

Ali Nasha`at Ali Sha`ar, MD. MSc.

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Palestine

General information:

- Name: Ali Nashat Shaar
- Nationality: Palestinian
- Residence: Palestine, West Bank, Nablus
- Areas of interest: Health policy and program management, Health promotion, Quality improvement and Humanitarian response
- Country experiences: Palestine with short-term assignments to Libya, Yemen, Iraq, South Sudan, Greece, Macedonia and Egypt

Key competencies:

- *30 years of experience in medical practice, health program management, policy and research in public health, ECD, Child and Sexual and Reproductive health.*
- *Actively involved in policy development and health system strengthening efforts in Palestine and MENA region.*
- *Advanced qualifications and experience in quality improvement, accreditation and patient safety.*
- *Advanced qualifications and experience in health promotion, behavior change and social determinants of health.*

Education and professional training:

August 2017: **Basel University- Switzerland**, Institute of Tropical Medicine and public health (ITPH). **Course on Health financing**, certificate of attendance.

September 1994 - December 1996: **University of Bergen- Norway**. Research Center for Health Promotion, World Health Organization Collaborating Center. **Master of Science degree in Health Promotion**, focus on health promotion as an advanced theory and practice in the field of community and public health with emphasis on the environmental, socio-political and behavioral determinants of health.

May 1996 - December 1996: **Harvard University- Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID), Palestine- Ramallah**. Advanced first-hand training on quality improvement in health care.

1982 - 1989: **Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University, Brno – Czech Republic**. Doctor of Medicine degree, with honor.

Professional Affiliation:

- Advisory board member of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC)
- Member of the Ministerial National committee for improving health system in Palestine. Founded through Palestinian Cabinet Resolution No. 5/07/18-2019.
- Member of the national Early Child Care and Development (ECCD) committee in Palestine.
- Co-founder and member of the Executive committee of the International Network on Peace Building for children (INPB)
- 2001- 2009: Member and national representative of the World Forum Foundation for Early Child Care and Education.
- Member of the Advisory Council for Joint Commission International for accreditation of healthcare organizations in the Middle East and Northern Africa region (JCI- MENA).
- Member in the global roster of experts for humanitarian response at UNFPA, the UN SRHR agency
- 2009-2012: Co-chair of Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Emergencies for the MENA region.
- Member of the Palestinian Health Policy Forum
- Member of the MENA region Health Policy Forum

International assignments:

- November- December 2019: **Syria, NES response**. SRH advisor for UNFPA operation in north- east region.
- September- December 2018: **Tunis for Libya operation**. Emergency coordinator for SRHR program of UNFPA.
- November 2017- February 2018: **Tunis for Libya operation**. Technical advisor and trainer on Sexual and Reproductive Health in crisis.
- November 2015: member of inter-agency UN mission to **Greece and Macedonia** to assess SRHR humanitarian needs of refugee women.
- March- May 2015: **Tunis for Libya operation**. Acting head of office for UNFPA Libya-support humanitarian response efforts of UNFPA in Libya.
- June- July 2014: Technical advisor and trainer to **UNFPA- Iraq** for support of humanitarian response to the crises in North Iraq.
- July 2013: **Save the children- Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen**. Evaluation post- KAP research on youth sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- September 2012: **UNFPA- Arab States Regional Office- Cairo**. Training of Trainers on Minimal Initial Services Package for practitioners from Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Yemen and Jordan. Master Trainer
- August 2012: Technical advisor for **UNFPA mission to North Iraq** to assess the health situation and services provided to Syrian refugees.
- December 2010: Member of **UNFPA mission to South Sudan** to assess the SRHR system and services in the country prior to the referendum.
- May 2010: Member of the special **UN mission to Yemen** to assess health cluster interventions during the Sa`ada war.

Employment history:

January 2019- present: **Najah National University, Palestine**. Director of the Palestinian Child Institute.

October 2006 – December 2018: **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)- Opt- Jerusalem**.

