



Permanent Mission of Bangladesh

65, Rue de Lausanne

1202 Geneva

Phone: +41 (0) 22 906 8020

Fax : +41 (0) 22 738 4616

E-mail : permanentmission.geneva@mofa.gov.bd

Website: www.genevamiission.mofa.gov.bd

No.: BMG/WHO-505

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Director General of the World Health Organization(WHO) in Geneva and with reference to Director General's Note Verbale dated 21 April 2023, has the honour to apprise Director General that the Government of Bangladesh has nominated Ms. Saima Wazed as its candidate for the post of the Regional Director of the South East Asia region of World Health Organization. The curriculum vitae of Ms. Saima Wazed is enclosed herewith. A copy of the same is being transmitted by email as well.

The Permanent Mission is pleased to confirm the affirmation of the Bangladesh candidate Ms. Saima Wazed on the following, as stipulated in the above-mentioned Note Verbale:

- a. to participate in the question-and-answer web forum; and
- b. to post her curriculum vitae and contact information, as well as links to her individual website on the website of the Regional Office.

It would be highly appreciated if the office of the Director General kindly process the candidature of Ms. Saima Wazed for the post of the Regional Director of the South East Asia region and acknowledge the receipt of the nomination at the earliest.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director General of the World Health Organization in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.


Encl.: as stated

Geneva, 21 July 2023

Director-General
C/O. World Health Organization- **Office of the Legal Counsel**
Office 7058
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland



**Form for Curriculum
Vitae**

Family name (surname): Wazed First / other names: Saima	 Attach recent photograph
Gender: Female	
Place and country of birth: Dhaka, Bangladesh	Date of birth (Day/Month/Year): 09.12.1973
Citizenship: Bangladeshi & Canadian	
If you have ever been found guilty of the violation of any law (except minor traffic violations) give full particulars: N/A	

Civil Status: Single	Number of dependents: 2
Address to which correspondence should be sent: House 54, Road 5, Dhanmondi Dhaka 1205 Bangladesh	Telephone: Mobile Phone: +880 1755-011387 +971507891716 Fax: Email: saimawazedhossain@gmail.com

Degrees/Certificates obtained:

(Please indicate here the principal degrees/certificates obtained, with dates and names of institutions. Additional pages may be added)

Name of Degree	Date	Name of Institution
Doctoral Candidate, Education and Leadership with specialization in Human Resource Development	2021-Present	Barry University, Florida, USA
Specialist in School Psychology (S.S.P.)*	08 May 2004	Barry University, Florida, USA
Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Clinical Psychology	14 December 2002	Barry University, Florida, USA
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Psychology	09 May 1997	Barry University, Florida, USA

Knowledge of languages

		Mother tongue	Speak	Read	Write
<p>For language other than mother tongue, enter the appropriate number from the code below to indicate the level of your language knowledge. If no knowledge, please leave blank.</p> <p>Code : 1. Limited conversation, reading of newspapers, routine correspondences</p> <p>2. Engage freely in discussions, read and write more difficult material</p> <p>3. Fluent (nearly) as in mother tongue</p>	<p>Arabic</p> <p>Chinese</p> <p>English</p> <p>French</p> <p>Spanish</p> <p>h</p> <p>Russian</p> <p>n</p>		3	3	3
	Others (please specify)				
	Hindi		2	2	1

Positions held

Please indicate here the **positions** and **work experience** held during your professional career, with the corresponding dates, duties, achievements/accomplishments and responsibilities. Additional pages may be added.

Positions held	Dates	Duties	Achievements / Accomplishments	Responsibilities
Clinical Instructor, Department of School Psychology, Adrian Dominican School of Education (ADSOE), Barry University	2021 - present	Full-time teaching Conducting evaluations School psychology services Clinic Supervisor	Workshop on autism spectrum disorder for World Autism Awareness Day Development and teaching of courses on assessment of emotional and behavioral disorders, psychopathology Continuous assessment of practicum students	Clinical evaluations Assessment strategies Systemic evaluation Course development Programmatic planning Departmental growth Student supervision Clinic management Workshop designs
Chairperson, Shuchona Foundation (SF)	2014 – present	Organizational Strategic Planning Leading the Executive Committee Management and oversight policies Annual goals and objectives Long-term trajectory planning	National Strategic Plan on Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NDDs), Bhutan National Mental Health Strategic Plan, Bangladesh Foundation Course: Autism Spectrum Disorder Training manual: Social Communication and Emotional Skills Development Training Manual:	Participation in national and international events to spread awareness on mission and vision Technical expertise to projects and initiatives Guidance to the Management Team

