Introduction

RADS is a research organization that generates evidence, tests innovations, and promotes information use for decisions. Our areas of interest are urban development and health, maternal and reproductive health (including family planning & childhood immunization), health systems performance, governance, female entrepreneurship and evidence informed decision making to improve health and development outcomes. Efficiency, Effectiveness and cost effectiveness of policies and programs.

What We Do

Primary Research Studies on behavioral, economic and social dimensions of health and development at the community level. We have conducted large studies in nearly 80 districts of Pakistan.

Secondary Research and Large Database Analysis. Use and triangulation of multiple national databases to understand complex interactions, of program outcomes and questions such as cost effectiveness, efficacy and utility of interventions and the role of individual vs. community vs. public sectors in implementation and success of these programs.

Urban Development. We have developed a research and implementation site in Rawalpindi where we are testing ideas related to urban life: migration, health, sanitation, poverty and education.

Impact Evaluations and Program Audits using primary data collection and secondary analysis including multisource data triangulation from diverse databases to construct an overall picture on the impact and effectiveness of interventions. Analyses include the national HIV effort, overview of national Family Planning effort including costs, simple and complex program assessments of NGO run public health interventions.


Technical Expertise - Experience includes TA to government and NGOs in program implementation, M&E and troubleshooting.

Advocacy for use of evidence in public health policy and program decisions. We work closely with government officials, politicians, media and donor agencies to promote the use of evidence in health decisions and also make this information available in the public domain at www.resdev.org/publications.html

Our Partners, Clients and Collaborations


Government – Federal, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh


Academic Affiliations – Vanderbilt University (USA), Indiana University (USA), American Institute of Pakistan Studies, Fatima Jinnah Women’s University, National University of Science and Technology (Pakistan).
Select Current Ongoing/ Recent Projects and Grants

1. **Development of an Urban Health and Poverty site and Cohort for Testing Interventions**
   We are establishing information and surveillance capacity in an urban squatter settlement in order to allow testing and studying health and development interventions. So far we have mapped the population and facilities, conducted a qualitative needs assessment, an employment survey and a baseline survey of key indicators. We are also initiating a pilot of a commercial project to promote preventive health services and are negotiating with an NGO to enhance quality of private schools.

2. **Third Party Validation of a National Family Planning Program (DFID)**
   DFID is funding large international NGOs Marie Stopes International, Population Services International and Dkt International to provide FP services to half a million couples via social franchising and social marketing. RADS conducts validation of these activities including indicator validation and assessment of trends in order to recommend payments and help improve understanding of the perspective of these interventions.

3. **Assessment of the MARVI Female Entrepreneurship and Outreach Model (David and Lucile Packard Foundation)**
   This is a combined qualitative-quantitative, multi stage evaluation of the MARVI FP and RH outreach model analyses the results of the intervention, along with women’s empowerment, social mobilization of the communities and the entrepreneurship model to identify how it may be sustained and scaled up across the county and the region.

4. **Assessment of Approaches to Improve Social Determinants of Human Nutrition. (World Bank)**
   This was a thematic assessment of major approaches that have been used in the South Asia region and beyond to improve human nutrition. Although originally only a systematic review was planned, the lack of quality data mandated expansion of the sources of data to include all available information including websites, reports, peer reviewed or other published studies and more. These were thematically analyzed and a summary was presented for each of the approach along with the quality and strength of evidence for each approach. Approaches studied related to: water purification, sanitation, waste management, personal hygiene and nutrition.

5. **Assessment of Health Systems Support within the GFATM funding to Pakistan (Plan International)**
   Pakistan has received over a quarter of a billion USD from the GFATM in each of the 3 disease areas. Each grant also had components of support for health systems. RADS is conducting an in depth qualitative study of how these grants have impacted core health systems and how may these disease programs and the health systems be improved.

6. **Evidence to Policy, Advocacy and Action (USAID)**
   Considerable data are available on Maternal and Child Health issues in Pakistan in the form of research studies, routine surveys and service delivery data from programs and projects. However, these sources of data are mostly dispersed and decision makers have rarely the interest, skills or time to take them into consideration when making critical programming and policy decisions. We collated and analyzed available data on MNCH in Pakistan, into easily actionable information and made these results available to decision makers and influencers. This information
remains available on our public access website and in international publications (accessible via Google Scholar, Pubmed/ Medline, Researchgate, Academia etc.)

