



**NORTHERN NGO CONSTITUENCY
RBM Board Alternate
(2010-2012)**

Biography

HALIMA R. ABDULLAH MWENESI

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EDUCATION/TRAINING

PhD **1993**: Public Health & Policy - London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

MA **1986**: Medical Sociology - University of Nairobi

BA **1981**: Sociology - University of Nairobi

Short-course in *Program Evaluation and Assessment*. Ohio University online courses; September-October **2006**

Short-course in *Participatory Communication*. Ohio University online courses; February -March **2006**

Two day course on *Board membership conduct and functions*. Run by Mary H. DeKuyper Consultants. Dhaka, Bangladesh - June **2004**

Short-course on *Gender and Tropical Diseases* organized by WHO/TDR; Karen College, Nairobi Kenya (April - May **1994**)

Short-course on *Medical Anthropology*; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine January - March **1993**; London

Short- course on *Epidemiology*, Kenya Medical Research Institute; March - June **1987** Kenya, July-September **1987**, Berlin, Germany

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007-Present

Director, Public Policy Initiatives & Senior Malaria Advisor; Global Health, Population and Nutrition Group (GHPN) - Work Station, Washington DC

Directs projects focused on policy (public & health), advocacy and capacity development. Currently leading a 2 year \$4 million project aimed at increasing access to antimalarial commodities by addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers related to importation and customs processes through targeted advocacy globally - with focused attention to 3 countries in Africa (Benin, Nigeria and Uganda) and 1 country in South East Asia (Cambodia). In addition I provide technical leadership for GHPN malaria work; and contribute to developing new business. Dr. Mwenesi, who is currently serving as the RBM Alternate Board member in

the Northern NGO delegation, works closely with the global malaria community and collaborates with different stakeholders within the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, The WHO/Global Malaria Program and the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, at global regional and country levels. She also works closely with the public, NGO, and private sectors in the course of her duties. Dr. Mwenesi's overall duties include providing technical leadership in malaria and AED's input to global malaria issues; including representing AED in major national, regional, and international conferences with policy or technical implications for malaria and maternal child health. She provides technical assistance to the RBM partnership efforts via membership and participation in various working groups including the WIN, PSMWG and in the past the HWG and RBM sub-regional networks.

2005-2007

Technical Manager - The NetMark Regional Malaria Program (Work Station: Johannesburg, South Africa)

Responsible for overall technical oversight on malaria issues for the NetMark Africa Regional malaria program. This was a public-private partnership program that for 10 years worked to increase access to ITNs/LLINs and promoting their appropriate use in household. Ensured that NetMark's technical approach and model was in consonant with the latest knowledge on malaria, malaria prevention with a focus on ITNs, global, regional and country policies; and acted as the liaison person between NetMark and her partners at all levels. Further responsibilities included the designing of and overseeing the implementation of NetMark's advocacy strategy and expanded dialogue in relation to public-private approaches including targeted subsidies. Provided leadership in Global Fund related matters within the program. Also provided overall management of two USAID regional efforts in East, Central & Southern (REDSO); and West Africa (WARP) on initiatives to create enabling, favorable environments for the integration of the private sector into malaria control efforts; initiatives for R&D and TA to assist manufacturers in Africa increase their ITN production capacities and facilitation of transfer of new long-lasting insecticide-treated net (LLIN) technologies to African companies. During this period, interacted at various levels with government representatives and National malaria control programs in more than 25 countries and numerous relevant academic and public health institutions in Africa

2003-2004

Senior Policy Advisor, The NetMark Regional Malaria Program - (Work Station: Johannesburg, South Africa)

Responsible for the development and implementation of NetMark's policy support work with the RBM Secretariat, RBM partners and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Initiative. My portfolio expanded beyond research and included establishing NetMark as an integral member of the RBM partnership in the provision of strategic direction and technical support to African countries with regard to the malaria component of the GFATM. Advised countries on matters related to commercial expansion, market priming and targeted subsidies, to help them integrate the RBM strategic framework on scaling up of malaria control and prevention into their strategic plans, and provided assistance to programs in their efforts to access donor funds and with implementation plans.

1999-2002

Regional Research Coordinator - The NetMark Africa Regional Malaria Program - (Work Stations: Nairobi, Kenya and Johannesburg, South Africa)
Key member of the program research team responsible for developing and managing a range of monitoring, research and evaluation (MER) field activities in all NetMark countries (**Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Zambia**). Coordinated input and participation of team members in the research activities of NetMark at regional and country levels; identified of regional and country level organizations and stakeholders for collaborative activities and oversaw all fieldwork of subcontractors, reports development and results dissemination.

