

Farshid Meidany

Global Public Health & Healthcare Management Specialist

Experienced in strengthening health systems, strategies and health systems transformation, through introducing quality management and innovative health financing initiatives, e.g. Result and Performance-Based Financing (RBF/PBF) interventions, as well as digital and electronic applications to increase efficiency.

Experienced in design, development, fundraising, start-up, and quality management of international development and health programs in cooperation with governments, academic institutions and private entities. Designed and implemented projects funded by USAID, UNICEF, WHO, PEPFAR, CIDA, World Bank, FBOs, large corporates and local communities.

Experienced in new technologies in health, e.g. eHealth, mHealth and healthcare digital applications.

Experienced in health management information systems (HMIS), monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management, as well as research strategies, including community based surveys, health facility quality and healthcare assessments using digital technologies.

Technically current in emerging infectious diseases, maternal, neonatal and child health, HIV/AIDS & TB, and cervical cancer screening and control programs.

Developed and led outbreak rapid response and disaster management programs for priority health issues and situations, including setting up decentralized outbreak response & contact tracing teams and surveillance systems. Familiar with Global Health Security Agenda and International Health Regulations. Updated on Covid-19 pandemic and global and US epidemiology, strategies and actions, including Global Digital Tools for COVID-19 Response.

US and South African citizen, fluent in English, Spanish and Farsi/Dari, with knowledge of Portuguese and French.

History and Highlights

Public Health & Healthcare Management Specialist - Consultant

2018 to Present

- Provide professional, expert knowledge and guidance on public health and healthcare management subjects to catalyze strategic shifts and change in management thinking to improve organizational performance.
- Develop material/guidelines and train on different subjects of public health modules and global health matters.
- Offer training and implementation of quality management and regulatory issues of government and private organizations as well as logistics and supply chain management.
- Provide leadership in implementation of community surveys, health facility and healthcare assessments as well as performing mid-term and final evaluations.
- Provide training and leadership in programs covering epidemiology and disease control, outbreak investigation, contact tracing, response.
- Design proposals, fundraising, and startups of public health programs, covering HIV/AIDS & TB, MNCH, nutrition, cervical cancer control, and infectious disease control programs as well as Performance and Result-Based Financing (PBF/RBF).

Important consultancies & projects during this period:

- IOD PARC: Country Team Leader (Enhanced Portfolio Reviews of Global Fund Investment in Focused Countries-Africa and Middle East region)
- Black Pearl Consulting & Research LLC: Global Public Health Advisor (Assist in development of multiple global health proposals and projects).
- A&E Healthcare Services: HealthCare Management Consultant (Improve quality management & growth)
- Cámara Minera del Perú CAMIPER - Escuela de Altos Estudios: Public Health Consultant (Develop training material and conduct Master's students' trainings on the module of "Digital technologies in public health").
- NOVA Pediatrics: HealthCare Management Consultant (Improve quality of management and clinical practice).

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- US Census Bureau: Survey Specialist (Respondents, supervisors, and other person's coordination & field work).
- Telus International: Consultant Analyst
- Multiple high impact mentoring and coaching for individual and corporate development.

Senior Health Program Officer / Program Manager Medical Care Development International (MCDI)

2013 to 2018

- Advised MCDI's Home Office Business Development Unit in producing new proposals and projects.
- Led the design, implementation and management of the five-year Lesotho Maternal and Neonatal Health Performance-Based Financing (PBF) project for the World Bank, including assisting in development of a web based PBF data verification and indicators system, and planning for integration into national HMIS (DHIS2).
- Spearheaded development and management of the Yat Sauk Maternal & Neonatal Health (MNH) pilot project in Shan State, Myanmar with emphasis on malaria control. Established screening program to provide cervical cancer control, including identify minimum data and indicators to monitor the program as well as planning day to day activities.
- Established and supervised management of Equatorial Guinea Cervical Cancer Screening & Treatment Program funded by Noble Energy, Inc., including developing a minimum set of data and indicators set for monitoring and evaluation of the program. Implemented advanced technological interventions in two hospitals, later scaled up to all provincial hospitals. Initiated discussions with the Government and other stakeholders and preliminary work to introduce HPV vaccination among school children.