			Strategies for Inclusion: Teaching-Learning and Assessment	
Visiting Faculty at the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, University of Dhaka	2022 - present	<p>Conduct lectures</p> <p>Assign and evaluate student projects and assignments</p> <p>Offer guidance and career advice to students</p>	Special lecture on "Ethics and Psychological Services"	<p>Review coursework and training</p> <p>Collaboration with international professional associations</p> <p>International partnerships and guest lecturers</p>
Honorary Specialist/Expert at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU)	2022 - present	Technical expertise on autism spectrum disorder and mental health	Reviewed manual for care and management of Developmental Disorders for medical professionals	<p>Review content</p> <p>Need-based lectures</p>
Chairperson of the International Jury Board of UNESCO/Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; nominated to the Board by the Director General of UNESCO	2016-2018	<p>Selection of potential awardees</p> <p>Overseeing the Jury Board</p>	<p>Completion of Jury Board Chair's duty for 2018-2019</p> <p>Completion of member's duty for 2020-2021</p>	<p>Review of applications received by UNESCO</p> <p>Decision-making on final awardees</p>
Vice-Chairperson, Centre for Research and Information (CRI)	2013 - present	<p>Advise and assist Chair in decision-making</p> <p>Provide direction to Board in absence of Chairperson</p> <p>Organizational strategic</p>	<p>Participation as a speaker in 'Let's Talk', an initiative allowing stakeholders to engage in open dialogue with high-level policy-makers</p> <p>Inclusion of disability and mental health in youth wing of CRI</p>	<p>Maintain regular liaison with Chairperson</p> <p>Oversee decisions taken by the Board</p> <p>Provide technical expertise to CRI's initiatives</p>

		planning		
Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Autism for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh	2012 - present	<p>Guidance and technical expertise</p> <p>Oversee Committee's future plans</p>	<p>Situation Analysis of Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Bangladesh</p> <p>National Strategic Plan for Neurodevelopmental Disorders</p>	<p>Development of a multi-stakeholder partnership model</p> <p>In-depth technical expertise for strategic planning</p>
School Psychologist in private and public schools for age range of 3 - 21 years (Florida, USA)	2001-08	<p>Support to the special education program</p> <p>Data collection and analysis</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Academic/learning interventions</p> <p>Mental health interventions</p> <p>Behavioral interventions</p> <p>Instructional support</p> <p>Prevention and intervention services</p> <p>Crisis preparedness, response, and recovery</p> <p>Family-school-community collaboration</p> <p>Diversity in development and learning</p> <p>Research and program evaluation</p> <p>Professional ethics, school</p>	<p>State-wide crisis responder at Palm Beach County</p> <p>Member of specialized team in Duval County for autism assessment</p>	<p>Comprehensive academic, behavior, and psychological assessments</p> <p>Assist special education teachers to develop individual education plans</p> <p>Behavioral assessments</p> <p>Regular workshops and training for teachers</p> <p>Assist teachers with curriculum-based assessments and academic planning</p>

		law, and systems		
--	--	------------------	--	--

Please state any other relevant facts that might help in the evaluation of your application. List your activities in civil, professional, public, or international affairs.

Civil Affairs:

- Developed a training program on ASD for the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center
- Advocated for the Persons with Disabilities Act 2013 and the Protection of Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disability Trust Act 2013
- Helped draft and lobby for the National Mental Health Policy 2022

Professional Affairs:

- Licensed School Psychologist (State of Florida, USA, since May 2008)
- Nationally Certified School Psychologist (USA, Since Nov 2006)
- Florida Certified School Psychologist (August 2004 to August 2008)
- Florida Licensed Mental Health Counsellor (Registered Intern 2003-2007)
- Instructor and Clinic Supervisor at Adrian Dominican School of Education (ADSOE), Barry University
- Chairperson, Shuchona Foundation

Public Affairs:

- Chairperson, National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Focal Person for disability-inclusive disaster risk management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh
- Chief Advisor, National Mental Health Strategic Plan working group, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh

International Affairs:

- Climate Vulnerable Forum's (CVF) Thematic Ambassador for "Vulnerability"
- Advisor to the Director General, World Health Organization, on Mental Health & Autism
- Member of WHO Expert Panel on Mental Health
- Chairperson of the International Jury Board of UNESCO/Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2016-18; nominated to the Board by the Director General of UNESCO
- Commissioner for the Chatham House Commission for Universal Health (CUH)
- Drafted 3 international resolutions that were subsequently adopted by member countries of the UN and WHO
 - In 2014 at WHA 67.8: *Comprehensive and Coordinated Efforts for the Management of Autism Spectrum Disorders.*
 - In 2012 WHO-RC: SEA/RC65/ R8: *Comprehensive and Coordinated Efforts for the Management of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental*

Disabilities.

