

Issue 1, Volume 1, 2020

## ENSURING HEALTH FOR ALL THROUGH PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



Primary Health Care  
Research Consortium

***At the Primary Health Care Research Consortium (PHCRC) our objective is to promote evidence generation, knowledge exchange and capacity building through south-south cooperation to reduce the research to policy gap in primary health care overall for efficient policy-making in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).***

Investing in primary health care (PHC) systems across settings has shown to alleviate the financial burden on the health system, increase access to health and achieve the desired health outcomes equitably, especially in LMICs.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in an effort to foster LMIC driven PHC research gave a grant to establish the PHCRC, in late 2019.

The PHCRC is a member driven body and aims to specifically,

- Develop, conduct and disseminate LMIC-led research;
- Address stakeholder priorities to mitigate the research to policy gap; and,
- Catalyse a global network of collaborating partners and develop capacity of LMICs to conduct independent research.

### **Key Updates**

As such, in furthering these objectives, the steering committee, that provides leadership to the consortium, in the past few months has successfully established an advisory committee to support and advise long-term strategic development, research excellence and direction of the PHCRC; and, initiated two research projects that aim to understand the comprehensiveness and gaps in PHC implementation in India, Uganda, El Salvador, Lebanon, and Malawi.

### *PHCRC Steering Committee*

#### **Bob Mash (Chair)**

Primary Care and Family Medicine Network (Primafamed),  
Sub-Saharan Africa

#### **Lisa R Hirschhorn**

Ariadne Labs, United States of America

#### **KM Saif-Ur-Rahman**

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease  
Research, Bangladesh

#### **David Peiris**

Director, Global Primary Health Care Program,  
The George Institute for Global Health, Australia

#### **Felicity Goodyear-Smith**

World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA)

#### **Fadi El-Jardali**

American University of Beirut, Lebanon

#### **Wolfgang Munar**

George Washington University, United States of America

#### **Praveen Devarsetty**

Director, PHCRC



## Research 1

How are different LMICs implementing PHC team integration to support delivery of comprehensive PHC? A multi country mixed methods study – India and Uganda

### It aims to:

*This multi-country mixed methods study will provide a snapshot of the delivery of comprehensive primary healthcare through the primary health care teams in India and Uganda.*

Gain an in-depth understanding of the health policies and programs in place for primary healthcare

Understand the functioning of PHC team's dynamics, programme impact, their performance and workload

Assess the policy-implementation gaps for the delivery of comprehensive PHC

These objectives will be achieved through a policy review of documents that define the ambit of PHC, followed by a primary health care facility review to understand implementation and key gaps, and lastly a PHC stakeholder (high-level and working-level) feedback.

### Research team



**Rohina Joshi**  
Principle Investigator,  
Associate Professor, University  
of New South Wales, Sydney



**Innocent Besigye,**  
Lecturer, Makerere  
University, Uganda



**Praveen Devarsetty,**  
Director,  
Primary Health Care Research  
Consortium

## Research 2

Characterising the Use of Primary Health Care Performance Information: A multiple case study in El Salvador, Lebanon and Malawi.

### It aims to:

*The overall goal of this study is to assess the ways in which the governments in El Salvador, Lebanon, and Malawi collect and use data on performance information*

Describe the processes and tools through which PHC system performance information is collected and disseminated

Understand the practices and tools in use by decision makers to make sense of PHC system performance data at national and sub-national level

Characterize the uses by decision makers of PHC system performance information, at national and sub-national levels

To achieve these objectives, a multi-site, multiple case study design will be followed through a document review, key informant interviews, and Delphi consensus methodology. Key informants working at all levels of the health system will be chosen purposively.

## Advisory Committee Members

Name	Region
<b>Emma Margarita Iriarte (Chair)</b> Executive Secretary, Salud Mesoamerica and Regional Malaria Elimination Initiatives, Inter-American Development Bank	Latin America
<b>Beth Tritter</b> Executive Director, Primary Health Care Performance Initiative	United States of America
<b>Koku Awoonor-Williams</b> Ex-Director, Ghana Health Services, Ghana	Africa
<b>Sherina Mohd Sidik</b> Professor, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia	Southeast Asia
<b>Rajani Ved</b> Ex-Executive Director, National Health Systems Resource Centre, India	South Asia
<b>Robert Marten</b> Scientist, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research	Europe
<b>Itai Rusike</b> Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health (CWGH), Zimbabwe	Africa

### Research team



**Wolfgang Munar**  
Associate Professor,  
George Washington University,  
United States of America



**Fadi El-Jardali**  
Professor, American University of Beirut,  
Lebanon



**Martha Makwero,**  
Lecturer, Malawi  
College of Medicine,  
Malawi

Upcoming Webinar series –  
**'Scaling new frontiers in  
Primary Health Care Research'**

Episode 1  
Knowledge Gaps around PHC Quality and  
Performance Management – **Join the webinar**

### Primary Health Care Research Consortium

The consortium is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its secretariat is based at The George Institute for Global Health, Plot No. 57, Second Floor, Corporation Bank Building 8-2-248/1/7/57, Nagarjuna Circle, Road No. 3, Punjagutta Hyderabad – 500 082, Telangana, India

### Contact us

Dr Praveen Devarsetty [dpraveen@georgeinstitute.org.in](mailto:dpraveen@georgeinstitute.org.in)  
Manushi Sharma [MSharma@georgeinstitute.org.in](mailto:MSharma@georgeinstitute.org.in)