Department of Reproductive Health and Research

WHO Guidance on contraceptive eligibility for women at high risk of HIV

Biographies of External Experts

May 2019

Sharon Achilles
Dr Achilles is a physician scientist at University of Pittsburgh and Director of the Center for Family Planning Research at the Magee-Women’s Research Institute. She received her Ph.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University and then received her M.D. degree from University of Pittsburgh (2004). She pursued residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology followed by combined fellowship training in Reproductive Infectious Disease and Family Planning at University of Pittsburgh. Her research currently focuses on the biological and immunological impacts of contraceptive use, relationship of contraception to HIV infection risk, and filling research gaps related to multipurpose prevention technology (MPT) development.

Richard Adanu
Professor Richard MK Adanu is a specialist obstetrician gynaecologist. His academic qualifications include: MMB ChB from the University of Ghana; FWACS from West Africa College of Surgeons; and a PhD from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He has a special interest in reducing maternal morbidity, pelvic organ prolapse and pelvic floor repair. He is a Professor of Women’s Reproductive Health and Consultant obstetrician gynaecologist with the School of Public Health, University of Ghana and the University Hospital. He teaches graduate and undergraduate students in public health and population studies. In addition to clinical practice and medical education, Richard Adanu researches in the field of women’s health. He has skills in epidemiology and statistical analysis of data.

Rachid Bezad
Professor Rachid Bezad is a reproductive, maternal, and perinatal health research and public health expert, working as Director of WHO Collaborating Center on reproductive health research and training in Rabat, Morocco. He is a Clinical expert in the area of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Special Programme management of reproductive and maternal health training in Medical University in Rabat, Morocco. He qualified as a Professor of obstetrics and gynecology in Rabat, Morocco in 1987 and is a Consultant in the area of family planning, maternal and newborn quality of care services and assisted Reproductive Technology at the WHO Collaborating Center, Morocco. Professor Bezad served for several years as an obstetrician and Gynecologist, reproductive and maternal health manager, master trainer and an international facilitator for the WHO workshops on adaptation and adoption of the family planning, antenatal and intrapartum care, and quality of care assessment and improvement in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and at national levels. From 2004, he led the clinical research and training activities of the national Centre for Reproductive Health, Rabat, Morocco and his research interests include evidence-based obstetric care, family planning, assisted reproductive technologies and strategies to reduce the leading causes of maternal deaths.

Sharon Cameron
Professor Sharon Cameron, MD, FRCOG MFSRH is a Consultant Gynaecologist, Chalmers Centre and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Professor (Hon) University of Edinburgh. She is Clinical Lead for Sexual Health Services in the region of NHS Lothian (Edinburgh and surrounding region). She is Co- director of the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, United Kingdom). Her international roles include member of the Steering committee of World Health Organization Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, President of International Federation of Abortion and Contraception Professionals (FIAPAC), and deputy chair of the Internal Scientific Committee of the European Society for Contraception. She has over 20 years of clinical research experience in field of contraception and sexual and reproductive health.
Tsungai Chipato
Professor Tsungai Chipato has worked as a lecturer in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences since 1990. He has a special interest in PMTCT, contraception, post-abortion care and cervical cancer prevention. Professor Chipato is the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists’s Leading Safe Choices Best Practice Champion for Zimbabwe and has lead on the adaptation of the Leading Safe Choices Best Practice Paper in Postpartum Family Planning to fit the Zimbabwean context.

Alison Edelman
Alison Edelman is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). She is also the Director of the Family Planning Fellowship and the Section of Family Planning at OHSU and a Collaborative Associate Scientist at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. She completed all of her medical training at OHSU and was the first OHSU family planning fellow in 2001. As part of her fellowship, she completed a Master’s degree in Public Health at the University of Washington, Seattle. Professor Edelman is an independently funded researcher with a focus on contraceptive efficacy in obese women. She has also been designated as the Co-Investigator of OHSU’s Contraceptive Clinical Trials Network (CCTN) site (Co-I Jensen). A complete list of her publications can be found at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/mynchi/alison.edelman.1/bibliography/41144878/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending Additionally for over the last 15 years, Prof. Edelman has worked as a reproductive health consultant to both global and country-based NGOs to develop and implement curriculum, provide technical support and train medical personnel, design standard operating procedures and perform quality assurance audits, and to create and support service delivery programs for the improvement in maternal morbidity and mortality.

