Prof. Nebiyu Lera Alaro

Public Health Specialist | Humanitarian Health Programme Leadership | Research, Quality & Capacity Building

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Public-health and humanitarian health professional with more than 17 years of progressive experience across public, private and international NGO settings. Experience spans programme leadership and management, health-service management, clinical services (HIV, STI, reproductive health and family planning, TB and nutrition), referral and linkage, commodity supply chains and health-systems strengthening, with a record of planning, leading and managing programmes in several countries.

Known for building solutions-driven, cross-cultural teams; defining technical programme strategy and measurable benchmarks; and working with internal and external stakeholders to turn needs into practical action. Experience includes MSF, UNICEF, WHO, Rescue Life of Children (RLC), THESO, Doctors with Africa CUAMM and COSV.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor of Public Health

From November 2026

University of Central Nicaragua (UCN) / Texila American University

Academic appointment in public health, held alongside field and programme leadership.

Project Medical Coordinator

March 2026 – present

MSF WaCA · Kano, Nigeria

- Works with the Project Coordinator, the Medical Coordinator and Ministry of Health partners to define, implement and monitor medical activities in line with MSF project plans, standards and protocols.
- Takes part in exploratory missions and situation assessments, and contributes to the project policy, annual plan, budget review, proposals and donor reports; keeps regular contact with the Ministry of Health and other local medical actors.
- Leads medical data collection, analysis and reporting to the capital-level Medical Coordination for programme monitoring.
- Provides technical support to field medical staff, and coordinates, supervises, coaches and evaluates the medical team to ensure compliance with MSF and Ministry of Health protocols.
- Plans and oversees staff processes with the Project Coordinator: recruitment, training, induction, performance evaluation and development.
- Oversees management of the field pharmacy and medical equipment with Logistics and biomedical services, including medical orders and prevention of stock shortages.
- Implements the health policy for international and national staff, including preventive measures, emergency plans and medical evacuation.

Project Medical Coordinator (SRH)

August 2025 – January 2026

MSF OCB · Abuja, Nigeria

- Led a health-needs assessment in Southeast Nigeria (Anambra State) to identify health and humanitarian gaps, set operational priorities and propose a medical strategy aligned with the MSF OCB strategic vision.
- Produced and validated a detailed assessment report (findings, needs and gap analysis) and a concept note with an implementation plan for the proposed medical package.
- Worked through a functional working group with the Country Medical Coordinator, the medical department and designated referents, so that data collection, analysis and validation were complete before the ARO 2026 presentation.
- Supported the annual medical plan and budget, supply forecasting (target of at least 90% accuracy) and timely local and international medical orders.
- Analysed medical human-resource needs and proposed the staffing set-up and position profiles for new activities in Anambra State.

Technical Medical Advisor (TMA)

June 2025 – July 2025

Rescue Life of Children (RLC) · Juba, South Sudan

- Provided clinical, technical and strategic guidance for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health programmes, ensuring quality of care, adherence to medical protocols and evidence-based decisions.
- Developed and updated clinical guidelines and SOPs based on WHO, Ministry of Health and organisational standards.
- Supported outbreak preparedness and response (surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control) and gave rapid technical support during outbreaks and humanitarian crises, including triage, referral pathways and mass-casualty planning.
- Made field support visits, reviewed clinical data, outcomes and morbidity and mortality trends, and led clinical audits and quality assessments.
- Trained, coached and mentored medical and paramedical staff, and developed training materials, clinical tools and job aids.
- Contributed to proposals, project design and policy alignment; coordinated with the Ministry of Health, partners, UN agencies and clusters; supported data quality (HMIS, epidemic reports, programme indicators).

Project Medical Referent (HIV/TB, NCD, ICCM)

May 2025 – June 2025

MSF OCG · Twic, South Sudan

- Provided day-to-day follow-up, oversight and supervision of medical activities at all sites: ICCM, Gomgoi health post, and Mayen Abun hospital (HIV/TB, paediatric and adult care).
- Focused on quality of care at the hospital, ICCMs and health post supported by MSF under the two-year COPRO.
- Assessed priorities in the medical departments and followed up improvements, while keeping the emergency and contingency plan for 2025 current with other departments.
- Adapted medical operational priorities as the context and needs changed.