1996 - 1999

Operational Research Coordinator - World Health Organization, UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Program for Research and Training for Tropical Diseases (TDR) - (Work Stations: Basel, Switzerland & Nairobi, Kenya)
Scientific Coordinator on the Insecticide-Treated Nettings Operational Research Initiative. This was soon after the proof of concept efficacy trials in Kenya, Ghana and Burkina Faso. As the Focal Point and operational research expert for this position, identified and encouraged research teams in different countries to carry out operational research on ITNs to measure their effectiveness. Reviewed and appraised proposals for funding by the ITNs Task Force, provided technical advise and support to twenty funded research projects in twenty-four countries in Africa and South East Asia; annually brought the researchers together in a workshop designed to facilitate sharing of experiences and identification of training needs and gaps in operations research; linked researchers with net and insecticide manufacturers for procurement of these commodities for their projects; represented the Task Force (TDR) at key regional and global malaria forums, forged strong relationships with National Malaria Control Programs and encouraged the uptake of ITNs as key malaria control tools in many African countries. In addition, provided technical advice, encouraged and facilitated the documentation of research results from the research projects in peer reviewed journals

1986 - 1999

Senior Research Scientist - Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) - (Work Station: Nairobi, Kenya)
Wrote research grants and conducted research in various fields of health independently or in collaboration with others; and provided leadership for the Applied Social Sciences Division. Key focus most of the period was in the area of definition of malaria at the household and community levels; care-seeking behavior; home and community management of childhood fevers and, self-medication among adults; and the use of retail outlets in malaria treatment. Did pioneering work in the area of home/community management of malaria, and training of shopkeepers and drug vendors who sell antimalarial drugs. Also taught medical sociology, research methods and statistics at the Medical Training College, University of Nairobi Teaching Hospital, and The Kenyatta National Hospital.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

For over 20 years Dr. Mwenesi has worked on malaria issues and other global public health and capacity building arenas via nominations to and serving

in high level committees/boards/panels in various organizations and institutions. Current/past ones include:

Alternate Member Northern NGO delegation, Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board (November 2008–May 2010).

Member Scientific Review Board (SRB) INDEPTH Effectiveness and Safety Studies of Anti-malarials in Africa (INESS), 2009–Present

Member Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) International Network of Field Sites with Continuous Demographic Evaluation of Populations and Their Health in Developing Countries (INDEPTH), 2006–Present

Member Expert Scientific Advisory Committee (ESAC) Center for National Health Research, 2007–Present

Member Malaria Advocacy, (MAWG); Vector Control (WIN) and Procurement and Supplies Management (PSM) Working Groups.

Member, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 2008–Present

Member of the Core Coordinating teams of the East African RBM Regional Network (EARN); the West African RBM Regional Network (WARN) and The Southern Africa RBM Regional Network (2004–2007).

Member, External Advisory Board, KEMRI–Wellcome Trust Research Program – a multi-disciplinary health research program encompassing a wide spectrum of public health issues – from epidemiological and community-based research, through clinical and basic laboratory sciences, to translational and health policy research. The program is based in the KEMRI Centre for Geographic Medical Research– Coast, Kilifi, Kenya but conducts work in several other parts of Kenya and other countries in the Africa region (2006 – Present).

Member and Vice Chair, AFRO Advisory Committee on Malaria (WHO/AFRO). This committee has been set up to advise the Regional Director on technical and strategic directions for malaria control in 42 countries that make the AFRO region in Africa (August 2006 – Present).

Member, External Research Review Team – Swiss Tropical Institute (STI). Based in Basel Switzerland, the STI is involved in research, training/teaching and service support in the field of international public health. The activities are carried out around the world (2007–Present).

Member, Board of Trustees and Chair, Human Resources Committee; The International Centre for Diarrheal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B). This is a not for profit international research. Training and service organization, whose work encompasses issues related to child survival, infectious diseases (including HIV/AIDS) and vaccine sciences, reproductive health, nutrition, population sciences, health systems, poverty, water and sanitation (June 2003 – June 2009). www.icddrb.org

Chair, Task Force on Research Capability Strengthening (RCS) on Malaria in Africa, an activity of the Multi-lateral initiative on Malaria (MIM) WHO/TDR (March 2004 - 2009) and member since inception in 1998. The task force oversees the management of MIM funded projects, reviews and approves proposals for funding. The Committee works with a budget of about \$1-2 million.

Member of the Research **Capacity Strengthening** Plus Initiative Team (WHO/TDR) for Health Social Sciences in Implementation Research (2003 - 2009). The initiative is mandated to identify scientists and institutions that can carry out research in the health social sciences and to identify and develop opportunities for the involvement of African scientists in mentoring arrangements with centers of excellence in the social sciences from the North. The team also reviews the relevance, scientific quality, budgets and disbursement plans for all research projects related to the initiative.

Other Leadership Contributions/Awards:

Treasurer, Friends of the International Center for Diarrheal Diseases, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) 2010

Reviewer of proposals/ Peer articles/Special Emphasis Panels - CDC; Acta Tropica; Bulletin of the World Health Organization; African Journal for Health Sciences; Social Sciences & Medicine; Medical Anthropology Journal; Journal of Health, Population & Nutrition among others

Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Public Health and Policy; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 1994 - 1998.

