

Dr. Raissa Sorgho, MScIH

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Raissa Sorgho is global health specialists with over 10 years of experience in research and development. Her expertise spans from health (nutrition and heat) to climate change (adaptation and sustainability) and policy (review and implementation), with an emphasis on evidence-based decision making using mixed-method research. Her professional experiences ranges from designing systematic literature reviews and consolidating recommendations for USAID in Nigeria and the Philippines, to conducting randomized control trials on climate sensitive nutrients, counseling and home gardening in Burkina Faso and Kenya, to her current position as Director of Global Nutrition and Partnerships at the Center for Wellness and Nutrition.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Sc. Hum. in Global Health	Heidelberg University, Heidelberg Germany
Master of Science in International Health	Heidelberg University, Heidelberg Germany
Bachelor of Arts in Biology and French	Bucknell University, Pennsylvania USA
Certificate on Human Physiology and Nutrition	L'Université François-Rabelais, Tours France

EXPERIENCES

Public Health Institute, California USA *May 2022 – present*
Center for Wellness and Nutrition (CWN)
Director of Global Nutrition and Partnerships

Program Design and Organizational Leadership

- Leading two global human-center approach food and nutrition programs
- Conceptualizing, designing and executing targeted health projects
- Analyzing nutrition and food security policy for evidence-derived implementation
- Coordinating research, monitoring, evaluation, and results reporting and publication

Policy and Systems Change Management

- Developing a compendium of domestic nutrition programs and policies
- Adapting and scaling compendia for global application and implementation
- Advancing policies and systems in key markets to support sustainable strategies
- Strengthening best practices in global nutrition programming and system integration
- Website: <https://centerforwellnessandnutrition.org/about-us/staff/raissa-sorgho/>

Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), Germany / Kenya *January 2020 – present*

Lead Researcher: Project Scientist and Implementor

- Research for *Climate Change, Nutrition and Health Group*
- Designing and implementing randomized control trials in Burkina Faso and Kenya
- Conducting scoping literature and policy reviews around decision making and best nutrition practices
- Conducting a qualitative study on stakeholders and community preferences for gardening and counseling
- Building partnership with local organizations, promoting positive behavior change to improve health and nutrition
- Coordinating a kick-off meeting with 10 global partner research, non-profit, and community institutions
- Mentoring 3 doctoral students and 2 master students thesis on health and nutrition
- Training 30 field agents for in-person and digital application of tools and methodology at the community level
- Website: <https://www.cch-africa.de>

Research: Project Scientist and Implementor

- Designing a three-part study on climate change adaptation, policy implementation, agriculture and food security
- Acquiring independent funding and financing for each component of the study implementation work
- Conducting and publishing a systematic review on climate change policies in 16 West African Countries
- Conducting and publishing a study on rural farming household adaptation to climate change and food security
- Conducting and publishing a study on policymaker's knowledge climate change and consequences health
- Training 5 field agents on qualitative methodologies of data collection and community recruitment
- Coordinating the collaboration between institutions HIGH and Centre de Recherche en Santé de Nouna (CRSN)
- Coordinating results dissemination events at the rural community level and in the policymaking sphere
- Research supported by German Academic Exchange Service and the Stiftung Fiat Panis GRANT

Heidelberg Institute of Public Health (HIPH), Heidelberg Germany

January 2015 – September 2017

Project Co-coordinator

- Research for Climate Change and Health Group at HIPH
- Acquiring additional grants and seed funding of additional project activities
- Translating project proposal and core documents to English and French
- Coordinating research partnerships between Germany, Kenyan and Burkina research institutions
- Coordinating the procurement and international shipment of research equipment
- Coordinating the funding and scholarship of ten doctoral student with nine partner institutions