- In 2012 UNGA: 67/82: *Addressing the Socioeconomic Needs of Individuals, Families and Societies Affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders, Developmental Disorders and Associated Disabilities.*
- Drafted *Collaborative framework for addressing Autism Spectrum Disorder in the South-East Asia Region* as part of WHO-SEARO report in 2017.

Please list here a maximum of 10 publications – especially the main ones in the field of public health, with names of journals, books or reports in which they appeared. An additional page may be used for this purpose, if necessary. (Please feel free also to attach a complete list of all publications). Do not attach the publications themselves.

Selected:

Arman, N., Shaoli, S., **Hossain, S.** (June 2022). *Mental Health and Climate Change in Bangladesh.* International Review of Psychiatry.

Kemp CG, Concepcion T, Ahmed HU, Anwar N, Baingana F, et al. (2022) Baseline situational analysis in Bangladesh, Jordan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe for the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health: Universal Health Coverage for Mental Health. PLOS ONE 17(3): e0265570.

Hasan, M.T., Anwar, T., Christopher, E., Hossain, S., Hossain, M.M., Koly, K. N., Rahman, K. M. S., Ahmed, H. U., Arman, N., **Wazed, S.** (August 2021). *The Current State of Mental Healthcare in Bangladesh: Part 1 – An Updated Country Profile.* BJPsych International 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1192/bji.2021.41>

Hasan, M.T., Anwar, T., Christopher, E., Hossain, S., Hossain, M.M., Koly, K. N., Rahman, K. M. S., Ahmed, H. U., Arman, N., **Wazed, S.** (August 2021). *The Current State of Mental Healthcare in Bangladesh: Part 2 – Setting Priorities.* BJPsych International. DOI:10.1192/bji.2021.42

Hossain, S. (March 2020). *A Story of Triumphs and Tribulations: Implementing Services for Autism in Bangladesh.* Article available at: <https://www.ipsnews.net/2020/03/story-triumphs-tribulations-implementing-services-autism-bangladesh/>

Naheed, A., Islam, M. S., **Hossain, S. W.**, Ahmed, H. U., Uddin, M. M. J., Tofail, F., Hamadani, J. D., Hussain, A. H. M. E., & Munir, K. (2019). Burden of major depressive disorder and quality of life among mothers of children with autism spectrum disorder in urban Bangladesh. *Autism Research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research*, 13(2), 284–297.

Hossain et al. BMC Psychiatry (August 2017). *Autism Spectrum disorders (ASD) in South Asia: a systematic review.* BMC Psychiatry

Wallace, S., Fein, D., Rosanoff, M., Dawson, G., **Hossain, S.**, Brennan, L., Como, A., & Shih, A. (2012). *A global public health strategy for autism spectrum disorders.* Autism

Research, DOI: 10.1002/aur.1236.

Please list hobbies, sports, skills and any other relevant facts that might help in evaluation of your application:

- Photography
- Traveling
- Kayaking
- Nature walks
- Reading
- Policy development and advocacy
- Multi-sectoral strategic planning
- Editorial review for research-based journals

Written statement

1. Please evaluate how you meet each of the "Criteria of candidates for the post of the Regional Director of the South-East Asia Region of World Health Organization" (see attached sheet). In so doing, please make reference to specific elements of your curriculum vitae to support your evaluation. The criteria that should be used for assessing candidates for the post of Regional Director are contained in resolution SEA/RC65/R1, Annex C and are the following:

- i. A strong technical and public health background and extensive experience in global health;

My career in global public health began with my work as a mental health professional in Florida USA, in 2002. Since then, I have worked within many spheres and systems in countries all over the world. The privilege of being a mental health professional with a family in politics has afforded me the opportunity to think from both micro and macro points of view. Having worked for years with individuals and families has allowed me to garner significant insight into what challenges exist not only for the professionals working within low resourced systems, but what challenges are faced by the end users of those public health systems.

Working as a school psychologist in impoverished inner-city schools has allowed me to better understand the linkages between the various sectors (education, economy, infrastructure, etc.) that ultimately negatively impact health and well-being. This first-hand knowledge from the ground up has driven much of my advocacy and policy development work for the last 15 years. Being a passionate believer in learning for service, I took every opportunity to develop my skills and expand my expertise on mental health, autism, and crisis management during my early career. Additionally, recently I have been focusing on human resource development and organizational improvement.

