

Dr. Habib Ahmed Afsar

Nationality: Pakistani (Resident Switzerland since 2008)

Date and place of birth: December 07, 1970- Manama Bahrain

Expertise: Strategic Health Planning and Systems Development, Individual and Group Coaching, Disaster Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Capacity Strengthening, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Programme Management

Summary of experience:

Dr. Afsar is an international public health physician with over 15 years of diverse experience within the health sector. He is a fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (community medicine) and has a masters in Health Systems Management from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He has worked for a range of organizations that include the Aga Khan University, WHO and national and international NGOs in Pakistan, Somalia, Kenya, Southern Sudan, Switzerland and the UK, often in difficult and complex situations. While he enjoys working at the grassroots level most, he is interested in bridging the gap between community and policy makers through dialogue, research, designing activities that enable people from all levels and sectors to interact and other advocacy strategies. Currently he is based in Switzerland where he divides his time between his free lance consultancy work, studying and his studio art practise.

His major field of expertise is health systems development (with a focus on primary health care) in which he has substantial field experience of programme and project development and management, research and capacity strengthening. His work has involved interaction with all stakeholders in the health sector from government officials and policy makers to health care staff and the general community. He has been involved in strategic planning with the health ministries in Somalia, Sudan and Pakistan. His work in sexual health has focused on HIV prevention and specifically on facilitating attitude/behaviour change, development of national guidelines on harm reduction and capacity strengthening (training and material development). He has significant experience working with marginalized populations like sex workers, street children and drug users. Following the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, he worked as an information analyst for WHO and gained an in-depth understanding of disaster management. He has developed M&E systems for national projects and has conducted several large scale project evaluations for a range of donors. He is committed to participatory approaches which he employs in his work. He is also an amateur film maker and has produced several animations and two short films and has spoken about the social aspects of health at culture festivals all over Europe. Dr. Afsar has conducted several research projects, both operational and pure research, and has published in international peer-reviewed journals and presented at many forums.

Following his passion for personal and social change and the arts, he is currently enrolled at the European Graduate School in Switzerland studying for a Masters in Inter-modal Expressive Art Coaching, Education and Consulting. He is currently exploring the various applications of these techniques in his consultancy work and aims to develop health projects using these highly affective tools and advocate for the same.

Education:

Institution	European Graduate School, Saas Fee, Switzerland
Date from/to	2011- date
Degree/diploma	MA, Expressive Arts Coaching Consulting and Education.

Institution	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK (external)
Date from/to	1999-2004
Degree/diploma	MSc Health Systems Management

Institution	The Aga Khan University/College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan
Date from/to	1998-2002
Degree/diploma	Fellow of College of Physicians and Surgeons (FCPS) Community Medicine

Institution	Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad, Pakistan
Date from/to	1990-1996
Degree/diploma	Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery (M.B; B.S)

Institution	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine/ Liverpool Associates of Tropical Health
Date from/to	May 2008
Degree/diploma	Short Course on International Health Consultancies (<i>prize for most promising international health consultant</i>)

Employment Record:

2008-to date: Independent International Public Health Consultant (www.habibafsar.com).

Details follow

2009-to date: Member, Board of Directors Mountain Welfare Development Organization

2009-to date: Member Board , SOS Rasismus

Dates	2006 to 2007
Location	Islamabad, Pakistan
Company	WHO, Emergency Cell
Position	Health Information Analyst
Description	<p>Coordinated, compiled and conducted contextual analysis of qualitative and quantitative information being collected by various agencies in earthquake affected areas.</p> <p>Designed, planned and coordinated several health facilities and health needs assessments in earthquake and flood affected areas.</p> <p>Identified areas and bottlenecks in information needs and recommended efficient solutions.</p> <p>Coordinated with other agencies in areas of information collecting, sharing</p>

Dates	2006 (3 months)
Location	Islamabad
Company	Family Health International
Position	Technical Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation
Description	<p>Developed the M&E system (including frameworks, tools and mechanisms for maintaining data quality and validity) for USAID funded National AIDS Control Programme's (NACP) Truckers' Project</p> <p>Conducted capacity building exercises for internal and external staff on M&E</p> <p>Conducted contextual analysis of data related to the project and prepared first three reports (induction, 1st and 2nd quarter)</p> <p>Recommended areas for improvement and strategies to do so</p> <p>Developed concepts for needed operational research</p>

Dates	2004 to 2005
Location	Nairobi, Kenya
Company	Action Africa Help International
Position	Public Health Physician/Team Leader for Somalia
Description	<p>Led a team of five international and eight national staff to ensure that the projects funded by the European Commission (EC) and Global Fund (GF) are adequately implemented as per the relevant contracts and project proposals.</p> <p>Participated in the development of new health projects and proposals and negotiated with EC for appropriate changes in current project proposals.</p> <p>Maintained good relationships with all health sector partners including the ministry of health.</p> <p>Represented AAH health projects in Bari Region to all external and internal partners through Somalia Aids Coordination Body and other forums</p>

