



**R4HC-MENA Executive Board Meeting
8 December 2020, 9.30am – 1.00pm GMT
Online (Zoom)**

Attendees:

Richard Sullivan [RS], Preeti Patel [PP], Adrian Gheorghe [AG], Brad Robinson [BR], Cengiz Kilic [CK], Richard Harding [RH], Fouad M. Fouad [FF], Nassim El Achi [NE], Debbie Mukherji [DM], Fahad Ahmad [FA], Tezer Kutluk [TK], Kristen Meagher [KM], Zahi Abdul Sater [ZA], Hannes Jarke [HJ], Jasmin Lilian Diab [JLD], Omar Shamieh [OS], Sabah Boukhfed [SB], Ghadeer Alarjeh [GAI], Sandra Willis [SWI], Simon Deakin [SD], Waleed Al-Rjoob [WR], Sevkah Bahar-Ozvaris [SBO], Meral Kirzali [MK], Weeam Hammoudeh [WH], Hanna Kienzler [HK], Nancy Tamimi [NT], Lena Verdeli [LV], Cheryl Foo [CF], Srishti Sardana [SS], James Watt [JW], Adam Coutts [AC], Cheryl Foo [CF], Mona Jebri [MJ], Kai Ruggeri [KR], Martin Bricknell [MB], Bothaina Attal [BA], Nicola Buckley [NB], Iris Elliot [IE], Shaymaa Turki [ST]

Apologies: Rita Giacaman [RG], Ghassan Abu Sittah [GAS]

Item	Discussion	Action
1 Formal Business [RS/PP/BR] Exec	1.1 Brief regional updates: Lebanon: economic issues impacting academic institutions and need for increasing international research collaborations [DM, FF]. Turkey: Further covid restrictions impacting research. But new president at the University has now been appointed [TK]. Jordan: Jordan high surge of covid, F2F research currently banned [OS]. Palestine: Covid increasing, further restrictions, including research restrictions therefore increasing online data collection [WH]. Ongoing Gaza restrictions [MJ]. 1.2 Risk register – need to understand regional restrictions in Q2/Q3 2021 and this will be a key metric to develop to report back to the funder. 1.3 Extension: No updates until early next year, with UK ODA budgets recently being decreased. Flexibility to move money between budget lines. Transparency will be key during this process and careful analysis of the different budgets and workstreams [RS and BR] 1.4 Any new adapted methodologies – research, education, trainings, workshop – how did we adapt during Covid? [PP]	1.2 Any changes to the risk register, required for January reporting to funder. [RS/BR/KM] 1.4 Any new adapted methodologies – research, education, trainings, workshop, capacity strengthening – how did we adapt? Please send anything



	<p>1.5 Updates on R4HC staff: <u>Kalipso Chalkidou</u> moving on to Head of Health Financing at the Global Fund. AG will now be leading on Imperial's work. <u>Nassim El Achi</u> moving to the University of Oxford as a postdoctoral researcher in water quality, climate and health at the School of Geography and the Environment. Preeti Patel was recently promoted to Professor</p> <p>Congratulations to you all!</p> <p>1.6 New projects or grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PP Research for Health Systems Strengthening in northern Syria R4HSSS – officially started in October. This could also be an opportunity to share experiences on submitting the project proposal for this. - FF – submitted proposals to R2HC from GHI and FHS - AG – Proposal shortlisted by MRC Global Health Board with KHCC and Kenya Wellcome Trust - policy processes for stewarding cancer innovation. - CK – large scale epi study on refugees in Turkey is feasible and can begin soon with funding from R4HC, to be submitted to IRB at Hacettepe. 	<p>you may have developed to BR/RS/PP/KM [All]</p> <p>RS to write note of congratulations to all</p> <p>1.6 RS – any teams with ideas on putting together new research projects to submit to new funders, especially from MENA region – please reach out to colleagues across R4HC where there might be some cross over and who can share experiences from funding committees [ALL]</p>
Major Presentations – Capacity Building		
<p>2. MENA Capacity Building: King Hussein Cancer Centre</p> <p>3. UK Capacity Building: Cambridge</p>	<p>2. KHCC Capacity Building [OS and SB] <i>see presentations for updates</i> SB – capacity building as a post doc has involved a lot of horizontal capacity building. A lot of collaboration with teams in Jordan and Turkey. Quantitative analysis together. Working with BZU as well learning more about social determinants. Sabah also supervising Ghadeer's MSc project.</p> <p>3. Cambridge – <i>see presentation for updates</i> Capacity building insights from Mona Jebril, Iris Elliot (Scholarship through Cambridge), Nicola Buckley (CSaP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSaP programme postponed during Covid • visiting CARA fellow – Dr Bothaina Attal • 2 visiting fellows – Hamish de Bretton Gordon and Dr Iris Elliot (Head of Policy and 	<p>3. Mental Health cross collaboration opportunity: Adam/Kai/Hannes/Columbia: Meeting to discuss possible input on Mental Health for the donor meeting in January [AC/KR/LV]</p>

