

# **WHO/UNICEF Technical expert advisory group on nutrition monitoring (TEAM)**

## **TEAM members biography 2016 - 2017**

### **Abul Kalam Azad**

Professor Dr. Abul Kalam Azad is the Additional Director General and Director of Management Information System (MIS) of Directorate General of Health Services under Bangladesh's MOHFW. In a short period, he implemented a nationwide health information system (HIS) that captures data from community health cares to all health facilities. Selection of simple, low cost, innovative, locally appropriate and nationally scalable e-/m-Health solutions was key to this success.

He promoted a concept of one integrated and shared national HIS for collection, transmission, storage, retrieval and use of health data by all stakeholders, both public and private, that follow data standards and inter-operability framework. Maternal and child healthcare through electronic tracking system, mobile phone health service, telemedicine, hospital automation, citizens' grievance management system, etc. are some of his notable innovations. He is leading an ambitious project to implement "citizens' life time shared electronic health records".

His department brought for Bangladesh, UN-Digital Health Award 2011 and German Government's HIS Best Practice Recognition in 2014 through a special publication "A quiet revolution: Strengthening the routine health information system in Bangladesh". Professor Azad is member of WHO's two eHealth technical advisory groups.

### **Eline Korenromp**

Eline Korenromp is a public health and Monitoring & Evaluation expert with over 15 years of experience in HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, child health and nutrition planning and research.

At Avenir Health, she supports planning, target setting and costing with disease and child health programs, including scenario modelling to optimize program strategies. She also advises disease surveillance and MDG progress evaluation with HIV/AIDS programs in Africa.

At the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) over 2012-2014, Dr. Korenromp guided process and impact evaluations, and performance monitoring in nutrition programs targeting mothers and children in Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nigeria. She also developed methods for performance and impact monitoring, including a DALY-based cost-effectiveness model.

At the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria she estimated costs, service needs and cost-benefit for corporate strategy, developed tools to improve value for money in grants, and conducted program evaluations with African and Asian countries. Earlier at the WHO, her team launched the Roll Back Malaria M&E Reference Group.

Dr. Korenromp holds a PhD in Public Health, and a MSc. in Medical Biology. Avenir Health

### **Faith Mugure Thuita**

Faith Mugure Thuita is a Public health nutrition specialist with over 18 years experience in training, research, programming and nutrition policy development. Academic background in the fields of nutrition and public health that complement each other well in addressing broader programme issues relating to human health and development.

Has broad based nutrition professional experience and is a well recognised resource person in advocacy and policy development in Kenya. Her experience base spans the areas of maternal and young child health and nutrition, behavior change communication, monitoring and evaluation and formative and participatory action research. Has extensive experience in consultancy work for national and international organisations involving operations research, programme evaluation and capacity building.

Dr Thuita plays an advisory role to the government of Kenya as a member of several national nutrition technical working groups on which she represents the School of medicine, University of Nairobi. She was co-chair of the National Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Steering Committee 2010 - 2013.

She has experience working in cross-cultural settings for the United Nations and international Non-governmental organizations. Dr Thuita worked for UNICEF Kenya (Nov 2005 -2008) as a nutrition specialist and gained experience in program management, resource mobilization as well as strategic communication and advocacy. She also gained experience in joint work planning with Government and non-Governmental partners and in coordinating implementation of health and nutrition interventions at the national and sub-national.

Between 2010 – 2012 she was a consultant nutrition advisor and principal investigator in a four phase public health evaluation research project for PATHs IYCN project funded by USAID in Western Kenya. She is currently on sabbatical leave and engaged as a consultant through the MQSUN project to the European Union Delegation in Kenya where she is providing technical support for Scaling up Nutrition with the SUN donor network.

### **Luz Maria De-Regil**

Dr. Luz María De-Regil is the Director of Research and Evaluation and Chief Technical Advisor at the Micronutrient Initiative (MI). She is responsible for MI's surveillance, implementation research, and program evaluation strategies. She also leads on the generation and translation of evidence to influence global policy and practice.

Dr. De-Regil brings to the Advisory Group experience in assessing surveillance systems, designing cross-sectional surveys, managing and upgrading global nutrition databases, developing monitoring tools, producing global estimates of micronutrient status as well as in the guideline process for establishing indicator cut-offs. Prior to joining MI, Luz Maria held positions at the National Institute of Perinatology and Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico; the Children's Hospital Research Institute in Oakland, USA; and the World Health Organization in Switzerland.

Luz Maria De-Regill holds a Bachelor of Nutrition and Food Sciences, a Master's degree in Sciences, a Master's of International Negotiation and Policy Making, and a Doctorate of Sciences in Public Health.

### **Mary Arimond**

Mary Arimond is a nutritionist with 25+ years of experience in research and programs. Her main areas of interest are maternal, infant and young child nutrition and program evaluation. She was based in Africa for five years, in Malawi and Mozambique, where she worked with local universities, international NGOs and UN agencies, primarily on survey research projects.

