INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICE

Title of research study: Assessing the impact of attacks on healthcare on health workers in Afghanistan

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This interview guide was produced by members of the RIAH consortium, led by Audrey Mahieu and in collaboration with Dr Sayed Jalal and Dr Sameem Munir. It has been pilot-tested, revised, and used to conduct interviews for a case study in Afghanistan in 2021. A Pashto version is available at https://riah.manchester.ac.uk/

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How to use this guide:

This is the interview guide that we used in our research in Afghanistan to investigate attacks on healthcare, with a particular focus on health facilities, workers, protection, impact, resilience, and recommendations. The guide is aimed at district health officers. You can adapt, modify or use parts or all of this guide in your own research or educational activities, depending on your audience and area of focus. To use the guide you must cite the original, as per the copyright guide below.

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I. INTERVIEW INFORMATION

1. Interview code:
2. Name of interviewer:
3. Date of interview (DD/MM/YYYY):
4. Location interview (province, district, town, place):
5. Informed consent document (yes/no):

If the informed consent has not been obtained, do not proceed to the interview.

II. PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

6. What is your name?
7. What is your mobile phone number?
8. What is your e-mail address?
9. Gender of participant: female / male
10. What is your job position and what are your responsibilities at District Health Office?
11. How long have you been working at this position?

III. NGO INFORMATION

(Start recording)

12. Interview code:
13. In [district], how many health facilities and Mobile Health Teams are there?
14. Would you have a list of these facilities and Mobile Health Teams? Could you share it?
15. Would you have the list of healthcare workers working in the health facilities and mobile health teams? (number and position of healthcare workers for each facility and mobile health team).

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IV. INFORMATION ON ATTACKS ON HEALTHCARE

16. **I would like to know about attacks on healthcare that have happened since** [date/year] **in the** [district]**. By attacks on healthcare, I mean any violent incident affecting or targeting medical personnel, patients, healthcare facilities or medical transport, that has an effect on the access, availability, or delivery of healthcare services.**

    Could you list and describe the attacks on healthcare that have happened since [date/year]**?**

    For each attack, encourage the participant to describe the attacks and note the exact date and location of each attack.

    Do not ask any information on perpetrators. We are not interested in knowing the perpetrators.

I would like to ensure that we covered the different types of attacks on healthcare that may have happened. Please allow me to ask you the following questions:

17. Has any healthcare worker ever experienced verbal or physical violence, or threat at work?

    If Yes, encourage the participant to describe the attack and note the exact date and location of the attack. Do this for all the different types of attacks (up to question 27)

18. Has any healthcare worker ever been abducted?
19. Has any healthcare worker been denied accessing patients?
20. Has any healthcare worker ever been injured or killed in an attack?
21. Has any health facility ever been looted?
22. Have any equipment or drugs ever been stolen by armed individuals or civilians?
23. Has any health facility ever been occupied or taken over by militaries or an armed group?
24. Has any health facility ever been closed following a threat or an order of an armed group?
25. Has any health facility been relocated following a threat or an order of an armed group?
26. Has any medical vehicle ever been hijacked, violently searched?
27. Has any medical vehicle ever been denied access or delayed at a checkpoint?

    Encourage the participant to describe the attack and note the exact date and location of the attack

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V. INFORMATION ON IMPACT OF ATTACKS ON HEALTHCARE

Take separately each attack that the participant mentioned and ask the following questions for each attack.
Starting with the first attack that the participant mentioned:

28. What have been the consequences of this attack on healthcare?

29. Has anyone been injured? Has anyone died following this attack?
    If Yes, ask:
    - Who and how many were injured or died? (differentiate the number of healthcare workers, patients, and other members of the community).

30. Has here been any damage to the health facility, equipment or medical transport?
    If Yes, ask:
    - Have any medical equipment, material, or supplies been stolen or destroyed? If Yes, what equipment, materials and supplies have been destroyed or stolen? How has this affected the provision of healthcare services? For how long has it affected the provision of healthcare services?
    - Have any drugs been stolen or destroyed? If Yes, what quantity and what type of drugs? How has this affected the provision of healthcare services? For how long has it affected the provision of healthcare services?
    - Has any medical vehicle been stolen or damaged? How has this affected the delivery of healthcare services and the transport of patients? For how long has it affected the delivery of healthcare services and the transport of patients?
    - Has money been stolen? How has this affected the provision of healthcare services? For how long has it affected the provision of healthcare services?

31. Has any health facility closed following this attack?
    If Yes, ask:
    - How long has the health facility been closed? (from when to when?)
    - Who made the decision to close the health facility? Why was it closed?
    - Did the medical staff go on providing care during the closure? Where?
    - Where did the patients seek care while the health facility was closed? How far is the nearest facility where patients sought care? Did you organize any alternative way of delivering care while the facility was closed? How did you handle hospitalized patients?
    - How has it impacted patients who require follow-up such as tuberculosis patients or patients with chronic diseases?
    - When did the health facility reopen? What were the conditions to reopen the health facility?

