mitigate climate impacts and protect vulnerable populations.

“ No single entity – be it a politician, judge, or institution – has the solution to climate change ”

- MR AHSAN IQBAL
FEDERAL MINISTER OF PLANNING,
DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN



COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

CLIMATE AND HEALTH WORKSHOP IN GILGIT



On October 27, 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University, in collaboration with the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health, hosted the **Workshop on Climate Change, Human Health, and Development** at the Serena Hotel, Gilgit.

The event brought together national and international experts, policymakers, and researchers to address climate challenges in Gilgit-Baltistan and beyond. Key discussions included climate change impacts on health systems, neglected diseases, and glacier health, alongside innovative interventions in nutrition, mental health, and maternal care.

Special guests, including Mr. Wahid Shah, Secretary of Forest and Environment, and Prof. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University, provided valuable regional insights. The workshop underscored the importance of collaborative strategies to strengthen resilience in vulnerable communities and highlighted IGHD's commitment to addressing climate-health intersections.

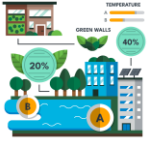


WORKSHOP ON HEAT RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES (SHAPES)



On August 30, 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University hosted a Workshop on Heat Resilience and Adaptation Strategies (SHAPES) in Karachi, bringing together climate specialists, urban planners, architects, and civil society representatives to address Pakistan's extreme heat challenges.

The workshop introduced the Heat Adaptation Bundle (HAB), featuring solutions like heat-reducing building designs, urban greening, community engagement, and equitable strategies for protecting vulnerable populations.



Heat-reducing Building Designs



Urban Greening



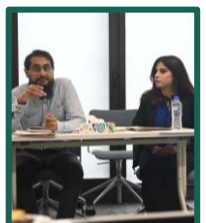
Community Engagement



Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Ahead of the event, visiting experts, including Dr. Ana Bonell, Christopher Burman, and Joseph Augustin, joined the IGHD team on field visits to trial sites, gathering insights for upcoming randomized controlled trials.

Speakers, including Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta and Dr. Jai Das, highlighted the importance of equitable, cost-effective interventions and integrating strategies into national policies. The workshop concluded with a roadmap to assess and scale these initiatives, marking a vital step toward climate resilience in Pakistan.



WORKSHOP ON COHORTS HARMONIZATION & OPTIMIZATION

ADVANCING LONGITUDINAL HEALTH RESEARCH

The Workshop on Cohorts Harmonization & Optimization was held on May 9-10, 2024, at the University Centre, AKU Nairobi, bringing together leading experts in epidemiology, public health, pediatrics, and data science. Esteemed participants included Prof. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Prof. Zul Merali, and Dr. Bernardo L. Horta, who collaborated to enhance the integration and impact of cohort studies across Aga Khan University (AKU).



The workshop focused on harmonizing AKU cohort studies in Kenya, Pakistan, and peri-urban Karachi, with an emphasis on maternal and child health, mental health, and leveraging big data. Discussions addressed refining research questions, standardizing variables, optimizing data collection, and integrating advanced statistical tools to improve data quality and analysis. Ethical considerations, community engagement, and strategies for sustainability were key themes throughout.

The event concluded with actionable steps, including the formation of a working group and a long-term research agenda to maximize the global health impact of cohort studies. This workshop highlighted the critical role of harmonization in advancing longitudinal research and strengthening AKU's contributions to global health.

IGHD HOSTS WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH CONCEPTS & BASIC METHODOLOGY

On May 17, 2024, the **Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD)** at Aga Khan University held a workshop on "Research Concepts & Basic Methodology," equipping participants with foundational research skills critical for impactful studies.

The workshop featured an exceptional panel of facilitators, including **Dr. Jai Das, Dr. Narjis Fatima, Arjumand Rizvi, Dr. Zahra Hoodbhoy, Dr. Bhavita Kumari, and Dr. Nadeem Zuberi**, who shared their expertise in research design, data management, clinical methodologies, and ethical practices.



Key topics included formulating research questions, aligning them with appropriate study designs, collecting and analyzing data, and adopting ethical research practices. Participants also learned the STAR method (Structured, Transparent, Accessible, Reporting) to enhance the reliability and reproducibility of research findings.

Interactive sessions and real-world examples ensured a hands-on learning experience, earning praise from attendees for the workshop's clarity and depth. This initiative reinforced IGHD's dedication to fostering high-quality research and capacity building in global health.

IGHD ENGAGES IN WORKSHOP ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH SYSTEMS IN AFGHANISTAN

On September 8–9, 2024, Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director at the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), participated in an initiation workshop in Kabul, organized in collaboration with the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC), UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) of Afghanistan. The workshop, titled “Assessing Primary Health Care (PHC), Community-Based Health Care Systems (CBHC), and High-Impact Value-Added (HIVA) Interventions in Afghanistan,” aims to inform national policies and guide health system reviews and strengthening efforts in the country.



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

- KARL BLANCHET
DIRECTOR, GENEVA CENTRE OF HUMANITARIAN
STUDIES AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

The collaborative project, conducted with the University of Geneva and led by Karl Blanchet, focuses on generating evidence to address key areas in Afghanistan’s health system. These include the utility of revising the current PHC model, investment cases for community-oriented and integrated PHC, and understanding the social dynamics among community-based groups. The ultimate goal is to design a consolidated and standardized CBHC model that can be institutionalized across the country.

In addition to assessing the baseline status of the health system, the initiative seeks to evaluate the High-Impact Value-Added (HIVA) interventions to ensure they effectively contribute to improving health outcomes. Dr. Das’s involvement in the initial planning meetings with MoPH and UNICEF highlights IGHD’s commitment to strengthening health systems in Afghanistan and contributing to evidence-based policymaking.

RESEARCH TEAM



ASIF HUSSAINYAR
ASSISTANT MANAGER
AKU-AFGHANISTAN



JAMAL NASIR NOORI
TRAINING SPECIALIST
FMIC



This initiative represents a critical step toward improving Afghanistan’s healthcare framework by creating a more integrated and community-driven approach to primary health care.

IGHD LEADS EFFORTS FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING IN AFGHANISTAN

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University took a central role in advancing adolescent health in Afghanistan. On November 19, 2024, IGHD and the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health co-hosted a pivotal hybrid workshop to address critical challenges, including malnutrition, mental health, and the lack of adolescent-focused services. With 63% of the population under 25, IGHD experts, including Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, presented actionable strategies to integrate adolescent health into national systems.



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT



World Health
Organization



AFGHANISTAN MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Building on this, a December 16 workshop in Kabul convened stakeholders, including WHO and UNFPA, to finalize a comprehensive strategy. The agenda included group discussions on integrating adolescent health programs into community and referral care settings, leveraging non-health sectors for adolescent well-being, and defining success metrics for the next five years. Key outcomes included establishing adolescent-friendly healthcare spaces, piloting nutrition and mental health programs, and forming a task force to drive implementation.



SDSN PAKISTAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING - 2024

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Pakistan Leadership Council Meeting was held on November 29, 2024, at the Aga Khan University in Karachi. This pivotal gathering brought together key stakeholders to review progress on sustainable development initiatives and strategize actionable goals for 2025.



The meeting featured insights from prominent speakers, including Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, who provided updates on SDSN and CHOICE Pakistan projects, and Dr. Abid Suleri, who shared key takeaways from COP29. Dr. Naseer Memon delivered opening remarks, setting the tone for discussions on the future direction of SDSN Pakistan. Participants deliberated on effective outputs for the coming year and engaged in a collaborative dialogue to identify priorities for addressing pressing development challenges.

The event underscored the importance of collective action and innovative strategies to advance sustainable development in Pakistan. It was followed by the seminar "Climate Change, Agriculture, Human Nutrition & Development in Pakistan," further amplifying the dialogue on critical issues impacting the region.



AKDN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING 2024

On November 29, 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University hosted the Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting at its Karachi campus. The meeting brought together experts to enhance coordination and collaboration across Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) entities on climate, environment, and health-related initiatives.

Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, Founding Director of IGHD, opened the session with welcome remarks, followed by an overview of TWG updates and plans presented by Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director of IGHD. Key highlights included a presentation by Miriam Kugele, Director of Environment and Sustainability at Aga Khan University, on AKDN's climate work landscaping and a showcase of the pilot module for a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on climate and health by Arsala Farooqi, Research Coordinator at IGHD.

The meeting featured engaging group discussions, fostering knowledge sharing and strategizing for 2025 activities. The TWG meeting underscored IGHD's commitment to driving impactful collaborations and innovative solutions to address pressing global challenges in climate, environment, and health.



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

WEBINARS HOSTED BY
IGHD

WEBINARS 2024

IGHD'S COMMITMENT TO KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND GLOBAL IMPACT

In 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University hosted a series of impactful webinars addressing critical global challenges in health, science, and sustainable development. These events showcased IGHD's leadership in fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and practical solutions, bringing together experts, researchers, policymakers, and advocates from around the world.



AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S VOICES IN SCIENCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

WEBINAR #1

On March 1, 2024, IGHD hosted the Women in Science: Challenges and Opportunities webinar, chaired by Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta. This event featured engaging discussions on the historical contributions of women in science, the transformative IGHD Women in Science Fellowship, and the experiences of mentees and mentors from South-Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.



The session began with a thought-provoking presentation by Dr. Michael Katz, President of the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI), who provided a historical perspective on the role of women in science. Dr. Nargis Fatima, Assistant Manager of Research at Aga Khan University, followed with an overview of the fellowship program and its achievements.

Further enriching the dialogue, Dr. Mariam Noorani, Chair and Senior Instructor at Aga Khan University in Dar es Salaam, shared her experiences as a mentee in the program, while Dr. Bushra Moiz, Professor of Hematology at Aga Khan University in Karachi, reflected on her role as a mentor. The webinar concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Stephen Kennedy, Director of OMPHI, who emphasized the importance of creating inclusive opportunities for women in science. With **356 attendees** from **19 nations**, including Canada, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, and Pakistan, this event demonstrated global enthusiasm for fostering inclusivity and empowering women in science.



356
ATTENDEES



19
COUNTRIES

EXPLORING MENTAL HEALTH IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

WEBINAR #2



On June 28, 2024, the Mental Health in Humanitarian Settings webinar addressed the mental health challenges in crisis-affected communities. Chaired by Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, the session featured discussions on psychotrauma, climate change's impact on women's mental health, and scalable mental health support models for Pakistan.

Dr. Mowadat Hussain Rana, from the National Task Force for Mental Health, explored the often-overlooked issue of psychotrauma in humanitarian settings, while Dr. Nargis Asad, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Aga Khan University, shed light on the disproportionate effects of climate change on women's mental health.

Additionally, Dr. Asma Humayun, National Technical Advisor for Mental Health at the Ministry of Planning, presented a rights-based and scalable MHPSS model tailored for Pakistan. The session concluded with insightful remarks by Dr. Murad Moosa Khan, from the Brain and Mind Institute at Aga Khan University, who highlighted the need for advocacy and integrated approaches to mental health in humanitarian settings. With **204 attendees** from **12 countries**, including Switzerland, India, Uganda, and Hong Kong, the webinar emphasized the growing recognition of mental health as a vital concern in humanitarian contexts.



204
ATTENDEES



12
COUNTRIES

INDIGENOUS SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND NUTRITION

WEBINAR #3

On October 14, 2024, IGHD hosted the Climate Change and Agriculture Solution's Impact on Nutrition webinar, which explored the nexus of climate change, agriculture, and nutrition in low- and middle-income countries. Moderated by Dr. Jai K. Das and concluded by Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, the session emphasized the role of indigenous practices and community-driven solutions in addressing food security and nutritional challenges.

