

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

TEAM members biography 2018 - 2020

Edward A. Frongillo

Edward A. Frongillo is Professor and Director of Global Health Initiatives at the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He was Chair of the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior from 2006 to 2016. His graduate training was at Cornell University in biometry, nutrition, and child development. He founded and directed for 23 years the Cornell Office of Statistical Consulting and directed the Cornell Program in International Nutrition.

Professor Frongillo has expertise in validation of measures, policy and program evaluation, and design and analysis of longitudinal and evaluation studies. He conducts research globally to learn how to improve the growth, development, feeding, care, and survival of infants and young children. He leads research on the measurement, determinants, and consequences of household and child food insecurity. His research program also aims to understand how to advance policy and programs for improving nutrition and development. He has worked extensively with WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, USAID, FAO, and other organizations on these issues.

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.

Jennifer Coates

Jennifer Coates, PhD is an Associate Professor of Food Policy and Applied Nutrition at the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and a Senior Researcher at the Tufts Feinstein International Center.

Dr. Coates's research focuses on the development of methods for improving the design, implementation, and evaluation of international nutrition and food security programs in both development and humanitarian emergency contexts. Methods-related initiatives include the development and validation of: methods for scaling up global dietary data collection and use (INDDEX); indicators of the affordability of quality diets in Africa (IMMANA-IANDA); a standardized approach to malnutrition causal analysis and response assessment (ACF); methods for evaluating the micronutrient impact and functional health outcomes of national fortification programs (GAIN); dietary diversity indicators in emergency-prone contexts (WFP); and global experiential food security measures (FANTA).

She also conducts research to understand the implementation and impact of integrated food security programs, including identifying promising models for sustainable exit from Title II-funded food aid programs (FANTA III), and examining the implementation challenges of integrating agriculture and nutrition programming (Ethiopia/ENGINE). Dr. Coates serves on the Technical Working Group to improve the measurement of food consumption in household consumption and expenditure surveys, through the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group On Agricultural And Rural Statistics; on the UN Expert Advisory Group on Food and Nutrition Security Measurement; and the Editorial Board of the Global Food Security Journal.

In addition to her research and policy engagement, Dr. Coates teaches a range of graduate courses at the Friedman School.

Lynnette M Neufeld

Dr. Lynnette M. Neufeld strives to accomplish a professional goal of mobilizing intellectual resources to improve the health and nutrition of populations, using strategic research to inform better program design and implementation. She is currently Director of Knowledge Leadership (KL) at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and member GAINs Senior Management Team. The KL team leads all research and evaluation at GAIN, using evidence to guide improved program design and implementation, and filling critical gaps in the global evidence base and works with program and country teams to mobilize evidence for programs. As a member of the Strategic Management Team at GAIN, Dr. Neufeld helps guide the strategic direction and effective operation of the organization.

Dr. Neufeld is actively involved in the global nutrition and academic community, serving on several boards and technical advisory groups.

Dr. Neufeld is President-elect of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, and from 2010 to 2017 was Chair of the Steering Committee of the Micronutrient Forum. Before joining GAIN in 2013, Dr. Neufeld led the Micronutrient Initiative's efforts to identify, develop and support strategic research related to diverse aspects of nutrition programs. From 1998 to 2009, Dr. Neufeld was Director of the Division of Nutritional Epidemiology at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) in Mexico where her research focused on improving the effectiveness of interventions to promote the health, growth, and development of children from disadvantaged populations in Mexico and Latin America, including principal investigator of the nutrition evaluation of the Oportunidades (now Prospera) conditional cash transfer program in Mexico.

She currently leads the impact evaluation of nutrition programs in Indonesia and India and has active research projects in Mozambique and Pakistan. She continues an active role in research, teaching, and student advising through on-going collaborations with Emory (Adjunct Professor) and Cornell Universities and INSP in Mexico (Visiting Professor), among others and has over 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. Dr. Neufeld has a Doctoral and Master's Degrees in International Nutrition from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Applied Human Nutrition from Guelph University in Guelph, Canada.

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.

