



R4HC-MENA Executive Board Meeting
1 September 2020, 9.30am – 1.15pm BST
Online (Zoom)

International Advisory Board members present: James Watt [JW], Sanchia Aranda [SA], Bulent Altun [BA], Jocelyn DeJong [JD], Sophie Witter [SW].

R4HC-MENA members present: Richard Sullivan [RS], Adrian GheorghE [AG], Brad Robinson [BR], Cengiz Kilic [CK], Richard Harding [RH], Kai Ruggeri [KR], Fouad M. Fouad [FF], Gemma Bowsher [GB], Nassim El Achi [NE], Martin Bricknell [MB], Ghassan Abu Sittah [GAS], Preeti Patel [PP], Debbie Mukherji [DM], Fahad Ahmad [FA], Tezer Kutluk [TK], Gamze Aktuna [GA], Ghadeer Alarjeh [GAI], Kristen Meagher [KM], Zahi Abdul Sater [ZA], Hannes Jarke [HJ], Jasmin Lilian Diab [JLD], Omar Shamieh [OS], Rita Giacaman [RG], Sabah Boukhfed [SB], Sandra Willis [SWI], Simon Deakin [SD], Sema Yurdusen [SY], Sinem Aydin [SA], Waleed Al-Rjoob [WR], Sevkah Bahar-Ozvaris [SBO], Meral Kirzali [MK], Rola El Sayed [RE], Weeam Hammoudeh [WH], Hala Khawali [HK], Suzan Mitwali [SM], Lena Verdelli [LV], Cheryl Foo [CF], Srishti Sardana [SS]

Item	Discussion	Action
1 Formal Business [RS/PP/BR] Exec	<p>1.1 Ongoing uncertainty of face to face meetings and field research.</p> <p>1.2 Financial implications of COVID: looking at a 1-year extension, including further requests for additional funding for partners in the region. Additional funding may be available for partners in the MENA region, with limited or no additional funding to UK partners.</p> <p>1.3 From perspective of UKRI we are unique – at the interface of health and conflict.</p> <p>1.4 IAB mid-term review document will be used as a basis to send through an update, after further discussion with project leads, to UKRI.</p> <p>1.5 AUB and Lebanon updates [DM]: operationalising the funding that has been mobilised is the next step.</p> <p>1.6 Online Course BZU [RG] – designed specifically for Gazans which was very successful. An article is currently being written about the process and the outcomes.</p> <p>1.7 Webinars: successful series, however, possible webinar fatigue [RS]</p> <p>1.8 COVID Cancer Taskforce: looking at modelling and mitigation strategies on the impact of COVID on cancer care [DM]</p> <p>1.9 New grants and projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco control grant – not accepted but will be repackaged for a future grant in next 3-6 months [PP] • Successful NIHR grant for £4m on health system strengthening in northern Syria, with UOSSM, David Nott Foundation and 	<p>1.2 Further discussions with project leads [RS/BR].</p> <p>1.7 Webinars – current ideas noted and to be further discussed. Please get in touch with RS/BR/KM.</p> <p>Commentary on therapeutic geographies webinar (from July) [RG, GAS, FF]</p>

