Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Wissam Gaith to our team as a volunteer Senior research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Wissam was active with our project from 2021-05-31 to 2023-05-10 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Chad and Central African Republic and Jamaica and Belize and Denmark. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Wissam Gaith, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts more than 100 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.

Wissam has been a country expert for Chad and Central African Republic and Jamaica and Belize and Denmark. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Chad and Central African Republic and Jamaica and Belize and Denmark 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.

Based on their performance and experience, RAs are promoted, first to Advanced RAs and then to Expert RAs. Our senior-most RAs position is that of Senior RA, which is the position currently held by Wissam. The role involves coding an exceptional number of 500 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 12 months. Senior research assistants have gained profound knowledge of PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They facilitate the development of the taxonomy and the project structure, and train other research assistants. With their outstanding expertise, they play a pivotal role in the success of the project.

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

- Internship: Wissam has joined and successfully finished an internship program as part of their work for CoronaNet. Through an internship, Research Assistants get an insight into, and contribute to, special projects and managerial aspects of CoronaNet. Interns are expected to participate consistently in CoronaNet activites and show initiative in taking on new tasks and projects.

- Regional Manager: This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge

of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.

- 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.

- Data Integration Expert: This role involves assessing at least 650 policies and integrating more than 500 policies from other datasets as a research assistant. Data Experts have gained extensive experience in evaluating and coding external PHSM data into the CoronaNet dataset.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Wissam Gaith 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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