

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CAREER

- Medical doctor in Afghanistan, practiced clinically
- Worked in various positions at National TB Control Programme, Ministry of Health
- TDR postgraduate training at American University of Beirut (2016)
- Senior Advisor for General Directorate of Policy and Planning/ Ministry of Health (2018)
 - ✓ Health system research including implementation research
 - ✓ Data use and evidence generation
 - ✓ Evidence-based decision making



MOTIVATION FOR PURSUING MPH DEGREE



- Limited professional public health skills and knowledge
- The need to upgrade skills to analyze data and conduct research
- Interest in pursuing specialization in public health, with a focus on infectious diseases of poverty



Postgraduate Training at American University of Beirut



WHY AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (AUB)?



At AUB in Lebanon, public health is taught in a similar context as in Afghanistan, which shares common issues such as conflict and forced migration.



POSTGRADUATE TRAINING AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT



- 42-credit, two-year MPH programme
- Took core courses in five main areas of public health, and Implementation Research (special course for TDR students)
- Conducted an independent research project on TB in Lebanon
- Practicum experience: 3 months at National TB Programme in Afghanistan
- Cumulative Experience project (presented to academic jury and as a poster in regional conference on NTDs hosted by AUB)



Faculty of Health Sciences

RESEARCH ON TB CONTROL IN LEBANON: FOCUS ON MIGRANT WORKERS AND SYRIAN REFUGEES



Study findings:

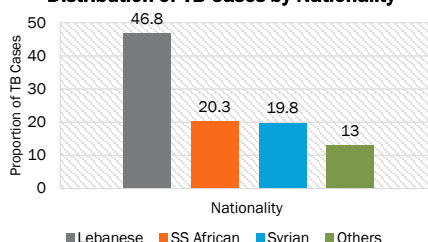
- More than half of TB cases were non-nationals
- Low notification rate: undocumented Syrian refugees and migrant workers were afraid of being deported if they sought medical care



Policy recommendations:

- Tailored and acceptable interventions for migrant communities and Syrian refugees
- Community-based awareness programs

Distribution of TB Cases by Nationality



ACTIVITIES ADDRESSED DURING PRACTICUM AT NATIONAL TB PROGRAMME IN AFGHANISTAN



- Active case finding through household surveys in select districts of Afghanistan
- Post-Evaluation of a TB Awareness Campaign and drafting of recommendations for improvement
- Improving TB surveillance system, e.g. developing a manual for collection, analysis and use of TB data for health workers
- Assessing the Prevalence of TB among Factory Workers - ongoing project with JICA funding





**CURRENT WORK AS SENIOR ADVISOR FOR
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF POLICY AND PLANNING,
AFGHANISTAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

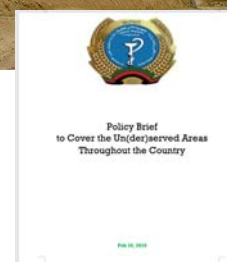
SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY BRIEFS AND POLICIES



- Expansion of Family Health Houses (clinics in remote areas) to cover underserved areas
- Integrated Package of Essential Health Services
- User fees for secondary and tertiary care services



→ In line with Universal Health Coverage agenda to improve access to health services



POLICY BRIEF ON FAMILY HEALTH HOUSES



Key messages:

- Cost-effectiveness of this form of health-care delivery as compared to other types of health facilities
- Recommendation to add care for infectious diseases



POLICY BRIEF ON FAMILY HEALTH HOUSES



Impact:

- Expansion of services to include HIV, TB, malaria care and immunization
- The Global Fund is supporting this expansion



APPLYING RELEVANT THEORY FROM POSTGRADUATE TRAINING TO REAL LIFE



- Rigorously trained in the methods of public health research (quantitative and qualitative) & implementation research
- Learned from examples in other countries - including those experiencing conflict (e.g. Yemen and Syria) or hosting refugees (e.g. Lebanon) - about how they have addressed infectious diseases of poverty
- Exposed to international experts in the field (Regional conference on NTDs in May 2018)
- Analyzing health care systems and policies
- Applying multi-disciplinary approach in assessing, researching, and responding to public health issues and needs



Thank you