Program Specialist for Sexual and Reproductive Health. **Achievements include:**

- 1- Facilitated the development of a surveillance system for maternal mortality and the production of the first report on maternal mortality. The significance of this stems from bringing maternal mortality ratio in Palestine from estimation to close-to-accurate figure.
- 2- Established a national system for harmonized family planning services across the public sector. This systematic effort significantly contributed to reduction of unmet need for family planning in Palestine from 15.6% in 2010 to 10.9% in 2014.
- 3- Contributed to program for improving the status of midwives and expanding their role in reproductive health service delivery. Significant improvement in enrollment and quality of national program on midwives positioned Palestine well at the regional level.
- 4- Spearheaded a successful application to the Global Fund that has brought a breakthrough in definition of vulnerability and improved response to HIV/AIDS within the Palestinian context.
- 5- Contributed to the research about youth health and the development of youth-friendly health services model.
- 6- Designed and implemented a number of emergency response interventions and projects that have demonstrated a good example of the humanitarian response to development nexus.
- 7- Conducted pioneer assessments and research on key SRH issues especially on impact of Gaza crisis on reproductive health and assessment of breast cancer services.
- 8- Established and co-chaired the MENA region IAWG on RHE between 2009- 2012 and contributed to building the regional capacity in the implementation of Minimal Initial Services Package (MISP).
- 9- Participated in regional surge missions to Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Greece, Macedonia and South Sudan and contributed to the efforts of addressing SRHR programs within the developmental and humanitarian contexts.

September 1998 – October 2006: **An-Najah University, Nablus**. Co-founder of the Masters program on Health Promotion and part-time lecturer on health promotion, epidemiology and control of infectious and chronic, non-communicable diseases.

December 1999 – June 2005: **Save the Children Federation- USA (SCF), West Bank/ Gaza Field Office**. Senior Health Specialist. **Achievements include:**

1. Developed and managed child survival, reproductive health and environmental health projects. Projects were oriented towards support improving quality of care and enhance capacity of health system operate within humanitarian context and under closure.
2. Introduced concepts and tested methods of quality improvement through the development and implementation of Partnership Defined Quality (PDQ) approach locally and globally. This innovative approach to quality improvement builds on the partnership between providers of care and clients in addressing issues related to quality and experience of care.
3. Developed and implemented programs for capacity building and technical assistance to staff and partners throughout the design and implementation of health projects.
4. Developed M&E plans and indicators for SCF health programs. Designed and conducted research activities aiming at measuring impact and outcomes of health interventions.

May 1996 – February 2000: **Quality Improvement Project – World Bank-funded project**. Quality Improvement Expert- Manager Health Promotion Program. World Bank technical assistance project was designed to help the newly formed Palestinian Ministry of Health plan for, adopt and institutionalize quality improvement tools. **Achievements include:**

1. Development and measurement of clinical and operational quality of care indicators for the project target hospitals and primary healthcare centers.
2. Designed and piloted a comprehensive model for diabetes care within the MOH diabetes

care centers building on holistic approach to quality Diabetes care. This program included three components starting with organization of care, supporting evidence-based clinical care and fostering patient's self care through behavior change communication.

3. Designed and facilitated several quality improvement projects aiming at improving the clinical, operational and administrative aspects of care at MOH hospitals and primary healthcare facilities. This included work on infection control, implementation of clinical guidelines and redesign of operational flow within facilities for the aim of enhancing quality and patient safety.

October 1995 - May 1996: **Bir- Zeit University, Community Health Department.** Researcher and trainer. **Achievements:**

1. Participated in the development of program outline, curriculum and study plans for the Masters program in community and public health.
2. Provided medical and research guidance in the Diabetes prevalence study, conducted in cooperation with Oslo University.

January 1994 – August 1994: **Ramallah Governmental Hospital, Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology.** Resident Physician.

October 1990 – December 1993: **Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS).** Community Physician, chairman of Nablus regional committee for voluntary community-based activities, and member of the general council of the society.

October 1989- September 1990: **Ittihad Hospital- Nablus- Palestine.** Intern Physician

Publications, academic work:

August 2018: **Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP-UK)- Palestine,** Evaluation of mobile health services to isolated communities in the Jordan Valley. Author.

May 2018: **Palestinian Ministry of Health,** “*National Sexual and Reproductive health strategy 2018-2023*”. Member of Technical committee

March 2018: **Basel University- Switzerland,** “*Health System Research in Palestine*”. PhD Thesis of Dr. Mohamed El-Khalidi. Co-author

February 2018: **UNFPA- Libya.** “*Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health strategy for Libya*”. SRHR Technical advisor.