Project Medical Referent / E-MEDCO (Nutrition & Paediatrics)

February 2024 – April 2025

Médecins Sans Frontières OCP · Katsina, Nigeria

- Defined, monitored and updated the medical content of the MSF country policy, strategy, annual plan and budget, translating identified health needs into medical objectives, priorities and resources.
- Held overall responsibility for the appropriateness and quality of medical interventions, patient safety and patient-centred care across projects.
- Monitored medical and humanitarian needs through exploratory missions, health information systems and proposal review, and supervised technical and material aspects through regular field visits.
- Planned and sized the health workforce with HR, supervised recruitment, induction, evaluation and development, and coached project coordinators and medical teams.
- Helped define the mission health and safety policy framework, including monitoring of staff mental and physical health.
- Sized pharmacy and medical-equipment needs and managed medical orders with Logistics; maintained the mission medical library; represented MSF with authorities, NGOs and donors and supported advocacy.

Selected achievements

- Streamlined team communication through effective coordination strategies.
- Coordinated multiple projects and staff training sessions, and implemented risk-management strategies.
- Developed organisational policies for administrative oversight and internal controls.

Project Medical Referent, E-pool (Paediatrics, Nutrition)

February 2023 – December 2023

Médecins Sans Frontières OCB · Afar, Ethiopia

- Defined, implemented and monitored medical activities with the Medical Coordinator and Ministry of Health partners, in line with MSF plans, standards and protocols.
- Took part in exploratory missions, assessments, the project policy, annual plan, budget review and donor reporting, and kept regular contact with the Ministry of Health and local actors.
- Led medical data collection, analysis and reporting; gave technical support, coaching and performance evaluation to the medical team.
- Supervised pharmacy and medical-equipment management and implemented the staff health policy, including emergency plans and medical evacuation.

Selected achievements

- Delivered on tasks within tight deadlines and oversaw daily operations to sustain high productivity.

Medical Activity Manager, E-Pool (Paediatrics, Nutrition)

June 2022 – January 2023

Médecins Sans Frontières OCB · Afar, Ethiopia

- Oversaw MSF emergency health, health-systems-strengthening and research projects, with technical oversight of all health projects and support to partners.
- Built quality-assurance methods and checks with staff and the M&E team, and supported programme design, proposals and reporting driven by data and learning.
- Ensured health activities followed Federal Ministry of Health and WHO standards and best practice.
- Supervised work planning for awarded funds, staff recruitment, training and supervision, and budget management.

Selected achievements

- Improved team morale through regular training and development sessions.
- Managed budgets to control costs while maintaining quality of service, and kept to health and safety regulations.

Medical Activity Manager (Health, Nutrition, CeMoC)

January 2021 – June 2022

Médecins Sans Frontières OCB · Maiduguri, Nigeria

- Defined, coordinated and monitored care and medical activities, including day-to-day management of human resources according to MSF nursing protocols, standards and procedures.
- Gave technical support to the infection prevention and control nursing activity manager and nurse supervisors.
- Oversaw emergency health, health-systems-strengthening and operational-research programmes of MSF Nigeria, and supervised projects and implementing partners.
- Set up quality-assurance mechanisms and ensured that care in the ambulatory and intensive therapeutic feeding centres met MSF standards.
- Prepared and ran in-service training for health staff on cholera, infectious disease, malaria, TB and nutrition; planned, implemented and managed country-level emergency outbreak responses.
- Contributed to proposals and donor reporting, and recruited staff with the HR department.

Medical Director

May 2019 – December 2020

The Health Support Organization (THESO) · Juba, South Sudan

- Provided vision and guidance in developing the country programme’s multi-year strategic and annual plans, including narrative, action plans and budgets.
- Contributed to national and international organisational strategic planning, and directed and supported direct reports in delivering annual plans.
- Ensured programme and research activities met organisational standards, best practice and commitments, and that THESO remained accountable to beneficiaries, the Ministry of Health and partners.

Selected achievements

- Streamlined operations through new strategies and developed business plans for organisational growth.
- Coordinated large-scale projects and supervised staff training focused on skill enhancement.

Medical Coordinator

January 2016 – February 2019

Doctors with Africa CUAMM · Juba, South Sudan

- Contributed to national and international strategic planning, and ensured PHCC and PHCU reporting to CUAMM and the Ministry of Health information system.
- Gave technical support to health departments on programme design, proposals, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation; provided supportive supervision to county officers and programme staff.
- Oversaw community health activities, including monitoring Boma Health Worker selection criteria and maintaining GIS maps of service coverage.
- Reviewed budgets and monthly expenditure for HPF grants, contributed to proposals and donor reporting, and managed performance reviews and in-service training for health staff.
- Monitored equipment, supplies, storage and procurement, reviewed the referral process from health facilities to the referral hospital, supported revision of national health guidelines, and managed state-level emergency outbreaks.

Deputy Medical Coordinator

March 2015 – December 2015

Doctors with Africa CUAMM · Juba, South Sudan

- Held overall responsibility for developing and implementing the community health work plan, ensuring quality outputs; oversaw outreach and community-based activities and supported county management.
- Led and line-managed the community health team through weekly stream meetings and monthly and quarterly performance reviews.
- Strengthened referral from community to PHCC, PHCU, county and state hospitals; trained nurses and midwives; ensured essential drug supply, infection prevention and nursing standards; supported analysis of routine data and reports.