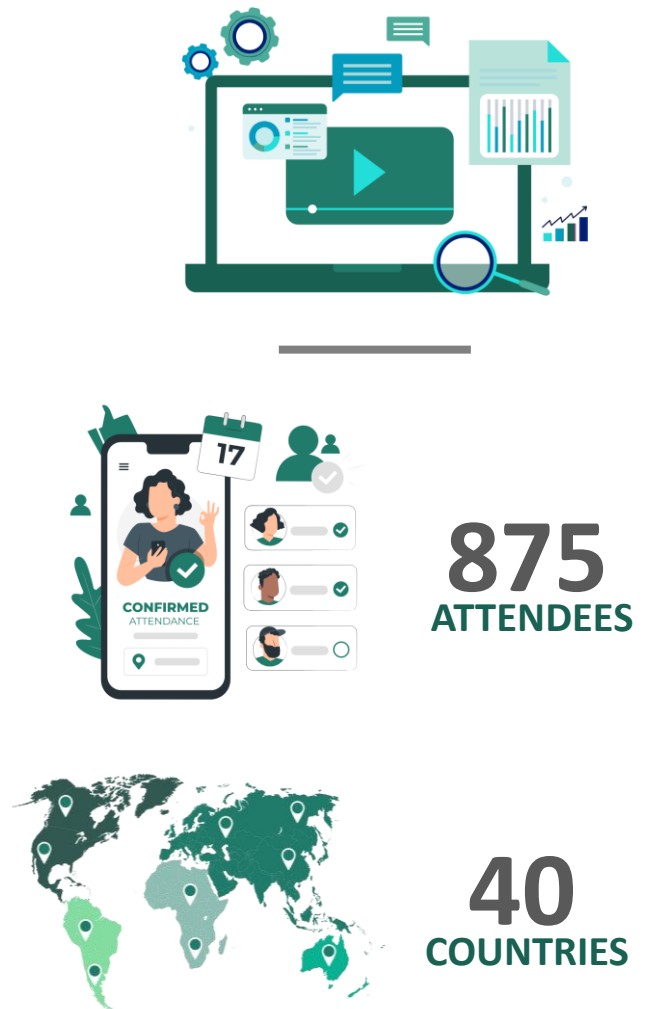


The speakers brought diverse perspectives to the discussion. Dr. Shoukat Ali, from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, highlighted how integrating traditional agricultural methods with modern climate resilience can enhance nutritional outcomes. Dr. Misbah Nosheen, from Hazara University, emphasized the role of gender-sensitive strategies in closing nutritional gaps in rural communities, while Dr. Huma Saleem, also from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, presented advancements in breeding climate-resilient crops as a solution to food insecurity. With **315 attendees** from **25 countries**, including Germany, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, and Australia, the webinar demonstrated IGHD's ability to convene diverse voices to tackle critical global challenges.



A YEAR OF IMPACTFUL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Across these **three webinars**, IGHD engaged **875 participants** from more than **40 countries**. Each event exemplified IGHD's commitment to fostering global dialogue, advancing interdisciplinary collaboration, and disseminating knowledge on pressing global health and development issues. These webinars underscore IGHD's growing influence as a leader in creating platforms that inspire solutions and empower communities worldwide.



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FIELD BASED INITIATIVES
DRIVING CHANGE



A FEASIBILITY STUDY (MeSH)

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING & REFERRAL FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED WOMEN IN DADU

In 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) initiated a groundbreaking feasibility study aimed at addressing the mental health needs of flood-affected women in the Dadu district, Sindh. This quasi-experimental study integrates mental health screening and referral services into Pakistan's Lady Health Worker (LHW) program, targeting women of reproductive age displaced by climate-induced crises such as mass flooding.

The study, implemented in Union Councils of Dadu, combines evidence-based mental health interventions with awareness sessions on climate change and mental health to strengthen resilience at community, household, and individual levels. By bridging gaps in mental health care for vulnerable populations, the project aspires to improve mental health outcomes and foster greater awareness of the intersection between climate change and health.

PREPARE PROJECT

MAPPING VULNERABILITIES AND BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The PREPARE Project aims to identify and map vulnerable populations to develop targeted and effective climate adaptation strategies. This initiative comprises two key components. First, a systematic review synthesizing existing measures of climate vulnerability and community resilience, which seeks to establish a comprehensive knowledge base on current practices and frameworks. Second, a climate risk and vulnerability assessment is being conducted across six climate hazard-prone districts of Pakistan.

PROJECT TEAM



BHAVITA KUMARI
PROJECT MANAGER



AHMED ATIULLAH
RESEARCHER



ABDULLAH BABER
RESEARCHER



HAMZA IFTIKAR
RESEARCHER



ZAYAAN DELAWALLA
RESEARCHER

These assessments aim to provide granular insights into the specific challenges faced by communities, enabling data-driven decision-making. Field assessments have already commenced in two districts of Gilgit-Baltistan: Shigar and Ghizer, while the systematic review is actively underway. Through these efforts, the project aspires to build a robust foundation for enhancing climate resilience in some of the most vulnerable regions of Pakistan.



A COHORT STUDY IN SINDH

EXPLORING HEAT STRESS VULNERABILITY IN PREGNANT WOMEN

In 2024, IGHD launched a comprehensive cohort study titled Exploring Heat Stress Vulnerability in Pregnant Women to address the critical and growing issue of climate-induced health challenges. This four-year study focuses on understanding the biological vulnerability of pregnant women in rural Sindh to heat stress and its adverse effects on pregnancy and birth outcomes.



The project spans three districts—Matiari, Tando Muhammad Khan, and Mitthi—and aims to enroll 6,000 pregnant women, with a sub-study focusing on 1,500 participants for in-depth physiological data collection. Using advanced wearable technology and imaging tools, the study will analyze key biological markers to uncover the mechanisms through which heat stress impacts maternal and fetal health, contributing to conditions such as preterm births and low birth weight.



“ This project is crucial in addressing the intersection of climate change and maternal health. By understanding how heat stress affects pregnant women, we can develop strategies to protect the most vulnerable during critical stages of life. ”

- DR. ZULFIQAR BHUTTA
DIRECTOR, IGHD

This initiative also includes significant capacity-building efforts, training five medical doctors in advanced obstetric ultrasound, fetal medicine, and ISUOG-certified courses. These doctors will provide specialized maternal care at site offices established to support participant enrollment and data collection. By enhancing access to antenatal care and facilitating clinical assessments, the study is poised to generate critical insights to inform maternal health strategies in low-resource settings, addressing the unique challenges posed by climate change.



From left: Dr. Amber Mallah, Dr. Santoshi Kumari, Dr. Janta Kumari, Dr. Mahnoor Kulsoom and Dr. Sadaf Talpur

PROJECT TEAM



DR. SUNEEL PIRYANI
PROJECT MANAGER



ASMA QURESHI
RESEARCH SPECIALIST



SANA KAHTOON
RESEARCH SPECIALIST

SHAPES PROJECT

ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HEAT ADAPTATION & REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS FOR VULNERABLE POPULATION IN URBAN AND RURAL SETTINGS OF A LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

The SHAPES project, launched by IGHD in 2024, is a pioneering study addressing the escalating impacts of extreme heat events on vulnerable populations in Pakistan. This project aims to develop, implement, and evaluate a Heat Adaptation and Heat Reduction Bundle (HAB) of interventions tailored for women, children, pregnant women, outdoor laborers, and the elderly in both urban and rural settings.

Focusing on Karachi (Garden West and East Bilal Colony) and district Matiari, the study will employ a cluster-randomized controlled trial to assess the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the HAB. This intervention incorporates participatory education, behavior change strategies, and incentivized community-level structural modifications, such as exhaust fans, street shading, and reflective roofing. The study's comprehensive approach will evaluate outcomes such as heat-related illnesses, pregnancy and birth outcomes, and household-level heat stress indicators.

PROJECT TEAM



KANZA NAQVI
PROJECT LEAD



MUHAMMAD KHAN JAMALI
PROJECT MANAGER



ANJUM ABBAS
ASSISTANT MANAGER



SHAMEER QAMAR
PROJECT ENGINEER



HASSAN NAQVI
DATA MANAGER

Spanning two years, the project involves line listing, baseline, midline, and endline data collection across over 6,000 households, with subsets of individual-level data for targeted vulnerable groups. By integrating innovative climate adaptation strategies and evidence-based policy recommendations, the SHAPES project aspires to create sustainable, scalable solutions for mitigating the adverse effects of extreme heat in low-resource settings.

“ The SHAPES project represents a critical step forward in addressing the devastating impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable populations in low-resource settings. By integrating community-driven solutions with evidence-based interventions, we aim to develop scalable strategies that not only mitigate heat stress but also enhance resilience for those most at risk. This initiative underscores IGHD's commitment to pioneering innovative, inclusive approaches to combat climate change's health challenges. ”

- Dr Jai Das
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT, AKU



NEWBORN HEALTH

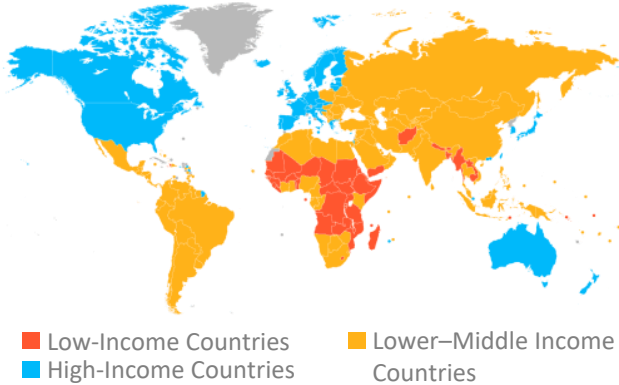
IMPROVING MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH

The Newborn Project, a partnership between IGHD at Aga Khan University (AKU) and SickKids, Canada, is pioneering research to improve maternal and neonatal health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). By addressing critical gaps, the project is driving impactful, evidence-based interventions.



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT

SickKids[®]



Since 2022, the team has analyzed over 60 systematic reviews and conducted two de-novo reviews on antenatal care, intra-partum interventions, neonatal nutrition, and birth defect management. Their goal: to generate actionable insights tailored to LMICs.

Despite challenges, the project successfully synthesized LMIC-specific data, meeting strict deadlines and contributing significantly to global maternal and neonatal health research. The results are now published in *Karger*, where AKU co-authored 8 of 13 groundbreaking studies.

From infection prevention to optimal birth defect screening, these findings are set to influence policies and healthcare strategies worldwide.

PROJECT TEAM



RAHIMA YASIN | PROJECT MANAGER



AYESHA ARSHAD
RESEARCHER



UMAIMA ZAKI
RESEARCHER

KEY PUBLICATIONS

The findings of the Newborn Project have been published in the peer-reviewed journal *Karger*, with AKU contributing to 8 out of 13 papers in the neonatal supplement. These publications highlight IGHD's role in advancing knowledge in maternal and neonatal health.

Karger

- 1** Rationale and approach to evaluating interventions for newborn care in low- and middle-income countries
[Click To View](#)
- 2** Antenatal care strategies to improve perinatal and newborn outcomes
[Click To View](#)
- 3** Interventions to prevent and manage infections in pregnancy
[Click To View](#)
- 4** Near-term and intrapartum care of mothers for perinatal and newborn outcomes
[Click To View](#)
- 5** Nutritional management of low birth weight and preterm infants in low- and low middle-income countries
[Click To View](#)
- 6** The effectiveness of regionalization of perinatal care and specific facility-based interventions: A systematic review
[Click To View](#)
- 7** Prevention and treatment of neonatal infections in facility and community settings of low- and low middle-income countries: A descriptive review
[Click To View](#)
- 8** Optimal strategies for screening common birth defects in children of low- and low middle-income countries: A systematic review
[Click To View](#)



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

SHINING LIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENT

MEDIA STORIES, AWARDS,
AND ACHIEVEMENTS

IGHD'S FOUNDING DIRECTOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HONOR:

DR. BHUTTA APPOINTED OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA



In a proud moment for IGHD and the global academic community, **Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Founding Director** of the **Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD)** at Aga Khan University (AKU), has been named an **Officer of the Order of Canada**, one of the country's highest civilian honors. This prestigious recognition celebrates his exceptional contributions to maternal, newborn, and child health, which have transformed the lives of millions in underserved communities worldwide.