Mohammad Eslami
Dr Eslami graduated from Shahid Beheshti Medical School in 1991 as medical doctor. He started the MPH (Master of Public Health) in Tehran University of medical sciences in 1998 and graduated in Reproductive Health MPH in 1991. He has 25 years of work experience in reproductive health. For 19 years, he has worked for the ministry of health and medical education as family planning expert, family planning national director and technical deputy to the population, family and school health Dept. in the ministry of health. During the same period, he has written, in collaboration with colleagues, several guidelines, protocols, booklets related to the reproductive health, family planning and sexual health. He has also been working as a master trainer on the issues of family planning counselling, reproductive health commodity security, sexual health training. He has trained more than 3000 staff including medical doctors, midwives, health experts ... in above mentioned subjects. After certification with a PhD in health education and promotion from Tarbiat Modares University, he started to teach at universities in Iran. As an assistant professor, he is a lecturer and trainer to the PhD candidates in reproductive health course. The topics of his instruction include: monitoring and evaluation in RH/ FP, new methods of contraception, counselling in family planning, population policies and program development. Since 2004, he has served as an expert to WHO on issues related to family planning.

Anna Glasier
Anna Glasier trained in obstetrics and gynaecology in Edinburgh. She was a clinical scientist in the MRC Unit of Reproductive Biology then Director of Family Planning & Well Woman Services for Lothian from 1990 until 2010. She is an honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of Edinburgh and although retired from clinical practice is still active in research. Her research has been in reproductive health, particularly in contraceptive development and the delivery of contraceptive services. She is a world expert on emergency contraception. She was on the Board of Trustees and International Committee for Contraceptive Research at the Population Council for over ten years. With HRP serve on STAG and is presently the Chair of RP2.
Andy Gray

Andy Gray B Pharm, MSc (Pharm), FPS, FFIP is a pharmacist whose research interests include policy analysis (in particular, the development and implementation of National Medicines Policies), rational medicines use and the application of antiretroviral therapy in resource-constrained settings. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Division of Pharmacology, Discipline of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Health Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. The Discipline is designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre on Pharmaceutical Policy and Evidence Based Practice. He is also Honorary Senior Scientist: Consultant Pharmacist for the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and non-executive Director of JEMBI Health Systems, a not-for-profit company focused on developing computer/IT-based healthcare solutions for the developing world. Mr Gray is a Visiting Fellow in the Faculty of Pharmacy, Rhodes University, Grahamstown. Mr Gray is a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) and a Fellow of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). He is a past President of the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) At the FIP, he served as President of the Hospital Pharmacy Section, Chairman of the Board of Pharmaceutical Practice and as a Vice-President. He was appointed to the South African National Essential Medicines List Committee in 2013 and to the South African Medicines Control Council (MCC) in 2015. He has served on the Names and Scheduling Expert Committee of the MCC since 2000 and on its Legal Expert Committee since 2016. The MCC transitioned to the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) in 2018. He is currently chair of the Names and Scheduling Advisory Committee of SAHPRA and serves on its Legal Advisory Committee. He is a Member of the World Health Organization’s Expert Panel on Drug Policies and Management and has served as a member, rapporteur and co-chairperson of the Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines, as chairperson of the sub-committee on Essential Medicines for Children, on the WHO Guidelines Review Committee, and the WHO Guideline Steering Group for Family Planning Guidance. Widely published, he has served as a reviewer for several international and local journals, is associate editor of the South African Pharmaceutical Journal, section editor of the Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice, serves on the editorial board of the International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy, and of Health Systems and Reform. He has also been a member of the editorial committee of the South African Health Review. Mr Gray has reviewed funding applications for several agencies, including the Health Systems Trust, National Research Foundation, Medical Research Council and UNITAID. He has been actively involved in the development and assessment of medicines and other health-related law in South Africa. Mr Gray is a member of the Rotary Club of Westville, and chairs two related Trusts: the Don McKenzie TB Trust and the Mike Strong Educational Trust.