As a service provider in developed countries, I consciously made the decision to remain independent and help facilitate systemic change that would positively impact the people of South-east Asia. Despite the many challenges I faced, I formed my own organization, designed to help me expand on advocacy work. By being a separate independent entity, Shuchona Foundation has enabled me to work closely with WHO, UN, UNESCO, UNICEF, CVF, Chatham House, government bodies and ministries as well as other non-governmental organizations such as the BSMMU, Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), KOICA, etc. I have been able to impact and influence health care systems that span several countries and that address cross cutting issues. My goal is to ensure partnerships are built and all relevant stakeholders are heard.

I have been very fortunate to have had the ability to garner human and financial support from private and public entities, which allowed me to organize numerous workshops, training programs, conferences, and resource development. Most, if not all my efforts have significantly impacted what people believed about autism, disability and mental health, and enabled the change in how programs are conceptualized and implemented for these marginalized vulnerable groups. For instance, much of the wording in the 2011 Dhaka Declaration on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, which I helped draft, can be found in the 3 autism resolutions I advocated for: WHO-SEAR (SEA/RC65/68), the United Nations General Assembly (67/82) and the World

Health Assembly (WHA 67.8). As the Focal Point of the Advisory Group on Disability and Disaster Risk Management, Ministry of Disaster Management, I gave input during planning, worked closely with the declaration committees, and actively participated in the first and second International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management in 2015 and 2018. The conferences culminated the adoption of Dhaka Declaration and Dhaka Declaration 2015+ respectively.

In the last 15 years, working to make systemic changes in the health and education sector has been a journey with many course changes. Beginning with my involvement in drafting the Ontario Mental Health Initiative in Canada, I have since been involved in helping with Bangladesh's Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013, the Protection of Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disability Trust Act 2013, Rehabilitation Law and Mental Health Act, mental health and ASD within disaster management and planning, Declaration and Policy Framework for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013- 2022, , and the Thimphu Declaration. With the help of experts, Shuchona Foundation, and other institutions, I have helped develop several training manuals, and training programs for experts and caregivers which are currently piloted or implemented in Bangladesh's health, education, and disaster management sector. In addition, I have also developed strategic plans and policies such as, National Strategic Plan for Neurodevelopmental Disorders 2016-2030 for Bangladesh, *WHO Collaborative Framework for Addressing ASD in the South-East Asia Region*, National Strategic Plan for Mental Health 2020-2030 and policy. My efforts have been recognized by institutions like Barry University, the WHO, and an Honorary Doctorate from the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in 2022.

ii. Competency in organizational management;

Shuchona Foundation (SF) a not-for-profit advocacy, research and capacity-building organization specializing in disabilities, neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs), and mental health. Shuchona has been successful in developing innovative, low-cost sustainable programs, and policies that prioritize inclusion, and that can be implemented in a sustainable manner within the existing national development infrastructure.

What began as a small not for profit organization with only 5 volunteers, Shuchona currently has 12 full time employees and a network of international advisors and institutions. Shuchona is in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2019 and a member of the UNESCAP Working Group on Disability since May 2018, the same year I attended the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

In 2017, Shuchona Foundation was the recipient of Ministry of Social Welfare's award in recognition of its work & achievements in the field of disabilities.

Over the years Shuchona has grown in its reach working with the government, experts, UN bodies, disability advocates, persons with lived experience, and other relevant stakeholders; drafting strategic plans, training manuals, identifying experts to help with capacity building, etc. As Chairperson, I spearhead the organization,

leading its growth and development plans, through articulating its vision, and planning its activities leading to result-oriented expansion. Furthermore, I develop our Management Team to improve their content expertise, work ethic, and commitment towards Shuchona's values.

iii. Proven historical evidence for public health leadership;

I have designed and provided technical expertise to several international conferences, side events at UNGA and other national conferences, as well as both national and international professional workshops. I have spoken on numerous panels, been invited as an expert on disabilities, mental health, vulnerabilities; its impact on public health; and the need for inclusion to achieve universal healthcare. I have been invited to participate in events that are related to public policy and international development (such as the Belt Road Initiative started by China), along with keynote addresses (Side event on mental health at CHOGM 2022 co-organized by Shuchona) and for special advisory roles.