January 2018: **UNFPA- Palestine.** “*Pathway to survival, the story of breast cancer in Palestine*”. www.palestine.unfpa. Co-author

November 2015: **UNFPA- Greece and Macedonia.** “*Interagency report on SRH and GBV affecting migrant women from Syria on the route to Europe*”. Co-author

October 2014: **UNFPA- Gaza, Palestine.** “*Victims in the Shadow, Reproductive Health Assessment*”. Assessment of impact of 2014 War on Gaza on reproductive health. Author

July 2014: **UNFPA- Iraq.** Assessment of SRH needs and responses in the region of Kurdistan in light of the prevailing crisis and consequent massive displacement.

December 2013: **Al-Quds University- Jerusalem, Palestine.** *"Assessment of infection control policies and practices in neonatal intensive care units (NICU) in West Bank hospitals"*. Academic review of master's thesis dissertation

November 2013: **Asia-Pacific Regional ECD conference- Singapore.** *"Giving children equal opportunities for lifelong learning, health and success, children of the Middle East, a long way to go"*. A paper on impact of conflict on children of Iraq, Syria and Palestine. Author and presenter.

September 2013: **Save the Children- MENA region.** Post-Kap survey for adolescent sexual and reproductive program in Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen. Main researcher.

July 2013: **CARE International- Palestine.** Evaluation of health program in communities isolated by the wall and settlements. Main researcher.

May 2013: **Al-Quds University- Jerusalem, Palestine.** *"Assessment of Standards of quality care and patient safety in hospital pharmacy in the West Bank"*. Academic review of master's thesis dissertation

November 2012: **HCAC- Jordan. International conference on Quality and accreditation.** Quality of healthcare in Palestine. Presentation

August 2012: **UNFPA- Iraq.** Report on the health situation and service at the Domiz refugee camp for Syrian refugees in northern Iraq.

March 2012: **International Conference on Gynecology and Obstetrics, Bethlehem- Palestine.** Unmet need for family planning in Palestine. Presentation.

March 2012: **UNFPA in partnership with Palestinian Ministry of Health and JUZOOR foundation.** Assessment of near misses in four Palestinian hospitals. Member of technical committee.

December 2011: **UNFPA in partnership with the National AIDS Committee (NAC).** Review and update of the National response to HIV/AIDS document.

May 2011: **UNFPA in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Health.** First Report on Maternal Mortality, Member of technical committee.

May 2011: **Palestinian Ministry of Health, 3rd National Health conference.** *"Maternal mortality in the Arab world"*. Presentation.

January- April 2011: **Joint Commission International.** Review of scientific publications on international standards of care (pressure ulcer, infection control).

November 2010: **Al-Quds University- Jerusalem, Palestine.** *"Assessment of Standards of quality care and nurses performance in neonatal units at governmental hospitals in the West Bank"*. Academic review of master's thesis dissertation.

October 2010: **An-Najah National University- Nablus, Palestine.** Third international medical conference on adolescent and youth health. *"Youth-Friendly health services"*. Presentation

October 2010: **An-Najah National University- Nablus, Palestine.** First National conference on Health Promotion. *"Health Promotion in emergency context- Palestine example"*. Presentation

May 2010: **Palestinian Ministry of Health, 2nd National Health conference.** Quality and patient Safety. "*Quality Improvement in Palestine, History and ways forward*". Presentation

October 2009: **An-Najah University- Nablus, Palestine.** International conference on Women's Health. "*Reproductive Health in Emergencies, the example of Gaza*". Presentation.

October 2009: **An-Najah University- Nablus, Palestine.** International conference on Women's Health. *Family Planning in Palestine.* Presentation.

February 2008: **Research Center for Health Promotion, University of Bergen- Norway.** "*Implementation of the Ghana Health Sector Reform Program Through collaboration Between the Ministry of Health and USAID*". Academic reviewer of Master thesis dissertation.

September 2007: **Research Center for Health Promotion, University of Bergen- Norway.** "*The meaning of the perceived availability of a confidant*". Academic reviewer of Master thesis dissertation.

May 2007: **World forum Foundation- USA.** "*From Conflict to Peace Building: The Power of Early Childhood Initiatives. Lessons from around the world*". Author of chapter on Palestine (www.worldforumfoundation.org)

December 2006: **An-Najah University.** "*The effect of smoking on the development of type 2 diabetes and hypertension*". Master thesis, Academic advisor.

October 2006: **Research Center for Health Promotion, University of Bergen- Norway.** "*Acceptability of vaginal microbicides among men living on the Nakambala sugar estate in Zambia*". Academic reviewer of Master thesis dissertation.