Dates	2002 to 2004
Location	Karachi, Pakistan
Company	Aahung
Position	Manager Services Development

Description	<p>Developed needs-based training modules and guidelines in the field of sexual health/ behavior change communication/ rights and gender</p> <p>Conducted capacity building of partner organizations to integrate quality sexual health educational and medical services</p> <p>Liaised and networked with national and international NGOs and the public sector</p> <p>Managed the outreach staff and services and conducted Operational and action research</p>
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Dates	1998 to 2002
Location	Karachi, Pakistan
Company	Division of Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences. The Aga Khan University Karachi
Position	Community Medicine Resident
Description	<p>Undertook basic courses in public health and related topics</p> <p>Facilitated undergraduate (MBBS) teaching: Epidemiology, environmental and occupational health, health systems and primary health care technology.</p> <p>Conducted family medicine clinics at AKU- PHC sites and AKU outpatient department.</p> <p>Participated in departmental projects</p>

Selected work experience

Client/Country	Date	Description
Dataline Services/ Internews, Pakistan	2012	Conducted qualitative data analysis on Baseline Survey of Information Dissemination, Access, Gap and Needs for the “Media for Early Recovery Project” in 6 districts in Pakistan
Hoffstrasse-45 School, Zurich, Switzerland	2012	Conducted a 3 day Art and Poetry Workshop with immigrant children in integration class aimed at exploring internal resources and expression.
Naghma Imdad (for Aurat Foundation) Pakistan	2011	Provided technical input for the USAID funded study “Social and Legal Response to Rape in Pakistan” under the Gender Equity Programme (concept, research proposal, tools and report writing)
South Asian Partnership, Pakistan	2011	Designed and conducted four day “Organizational Review and Management Plan of SAP-Pakistan” using inter-modal expressive arts techniques.
Imperial Public School, Pakistan	2011	Conducted a 5 day community art workshop using inter-modal expressive arts techniques to develop a mural titled “Health is my Right” with children aged 13 to 16 years
Merlin, UK. Pakistan	2011	Conducted a real time evaluation for Merlins 2010 flood response towards developing a longer term vision for Merlin Pakistan and London HQ

South Asian Partnership, Pakistan	2010	Conducted orientation sessions for staff on disaster management and participatory community disaster preparedness. Developed concept (with methodology, work-plan and TORs) for “Model Healthy Villages” for flood affected districts in Pakistan (the project will be implemented in four sites)
Ministry of Health (NHEPPR), Pakistan	2010	Developed report from secondary and primary data on “Health Facility Vulnerability in Pakistan”
WHO, Pakistan	2010	Co-authored report (with Dr. Marium Malick, Advisor Disabilities, Pakistan) titled, “Establishing rehabilitation services for post-polio cases in Afghanistan- mission report” <i>As a result of an initial proposal developed in 2007(worth 30,00 US dollars) which was subsequently used to advocate for, and initiate a similar project in Yemen and currently in Afghanistan</i>
Kunsthalle, Vienna, Austria	2010	Took part as panel expert for HIV/AIDS as a social issue in the cultural programme as part of the International HIV/AIDS conference Screened short film on Theater for Development in Museums Quartier
Health Services Academy, Islamabad	2010	Developed and facilitated one-day workshop on “Critical review of medical literature” for Master of Public Health Students
Gruene Blume Schweiz, Switzerland	2009/10	Developed M&E system and assisted with strategic/institutional development
NGO Management School, Geneva, Switzerland	2009	Developed and facilitated five-day course titled, “Essentials of Project Management for NGOs”, Geneva- September, 2009
WHO, Pakistan	2009	Coordinated critical review and developed report on health cluster response in IDP crisis titled: “Overview of health cluster interventions in humanitarian response to IDPs, NWFP, Pakistan- July 2008 to July 2009”
Aahung/Ministry of Population Welfare, Pakistan	2009	Designed and coordinated “Impact assessment of Female Welfare Worker (FWW) trainings” by Aahung for Ministry of Population Welfare, Pakistan
LATH/Ministry of Health, Southern Sudan	2009	Team leader for health performance mapping of 10 State Ministries of Health under the MDTF- “Technical Assistance to Health Priorities” project
WHO, Pakistan	2008	Conducted evaluation of CERF funded “Emergency health interventions and outbreak response and control in flood affected areas” and developed lessons learnt through participatory methodology
WHO, Pakistan	2008	Developed concept, guidelines, tools, manual and Log Frame Analysis for health and nutrition sentinel site surveillance system and conducted training sessions for over 20 staff.
Sahir House, Liverpool, UK	2008	Conducted assessment of M&E system, capacity strengthening and development of outcome indicators (as part of Short Course on International Health Consultancies)
self commissioned/ Bleibrecht Switzerland	2008	Conducted qualitative study: Perceptions of health among asylum seekers from Afghanistan in Zurich, Switzerland (presented at the Swiss Public Health Conference, September 2008 and accepted for ECO Health Conference, Mexico City, December 2008)