Dr. Bhutta's groundbreaking work in disease burden estimation, intervention effectiveness, and community health systems has influenced public health policies globally, from the World Health Organization to grassroots programs across South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. His leadership in community-based interventions, such as Pakistan's Lady Health Worker Program, has become a global model for empowering frontline health workers.

As a Distinguished University Professor at AKU and Co-Director of the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health, Dr. Bhutta's career reflects his unwavering commitment to evidence-based solutions that address pressing global health challenges. This recognition underscores his enduring impact on health policy, research, and practice worldwide..

SickKids[®]

**Centre for
Global Child Health**

Dr. Bhutta's achievements continue to inspire healthcare professionals and researchers globally, exemplifying IGHD's mission to advance interdisciplinary approaches to global health and development.

If you'd like to learn more about the prestigious "Order of Canada" and why it is awarded, please click the link below.

[Order of Canada Wiki](#)

EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH IN PAKISTAN

Pregnancy and childbirth are profound experiences, marking the beginning of new life. However, for many expectant mothers in Pakistan's rural areas, this journey is fraught with challenges exacerbated by extreme heat and the changing climate. As highlighted in recent articles from 'Tribune', 'The Third Pole' and 'Dawn News', the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University has embarked on a groundbreaking study to delve into the effects of heat on pregnant women and their babies.

Link to Articles:



Understanding the Challenges

In rural Pakistan, expectant mothers endure harsh conditions, often working in fields until the final weeks of pregnancy. The rising temperatures due to climate change only compound these challenges, with frequent heatwaves posing significant risks to maternal and child health. The stories shared by women like Nazneen Ali underscore the dire need for attention to this issue. Many pregnant women face heat-related illnesses and complications, affecting not only their own health but also that of their unborn children.

Addressing the Data Gap

Despite the evident risks, there is a lack of comprehensive data on how heat impacts pregnant women in Pakistan. Recognizing this gap, the IGHD, in collaboration with partners and donors like the Wellcome Trust, has initiated a four-year research project. This study aims to gather data from 6,000 women across various districts in Sindh, examining the correlation between extreme heat and pregnancy outcomes. By utilizing innovative devices to monitor temperatures and conducting thorough analyses, the research team hopes to provide valuable insights into mitigating these risks.

Empowering Communities

The study also acknowledges the intersectionality of social and economic factors that exacerbate the challenges faced by pregnant women, particularly in urban areas. With rising temperatures expected to further strain already vulnerable communities, it is imperative to develop tailored solutions that address these complex issues. Through community engagement and active participation, the IGHD aims to empower women and healthcare providers to navigate these challenges effectively.

A Call to Action

As the frequency and intensity of heatwaves continue to escalate, urgent action is needed to safeguard the health and well-being of mothers and newborns. Public health campaigns, investments in healthcare infrastructure, and policy interventions are crucial steps in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on maternal and child health. By fostering collaboration and prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations, we can work towards a future where every pregnancy is supported and every child has the opportunity to thrive.

IGHD remains committed to advancing research, advocacy, and community-based initiatives to address the multifaceted impacts of climate change on global health.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH IN PAKISTAN

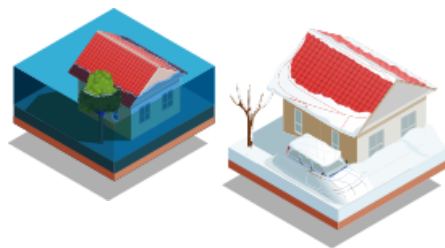
INSIGHTS FROM IGHD EXPERTS



WHITHER HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT?

In a recent op-ed published in Dawn on March 22nd, 2024, IGHD's Director and Associate Director, Dr. Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Dr. Jai Das, and other leading experts shed light on the critical intersection of health and the environment in Pakistan. Highlighting the glaring absence of health and climate ministries in initial cabinet appointments, they emphasize the urgent need for prioritizing the well-being of the poor and climate-vulnerable populations.

The article underscores the devastating aftermath of the 2022 floods, which left over 32 million people affected and billions of dollars in losses. Despite pledges for reconstruction, much remains to be done to address the long-term impacts of such disasters. Moreover, unseasonal rains and snowfall continue to disrupt lives, especially for farmers and transport systems, signaling the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change.



A comprehensive analysis by scholars at Aga Khan University reveals the alarming impact of climate change on early childhood wasting and stunting, particularly among vulnerable populations. The authors stress the need for equitable allocation of resources, such as the Loss and Damage Fund, to support low- and middle-income countries in mitigating climate effects.

Proposing actionable solutions, the article advocates for the development of climate-resilient health systems, investments in alternative energy sources for health facilities, and reinvigorated efforts for reforestation and tree plantation. Additionally, addressing air quality and smog crises emerges as a top priority for the new Punjab government, necessitating clear strategies and financial allocations.



Climate-Resilient Health Systems



Reforestation And Tree Plantation



Alternative Energy Sources



Air Quality And Smog

The op-ed concludes with a call to action for the new government to prioritize human development and sustainability, leveraging a 10-point agenda for climate-resilient health systems. It urges intersectoral collaboration and proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change on public health.

As members of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, IGHD remains committed to advancing health and climate-related Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan. Let's join hands in championing policies and actions that safeguard both the health of our people and the well-being of our planet.

For the full article, click here to visit [Dawn](#).

EXTREME HEAT AND MATERNAL HEALTH

DR. JAI DAS'S RESEARCH IN THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



In May 2024, Dr. Jai Das, a distinguished faculty member at Aga Khan University, garnered significant media attention for his groundbreaking research on the impact of heat on pregnant women and babies. Dr. Das's insightful findings were featured in interviews with several prominent international and local media outlets.

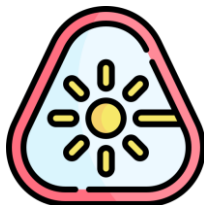
During these interviews, Dr. Das elaborated on the critical implications of his research, which underscores the heightened risks that extreme heat poses to pregnant women and their babies. He discussed how rising temperatures can lead to complications such as heat stress, dehydration, and adverse pregnancy outcomes, emphasizing the urgent need for public health interventions to protect vulnerable populations in the face of climate change.

Dr. Das's research highlights the importance of developing strategies to mitigate these risks, including improving access to cooling resources, raising awareness about the dangers of heat exposure, and integrating heat adaptation measures into maternal health programs. Additionally, his findings suggest the need for policy makers to prioritize maternal health in climate change adaptation strategies.

Dr. Das highlighted importance of:



IMPROVING ACCESS
TO **COOLING**
RESOURCES



AWARENESS ABOUT THE
DANGERS OF **HEAT**
EXPOSURE



INTEGRATING **HEAT ADAPTATION**
MEASURES INTO MATERNAL HEALTH
PROGRAMS

These media engagements provided a platform for Dr. Das to share his findings with a broader audience, fostering greater understanding and action on this critical issue. The recognition by major outlets like CNN, BBC Urdu, The Third Pole, and Samaa News reflects the global relevance of his work and its potential to inform policies and practices that safeguard maternal and infant health.

Dr. Das was interviewed by:



The widespread attention received by Dr. Das's research is a testament to the pressing nature of climate-related health challenges and the vital importance of addressing these issues through comprehensive and informed public health strategies. This pioneering research not only highlights the immediate risks but also calls for long-term solutions to protect the most vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of climate change.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

ACCOLADES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
RECEIVED BY THE IGHD TEAM



GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR IGHD LEADERSHIP

DR. ZULFIQAR A. BHUTTA AND DR. JAI DAS GARNER INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The **Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD)** proudly celebrates the remarkable achievements of **Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta** and **Dr. Jai K. Das**, who received prestigious international recognition in 2024, underscoring their contributions to global health and development.

Dr. Bhutta was ranked **146th globally** and **top in Pakistan** in medicine by **Research.com** and was also named in **Clarivate's Highly Cited Researchers 2024** list in the **Clinical Medicine** category for his pioneering work in maternal and child health. Dr. Das achieved distinction as **first in Pakistan** in **Social Sciences and Humanities** by **Research.com** and was included in Clarivate's list in the **Cross-Field** category for his interdisciplinary research.

Research.com

Clarivate™



Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President of Aga Khan University, congratulated both faculty members on their outstanding accomplishments. He highlighted that their achievements are a testament to the university's dedication to producing impactful, evidence-based research that addresses critical global health and development challenges, inspiring continued efforts to create meaningful change in these fields.

“ The continued recognition of Drs. Zulfiqar Bhutta and Jai Das in Clarivate's Highly Cited Researchers list speaks to their outstanding contributions to global health research. Their work embodies AKU's commitment to producing impactful, evidence-based research that addresses critical health and development challenges worldwide ”

- Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin
PRESIDENT
AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



About Research.com and Clarivate

Research.com, a leading academic platform for researchers, ranks researchers using the Discipline H-index, which measures the impact of their publications within specific disciplines. **Clarivate's Highly Cited Researchers list** identifies scientists whose publications rank in the top 1% by citations in their respective fields, reflecting significant global influence

For more information about these awards click here: [Research.com](https://www.research.com) or [Clarivate](https://clarivate.com)

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

EMPOWERING GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH
KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

TRANSFORMING CLIMATE EDUCATION

IGHD AND AKDNS'S LANDMARK MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE (MOOC) ON HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT



AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) initiated the development of a groundbreaking Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) titled *Climate Change, Health & Development in Low- & Middle-Income Countries: Challenges & Solutions*. This transformative initiative, developed in collaboration with Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) entities, is set to launch in 2025, marking a significant step toward addressing the multifaceted health impacts of climate change in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

This innovative course provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of climate change's scientific foundations, its cascading effects on agriculture, food systems, and health systems, and actionable strategies for mitigation and adaptation. The curriculum incorporates cutting-edge research, policy analysis, real-world case studies, and practical tools, fostering an interdisciplinary approach to tackling climate resilience and sustainable development challenges. Designed to reach a global audience, the MOOC emphasizes inclusive and scalable solutions to equip professionals, students, and policymakers with the expertise needed to address climate-related health crises effectively.



“ This course is a game-changer for empowering individuals and organizations in low- and middle-income countries with the knowledge and tools needed to address the multifaceted challenges of climate change. It bridges the gap between research and action, fostering resilience where it is needed most. ”

- ARSALA FAROOQUI
PROJECT MANAGER

By integrating education, research, and advocacy, the MOOC reflects IGHD's unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration to drive meaningful change. This initiative has the potential to catalyze a new generation of leaders dedicated to building resilient, climate-smart communities, equipping them with the tools to implement sustainable solutions and influence policy at both local and global levels.



“ The launch of this MOOC will represent a transformative milestone in climate education, offering actionable solutions to the critical health challenges posed by climate change in low- and middle-income countries. By combining cutting-edge research with real-world applications, this initiative empowers learners globally to drive meaningful change and build resilient, climate-smart communities. It underscores AKU's unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive, interdisciplinary approaches that address the most pressing issues of our time. ”

- DR. TANIA BUBELA
PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC
AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



SUPPORTING WOMEN IN SCIENCE 2024

SWIS COHORT 3 INDUCTION CEREMONY: EMPOWERING WOMEN IN SCIENCE

On July 15, 2024, the Supporting Women in Science (SWIS) initiative held its third cohort induction ceremony, introducing 27 new mentees to their mentors. This marks another milestone in the program's ongoing efforts to close the gender gap in scientific research. SWIS, a collaboration between IGHD and the University of Oxford, seeks to empower early- and mid-career women scientists from South-Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa through a highly competitive research fellowship.



