

## Dr. Ghazaleh Samandari, PhD MPH

Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[g.samandari@gmail.com](mailto:g.samandari@gmail.com) • 202-277-3495

### EDUCATION:

<b>The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill</b> School of Public Health Degree: PhD in Public Health Minor: Health Behavior and Health Education	2010
<b>The George Washington University</b> , Washington, D.C. School of Public Health and Health Services Degree: Master of Public Health	2005
<b>Boston College</b> , Chestnut Hill, MA School of Arts and Sciences Degree: Bachelor of Arts	2002

### SKILLS:

- Design, implementation and analysis of operations research and project monitoring & evaluation
- Development and execution of complex statistical analyses
- Quantitative and qualitative research in health communication, health behavior and social marketing
- Focus group and in-depth interview design and administration
- Knowledgeable in SAS, SPSS, STATA, MPLUS, EXCEL and ACCESS software applications
- Topical expertise in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Human Resources for Health
- Proficient in Farsi, conversational in Spanish and French
- Professional experience working in multiple international and domestic settings, working effectively both in groups and independently
- Highly organized, detail-oriented, flexible, self-motivated
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

#### **JOHN SNOW, INC. (KMS PROJECT)**

Washington, DC

##### - Senior Research Analyst

2013-present

- Supporting USAID's seven Element teams: HIV/AIDS, Avian Influenza, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, Other Public Health Threats, and Reproductive Health and Family Planning
- Facilitating key collection and housing of data/indicators across technical areas that serve to demonstrate the outcome of the USAID's impact on health programs and on specific changes over time;
- Supporting information-gathering efforts by gathering and organizing qualitative information obtained via surveys and other feedback mechanisms
- Conducting analyses using applications such as STATA and Excel;
- Establishing and enforcing data quality standards by validating and cross-referencing indicators and helping to resolve inconsistencies
- Presentation of results in an easily understandable manner, such as slide sets, issue briefs, and health profiles;
- Working closely with other analysts and USAID staff in the Bureau of Global Health and regional bureaus as well as other cooperating agencies and international community on projects including secondary data analysis, planning and budgeting documentation; report production, and presentation preparation
- Working cooperatively with the knowledge management, Communications, and IT teams to effectively disseminate analytical findings and provide technical assistance to key users from USAID Bureau of Global Health, regional bureaus, field missions, and others

**INTRAEALTH INTERNATIONAL**

Chapel Hill, NC

**- Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Technical Advisor/Consultant:**

2010 - 2012

- Leading technical support for the development and implementation of evaluation and operations research and special assessments (i.e. developing study design and methodology including sampling procedures, implementation, analysis and reporting)
- Managing research and evaluation activities and results reporting on multiple health systems strengthening projects in Africa, Asia and Central America
- Providing specialized technical research training and mentoring for in-country field staff
- Developing tools, guidelines and reference materials, including survey questionnaires and qualitative interview guides with appropriate procedures for pilot testing and assessing reliability/validity of measures)
- Conducting and supervising data analysis on both quantitative and qualitative assessments
- Writing grants and proposal development, editing internal reports and authoring peer-reviewed articles

**NATIONAL INST. OF CHILD & HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER**

Chapel Hill, NC

**- Pre-doctoral Fellow:**

2007-2010

- Leading innovative global health research projects
- Coordinating and managing large-scale demographic and health survey databases
- Conducting event history analysis of adolescent reproductive health trends in Central America
- Conducting multilevel analysis of association between community gender norms, women's attitudinal beliefs and women's experience of violence
- Preparing and submitting first-authored peer-reviewed manuscripts (see publications below)

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES/UNC**

Chapel Hill, NC

**- Research Evaluation Asst: North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System:**

2007-2009

- Providing epidemiologic expertise and program evaluation for analysis of violent death reporting data
- Writing evaluation reports for Centers for Disease Control assessment
- Conducting interviews with key project personnel for evaluation purposes
- Leading research on pregnancy-associated homicide

**MEASURE EVALUATION**

Chapel Hill, NC

**- Graduate Research Assistant**

2006-2007

- Editing grant and research proposals
- Conducting quantitative data analysis
- Writing research papers and conducting research reviews
- Planning, coordinating and assistant teaching in monitoring and evaluation course

**THE JOHNS HOPKINS CENTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS**

Baltimore, MD

**- Research Analyst for the INFO Project**

2004-2006

- Designing and executing evaluation initiatives for multi-country communication services
- Collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data on reproductive health communication programs
- Providing recommendations for improving health information delivery systems
- Collaborating with other health agencies (HIPNet) for the development of standard evaluation procedures
- Acting as in-house report editor for communications division
- Serving as writer/researcher and editor for weekly research magazine (Pop Reporter)

**MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**

Lanham, MD

**- Community Health Analyst Intern**

2004

- Leading health care services market analysis
- Designing and conducting interviews with senior health executives
- Pursuing new grant opportunities
- Determining issues and priorities related to Community Health Center development with the goal of providing information for business planning
- Assisting with community health program development and policy formulation
- Creating a web-based community health center start-up toolkit (<http://www.machc.com/mOnlineGuide.aspx>)

**THE JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

*(with funding from the NIH Minority Fellowship Grant)*

Baltimore, MD  
2003-2004

**- Project/Research Assistant on Pediatric HIV Research/Bioethics studies**

- Grant proposal writing
- Research and literature review on best practices in pediatric HIV/AIDS family care
- Developing project proposal for IRB
- Conducting qualitative research and analysis in HIV-affected community
- Report writing/editing
- Managing database for a multi-centered bioethical study on informed consent with the use of statistical analysis and data tracking programs
- Aiding in quantitative/qualitative analysis of interview data and manuscript editing

**CONSULTING EXPERIENCE:****NIKE FOUNDATION**

Portland, OR  
2012-present

- Designing and implementing an analysis of foundation-wide learning across multiple years
- In-depth analysis and methodological review of existing investment materials (annual and final reports, evaluation reports, key correspondence, etc).
- Developing original data abstraction templates and systematic review process
- Thematic coding of data to analyze patterns and insights in learning agendas

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

Geneva, Switzerland  
2009 - 2010

- Designing and implementing qualitative evaluation of global reproductive health information needs
- Conducting key informant interviews with health professionals in multiple countries
- Coding and analyzing qualitative data findings
- Planning the content, structure and format of web-based portal for reproductive health essential medicines
- Presenting findings at interagency conference with key industry stakeholders

**POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (PSI)**

Washington, D.C.  
2007 – 2011

- Providing technical training in social marketing health research in multiple countries
- Evaluating training of research staff
- Developing reproductive health survey instrument
- Analyzing qualitative malaria research and developing actionable survey scales
- Writing and editing research for internal reports and for manuscript submission

**IPAS, INCORPORATED**

Chapel Hill, NC  
2008 – present

- Analyzing complex quantitative data for project on abortion estimation in Cambodia
- Synthesizing analytic findings
- Writing/editing of multiple manuscripts
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis on multiple ongoing projects
- Analyzing abortion and reproductive health policies in multiple developing countries

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE (RTI)**

Raleigh, NC  
2008 – 2010

- Conducting qualitative interviews with teen mothers and key stakeholders in teen reproductive health
- Analyzing qualitative data and generating reports based on findings
- Writing and editing manuscripts for peer-review
- Aiding in identification and recruitment of study participants

**THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

Tehran, Iran  
2006

- Creating original materials for reproductive rights campaign
- Developing budget and grant proposals
- Program planning for reproductive health/HIV/AIDS

- Writing and designing the country's first pamphlet on the risks of unsafe abortion

## **PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & REVIEWS:**

### **Publications**

- O'Connell KA, Samandari G, Phok S, Phou M, Dysoley L, Yeung S, Allen H, Littrell M. "Souls of the ancestor that knock us out" and other tales. A qualitative study to identify demand-side factors influencing malaria case management in Cambodia. *Malaria Journal* 2012 Oct 5;11:335.
- Samandari G, Wolf M, Basnett I, Hyman A, Andersen K. Implementation of legal abortion in Nepal: A model for rapid scale-up of high-quality care. *Reproductive Health* 2012 9:7.
- Speizer I, Irani L, Telfair J, Samandari G. Monitoring and evaluation for global maternal and child health programs. In *Maternal and Child Health*. Editor, Kotch JB. Jones and Bartlett Learning, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2012.
- Wilson EK, Samandari G, Koo HP, Tucker C. Adolescent mothers' postpartum contraceptive use: A qualitative study. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* Dec 2011 43:4.
- Tucker C, Wilson EK, Samandari G. Infant feeding experiences among teen mothers in North Carolina: Findings from a mixedmethods study. *International Breastfeeding Journal* 2011, 6:14.
- Benson J, Anderson Clark K, Samandari G. Reductions in abortion-related mortality following policy reform: Evidence from Romania, South Africa and Bangladesh. *Reproductive Health* 2011 8:39.
- Samandari G, O'Connell KA. "If we can endure, we continue": Understanding differences between users, discontinuers and non-users of hormonal contraceptive methods in Pursat province, Cambodia. *Women & Health* 2011, 51:3.
- Samandari G, Speizer I, O'Connell KA. The role of social support and parity on contraceptive use in Cambodia. *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 2010 36:3.
- Samandari G, Speizer I. Adolescent sexual behavior and reproductive outcomes in Central America: Trends from the past two decades. *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 2010 March; 36 (1): 26-35.
- Samandari G, Martin SL, Schiro S. Homicide among Pregnant and Postpartum Women in the United States: A Review of the Literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. 2010 11: 42-54.
- Samandari G, Martin SL, Kupper L, Schiro S, Norwood T, Avery M. Are pregnant and postpartum women at increased risk for violent death? Suicide and homicide findings from North Carolina. *Maternal and Child Health*. June 2010 [epub ahead of print].
- Samandari G, Martin SL. Victimization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals. *Encyclopedia of Victimology and Crime Prevention*. Sage publications. Washington, DC. April 2010.
- Speizer I, Goodwin M, Samandari G, Kim SY, Clyde M. Dimensions of child punishment in two Central American countries: Guatemala and El Salvador. *Pan American Health Journal*. 2008 Apr;23(4):247-56.
- Samandari G, Schiro S, Editors, North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System 2006 Annual Report. *North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch*, 2009.
- Samandari G, Modarresi N. Post-Abortion Care: An Informational Guide. *Family Planning Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran*. 2006.

