



Global Health Institute at the American University of Beirut and the Research for Health in Conflict (R4HC) Program

Call for Papers for the Special Issue of the *Journal of Global Health* The Political Economy of Health in Conflict

Guest Editors:

Shadi Saleh and Fouad M. Fouad

I. Background

Health systems globally and in low-middle income states (LMICs), especially those with prolonged crises, face significant health challenges including a rising non-communicable disease (NCD) burden and mental health. They further are often faced with profound cost constraints on the range of services provided, health workforce shortages, multiple stakeholder interests and high levels of penetration by regional and international actors with the capacity to influence health policymaking.

The capacity and mode of response to these challenges are significantly shaped by the historical trajectory of health system development across states, and this is influenced by the political and economic factors concerned in shaping this trajectory. Powerful actors with vested interests such as governments, donors, NGOs and the private sector, continue to shape national health agendas, including the formation of social protection systems across the region in adaptation to their evolving understandings, demographic shifts, as well as in their own socio-cultural realities. Such a context and factors are particularly critical in conflict settings where they further intertwine with regional and international agendas, thus shaping and influencing already fragile health care systems.

Analyses of health systems and policy in conflict from a political economy perspective remains virtually unexplored. In general there is a limited understanding of the range of interests, incentives, as well as cultural, demographic and social sensitivities shaping policymaking and implementation, as well as how these contexts shift over time within political and economic

paradigms. This is especially the case under conditions of armed conflict. Under these circumstances there are additional questions of coordination, funding and political control over humanitarian responses and access. These knowledge deficits present enormous impediments to health systems planning, financing and decision policymaking and implementation which, to be effective, must account both for technical requirements and ground-level political and economic realities that may constrain scope for action.

The purpose of this special issue is to assist in addressing these deficits by combining original theoretical work in the political economy of public policy with empirically-grounded case studies on health decision making and implementation throughout the world. Particularly, this issue will focus on contributions from states affected by the near and long-term impacts of conflict.

II. Areas of Focus

The proposed call for papers for this special issue will be in the following areas/sub-areas [inter-disciplinary approaches are recommended]:

- Theoretical and conceptual overview of the political economy of health in conflict
 - Political economy of public policy making in healthcare systems
 - Navigating healthcare through the lens of political economy in LMICs
- Methodological challenges to data collection on political economy of health in LMICs and in countries with protracted crises
 - Scarcity in research on political economy of health and its implications upon accessibility
 - Difficulty in access to data on political economy of health amid conflict and methodological research innovations in this context
 -
- Comparative political economy analyses and approaches
 - Policy papers and policy-centered approaches
- Case Studies in political economy analysis
 - How to conduct political economy analysis on health in conflict-affected settings: cases from around the world and lessons learned
- The complexity of healthcare in developing and conflict-ridden countries within a humanitarian setting: realities, efforts and understandings
 - Healthcare in armed conflict-affected settings
 - Socio-cultural and political sensitivities in the region and their effect on healthcare
 - The long-term impacts of conflicts: cases from around the world
 - Health inequalities
 - Political Economy of healthcare in time of pandemics (COVID 19)

III. Submission Guidelines

The submissions are to adhere to the following technical guidelines:

- Academic research papers are anticipated to be between 4500-6000 words, and not previously published in any other online platforms or academic journals.
- References to be inserted in APA Style of referencing in the form of footnotes, with a full bibliography at the end of the paper.
- Each paper will be subject to a double-blind peer review process.
- The deadline for submitting an abstract of a maximum of 250 words, is: June 30, 2020.
- The deadline for submitting the initial complete draft is: December 15, 2020.
- The projected date for final publication of this issue is: June, 2021.

Kindly submit abstracts and papers to ghi@aub.edu.lb with “Special Issue – Journal of Global Health” in the subject of the email.