This year's call for applications saw an unprecedented response, with 431 submissions from 13 countries, including Afghanistan, Brazil, Kenya, Nepal, and Pakistan. From these, 180 women were selected for the fellowship, underscoring the program's expanding global influence. The fellows will participate in a structured program comprising self-paced courses, mentored research projects, and leadership development.



Afghanistan

Brazil

Bangladesh

Ethiopia

Indonesia

Ireland

PARTICIPATION BY
WOMEN SCIENTISTS FROM
ACROSS THE GLOBE

431
APPLICATIONS
FOR COHORT 3



Nepal

Nigeria

Rwanda

Pakistan

Kenya

Uganda

Tanzania

Since its inception, SWIS has supported nearly 500 women scientists across its three cohorts, contributing to reducing regional disparities in research capacity. Fellows are conducting vital research in areas such as maternal and child health, climate change, and adolescent health. By offering mentorship and essential resources, SWIS is fostering a more inclusive and diverse scientific community, while shaping future leaders in global health research.

JUNE 21, 2024
SWIS COHORT 4 ORIENTATION



IGHD hosted the orientation for the 4th cohort of the SWIS program, welcoming the newest group of fellows. The program continues to support early-career women scientists from South-Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa by offering training and research funding, helping them advance their careers and contribute to global scientific research.

INSPIRING CHANGE-MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

IGHD'S SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2024

This summer, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) was pleased to welcome four talented individuals through the **AKU ASPIRE Summer Internship Program**. Our 2024 interns, **Amsal Malik**, **Sahar Makhani**, **Uraib Chamdia** (all from Habib University), and **Shanzay Zehra Rizvi** (University of Guelph), spent six weeks engaging with diverse health research projects at IGHD, gaining hands-on experience and insights into global health challenges.



AMSAL MALIK
HABIB UNIVERSITY



SAHAR MAKHANI
HABIB UNIVERSITY



URAIB CHAMDIA
HABIB UNIVERSITY



SHANZAY ZEHRA RIZVI
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

IGHD'S SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2024 PARTICIPANTS



During their internship, the interns had the opportunity to develop critical research skills and broaden their understanding of global health issues. They also completed certifications such as Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, adding to the depth of their research training. We are incredibly proud of the contributions and dedication of Amsal, Sahar, Uraib, and Shanzay. Their time with IGHD has laid a strong foundation for their future endeavors in global health, and we look forward to seeing them excel in their academic and professional careers.

ABOUT THE IGHD SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The IGHD Summer Internship Program offers young talent a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience and develop essential professional skills. Through a supportive and enriching environment, IGHD ensures that interns leave with valuable insights and knowledge to enhance their personal and professional growth.

If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact IGHD HR Representative Ms. Hina Thobani at hina.thobani@aku.edu or ighd@aku.edu.

MENTORING FUTURE LEADERS

DR. JAI DAS AND THE CLASS OF 2024

Dr. Jai Das has been pivotal in shaping the next generation of public health professionals at IGHD, mentoring three Master's students in MSc in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and two students in Master of Health Policy and Management. Under his guidance, the class of 2024 explored diverse topics ranging from non-communicable diseases to climate change and advanced healthcare interventions, producing research with tangible real-world impact.



Here are the standout students mentored by Dr. Jai:



**DR. MUZNA
HASHMI**

MSC IN EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND BIOSTATISTICS

Double burden of malnutrition and its associated factors among adolescents in rural district of Sindh, Pakistan: Secondary data analysis

Prevalence of Primary Dysmenorrhea and its association with Body Mass Index among adolescent girls of 10-19 years in the rural district of Sindh, Pakistan: Analysis of Adolescent's Health, Nutrition, and Well-being Survey (AD-HAWS)-2021

**NAUREEN
REHMAN**

MSC IN EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND BIOSTATISTICS



**TANSHEET
JAWAD**

MASTER OF HEALTH POLICY
AND MANAGEMENT

Dietary intake and its associated factors among adolescents aged 10-19 years in rural Pakistan: A secondary data analysis

Hormone Replacement Therapy and Quality of Life of Postmenopausal Women Working in Healthcare System Aged 45-60 years , A Cross-Sectional Study, Karachi Pakistan

**DR. PARAS
SHAKEEL**

MSC IN EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND BIOSTATISTICS



**MARIAM
MOIN**

MASTER OF HEALTH POLICY
AND MANAGEMENT

Interventions to promote adolescent physical activity in school settings: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Through their work, these students reflect IGHD's commitment to excellence in research and global health leadership.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

NEW TEAM MEMBERS AT THE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted to welcome three new associate faculty members, one new faculty member and two postdoctoral fellow to the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD). Their extensive experience and expertise will undoubtedly contribute to advancing our mission.



NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Ms. Arjumand Rizvi joins IGHD as a new faculty member. She previously served as a Senior Manager in the Analytic Section of the Data Management Unit at the Center of Excellence in Women and Child Health and as a Lecturer in the Department of Community Health Sciences at Aga Khan University. With over 19 years of experience, she has provided data management and analysis for various national and international projects. She specializes in integrating innovative statistical approaches for analyzing maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health outcomes. Ms. Rizvi has co-authored numerous publications and has extensive teaching experience. She holds an MSc in Statistics from the University of Karachi and an M.Phil in Statistics & Scientific Computing from IoBM.

NEW ASSOCIATE FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Rehana A. Salam joins us as a new Associate Faculty member. Dr. Salam is a Research Fellow at the Daffodil Centre, University of Sydney. An epidemiologist and biostatistician with a nursing background, she completed her PhD at the University of Adelaide in 2019. Dr. Salam's research focuses on evidence synthesis and translation with significant policy implications, authoring over 150 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. Her research interests include evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for maternal, child and adolescent health and conducting systematic reviews for developing evidence-based recommendations and clinical practice guidelines for the prevention, diagnosis, and management of cancers. More recently, she has broadened the scope of her research to implementation sciences and qualitative research to assess how best to implement strategies that facilitate the uptake of evidence-based interventions. At IGHD, she will contribute her expertise as a systematic reviewer, and an implementation scientist to generate and implement the evidence-based recommendations and practices.





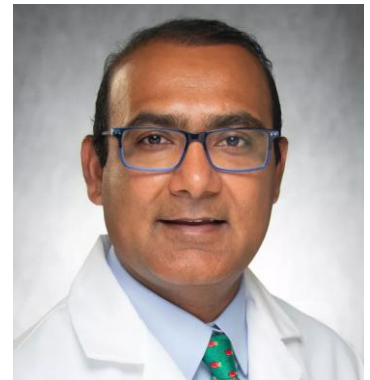
Zohra Lassi is an Associate Professor and NHMRC Emerging Leader-2 Fellow. She is a trained epidemiologist recognised internationally for her work identifying interventions for improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition in disadvantaged settings by advancing knowledge in public health practice and translation into global health policies and guidelines. She has published 200+ peer-reviewed papers, an author of 11 book chapters and several research/technical reports. Her research has contributed significantly to global maternal and newborn policies, particularly, her work with community health workers and outreach services has contributed significantly to global integrated maternal and newborn outreach guidelines.

Dr. Aamer Imdad recently joined IGHD as an Associate Faculty member, making him the third new addition to our team. He is an assistant professor of Pediatrics and a Physician Scientist at Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa, specializing in pediatric gastroenterology with advanced expertise in clinical nutrition. Dr. Imdad is recognized internationally as a nutrition and public health expert, and his ongoing work is expected to significantly benefit young people worldwide.

Since graduating from Aga Khan University in 2008, Dr. Imdad has excelled in research and patient care in child health, with a primary focus on nutrition in the first 1000 days of life. He also possesses expertise in evidence synthesis and guideline development. His research has been published in reputable journals such as Lancet, Pediatrics, British Medical Journal, Gastroenterology, and Cochrane Library. Dr. Imdad's work has been instrumental in developing guidelines for organizations like the World Health Organization and the American Gastroenterology Association.

Dr. Imdad has served on committees for various international organizations, including the research committee for the North American Society of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) and the guideline committee for the American Gastroenterology Association. Additionally, he has been part of the editorial boards of esteemed medical journals such as 'Plos One' and 'Nutrients.'

Before joining the University of Iowa, Dr. Imdad served as a faculty member at SUNY Upstate Medical University for five years. During his tenure there, he was honored with the President's Award for Excellence in Research due to his significant contributions to clinical research and mentorship of students' research projects.



NEW POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

We are excited to **welcome Dr. Ammad Waheed Qazi** as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Global Health and Development, Aga Khan University, Karachi. Dr. Qazi holds a PhD in Environmental Science and specializes in climate change modeling. With extensive experience in GIS and Remote Sensing, he has contributed to impactful research projects analyzing the environmental impacts of climate change. He has published four international research papers in reputed journals and previously served as a Visiting Faculty Assistant Professor and Research Associate at the International Islamic University Islamabad. His research focuses on advancing sustainable practices and addressing challenges at the intersection of climate change, environment, and sustainability. We look forward to his innovative contributions to the field of global health and development.



We are pleased to announce that **Humaira Nazir** has joined the Institute for Global Health and Development as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Humaira brings a wealth of experience as an Associate Professor at Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology, where she has been teaching since 2016. Her research focuses on sustainable development, specifically in the growth of neighborhoods and communities, their infrastructure, and the built environment. With 22 research papers published in national and international journals and numerous awards for academic excellence and mentorship, including the "Best Teacher Award" and "Best Mentor Award," Humaira is a dedicated advocate for improving living conditions and infrastructure. She is also actively involved in rural development initiatives with the Rural Development Foundation in Sindh. We are thrilled to have her expertise contributing to IGHD's mission.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We are thrilled to welcome these accomplished professionals to the IGHD family. Their expertise and dedication will undoubtedly strengthen our mission to drive impactful research and innovation in global health and development. We look forward to the valuable contributions they will make as we continue to tackle pressing health challenges and create meaningful solutions for communities worldwide.

TEAM IGHD

HIGHLIGHTING IGHD'S WORKFORCE EXPANSION IN 2024

This year, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) achieved a significant milestone in expanding its workforce across various roles. These new hires reinforce IGHD's commitment to advancing global health and development through a robust and diverse team. Here is the breakdown of positions filled:



FACULTY

01



ASSOCIATE
FACULTY

03



POST DOCTORAL
FELLOW

02



SENIOR MEDICAL
OFFICER

07



MANAGER

01



RESEARCH
SPECIALIST

03



DATA
ANALYST

02



RESEARCH
COORDINATOR

08



RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE

53



SENIOR RESEARCH
ASSISTANT

132



ADMIN
ASSISTANT

07

TOTAL TEAM GROWTH | 220

This expansion underscores IGHD's dedication to scaling its efforts in research, innovation, and capacity building for global health challenges. We welcome our new team members and look forward to their contributions in driving impactful change.

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

IGHD'S CONTRIBUTIONS
AND PARTICIPATION

EMPOWERING SCHOOLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

IGHD DRIVES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY



ExchangeAlumni
CONNECT EMPOWER INSPIRE



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT



Directorate of Inspection and Registration of
Private Institutions Sindh



The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University proudly co-hosted a transformative event promoting environmental action in Karachi's private schools. **Dr. Bhavita Kumari**, representing IGHD, served as the host of the event, which was supported by the U.S. Mission in Pakistan. The initiative brought together school leaders, the Sindh Education and Literacy Department, and other key partners to champion climate-inclusive education.

IGHD continues to lead the way in fostering collaboration and driving impactful change, ensuring education becomes a cornerstone of Pakistan's environmental resilience. By equipping educators with the tools to inspire climate action, IGHD is shaping a generation ready to tackle environmental challenges.

