

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

TEAM members biography

2024 – 2025

Kaleab Baye

Dr. Baye is an Associate Professor of Human Nutrition at the Center for Food Science and Nutrition, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He is also an honorary research fellow at the Research center for Inclusive Development in Africa (RIDA). Dr. Baye has a PhD in Nutrition and Health from the University of Montpellier, France, a Master's in Food Science and Nutrition and a Bachelor's in Chemistry from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. His research interest is on maternal and child nutrition, micronutrients, dietary intake assessment and interventions to improve diet quality. Dr. Baye is Deputy Editor of the Journal of Public Health Nutrition; member of the editorial board of the journal Global Food Security; has previously served as an Associate editor for the journal BioMed Research International and BMC public health. He has served as Deputy Secretary for Africa Region for the World Public Health Nutrition Association. Dr. Baye is a member of: the World Academy of Sciences (WAS), the African Science Leadership Program (ASLP), the Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS). He has served as the Director of the Center for Food Science and Nutrition at AAU from 2016 to 2019. He is a member of several nutrition societies including the ASN, The WPHNA, and the Food and Nutrition Society of Ethiopia (FoNSE). He has served as a member of expert panels and advisory boards to institutions like the WHO, UNICEF and the Rockefeller Foundation on matters related to child nutrition and diet quality.

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. Dr. Coates's research focuses on the development of methods for improving the design, implementation, and evaluation of international food security and food systems policies and programs in both development and humanitarian emergency contexts. Dr. Coates is PI of the Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative, following on the seven-year International Dietary Data Expansion Project (INDDEX), a project designed to increase the availability, access, and use of food consumption data in low and middle-income countries. She has led and participated in several other initiatives to develop and validate metrics, including indicators of the affordability of quality diets in Africa (IMMANA-IANDA); a standardized approach to malnutrition causal analysis and response assessment; methods for evaluating the micronutrient impact and functional health outcomes of national fortification programs; dietary diversity indicators in emergency-prone contexts; and experiential food security measures for use internationally. Dr. Coates serves as Co-chair of the WHO/UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory group on nutrition Monitoring (TEAM).

Edward A. Frongillo

Edward A. Frongillo is Professor and Co-Director of Global Health Initiative 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 and previously directed the Cornell Program in International Nutrition. 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.

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 and contributed to the development of the WHO Growth Standards, the UNICEF Family Care Indicators, and the US Household Food Security Survey Module.

Rebecca Heidkamp

Rebecca Heidkamp, PhD is a faculty member in the Center for Human Nutrition and the Institute for International Programs, Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Since 2017, Rebecca has led DataDENT (www.datadent.org) a multi-partner initiative to strengthen nutrition data value chains across LMIC. Rebecca is also engaged in program evaluation and implementation science research and practice. She sits on several advisory groups including the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition and the National Information Platforms for Nutrition. Prior to joining JHU, Rebecca worked in the NGO sector in Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean. Rebecca holds a PhD in Nutritional Sciences from Cornell University.

Gilberto Kac

Dr. Gilberto Kac is a Professor of Nutritional Epidemiology at the Nutrition Institute at Rio de Janeiro Federal University. He leads the Nutritional Epidemiology Observatory, coordinating projects focusing on maternal and child nutrition. Dr. Kac's graduate training was strongly focused on public health nutrition (PhD at the University of São Paulo), maternal and perinatal epidemiology (sabbatical, University of Oxford, 2010-11), and international nutrition (visiting professor at the Institute of Global Nutrition, University of California at Davis, 2017-18). Professor Kac is a research fellow of the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq). He has interacted with several international stakeholders, such as the World Bank, the Pan-American Health Organization, the Pan-American Health Education Foundation, and the World Health Organization in his career trajectory. He has also served in several technical adviser groups. Dr. Kac has solid experience collecting, analyzing, and interpreting indicators to monitor nutritional status. Over the past years, he has worked closely with the National Nutrition Coordination from the Brazilian Ministry of Health on global health, international nutrition, and nutritional monitoring domains, e.g., as the national coordinator of the 2019 and 2024 Brazilian National Surveys on Infant Nutrition. These projects have strong programmatic, policy, and implementation science components on maternal and newborn health and nutrition. Professor Kac is an Associate Editor of Maternal and Child Nutrition and the editor-in-chief of a comprehensive nutritional epidemiology book published in Latin America. Dr. Kac has published more than 200 papers in scientific journals and has supervised more than 50 graduate students.

Jef Leroy

Jef Leroy is a Senior Research Fellow in IFPRI's Nutrition, Diets, and Health Unit. He studies the impact of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and social protection programs on maternal and child nutrition. His evaluation studies use experimental designs combined with process evaluations and costing studies. Jef currently works on the evaluation of a social protection program in Bangladesh designed to improve birth outcomes and on the evaluation of a training and certification program aimed at improving the quality of milk sold by informal vendors in Nairobi. In addition, he studies the role of food environments in adolescent nutrition in urban areas in Ghana, Viet Nam, and Ethiopia. He also conducts research on the use of child linear growth in development. Jef recently completed the evaluation of two large-scale food-assisted maternal and child health and nutrition programs in Burundi and Guatemala. He has also conducted research on the impact of aflatoxin on child linear growth in Kenya and Mexico.

Before joining IFPRI, Jef was a research associate at the Center for Evaluation Research and Surveys at Mexico's National Institute of Public Health, where he worked on the evaluation of the urban and rural Oportunidades programs and of the Programa de Apoyo Alimentario (a cash and in-kind transfer program).