32. Has any health facility been relocated following this attack?
    If Yes, ask:
    - Why has it been relocated?

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- Where has it been relocated? How far is it from its initial location?
- What have been the consequences of this relocation on the staff of this health facility?
- What have been the consequences of this relocation on the population that the health facility initially covered?

33. Has any health service been interrupted following this attack?
    If Yes, ask:
    - Which services have been interrupted? How long? (from when to when?)
    - Have the patients been able to access these services anywhere else?

34. Has any Mobile Health Team interrupted its activities following this attack?
    If Yes, ask:
    - How long has the Mobile Health Team stopped its activities? From when to when?
    - Who made the decision to stop Mobile Health Team's activities? Why were they stopped?
    - Where did the patients access care while the Mobile Health Team stopped its activities?
    - How has it impacted patients who require follow-up such as tuberculosis patients or patients with chronic diseases?
    - When did the Mobile Health Team start again its activities? What were the conditions to start again Mobile Health Team's activities?

35. What consequences has this attack had on human resources?
    Prompt:
    - Has any medical staff left or been relocated following this attack? Who (job position)? Which services did they provide? What was the consequence on the provision of health services that they provided? Did you manage to recruit someone else to replace them? How long did it take to replace them?
    - Has any medical personal been away from work following this incident? Who (job position) and for how long? Which services did they provide? What was the consequence on the provision of health services that they provided? How did you organize to palliate to their absence? What have been the consequence on the medical activities and workload of other personnel?

36. What consequences has this attack had on supervision and monitoring activities?

37. How has this attack affected the utilization of health services?
    Probe:
    - Has it had an impact on the trust of the population in using health services? (for instance, has the population been afraid of coming to the health facility?) Are patients delaying their visit to health facility (for instance only coming for severe complications)? For which services have you observed a decrease in utilization?

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38. Have you observed any change in health indicators that could be the consequence of the attack?
    Probe:
    - For instance, have you observed any decrease in the immunization coverage? Any change in the number of children treated for malnutrition? Any change in the number of baby deliveries at health facility? Any change in antenatal care coverage? Any change in the number of family planning clients? Any change in the morbidity or mortality rate at the level of the population?

Ask questions 28 to 38 for each attack mentioned by the participant.

39. Since [date/year], in [district], has any health facility or mobile health team definitely stopped functioning?
    If Yes, could you give me the name of this facility and mobile health team that stopped functioning? When did their activity stop?

    Why did they stop functioning?

    Encourage the participant to answer even if the reason is not attack on healthcare

    Ask if relevant: Could you describe the threat or attack that make them stop functioning?

40. Since [date/year], is there any other event or factor that may have affected the access to, availability and utilization of health services in [district]?
    Probe:
    - Such as a major stock out of drugs and supplies?
    - Such as fighting or displacement of population?

    If Yes, where did it happen, and from when to when?

41. Has there been any mass vaccination campaign in the [district] since [date/year]?
    Please note the health facilities that the mass vaccination campaign covered and the date of the mass vaccination campaign(s).

VI. MITIGATION MEASURES

Now I would like to ask you questions about strategies in place to prevent attacks on healthcare and reduce their impact on the access to and availability of health services.

42. Does the District Health Office train staff and healthcare workers on how to react in case of attacks on healthcare?
    If Yes, could you describe who provides the training and in what consists the training?

43. Do the health facilities and mobile health teams have protocols in place in case of attacks on healthcare? If Yes, who established these protocols? What are the key recommendations included in these protocols?

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44. What measures is the District Health Office implementing to prevent attacks on healthcare and protect healthcare workers, patients and health facilities?

45. What measures are in place to support workers who are affected or targeted by attacks on healthcare?

46. What would be your suggestions to improve the prevention of attacks on healthcare, and the protection healthcare workers, patients and health facilities?

VII. REPORTING MECHANISMS

47. Have the District Health Office put in place any mechanism for healthcare workers to report attacks on healthcare? If Yes, what are they?

48. Does the District Health Office report attacks on healthcare to a higher level, such as World Health Organization or Ministry of Public Health? If Yes, to whom does it report can you explain how does it work?

49. Does the District Health Office record attacks on healthcare? Would you agree to share these records with us?
    Probe:
    - Do you have a dataset with attacks on healthcare? Would you agree to share it with us?

50. Has any staff of the District Health Office experienced attacks on healthcare?
    The participant may already have answered the question when answering questions 16 to 28.
    If a staff of the District Health Office has experienced attacks on healthcare, please take contact details of the person.

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