

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Maheen Zahra to our team as a volunteer Advanced research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Maheen was active with our project from 2020-03-29 to 2020-08-20 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Afghanistan and Iran. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Maheen Zahra, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts close to 90 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Maheen has been a country expert for Afghanistan and Iran. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Afghanistan and Iran as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

After gaining sufficient experience and expertise within CoronaNet, RAs are promoted to Advanced Research Assistant, which is the position currently held by Maheen. This role involves coding an impressive number of 100 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 3 months. Advanced research assistants have gained high expertise in PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They have extensive knowledge of the taxonomy and the project structure, and provide support to other research assistants. With their considerable knowledge, they play an integral role in the success of the project.

In addition to being a country expert, Maheen took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Data Validation:** This role involves re-coding data previously collected by other RAs in order to verify and ensure coding consistency. This role, which is only open to experienced and high-performing RAs at CoronaNet, requires extensive additional training in the project's collection procedures, high attention to detail, and ability to work well in a team setting.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Maheen Zahra for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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