



# INDEPTH Network

Better Health Information for Better Health Policy

## INDEPTH Core Data Analysts (ICDA) - Workshop, Accra, Ghana

21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### Meeting Participants



**Dr. Kobus Herbst** is a public health consultant with experience in managing projects in both the public health and health research sectors. In the public health sector, Dr. Herbst contributed to the establishment of the post-apartheid health system through the development and implementation of ReHMIS (Regional Health Management Information System) in the early 1990s, the first computerised public health care facility inventory in South Africa. Herbst's interest in health research started with his involvement in the Wits/MRC Agincourt Demographic and Health Study in 1992 and his subsequent appointment as project leader of the Africa Centre's demographic surveillance project. He is currently the Deputy-director of the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies. At the Africa Centre he was responsible for one of the earliest publications showing the decline in population mortality following the introduction of anti-retroviral treatment. He worked with Prof Peter Byass on the evaluation of the InterVA-4 automated verbal autopsy instrument and the curation of a large dataset from 21 INDEPTH sites on cause-specific mortality. He is responsible for the INDEPTH Data Repository.



**Ramadhani Abdul** holds Msc Epidemiology (Population based field Epi) from 2011-2012 from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. An INDEPTH sponsored programme 2004-2007: Bsc with computer science. University of Dar Es Salaam, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL WORK Statistician and Data Manager at IHI since 2007 with vast experience as Data manager and/or Statistician of various research projects, including DSS, HIV Cohort Study, Clinical Surveillance System, Controlled Cash Transfer and Community HIV/NCD cohort (MZIMA). His experience as Regional Coordinator for a coverage survey evaluation of the Integrated Measles Survey Campaign in Tanzania as a member of Statistics working groups for Malaria in Pregnant preventive alternative drugs (MIPPAD) multisite clinical trial. ACADEMIC WORK Works as Biostatistics tutorial assistant at the Tanzania Training Centre for International Health (TTCIH) and St. Francis University College and Allied Science (SFUCHAS),

as well as, supervising Medical and other students from various universities. CURRENT POST Statistician for Ifakara DSS, Community HIV/NCD Cohort nested into Urban IHDS as well as a Site Statistician for ALPHA Network.



**Prof. Osman Sankoh**, a biostatistician, epidemiologist and public health specialist from Sierra Leone, is the Executive Director of the INDEPTH Network of health and demographic surveillance systems (HDSSs) in Africa, Asia and Oceania. He joined INDEPTH from the Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg, Germany. Osman is a product of Njala University, Sierra Leone and the Technical University of Dortmund, Germany. He is a member of Advisory Boards/Committees of several international research institutes and academic journals. His publications have appeared in a range of international journals including The Lancet, Nature, Science and the International Journal of Epidemiology. His book of creative memoir is: *Hybrid Eyes - Reflections of an African in Europe*. Osman is affiliated to the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Faculty of Public Health, Hanoi Medical University, Viet Nam; and Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg, Germany.



**Dr. Beguy Donatien**, a demographer, has 15 years of experience in research, capacity building and knowledge translation in population and health in SSA. His research areas include adolescent health, migration, urbanization and urban health. He has led several research studies in different countries in Africa, providing technical guidance at different stages including developing questionnaires, data collection and analysis including advanced statistical modeling, and knowledge translation. He has vast knowledge and experience of advanced technical and statistical skills including longitudinal data analysis. He has published in several renowned peer-reviewed journals, developed working papers and policy briefs, and made numerous presentations at major international conferences. Dr Beguy currently leads the Statistics and Surveys Unit at APHRC, providing technical guidance through trainings and hands-on support to research programs at the Center and external partners in terms of survey design and implementation, statistical analysis, and monitoring and evaluation of programs including health programs in Africa.



**Dr. Zacharie Tsala Dimbuene** has published 10 co-authored papers in leading journals, including Journal of Biosocial Science (JBS), African Journal of Reproductive Health, BMC Public Health, Archives of Sexual Behavior, Global Health and Action. One paper co-authored with Jacques Emina and Osman Sankoh is a theoretical paper which questions the validity of UNAIDS core indicator to monitor and track changes of risky sexual behavior around the world. This sounding paper suggested the use of sexual networks to better capture sexual behaviors, and HDSSs are well-equipped to

implement these tools in a specific context. The forthcoming paper in JBS entitled Families response to AIDS: New insights about parental roles in fostering HIV/AIDS knowledge compares straightforward the levels of HIV/AIDS knowledge between parents and their children rather than assuming that parents/guardians are knowledgeable enough to teach their children about HIV.



**Pascal S. Zabrã** is a demographer, graduated from Institut de formation et de recherché démographique (IFORD), Yaoundé, Cameroon in 2008. In September 2012, employed as Demographer by the Centre de recherché en santé de Nouna (CRSN), He is the head of Department of demographic surveillance and surveys (SSDE) of CRSN and Head of Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS). He has under his responsibility 18 collection agents including 4 supervisors and 14 numerators. As such, it is committed to HDSS management and the analysis of data collected and the design of new collection tools. Before being at CRSN, officer at Permanent Secretariat of the National Population Council (2010-2012). He participated to several workshops for analyzing demographic data, health and climate (demographic projections, migration, fertility, verbal autopsies, climate change and health) in Burkina Faso respectively, Ghana, Kenya, Germany. He has skill in data processing with software such as SPSS, STATA, SPECTRUM, CSPro, and Epidata.



**Dr. Ayaga Bawah** is Assistant Professor, Columbia University, New York, USA. He is Director for Research, Ghana Essential Health Intervention Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Prior to joining Columbia University, Dr. Bawah worked with the INDEPTH Network. Previously, Bawah had worked at the Policy Research Division of the Population Council in New York as a Bernard Berelson Fellow. Dr Bawah received his PhD in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania, USA, and both his MA and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Ghana. He has published several articles in peer-review journals and contributed to book chapters in the fields of population and health. He is a member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Union for African Population Studies and Population Association of America. He was a member of the US National Academy of Sciences committee on Continuing Epidemiological Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa.



**Dr. Momodou Jasseh**, Unit Demographer, MRC The Gambia Unit (2003 - date); Mortality specialist. Educ: PhD (Lond); MSc (Lond), BSc (USL).



**Dr. Margaret Gyapong** is a Medical Anthropologist by training and a Deputy Director in the Ghana Health Service. She has an interest in health systems, implementation research, tropical diseases and gender. She is the director of the Dodowa Health Research Centre and started the Demographic and Health Surveillance System that has been in operation for the last five years. She has publications in and is a reviewer for several international journals. She serves on a number of National and international committees and task forces and has a part time faculty appointment with the University of Ghana, an external examiner University of Amsterdam and

University of Copenhagen in Denmark and adjunct professorial appointments with the Brunel University in the UK and Georgetown University in the USA. She is also a member of the INDEPTH NETWORK, African Social Research Initiative (ASRI), ISHRECA, and Partnership for Social Science in Infectious Diseases of Poverty (PSSI). Dr. Gyapong serves on a number of committees of the World Health Organisation in Geneva and the West African Regional Office and lead author on the Implementation Research Toolkit. Her Research interests include: Malaria, TB, Gender Neglected Tropical Diseases, Maternal and child health, Demographic Surveillance and Implementation Research.