Project Co-coordinator

- Research for German Center for Infection Research (DZIF), Braunschweig Germany
- Coordination by Health Research Systems Group at HIPH
- Proposal drafting for Chronic Hepatitis B Prevalence study in Burkina Faso
- Project piloting for Chronic Hepatitis B Prevalence study in Burkina Faso
- International Standard Organization quality improvement of clinical laboratory
- Recruiting technical laboratory staff and clinic field work agents
- Training of technical laboratory staff and clinical field work agents
- Data management of Child Fever Without Source study in Burkina Faso
- Management and coordination between partner institutions: HIPH, DZFI, and CRSN

Researcher Assistant

- Research for Health Economics & Health Financing Group at HIPH
- MicroCosting and Hospital Fee Removal for Maternal and Child Care
- Health Care Policy French and English translations and data extraction
- MicroCosting data base construction, data entry, and data management

Project Assistant

- Research for Climate Change & Health Group at HIPH
- Project H.O.P.E: Household reducing CO2 emission in four European High-Income Countries
- Literature search and design of household sampling methodology
- Coordination of project Kick-Off Conference and global partner meeting
- Management of study proposals, questionnaires and participants files
- Translations of study document into French and English

Centre de Recherche en Santé de Nouna (CRSN), Nouna Burkina Faso

June 2014 – August 2016

Pilot Study Coordinator

- Piloting proof of principle and purpose study NutriClim: Nutrition and Climate
- Nutritional journaling and food recall of children under age five
- Field agricultural cartography and mapping of the villages in Kossi Province
- Socioeconomic surveying in collaboration with HDSS household sample

Columbia County Medicine Clinic, Inc., Columbia USA

January 2014 – May 2015

Health Insurance Certified Application Councilor

- Introduction of PPACA (Obama Care) to rural Pennsylvania communities
- Education and promotion of health care insurance to uninsured
- Enrolment of disadvantaged, isolated and unemployed rural population
- Feedback reporting to HealthCare.Gov national help center

Plan International, Yaoundé Cameroon

June 2013 – December 2013

HIV/AIDS Program Implementor

- Worked with Plan Cameroon Biteng HIV/AIDS project in the Okola district
- Extracted and charted data and statistics from monthly field animators reports
- Monitored and evaluated visits on the field in villages to ensure activity completions
- Drafted report from monthly project coordination and financial meetings for sponsors
- Planned 2 district wide HIV/AIDS information sessions with free testing and counseling

Geisinger Health Systems, Pennsylvania USA

January 2013 – May 2013

Programming assistant

- Worked with 2012 – 2013 Kolhs Foundation grant to fight childhood obesity
- Spearheaded research for Geisinger Body Mass Index Project
- Mapped current available Geisinger Health Systems resources for public schools
- Interviewed and gathered data from school nurses in 5 Pennsylvania counties
- Connected nurses with essential resources to help fight childhood obesity

AWARDS

DAAD German Academic Exchange Service: Research Grant Scholarship (2019)

Stiftung Fiat Panis GRANT: Doctoral Research Financing (2018)

Ruprecht-Karls-Universitat-Heidelberg MScIH Best Thesis Award (2017)

DAAD France Grant "Dialogue Franco-Allemand Entre Chercheurs" (2015)

Posse Foundation Full Tuition Leadership Scholarship (2010 – 2014)

Virginia School League of Academic Excellence Award (2008 – 2009)

TEACHING

Course: “*Public Health Anthropology*” - Short course, two weeks, 3 ECTS credits, accredited with TropEd Network, standalone module and part of the Master in International Public Health

Course: “*Climate change and health: impacts and adaptation strategies*” - Short course, two weeks, 3 ECTS credits, accredited with TropEd Network, standalone module and part of the Master in International Public Health

Course: “*Methods to assess the nutritional status of populations*” - Massive Open Online Course for German Research Foundation (DFG) and Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH)

Consultancies

John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland USA
School of Medicine Pediatrics Infectious Department

Consultant: Research Development and Analysis

- Designing assessment of Pre and Post community trial study results
- Assessing in trial uptake of short course preventive therapy for child tuberculosis
- Analyzing program data based on trial design in eastern and southern Africa
- Qualifying community and clinic-based child contact investigations
- Identify specific adaptations to the intervention to maximize effectiveness
- Evaluating trial strategy implementation and community monitoring plan

