 

**LSHTM Working with UN and other international organisations panel discussion**

**Monday 17 March 2025, 17.30-19.00**

**Panelist Biographies**

* **Norbert Lemonge**

Dr. Norbert Lemonge, MD, MSc, MBA, DTMH, PMDPro
 Global Malaria Technical Advisor | Public Health Specialist | Strategic Program Leader

Dr. Norbert Lemonge is a seasoned global health expert with over Nine years of experience leading impactful malaria and vector-borne disease control programs in low-resource and crisis settings. He currently serves as a Global Malaria Technical Advisor at the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), where he spearheads multi-country teams, driving innovative strategies for malaria surveillance, capacity building, and elimination.

A medical doctor by training, Dr. Lemonge holds advanced degrees in international health, tropical medicine, and business administration. His diverse expertise spans health systems strengthening, digital tool integration, epidemiologic surveillance, and project management. He has successfully led multi-million-dollar initiatives funded by USAID, Médecins Sans Frontières, and other global organizations, showcasing a track record of measurable health outcomes and policy advancements.

Dr. Lemonge is passionate about evidence-based solutions and equity in healthcare, he leverages his multilingual abilities and cross-cultural leadership skills to address the most pressing global health challenges.

* **Debra Jackson**

Debra Jackson, BSN (Florida State), MPH (San Diego State), DSc (Boston)

Debra Jackson is the inaugural Takeda Chair in Global Child Health and Co-Director of the MARCH Centre at LSHTM. Previously she held the position of Senior Health Advisor and Chief of Implementation Research and Delivery Science Unit, Health Section, UNICEF. She is also Extraordinary Professor at the School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

She has qualifications in nursing, public health, epidemiology and biostatistics. She has over 160 peer-reviewed publications and serves on several global and WHO advisory committees.

She lived in South Africa from 2000-2013 and has experience working across Africa, Asia, Pacific Islands and USA.

Her research areas include health systems and implementation research; maternal, newborn and child health, community health workers, HIV, and infant feeding; and her current research includes the HIGH Horizons project focusing on climate, heat and the health of mothers and children.

* **Professor John Ashton**

John Ashton is regarded as one of the pioneers of the New Public Health for his work since the 1980’s in the North West and internationally with the World Health Organisation.

This has included innovative achievements in the fields of health promotion, teenage pregnancy, syringe exchange and responses to public health emergencies and clinical service failures.

John was the inaugural coordinator of the WHO Healthy Cities Project in 1986.

He is renowned as an advocate who is often an inconvenient witness.

Awarded the CBE in 2000 and the Crown Prince of Bahrain medal for medical excellence for his work on the Covid pandemic.

John’s books include ‘The New Public Health’, ‘Practising Public Health’, and ‘Blinded by Corona’.

* **Muzna Mughal**

Muzna Mughal is a public health nutritionist with five years of experience tackling malnutrition, specializing in maternal and child health in emergency contexts. She holds a Master’s in Nutrition for Global Health from LSHTM and has a strong foundation in clinical dietetics.

Her career began in Lebanon’s hospitals and local NGOs, where she gained expertise in nutrition in emergencies, focusing on maternal and child health. She has worked across multiple countries and organizations, including Action Against Hunger, where she led initiatives on infant and young child feeding, emergency nutrition, and NCD prevention. Her work includes policy development, systematic reviews, and international training programs. She also interned with the World Food Programme in Lebanon.

Most recently, Muzna served as a Consultant for WHO Europe’s Office for NCD Prevention and Control for nearly three years. Passionate about evidence-based interventions, she is dedicated to improving nutrition-related public health outcomes and making a lasting impact on vulnerable populations worldwide

* **Leigh Bowman**

My name is Leigh, and I am the Regional Epidemiologist for the Caribbean with the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

My primary remit is to conceive, develop and deliver a public health surveillance system for the CAS-BES islands while based on Aruba. I also work on ad hoc epidemiological requests that come through the door, which can include maritime health declarations for cruise ships, syndromic surveillance, or capacity building for outbreak response.

