Mental Health in Conflict - Palestine

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Background

• War and organized violence cause and amplify psychosocial stressors, which have been shown to negatively affect people’s mental health.

• There is a lack of systematic mental health research conducted in war-affected settings, due to capacity and resource issues.

• This WS aims to build interdisciplinary research capacity for mental health in Palestine, Lebanon, and the UK based on long-standing partnerships between researchers and health professionals and policy makers.
Deliverables Year 1: Completed

- Training needs assessment (March-April)
  - Report completed and published

- Certified Summer Course in “Research Methods for Mental Health in War and Conflict”
  - Development (Jan -June)
  - Delivery of intensive certified summer course with 30 persons trained (July)
  - Course evaluation (September)
Deliverables Year 1: Completed

• **MRC Grant application** submitted: “*Life course study of the impact of conflict on mental health in the occupied Palestinian territory, with a focus on adolescents*” (November)


• **Research and training meetings at BZU and KCL:**
  – Weeam for course development at KCL (June)
  – Brad and Preeti for grant development at BZU (Oct)
  – Alessandro for literature review & capacity building at BZU (Dec)
  – Hanna for research and online course development at BZU (Sept-Dec)
Deliverables Year 1: ongoing

• Publications
  1. Tamimi, N. et al. “Capacity Building in Research Methods for Mental Health in War and Conflict: Needs Assessment and Training Course Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”

• Online course development: “Research Methods for Mental Health in War and Conflict”
  – Literature review: online learning in development/humanitarian settings
  – “Manual - Designing an Online Course for Research Methods for Mental Health in War and Conflict (MOOC)”
Year 2

Capacity building:
• **Cohort training**: 4 successive qualitative and quantitative research methods workshops (Jan, Feb, Aug, Sept)
• **Online Course** “Research Methods for Mental Health in War and Conflict” for researchers and mental health practitioners in Gaza
  – Development (January – July) / Trial (August) / Delivery (October)
• **Capacity strengthening programme**: “Training on the job” (postdocs/research assistants)

Research
• Systematic literature review on uncertainty and mental health
• Qualitative research exploring uncertainty and mental health to develop a new metric

Outcomes and Outputs
• Submission of manuscripts to academic journals
• Strengthening collaborations to expand/develop research schemes
Years 3-4

• Training new cohort through blended learning approach
• Developing relevant metric for uncertainty & mental health
• Piloting and validating uncertainty & mental health metric
• Using uncertainty & mental health metric in statistical survey
• Writing and submitting papers for publication
• Expanding and strengthening research collaborations
• Continuing capacity building of postdoctoral staff and research assistants