Chemonics International, Washington DC, USA
USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program

Consultant: Work Force Improvement and Development

- Systematically defining and categorizing GHSC-PSM WFD activities across 68 USAID countries
- Conducting in-depth case study and developing a tool kit as model for WFD activity comparison
- Designing a replicable and adaptable methodology to assess performance improvement
- Analyze varying WFD trainings and contribution to program and ministry staff performance
- Elicit barriers and challenges to WFD activity implementation across USAID PMI countries
- Consolidating recommendations of the WFD activities USAID should priorities in the next 5 years

Management Sciences for Health, Washington DC USA
USAID Bureau of Global Health

Consultant: Political economic analysis

- Conducting a political economic analysis in the Philippines and Nigeria
- Mapping national drug system 3PL and 4PL outsourcing system and opportunities
- Training field team for qualitative interviews with high-level and middle management employees
- Qualitatively analyzing high level private/public sector stakeholder decision making processes
- Defining improvement possibilities for national drug supply chain management
- Consolidating evidence-based recommendations and final report drafting

MENTORING

#	First and Last Name	Country of Origin	Country of Study	Degree	Field of Study	Exam / Thesis Years
1	Erick Agura	Kenya	Germany	Master	<p>University Name: Heidelberg University Study Program: Master of Science in International Health</p> <p>Thesis Title: Adherence of dietary habits to the national food-based dietary guidelines among under-fives in Kenya: A scoping review</p>	September 2020
2	Michael Muok Mbata	Kenya	Kenya	Master	<p>University Name: Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. Study Program: Master of Public Health</p> <p>Thesis Title: Association between nutrient patterns and malaria infection and manifestation in children under-fives in Kenya</p>	September 2022
3	Lea-Sophie Hansen	Germany	Germany	PhD / Doctorate	<p>University Name: University of Heidelberg, Medical Faculty of Mannheim Study Program: Medical studies</p> <p>Thesis Title: Home gardening in rural sub-Sahara Africa: evidence for nutrition-sensitive intervention design</p>	TBD
4	Grace Kihagi	Kenya	Germany	PhD / Doctorate	<p>University Name: Heidelberg University Study Program: Doctorate in Global Health</p> <p>Thesis Title: Climate-sensitive nutrients and undernutrition among young children in rural Kenya</p>	TBD
5	Carol Abidha	Kenya	Germany	PhD / Doctorate	<p>University Name: Heidelberg University Study Program: Doctorate in Global Health</p> <p>Thesis Title: "Modifiable risk factor index and it's association with DNA methylation and subsequent T2DM in Sub-Saharan African migrants"</p>	TBD
6	Fanta Zerbo	Burkina Faso	Germany	PhD / Doctorate	<p>University Name: Heidelberg University Study Program: Doctorate in Global Health</p> <p>Thesis Title: Climate-sensitive nutrients and undernutrition among young children in rural Burkina Faso</p>	TBD

PUBLICATIONS (select)