7. **Understanding Decision Making in the Public Sector (USAID/DFID/ Packard Foundation)**
   Health systems often underperform due to poor implementation and decisions rather than a lack of availability of resources such as funds, personnel or supplies. We examined how public sector decision makers acquire or use information and arrive at decisions and what formal or informal groups inform their decisions. The analysis is being done using a political choice theory lens.

8. **Mitigating Harms from Gender Based Violence in Rural Pakistan (DFID)**
   This qualitative study explored whether domestic violence changes with onset of pregnancy and what protections exist for women faced with such violence. We describe extensive interactions of culture and found that domestic violence is deeply ingrained and internalized in communities. Overcoming it would require a multi-pronged approach that focuses on rights based approach centered around women.

9. **Analysis of Large Scale Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services Delivery Programs (MSS)**
   The Marie Stopes Society is the largest single provider of family planning services in Pakistan. We have helped conduct several surveys to help understand their different approaches to large scale service delivery. These surveys have included complex designs such disproportional case-control populations, previously unknown catchment populations and quick surveys (i.e. 9000 respondents in 15 districts in 3 weeks).

### Selected Peer Reviewed Publications (from over 35)

1. Khan AA, Khan, A, Qureshi H. *Why don't we conduct more research?* JPMA, January 2014 64 (1) 31.
2. Khan AA, Khan A, Javed W, Hamza HB, Orakzai M, Ansari A and Abbass, K. *Family Planning in Pakistan: Applying What We Have Learned.* JPMA April 63 (4, Suppl 3) S3-10

Work in Progress
1. How does thinking of children as luxury goods change reproductive behavior (manuscript under review)
2. Cost Benefits Analysis of Family Planning in Pakistan (manuscript under review)
3. Using Crowd Sourcing to Measure Public Health Indicators (manuscript in preparation)
4. Role of household vs. public infrastructure in predicting immunization coverage
5. Validation of measure of immunization (manuscript in preparation)
6. How are Decisions Made in Health Sector (manuscript in preparation)

Selected National Policy Briefs (from over 50)

Immunization
1. Childhood Immunization in Pakistan: Overview
2. Accuracy of child immunization records
3. Validating Measures of immunization coverage: lessons from international experience
4. The role of infrastructure and household factors that impact immunization coverage in Pakistan
5. Role of LHWs in Immunization services in Pakistan
6. Reasons for Non Acceptance of Polio Campaigns in Pakistan

Healthcare Financing and the Role of Incentives in Health
7. The Role of Demand Side Financing in Reproductive Health in Pakistan
8. Future Directions for Healthcare Financing in Pakistan

Family Planning
9. RH Implications of considering children a luxury good.
10. Progress in Family Planning between the DHS of 2006 and 2012
11. Anticipating DHS, Using Commodity Data to model FP usage in Pakistan
12. Family Planning in Pakistan: Overview
13. Family Planning Services in Pakistan
14. Utilization and Costs of Family Planning in the Public Sector
15. Family Planning: Pakistan’s need of today and tomorrow (Policy brief for politicians)
16. Family Planning Service Delivery, Uptake and Trends over time
17. Understanding female sterilization in Pakistan
18. What unmet need for family planning means in Pakistan
19. What can Pakistan learn from Iran, Bangladesh and India on family planning programs?
20. Private Sector Models of Family Planning in Pakistan
21. Cost Benefit Analysis of Family Planning in Pakistan
22. Role of LHWs in FP in Pakistan
**Governance and Public Health**

23. Decision Making in Health  
24. Population and Health Issues in manifestos of major political parties in Pakistan  
25. Promoting Governance in Population and Health in the Post Devolution Scenario  
26. Analysis of Health Sector Strategies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa  
27. Management and Options for Human Resources for Health in Pakistan  
28. Can Pakistan reap its Demographic Dividend  
29. Role of CMW in Pakistan  
30. Are Antenatal Visits really preventive  
31. Community Voices: Women’s perception of Birthing Options and Family Planning  
32. Knowledge Transitions Among Adolescent Girls in Pakistan

**Experience of Key Personnel**

**Dr. Adnan Khan** (RADS Technical Team Leader) is a public health researcher with experience in primary and secondary research and applications. He is an Adjunct Professor of Preventive Medicine and Health Policy at the Vanderbilt Institute of International Health, Vanderbilt University, USA and has served as the head of the Health Policy Unit, Pakistan and as a member of the Core Advisory Group for HIV and Drug Use for the UN, member of the Science and Technology Advisory Group for the Asian AIDS Data Hub for the UNICEF, Support Member of the TRP of the GFATM and as an advisor for the WHO.