<p>4. Political Economy of Health</p>	<p>Research, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mona – professional trainings, public engagement/capacity (these outputs supported by professional trainings), policy engagement, academic engagement • GMH – [LV] Online workshop on IPT 53 attendees and former supervisors are now becoming master trainers, 9 former providers now supervisors and 36 new providers will now be developing competencies to become IPT providers. <p>4. PEOH updates – <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hacettepe – PEOH research has started and articles being screened [TK]. 	
Workstream updates		
<p>5. Cancer in conflict</p>	<p>3.1 AUB [ZA] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>TK – affect of covid on cancer care</p>	
<p>6. Palliative care in conflict</p>	<p>4.1 KCL, Hacettepe, KHCC [RH] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p>	
<p>7. Conflict and health</p>	<p>5.2 AUB and KCL [NE] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p> <p>5.3 Hacettepe [SOB] <i>see presentation for updates</i></p>	
<p>8. Mental Health</p>	<p>6.1 BZU and KCL [WH, HK]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online course Research Methods for Mental Health in Conflict – Second Future Learn course. For 2021 this will be available throughout the whole year. Currently supported by Zoom Office Hours, this will not be possible in 2021 but looking at hosting webinars instead. - Special Topic in Frontiers: Struggle for Survival: Mental Health Risks of Refugee Children and Adolescents during Immigration and Repatriation - Analysing qualitative work on uncertainty. Blogs published on this. Two journal publications currently under review. <p>Hacettepe [CK] Follow up study on refugees living in Turkey and war related traumas. Data collection for 200 individuals completed</p>	



	<p>Colombia and Cambridge [KR] – Policy report, Applying Behavioural Insights to Policy, which was to precede the workshop, will be circulated soon. KR – book publications, a lengthy process. Publishers want to know what the market or immediate value of the book is.</p>	
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Actions:

- Any new adapted methodologies – research, education, trainings, workshop, capacity strengthening – how did we adapt? Please send anything you may have developed to BR/RS/PP/KM [All]
- Any changes to the risk register, required for January reporting to funder. [RS/BR/KM]
- any teams with ideas on putting together new research projects to submit to new funders, especially from MENA region – please reach out to colleagues across R4HC where there might be some cross over and who can share experiences from funding committees [ALL]
- Mental Health cross collaboration opportunity:
- Adam/Kai/Hannes/Columbia: Meeting to discuss possible input on Mental Health for the donor meeting in January [AC/KR/LV]
- Further work in early January on Political Economy of Health in Conflict and Cancer and Palliative Care in Conflict for new grants
- Blogs – each month one person writes one piece. List of Blog sites will be created and circulated.
- Next Executive Board meeting - End of January/early February 2021. Details will be circulated in early January.