Through interactive workshops and engaging discussions, participants explored practical ways to integrate climate education into curricula and activities. School leaders left equipped with tools to inspire environmental stewardship and empower students as future advocates for sustainability.



INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO DISEASE ELIMINATION

SPOTLIGHT ON DR. JAI DAS AT GLIDE SYMPOSIUM 2024



Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director at IGHD, represented the institute with distinction at the inaugural GLIDE Symposium in Abu Dhabi, attended by over 100 global health leaders from 30+ countries.

Dr. Das's insights on collaboration and integrated strategies for disease eradication inspired attendees and highlighted IGHD's commitment to advancing global health. His leadership showcased IGHD's pivotal role in tackling health disparities and driving impactful change worldwide.

EU CLIMATE CONFERENCE

EXPLORING HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director at IGHD, took the stage as a panelist at the European Union's esteemed conference on Research Perspectives on the Health Impacts of Climate Change.

Speaking on 'Extreme Weather Events and Physical and Mental Health,' Dr. Das shared insights on the profound health impacts of climate change and strategies for adaptation and mitigation. His expertise reinforced IGHD's dedication to addressing the complex links between climate change and global health.

Dr. Das's participation spotlighted IGHD's leadership in driving interdisciplinary collaboration and actionable solutions for a healthier, sustainable future.



“Joining the European Commission conference was an honor and an opportunity to stress the need for collaboration in tackling climate change's health impacts. Together, we can drive innovative solutions to safeguard human well-being”

Dr Jai Das | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IGHD



CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & NUTRITION - TWG

INAUGURAL MEETING LAUNCHES AKU/AKDN'S TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

On March 18, 2024, the AKU/AKDN Climate Change, Environment, Health & Nutrition Technical Working Group (TWG) held its inaugural meeting, setting the stage for collaborative action on climate-related health and nutrition challenges across AKDN geographies.



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mission & Objectives:

The TWG aims to develop data-driven strategies addressing capacity building, research, stakeholder collaboration, policy advocacy, and impact assessment, with IGHD serving as its Secretariat.

Key Highlights:



Defining Focus Areas

Members prioritized capacity assessment, research, and policy advocacy to drive immediate impact.



Strategic Roadmap

A roadmap for 2024 includes forming a steering committee and initiating targeted activities toward long-term goals.



Unified Vision

Discussions reinforced the group's multidisciplinary approach, emphasizing health and development at its core.

This milestone meeting underscores the TWG's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and transformative action in addressing the intersection of climate change, health, and nutrition.

DISEASE ELIMINATION & ERADICATION COURSE (DEEC) 2024

ADVANCING STRATEGIES FOR POLIO ERADICATION

Dr. Narjis Fatima, Senior Instructor (Research), and Dr. Maha Azar, Research Specialist, represented Pakistan at the prestigious Disease Elimination & Eradication Course (DEEC) 2024, organized by GLIDE. The program, featuring an online component and an in-person segment at Ghana's Noguchi Memorial Institute, brought together global participants to develop targeted strategies for eliminating Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and infectious diseases.



GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION



UNIVERSITY OF Global Health EQUITY



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



NOGUCHI Memorial Institute for Medical Research University of Ghana

DISEASE ELIMINATION & ERADICATION COURSE (DEEC)

Dr. Fatima and Dr. Azar focused their efforts on increasing vaccine acceptance to eradicate polio in Pakistan. Their proposal earned USD 10,000 in seed funding for implementation, highlighting their impactful approach and commitment to disease elimination.

Their participation underscores IGHD's dedication to advancing global health solutions and fostering professional growth within our team.

IGHD REPRESENTS AT THE 3RD KARACHI CLIMATE FESTIVAL



On June 5, 2024, **Farhana Tabassum**, Project Manager at IGHD, participated in the 3rd Karachi Climate Festival, organized by Faroozaan, the Pakistan American Cultural Center (PACC), and the Pakistan U.S. Alumni Network (Karachi Chapter). Farhana brought her expertise to a panel discussion focused on the intersection of climate change and health.



ماحولیات کا ترجمان
فرزان

The discussion tackled critical challenges, including the impact of informal settlements on air quality and disease prevalence, the alarming rate of glacier melting, deforestation, and the vital role of mangroves. Farhana emphasized the health implications of climate change and advocated for integrated solutions to address these pressing issues.

Her contributions showcased IGHD's commitment to engaging in key conversations on climate action, policy reforms, and sustainable health strategies, reinforcing the institute's role as a thought leader in climate and health discourse.

SCHOOL-AGE AND ADOLESCENT NUTRITION PROGRAMMING IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS



GANN

Global Adolescent
Nutrition Network



On July 26, 2024, the Global Adolescent Nutrition Network (GANN) hosted a vital webinar titled “School-age and Adolescent Nutrition Programming in Humanitarian Contexts”. The session was moderated by IGHD’s Dr. Jai Das, a leading expert on adolescent nutrition, who shared findings from systematic reviews focused on interventions for improving nutrition among adolescents in challenging environments.



“ Adolescents in crisis settings face unique nutrition challenges, and targeted, context-specific interventions are essential to support their health and long-term resilience ”

- Dr Jai Das
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT, AKU**

Dr. Das’s presentation highlighted the growing need for targeted nutrition programs, particularly in areas affected by conflict or displacement. He outlined the unique challenges adolescents face in humanitarian settings, including food insecurity and limited access to health services, making them particularly vulnerable to malnutrition.

The webinar also featured two compelling case studies: one from Ukraine, where school meal programs continue despite the conflict, and another from Latin America, where efforts focus on supporting adolescent migrants and refugees from Venezuela. The case studies underscored the importance of innovative, context-specific interventions to ensure proper nutrition for young people in crisis situations.



This webinar was part of GANN’s ongoing effort to facilitate global collaboration on adolescent nutrition. Dr. Das’s participation and insights were key in framing the discussion around the need for international cooperation and shared strategies to support adolescent health in humanitarian contexts.

BREAKING BARRIERS FOR GENDER AND HEALTH EQUITY

GLOBAL VIRTUAL SEMINAR

The global virtual seminar "Breaking Barriers for Gender and Health Equity Through Research," held on September 10-11, 2024, brought together researchers, policymakers, and health practitioners to address the pressing issue of gender and health equity. Organized by Nature Conferences, the seminar focused on the systemic barriers that prevent marginalized communities, particularly women, from accessing equitable healthcare.



A highlight of the event was the session "Gender Representation in Medicine and Healthcare," where IGHD's Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta emphasized the critical need for increased leadership roles for women in healthcare and medical research. He called for institutional reforms to promote equal representation and opportunities for women in scientific fields, aiming to bridge the gap in gender disparities in healthcare.



The seminar examined the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, and health equity, emphasizing the need to dismantle systemic barriers and promote culturally sensitive care. Discussions highlighted how these factors drive healthcare inequities and underscored the importance of ensuring marginalized groups, including women and diverse racial and ethnic communities, have access to quality healthcare.

Building on the success of the 2022 Nature Conference on gender equity, this year's event broadened the focus to include health equity. In a post-pandemic world where vulnerable groups have faced disproportionate challenges, the seminar advanced the global dialogue on equitable healthcare access, aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). It also introduced a mentorship program, fostering connections across genders, career stages, and sectors, and encouraging collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

EXTREME HEAT AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN KARACHI

On July 11, 2024, the Karachi Urban Lab hosted a policy dialogue session titled "Extreme Heat and Vulnerable Communities in Karachi" at IBA City Campus. The session brought together key stakeholders, including experts in climate science, urban planning, local government, and community organizations, to address the increasing impact of extreme heat on Karachi's most vulnerable populations. With temperatures frequently surpassing 40°C and recent reports of over 500 heat-related deaths in just five days in June 2024, the urgency of the situation was a key focus of the discussion.



Participants examined the challenges posed by extreme heat, particularly in low-income areas that lack adequate cooling infrastructure. They discussed the role of institutions in addressing the crisis and identified gaps in current emergency responses. Policy recommendations emerging from the dialogue included improving infrastructure resilience, ensuring reliable access to power and water, and raising public awareness about heat safety measures.



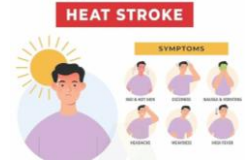
Infrastructure Resilience



Water Access



Power Access



Heat Safety Measures

Ms. Farhana Tabssum, Manager of Research at IGHD, contributed to the discussion by emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to protect at-risk communities. She stressed the importance of integrating heat adaptation strategies into public health and urban planning, as well as fostering community-led initiatives and behavior change campaigns to strengthen heat resilience at the grassroots level.



FARHANA TABSSUM
ASSISTANT MANAGER



The session concluded with a series of actionable policy recommendations aimed at improving Karachi's heat resilience. These included incorporating heat adaptation strategies into the Karachi Climate Action Plan, enhancing collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and communities, and developing targeted interventions for vulnerable populations. The event was a significant step toward addressing the challenges of extreme heat in Karachi and promoting collaboration for future climate resilience efforts.

IGHD PARTICIPATES IN EARLY-CAREER TRAINING ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH IN KATHMANDU

Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director of the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University, participated in the Early-Career Training on Air Pollution and Health, held from August 12–14, 2024, at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal. This prestigious event, organized by ICIMOD in collaboration with the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and the Collaborative for Air Pollution and Health Effects Research – India (CAPHER-India), brought together early-career researchers from across South Asia.



The training focused on enhancing the participants' capacity to address the public health challenges posed by air pollution, a critical issue for the region. The comprehensive program included modules on air pollution monitoring, exposure assessment, epidemiology, health impact assessment, and science communication. A special emphasis was placed on grant and science writing, equipping attendees with the tools needed to secure funding for their research projects.

AVAILABLE PROGRAM MODULES



Air Pollution Monitoring



Exposure Assessment



Epidemiology



Science Communication



Health Impact Assessment

SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON



Grant Writing



Science Writing

The training also aimed to build a network of early-career researchers, fostering regional collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field of air pollution's health impacts. Dr. Jai Das's participation in this program underscores IGHD's dedication to capacity building and addressing environmental health challenges in South Asia. His involvement will contribute to IGHD's ongoing efforts to develop innovative approaches to mitigate the adverse health effects of air pollution, a growing concern for urban and rural communities alike.

By attending this event, Dr. Das reaffirmed IGHD's leadership role in tackling pressing global health issues and supporting the development of young researchers dedicated to finding solutions for improving public health outcomes in the region.

DR. JAI DAS REPRESENTS IGHD AT GLOBAL EVIDENCE SUMMIT 2024 IN PRAGUE



Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director at the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), actively contributed to the Global Evidence Summit 2024, held from September 10–13 in Prague. The summit, which brought together experts from across the globe to discuss evidence-based practices, was hosted at the O2 Universum and provided a multidisciplinary platform to exchange ideas on critical issues such as health, education, social justice, and climate change.

Dr. Das delivered an impressive six presentations over two days, showcasing IGHD’s cutting-edge research across a wide range of health-related topics:

- 1 | Low-osmolarity Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) for Childhood Diarrhea:** Systematic Review and Meta Analysis
- 2 | Existing Evidence of Climate Change and Health in LMICs:** A Gap Map
- 3 | Effectiveness of Community-based Heat Stress Adaptation Interventions:** A Systematic Review
- 4 | Antenatal Care Strategies to Improve Perinatal and Newborn Outcomes**
- 5 | Feeding the High-Risk Newborn**
- 6 | Organization of Perinatal and Newborn Care Services**

These presentations addressed significant global health challenges, from combating childhood diarrhea with low-osmolarity ORS to addressing the health impacts of climate change in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Dr. Das also explored antenatal care strategies, newborn feeding practices, and the organization of perinatal services, providing evidence-based insights to improve health outcomes in vulnerable populations.

Dr. Das’s participation at the summit underscores IGHD’s commitment to advancing global health research and influencing policy and practice through evidence. His contributions not only reflected the diverse work being conducted at IGHD but also highlighted the importance of translating research into practical solutions that can improve lives, particularly in LMICs.

