



Perpetua Amodu-Agbi

Perpetua Amodu-Agbi is a highly skilled professional with demonstrated expertise and a track record of delivering results. She is currently Head Monitoring and Evaluation, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Division at Department of Public Health, Federal Ministry of Health Nigeria. She has over 25 years of diverse work experience with international, bilateral organizations, implementing partners, and various NGOs in M&E, surveillance, program management, HIV/TB Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), Immunization, operations management, and operational research. She holds a master's degree in

Epidemiology and Medical statistics as well as a Post graduate diploma in management. She has published and co-authored papers and research works on HIV and NTDs. She is a professional with tried-and-true facilitation abilities who has received the Presidential Merit award in appreciation and special recognition for the immense contribution to the success of the Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) as a member of the Project Implementation Team (PIT). She has exceptional expertise in survey design and implementation; Highly motivated, hands-on problem solver and positive decision maker who strives to make things happen and is always eager to take on new challenges.



Ron Bannerman

Ron Bannerman has forty years of experience of working in international development from both UK and international bases across Africa and Asia. He joined Sightsavers just short of 8 years ago to lead an operational team responsible for the Oncho LF, Schisto and STH portfolios, not least of which was Directing Ascend West. Throughout his career, he has sought out and organised resources to grow sustainable, equitable interventions that improve life chances. He also has a master's in social policy and social development.



Dr Hannah Betts

As Information and Database manager, Hannah oversees most of the information systems within the Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases at LSTM. Hannah designs and manages questionnaires and sampling protocols in collaboration with other members of the team and advises external partners on similar matters. Hannah has designed the Information infrastructure for the management and long term storage of data at CNTD and is responsible for ensuring that good data management processes are adhered to. She designs and manages CNTDs data entry systems such as Access databases with associated forms and standard Excel templates. Hannah has recently implemented an electronic data capture system using electronic tablets with ODK which enables instant upload to a cloud database. Hannah is also responsible for the analysis of resulting information using both statistical and GIS techniques and the presenting of such information in appropriate reports. Hannah undertook her PhD in Liverpool on the subject of Tropical Forest Restoration, which involved significant field work in Thailand.



Pelagie Boko-Collins

Pelagie is a NTD Program Manager for Benin and Togo. She joined Sightsavers in March 2020, just as COVID-19 pandemic restriction came into force around the world. She is currently working on Trachoma elimination project with Accelerate and Onchocerciasis elimination project. To achieve programmatic target during the pandemic, she has to adapt to the “new normal” through a hybrid approach.

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Simon Bush

Simon Bush lives in Ghana, West Africa, and leads on Sightsavers’ work on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). He manages the NTD department in Sightsavers which is responsible for the leadership and management of a large portfolio of NTD work that covers over 30 countries. Sightsavers reached a distribution milestone of over a one-and-a-half billion supported NTD treatments in 2021. Simon left university with a degree majoring in African politics and history and went to teach in Sudan at a secondary school in Port Sudan. During his time there he was also the voice of Sudan Airways and a part-time Sudanese television newsreader. He joined Sightsavers in 1999

having previously lived and worked in the West Bank and Gaza, Eritrea (where he was the first British Honorary Consul), Ethiopia and Sudan. He has an MSc in development management from the Open University. Simon is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and President Elect of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.



Dr Abdourahim Cisse

Dr. Abdourahim CISSE has a Medical Doctor background and Master’s degree focus in Health Information Systems management. He has more than 7 years’ experience on NTDs specially on data management and M&E with WHO and INGOs collaborating with the Ministry of Health in Guinea. He worked at Helen Keller International as a Technical Assistant in the NTD program, participated in the planning, implementation and reporting of the activities. This position has enabled him to build a solid knowledge and skills on the activities of Neglected

Tropical Diseases. Working at Sightsavers as NTDs Programme Manager for more than 5 years, He has been the focal person for ASCEND project supporting MoH in the implementation of the project Dr. CISSE also has a good master of database tools and MTN data management. It has implemented the integrated NTD database by integrating historical data.



Philip Downs

Dr Downs is responsible for providing overall management and coordination of technical support across Sightsavers integrated NTDs portfolio. This includes leading a team of technical experts that support global partners and Ministries of Health in the promotion and implementation of WHO guidelines and best practices on the control and elimination of NTDs. Dr Downs served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cote d’Ivoire (97-99), leading to extensive work on Guinea worm eradication and Trachoma control as Deputy Director at The Carter Center. Prior to joining Sightsavers, Dr Downs was a senior manager of NTD programming at RTI International. He

received his doctoral degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Master from Emory University.

Twitter handle - @PhillipDowns



Sian Freer

Sian has worked in academia and research for over 25 years, managing clinical and scientific research as well as implementation programmes.