Philip Hannaford

Hannaford trained and practiced as a general practitioner before entering academia full-time. He became NHS Grampian Chair of Primary Care at Aberdeen University in 1997. He combines a primary care perspective with public health expertise to research: the health effects of contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy; long-term cardiovascular sequelae of pre-eclampsia and other women’s health issues; primary care epidemiological issues, including frequency and consequences of chronic pain, cancer-related and other common symptoms in the community- work which has attracted £19+ million of funding. He is Principal Investigator of the 48-year old Royal College of General Practitioners’ Oral Contraception Study, the longest running study of this method of contraception in the world. Hannaford’s findings and expert opinion is disseminated through multiple academic (e.g. 260+ publications, conference presentations and workshops) and non-academic (printed media, radio and TV interviews, correspondence with journalists/public) channels. Hannaford has been Vice Principal for Research and Knowledge Exchange at Aberdeen University. External commitments have included work for the Medical Research Council, Chief Scientist Office, Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority, National Institute for Health Research and Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare. Hannaford received the RCGP Foundation Council Award in 2010 for special meritorious work for the College.
Felicita Hikuam
Felicita Hikuam is the Deputy Director of the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA) where she provides technical and managerial guidance to ensure cohesion between ARASA’s goals and objectives and its programme design, implementation and evaluation. She is a human rights activist with a keen interest in addressing structural and other challenges that prevent women and girls from realising their rights. Felicita has worked at national and regional levels in sub-Saharan Africa and at the international level in public health policy and human rights advocacy for the past 15 years. She started her work in health and rights at the Namibia Red Cross Society in March 2002, where she managed Desert Soul, a health and development communication project. She joined the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, at the Secretariat in Geneva in 2003 to co-ordinate a global campaign on stigma and discrimination entitled ‘The Truth About AIDS. Pass it On...’ as part of the UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for Stigma Reduction (together with the Global Network of People living with HIV/AIDS). In 2007, in the position of Global Programmes Manager for the World AIDS Campaign, she facilitated the successful set-up of the Africa Regional Programme to support advocacy campaigners in the global South and spear-headed the implementation of an advocacy campaign programme in three African countries and the sub-regions of east, west and southern Africa. She joined ARASA as Programmes Manager in 2008 and was promoted to Deputy Director in 2012. For two years, from 2010 to 2011, Felicita served as the African NGO delegate on the NGO delegation to the UNAIDS Coordinating Board. She currently serves on the board of SRHR Africa Trust.

Unnop Jaisamrarn
Assoc. Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn is now working as the Chief of the Reproductive Health Unit in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine at Chulalongkorn University. In his present appointment, he is also Associate Dean for International Affairs of Faculty of Medicine. At Chulalongkorn University, he has belonged to the Research Affairs at Faculty of Medicine as Secretary in 1997-1999. At present he is the Chairman of the Clinical Trial Center of his institution. He has also belonged to the Ethics Committee since 1997. Currently, he serves on the board of various professional societies. Since 2017 he is the Vice-President of the Thai Menopause Society. He is also the Vice-President of the Thai Osteoporosis Foundation since 2018. He has been working for The Royal Thai College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists since 1997. He is now the Secretary General of the College. He is the Secretary of Forum for WHO Multicenter Research in Reproductive Health and the Secretary General of WHO Collaborating Centre for Research in Human Reproduction, Chulalongkorn University. He has been involved in clinical trials and authored many international publications on contraception and reproductive health. His other research interests include hormonal replacement therapy, transgender health, osteoporosis and HPV vaccine. He has given lectures in the field of family planning and reproductive health, both locally and internationally. Assoc. Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn received his medical doctor’s degree (1st class honors) from Chulalongkorn University in 1986 and completed his postgraduate training with awards in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1992. He received Certificate in Epidemiology from University of California at Los Angeles and University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA in 1994. He also was honored with the Family Planning Scholarship, international award. In 1995-1996, he underwent Postgraduate Medical Training in Reproductive Endocrinology at Johns Hopkins Hospital and received MHS (Reproductive Health) from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.