	<p>KCL. This will start 1 September 2020 for 4 years [PP]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cluster bid on women’s health in conflict – unsuccessful. This is being repackaged as a potential NIHR project, very early stage [RS] AMR and Conflict – ERC Synergy grant, unsuccessful [GAS] Palliative care and COVID - GECO calls, joint submission based on systematic review of role of palliative care in global pandemics (published) and MENA countries preparedness, putting in a grant on preparedness at the end of this month [RH] Role of military and government responses to COVID, some funding received from NATO to look at European countries. Looking to submit a larger project on a global scale [MB] NIHR grant on maternal mental health, comparative study between Kenya and Lebanon [SWi] Governance of COVID 19 by the WHO, received a grant on this and carrying out a study on this with a colleague on China’s response. Hoping to extend this approach to other countries [SD] <p>1.10 Global Health funding streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Research Councils developed a new global health board. NIHR funding looking to increase. Important to not be over-focused on COVID and work on developing non-COVID projects. 	<p>1.10 Global Health Funding – briefing notes to be circulated as more information is received [RS]</p>
Workstream updates		
<p>2. Political Economy of Health</p>	<p>2.1 AUB [JLD] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>2.2 Imperial [AG]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Economics: KHCC project - building an economic model of breast cancer screening in Jordan. Possible workshops with policy makers to be developed. Proposal developed and shortlisted for MRC Global Health Board on access to innovative cancer technologies in health systems facing shocks. AUB project – existing evidence and policy approaches to cancer care in the MENA region. COVID impact – early work on building capacity development, had plans on Public health community of practice developing 	

	<p>health economics skills, plans to possibly re-launch early 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of capacity development needs in the R4HC space will be published in health research policy and systems. <p>2.3 Hacettepe [TK] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>2.4 PEOH Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to introduce an academic course and further introduce the entire concept across various disciplines [FF] Develop a new proposal including Palestinians. The PEOH in chronic crisis, defining crisis, looking in active or simmering crisis [RG] Health economics – key element is practice and confidence building with key individuals who already have a lot of knowledge in this area. This is something that can be started online to bring a community together and build up to local conferences [AG] 	<p>2.3 PEOH workshop to be reorganised in early 2021 as an (online) workshop [TK]</p>
3. Cancer in conflict	<p>3.1 AUB [ZA] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>3.2 Hacettepe [TK] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p>	<p>3. Commentary ideas: Effect of COVID on cancer care in Gaza [GAS], West Bank [WH]</p>
4. Palliative care in conflict	<p>4.1 KHCC, Hacettepe and KCL [OS] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>4.2 Hacettepe [FA] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p>	<p>4.1 FF and DM to link AUB and Lebanon colleagues with R4HC palliative care colleagues, and NGOs where possible.</p>
5. Conflict and health	<p>5.2 AUB and KCL [NE, KM, PP] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>5.3 Hacettepe [SOB and GA] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p>	
6. Mental Health	<p>6.1 BZU [WH, SM, HK] <i>see presentation for updates</i> Uncertainty during Covid-19 pandemic, part of a bigger project on uncertainty in Palestine. To be written up as general blog and followed up by an academic article.</p> <p>6.2 Hacettepe [CK] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>6.3 Cambridge & Columbia University [LV and SWi] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p>	<p>6.2 Develop specific ideas around research and funding streams to approach - 1 hour zoom workshop</p>
7. Q&A	<p>7.1 Next Executive Board meeting</p>	<p>7.1 November/December online</p>



	<p>7.2 Small group meetings</p> <p>7.3 Synthetic work</p> <p>7.4 Grant applications workshop</p> <p>7.5 Journals to approach</p> <p>7.6 Mentoring and ECR – much of the momentum has been lost without the in-person meetings. Ensuring Research Associates are involved and included in the papers.</p> <p>7.7 Emerging resources and networks for circulation</p>	<p>- Possible in person meeting May 2021 in Jordan.</p> <p>- look at applicability of work outside the ME [RS]</p> <p>7.2 Continue small group meetings where possible and cross collaborative workstream meetings [All]</p> <p>7.3 Synthetic work: timeliness of writing op-eds (i.e Gaza), bringing together methodological insights and synthesis work and overall unique insight, methodological insights [RS]</p> <p>7.4 Grant applications workshop [RS/BR]</p> <p>7.5 Continue to build knowledge on journals to approach</p> <p>7.6 Mentoring and ECR – Ensuring Research Associates included in papers, there will be an audit around who is included on papers etc and looking at any obstacles [All]</p> <p>7.7 Any emerging resources or networks, please send through to KM for the website/to be circulated.</p>
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