As Chief Operating Officer of the Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease (CNTD) at LSTM, she managed the delivery of the DFID funded LF Elimination programme (2012-2019) and LSTM's activities within the FCDO funded Ascend- West consortium, covering MDA, monitoring and evaluation, operational research and capacity development.



Tamar Ghosh

Tamar joined as Chief Executive at RSTMH in November of 2016. Before then she was at Nesta running the Longitude Prize, a £10m science prize looking for a rapid diagnostic test to fight antibiotic resistance. Before Nesta, Tamar founded and ran two social enterprises in global and national healthcare, which continue in her spare time. She was Director of the social action campaign "Give More" on behalf of one of the Pears Foundation, promoting increased giving of money and time amongst the UK public. Prior to that, she spent 15 years developing and delivering funding strategies for international NGOs, including ActionAid and VSO. She

has an MBA from Imperial College, London and a Masters in Development Studies, following an undergraduate degree in Mathematics at Bristol University. Tamar is a consultant on fundraising and strategy development, and a guest speaker at Imperial College Business School on innovation and entrepreneurship as part of their MBA and master's in health programmes



Anita Gwom

Anita Gwom is a Senior Programme Manager in Sightsavers Nigeria country office with vast experience in programme management. She has more than 18 years' experience in programme management in the delivery of a broad range of interventions (Neglected Tropical Diseases control and elimination interventions, Comprehensive and innovative eye health programmes, Inclusive Education projects, and operational research.) She also served as a Regional Capacity Building lead on the Ascend programme and this involved support of the inception phase deliverables, country supply chain and the delivery of the HSS component.



Wendy Harrison

Wendy Harrison is currently the CEO of the SCI Foundation that partners with Ministry of Health to support the delivery of comprehensive programmes to eliminate parasitic infections focusing on schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Wendy trained and practiced as a veterinary surgeon, holds an MPH and a PhD in Clinical pharmacology. Wendy is also an honorary professor

at the Royal Veterinary College. Wendy is advocate of the one health approach and is a commissioner on the Lancet One Health commission and was involved in the development of the recently launched One Health companion document to the WHO NTD roadmap. Wendy was a former Vice President of the RSTMH.



Danny Harvey

Danny Harvey is a Programmes Officer (Learning) for Sightsavers and seeks to improve the effectiveness and quality of NTD programmes through capturing learning and recommending adaptations to approaches in programming. He has previous experience working for an international development consultancy working with various organisations, fund makers, and partners in the development sector, and has previous programmatic experience in

development initiatives in both India and Tanzania. He holds an MSc in Applied International Development.



Dr Jo Keatinge

Dr Jo Keatinge works for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office as the lead technical advisor on Health Systems Strengthening. By background, she is a general medical physician with a diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and a Masters in Public Health in developing countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine. Previously Jo worked for eighteen years in Africa in a range of roles including: as a senior paediatrician at Kitovu hospital in Uganda; a senior HIV specialist in Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique with Concern Worldwide; and as a senior health advisor with Elizabeth

Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and USAID in Zimbabwe



Abraham Kwaghgee Aba

Abraham Kwaghgee Aba works with Sightsavers as programme officer-NTDs with the Nigerian Country Office (NCO) supporting Benue state. Abraham has been supporting the Benue NTD programme since joining Sightsavers in 2017 to date. Before joining Sightsavers, Abraham was the programme manager with Jireh Doo Foundation and was responsible for managing all programmes of the organisation supporting more than 10 staff in 4 states of Nigeria. Abraham has a master's degree in Sociology from Benue state University and has more than 9 incremental years in the Non-Governmental Development

Organisation circles. Twitter link: <https://twitter.com/abkwaghgee>



Simon Lee

Simon Lee leads on policy on malaria, TB and NTDs in the Diseases Policy Team within the Global Health Directorate in the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). He has previously held a number of health-related posts within FCDO and DFID including head and deputy head of the Health Systems Team. Prior to these he had held posts in DFID as deputy head of DFID Yemen, as head of office in Basra, posts in Lebanon and Afghanistan, and also worked in the Treasury's Public Sector Finances team.



Suzie Madaki

Suzie Madaki works in the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) program in Nigeria centred on the control, elimination and eradication of NTDs, through implementation of mass drug administration (MDA), case finding and surgeries targeting 5 preventive chemotherapy (PC) NTDs consisting of Trachoma, Onchocerciasis, Lymphatic filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH). Suzie's role as a Program manager for Sightsavers is to lead, coordinate and manage the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) program in Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara states. As part of her responsibilities, she also supports the

childhood intervention program – Safety and Antimicrobial Resistance of Mass Administration of Azithromycin to children 1-11 months in Nigeria (SARMAAN), aimed at improving child and infant mortality in Nigeria which is a research-based intervention.