From 2001 to 2009 she worked at the International Food Policy Research Institute, where much of her work focused on developing simple indicators of diet quality. She also participated on research teams evaluating food-based nutrition interventions. She joined the Program in International and Community Nutrition at the University of California, Davis, in 2009 as an Analyst and currently fills project management and technical roles.

### **Patrick Webb**

Patrick Webb is the Alexander McFarlane Professor of Nutrition at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. He was Dean for Academic Affairs from 2005 to 2014.

Patrick Webb currently holds an endowed chair at the Friedman School, the only self-governing graduate school of nutrition in the United States. He also holds appointments at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, at Patan Academy of Health Sciences in Kathmandu, Nepal, and at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. Webb was previously Chief of Nutrition for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) from 2003 to 2005, and a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute from 1989 through 1994. Alexander McFarlane Professor of Nutrition

### **Purnima Menon**

Purnima Menon is Senior Research Fellow in IFPRI's Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division, and is based at IFPRI's Asia office in New Delhi, India. She conducts applied nutrition research in the South Asia region, with a focus on programs and policies to improve maternal and child nutrition. Drawing on a strong biological understanding of nutrition and linking with a variety of health and social sector delivery platforms, her current research focuses primarily on understanding how to improve the delivery and use of high impact nutrition interventions in high undernutrition populations

Currently, Dr. Menon leads the measurement, learning and evaluation team for Alive and Thrive, an initiative to improve infant and young child feeding and child nutrition in Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Ethiopia. In this capacity, she provides intellectual leadership and project management for a set of rigorous impact and process evaluations of Alive and Thrive's interventions to scale-up and improve community- and health system-based behavior change communications interventions to improve nutrition.

Dr. Menon also co-leads POSHAN (Partnerships and Opportunities to Strengthen and Harmonize Actions for Nutrition in India), an initiative to build evidence on delivering and scaling up direct nutrition interventions in India, and to engage with policy and program stakeholders around the use of evidence.

Dr. Menon has a Ph.D. in International Nutrition from Cornell University and a M.Sc. in Nutrition from the University of Delhi. She is courtesy associate professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University.

### **Rafael C. Flores-Ayala**

Rafael Flores-Ayala is the Team Lead of the International Micronutrient Malnutrition Prevention and Control Program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since February 2008.

Previously he was a Research Associate Professor at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University (2001-2008) and he remains as an Adjunct Associate Professor. Rafael served in several distinguished positions at the International Food Policy Research Institute and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama.

He has extensive experience in the design, monitoring and evaluation of large-scale nutrition programs, national nutrition surveys, and surveillance systems as well as in the development of international randomized clinical and group trials and epidemiologic studies in: nutrition and human capital formation, nutrition and growth, impact of micronutrient interventions and consequences of early malnutrition.

Currently he is a member of the Global Nutrition Report's Independent Expert Group and Co-Chair of the Micronutrient Forum.

### **Rebecca Heidkamp**

Rebecca Heidkamp is a faculty member in the Center for Human Nutrition, Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Bloomberg School of Public Health and affiliated with the large-scale evaluation group at the Institute for International Programs.

Rebecca is co-Principal Investigator of the Canada DFATD-funded National Evaluation Platform (NEP) project which aims to build the technical and management capacity of government Maternal Newborn Child Health and Nutrition stakeholders in four African countries to use existing data from multi-sectorial sources to evaluate their policies and programs.

Prior to joining JHU, Rebecca spent 10 years working in the NGO sector in Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. She has also conducted program effectiveness research related to Infant and Young Child Feeding interventions. Rebecca holds a PhD in Nutritional Sciences from Cornell University.

## **Trevor Croft**

Trevor Croft is a Technical Director with ICF International working on The Demographic and Health Surveys Program, providing technical assistance for the implementation of household surveys. He has 35 years experience in international survey data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of results, having worked with DHS from 1987 to present (with a break from 2003 to 2008). Previously he was Chief of Data Processing for 16 years. He developed easy access to DHS datasets through [www.dhsprogram.com](http://www.dhsprogram.com) and to indicators and tables through [www.statcompiler.com](http://www.statcompiler.com).

From 2005 to 2008, Trevor Croft was Vice President of Blancroft Research International, LLC, providing technical assistance for statistics and monitoring in population and health.

From 2003 to 2005, Mr. Croft was Chief of Strategic Information at UNICEF, New York, responsible for statistics and monitoring of the situation of children and women, including reporting on progress towards the MDGs, and producing the statistics for the annual State of the World's Children report. He also oversaw the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Clusters Surveys (MICS) and the continued development of DevInfo for monitoring the MDGs

Mr. Croft started his career as a data processing specialist for the World Fertility Survey (WFS) program.