

Wilfred Ngwa
Epidemiologist/Microbiologist

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SUMMARY

A skilled international Public Health Specialist (Epidemiologist) with over 10+ years multidimensional experience in different positions as an Epidemiology activity Manager.

Master's degree in epidemiology and control of infectious with field experience in the control of epidemic-prone diseases (measles, cholera, COVID-19, malaria, viral hemorrhagic fever, Typhoid fever) and non-communicable diseases (Diabetes and Hypertension).

Medical microbiologist with hands on experience in setting up medical laboratory, staff recruitment, supervision, and training. Demonstrable experience in building local collaborative partnerships, coaching, and mentoring teams to deliver at high levels. Highly experienced in carrying out field research in difficult to access areas.

Areas of expertise: Database management, public health disease surveillance, epidemic preparedness, control and response, statistical analysis, writing of technical reports, statistical analyses, design of M/E systems, Quantitative and Qualitative research methodologies, mapping software (GIS), survey designing and implementation, Training,

Statistical Software/others: Stata, DHIS2, ENA, Microsoft Office applications (Excel, Word, Access, Outlook, PowerPoint, Power BI), EpiInfo, EpiData, KoboToolbox (ODK), CommCare, QGIS

Languages: French and English.

Global experience: Humanitarian experience with work history in Mauritania, Guinea Conakry, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Cameroon.

EDUCATION

Buea, Cameroon
2013 - 2015

M.Sc. in Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases

- University of Buea
- GPA 3.33/4

Buea, Cameroon
2006 - 2010

BSc in Microbiology/MLT

- University of Buea
- GPA 2.6/4

WORK HISTORY

Yaounde, Cameroon
June 2022 – Present

Strategy Data Implementation Manager, Sightsavers UK: June 2022 to Present
Strategy Manager responsible for driving the design and testing of the data collection methodology for the new LAMP (Learning, Accountability, Monitoring and Progress) project indicators in 22 supported SightSavers country offices.

Key accomplishments

- Supervised the development of the data collection methodology for result framework indicators and learning questions in 5 thematic areas: Eye Health, Inclusive Education, Social Inclusion, Refraction Error, and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).
- Contributed to the calculation of the resource implications for the LAMP (Learning, Accountability, Monitoring and Progress) project.
- Supported the piloting and roll out of the LAMP (Learning, Accountability, Monitoring and Progress) project indicators in SightSavers supported projects in 22 countries.
- Supported the design of the strategic data infrastructure, data analytics dashboards and reports for the LAMP (Learning, Accountability, Monitoring and Progress) project.

Kinshasa, Congo (DRC)
May 2021 – May 2022

Epidemiology Activity Manager, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) Belgium: May 2021 to May 2022

Coordinator in charge of epidemiology activities in four regular MSF projects (HIV project, Emergency Pool project, Primary Health Project, and Sexual Violence Project) and 1 temporary project (COVID-19 project)

Key accomplishments

- Carried out public health disease surveillance analyses of data to orient priority areas for intervention for the MSF Emergency Pool project.
- Coordinate the establishment, deployment, and functionality of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)
- Coordinated the decision-making process for the implementation of an early warning system (event-based and indicator-based surveillance) for epidemic and pandemic-prone diseases for early detection and response to public health events.
- Created (5) databases for the routine monitoring and evaluation of activities within the 5 projects using Microsoft Excel, EpiData, EpiInfo and KoboCollect.
- Created automated dashboards using both Microsoft Excel and Power BI which contributed to rapid decision making at project level.
- Revised the monitoring and evaluation indicators for the 5 projects, clearly defining the data sources and calculation methods for these revised indicators.
- Capacitated 3 project epidemiologists and 5 data managers on correct data practices and the proper utilization of implemented databases through regular trainings, mentorship, and supervision.
- Produced 6 technical reports, two of which resulted in the creation of new projects (Environmental Health and Measles Projects) within the country.
- Carried out two research studies: developed the research protocols, obtained ethical approval, recruited study staff, managed study budgets, designed research tools/supervised data collection, carried out data analysis and produced reports for the studies.
- Mentored two research candidates under the Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT IT) (<https://www.who.int/tdr/capacity/strengthening/sort/en/>)

Harare, Zimbabwe
Jan 2020 – March 2021

Epidemiology Activity Manager, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) Belgium: Jan 2020 to Feb 2021

Person in charge of coordinating and monitoring epidemiology activities in four regular MSF projects (non-communicable disease project, Migration Health Project, Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health project, and HIV project)

Key accomplishments

- Represent MSF in weekly surveillance meetings with implementing partners within the country.
- Supervision and provision of technical guidance to 1 project Epidemiologist and 4 data managers.
- Recruited and trained 1 project Epidemiologist.
- Carried out advanced data analyses that resulted to the production of 5 technical reports for each of the four projects (on a quarterly basis).
- Revised existing project databases for the routine monitoring and evaluation of activities within the 4 projects using Microsoft Excel and EpiData.
- Carried out two research studies: developed the research protocols, obtained ethical approval, recruited study staff, managed study budgets, designed research tools/supervised data collection, carried out data analysis and produced reports for the studies.