- Sorgho, R.;** Bhatt, M.; Danquah, I. Sauerborn, R. (2022) Institutional Barriers to Climate Change and Health Adaptation in Burkina Faso. *Climate and Development* DOI: 10.1080/17565529.2022.2125786
- Agure E.; Kihagi G.W.; Muok O.M.R.; Hansen L-S.; Mank I.; **Sorgho R.;** Danquah I. Adherence of dietary practices among under-fives in Kenya to the national food-based dietary guidelines (FBDG): A scoping review" *Public Health Nutrition* 2021 (Under review)
- Hansen L-S.; **Sorgho R.;** Mank I.; Schwerdtle P. N.; Agure E.; Bärnighausen T., Danquah I. Home gardening in sub-Saharan Africa: A scoping review on practices and nutrition outcomes in rural Burkina Faso and Kenya *Food and Energy Security* 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1002/fes3.388>
- Osei T.B.; Isabel Mank I.; **Sorgho R.;** Schwerdtle P.N.; Santos-Hövener C.; Florian Fischer F.; Razum O, Danquah I; Etiological research on migrants' health in Germany: A systematic literature review" *European Journal of Public Health* 2021 DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-058712
- Mank, I., **Sorgho, R.**, Zerbo, F. *et al.* ALIMUS—We are feeding! Study protocol of a multi-center, cluster-randomized controlled trial on the effects of a home garden and nutrition counseling intervention to reduce child undernutrition in rural Burkina Faso and Kenya. *Trials* 23, 449 (2022). DOI: 10.1186/s13063-022-06423-5
- Sorgho, R.;** Jungmann, M.; Souares, A.; Danquah, I.; Sauerborn, R. Climate Change, Health Risks and Vulnerabilities in Burkina Faso: a Qualitative Study on the Perceptions of National policymakers. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2021, 18, 4972. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18094972>
- Sorgho, R.;** Quiñonez, C.A.M.; Louis, V.R.; Winkler, V.; Dambach, P.; Sauerborn, R.; Horstick, O. Climate Change Policies in 16 West African Countries: A Systematic Review of Adaptation with a Focus on Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2020, 17, 8897. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17238897>
- Yeboah E, Bunker A, Dambach P, Mank I, **Sorgho R**, Sié A, et al. Transformative Adaptations for Health Impacts of Climate Change in Burkina Faso and Kenya. In: Leal Filho W, Ogugu N, Adelake L, Ayal D, da Silva I, editors. African Handbook of Climate Change Adaptation. Cham: *Springer International Publishing*; 2020. p. 1-16. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-45106-6_119
- Sorgho, R.;** Mank, I.; Kagoné, M.; Souares, A.; Danquah, I.; Sauerborn, R. “We Will Always Ask Ourselves the Question of How to Feed the Family”: Subsistence Farmers’ Perceptions on Adaptation to Climate Change in Burkina Faso. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2020, 17, 7200. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17197200>
- Karst, I.G.; Mank, I.; Traoré, I.; **Sorgho, R.;** Stückemann, K.-J.; Simboro, S.; Sié, A.; Franke, J.; Sauerborn, R. (2020) Estimating Yields of Household Fields in Rural Subsistence Farming Systems to Study Food Security in Burkina Faso. *Remote Sens.* 2020, 12, 1717. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12111717>
- Sorgho R,** Jonas F, Simboro S, Barteit S, Sauerborn R. (2018) Utilizing remote sensing at a subsistence farming level to explore child undernutrition in the context of climate change. In: Kallel A., Ksibi M., Ben Dhia H., Khélifi N. (eds) Recent Advances in Environmental Science from the Euro-Mediterranean and Surrounding Regions. EMCEI 2017. *Advances in Science, Technology & Innovation (IEREK Interdisciplinary Series for Sustainable Development)*. Springer, Cham DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-70548-4_502
- Sorgho R,** Franke J, Simboro S, Barteit S, Phalkey R, Sauerborn R (2017) Linking Weather Data, Satellite Imagery and Field Observations to Household Food Production and Child under Nutrition: An Exploratory Study from a Subsistence Farming Village in Burkina Faso. *Universal J Public Hlth* 5(5): 256-270 DOI:10.13189/ujph.2017.050508
- Sorgho R,** Franke J, Simboro S, Phalkey R, Sauerborn R (2016) NUTRition and CLIMate (NUTRICLIM): investigating the relationship between climate variables and childhood malnutrition through agriculture, an exploratory study in Burkina Faso. *Public Health Reviews. Special Edition "Climate Change and Health". Pro-cedings from the COP21 Side Event "Healthy Lives on a Healthy Planet"*: 51-56. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40985-016-0031-6>

PRESENTATIONS / SPEAKER INVITATIONS (select)

COP26 United Nations Conference of Parties: German Blue Zone Policymaker Pavilion – Oral presentation “*The Role of Government in climate and nutrition: studies of adaptation across 16 west African countries*” – Glasgow Scotland, October 31 to November 12 2021