December 2005: **An-Najah University.** "*The effect of health education program on knowledge, attitudes and practices of women in reproductive age in rural Palestinian communities*". Master thesis, Academic Advisor.

May 2005: **Global Health Council- Washington-DC, USA.** "*Supporting Mother and child health in Emergencies*". Author- presenter.

May 2005: **World Forum for Early Child Care and Education- Montreal, Canada.** "*Early childhood as a force for reconciliation*". Key-note speaker.

December 2004: **Research Center for Health Promotion, University of Bergen- Norway.** "*Chronic Social Stress and Psychological Distress in Russia*" Academic reviewer of Master thesis dissertation.

July 2004: **An-Najah University,** "*Risk factors associated with the occurrence of pre-term deliveries at Al-Maqassed hospital*" Master thesis, Academic Advisor.

October 2003: **Belgium, Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium (RHRC),** Second International Research Conference. "*Use of PRA and Health Services Assessment data for health program design*" Author

June 2003: **USAID, Environmental Health Project, Save the Children Federation,** Joint publication No. 6. USAID village Water and Sanitation Program. "*Environmental Health Assessment- Phase II*". First Author.

May 2003: **An-Najah University**, *“Assessment of MOH Services Offered to Type I Diabetes Patients in Northern Palestine”*. Master thesis, Academic Advisor.

April 2003: **An-Najah University**, *“Prevention of Type II diabetes in the Palestinian City of Nablus”*. Master thesis, Academic Advisor.

July 2002: **USAID, Environmental Health Project, Save the Children Federation**, Joint publication No. 5. USAID village Water and Sanitation Program. *“Environmental Health Assessment- Phase I”*. First Author.

July 2001: **Save the Children Federation**, *“Review of Health Hygiene Education Program”*. Impact assessment for health education program in 4 Palestinian districts.

April 2001: **Save the Children Federation**, *“KAP survey on woman and child health”*. Survey for assessing the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of mothers in 9 rural Palestinian communities about issues of reproductive and child health.

April 2001: **Athens- Greece, Third World Forum on Early Care and Development**. *“Impact of violence on Children in Palestine”*. Key-note speaker.

December 1999: **Diabetes Voice, Formal journal of the International Diabetes Federation, issue (No.4)**; *“Palestinian community hit by urbanization”*. Author of article.

May 1999: **Finland- Estonia, 4th European IUHPE Conference on effectiveness and Quality of Health Promotion**. *“Improvement of diabetes care in Palestine”*. Presenter.

November 1998: **Najah University- Nablus- Palestine, First Franko-Palestinian Symposium on Noso-comial Infections**. *“Controlling Infection by Using Quality Improvement Methodology”*. Poster presenter.

October 1998: **Ramallah- Palestine, First Palestinian Conference on Health Promotion**. Set of indicators for the national plan on health promotion.

July 1998: **Rafidia MOH hospital-Nablus-Palestine**. *“Reduction of contamination and noso-comial infections in Burn Unit”*. Facilitator of Quality Improvement Process.

July 1998: **Alia MOH hospital- Hebron-Palestine**. *“Reduction of waste on neglected laboratory tests”*. Facilitator of Quality Improvement Process.

June 1998: **Salfit Primary Health Directorate- Salfit- Palestine**. *“Rationalization of antibiotic use in primary health care”*. Facilitator of the Quality Improvement Process, which aimed at reducing unjustified use of antibiotics in the treatment of acute respiratory infections. The process was based on the implementation of WHO protocols in the treatment of Acute Respiratory Infections among children 0-5.

December 1997: **Primary Healthcare Directorate- Nablus- Palestine**. *“Improvement of Diabetes care In Palestine”*. A comprehensive model for primary diabetes care including case management guidelines, health education program to support patient self-care and patient flow system within the diabetes clinic.

December 1996: **Bergen University- Norway**, *“Diabetes Mellitus in the Palestinian Community”*. Study on diabetes in the Palestinian community. Part of Master thesis in health promotion under academic supervision from the Norwegian Research Center for Health Promotion - University of

Bergen- Norway.

Languages:

Fluent in Arabic, English and Czech.
Good in Slovak

Computer skills:

Proficient user of the following applications:

- Word processing: Microsoft Word, WP
- Statistics and Data processing: SPSS, Epi-Info 6.0, Excel
- Others: PowerPoint, MS Project, E-mail, Internet.