



NEWSLETTER | ISSUE NO. 9



PROTECTING CHILDREN IN CONFLICT ZONES | A CALL FOR ACTION

In a compelling analysis titled “When is Enough, Enough? Humanitarian Rights and Protection for Children in Conflict Settings Must Be Revisited,” Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Director of IGHD at Aga Khan University, and his colleagues have raised global concern over the plight of children caught in conflict zones. The analysis highlights the need for urgent reforms in international humanitarian laws and rules of engagement, which have failed to protect civilians, particularly children, in areas of ongoing conflict.



Dr. Bhutta's analysis draws on the tragic examples of Gaza, where more than 40,000 Palestinians, many of them children, have been killed since October 2023. He points out that the current global response and humanitarian protections are not only failing in Gaza but also in other conflict zones like Ukraine, Sudan, and Tigray, where civilian populations continue to bear the brunt of military violence.

The analysis calls for several critical actions, including the immediate cessation of combat operations in civilian areas, the evacuation of children to safe zones, and enhanced protection for key infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. It also advocates for the creation of global monitoring systems that use advanced technology to better assess the humanitarian impact of conflicts.

Additionally, Dr. Bhutta and his colleagues propose convening a global summit to address the failures of international humanitarian law in conflict settings. They stress that existing efforts are insufficient and that new coalitions and stronger partnerships must be formed to confront the ongoing violence against children.

This call to action urges the international community to renew its commitment to protecting the rights of the youngest and most vulnerable in society, ensuring that children in conflict zones are no longer collateral damage in wars.

“Protecting the lives of children in Gaza and other conflicts requires immediate changes to the rules of engagement and a stronger global response”

- Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta
DIRECTOR
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT, AKU



RECENT EVENTS

SCHOOL-AGE AND ADOLESCENT NUTRITION PROGRAMMING IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS | INSIGHTS FROM JULY 26, 2024 WEBINAR



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.

RECENT EVENTS:

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



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.



DR. JAI DAS
Assistant Director, Institute for Global Health and Development



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT



IGHD’s role in this report was primarily to review and provide inputs, and Dr. Jai Das contributed his expertise on the impact of climate change on child health, particularly focusing on vulnerable regions such as Pakistan. His input helped refine the recommendations aimed at improving climate-resilient health systems and ensuring that children’s health remains a priority in climate 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.

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

ADDRESSING 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.

The poster features logos for The Aga Khan University, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and CERP. It lists the dates as 1st - 2nd September, 2024, in Islamabad, Pakistan. The main objective is to bring together leading experts to discuss the multifaceted impacts of climate change and to foster meaningful dialogue. It lists Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta as Patron in Chief, Prof. Dr. Kaiser A. Malik as Patron, and Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Baig and Dr. Jai K. Das as Chief Organizers. Other organizers include Dr. Riffat M. Qureshi, Muhammad Nasseer, Syed Abbas Alemdar Jaffer, and Akber Ali. The event is organized by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Institute for Global Health & Development, Aga Khan University (IGHD-AKU), and Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP). A circular image on the right shows a cityscape with a green field in the foreground.



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.

IGHD’s Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta underscored the immense health and economic challenges posed by climate change, emphasizing the urgent need for action. He pointed to the alarming state of agriculture, which continues to suffer from environmental damage and outdated practices, causing substantial economic losses. Dr. Bhutta also highlighted the importance of integrating climate resilience into health systems and addressing water shortages and air pollution, which are intensifying with each passing year.

“ 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



Dr. Jai Das added to the discussion by stressing the critical need for more research on climate-related health risks, particularly in vulnerable regions like Pakistan. He advocated for increased research financing to ensure that climate and health policies are informed by the latest evidence, and that the most affected populations are prioritized in adaptation strategies.

The symposium also explored innovative solutions to these challenges, including the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and advanced technologies to enhance resource management. It showcased how rural support programs, such as those mitigating glacier melting in northern regions, and the use of indigenous knowledge, are critical for building climate resilience. The Aga Khan Development Network's efforts in scaling up indigenous solutions were presented as key examples of successful community-based interventions.



In addition to sector-specific approaches, the event highlighted the importance of integrating climate adaptation into broader national development plans. Experts emphasized that a multi-sectoral response, involving public and private sector partnerships, is crucial to address climate change holistically. They also stressed the importance of enhancing disaster preparedness and response mechanisms to minimize the long-term impact of extreme weather events on vulnerable populations. This approach requires ongoing investment in climate-smart infrastructure, health systems, and agricultural innovations.



A central outcome of the symposium was the call for a coordinated, evidence-based approach to combat climate change in Pakistan. Participants agreed on the need to develop a unified platform for science, innovation, and research that consolidates information on climate change, health, and the environment. The event also emphasized the importance of improving climate governance and enhancing education capacity across both public and private sectors to address these pressing issues.

Ultimately, the symposium laid the groundwork for transformative action by leveraging technology, indigenous knowledge, and collaborative research. By continuing to foster partnerships between government, academia, and civil society, Pakistan can develop effective strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect its vulnerable populations.

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 explored the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, and health equity, acknowledging that achieving true equity requires dismantling systemic barriers and promoting culturally sensitive care. Discussions focused on how these factors contribute to healthcare inequities and emphasized the need for an intersectional approach to ensure that marginalized groups, including women and those from different racial and ethnic backgrounds, have access to quality healthcare.



