

# Meron Asfaha, MPH, CHES®

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Veteran's Preference: N/A | Federal Civilian Status: N/A | Country of Citizenship: USA

Desired Locations: Anywhere (global)

## Summary of Qualifications

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- Evaluation Specialist with over five years of experience in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) for maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and clinical and public health laboratory programs
- Experience leading research and evaluations, conducting quantitative and qualitative data analysis, visualizing data, and translating complex technical concepts into simple and understandable messages for lay audiences
- Thorough understanding of federal clearance and reporting requirements (HHS, USAID) for the collection of data (OMB packages, intergovernmental cost estimates, requests for proposals and scopes of work)
- Expertise in composing project frameworks and measures for assessing program performance including the creation of logic models, indicators and evaluation plans
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and strong drive for incorporating health equity principles in programs to advance social change
- Computer and software skills: R, SAS, SPSS, Tableau, Power BI, MAXQDA, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Google Forms, Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams), WebEx, Adobe Connect, SharePoint, EndNote, Lucidpress, Visme
- Languages: Basic proficiency in Amharic and Tigrinya
- Country Experience: Ukraine, Ethiopia, Kenya, Belize

## Areas of Expertise

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|----------------------------|---|--|
| • Data for decision-making | • Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) | • Information synthesis                  |
| • Strategic planning       | • Oral communication                        | • Survey development                     |
| • Collaboration            | • Written communication                     | • Data collection                        |
| • Partnership development  | • Focus groups                              | • Qualitative and quantitative analysis  |
| • Meeting facilitation     | • Key informant interviews                  | • Research translation and dissemination |
| • Project management       | • Protocol development                      |  |
| • Budget development       |   |  |

## Professional Experience

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**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / Chenega & Cherokee** **December 13, 2021 – present**

Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Systems (CSELS), Division of Laboratory Systems, 2400 Century Center, Atlanta, GA 30345 (a) Evaluation Office (EO) and (b) Training and Workforce Development Branch (TWDB)

**Evaluation Specialist IV (EO) <sup>a</sup>**

**November 6, 2023 – present**

Supervisor: Ashley Marshall, may not be contacted

Remote, Mon – Fri, 40 hours per week

- Contracted with Chenega Corporation to support the CDC Division of Laboratory Systems' (DLS) Evaluation Office through analyzing trends, metrics, and performance measurements related to clinical and public health laboratory needs

- Develops dashboards, reports, and informative analytical products for a cooperative agreement with the Association of Public Health Laboratories using Power BI in collaboration with contractors and CDC staff
- Monitors and analyzes data for analysis and high-level decision-making purposes, and creates recommendations for DLS leadership

***Evaluation Specialist (TWDB) <sup>b</sup>***

***September 8, 2022 – September 15, 2023***

Supervisor: Breyanna Mikel, (404) 498-4095, may be contacted

Remote, Mon – Fri, 40 hours per week

- Supported and managed Training and Workforce Development Branch (TWDB) research and evaluation activities from the design and implementation of evaluation plans as well as data collection instruments and protocols through data collection, analysis, and synthesis of findings
- Coordinated and managed the development of VR PushPack Pilot Program and OneLab Initiative deliverables, such as reports (e.g., writing drafts of methods, approaches, and findings), presentations, summary briefs, and data visualizations (e.g., graphs, charts, infographics) to communicate findings to professional and lay audiences
- Planned, developed, and implemented monitoring and evaluation plans for public health laboratory workforce and training development programs with local and state laboratorians and various public, private and academic laboratories and accrediting bodies
- Provided technical advice and assistance in managing evaluation plans, projects and programs (e.g., the CDC OneLab Initiative Evaluation Plan and Virtual Reality (VR) PushPack Pilot Program)
- Conducted quarterly assessments of TWDB Data and Evaluation Teams' project performance and discussed corrective actions with TWDB leadership including Team Leads and the Branch Chief
- Assisted with developing strategies for laboratory and workforce development performance measurement independently and in collaboration with TWDB leadership, full-time employees (FTEs) and consultants
- Created and continuously refined five Branch-level logic models in support of the TWDB and OneLab Initiative strategic refresh
- Developed and translated findings in lay language within reports to communicate and disseminate evaluation findings to the public and relevant stakeholders
- Ensured data collection activities adhered to federal guidelines through communication of funding requirements and submission of data collection packages for clearance to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and CDC/ Science Office