Omar Dary

Omar is a Health Science Specialist (Nutrition) of the Bureau for Global Health of USAID since October 2013. He has worked in public health nutrition from basic research at laboratories of nutritional biochemistry and food analysis, to strategic planning at national and global levels. He has been involved in nutrition surveillance, food and nutrient intakes and biomarker interpretation; design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of specific nutritional interventions, mainly food fortification, complementary foods, and supplementation; guiding policy decisions for establishing comprehensive and holistic programs in public health nutrition; and capacity building for nutritional assessment and interventions devising and using innovative tools and procedures. He is member of the Steering Committees of the Iodine Global Network (IGN), the International Zinc Nutrition Consultative Group (IZiNCG), and the PAHO Expert Group to Reduce Salt Intake. Previously, he was a member of the Steering Committees of the Micronutrient Forum, and the International Vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG).

During his professional life, Omar has interacted continuously with the public and private sectors, as well as with consumer and research institutions. He has provided technical assistance to more than 45 countries for the last 28 years. He has been an advisor to WHO, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IAEA, PAHO, the CDC, ILSI, MI, GAIN, and SUSTAIN.

Omar has a BS in Biology with a strong emphasis on analytical chemistry and biochemistry from the San Carlos University in Guatemala. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of California, Riverside. His interests include appropriate combination of nutritional interventions to complement the value of common diets — including the central role of breastfeeding — focused on reducing deficiencies but at the same time preventing unnecessary excesses; as well as to assess and monitor food and nutrient intakes, anthropometric indicators, and biomarkers associated with nutritional status.

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.

Sara Wuehler

Dr Sara Wuehler is a Senior Technical Advisor for Nutrition Information Systems at the Nutrition International, Ottawa, Canada. Dr Wuehler was a Senior Technical Advisor for Maternal and Newborn intervention study and Program Coordinator of the Micronutrient Forum secretariat. She was a Technical Advisor of the micronutrient programs and national food consumption survey in Ethiopia and research study on zinc and diarrhea in Burkina Faso.

Dr Wuehler has expertise in the development and implementation of nutrition surveillance including monitoring of harmonized nutrition intervention surveys and indicators. She leads research for program evaluation of interventions including maternal and newborn nutrition-related health, infant and young child feeding, food fortification, adolescent nutrition and iron/folic acid supplementation.

Dr Wuehler has a PhD in Nutrition from the University of California, Davis, USA and an M.Sc. in Food Science and Nutrition from Brigham Young University, USA.

Sorrel Namaste

Sorrel Namaste is the Senior Nutrition Technical Advisor with ICF working on The Demographic and Health Surveys Program, providing technical assistance for the implementation of household surveys.

Sorrel has experience in international survey data collection and applied research, with specific expertise in nutritional assessment. Throughout her professional life she has focused on the collection

and use of data to strengthen the feedback loop between the scientific, policy, and implementation communities.

Prior to joining The DHS Program, she was the Anemia Team Lead for the USAID-funded SPRING project. In this capacity, she provided technical assistance to governments to develop national strategies and conducted implementation nutrition research. Previously, she also worked for the National Institutes of Health where she was responsible for supporting large-scale global nutrition research projects. While there, she served as the co-principal investigator on the Biomarkers Reflecting Inflammation and Nutrition Determinants of Anemia (BRINDA) Project, supported the establishment of the Biomarkers of Nutrition for Development (BOND) Program, and was the Program Manager for the Iron and Malaria Safety Project.

Sorrel holds a DrPH from George Washington University and an MHS from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Global Epidemiology.

Wenhua Zhao

Dr Zhao holds a Bachelor degree of medicine from the Beijing Medical College, a Master degree of Nutrition from the University of Philippines, and a Ph.D. in nutrition from the Kagawa Nutrition University of Japan. She has worked in the field of public health for 34 years.

Dr Zhao was the field director of the China National Nutrition and Health Survey in 2002. She was the Director of National Working Group of 2010 China Chronic Disease and Behavior Risk Factors Surveillance. Her expertise includes both dietary assessment methods and nutrition epidemiology in China. She has developed and validated the Chinese Food Frequency Questionnaire (CFFQ) for use in various populations in China. She has worked on the prevalence and burden of obesity, diabetes and related factors among adults. Dr. Zhao also has extensive experience on the policy making, health promotion and education on balanced diet and active lifestyle.

Dr. Zhao has published more than 150 scientific articles, books and book chapters in the area of diet, nutrition, lifestyle and chronic disease control and prevention.