I actively participated in the United Nations Conference of the Parties in 2019, 2021 and 2022. I represented Bangladesh at forums like Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), World Health Assembly, and spoke at high level events like the SNF Nostos Conference, moderated national and international events organized by Commonwealth Youth Health Network, WHO, UNICEF, Chatham House, Government of Bangladesh, etc. I believe disaster risk management, and universal health coverage, plays an important role within the health conversation.

iv. Sensitiveness to cultural, social, and political differences;

I was raised to believe that all religions and cultural practices are part and parcel of the human experience. Our diversity unites us because underlying those differences are the similarities in the belief that we have been created to help one another, do no harm, and accept through understanding. I have had the good fortune of living, educating, and working in many countries across the world, including Bangladesh, India, UK, US, Canada, and the UAE. My philosophy is to learn and grow through immersing myself in the culture and practices.

v. A strong commitment to the work of WHO;

Since the very start of my advocacy work in the area of autism and later mental health, I have worked with WHO in various capacities. I have worked as an advocate for autism resolutions, and various resource development and planning. I have been hired by WHO to design and run several international workshops, meetings, and conferences. I have facilitated a growing partnership between WHO and other governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders to promote the cause of autism and mental health. I have served as an expert and advisor to the Director General and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. In addition, within the WHO SEA Regional Office I have worked closely with several departments to enhance greater country engagement and collaboration with other relevant stakeholders and policymakers in the countries. I have also promoted WHO's efforts within UHC and mental health by facilitating working partnership of WHO with developmental partners and UNICEF and IOM institutions like Chatham House,

Dhaka University, BSMMU and CRI.

vi. The good physical condition required of all staff members of the Organization;

I strongly believe in physical and mental well-being. My favorite hobbies are nature photography and walking. I also engage in daily physical training and kayaking when there is opportunity.

vii. Commitment to personal compliance with the WHO policy on non-recruitment of smokers or other tobacco users; and

I am not a tobacco user or a smoker.

viii. Sufficient skill in the official working language of the Region

I am fluent in Hindi, Bangla, and English.

2. Please state your vision of priorities and strategies for the World Health Organization, in particular the South-East Asia Region.

My vision of the SEAR regional countries includes the desire to see our countries work with one another to ensure that we are better prepared to handle the next pandemic. The last few years have taught us that our countries are poorly resourced both from skilled human resource and infrastructure point of view. Given the enormous challenges we face, as Regional Director I hope to develop a mechanism that enables each of our countries to find effective mechanisms for collaboration and partnership. These collaborations and partnerships would focus on increasing our human resources and the quality of services they provide. Through effective partnerships, each SEAR country would also be ensured that medical supplies and necessary resources are available and easily accessible to our healthcare professionals. In effect, it would be a mechanism through which we could increase and improve quality medical supplies including medications. Through public-private partnerships facilitated and supervised by WHO, we can make sure that we are better prepared for the next crisis, health pandemic or natural/man-made disaster.

I plan to support areas where the Region has made commendable progress, such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health, NCD and risk factors, mental health, health system strengthening, emergency responses and universal health coverage. The current flagship projects will receive the same attention that is being received now. I will initiate discussions with all Member States to seek advice on expanding the number of flagship projects.

Ensuring marginalized and vulnerable groups are not further disenfranchised is an important part of my vision. Therefore, greater effort focused on enabling countries in the SEAR region to implement equitable health care by improving (through funding, resource partners, etc.) or creating innovative local solutions that are effective. Our countries have many groups of people that live in extreme poverty, in hard to reach or remote locales or are minorities due to their religious or cultural practices. Bringing them under the umbrella of Universal Health Care (UHC) access to quality essential services would be plausible and sustainable. It is important to prioritize strengthening health systems – both the preventive and curative sectors - to ensure coverage, equity and to operationalize the slogan that “no one is left behind”.

Continuous monitoring and reporting of progress made in implementing strategies and programs at Regional and country level must be continued and strengthened. Data is a crucial factor for improving services and health outcomes. I will continue to support building innovative and context specific data collection and reporting systems that will not only fulfil the requirements of Member States, but also measure regional progress in different spheres of health which will further bolster informed decision making by the Regional Committee. I will work to further facilitate inter-country learning opportunities and platforms as well as inter-regional knowledge sharing; adapted and upscaled from other WHO Regions, who have knowledge and relevant experience.

Therefore, I continuously seek suggestions and guidance from countries on priorities, actions and directions that the Regional office should be taking within the next five years to sustain the progress that has been made in many spheres and to face the changing contexts and realities.