Carnegie Fellow, Department of Public Health; Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, November - December, 1994

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (MALARIA)

- **Mwenesi HA** (2005). *Social science research in malaria prevention, management and control in the last two decades: An overview*. Acta Tropica Vol. 95:3 292-297.
- **Mwenesi HA** (2003). *Social -cultural and behavioral issues in the treatment and prevention of malaria*. Report of the Scientific Working Group on Malaria. WHO/Geneva.
- Jane Alaii, **Mwenesi H** et. al. (2003). *Community reactions to the introduction of permethrin-treated bednets for malaria control during a randomized controlled trail in Western Kenya*. Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg. Vol.68. 128-136.
- Jane Alaii, **Mwenesi H** et. al. (2003). *Perceptions of bednets and malaria prevention before and after a randomized controlled trail of permethrin-treated bednets in Western Kenya*. Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg. Vol.68 142-148.
- **Mwenesi HA** (1998). *Treatment outside the health services*. World Health, 51st Year, No.3, May-June; Pg.26.

- **Mwenesi HA** et.al. (1995). *Perceptions of symptoms of severe childhood Malaria among Mijikenda and Luo residents of Coastal Kenya*. J. Bio Soc. Sci. Vol. 27, pp. 235-244.
- **Mwenesi HA** et al. (1995). *Child Malaria treatment practices among mothers in Kenya*. Soc. Sci. & Med. Vol. 40(9): 1271 - 1277.
- **Mwenesi HA**, (1994). *The role of Drug Delivery Systems in Health Care: the case of Self-medication*. Afri. J. Hlth. Sci. Vol. 1 (1): 48-54.
- **Mwenesi HRA**. (1993). *Mothers' definition and treatment of childhood Malaria on the Kenya Coast*. PhD Thesis, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London.
- Snow RW, **Mwenesi HRA** et. al., (1992). *The role of shops in the treatment and prevention of childhood Malaria on the Kenyan Coast*. Trans. Roy. Soc. Trop. Med. & Hyg. 86: 237-239.
- Kenya PR, **Mwenesi HA** et. al., (1990). *Oral re-hydration salts and social marketing in rural Kenya*. Soc. Sci. & Med. Vol. 31(9): 979.
- **Abdullah HR**. (1984), *Social aspects of Malaria Control: A Knowledge, attitudes and Practice (KAP) study among the Luo Karateng, Kisumu District*. Master of Arts thesis, University of Nairobi.

SELECTED KEYNOTE ADDRESSES & PRESENTATIONS (MALARIA)

- **Mwenesi HA**, *Tariffs, Taxes and Non-Tariff Barriers on Access to Anti-malarial Commodities: A Call for Support from the European Union and other Stakeholders*. Paper presented at the European Union Malaria Advocates Round-table, March, 2010, Brussels, Belgium
- **Mwenesi HA**, *Climbing the Research Ladder in Africa: My Journey*. Paper presented at the American Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene Conference, November 2009, Washington, DC
- **Mwenesi HA**, Keynote address: **A Review of Malaria Policies and Advocacy Efforts: Implications for improved control**, Paper presented at the 5th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM), November, 2009, Nairobi, Kenya
- **Mwenesi HA**, Keynote address: **Social Sciences and Malaria**. Paper presented at the 4th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM), November, 2005, Yaoundé, Cameroon
- **Mwenesi HRA**. *Health Education and Communication in Malaria and HIV/AIDS*. Paper presented at the Symposium on Demystification of Aids in Africa, at the 16th African Congress for Health Sciences, Nairobi, Kenya February 6-10 1995.

- **Mwenesi HA.** *Ethical, Socio-economic and Social Science aspects of Malaria Vaccine trials.* (Proceedings of the First African malaria Vaccine testing network meeting. Arusha, Tanzania 22-24 February 1995).
- **Mwenesi HA, (1994)** *Decision-making dynamics for health care at the household level.* Paper presented at the Workshop on Gender Health and Sustainable Development; Karen, Kenya.
- **Mwenesi HA, (1994).** *Methods of studying drug use for anti-malarials.* Paper incorporated into the Report of an Informal Consultation on *Antimalarial Policy: Data requirements, treatment of uncomplicated Malaria and Management of Malaria in pregnancy.* WHO/MAL/94.1070, Geneva.
- **Mwenesi HA.** *Current status and the future activities for Malaria vaccine Development in Africa: A social perspective.* A paper presented to the WHO Immunology of Malaria Unit meeting, Kisumu, Kenya; 19th Oct. **1994.**
- **Mwenesi HA.** *A focused Ethnographic Study (FES) on Malaria: Field-testing of a manual.* Final report to WHO/TDR, October **1994.**
- **Mwenesi HA,** *Treatment seeking behavior of mothers of children suspected of Malaria.* Paper presented to the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) of the Special Program for Tropical Diseases Research; WHO/TDR, Geneva. 30th June **1993.**
- **Abdullah HR. (1985),** *How Can health Behavior be Changed?* Paper presented at the Forum '85 workshop on women and Health in Nairobi, Kenya.