Loveleen Johri
Dr. Loveleen Johri is a Senior Family Planning and Reproductive Health Consultant with more than thirty years of experience practicing Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Public Health including managing and implementing large government and donor funded bilateral and multilateral health programs at United States Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and CARE India. In the recent past Loveleen consulted with the World Health Organisation - India, Maldives and Bhutan, International Finance Corporation/ World Bank funded project, and USAID/ India. Working at USAID she successfully advocated for re positioning family planning and expanding contraceptive basket in India’s National Family Planning Programme. At DHHS, she led Health Diplomacy efforts with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and other stakeholders. Loveleen is a life member of many academic and professional associations (FOGSI, AOGD, IPHA, IMA) and has various publications to her credit. Loveleen graduated in medicine in 1977. She pursued clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology for sixteen years. Her passion for public health led into a second Masters degree. She holds two post graduate degrees: 1) Community Health Administration, and 2) Diplomate National Board - Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
Natasha Salifyani Kaoma
Dr. Natasha Salifyanjy Kaoma is an international sexual and reproductive health and rights advocate and Medical Doctor. She is passionate about the empowerment of youth, women and girls which promoted her to co-found Copper Rose Zambia, a youth-led organization that works with adolescents and women by providing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) awareness, menstrual hygiene programs and economic empowerment. Natasha has over 8 years experiencing in advocacy for youth friendly services and SRHR awareness. She the Family Planning 2020 Youth Focal Point for Zambia and a member of the Youth Coalition on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, where she supports the inclusion of young people in policy making with regards to reproductive health. She is also involved in adolescent health research through her engagement as a commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing. Natasha is a 2017 Queens Young Leaders award recipient, Zambian Women of the Year-Healthcare Champion, Local Pathways fellow, Royal Commonwealth Society Fellow. She is an Alumni of the Cambridge University UK (Leading Change), University of Delaware (Women’s Leadership) and University of Zambia (Bachelor of Human Biology, Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery).

Seni Kouanda
Professor Seni Kouanda, MD, PhD is the director of the Institute of Research in Health Sciences (IRSS) a specialized structure of the National Centre of Scientific and Technologic Research (CNRST) in Burkina Faso. Professor Kouanda is an epidemiologist and medical doctor by training. In his role as director, Professor Kouanda leads research teams seeking solutions to the health priority problems of Burkina Faso; coordinates research in the Health sector in Burkina Faso; and facilitates the use and dissemination of research findings.

Elizabeth Lule
Elizabeth is currently an independent consultant and formerly the Director of Family Planning at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Prior to this she spent 12 years at the World Bank and served in several senior positions including Director and Manager of the Africa Regional Integration Program, Manager of Operational Quality and Knowledge Services, Manager of the Africa multi country HIV/AIDS Program and served for five years as the World Bank’s Senior Adviser for Population and Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health. Prior to joining the World Bank, Elizabeth was Africa Regional Vice President for Pathfinder International and before this worked with USAID in Nigeria. She is a passionate leader and effective advocate on reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health and committed to social justice to scale up interventions and technologies that reach poor and marginalised groups. She has served on various Boards of Directors, think tanks and UN inter-agency task teams and was Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University for over five years. She has published widely on various issues on women and adolescent health, population and development, health reforms, and HIV/AIDS and is a frequent speaker in international and academic fora. She was the founding Chair of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and founding member of the Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. She has advanced degrees in Medical Demography jointly from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and London School of Economics.