Chief of Party / Country Director – South Africa Medical Care Development International (MCDI)

2002 to 2013

- Designed and launched health & research projects with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS/TB, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, nutrition and control of infectious diseases.
- Planned and managed multiple projects funded by USAID, PEPFAR, UNICEF, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), FBOs (faith-based organizations), and through private and community funding. Managed sub-contracting and sub-grants to local community-based organizations within KwaZulu Natal Province, one of South Africa's most densely populated areas.
- Advised and assisted KZN Department of Health in setting up outbreak response teams for current epidemics, e.g. cholera, meningococcal meningitis, hemorrhagic fevers and SARS.
- Established district-based MNCH (Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health) and nutrition program, the Ndwedwe Child Survival Project funded by the USAID Child Survival & Health Grants Program (CSHGP) with emphasis on HIV/AIDS and TB in children, including assisting District and Provincial Department of Health with establishing health information systems and rolling out DHIS. Utilized LQAS (Lot Quality Assurance Sampling) random sampling quality control methodology to identify priority health issues and interventions. Established health facility and community-based VCT/PMTCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing / Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission) sites. Produced training materials on facility and community IMCI (Integrated Management of Childhood Illness), home-based care, and DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course), a highly efficient and cost-effective internationally recommended strategy for TB control for the supervisory system within the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health. Integrated TB & HIV/AIDS program funded by USAID CSHGP (Child Survival & Health Grants Program). Introduced innovative approaches for HIV and TB case finding to reduce TB transmission, morbidity and mortality rates, using mobile technology. Assisted with implementation of GeneXpert MTB/RIF Point of Care Systems for the Department of Health.
- Developed policy documents and launched Voluntary HIV Counseling & Testing sites, advised on technical and clinical aspects of ARV / ART and PMTCT and led the establishment of the facility- and Community-Based Support Groups. Implemented the health facility and community-based HIV/AIDS/TB Stigma & Discrimination Reduction Project funded by USAID/Community REACH Stigma and Discrimination Reduction program. Piloted youth-friendly voluntary HIV testing sites to increase screening for HIV and TB, strengthening sexual and reproductive health initiatives. Worked to reduce MDR/XDR burden, resulting from the TB-HIV co-infection. Screened

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vulnerable populations and implemented community and facility-based infection control measures. Used mobile technology to monitor HIV and TB in the project area.

- Established youth friendly policies, clinics and hospitals, empowering youth and young women to access health services through innovative methods, including text messaging and use of cellular applications, funded by CIDA. Worked and advocated with the Department of Health on HPV vaccination policies and guidelines for school children.
- Initiated iLembe District Child Survival Project funded by UNICEF. Led project design and implementation to strengthen community and household components of integrated management of childhood illnesses and family planning, as well as to improve detection and treatment of HIV infection and TB among children. Energized sustainable community development supporting HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), with focus on child-headed households, community based youth and women's support groups and RBF initiatives.
- Equipped Lesotho Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, as well as in-country NGOs/CBOs with the skills to effectively build Behavior Change Communication (BCC) capacity supporting PMTCT and ARV interventions at the community and facility level as well as assisting the Department of Health with the preparation and implementation of a digital platform for home visits and reports for the community health workers.
- Spearheaded and led the process to develop the proposal and financing for a malaria control program on Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea with the funding from the Marathon Oil.

Provincial Epidemiologist / Head of Epidemiology & Research Unit South African Department of Health 1997 to 2002

- Directed surveillance, research, health information statistics, and outbreak response activities servicing 25 districts in South Africa's Eastern Cape area. Led the region's Health Research Ethics Committee. Led first DHS survey for Eastern Cape Province.
- Developed policy documents and established Infectious Disease Surveillance systems and formed District and Cluster Outbreak Response and Contact Tracing Teams to identify source of the epidemics, developed treatment protocols and guidelines to contain epidemics, including cholera, SARS, Ebola as well as HIV and TB.
- Established antenatal HIV and Syphilis Sentinel Surveillance Sites and Systems.
- Addressed absence of a comprehensive health information system for primary health care. Identified minimum data set and indicators needed to establish a district health information system for South Africa since adopted by the National Department of Health - DHIS.

Other Experience

- **South African Department of Health** – Public Health Specialist & Epidemiologist
- **South African Medical Research Council** - Operational Research Consultant
- **Equatorial Guinea Ministry of Health & World Health Organization** - Director, National AIDS/STD Control Program
- **US Peace Corps** – Equatorial Guinea – Medical Contractor

Additional Information

Education:

Master of Public Health (MPH): Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Hubert H Humphrey Fellowship Program (Health/Health Care Administration/Management): The Johns Hopkins University

Doctor of Medicine (MD): University of Tehran

Current Certificates:

Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification Training - Simplilearn ®; Result Based Financing for Health (RBF) – The World Bank Group ®; Helping Babies Breathe & Helping Babies Survive - American Academy of Pediatrics ®; Helping Mothers Survive – Jhpiego ®; Training of Trainers in Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control- Grounds for Health ®; Good Clinical Practice (GCP) - South African Medical Research Council ®; Registered Medical Practitioner & Community Health Specialist - Health Professionals Council of South Africa ®.

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Membership:

American Public Health Association (Member- HIV & MCH), Project Management Institute (Member), Health Professionals Council of South Africa (Registered Medical Practitioner and Community Health Specialist).