***Evaluation Specialist (EO) <sup>a</sup>***

***December 13, 2021 – September 7, 2022***

Supervisor: Kunthea Nhim, (404) 502-1139, may be contacted

Remote, Mon – Fri, 40 hours per week

- Developed and revised four logic models (overall and objective-level) for the Science and Policy Offices in the CDC/Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Systems (CSELS)
- Performed data quality checks of APHL Annual Performance Review (APR) spreadsheets and discussed corrections to be made in monthly APHL/CDC M&E calls among more than 20 APHL and CDC M&E advisors, team leads and program staff
- Conducted technical reviews of eight technical area APRs using SAS and Microsoft Excel to analyze outliers, inconsistencies and project narratives submitted by the partner
- Proposed technical modifications to eight of APHL's survey instruments and achieved consensus for necessary edits in collaboration with APHL's M&E Team and CDC's Internal TWDB team
- Performed qualitative coding for more than 80 narratives and quantitative analysis on 12 performance measures included in APHL's APR submissions and developed evaluation briefs highlighting analysis findings

- Coded and analyzed qualitative data from 14 external partner discussions on what CDC/Division of Laboratory Systems' strategic priorities should be using MAXQDA and summarized themes in the CDC/DLS Strategic Plan Engagement report
- Led the writing and revisions to the DLS Strategic Plan Report and highlighted recommendations for DLS leadership for future DLS programs
- Compiled feedback from TWDB workforce development subject matter experts and led efforts to revise APHL's Expanded Fellowship & Internship Program survey instruments to improve flow and include questions that measure diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility
- Developed and presented a presentation for CDC/DLS staff on the fundamentals of evaluation ("Evaluation 101") and supported the development of the DLS presentation on health equity ("Incorporating Health Equity in Evaluation")

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**U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) / JCG & PHI**

**September 3, 2019 – November 11, 2021**

Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (RFS), Policy, Analysis and Engagement Office (PAE), Analytics and Learning Division (A&L), 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC 20004

(d) Bureau for Global Health (GH), Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA), Behavioral and Structural Interventions Branch (BSI), 500 D Street Southwest, Washington, DC 20024

***Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist II (RFS) <sup>c</sup>***

***November 11, 2020 - November 11, 2021***

Supervisor: Anne Swindale, (240) 447-1639, may be contacted

Remote, Mon – Fri, 40 hours per week

- Analyzed and conducted research in support of the USAID/Office of Policy, Analysis and Engagement's Metrics and Methods team to forecast analytics and learning needs for USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security
- Performed technical reviews of draft and final versions of population-based surveys (baseline, midline and endline) for Missions/Country Offices (Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Kenya and Nepal) to highlight inaccurate indicator calculations and outliers
- Revised Feed the Future Phase II performance indicator reference sheets (PIRS) according to updated key performance indicator guidance
- Created visualizations to highlight changes in key performance indicators (goal, intermediate and results-level indicators) and results frameworks between phases of the Feed the Future Initiative
- Compiled secondary data from World Bank Demographic Health Surveys and primary data from Feed the Future population-based surveys to inform endline survey target setting guidance for USAID/Missions country offices
- Facilitated discussions with livelihood coping strategy subject matter experts, including the Analysis and Learning Division Chief, Senior MEL Advisors and Qualitative Research Methods Expert, on approaches for conducting livelihood coping strategies research
- Developed Scope of Work for a 2-million-dollar procurement mechanism for focus group data collection on livelihood coping strategies for mitigating food insecurity in Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Niger and Kenya and developed country-specific budget estimates
- Collaborated with Senior MEL Technical Advisors to create funding briefs and create independent government cost estimates for country teams in support of a 69-million-dollar ICF-implemented award for the Surveys for Monitoring Resilience and Food Security (SMRFS) funding mechanism
- Developed endline survey target setting guidance and compiled sector-specific data (nutrition, resilience, agriculture) from the World Bank and internal primary data (population-based surveys) for USAID/Missions to use when setting endline targets for key performance indicators

- Presented on the Analysis and Learning Division's efforts in developing inclusive meeting guidelines to propel values of trust, respect and empowerment of colleagues, and presented this effort to the USAID/Office of Policy, Analysis and Engagement