I have a fairly broad background that spans academia, government and iNGOs, and I've spent much of the last 15 years working in LMICs, principally responding to outbreaks of vector borne and respiratory disease, as well as developing early warning systems and writing guidelines. I previously worked with Imperial College London, the WHO and both UK schools of tropical medicine before working as National Epidemiologist for Sint Maarten during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

* **Debora Di Dio**

Ms Debora Di Dio is a Senior Evaluation Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Prior to joining UNHCR, she was the Senior Nutrition and Strategy Adviser to the Assistant-Secretary General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat, Switzerland.

Debora has over 15 years of professional experience, mainly with the United Nations (UNICEF and the World Food Programme) in Europe, South Asia, West Africa and the Middle East. Throughout her career, Debora has worked on nutrition, food security, health, education in over 17 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Mali and Syria. She has supported countries in developing multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder plans and policies, managed monitoring activities in high threat environments, and provided guidance and technical support to Government partners, including the Ministry of Health in strengthening advocacy and resource mobilization around nutrition.

Debora holds a Master of Arts in Development Studies from Macquarie University (Australia), a MSc of Global Health Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (United Kingdom), and has completed an Executive Leadership Programme at Oxford University (United Kingdom). Debora is a national of Italy and Australia.

* **Vicenzo Cologna**

Vincenzo Cologna MSc, PDTN, RN – Project Manager, UK Health Security Agency, UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST)

Vincenzo holds an MSc in Public Health for Global Practice and a Postgraduate Diploma in Tropical Nursing from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He also obtained a Business Management and Leadership Diploma from The Open University and a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from the University of Bologna, Italy.

Vincenzo joined the Core Management Team of UK-PHRST as Senior Executive Officer in January 2022. He oversees the Programme’s business functions, which include Finance and HR operations, budgeting and forecasting, end-to-end recruitment, risk management, change management, and governance processes. Additionally, he co-leads the delivery of the Programme’s Sustainability Plan.

Before joining the UK Civil Service in 2022, Vincenzo worked with the NHS, the International Red Cross, and Voluntary Service Overseas across Sub-Saharan Africa, Italy, and the UK. His work focused on policy development, project delivery, and research on topics such as FGM, Malaria, HIV, Mpox, Pandemic Preparedness, and Climate Change. He also provided advanced clinical nursing during the first two waves of the Covid-19 pandemic.

* **Amber Alayyan**

Dr. Amber Alayyan is a pediatrician and international public health consultant with over 20 years experience in health care in conflict and post-conflict zones. Most recently, she has worked with Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders (MSF) as the Medical Program Manager for Afghanistan, Palestine, and Haiti and previously for Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, and Peru. Her work with MSF over the past 13 years includes missions in the Central African Republic, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq, Jordan/Syria, Turkey/Syria, Lebanon, Croatia and Greece. She has also worked as the malnutrition advisor for MSF.

Prior to working with MSF, she worked as a pediatrician at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC, where she also completed her pediatric residency. She served as a consultant for the WHO in the Occupied Palestinian Territories on pediatric malnutrition policy and with the organization Health Frontiers in post-earthquake Haiti. She has also worked on pediatric HIV and malnutrition projects in Lesotho and the West Bank/Gaza, respectively.

Dr. Alayyan, originally from Texas, obtained her medical degree at New York University (NYU) School of Medicine and her MSc in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Prior to her time at LSHTM, she worked in the field of environmental health research as a Fulbright Scholar and a David L. Boren Fellow in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. She received her bachelor's degree in Honors Middle East Studies and Microbiology at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Her work and research interests include pediatric health care practice and policy in the Middle East and conflict/post-conflict zones, malnutrition, as well as environmental health as it relates to child health in conflict settings.

* **Faye Callaghan**

Faye is currently the Sexual and Reproductive Health Advisor for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). She has worked in the humanitarian sector for 17 years, initially in the field of communications before retraining as a midwife and studying the Reproductive and Sexual Health Research Masters at LSHTM. Previous UN roles have included Midwifery Mentor for UNFPA in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh and Maternal and Newborn Health advisor for UN Global Pulse. During the pandemic she worked for the sexual and reproductive health team in Public Health England working to overcome barriers to accessing services.