GF Pakistan	2008	Developed monograph for Global Fund funded anti-retroviral (ARV) project roll out
WHO Pakistan	2008	Designed and coordinated "Household Indigenous KAP survey on scabies, ARI and diarrhoea in earthquake affected districts of Pakistan"
WHO Pakistan	2007	Took notes and prepared the report of the "First Inter-country Meeting on Developing Regional Strategy for Eastern Mediterranean Region on Community Based Rehabilitation",
WHO Pakistan	2007	Designed and coordinated "An interagency Assessment of Public Health Facilities in eight affected Districts In NWFP and AJK"
FHI Pakistan	2006	Developed M&E framework for USAID funded Truckers project for HIV prevention
EU/AAHI Somalia	2005	Facilitated development of five-year strategic plan based on a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis (SWOT) for Bosaso General Hospital, Puntland, Somalia
EU/AAHI Somalia	2005	Coordinated and supervised the establishment of PHC system in seven districts of Puntland, Somalia
AIDOS, Italy and Shirkat Gah, Pakistan	2005	Incorporated a gender and rights perspective in HIV/AIDS in Pakistan in managers training manual 'Reproductive Health for All'
Futures Group Europe and NACP	2004	Developed Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) guidelines for DFID funded 'HIV/AIDS Prevention with Drug Harm Reduction in Pakistan'. Futures Group Europe and National AIDS Control Programme Pakistan. 2004
Population Council and NACP Pakistan	2004	Developed and facilitated of workshop to integrate sexual and reproductive health in social sciences curriculum in universities in Pakistan
Church World Service Pakistan	2003	Designed and facilitated workshop on introducing Rights Based Approach to Health (CBOs of District Sind, Shirkat Gah, Pakistan) 2003
Green Star Pakistan	2003	Developed and trained personnel for peer education Programme for sex workers in Pakistan
Aahung, Pakistan	2003	Designed and facilitated workshop on 'Theater for Development' for sexual health promotion, Larkana, Pakistan. February 2003
Aahung, Pakistan	2002	Produced -"Breaking Walls": A 20-minute documentary on the use of "Theatre for Development" for community development and mobilization in a sexual health initiative by a CBO in Pakistan.
AKU and MoH, Pakistan	2002	Took part as member core technical team MIS (AKU): Tawana Pakistan; a nation-wide feeding program for primary school girls to improve nutrition and school enrolment.
Batterseaa Research Group, UK		Conducted data collected for study on Ischemic Heart Disease in London, UK
WASEP and AKU, Pakistan	2001	Project co-coordinator: Water and Sanitation Extension Programme: Health impact evaluation, Gilgit, Pakistan.

Publications

- Afsar H**, Younus M. Strengthening the role of Lady Health Workers In National Programme for Family Planning and Primary Health Care: The LHW perspective. 2004, J Ayub Med Coll Abbottabad, 2005; 17(1)
- Afsar H**, Younus M. Outcome of patient referral made by the Lady Health Workers in Karachi, Pakistan. J Pak Med Assoc. 2005 May; 55(5):209-11
- Afsar H**, Gill S. Theater for Development for Sexual Health Promotion- A Case Study. Journal of Pakistan Medical Association, Sept 2004, 54 :487-490
- **Afsar H**, Younus M . Patient Referral at the Grass-roots Level in Pakistan. Nature and Science. 2004;2(4):18-28
- D. Nanan D, F. White F, I. Azam, **H. Afsar** and Hozhabri S. Evaluation of a water, sanitation, and hygiene education intervention on diarrhoea in Northern Pakistan. Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2003, 81 (3): 160-165
- Afsar H**, Qureshi AF, Younus M, Gul A, Mahmood A. Factors affecting unsuccessful referral by the Lady Health Workers, Pakistan. Journal of Pakistan Medical Association , Nov 2003, 53 :21-24
- Mahmood A, Kadir M, **Afsar H**, Barni N. Health needs of clients: insight by medical practitioners from two districts of Sind. Journal of Pakistan Medical Association, June 2002,52: 239-243
- Afsar H**, Mahmood A, Kadir M, Barni N, Ali S. Knowledge attitude and practices regarding sexually transmitted infections in a rural district of Pakistan. Journal of Pakistan Medical Association, Jan 2002,52: 21-24

Languages

<i>Language</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Speaking</i>	<i>Writing</i>
English (native)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Urdu (native)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Hindi	-	Excellent	-
Arabic*	Fair	Basic	Fair
German* (B1)	Fair	Basic-fair	Fair
Several local Pakistani languages (Hindko, Punjabi)		Excellent	-

* need interpreter and/or translator for support

References on request

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