***HIV Testing Services Analyst (Internship) (OHA) <sup>d</sup>***

***September 3, 2019 – September 3, 2020***

Supervisor: Elizabeth Manfredini, (202) 256-9453, may be contacted

Remote, Mon – Fri, 40 hours per week

- Increased output of HIV Testing Services team through development of one-page technical briefs for HIV self-testing (HIVST), index testing, adult/pediatric risk screening and facility/community viral load suppression
- Worked closely with Senior HIV Technical Advisors to edit Kenya and Tanzania COP20 program workplans
- Evaluated HIVST performance across implementing partners (e.g., JSI, PSI and FHI360) to create a technical brief on leveraging HIVST during COVID-19
- Developed data visualizations and technical briefs for HIV self-testing quarterly reports and index testing presentations using Microsoft Excel, Lucidpress and Visme software
- Created adult and pediatric risk screening comparison tools for a HIV testing services "Call to the Field" presentation delivered to more than 50 USAID Missions staff and implementing partners in-field
- Supported data extraction and manuscript development for a systematic review of Couples HIV Testing and Counselling (CHTC) in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the University of Washington
- Provided in-field data assistance using Tableau and Microsoft Excel to USAID/Ukraine's country team in preparation for country operational planning for Fiscal Year 2020
- Led the discussion of performance in HIV testing services data to Ethiopia and Uganda country teams and presented on HIV self-testing reporting requirements in a COVID-19 webinar to 200+ implementing partner staff and HIV/AIDS technical advisors

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**Emory University – Ethiopia Institute**, Bahir Dar Office, Amhara, Ethiopia / Emory Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, 1520 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30322

***Principal Investigator***

***October 10, 2017 – March 30, 2020***

Supervisor: John Cranmer, (404) 727-6438, may be contacted

In-person/remote, 10 - 50 hours per week

- Led and designed a qualitative study alongside local stakeholders (Ethiopian MoH, Amhara Regional Health Bureau, Amhara Public Health Institute) and Emory University faculty advisors to analyze treatment-seeking behaviors for neonatal possible severe bacterial infection (PSBI) in Amhara, Ethiopia
- Created budgets, acquired Emory/local IRB approval and coordinated site selection based on key proxy-indicators with insight from Emory-Ethiopia staff members
- Recruited and hired a data collector and notetaker to guide 11 focus groups and 6 in-depth interviews in Amharic, utilizing thematically analyzed results for presentations, regional/national conferences and thesis/manuscript publication(s)
- Arranged logistics including coordinating lodging, meals, use of equipment and hiring of a driver between sites
- Secured funding through Emory's Global Field Experience (GFE), the Center of Excellence for Maternal and Child Health Education, Science and Practice and Emory's Open Access Publishing Fund

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**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / Emory Rollins Earn and Learn (REAL) Program**

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED), 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333

***Graduate Research Assistant***

***January 10, 2019 – May 13, 2019***

Supervisor: Kasey Diebold, (404) 718-5931, may be contacted In-person, Mon – Fri, 15 – 20 hours per week

- Worked in the Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) to evaluate the reporting of *listeriosis* through analyzing food consumption history data using SAS
- Conducted a literature review and descriptive analysis to recommend case report form modifications needed to meet the revised *Listeria* case definition which newly included separate reporting of mother/infant cases
- Developed two decision trees for state epidemiologists to understand new reporting requirements and case classification criteria
- Delivered recommendations in a final presentation to NCEZID epidemiologists

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**Emory University Rollins School of Public Health**, (e) Emory RSPH Office of Admissions and Student Services, 1518 Clifton Road Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30322; (f) Emory Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Education Science and Practice, 1518 Clifton Road Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30322 in partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), 200 Piedmont Avenue, Southeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, (g) MotherToBaby Georgia, Emory Brain Health Center, 12 Executive Park Drive NorthEast, Atlanta, GA 30329 in partnership with the Emory REAL Program

***Evaluator (Emory Office of Admissions and Student Services) <sup>e</sup>***

***January 12, 2018 – May 5, 2018***

Supervisor: Robin McGee, (404) 727-7043, may be contacted In-person, Mon – Fri, 12 hours per week

- Evaluated the mental health needs of Emory Rollins School of Public Health graduate students, in collaboration with the Office of Admissions and Student Services
- Conducted key informant interviews with mental health subject-matter experts in the Emory community, including employees at the Emory Office of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Violence Prevention Task Force and Department of Accessibility Services
- Developed and disseminated more than 50 quantitative surveys using Qualtrics to Emory RSPH students using purposive sampling.
- Created a final report and delivered findings to Emory Rollins' School of Public Health graduate students, Office of Admissions and CAPS

***Evaluator (Maternal and Child Health Fellow) <sup>f</sup>***

***January 12, 2018 – May 14, 2018***

Supervisor: Michael Kramer, (404) 727-8737, may be contacted In-person, Mon – Fri, 12 hours per week