Vimbai Magwenzi
Ms Vimbai Magwenzi is a Junior Outreach worker for the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Research in Zimbabwe. Ms Magwenzi works with the sex worker community to recruit peer educators, conducts outreach activities, supports peer educators, and organizes community mobilization meetings. She has helped establish self-help groups and assists peer educators manage the self-help groups. She is a member of the National AIDS Council Young People’s Network. She has previously served as a Peer Counsellor for Population Services International (PSI ZIM) and a Peer educator at CeSHHAR Zimbabwe.

Address Malata
Professor Address Malata is the Vice Chancellor of the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), Acting Director for the International Centre for Quality Management and Research (ICQMR) at MUST. She is former President of Africa Honor Society of Nursing of Sigma Theta Tau International; former Vice President of International Confederation of Midwives and former Principal of Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN), a
Loyce Maturu

Loyce is a young woman openly living with HIV aged 27 years. Loyce is currently working as a Zvandiri Mentor with Africaid. She joined Africaid in 2004 as a beneficiary at 12 years. In 2009, she became a peer counsellor known as community Adolescent Treatment Supporter (CATS) with Africaid, Zvandiri programme. In 2015, she became the first advocacy officer focusing on improving uptake to HTC, early disclosure, linkage with retention in care, adherence, regional and international guidelines, policies and programmes including engaging with peers within the community. She is a member of the Ministry of Health national validation committee for dual elimination of HIV and Syphilis in Zimbabwe, a board member of the Yplus Network of Young People living with HIV in Zimbabwe and a member of the Global Fund Advocate Network Speakers Bureau where she advocates and mobilizes resources for the Global Fund through sharing her story and the stories of her peers on the impact of the Global Fund in saving lives across the three diseases HIV, TB and Malaria (since 2014). She has participated in the writing of the WHO ART Guideline Development 2015, and national policies such as HTC for Children and PrEP (MoH); the Life Skills and Sexuality Education Training curriculum and the ASRH Strategy for Zimbabwe (NAC). In her journey of work, she was privileged to share the stage with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Mark Dybul, Director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and Melinda Gates during the GF 5th Replenishment Townhall even in Canada-2016. She has spoken during the opening of the United Nations General Assembly along with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon (2016), shared the stage with Elton John and Prince Harry at the AIDS conference, 2016. She holds a certificate in Research, Ethics and Good Clinical practice with the medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ).

Olav Meirik

Dr Olav Meirik has a medical degree and a PhD from the University of Uppsala, Sweden. He is surgeon, obstetrician and gynaecologist, and clinical epidemiologist. He has worked since more than 45 years in clinical and epidemiological research at the University Hospital in Uppsala and the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden, at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and at the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) at World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, where he headed the Unit on Unit for Epidemiological Research/Task Force on Safety and Efficacy of Fertility Regulating Methods for 10 years. He is currently a senior research associate at the Instituto Chileno de Medicina Reproductiva, Santiago, Chile. He is author and co-author of more than 150 research papers. His main interests are in public health, women’s health, and effectiveness and safety of methods for family planning.

Ministry of Health Representative, South Africa

A request has been sent to the Ministry of Health, South Africa to designate a representative to participate in the Guideline Development Group.

Ministry of Health Representative, Uganda

A request has been sent to the Ministry of Health, Uganda to designate a representative to participate in the Guideline Development Group.
Hiromi Obara
Dr Hiromi OBARA, MD, MSc, Specialist of Ob/Gyn, has over 20 years’ experience providing technical, programmatic and management support in reproductive, maternal and newborn health (RMNH) to several countries in the Western Pacific Region and elsewhere. Positions held include JICA Health Policy Advisor in Lao PDR, Reproductive Health Medical Officer in WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, Deputy Director of the International Affairs Division of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, Chief Advisor of JICA MCH project in Cambodia, Ob/Gyn doctor in Jichi Medical University Hospital in Japan. She obtained an MSc in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She assisted countries in the Western Pacific Region to conduct maternal death reviews, improve newborn care, eliminate unsafe abortions, develop policy strategy frameworks and conduct monitoring both at country and regional levels. She has also contributed to regional and global meetings as an RMNH expert, to WHO publications, as a member of the Guideline Development Group and the Independent Review Group. Her professional interests include programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, quality of care, updating country policies/strategies/plans/clinical guidelines, and improving financial access to care.