Dr. Khan’s work with RADS includes assessments of immunization and reproductive health for USAID, DFID, KFW, GIZ, Marie Stopes, David and Lucile Packard Foundation and others. He has also helped design innovative survey techniques such as the use of crowd sourcing in public health. He has over 30 peer reviewed publications and nearly 100 other publications and reports.

**Dr. Ayesha Khan** (public health advisor) is a public health professional who helped establish the national HIV treatment programme. She has also served at the National Health Policy Unit and is currently the CEO of RADS. Her experience includes working with communities to identify issues that relate to women’s empowerment and development and has conducted extensive research and advocacy on these issues.

**Ms. Aaliya Habib** is a public health specialist with over 15 years of experience in managing public health programmes and in formative research to guide programming. He experience includes grassroots data collection and project management in remote locations in all provinces.

**Ms. Safoora Malik** has a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and Finance and is currently studying organizational management (Master’s degree). She has extensive experience in economic and quantitative evaluations.

**Ms. Ayesha Durrani** has a degree in Economics and in Public Policy. She works on analysis and implementation of projects related to policies and intervention in women’s empowerment and development.

**Ms. Maryam Abid** has a Master’s degree in Anthropology and has extensive experience in assessing community based, public health and disaster relief programs.

### SELECTED PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Donor/Funder</th>
<th>Description of Activities</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline study of SRHR in KP</td>
<td>Mar-Sept 2015</td>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>GIZ is funding a large SRHR project across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. This is the baseline study of the project in two districts</td>
<td>2 districts in KP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment of VCT</td>
<td>June –</td>
<td>UNICEF/</td>
<td>This is a mixed methods assessment of the pilot of</td>
<td>3 districts in</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Implementer</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>for spouses of male PWID</td>
<td>Aug 2015</td>
<td>Punjab AIDS Program</td>
<td>home based VCT for spouses of male PWID. We assessed the program, its issues and costs for recommendations for scale up.</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of CSOs working on Immunization</td>
<td>May – Aug 2015</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>GAVI has funded CSOs to create demand for child immunization. This was the assessment of CSOs in 15 districts across Pakistan for lessons for replication and scale up.</td>
<td>15 districts across Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Structural Interventions to Improve Human Nutritional</td>
<td>Oct 2014 to March 2015</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>This is a review of interventions undertaken in Water, Sanitation, Personal Hygiene and Waste Management, undertaken to identify the evidence behind those interventions that improve nutritional status in communities.</td>
<td>Islamabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Party Validation of a Large Scale Family Planning Program (DFID)</td>
<td>October 2013 to Dec 2016</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>DFID is funding large international NGOs MSI, PSI and Dkt to provide FP services to half a million couples via social franchising and social marketing. RADS conducts quarterly validation of these activities in order to recommend payments and helps understand the perspective of these services for the DFID and its implementing partners.</td>
<td>Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and KP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of Health Systems Support from GFATM grants to Pakistan</td>
<td>August to Sept 2014</td>
<td>Plan International</td>
<td>Pakistan has received over a quarter of a billion USD from the GFATM For AIDS, TB and malaria. Each grant also included support for health systems. Based on requests from implementing partners, the GFATM and Plan International are supporting a study to assess how far has this support strengthened health systems in Pakistan.</td>
<td>All over Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of MARVI Outreach Model</td>
<td>Aug 2013 to May 2014</td>
<td>David and Lucile Packard Foundation</td>
<td>This is a comprehensive evaluation of the MARVI FP and RH outreach projected that is funding by the Packard foundation and is being implemented by HANDS. The evaluation consists of in depth analysis of the program data and an end of phase evaluation in order to improve the tools of the project and to develop an understanding of the programmatic and economic aspects of this model.</td>
<td>Umerkot district, Sindh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Qualitative Study of Demand Side Financing</td>
<td>March to Dec 2014</td>
<td>David and Lucile Packard Foundation</td>
<td>This study explores how demand side financing changes the demand for family planning among clients and counselling and quality of services among healthcare providers</td>
<td>Chakwal and Faisalabad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synthesizing Evidence for Policy and Action: Bridging the Gap between Knowledge and Results to Improve Health Outcomes</td>
<td>Nov 2011 - Oct 2013</td>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>This evidence to policy project will involves analysis of existing health data on family planning and childhood immunization and development of evidence based information pieces from this analysis which will be shared with government officials, politicians and communities to improve health outcomes</td>
<td>Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline Study of</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>DKT</td>