The Global Evidence Summit 2024, which saw contributions from hundreds of experts worldwide, continues to be a crucial platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and driving impactful change in global policy and practice.

IGHD CONTRIBUTES TO STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON HEAT STRESS AND UNDERNUTRITION

The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) participated in the Pakistan Stakeholder Workshop on Mobility, Heat Stress, and Undernutrition, held on November 26–27, 2024, at IBA Karachi.

The workshop, part of a pilot research project led by Karachi Urban Lab, APPNA Institute of Public Health, and IIED, brought together stakeholders to address the complex health risks faced by internally displaced women due to heat stress and undernutrition. Discussions focused on initial findings from the pilot phase and co-designing priorities for a 3–5-year research initiative in Karachi and Jacobabad.



IGHD's involvement underscores its commitment to tackling climate-related health challenges and fostering collaboration to build resilience in vulnerable communities.

IGHD ENGAGES IN CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION AT CAMAT-3 TRAINING PROGRAM

Ms. Farhana Tabassum from the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) was invited as a guest speaker for the 11th session of the Climate Awareness Methodology and Tools (CAMAT-3) training program, organized by the Climate Action Center in Karachi, held on November 2, 2024.

CAMAT-3, a 13-week program, combines in-person and online learning to equip participants with a deep understanding of climate change, renewable energy, and sustainable practices, while fostering engagement with NGOs, donors, and sustainable businesses.

Dr. Tabassum's presentation, titled "Navigating Climate Change: Health Risks and Adaptation Strategies," explored the intersection of climate change and health, offering actionable strategies to address its impacts in Pakistan. Her session added significant value to the program's mission of building capacity for climate resilience and action.



INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

BUILDING STRONGER TEAMS
THROUGH COLLABORATION

A DAY OF TEAM BUILDING: IGHD BEACH TRIP



A DAY OF FUN, SUN, AND BONDING BETWEEN IGHD TEAM MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) recently embarked on an exciting adventure beyond the office walls. On Saturday, April 20th, IGHD team members, along with their families, gathered for a memorable day of relaxation and camaraderie at Sandspit Beach. Underneath the azure skies and beside the glistening waters, IGHD transformed into a hub of joy and laughter. From the crack of dawn till the golden hues of dusk, team members and their loved ones reveled in the serenity and splendor of Sandspit Beach.

The beach trip served as a perfect opportunity for IGHD colleagues to unwind and strengthen their bonds outside of the professional realm. From sandcastle competitions to beach volleyball matches, everyone participated wholeheartedly, fostering a sense of unity and teamwork. The presence of families added an extra layer of warmth and joy to the gathering.



The IGHD beach trip exemplified the spirit of unity, inclusivity, and collaboration that defines our organization. As we return to our desks rejuvenated and reinvigorated, we hope to carry the spirit of togetherness and camaraderie forward in our daily endeavors. The success of our work at IGHD is not only measured by our professional achievements but also by the strength of the relationships we nurture along the way.



STRENGTHENING BONDS: IGHD TEAM DINNER

IGHD COLLEAGUES FORGE STRONGER CONNECTIONS BEYOND
OFFICE WALLS



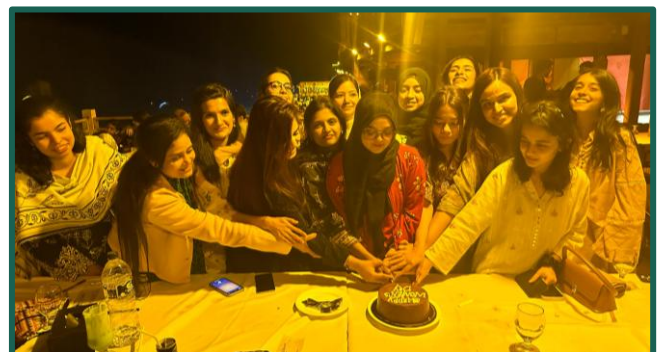
The Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) recently came together for a special Team Dinner on **Friday, March 8, 2024**, marking a joyous occasion for team members to gather in the spirit of camaraderie, gratitude, and celebration. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for IGHD colleagues to reconnect and strengthen their bonds outside of the workplace.



The ambiance was vibrant with joy as colleagues swapped stories, shared experiences, and relished each other's company in a relaxed environment. Additionally, the dinner held special significance as it also served as a platform to celebrate **International Women's Day**, recognizing the contributions and achievements of women within IGHD and beyond.

The Team Dinner featured a delightful spread of cuisine, a token of appreciation for the hard work and dedication of IGHD team members. As colleagues savored the delicious dishes and engaged in lively conversations, they embraced the opportunity to build deeper connections and forge lasting friendships within the IGHD community.

The evening was filled with laughter and reflections on shared experiences, reinforcing the strong bonds that unite the IGHD team. The Team Dinner was a memorable occasion that underscored the importance of fostering a supportive and collaborative work environment while honoring the spirit of International Women's Day.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

IGHD APPRECIATION DINNER HIGHLIGHTS TEAMWORK AND EXCELLENCE



On December 19, 2024, IGHD hosted an Appreciation Dinner at the Male Hostel Lawn to celebrate the hard work and dedication of its team. The event, hosted by Abbas Jaffer, brought together staff and special guests for an evening of gratitude, connection, and entertainment.

Highlights included opening remarks by Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta reflecting on the year's milestones and a nostalgic video presentation of IGHD's 2024 moments. The interactive game, "Who Do You Think We're Talking About?" conceptualized by Anjum Abbas Naqvi and Muhammad Shameer Qamar, was a crowd favorite, bringing laughter and camaraderie.



A special recognition honored Muti Ur Rehman for 10 years of exceptional service, with applause showcasing IGHD's strong sense of community. Dr. Jai Das closed the evening with reflections on achievements and aspirations for the coming year, followed by a delightful dinner.



The Appreciation Dinner underscored IGHD's commitment to celebrating its people and fostering a supportive work environment.

CELEBRATING GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE

PROMOTIONS AT IGHD IN 2024



At the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), we take pride in fostering a culture of growth, innovation, and professional excellence. As we reflect on a year of achievements, we are thrilled to recognize the dedication and accomplishments of our colleagues who have been promoted in 2024. Each individual has demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing IGHD's mission, and their growth highlights our collective pursuit of excellence.

Congratulations to the following team members on their well-deserved promotions:



AKBER ALI BARKET ALI
has advanced from
Assistant Manager to
MANAGER



SYED ABBAS ALAMDAR JAFFER
has progressed from
Assistant Manager to
MANAGER



RIYA PARTAB RAI
has been promoted from
Senior Research Assistant to
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE



FAISAL FEROZ
has transitioned from Senior
Research Assistant (NRL) to
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (NRL)



HIDAYATULLAH BADSHAH
has been elevated from
Senior Assistant to
ASSOCIATE



SYEDA ARJUMAND ZEHRA
has been promoted from
Senior Manager to
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



SANA KAHTOON
has advanced from
Research Associate to
RESEARCH SPECIALIST



RABIA ZUBERI
has transitioned from
Research Associate to
RESEARCH SPECIALIST (NRL)

SHINING BRIGHT

CELEBRATING THE STELLAR ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR STANDOUT STARS IN 2024

This year, we proudly recognize the exceptional accomplishments of our team members who have gone above and beyond, setting new benchmarks in global health and development. Their achievements inspire us all to aim higher and shine brighter.



HIDAYATULLAH BADSHAH

ASSOCIATE
AT IGHD

With over 15 years of experience as an Associate in the Administration Department at Aga Khan University, Hidayatullah Badshah has been a cornerstone of operational excellence. His expertise in managing administrative functions and his unique perspective, shaped by a Master's degree in Sociology, have been instrumental in fostering efficient organizational processes. Hidayatullah's unwavering dedication and commitment to service reflect his value as a key contributor to the university's success.

REHAN KANGO

ASSISTANT MANAGER AT
IGHD

Rehan Ali Kango, an Assistant Manager at Aga Khan University Hospital, brings over seven years of expertise in administrative leadership, project management, and business development. Known for driving operational efficiency and innovation, Rehan has a proven track record of managing large-scale projects, including establishing a state-of-the-art Simulation Centre during his tenure at the Post-Graduate Medical Institute. His dual Master's degrees in Project Management and Business Administration equip him with the skills to lead transformative change and create strategies that consistently exceed organizational goals.



TRAILBLAZING FUTURES

OUR TEAM'S JOURNEY TO NEW HEIGHTS THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

At IGHD, we celebrate the incredible strides our team members have taken to pursue higher education and shape the future of global health and development. Their journeys reflect dedication, curiosity, and the relentless pursuit of impactful change.



**MUSTAFA
ZUBAIRI**



Mustafa Zubairi, a Research Associate at the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University, contributed significantly to research in public health and development. His efforts encompassed data analysis, research design, and addressing health inequities through innovative solutions. Mustafa has since transitioned to clinical practice as an **Internal Medicine Resident Physician** at **Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**, combining his research expertise with patient-centered care to impact lives meaningfully.

**HAMNA
AMIR NASEEM**



MedStar Health



Hamna Amir Naseem, a Research Associate at the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) at Aga Khan University, has contributed significantly to global health research, focusing on maternal and child health. Her work included systematic reviews on neonatal care, cerebral palsy prevention, and stillbirth reduction, as well as a WHO-commissioned report on preventing wasting in children. She also co-authored a manuscript on malaria in pregnancy submitted to *Epidemiology and Infection*. Hamna is currently pursuing her **Internal Medicine Residency** at **MedStar Health Washington Hospital Center**, combining her research expertise with clinical practice to improve health outcomes.



ZAHID
ALI KHAN



Zahid A. Khan joined the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) in June 2020, where he laid the foundation for his career as a researcher. During his time at IGHD, he cultivated key skills in professionalism, research ethics, and academic rigor under the mentorship of Dr. Jai Das. Leveraging the opportunities provided by IGHD, Zahid pursued and completed a Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) from SZABIST University. In 2024, he embarked on a new academic journey as a Marie Curie Doctoral Candidate and **Public Health Specialist** at **AGH University of Krakow**, Poland. His Ph.D. research focuses on the social and environmental impacts of the cement industry on communities near cement plants

ISBAH
PREMJEE



Isbah Premjee, a Research Associate at the Institute for Global Health and Development, Aga Khan University, led impactful projects on the health impacts of climate change, Pakistan's progress on Sustainable Development Goals, and breastfeeding knowledge translation. Her work included analyzing climate exposures like heat and floods on health outcomes, assessing policies on climate change, gender, and mental health, and engaging stakeholders to drive evidence-based action on translating breastfeeding knowledge for several stakeholders including policy makers and communities. Now pursuing a **Master's in City Planning** at **MIT** with a concentration in **Environmental Policy and Planning**, she is continuing her work on the nexus of climate change and health as a **Research Assistant** at **MIT'S CoLab**. Isbah is committed to improving resilience of at-risk communities in climate vulnerable regions across the globe.



NARJIS
HUSSAIN FATIMA



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Narjis Fatima Hussain, a Senior Instructor (Research) at the Institute for Global Health and Development, has been instrumental in advancing public health nutrition initiatives. During her tenure at the Aga Khan University, she collaborated on projects addressing maternal and child health, focusing on nutritional challenges in low-resource settings. In 2024, Narjis commenced her Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences with a Collaborative Specialization in Global Health at the University of Toronto, Canada. Her doctoral research centers on the impact of heat exposure on maternal health, nutrition, and child growth, as well as co-designed interventions to mitigate these health impacts. This work aims to develop sustainable strategies to improve health outcomes in vulnerable populations.

AS WE BID FAREWELL

As we celebrate the remarkable journeys of our colleagues who have moved on this year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to all of you. Your time with IGHD has left a lasting impact, and your contributions continue to inspire us.