TropenTag: Toward Shifting Paradigms In Agriculture For A Healthy And Sustainable Future – Video presentation “*Home Gardening for Climate Change-resilience: Co-designing a Nutrition-sensitive Intervention in Rural Kenya*” - Hohenheim Germany, September 15-17 2021

Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) 6th Academic Week – Poster presentation “*Home gardening and nutrition counselling in rural Kenya: A qualitative study from local perspectives*” – London United Kingdom June 20 – July 02 2021

Springer Nature: Euro-Med Conference for Environmental Integration – Oral presentation “*Utilizing remote sensing at a subsistence farming level to examine child malnutrition in the age of climate change – an exploratory study in the Kossi region of Burkina Faso*” - Sousse Tunisia, November 22-25 2017

11th European Nutrition and Dietetics Conference – Poster presentation “*Linking weather, remotely sensed household food production to child under nutrition at the household level - An exploratory study from a subsistence farming village in Burkina Faso*” Madrid Spain, June 29 – July 01 2017

Harvard University Climate Week: Workshop on Climate Change & Health – Oral presentation “*Feasibility Study in Boron, Burkina Faso*” Boston USA, April 24 – 28 2017

International Society of for Environmental Epidemiology – Poster presentation “*NUTRICLIM: The relationship between climate and childhood malnutrition, an exploratory study in Burkina Faso*” Rome Italy, September 1 – 4 2016

COP21 United Nations Conference of Parties. Rockefeller Foundation Site Event: Our Planet Our Health – Oral Presentation “*NutriClim: Proof of Concept Pilot Study: Climate change, agriculture Malnutrition*” Paris France, December 11 2015

World Health Summit 2015: Climate and Health Plenary Session – Oral Presentation with Rainer Sauerborn “*Climate Change and Health: A Government Perspective*” Berlin Germany, October 11 – 13 2015

DAAD Franco-German Research: “*Climate change, health and communication: comment sensibiliser la population?* – Oral presentation “*Communiquer la science à la population d’étude*” – Paris France, September 10 2015

Centre de Research en Santé: 15th Anniversary of Research Center – Oral presentation “*Climate Change and Health: Farming populations*” Kossi Burkina Faso, July 15 2015

CONSULTANCY SKILLS

Managing Industrial Quality Projects – Heidelberg Convention	2021
Systematic Reviews and Economic Evidence in Public and Global Health – Campbell Collaboration	2019
Health Technology Assessment – Technische Universität Berlin	2018
Consultancy Skills in International Cooperation: Evaluation of Health Facilities – HIGH	2017
Proposal Writing as a Consultancy Skill – HIGH	2017
Quality Improvement: A Key for Health Systems Strengthening – Eval Plan & HIGH	2016
Quality Management In International Health – GIZ & HIGH	2016

LANGUAGE & SOFTWARE SKILLS

Language – Fluent in English, French and Morée; Basic knowledge Spanish and German
Computer – Expert in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Search Engines, Photoshop, and Social Media Platforms
Programs – Nvivo, EpiInfo, EpiData, CPro, STATA, QGIS, SurveySolutions

LINKS

Linked-In Profile: [LinkedIn Page](#)

Public Health Institute – Center for Wellness and Nutrition: [Institute Staff Page](#)

Public Health Institute – Roots of Change: [Institute Staff Page](#)

Heidelberg University - Heidelberg Institute of Global Health: [Institute Staff Page](#)

Climate Change and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa: [Project Link](#)

Household Preferences for Reducing greenhouse gas Emissions in four European High Income: [Project Link](#)

FREE TIME ACTIVITIES

Nonprofit Organization *Friends of Nouna* – Bringing health initiatives to rural populations (2014 - present)

Doctoral Student Board – Institute of Global Health Doctoral Student Representative (2018 - 2020)

Hobbies include –Fitness Classes, African and Latin Dance, Tennis, Reading, Gardening and Traveling