<td>This study explores KAP about FP in two rural</td>
<td>Southern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Title</td>
<td>Date Range</td>
<td>Implementer</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices towards Family Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td>International</td>
<td>This study explores how demand side financing changes the demand for family planning among clients and counselling and quality of services among healthcare providers</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A qualitative study of Demand Side Financing</td>
<td>Feb to July 2014</td>
<td>David and Lucile Packard Foundation</td>
<td>This study explores how demand side financing changes the demand for family planning among clients and counselling and quality of services among healthcare providers</td>
<td>Faisalabad and Chakwal, Punjab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How MNCH Decisions are made in the public sector</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>The study explores individual and organisational aspects of MNCH decisions in the public sector</td>
<td>Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, KP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring the impact of Gender Based Violence on Pregancies</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>The study explores how GBV impacts reproductive health of women and how women seek to preserve their health when faced with GBV</td>
<td>6 districts in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline Survey of a FP Services Model</td>
<td>Feb-April 2013</td>
<td>Marie Stopes Society/USAID</td>
<td>The Marie Stopes Society is implementing a large scale FP services model. This is the baseline survey of the project in order to understand FP practices and socioeconomic factors associated with them. The survey is in 15 districts in Sindh and Punjab</td>
<td>15 districts in Sindh and Punjab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment of the Family Planning and Reproductive Health Situation in Pakistan</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>Population Action International</td>
<td>This is a comprehensive assessment of the FP situation in Pakistan with the aim to seek funding and programming gaps in the field</td>
<td>Punjab and Sindh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Uptake and Processing by Girls and Young Women in Pakistan</td>
<td>Dec 2011 - Nov 2012</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>The study will assess how women acquire, process and use reproductive health information depending on which stage of life they are in</td>
<td>2 districts in Punjab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment of Post Abortion Care in Pakistan</td>
<td>Sept 2011 – Mar ’12</td>
<td>Marie Stopes Society/DFID</td>
<td>This was an in depth assessment of post abortion care, policies and services to understand how to render abortions safer</td>
<td>All over Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline Survey of a Community Trial of Demand Side Financing</td>
<td>Mar - May 2012</td>
<td>Marie Stopes Society/Packard Foundation</td>
<td>This is a trial of demand side financing to improve access of couples in the poorest quintiles to modern family planning methods</td>
<td>3 districts in Punjab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surveys for Understanding Polio and Micronutrients Supplementation in Pakistan (2 surveys)</td>
<td>Feb - May 2012</td>
<td>The Micro-Nutrient Initiative</td>
<td>These are two surveys exploring the factors that explain distribution and coverage of distribution of micronutrients</td>
<td>29 districts in 4 provinces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs of Family Planning in Pakistan</td>
<td>Jan – Mar 2011</td>
<td>Futures Group/Marie Stopes International</td>
<td>RADS supported the Futures Group by providing epidemiological information about FP services in public and private sector in Pakistan</td>
<td>All of over Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline Survey of Community Based</td>
<td>Jan -June 2011</td>
<td>Marie Stopes Society/</td>
<td>This was a baseline survey of 8 districts (N: 7000) where MSS intends to provide expanded Family Planning services</td>
<td>8 districts across KP,</td>
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<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Lead Agency</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Funders</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<td>Distribution of Family Planning Services.</td>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Planning Services.</td>
<td>Punjab and Sindh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of Family Planning Services Delivery in 40 districts of Pakistan.</td>
<td>Jan - June 2011</td>
<td>Marie Stopes Society</td>
<td>Islamabad</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trial of Conditional Cash Transfers for HIV VCT among wives of HIV+ patients</td>
<td>Jan - Dec 2010</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Islamabad</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey and Assessment of Iodized Salt Production in 39 districts of Pakistan</td>
<td>Nov 2010 - Feb 2011</td>
<td>The Micronutrient Initiative</td>
<td>40 districts in KP, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment of Reproductive Health Services in Islamabad and Chakwal</td>
<td>Dec 2010</td>
<td>Plan International</td>
<td>2 districts in Punjab (Islamabad and Chakwal)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of a Health Research Strategy for Pakistan</td>
<td>Mar - Nov 2009</td>
<td>WHO and Ministry of Health, Pakistan</td>
<td>All over Pakistan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Situation analysis of HIV and STIs in Pakistan</td>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>WHO (EMRO)</td>
<td>Islamabad</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of a Primary HealthCare System</td>
<td>July - Aug 2008</td>
<td>Canadian Red Cross</td>
<td>Battagram district, KP</td>
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