Advisor (Consultant), Medical Proposal February 2012 – March 2012

Hold the Child · Juba, South Sudan

- Gave technical assistance to the head of programmes on proposals, donor-funding applications and project budgets; advised on malnutrition solutions; managed the project team and liaised with government departments.

Health Project Coordinator October 2010 – February 2012

UNICEF · Juba, South Sudan

- Oversaw planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health projects, and managed six clinical-services network coordinators and field-based officers.
- Prepared health service guidelines, manuals and training materials and high-quality donor reports; strengthened the capacity of regional UNICEF and government health bureau staff.
- Led and developed local and international health staff, supervised resource allocation within approved spending levels, and aligned organisational objectives with the Sudanese context.

EDUCATION

PhD in Public Health March 2016 – December 2018

Texila American University · Guyana · Honours

MSc Tropical Medicine February 2019 – December 2021

Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp · Honours

MSc Medical-Surgical Nursing March 2013 – January 2015

The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University · Chennai · Honours

BSc

Hawassa University · Ethiopia

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

- Healthcare Providers in Africa Face HIV and AIDS Challenges in Providing Services to a Key Population: Infant and Young Child Feeding — *Texila International Journal of Public Health*, 9(4), 2021. DOI: 10.21522/TIJPH.2013.09.04.Art005.
- Assessment of Patient Satisfaction in an Out Patient Department of Rumbek East County, South Sudan — *Texila International Journal of Public Health*, 7(3), 2019. DOI: 10.21522/TIJPH.2013.07.03.Art002.
- Measles Immunization Research, Western Lake State, South Sudan — *Texila International Journal of Public Health*, 7(2), 2019. DOI: 10.21522/TIJPH.2013.07.02.Art007.
- Brave Hero: His Excellency Former Prime Minister Haile Mariam Dessalegn — opinion article listed on public profile, 2 August 2018.
- Research on acute and moderate malnutrition among under-five children in Western Lakes State, South Sudan.

PEER REVIEW & ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

- **Reviewer, AS Nutritional Health journal** (Peer review). Acta Scientific Publications issued a formal reviewer letter on 15 October 2019 confirming his role as a reviewer for *AS Nutritional Health*, an open-access, peer-reviewed journal, citing his expertise in nutritional health. Reviewers assess the quality and integrity of submitted articles and advise on revisions.
- **Texila American University Consortium graduation** (Academic). Graduation ceremony photograph from the Texila American University Consortium, connected with his PhD in Public Health (2016–2018), completed with honours. He now holds an academic appointment as Professor of Public Health with the University of Central Nicaragua (UCN) / Texila American University.
- **PhD testimonial, Texila American University** (Academic). Texila American University featured his statement on completing his PhD in Public Health with the university, and recommending it to professionals balancing postgraduate study with a demanding schedule.
- **Texila Student Ambassador** (Academic). Texila American University and Texila Partners Academy listed him as a Student Ambassador for Ethiopia.
- Measles Immunization Research, Western Lake State, South Sudan — Volume 7, Issue 2 · 2019 · DOI 10.21522/TIJPH.2013.07.02.Art007
- Assessment of Patient Satisfaction in an Out Patient Department of Rumbek East County, South Sudan — Volume 7, Issue 3 · 2019 · DOI 10.21522/TIJPH.2013.07.03.Art002
- Healthcare Providers in Africa Face HIV and AIDS Challenges in Providing Services to a Key Population: Infant and Young Child Feeding — Volume 9, Issue 4 · 2021 · DOI 10.21522/TIJPH.2013.09.04.Art005

BOOKS

Author of **From Gondar to the World** (a memoir of resilience, purpose and global healing) and **Ethiopia Rising** (a journey through progress and promise). Copies are available by enquiry; see the Books page.

CORE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Public health · Humanitarian response · Health-systems strengthening · Nutrition · MNCH · HIV/TB · SRH/family planning · EPI/immunisation · Clinical quality & audit · Monitoring & evaluation · Operational research · Programme & project management · Partnerships & donor management · People management · Budget oversight · Strategic planning · Supply-chain coordination · Capacity building · Emergency preparedness

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent) · **Arabic** (Elementary) · **French** (Beginner)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International public health; maternal, newborn and child health; reproductive health; nutrition and infant feeding; vaccine-preventable diseases and immunisation; HIV prevention and service access; evaluation of humanitarian health interventions; health-system performance; programme quality; and disaster and emergency management.