Conakry, Guinea
Oct 2017 - Nov 2019

Epidemiology Activity Manager, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) Belgium: Oct 2017 to Nov 2019

Person in charge of coordinating epidemiology activities in three regular MSF projects (Emergency Preparedness and Response, Primary Health Care and HIV projects).

Key accomplishments

- In cooperation with Ministry of health and technical partners: MSF, WHO, CDC, RTI, and OIM within the country, developed a Microsoft Excel national surveillance database/dashboard, surveillance guidelines and protocols for the monitoring of epidemic prone diseases.
- Represent MSF in coordination meetings with partners involved in epidemiology, surveillance, and monitoring

- Conducted two mortality surveys in a rural context using KoboCollect.
- Conducted one vaccine coverage survey in a rural context using KoboCollect.
- Conducted one KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) survey on the use of mosquito nets
- Created 4 databases using Microsoft Excel and EpiData for the routine monitoring of project activities in the Primary Health and HIV projects
- Supervised and mentored two project data managers.
- Managed budget for the implementation of operational research/surveys.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of health in the organization of a measles vaccination campaign in Conakry and Kouroussa (Macro and Microplanning, development of data collection tools/writing of final report)
- Carried two Data Quality Assessment exercises with feedback reports to data encoders, doctors, and nurses to improve on data quality.
- Supported the Ministry of health with the mentoring of two students enrolled in the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)

Masisi, DRC Congo
July 2019 - August 2019

Epidemiologist-Retrospective mortality survey, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) Belgium: July 2019 to August 2019

Coordinator in charge of conducting a retrospective mortality survey in two health Zones in Masisi, Nord Kivu, DRC.

Key accomplishments

- Supervised a team of 20 data collectors and 21 moto bike riders.
- Prepared daily plans for data collectors and motor bike riders
- Configured questionnaires using KoboCollect for the mortality survey
- Trained 20 data collectors on the administration of study questions
- Performed analyses and production of final study report for the mortality survey
- Presentation of study results to Ministry of Health and local/international MSF staff

Yaoundé, Cameroon
May 2020 – Dec 2021

Research Fellow in Health Policy (Part time: Consultancy), Denis & Lenora Foretia Foundation: May 2020 to Dec 2021

Provide technical advice on data analyses, data visualization, and research.

Key accomplishments

- Produced 5 well research health articles for the foundation.
- Created 2 databases for collection of health-related data for the foundation.
- Analyzed 2 large data sets for research activities carried out by foundation
- Participated in 2 events of the foundation as moderator and speaker.
- In collaboration with members of the health team, developed 3 grant proposals. This resulted to the obtention of funding for the “Bornfyne project”

Bassikounou, Mauritania
June 2016 - July 2017

Laboratory Activity Manager, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) Belgium: June 2016 to July 2017

Coordinated the creation of a modern medical diagnostic Laboratory with blood bank capacity in the refugee camp of Mbera. Supervisor in charge of 3 medical laboratories in the region (2 Ministry of Health and 1 MSF laboratory)

Key accomplishments

- Ordered and received equipment required for the implementation of the laboratory
- Installed and assured the proper functioning of laboratory machines
- Recruited and trained 1 national medical laboratory technician.
- Trained 15 nurses on rapid diagnostic testing, which contributed to reducing laboratory workload, reducing time for obtention of patient results
- Carried out an observational analysis which resulted to the revision of the diagnosis and treatment protocols for urinary tract infections amongst patients visiting the MSF hospital.
- Constantly monitored consumption of laboratory items and placed orders in time to minimize rupture of key items
- Implement quality control sheets for all laboratory tests (Levey Jennings chart)
- Supplied blood to a monthly average of 20 patients
- Carried out 4 trainings on quality control to 2 Ministry of Health laboratory staff

Douala, Cameroon.
March 2011 – Feb 2013

Laboratory Manager, Unilabo, Douala: March 2011 to Feb 2013

Managed a team of 5 laboratory technicians and supervision the daily running of the laboratory

Key accomplishments

- Created a rotatory plan for the 5 supervised laboratory technicians.
- Carried out 8 trainings in key laboratory areas (Microscopy, quality control, sample collection, patient communication, identification of key pathogens, preparation of culture media, identification of bacteria of culture media and presentation of patient results)
- Carried out routine laboratory tests in microbiology (culture and microscopy), clinical chemistry, serology, hematology, and virology.