Building on the success of the 2022 Nature Conference on gender equity, this year's event expanded the conversation to include health equity. In a post-pandemic world where vulnerable groups have been disproportionately affected, the seminar continued the global dialogue on equitable healthcare access, aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 3 (Good Health and Well-being). The event also featured a mentorship program, offering participants opportunities to connect across genders, career stages, and sectors, fostering collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

RECENT EVENTS:

IGHD HOSTS WORKSHOP ON HEAT RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION STRATEGY

On August 30, 2024, the Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) hosted a workshop on "Heat Resilience and Adaptation Strategy" at Aga Khan University, Karachi. The event brought together experts from various fields to discuss strategies aimed at protecting vulnerable populations from the growing threat of extreme heat, particularly in both urban and rural areas of Sindh.

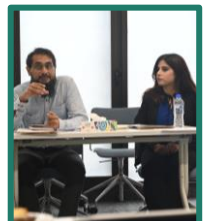


As the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change, Pakistan—especially the Sindh region—faces the risk of unlivable temperatures. Outdoor laborers, the elderly, children, and pregnant women are especially at risk, with existing adaptation measures proving insufficient. In response, IGHD has developed a Heat Adaptation Bundle (HAB), a collection of cost-effective interventions designed to reduce heat exposure in areas such as Karachi and Matiari.

Prior to the workshop, Dr. Ana Bonell, Christopher Burman, Joseph Augustin, along with Dr. Jai Das, Dr. Kanza Naqvi, and other members of the IGHD team, visited the sites in Karachi and Matiari where the heat resilience trial will take place. The team traveled from Aga Khan University in Karachi to the AKU Matiari Research and Training Centre to assess the location and prepare for the upcoming trials.



The workshop focused on essential interventions, including cool and green roofs, energy-efficient cooling systems, urban greenery, and community-led initiatives, with an emphasis on making these solutions accessible to low-income populations. Speakers such as Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Dr. Ana Bonell, Bartlett School of Architecture experts Christopher Burman and Joseph Augustin, and IGHD contributors Shahmeer Qamar (Civil Engineer), Humaira Nazir (Architect), and Dr. Kanza Naqvi, discussed building and streetscape interventions, local challenges, and community engagement strategies. The event, which concluded with remarks from Dr. Jai Das, marked a significant step in refining the Heat Adaptation Bundle and highlighted the importance of integrating these strategies into national policies. The next steps will involve conducting randomized controlled trials in Karachi and Matiari to assess the effectiveness and scalability of these interventions in protecting vulnerable populations.



RECENT EVENTS:

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.



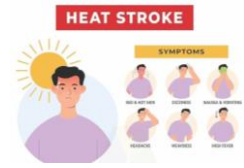
Infrastructure Resilience



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.



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.

RECENT EVENTS:

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.

ICIMOD



CAPHER-India

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

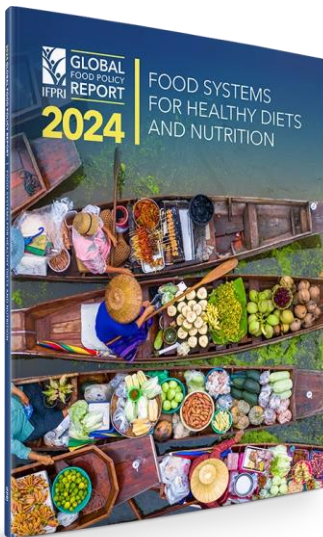
The training also aimed to build a network of early-career researchers, fostering regional collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field of air pollution's health impacts. Dr. Jai Das's participation in this program underscores IGHD's dedication to capacity building and addressing environmental health 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.

RECENT EVENTS:

IGHD CONTRIBUTES TO 2024 GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT LAUNCH IN NEPAL

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 IGHG's commitment to addressing the intersection of food security, nutrition, and climate change in South Asia. By engaging with global experts and policymakers, IGHG continues to influence key discussions and contribute to shaping the future of food and nutrition policies for vulnerable populations.



RECENT EVENTS:

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.

RECENT EVENTS:

IGHD ENGAGES IN HIGH-LEVEL 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 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**

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.




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 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2024

NURTURING FUTURE LEADERS IN GLOBAL HEALTH


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.




Aspire
SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME




Amsal Malik
HABIB UNIVERSITY



Sahar Makhani
HABIB UNIVERSITY



Uraib Chamdia
HABIB UNIVERSITY



Shanzay Zehra Rizvi
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

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.

In addition to their project work, the interns enhanced their professional growth by completing 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 **ASPIRE** Summer Internship Program

The ASPIRE Summer Internship Program serves as a platform for young talent to gain practical experience and develop their professional skills. IGHD provides an environment that encourages growth and learning, ensuring that interns leave with valuable knowledge that will enhance both their personal and professional development.

THE NEW FACES AT IGHD

INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE IGHD FAMILY

IGHD celebrates the arrival of our newest members, Dr. Ammad Waheed Qazi and Humaira Nazir, who bring fresh perspectives and expertise to the Institute for Global Health and Development.



DR. AMMAD WAHEED QAZI

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.

HUMAIRA NAZIR

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.



THANK YOU



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