### **Presentations**

- Samandari G, Zlidar V, Stammer E, Dowlatshahi N. Fertility, family planning, and abortion in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine from 1970 to 2010. Poster presentation accepted at the 141st Annual American Public Health Association Conference. Boston, MA. November 2013.
- Mphuru L, Lweno Z, Samandari G, McMahan J, Caiola J. Does provider-initiated testing and counseling improve HIV testing uptake in Tanzania? Paper presentation accepted at the 139 th Annual American Public Health Association Conference. Washington, DC. November 2011.
- Tucker C, Samandari G, Wilson E. Postpartum breastfeeding experiences among teen mothers in North Carolina: Findings from a mixed-methods study. Paper presentation at the 138th Annual American Public Health Association Conference. Denver, CO. November, 2010
- Andersen K, Singh A, Samandari G, Hessini L. Dojiya: An Assessment of Nepal's First Radio Drama Series On Safe Abortion. Paper presentation at the National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media, 2010.

- Samandari G, O'Connell K. Barriers to malaria treatment and testing in Cambodia: Findings from a qualitative study. Paper presentation at the Annual American Public Health Association Conference. November, 2009.
- Samandari G, Richey C. Using knowledge to improve access to reproductive health medicines. Presentation to the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Market Development Approaches Working Group Meeting. Hosted by John Snow International (JSI). Arlington, VA. November, 2009
- Feters T, Samandari G. An estimate of induced abortion in Cambodia. Paper presentation at the Annual International Union for the Scientific Study in Population Conference. Marrakech, Morocco. October, 2009.
- Samandari G, Speizer I. Trends in adolescent sexual behaviors and reproductive outcomes in Central America between the 1980/90s and the turn of the century. Paper presentation at the Annual Population Association of America Conference. Detroit, MI. May 2009
- Samandari G, O'Connell K, Hav P, Long D, Ly V. Understanding myths, misconceptions and barriers associated with modern contraceptive use in Cambodia. Paper presentation at the Annual Population Association of America Conference. Detroit, MI. May 2009
- Samandari G, Martin SL, Kupper L, Schiro S. Pregnancy-Associated Homicide in North Carolina, 2004-2006. Paper presentation at the Annual Southern Demographic Association Conference. Greenville, SC. October, 2008.
- Martin S, Samandari G. Pregnancy-Associated Violent Deaths in North Carolina, 2004. Poster presentation. 9th Annual Women's Health Research Conference. April 2008

### **Reviews**

- Reviewer for *Journal of the Pan-American Health Organization*
- Reviewer for *Violence and Victims* journal
- Reviewer for *Journal of Injury and Violence Research*
- Reviewer for American Public Health Association 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Denver, CO. 2010

### **TEACHING and TRAINING EXPERIENCE:**

- **Adjunct Assistance Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
Public Health Leadership Program  
Gillings School of Global Public Health  
2010-present
- **Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation Distance Learning Course**, UNC Office of Global Health  
Course development consultant, 2008-2011  
Instructor, 2009-2011
- **Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation Course**, UNC School of Public Health  
Co-instructor, 2008  
Teaching Assistant, 2006-2007

### **ACHIEVEMENTS and LEADERSHIP:**

- National Institute of Child and Health Development Training Grant 2009-2010
- Carolina Population Center Pre-doctoral Fellow 2007-2008
- Executive advisory board member, Foundation Human Nature 2007- present
- Graduate School University Merit Assistantship (UNC) 2006
- The George Washington University Public Health Award 2004
- NIH Minority Fellowship Grant Recipient 2003
- Golden Key Honors Society Member 2000-present
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars Member 1999-present
- JRI Health Organization Award for Exemplary Service in HIV/AIDS 2000

**REFERENCES:** Available upon request