Wherever your paths take you, we hope you carry forward the values and lessons we've shared, shaping the future of global health and development in meaningful ways. You will always remain a cherished part of the IGHD family, and we look forward to celebrating your future successes from afar.

With our warmest regards and best wishes,

TEAM IGHD

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH INSIGHTS

KEY PUBLICATIONS
AND FINDINGS

A THREAT TO PROGRESS – CONFRONTING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CHILD HEALTH AND BEING

NEW REPORT LAUNCH



On August 14, 2024, UNICEF, in collaboration with Karolinska Institutet, launched a major report titled “A Threat to Progress: Confronting the Effects of Climate Change on Child Health and Well-being.” The report provides a comprehensive global overview of how climate change is negatively impacting children's health across six major hazards: extreme heat, droughts, wildfires, floods and storms, air pollution, and ecosystem changes.

The Six Major Hazards of Climate Change: How Children's Health is Impacted



Extreme Heat



Drought



Wildfire



Floods and Storms



Air Pollution



Ecosystem Changes

Children are particularly vulnerable to these hazards due to their developing physiology, greater exposure to environmental stressors, and reliance on caregivers. The report highlights how climate change is leading to increased risks of malnutrition, infectious diseases, mental health challenges, and heightened vulnerability to extreme weather events. Marginalized children, particularly in low-income countries, face the greatest risks due to socioeconomic and geographical disparities.



IGHD played a significant role in this report. Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, Founding Director of IGHD, served as a lead advisor to UNICEF on the report and co-authored the BMJ editorial alongside Tobias Alfvén, Professor in Global Child Health at Karolinska Institutet and one of the four authors of the report. His expertise and leadership were instrumental in shaping the report's key messages and policy recommendations.

Supporting this effort, Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director of IGHD, contributed his expertise on climate change's impact on child health, particularly in vulnerable regions like Pakistan. His insights helped refine recommendations to strengthen climate-resilient health systems and prioritize children's health in adaptation strategies.

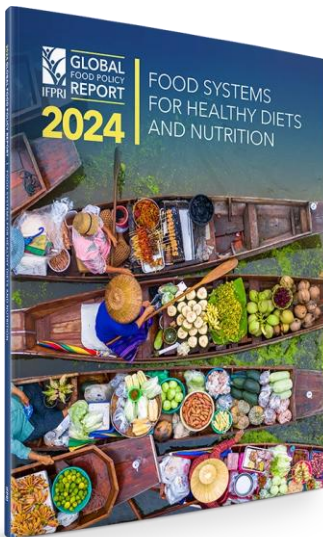
The report calls for urgent global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate-resilient health systems, and ensure that children's health is at the center of climate policy and investments.

The report launch was accompanied by a global webinar that gathered experts from around the world to discuss its findings and implications. The report emphasizes the urgent need for collective action to mitigate the far-reaching effects of climate change on children's health and well-being.

IGHD CONTRIBUTES TO 2024 GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT LAUNCH IN NEPAL

NEW REPORT LAUNCH

Dr. Jai Das, Assistant Director of the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), played a prominent role as a panelist at the South Asia Launch of the 2024 Global Food Policy Report (GFPR), which took place on August 8–9, 2024, at the Kathmandu Marriott Hotel in Nepal. This event, jointly organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), and the BIMSTEC Secretariat, brought together key stakeholders to discuss the findings of the latest GFPR, which focuses on Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Nutrition.



The 2024 GFPR examines the current challenges facing global food systems and explores sustainable, context-appropriate approaches to promoting healthy diets and nutrition. In light of growing concerns over malnutrition, climate change, and food insecurity, the report calls for stronger commitments from governments and stakeholders to prioritize nutrition goals, mitigate climate change impacts, and create robust policies that balance developmental aspirations with environmental concerns.

As a panelist in the Way Forward session, Dr. Das provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for transforming food systems in South Asia. He emphasized the need for multi-sectoral approaches that incorporate nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices, enhanced policy frameworks, and increased investments in climate-smart agriculture. His contribution highlighted the role of research in driving evidence-based policy changes to combat malnutrition and improve food security across the region.

Dr. Das's participation in this high-level event reflects IGHD's commitment to addressing the intersection of food security, nutrition, and climate change in South Asia. By engaging with global experts and policymakers, IGHD continues to influence key discussions and contribute to shaping the future of food and nutrition policies for vulnerable populations.



NEW STUDY PUBLISHED IN NATURE MEDICINE

STUDY ADDRESSING NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The Institute for Global Health and Development at Aga Khan University is thrilled to announce the publication of a groundbreaking study in Nature Medicine, co-authored by esteemed members of the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD), Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta and Dr. Jai Das, alongside other distinguished researchers.

Titled "An evidence gap map of interventions for noncommunicable diseases and risk factors among children and adolescents," the study addresses the critical gap in evidence concerning noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and associated risk factors among young populations worldwide.

The research underscores the staggering burden of NCDs among children and adolescents, with conditions such as substance misuse, obesity, mental health disorders, diabetes, cancers, and cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases contributing significantly to disability-adjusted life years. Despite this, evidence on effective interventions for this demographic remains scarce.



Through a comprehensive review of existing literature, the study generated an evidence gap map, mapping 159 reviews and 2,611 primary studies. Alarmingly, the vast majority of research (96.2%) originated from high-income countries, leaving a glaring disparity in evidence representation from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

While therapeutic interventions for NCDs show promising efficacy, interventions for mental health conditions, obesity, and substance misuse exhibit varying levels of evidence, ranging from moderate to very low. The study identifies critical gaps in research, emphasizing the urgent need for increased investment and targeted financing to address these disparities, particularly in LMICs.

Moving forward, the study highlights priority areas for future research, including the evaluation of digital health platforms for primary NCD prevention and management, as well as assessing the impact of policy changes on the prevalence of obesity and substance misuse.

This groundbreaking research underscores IGHD's commitment to advancing global health equity and addressing the pressing challenges of noncommunicable diseases among vulnerable populations. We commend the efforts of our esteemed colleagues and look forward to further collaborations in this crucial area of public health.



DR. ZULFIQAR BHUTTA | DIRECTOR IGHD
AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



DR. JAI DAS | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IGHD
AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

**For more information, please access the full article on Nature Medicine:
[Read here.](#)**

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Below is a list of research publications featuring IGHD's involvement. This collection highlights the studies IGHD contributed to or participated in over the past year.



- Das JK, Yasin R, Azhar M, Allahuddin Z, Bhutta ZA. **Antenatal care strategies to improve perinatal and newborn outcomes.** *Neonatology.* 2024;1-30.
- Arndt MB, Das JK, Abate YH, Abbasi-Kangevari M, et al. **Global, regional, and national progress towards the 2030 global nutrition targets and forecasts to 2050: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Dec 21;404(10471):2543-83.
- Das JK, Salam RA, Padhani ZA, Rizvi A, Mirani M, Jamali MK, Chauhadry IA, et al. **An innovative Community Mobilisation and Community Incentivisation for child health in rural Pakistan (CoMIC): a cluster-randomised, controlled trial.** *The Lancet Global Health.* 2025 Jan 1;13(1):e121-33.
- Das JK, Minaz A, Alam R, Jiwani U, et al. **Efficacy of probiotics for treatment of acute or persistent diarrhoea in children from birth till 10 years: Systematic review and meta-analysis.** *J Glob Health.* 2024 Dec 20;14:04236. doi: 10.7189/jogh.14.04236. PMID: 39703988.
- Das JK, Alam R, Vadsaria K, Khan A, Jiwani U, et al. **Effectiveness of enhanced care for treatment of acute or persistent diarrhea in malnourished children aged 0 months to 10 years: a systematic review.** *Journal of Global Health Economics and Policy.* 2024 Dec 12;4:e2024014.
- Harrison L, Das JK, Vaivada T, Yasin R, Bhutta ZA. **Rationale and approach to evaluating interventions for newborn care in low- and middle-income countries.** *Neonatology.* 2024;1-5.
- Das JK, Ali AA, Naqvi SK, Hasnain Z, Zubairi MBA, Sharif A, Salam RA, et al. **Zinc supplementation for acute and persistent watery diarrhoea in children: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *J Glob Health.* 2024;14:04212.
- Naqvi SK, Das JK, Zubairi MBA, Ali AA, Sharif A, Salam RA, et al. **Antibiotics for acute and persistent watery diarrhoea and dysentery in children: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *J Glob Health.* 2024;14:04211.
- Zubairi MBA, Das JK, Naqvi SK, Ali AA, Sharif A, Salam RA, et al. **Low-osmolarity oral rehydration solution for childhood diarrhoea: A systematic review and meta-analysis.** *J Glob Health.* 2024;14:04166.
- Das JK, Raza M, Padhani ZA, Hussain NF, Villar J, Kennedy S, Bhutta ZA. **Addressing inequities in research for early to mid-career women scientists in low- and middle-income countries: "Supporting Women in Science" programme.** *Frontiers in Global Women's Health.* 2024 Nov 28;5:1386809.
- Parkash O, Das JK, Lal A, Almas A, Shah R, Christopher O, et al. **Metabolic-Dysfunction Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD) and obesity in sub-Saharan Africa: A growing health concern.** *East African Medical Journal.* 2024 Nov 25;101(9):7355-64.
- Comfort H, Das JK, McHugh TA, Schumacher AE, Harris A, et al. **Global, regional, and national stillbirths at 20 weeks' gestation or longer in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2021: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Nov 16.
- Adnan N, Das JK, Faizan Ahmed SM, Aijaz S, Sukhia RH, Hoodbhoy Z, et al. **Developing an AI-based application for caries index detection on intraoral photographs.** *Scientific Reports.* 2024 Nov 5;14(1):26752.
- Hassan M, Das JK, Ali AS, Zubairi AB, Padhani ZA, et al. **Gene polymorphisms and risk of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Monaldi Archives for Chest Disease.* 2024 Oct 29.
- Das JK, Azhar M, Yasin R, Hanif S, Bughio SA, Bhutta ZA. **Nutritional Management of Low Birth Weight and Preterm Infants in Low- and Low Middle-Income Countries.** *Neonatology.* 2024 Nov 26;1-15. doi: 10.1159/000542154. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39591949.

