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## Summary

I am a transdisciplinary implementation research scientist and empirical bioethicist with expertise spanning Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), evidence informed decision making, climate change, and health systems resilience. My work integrates empirical bioethics, decolonial inquiry, and critical engagement with power, knowledge, and justice in global health. I have led and advised on high-level research and implementation projects with organizations including WHO-TDR, UNFPA, USAID, IPPF, Guttmacher Institute, and the Gates Foundation across Africa and Asia. Notable engagements include leading abortion research capacity building in Sub-Saharan Africa, and evaluating Primary Health Care and maternal mortality in Mali and Nigeria. I am committed to advancing meaningful, equity-driven partnerships across disciplines and sectors, and fostering evidence-informed decision making driven by intentional and proactive science communication. My research and practice critically interrogate what counts as evidence, who produces it, and how it shapes health policy and global public health transformation.

## Core Expertise

- Over 15 years' experience in global health, women's health, and reproductive health research
- Expertise in curriculum development, hybrid and online teaching, and student supervision
- Strong record of publications (over 100 peer reviewed publications) and international research collaborations
- Proven leadership in managing multidisciplinary, cross-continental health programs
- Skilled in stakeholder engagement, science communication, and advocacy

## Education:

PhD, Transdisciplinary Global Health Solutions, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
MSc, Bioethics (Clinical and Research Ethics), KU Leuven  
MPH, Epidemiology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
MD, University of Yaoundé I  
MBA, Strategic Human Resources Management for Health, Universidad Internacional de la Rioja

## Professional Experience

**African Population and Health Research Center, April 2024 – present:** Responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Center's partnership model and operations in the Center's offices outside its Headquarters; facilitating entry and seamless program implementation in line with the different regulatory regimes in countries where APHRC has or intends to implement projects. I lead the internationalization strategy in strengthening the research and development ecosystem in Africa, through the creation of strategic partnerships with a multitude of stakeholders.

**Senior Program Officer, Global Health | International Development Research Centre, IDRC:**  
*Ottawa, Canada. September 2022 – March 2024*

I coordinated major initiatives at the intersection of climate change and health, with a strong focus on the gender dimensions in One Health and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) funded projects, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). I oversaw the implementation of WHO-TDR-funded One Health research in Francophone Africa, the IDRC supported work by the UNFPA on the impact of climate change on SRHR, as well as the draft zero of the recently launched 29.9 Million CAD Addressing Neglected Areas of Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Sub – Saharan Africa (ANeSA).

**Senior Research Fellow in Global Health, Lincoln International Institute for Rural Health, University of Lincoln, UK: July 2020 – August 2022**

Led ethics and community engagement initiatives at the institute, coordinating digital health and community engagement research. Secured major grants, including £1M (Wolfson) for a population cohort in Lincolnshire and \$640,000 (SSRC) as Co-PI to combat vaccine hesitancy in Ghana. Developed a multi-country COVID-19 response study adopted by six PANDORA network countries. Served on the University of Lincoln's Research Ethics Committee and the Human Tissue Oversight Group (HTOG), advancing ethical research governance and stakeholder engagement.

**Co – principal investigator in the WHO-TDR funded project (Reference: WHO APW Contract # 202699342): July 2021 – October 2022:**

Led the Best practices in Community Engagement in Sub – Saharan Africa, project

**Researcher and PhD candidate, Athena Institute for Research on Innovation and Communication in the Health and Life Sciences, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. September 2016 – September 2020:**

I carried out action research regarding adolescent pregnancy decision making in Ghana. Our findings have influenced the safe abortion training policy among health care staff, as well as the current Ghanaian comprehensive sexuality education package. A key recommendation of our work currently being considered by the Ghana Health Service is the inclusion of conscientious objection as a key consideration in improving access to safe abortion services for adolescents.

**Service Head, HIV – AIDS and Tuberculosis Management and Emergency Care Units, Garoua Military Hospital, Cameroon: November 2011- September 2016:** I managed an HIV – TB patient pool of about 700. I was involved planning therapeutic committee meetings, overseeing prescriptions on combined active anti-retroviral and TB drugs, and in the psychosocial support of patients. I successfully improved patient outcomes through implementation of choice architecture anti-stigma policies, that significantly improved adherence rates to medication and evidence partner testing and linkage to care rates in the hospital.

## Board Memberships and Technical Working Groups

- Member, International Medical Advisory Panel (IMAP) Member, International Medical Advisory Panel (IMAP). International Planned Parenthood Federation:
- Member, WHO Sexual Health and Well-being Advisory Group (SWAG) Member, WHO Sexual Health and Well-being Advisory Group (SWAG)
- Technical Expert and member of the subcommittee on Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Africa CDC
- Member of the Inaugural Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Measuring Sexual and Reproductive Agency (SRA), UNFPA
- Member of the Scientific and Technical advisory Group (STAG) of WHO-TDR: July 2025 – 2027
- Member of the Steering Group of the Advocacy, Resource Mobilization and Communication Partner Committee (ARPCPC) of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria
- Co-Chair of the Society for African Genomic Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (SAGeSA),

## Selected Publications

1. **Bain LE**, Amoakoh-Coleman M, Tiendrebeogo KST, Zweekhorst MBM, de Cock Buning T, Becquet R. Attitudes towards abortion and decision-making capacity of pregnant adolescents: perspectives of medicine, midwifery and law students in Accra, Ghana. *Eur J Contracept Reprod Health Care*. 2020 Apr;25(2):151–8.
2. **Bain LE**, Amu H, Enowbeyang Tarkang E. Barriers and motivators of contraceptive use among young people in Sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review of qualitative studies. *PLoS One*. 2021;16(6):e0252745.
3. **Bain LE**, Ahinkorah BO, Seidu AA, Budu E, Okyere J, Kongnyuy E. Beyond counting intended pregnancies among young women to understanding their associated factors in sub-Saharan Africa. *Int Health*. 2022 Sep 7;14(5):501–9.
4. **Bain LE**, Akondeng C, Njamnshi WY, Mandi HE, Amu H, Njamnshi AK. Community engagement in research in sub-Saharan Africa: current practices, barriers, facilitators, ethical considerations and the role of gender - a systematic review. *Pan Afr Med J*. 2022;43:152.
5. **Bain LE**, Muftugil-Yalcin S, Amoakoh-Coleman M, Zweekhorst MBM, Becquet R, de Cock Buning T. Decision-making preferences and risk factors regarding early adolescent pregnancy in Ghana: stakeholders' and adolescents' perspectives from a vignette-based qualitative study. *Reprod Health*. 2020 Sep 11;17(1):141.
6. **Bain LE**, Zweekhorst MBM, de Cock Buning T. Prevalence and Determinants of Unintended Pregnancy in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review. *Afr J Reprod Health*. 2020 Jun;24(2):187–205.
7. Malunga G, Sangong S, Saah FI, **Bain LE**. Prevalence and factors associated with adolescent pregnancies in Zambia: a systematic review from 2000-2022. *Arch Public Health*. 2023 Feb 20;81(1):27.
8. Ayuk BE, Yankam BM, Saah FI, **Bain LE**. Provision of injectable contraceptives by community health workers in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review of safety, acceptability and effectiveness. *Hum Resour Health*. 2022 Sep 5;20(1):66.