Through her role as a programme manager NTDs in Sightsavers in Nigeria, she has contributed to the interruption of transmission of onchocerciasis in two states in Nigeria and to improving the quality of life of people affected by disability causing NTDs. This is gladdening as she is now proud to look back and tell the story of how she was part of this move.

Dave Mcconalogue

Dave is a Consultant in Public health, currently working as a Health Adviser with the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. Dave has worked extensively in health care service development, domestic UK Public Health, Global Health policy and programming and health research across a range of UK and global contexts. As a Health Adviser in the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, he led the COP26 Health Programme, worked as policy lead on Malaria, TB and Neglected Tropical Diseases, and was a member of the International Taskforce for the C-19 response. He is currently the lead health adviser in Nigeria working to support partners to maximise the impact of Global fund investments.



Professor David Molyneux CMG

Professor David Molyneux was Editor-in-Chief of RSTMH's journal, International Health, from 2018 to 2022. He is an Emeritus Professor at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and of the University of Liverpool. Professor Molyneux was Director of LSTM from 1991 to 2000 and established the School's Centre for NTDs. He contributed to the 2012 London Declaration on NTDs; the catalyst for global drugs donation programmes to fight NTDs. Professor Molyneux has been President and Vice-President of RSTMH, as well as having been awarded RSTMH's Chalmers Medal in 1987, in 2007 the Mackay

Medal and in 2013 the Sir Patrick Manson Medal, the Society's highest honour.



Dr NEKOUA M'PO

Dr NEKOUA M'PO is a medical doctor, specialized in public health with more than 20 years of experience in the management of health emergencies (viral and haemorrhagic diseases) and the management of humanitarian actions during crises. Dr M'PO has leadership in conflict management within organisation, which has earned him his participation in major meetings and his involvement in the development of several guidance such as the integrated disease surveillance

and response. Dr M'PO has been involved in the fight against NTDs since he held the position of Head of Service for Health Promotion and Protection in the departments of Atacora and Donga. He is the pioneer of trachoma elimination activities since the mass drug administration, the implementation of surgery and his leadership has made it possible to implement the transition in the district having no senior technician in ophthalmology. He is the Ascend focal point who has been able to mobilize the surgeons to achieve the spectacular objectives of this project in less than a year. Successively C/SDSP then DDS, Dr M'PO is currently the coordinator of the national NTD programme (PNLMT) in Benin and continues to get closer to grassroots communities for better implementation of activities.



Diane Northway

Diane Northway is a Senior Mott MacDonald Team Leader, Health Specialist specialising in health system strengthening and health financing. She is a Chartered Management Accountant with over 30 years of experience in public financial management, Value for Money, governance, project management and health sector reform. Diane brings extensive strategic experience of development programmes, with long term roles in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vanuatu and Philippines and shorter assignments in Nepal, Vietnam, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Laos. Her work has covered the provision of policy advice to government agencies, particularly Ministries of Finance and Health and the application of aid management funding mechanisms. During

Ascend implementation she represented Mott MacDonald as a member of the Executive Group for the consortium and was also a member of the health system strengthening team during implementation.



Dauda Nurudeen

Dauda Nurudeen is a programme manager NTD Operations (Oncho LF SCH STH) at Sightsavers. He holds a master's degree in development studies. His journey in the public health development sector began 16 years ago as a volunteer polio vaccinator and subsequently, a volunteer with the NTD programme unit of the State Ministry of Health in Nigeria. With a quest and drive for more, he moved quickly from being a volunteer to lead a data management

sub-unit of a former FCDO "formerly DFID" consortium project that delivered over 120 million NTD treatment in five years, reaching disease elimination milestones at sub-national levels in Nigeria. In the last three years, Dauda worked closely with technical experts promoting the integration of WASH, NTD, SBCC and beneficiary feedback (BF) in 6 West and Central African countries under the Sightsavers led FCDO flagship multi-country programme - Ascend.



Dr Nicholas Olobio

Dr Nicholas Olobio works with the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria as a Deputy Director/Program Manager of the National Trachoma Elimination Programme. He is a Public Health expert with over thirteen years of experience in NTDs control and Elimination. He has practical experience in program management, monitoring and evaluation, Disease surveillance, data management, quality improvement of programs, risk management, operational research, theory of change and project appraisal.



Alexandre Pavluck

Senior Technical Health Systems Director, Sightsavers. Alexandre has more than 20 years' experience in epidemiology and in information technology. He has held epidemiology and senior level technology management positions in both the public and private sectors, including as an Epidemiologist at the American Cancer Society and as the Director of Systems Engineering at Cypress Communications, a multi-national telecommunications company. His work to support NTD programs includes senior technology management positions at the Task Force for Global Health and RTI International. He has a Master's Degree in Epidemiology from Tulane

School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine and is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Analytics at Ohio University. He has contributed to more than 50 peer review publications.