- Ali AA, Das JK, Naseem HA, Allahuddin Z, Yasin R, Azhar M, et al. **The Effectiveness of Regionalization of Perinatal Care and Specific Facility-Based Interventions: A Systematic Review.** *Neonatology.* 2024:1-7.
- Zaki U, Das JK, Qazi SH, Shamim U, Fatima S, et al. **Optimal Strategies for Screening Common Birth Defects in Children of Low-and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review.** *Neonatology.* 2024:1-21.
- Das JK, Parkash O, Lal A, Subash T, et al. **Use of artificial intelligence for the detection of Helicobacter pylori infection from upper gastrointestinal endoscopy images: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis.** *Annals of Gastroenterology.* 2024;37(1):1-9. doi: 10.20524/aog.2024.0913.
- Farhana T, Das JK, Zayaan D, Shafaq N, et al. **Beyond the Thermometer: Navigating the Heat-Driven Links between Climate Change and Women's Health in Pakistan.** *Novel Practices in Med Study.* 2024;1(4):NPMS.000517.
- Sirota SB, Das JK, Doxey MC, Dominguez RM, et al. **Global, regional, and national burden of upper respiratory infections and otitis media, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet Infectious Diseases.* 2024 Sep 9.
- Das JK, Qazi SH, Meerza SSA, Lakhani S, et al. **Common pediatric surgical conditions and associated health-seeking behaviors in Pakistan: An urban and rural comparative assessment.** *PLOS Glob Public Health.* 2024;4(9):e0003327.
- Das JK, Padhani ZA, Khan M, Mirani M, et al. **Efficacy of Zinc Fortified and Fermented Wheat Flour (EZAFFAW): A randomized controlled trial protocol.** *PLOS ONE.* 2024;19(6):e0304462.
- Abbas Q, Das JK, Ali H, Amjad F, et al. **Clinical presentation, diagnosis and management of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C): a systematic review.** *BMJ Paediatrics Open.* 2024;8:e002344.
- Brauer M, Das JK, Roth GA, Aravkin AY, et al. **Global burden and strength of evidence for 88 risk factors in 204 countries and 811 subnational locations, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 May 18;403(10440):2162-203.
- Das JK, Vollset SE, Ababneh HS, Abate YH, et al. **Burden of disease scenarios for 204 countries and territories, 2022–2050: a forecasting analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 May 18;403(10440):2204-56.
- Das JK, Mannan F. **Global age-sex-specific mortality, life expectancy, and population estimates in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1950–2021, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: a comprehensive demographic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Mar 8.
- Baker JL, Das JK, GBD 2021 Causes of Death Collaborators. **Global burden of 288 causes of death and life expectancy decomposition in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Apr 3.
- Ferrari AJ, Das JK, Santomauro DF, et al. **Global incidence, prevalence, years lived with disability (YLDs), disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs), and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 371 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Apr 17.
- Naghavi M, Das JK, Ong KL, et al. **Global burden of 288 causes of death and life expectancy decomposition in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Apr 3.
- Das JK, Bhattacharjee NV, Schumacher AE, et al. **Global fertility in 204 countries and territories, 1950–2021, with forecasts to 2100: a comprehensive demographic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Mar 20.
- Das JK, Schumacher AE, Kyu HH, et al. **Global age-sex-specific mortality, life expectancy, and population estimates in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1950–2021, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: a comprehensive demographic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *The Lancet.* 2024 Mar 11.
- Iftikhar H, Das JK, Abbasi AMA, Mustafa K, et al. **Efficacy of non-medicated middle meatal packing after endoscopic sinus surgery: a systematic review.** *World J Otorhinolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2024:1-9. doi:10.1002/wjo2.148.
- Das JK, Lakhani S, Rahman AR, Siddiqui F, et al. **Malaria in pregnancy: Meta-analyses of prevalence and associated complications.** *Epidemiol Infect.* 2024 Feb 13;152:e39. doi:10.1017/S0950268824000177. PMID: 38347721.
- Kachwaha S, Das JK, Kim SS, et al. **Behavior Change Interventions to Address Unhealthy Food Consumption: A Scoping Review.** *Current Developments in Nutrition.* 2024;8(3). doi:10.1016/j.cdnut.2024.102104.

- Kessani VK, Das JK, Hemani F, et al. **Heated and humidified high flow therapy (HHFT) in extreme and very preterm neonates with respiratory distress syndrome (RDS): a retrospective cohort from a tertiary care setting in Pakistan.** *BMJ Paediatrics Open.* 2024;8:e002158.
- Salam RA, Das JK, Khan MH, et al. **An evidence gap map of interventions for noncommunicable diseases and risk factors among children and adolescents.** *Nat Med.* 2024. doi:10.1038/s41591-023-02737-2.
- Memon ZA, Tahmeena, Fazal SA, Reale S, Spencer R, Bhutta ZA, Soltani H. **Effective strategies for increasing the uptake of modern methods of family planning in South Asia: a systematic review and meta-analysis.** *BMC Womens Health.* 2024 Jan 3;24(1):13.
- Gray NJ, Hauerslev M, Msengi G, Lewis-Watts L, Bhutta ZA. **Young Adults' Hopes Regarding Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Prevention and Management After the SARS-CoV-2 Virus Pandemic: Reflections From the NCD Child #YouthCOVIDCHAT Campaign.** *J Adolesc Health.* 2024 Jan;74(1):194-197.
- Salam RA, Khan MH, Meerza SSA, Das JK, Lewis-Watts L, Bhutta ZA. **An evidence gap map of interventions for noncommunicable diseases and risk factors among children and adolescents.** *Nat Med.* 2024 Jan 9.
- Anton B, Lacaille D, Xu A, Alandejani A, Sidi S, Mansourian M, Butt ZA, Cahill LE, Iyamu IO, Lang JJ, Rana J, Somayaji R, Sarrafzadegan N, Kopec JA; GBD RA Collaborator Group. **National burden of rheumatoid arthritis in Canada, 1990-2019: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 - a GBD collaborator-led study.** *RMD Open.* 2024 Jan 12;10(1):e003533.
- Habib MA, Soofi SB, Hussain Z, Ahmed I, Tahir R, Anwar S, Nauman AA, Sharif M, Islam M, Cousens S, Bhutta ZA. **A Holistic Strategy of Mother and Child Health Care to Improve the Coverage of Routine and Polio Immunization in Pakistan: Results from a Demonstration Project.** *Vaccines (Basel).* 2024 Jan 16;12(1):89.
- Mishra S, Horton S, Bhutta ZA, Essue BM. **Association between the use of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) services and uptake of institutional deliveries in India.** *PLOS Glob Public Health.* 2024 Jan 16;4(1):e0002651.
- Carducci B, Dominguez G, Kidd E, Janes K, Owais A, Bhutta ZA. **Pivoting school health and nutrition programmes during COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries: A scoping review.** *J Glob Health.* 2024 Jan 19;14:05006.
- Lowe NM, Hall AG, Broadley MR, Foley J, Boy E, Bhutta ZA. **Preventing and Controlling Zinc Deficiency Across the Life Course: A Call to Action.** *Adv Nutr.* 2024 Jan 25:100181.
- Yackobovitch-Gavan M, Fisch-Shvalb N, Bhutta ZA. **Malnutrition and Catch-Up Growth During Childhood and Puberty.** *World Rev Nutr Diet.* 2024;127:1-21.
- Ariff S, Jiwani U, Rizvi A, Muhammad S, Hussain A, Ahmed I, Hussain M, Usman M, Iqbal J, Memon Z, Soofi SB, Bhutta ZA. **Effect of Maternal and Newborn Care Service Package on Perinatal and Newborn Mortality: A Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial.** *JAMA Netw Open.* 2024 Feb 5;7(2):e2356609.
- Kopec JA, Pourmalek F, Adeyinka DA, Adibi A, Agarwal G, Alam S, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Health trends in Canada 1990-2019: An analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study.** *Can J Public Health.* 2024 Apr;115(2):259-270.
- Dewidar O, McHale G, Al Zubaidi A, Bondok M, Abdelrazeq L, Huang J, Jearvis A, Aliyeva K, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Motivations for investigating health inequities in observational epidemiology: a content analysis of 320 studies.** *J Clin Epidemiol.* 2024 Apr;168:111283.
- Barros FC, Gunier RB, Rego A, Sentilhes L, Rauch S, Gandino S, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Maternal vaccination against COVID-19 and neonatal outcomes during Omicron: INTERCOVID-2022 study.** *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2024 Oct;231(4):460.e1-460.e17.
- Khan AM, Ahmed I, Jawwad M, Islam M, Tahir R, Anwar S, Nauman AA, Bhutta ZA. **A Low-Cost, Integrated Immunization, Health, and Nutrition Intervention in Conflict Settings in Pakistan-The Impact on Zero-Dose Children and Polio Coverage.** *Pathogens.* 2024 Feb 20;13(3):185.
- Farrar DS, Pell LG, Muhammad Y, Khan SH, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Association of maternal, obstetric, fetal, and neonatal mortality outcomes with Lady Health Worker coverage from a cross-sectional survey of >10,000 households in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan.** *PLOS Glob Public Health.* 2024 Feb 27;4(2):e0002693.
- NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). **Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population-representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults.** *Lancet.* 2024 Feb 29:S0140-6736(23)02750-2.

- Dewidar O, Al-Zubaidi A, Bondok M, Abdelrazeq L, Huang J, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Reporting of equity in observational epidemiology: A methodological review.** *J Glob Health.* 2024 Mar 1;14:04046.
- Ali S, Bhutta SM, Ahmad S, Ansari AN, Ahmed A, Qadir Y. **PROTOCOL: Effectiveness of public-private partnerships on educational access and quality of primary and secondary schooling in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review.** *Campbell Syst Rev.* 2024 Mar 5;20(2):e1385.
- GBD 2021 Demographics Collaborators. **Global age-sex-specific mortality, life expectancy, and population estimates in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1950-2021, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: a comprehensive demographic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *Lancet.* 2024 Mar 8:S0140-6736(24)00476-8.
- Iroz CB, Ramaswamy R, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Quality improvement in public-private partnerships in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review.** *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2024 Mar 13;24(1):332.
- Bousquet Carrilho TR, Wang D, Hutcheon JA, Wang M, Fawzi WW, Kac G; members of the GWG Pooling Project Consortium. **The impact of excluding adverse neonatal outcomes on the creation of gestational weight gain charts among women from low- and middle-income countries with normal and overweight BMI.** *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2024 Mar 22:S0002-9165(24)00385-X.
- GBD 2021 Causes of Death Collaborators. **Global burden of 288 causes of death and life expectancy decomposition in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1990-2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *Lancet.* 2024 Apr 3:S0140-6736(24)00367-2.
- Memon Z, Mian A, Ahmed W, Jawwad M, Muhammad S, Noorani AQ, Bhutta ZA, Soltani H. **Predictors of voluntary uptake of modern contraceptive methods in rural Sindh, Pakistan.** *PLOS Glob Public Health.* 2024 Apr 4;4(4):e0002419.
- Montgomery-Csobán T, Kavanagh K, Murray P, Robertson C, Barry SJE, Vivian Ukah U, Payne BA, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Machine learning-enabled maternal risk assessment for women with pre-eclampsia (the PIERS-ML model): a modelling study.** *Lancet Digit Health.* 2024 Apr;6(4):e238-e250.
- Anton B, Cuevas S, Hanson M, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Opportunities and challenges for financing women's, children's and adolescents' health in the context of climate change.** *BMJ Glob Health.* 2024 Apr 27;9(4):e014596.
- GBD 2021 Diseases and Injuries Collaborators. **Global incidence, prevalence, years lived with disability (YLDs), disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs), and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 371 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1990-2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *Lancet.* 2024 May 18;403(10440):2133-2161.
- GBD 2021 Risk Factors Collaborators. **Global burden and strength of evidence for 88 risk factors in 204 countries and 811 subnational locations, 1990-2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.** *Lancet.* 2024 May 18;403(10440):2162-2203.
- Carducci B, Dominguez G, Kidd E, Oh C, Jain R, Khan A, Bhutta ZA. **Promoting healthy school food environments and nutrition in Canada: a systematic review of interventions, policies, and programs.** *Nutr Rev.* 2024 May 20:nuae030.
- Owais A, Islam M, Ataullahjan A, Bhutta ZA. **Understanding the determinants of anemia reduction among women of reproductive age: Exemplar country case studies' methodology.** *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2024 May 31:S0002-9165(24)00518-5.
- Angeles-Agdeppa I, Owais A, Goyena EA, Merritt CE, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Drivers of Anemia Reduction among Women of Reproductive Age in the Philippines: A Country Case Study.** *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2024 Jun 19:S0002-9165(24)00529-X.
- Das JK, Padhani ZA, Khan M, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Efficacy of Zinc Fortified and Fermented Wheat Flour (EZAFFAW): A randomized controlled trial protocol.** *PLOS ONE.* 2024 Jun 20;19(6):e0304462.
- Ndiaye NF, Owais A, Diop H, Bhutta ZA, et al. **Drivers of Anemia Reduction among Women of Reproductive Age in Senegal: A Country Case Study.** *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2024 Jun 20:S0002-9165(24)00530-6.

THANK YOU



DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED BY:

Abbas Jaffer
Communications Manager
Institute for Global Health and Development
Aga Khan University