

# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH: HOW SHOULD WE SHARE OUR FINDINGS?

TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025, 2:00-3:30PM (BST)

## About the speakers



### PROFESSOR MANDY KADER KONDE

Africa lead for the 'Participants Research Ethics Toolbox', Chair of the Foundation on Health & Sustainable Development (FOSAD) and Executive Director of the Center of Research on Priority Diseases (CEFORPAG) in Guinea Conakry

Professor Mandy Kader Kondé played a crucial role during the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak, serving as Co-Principal Investigator for several clinical trials, including the Guinea rVSV Ebola vaccine Phase 3 trial, the Guinea Ebola survivors immunology study with Public Health England (UK), and the IDRC Project Strengthening Ebola Research Ethics" with Western University Ontario. He currently serves as the Chair of the NGO Foundation on Health & Sustainable Development (FOSAD) and as the Executive Director of the Center of Research on Priority Diseases (CEFORPAG) in Guinea. Prof. Konde has over 40 years of experience spanning academia, clinical trials, vaccine development and management, epidemic preparedness and response with the World Health Organization.



**STEPHANIE STERN**

Senior Knowledge Management and Learning Advisor, ACF Knowledge Lab, Action Contre le Faim (France)

Stephanie plays an active role in reinforcing AAH’s learning culture by developing a conceptual framework, guidance and tools and providing support to teams and programmes to build and implement their learning agendas. She is focused on uptake of research results within AAH policies and programmes, working closely with field teams to design and implement innovative methodologies, identify knowledge gaps, build collaborative knowledge and bridge the gap between scientific evidence and action. She co-developed the ‘Trio fantastico’ community-led research methodology in the [Right2Grow](#) programme, piloted in Bangladesh, Mali and Uganda, and is actively engaged in research community restitutions and community engagement approaches.



**DR SAYED JAFAR AHMADI**

Psychologist & Research Scholar in Psychology, Bard College / Behrawan Research Organisation

Dr. Sayed Jafar Ahmadi, a psychologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Isfahan, is dedicated to humanitarian research and mental health. He founded Afghanistan’s first clinical psychology department and the Behrawan Research Organization, advancing trauma-focused interventions and psychologist training. His work spans autism, human trafficking, Peace, and crisis intervention, with over 40 publications on critical psychological issues. Currently a Research Scholar at Bard College, his global contributions in research, education, and humanitarian efforts have earned him the 2024 APA International Humanitarian Award.



**DR GLORIA SERUWAGI**

Director, Centre for Health and Social Economic Improvement (CHASE-i), Makerere University; Funding Committee member, R2HC; Research Uptake – Baobab Research Programme Consortium, Population Council

Dr Gloria Seruwagi currently leads research uptake on the Baobab Research Programme Consortium (RPC) whose partners are Population Council, Population Council Kenya (PC-K), African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC). She is faculty at Makerere University and founding Director at the Centre for Health and Social Economic Improvement (CHASE-i). She has conducted extensive research in global health and development, using evidence in advocacy efforts to drive policy action, inform programming and support positive change. Dr Seruwagi is passionate about impact driven by evidence, innovation and context and is a champion for community engagement and involvement (CEI) in research.



**NIXON OCHATRE**

Founder, Amani Initiative

Nixon Ochatre is a dedicated social worker and advocate for community-centered research and development. With over a decade of hands-on experience in research, project planning, and management, he has been instrumental in fostering localization and driving community-led initiatives in Uganda.

Nixon specializes in co-creating policy recommendations and local development strategies that promote sustainable, community-driven growth. His work is deeply rooted in collaboration with sub-national governments and community structures, ensuring that development frameworks are both locally relevant and impactful.



**HANNAH MILES**

Research Manager, Ground Truth Solutions

At Ground Truth Solutions, Hannah's work centres on ensuring robust quantitative and qualitative research and advocacy on issues important to people living in crisis, with the aim of making aid more effective and efficient by listening to the voices of those on the receiving end. She has a focus on Somalia, where the research aims to reduce exclusion of marginalised groups, hear people's priorities for aid, and uncover how aid can support people's long-term resilience. Hannah holds a bachelor's degree in modern Languages from Durham University and a master's degree in International Affairs from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, where she focussed on statistics and international law.



**CORDELIA LONSDALE (PANEL CHAIR)**

Senior Research Impact Advisor, Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises, Elrha.

Cordelia is the Senior Research Impact Advisor for Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC) at Elrha. She supports R2HC's grantees with strategic engagement and communication of their research to policy, practice, and community stakeholders, and oversees the evaluation of research impact. She works with the R2HC team to engage with communities of humanitarian policy and practice, to promote collaboration and increase uptake of evidence, and oversaw Elrha's Community Engagement in Research Uptake literature review and the development of our online course in Community Engagement for Research Uptake. Cordelia came to Elrha after 7 years in the international development sector working in global development policy research and advocacy. She has an MSc in International Relations and is a Manager of Successful Programmes (MSP) practitioner.