Jef Leroy, a Belgian citizen, has a PhD in International Nutrition from Cornell University, USA, and an MSc in Agricultural and Applied Biological Sciences from Ghent University, Belgium.

Priscila Machado

Dr Machado is a Research Fellow in the Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition at Deakin University, Australia. She holds a PhD and a Master's in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Her work encompasses a series of epidemiological studies that applied ultra-processed food concept to assess diet quality, nutritional status and health outcomes among adults and children in several countries. Her work has been further developed to show that the level of processing could be used to inform policies to increase the healthiness of food environments and inform nutrition profiling schemes and dietary guidelines globally. Her research also focuses on evaluation of sustainable healthy diets based on the degree of food processing, and on science and politics of food and nutrition policy-making.

Dr Machado has expertise in nutritional epidemiology, nutrition science, nutrition policy, and sustainability. This includes substantial experience in the NOVA food classification system and its identification of ultra-processed foods, dietary patterns research using complex datasets (for example, national surveys), and developing methodologies to incorporate food processing on health and sustainability assessments. Dr Machado has co-authored several reports from United Nations bodies, including for the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Erin Milner

Erin Milner is a Senior Nutrition Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Advisor at USAID where she leads nutrition programs and measurement initiatives. She has over 15 years of experience in monitoring and evaluating projects, as well as in designing, implementing, and assessing nutrition, early childhood development, and health programs and policies in low- and middle-income countries.

At USAID, Erin provides specialized nutrition advisory support to numerous country offices and governments in Sub-Saharan Africa. She also leads many global nutrition monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning activities, including USAID's global flagship nutrition project NuMERAL (Enhancing Nutrition Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning in the Health Sector). Further, Erin manages the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) nutrition efforts while serving on various nutrition measurement advisory groups.

Erin has led research and published on dietary intake, child growth, early childhood development, anemia, food security, and WASH. Moreover, she is an adjunct faculty member and global nutrition instructor at the George Washington University. Erin was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana for over two years. She holds a Master of Science degree and Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences with a focus on Public Health Nutrition from the University of California, Berkeley.

Sorrel Namaste

Sorrel Namaste is the Deputy Project Director for Enhancing Nutrition Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (NuMERAL) with RTI. NuMERAL supports local nutrition and child development research, monitoring, and evaluation and translation of this evidence for country and cross-national learning and action.

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 RTI, she worked on USAID funded projects as the Senior Technical Advisor for DHS and as the Anemia Team Lead for SPRING. In this capacity she provided technical assistance for the implementation of household surveys and assisted governments to develop national strategies and conduct implementation research, respectively. 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.

Pujitha Wickramasinghe

Pujitha Wickramasinghe is a senior professor in paediatrics at the University of Colombo and serves as a senior honorary Consultant Paediatrician to the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Colombo, Sri Lanka. He graduated from the University of Colombo and qualified in Paediatrics and experienced in clinical nutrition. His PhD covered the area of body composition of Sri Lankan children.

Pujitha is an undergraduate and a post graduate trainer and examiner. He has served in many technical committees of the Ministry of Health, Government of Sri Lanka on areas covering childhood nutritional, NCD policy, and developing guides on adopting many WHO guidelines in local context. He is also a consultant to the Ministry of Education on child health and nutrition. Further, he has extensively

contributed to the Ministries of Health and Education on developing technical publications as well as adopting international technical guides for local use.

Pujitha also has provided technical expertise for WHO, SEARO region on areas related to nutrition to childhood immunization, WHO HQ on guideline development, and WHO-UNICEF policy development on marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages for children.

His research areas cover childhood body composition, child growth and undernutrition and obesity and related metabolic derangements leading to development of non-communicable diseases. His main research interests are in the fields of childhood body composition, obesity and metabolic syndrome, maternal & child nutrition, effects of early nutrition on diseases in later life and micronutrients in infancy.

Sara Wuehler

Dr Sara Wuehler is a Senior Technical Advisor for Nutrition Information Systems at Nutrition International, Ottawa, Canada. She supports nutrition program quality by building systematic and quality assured program data tools for learning and reporting across multiple countries in Africa and Asia, with research activities in these areas and in South America. Dr Wuehler has expertise in the contextualization of program-specific monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning and research across a range of nutrition interventions. Her work includes: critical review to improve coherence and logic of program tools and documents, harmonizing and quality assuring survey procedures and outputs, incorporating gender indicators and learning into program monitoring, supporting and leading research, mentoring colleagues, and facilitating effective meetings.

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.

Zhenyu Yang

Dr. Yang is a Research Professor, National Institute for Nutrition and Health, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Yang's primary research areas include breastfeeding and complementary feeding, nutritional status assessment and nutrition interventions for pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children, human milk composition and international nutrition, especially nutrition improvement for these populations in the developing countries. Dr. Yang worked as nutrition specialist at Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and UNICEF-China before joining China CDC.

Dr. Yang has authored more than 40 papers in English and 40 papers in Chinese. He co-authored a few book chapters including Chinese Dietary Reference Intakes-vitamin D chapter and Report on national nutrition and health status of children aged 0-5 years in China (2010-2013).

Dr. Yang is an associate editor of maternal and child nutrition, a reputed international journal in nutrition field. Dr. Yang has also been a peer reviewer for Food and Nutrition Bulletin, Journal of the American College of Nutrition, Nutrition Reviews, Childhood Obesity.

Dr. Yang has a PhD in Nutrition from University of California, Davis and an MS in Epidemiology from Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Institute of Nutrition and Food Safety, an MS in Nutrition and Food Safety, Baotou Medical College, Inner Mongolia, China, and an MD in Preventive Medicine.