Herbert Peterson
Herbert B. Peterson, MD, the William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor, is the past chair of the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and has a joint appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the UNC School of Medicine. He also serves as Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Research Evidence for Sexual and Reproductive Health, based in the Department of Maternal and Child Health at UNC. Certified by both the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Board of Preventive Medicine, Dr Peterson served for 20 years at the CDC, where he was Chief of the Epidemiologic Studies Branch and the first Chief of the Women’s Health and Fertility Branch of the Division of Reproductive Health. In 1999, he was assigned by CDC to WHO in Geneva, Switzerland where he served until coming to UNC in 2004. Dr Peterson’s major research interests are at the interface of clinical medicine and public health and have focused on assuring that policies, programs and practices in global reproductive health are based on the best available science with an emphasis on the value of interdisciplinary approaches, including implementation science. He has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Medicine the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society, the Society for Gynecologic Investigation and is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Preventive Medicine, and the American College of Epidemiology. He currently serves as a Board member of the Global Implementation Initiative.

John Pile
Mr Pile more than 35 years of experience developing, managing and providing strategic oversight to reproductive health programs in 20 African and Asian countries. He is the former UNFPA Country Representative to Timor Leste. He is recognized as an analytical and creative thinker who has designed innovative programs and approaches for expanding access to underutilized methods of contraception. He has multicultural experience mentoring staff and cultivating donor relations and public-private sectors collaboration. Mr Pile’s technical expertise ranges from advocacy; program assessment, design and evaluation; evidence-based decision making; health financing; contraceptive security; contraceptive technology; reproductive health service delivery guidelines; and reproductive health skills-based training.

Carolina Sales Vieira,
Carolina Sales Vieira, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Medical School of Ribeirao Preto, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She is also Head of the Contraception Division at the Medical School of Ribeirao Preto, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Population Council, NY, USA.
Sarah Simpson
Ms Sarah Simpson is an independent consultant, and a Conjoint Lecturer, University of NSW, Australia. She has an MPH, over 20 years’ experience in health and social policy, focusing on social determinants, gender and equity, and building skills and knowledge to take action in a range of country and policy contexts. Prior to establishing EquiACT, Sarah worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) European Regional Office for over 5 years, and before this for WHO Geneva, as Coordinator of the Knowledge Networks established as part of the global Commission on Social Determinants of Health. In Australia, Sarah managed a capacity building program including training for and working with public health and other professionals at the national and local level to build their capacity for health impact assessment (HIA), equity focused HIA and including an equity focus in policy development. This included a national project on guidance for developers of clinical practice guidelines on how to incorporate socioeconomic position and equity issues into CPGs. Sarah also worked as a policy and program adviser for the Commonwealth and NSW governments for over 10 years in the areas of health, equity, the social determinants of health, vulnerable groups and ageing.

Aminata Wurie
Aminata is the Executive Coordinator of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR), which strives to secure the meaningful participation of young people in decision-making that affects their lives. Aminata, has been a strong advocate for gender mainstreaming in policies and programming since 2014, when she returned home to Sierra Leone to join the frontline of the Ebola response. She worked for the largest Social Mobilization Action Consortium in the region, developing various community behavioral change campaigns. She then co-founded the Survivor Dream Project focused on both, providing support (psycho-social, entrepreneurial and educational) to female Ebola survivors and conducting empirical research on sustainable community recovery efforts targeting women and youth. Before that, she worked with various organizations in Canada using the arts and innovative approaches to engage youth on gender, sexuality education and HIV/AIDS issues. Aminata is a One Young World Ambassador, an Associate Fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society and was nominated as a Highly-Recommended Runner Up for the Queen’s Young Leader Programme in 2017. She has a Bachelors in International Development Studies and Management from McGill University.