Ioasia Radvan

Ioasia Radvan is based in Brighton, UK. As the NTDs Coordinator at Sightsavers, Ioasia led on the roll-out and coordination of the NTD Directorate's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Action (RAMA) process. Ioasia has worked for Sightsavers for over 4 years, beginning in May 2018 as an intern and joining the Ascend team in June 2019. Ioasia holds a BSc in Human Geography from Cardiff University and is currently studying for an MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Dr Maria Rebollo Polo

Dr. Maria Rebollo is a physician, and public health specialist with almost two decades of experience in NTDs. She also holds a PhD in medical epidemiology. She currently leads the Global Program for Elimination of Onchocerciasis at WHO HQ. Prior to that, she led ESPEN, from its inception in 2016, spearheading an effort to accelerate the global NTD control and elimination goals in Africa by 2020. She most recently served as Program Director of the Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center (NTD-SC) at the TFGH, USA

where she guided the strategic planning, development and implementation of a complex, multi-institutional operational research program coordinated by the NTD-SC. Prior to that, she led monitoring and evaluation (M&E) at the Centre for NTDs at the LSTM.

Additionally, she was medical officer at the NTD department for PAHO/WHO where from Washington DC she led elimination efforts of NTDs in the Americas and the Caribbean



Dr Elena Schmidt

Dr Elena Schmidt has a BA in education, MSc in public health and a PhD in policy analysis. She has over 25 years' experience in health and international development at the national and international levels, including her work for the World Health Organisation and the UK Department for International Development. She held a range of academic posts teaching public health and epidemiology. She is currently the Director of Evidence, Research and Innovations at Sightsavers, an international non-governmental organisation working

to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunities for people with disabilities. Elena has worked for Sightsavers since 2011 and has been responsible for developing Sightsavers' Research Strategy and building organisational capacity for implementation research. She currently manages a team of 25 researchers with expertise in epidemiology, statistics, economics and social sciences implementing a broad range of studies in eye health, inclusive education and social inclusion in Africa and Asia. Elena has co-authored a large number of peer-reviewed publications and presents regularly at international scientific fora.



Dr Joy Shu'aibu

Dr Joy Shu'aibu is medically qualified Nigerian female residing and working in Nigeria. She has an undergraduate degree in Medicine and surgery with a Fellowship from the West African College of Physicians and the National Postgraduate College of Nigeria in Family Medicine. She also has a Master in Public health from the Walden University in the US with 14 years' experience in Research, Administration, Medical Education and Post graduate Training in Family Medicine. She is the Director of Programme Operations at Sightsavers Nigeria



Carlos Torres

Carlos Torres is a social scientist affiliated to the SCI Foundation (SCIF). He holds a PhD in Sociology and MSc in Research Methods from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Over the last 10 years, he has led community-based research projects on local perceptions of public health problems and interventions among rural communities from Latin America and Africa. At the SCIF, Carlos examines socio-cultural determinants affecting the uptake of preventive chemotherapy treatment for schistosomiasis in sub-Saharan Africa. He also leads the development of monitoring approaches to oversee

community-based sensitisation activities and behavioural-change strategies to improve health-seeking behaviour. In addition to health and socio-demographic surveys, he possesses significant expertise in participatory (e.g. seasonal calendars) and creative methodologies (e.g. children's drawings). He also supports the BSc Global Health programme at Imperial College London as an honorary research fellow.



Laura Westcott

Laura Westcott is the Deputy Head of the Health Institutions and Health Security Department at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Prior to this role she was the FCDO's diseases policy lead and senior responsible owner for the Accelerating the Sustainable Control and Elimination of NTDs (ASCEND) programme. Laura has over 15 years' experience of working for national government, with over a decade of this time focused on international development. She is committed to improving the health of the most marginalised and has played a key role in driving DFID's approach to health systems strengthening, sustainability and the 'leave no one

behind' agenda in NTD programmes. Prior to her current position, Laura held several roles at DFID, including the Deputy Team Leader of the Health Services Team and the Statistician and Deputy Team Leader for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Policy Team. She is an accredited government statistician.



Geordie Woods

Geordie Woods is a technical director on neglected tropical diseases for Sightsavers, focusing on social and behaviour change and the integration of water hygiene and sanitation programming into NTDs programs. He works with multiple organizations across these sectors, ranging from other development organizations and government ministries to marketing firms and corporate entities, spearheading innovative partnerships. His areas of expertise include strategic communication design, mass media and community mobilization, and advocacy.