TRAININGS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS.

- The IDSR Cohort training on IDSR 3rd Edition: Module 0,1,2,3, and 9. WHO, December 2020
- Quick Steps to learn Power BI. Udemy, February 2021.
- Monitoring and Evaluation and Operational Research Training. Médecins sans Frontières and CIDER. September 2019, Capetown, South Africa.
- Training on Mobile Data Collection. Médecins Sans Frontières, 2018, Brussels, Belgium.
- Workshop for the Update and Standardization of Tools for Collecting Epidemiological Surveillance Data. Ministry of Health Guinea in Collaboration with CDC, WHO and RTI - 2017.
- DHIS2 Training Workshop for Decision Makers. Ministry of Health, Guinea/Catholic Relief Services, 2017, Coyah, Guinea.
- 4th Annual laboratory workshop and quality control training. Médecins Sans Frontières -2017, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Study Designs in Epidemiology and Sample Size Calculation. Cameroon Society of Epidemiology (CaSE) - 2014, Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- The Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants. University of Buea Faculty of Health Sciences IRB Board - 2014, Buea, Cameroon.

PUBLICATIONS, ONGOING RESEARCH WORK, POSTERS

- **Ngwa, W.**, PINEDA, S., MEKIEDJE, C., SONGOUFOLO, T., MABVOUNA, R. and NGABO, L. (2019). Enquête sur l'accès aux soins, la malnutrition, la mortalité et la violence. Aires de santé de Nyabiondo et Aire de Santé de Mahanga -Province du Nord Kivu, République Démocratique du Congo, 2019. [online] Hdl.handle.net. Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10144/619476>
- **Ngwa, W.**, Mupenda, J., Haba, B., Nanan-N'Zeth, K., Bachy, C. and Pineda, S. (2019). Enquête de couverture vaccinale multi antigénique Préfecture de Kouroussa. [online] Hdl.handle.net. Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10144/619416>
- **Ngwa, W.**, MUPENDA, J., NANAN-NZETH, K., HABA, B. and KEITA, K. (2019). Enquête de Mortalité Rétrospective, de recherche et d'accès aux soins pour les enfants de 0 à 5 ans, Préfecture de Kouroussa, Région de Kankan, République de Guinée. [online] Hdl.handle.net. Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10144/619477>
- **Ngwa, W.**, Adjaho, Ichola., Haba, B. and Camara, A. (2019). Enquête de Mortalité Rétrospective, de morbidité et d'accès aux soins et de couverture vaccinale dans la Préfecture de Kouroussa, Région de Kankan. [online] Hdl.handle.net. Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10144/619356>
- Molima, G., Genin, T., **Ngwa, W.**, Adjaho, Ichola., Haba, B., Camara, A. and Camara, D. (2019). Enquête Connaissances Attitudes Pratiques (CAP) sur les moustiquaires dans la population de la préfecture de Kouroussa, Région de Kankan ; Guinée. [online] Hdl.handle.net. Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10144/619357>
- Ngwa W, Manangazira P, Some D, Ronoh Y, Ortuno R, Kuwenyi K, et al. Acceptability and feasibility of HPV vaccination among adolescent girls and young women living with HIV in rural Zimbabwe: a prospective cohort study [Internet]. [cited 2022 Jan 19]. Available from: <https://scienceportal.msf.org/assets/6824>
- Four-year cohort outcomes for a nurse-orchestrated model of care for the management of hypertension and diabetes mellitus in rural Zimbabwe (Manuscript writing stage)

REFERENCES

- **Name:** Dr. Ichola Ismael Adjaho, **Position:** Country medical Coordinator, **Institution:** Médecins sans frontières, **Work relationship:** Supervisor in Guinea, **Tel:** +2250797808885, **Email:** ismael.adjaho@waca.msf.org/ismael.adjaho@gmail.com
- **Name:** Dr. Nanan-N'zeth Kassi, **Position:** Country medical coordinator, **Institution:** Médecins sans frontières, **Work relationship:** Supervisor in Guinea, **Tel:** +32472670896, **Email:** kassi75@hotmail.com
- **Name:** Dr. Reinaldo Ortuño Gutiérrez, **Position:** Country medical coordinator, **Institution:** Médecins sans frontières, **Work relationship:** Supervisor in Zimbabwe, **Tel:** +263772156270, **Email:** msfocb-harare-cr@brussels.msf.org