



# Political economy of health and capacity building activities

## Cambridge update

## Executive board meeting December 2020



# Capacity building overview

- CSAP policy fellows programme: postponed during covid19
- Policy workshop 'Reforming the Lebanese health system' with FCDO, EU and World Bank among others. **To be held in January 2020**
- Visiting CARA fellow to CBR: Dr Bothaina Attal. Conducting Yemen political economy analysis
- Adam has new PhD student (2020) – Dr Saleyha Ahassan – *Did IHL die in Syria?*  
+ MPhil: Nada Attia – *Access to primary care services for Syrian refugees in the East of England*
- Two potential forthcoming PhD students 2020: Sara Abdel Latif (Mental health in Lebanon) and Spencer Rutherford (Health system rebuilding in Lebanon).
- Two visiting fellows to R4HC in Cambridge – January to April 2020 – **Hamish de Bretton Gordon** (Reforming the humanitarian system book project), **Dr Iris Eliot** (Head of Policy and Research, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission). Iris will lead a series of activities and publications specifically focused on capacity building and producing outputs from existing work.

NICOLA / CSAP

# MONA PRESENTATION USING PADLET

# Iris Elliot forthcoming activities

- Seminar series on gender-based violence
- Study of gender-based violence related to the conflict in Syria
- Seminar, study and training module on sensitive research
- Strategic assistance with the Women Leaders in Conflict and Health Initiative (KM)
- Knowledge exchange on e-mental health
- Publication from the No Place Like Home event on refugee health and humanitarian system reform.
- Policy workshop on mental health component of PEA in Lebanon – organise with Kai, Hannes and Columbia.

# Lessons on capacity building

- Capacity building is a full-time job in order to be done properly

- Need for more staff especially

- 1) A **PEA project manager** dedicated to handle and organize day-to-day and network activities. Coordinating capacity building activities has been *ad hoc and short term* without this person.
- 2) Ideally two postdocs / RAs are needed in each partner institution to handle the volume of work required for PEA and follow up research.

- **CSAP Visiting fellows programme**

- 1) We need to be better at follow-up – what did they learn from their visit? Do they want to stay in contact? There have been several requests over the past year from fellows for help with their work at MoHs but we do not have the capacity to do it.
- 2) Recent request and discussion with Hilda Harb (Head of Stats in Lebanon) to restart the MoPH database and registry platform for any academic work taking place or wanting to take place in Lebanon. Platform stopped being updated August 2019. **This would be a quick and useful intervention**
- 3) Create a podcast series or ‘talking heads’ videos with CSAP fellows to see what they are doing now, what help do they need, what did they learn, what are the upcoming challenges in their positions post covid?

# Lessons on capacity building

- PhD and post doc network can be a good lasting impact of R4HC **but needs immediate attention**
- In Cambridge we are creating network for those working on health and public policy issues in the MENA. There are currently 8 PhD students keen to participate in an initiative and work with fellow students in R4HC partners.
- Can we apply for one of the Doctoral Training Programme grants to help with this? And link to UN organisation as partner.
- Replicate CSAP methodology to design and implement **UK-MENA policy fellows programme** – UK based policy/decisions makers (FCDO) attend one week in MENA partner country host to engage with local policy makers and academics.

# Political economy of health audits

## **Lebanon**

- Complete and published – September 2020
- Update taking place from donor feedback. Donor policy workshop organised for January 2021

## **Jordan**

- Nearly there! Two PhDs will help Amman team complete interview analysis and finish write up. Aim to finish and send for review: February

## **Gaza**

- Nearing completion and will send out for review in February

## **Turkey**

- Write up beginning

## **Yemen**

- Literature review in progress

AUB TO SPEAK

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# Publications

## Films

1) Syrian refugee health workers can help Europe cope with COVID-19

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/syrian-refugee-health-workers-can-help-europe-cope-with-covid-19>

2) Protection of medics and hospitals in conflict zones

<https://vimeo.com/401259781>

## Yemen

3) **The Role of the Private Health Sector and Informal Networks in Health Care Provision during the COVID-pandemic in Yemen.** Capturing the Landscape of Health Service Delivery and Public/Private Partnerships in Fragile and Conflict affected Settings. Digital Unconference sessions of the Global Health Symposium (Online- open access). October 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.

4) **Political fragility and health system performance: Yemen and COVID-19.** Emerging Voices sessions. Global Health Symposium (Online-capacity building of young Public Health professionals) October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

5) Jabbour S, Attal B. **Geospatial analysis: a new frontier in humanitarian health research?** Lancet Glob Health. 2020 Nov;8(11):e1353-e1354. doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30390-9.

## Ongoing research

**The potential role of the private health sector in Covid-19 response. Yemen case study** within an EMRO regional study.