- Evaluated the surveillance of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) through Georgia Department of Public Health's (DPH) State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS)
- Conducted literature reviews using reference library software (EndNote) and a policy scan across four states that had guidance on reporting NAS
- Conducted key informant interviews and delivered quantitative surveys to research professionals and nurse managers engaged with opioid substance use and NAS reporting
- Presented recommendations through a final report and presentation to Georgia DPH maternal and child health epidemiologists and Emory Rollins School of Public Health Maternal and Child Health certificate students

***Graduate Assistant <sup>g</sup>***

***October 5, 2017 – May 8, 2018***

Supervisor: Bethany Kotlar, (617) 835-7949, may be contacted In-person, Mon – Fri, 10 – 15 hours per week

- Researched and generated content to improve knowledge of harmful exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding for three monthly newsletters published on the MotherToBaby GA website
- Updated the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s internal database on MotherToBaby GA text, call and email services per HRSA reporting requirements

- Compiled outreach materials and distributed them to organizations, schools and affiliates in Georgia and attended community wellness events to provide resources that addressed child development outcomes due to harmful exposures

## EDUCATION

<b>Emory University Rollins School of Public Health</b> , Atlanta, GA	<b>August 15, 2017 – May 9, 2019</b>
Master of Public Health (MPH), Behavioral Sciences and Health Education (BSHE). Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Fellow and Certificate Student	
<b>Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)</b> , Richmond, VA	<b>August 22, 2011 – May 5, 2015</b>
Bachelor of Science, Major: Biology (Minor: Chemistry)	

## TRAININGS & CERTIFICATIONS

- R Basics and Beyond (Coding Bootcamp): Introduction to Health Data Analysis, the GRAPH Network (October – December 2023)
- Health Equity Science and Measurement, CDC (July 2023)
- Essentials of Data Visualization, New England Public Health Training Center (June 2023)
- Development and Use of Indicators for Program Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (June 2023)
- Principles of Plain Language, HHS (April 2023)
- Real-Time Evaluation, Encompass LLC (March 2023)
- Public Health Entrepreneurship and Consulting, Dr. C. H. Huntley (February 2023)
- Posit (R Studio), Enterprise Data Analytics and Visualization Academy (March – April 2023)
- Tableau Desktop II, Tableau (May 2021)
- Tableau Desktop I, Tableau (November 2020)
- Health Systems Strengthening multi-session course, USAID (March 2020)
- Data Analysis, Python and R, USAID (May 2020)
- Applied Methods for Health Transformation in MCH, University of North Carolina (December 2019)
- Graduate Certificate in MCH, Emory RSPH (May 2019)
- Certified Health Education Specialist, National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (April 2019)
- Certified Mental Health Adult First Aid Training, National Council for Mental Wellbeing (January 2019)

## PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

American Evaluation Association (AEA). Poster Presentation. Using a Collaborative Evaluation Approach to Strengthen the Public Health Laboratory Workforce and Advance Health Equity. (2022). Kelly Winter, Renee Ned-Sykes, Valerie Johnson, Susan O'Connell, **Meron Asfaha**, Yue Ma, Jordan Helm.

CDC APHL Cooperative Agreement OE20-2001 Cross-CIO Performance Monitoring and Evaluation collaborative Workgroup. (2022). Award. DLS Evaluation Team. Thea Nhim, Vishakha Ramakrishnan, Ashley Marshall, Emma Sunnassee, Shelly-Ann Bowen, **Meron Asfaha**, Yue (Katrina) Ma.

**Asfaha, M.**, Comeau, D., Spangler, S., Spratt, B., Alamineh, L., Gobezeayehu, A., Cranmer, J. Neonatal Care and Community-Level Care Seeking for Neonatal Possible Severe Bacterial Infection (PSBI) in Amhara, Ethiopia. (2020). BMC Health Services Research, 20 (264).

Georgia Public Health Association Annual Conference 2019. (Atlanta, GA, May 7 – 9, 2019). **Asfaha, M.** Socio-Contextual Determinants of Community-Level Care Seeking for Neonatal Possible Severe Bacterial Infection (PSBI) in Amhara, Ethiopia.

Making Lifelong Connections; Let Opportunity Lead You: Connecting Emerging MCH Leaders with Experienced MCH Leaders. (Madison, WI, April 2 – 5, 2019). **Asfaha, M.** Community-Based Interventions: Neonatal Mortality.

Centers for Excellence in Maternal and Child Health. Maternal and Child Health Scholarship Award Recipient (Atlanta, GA, August 2017 – May 2019).