

Dr. Ifeanyi M. Nsofor

Maryland, USA 

+12405054135 

i.nsofor@atlanticfellows.org 

www.linkedin.com/in/ifeanyinsofor 

www.ifeanyinsofor.com 

Profile

A global health thought leader with 15+ years more working with national, international, non-profit and private organisations. Began his global health career at Nigeria's National Programme on Immunization. A leading voice in global health equity, health security, universal health coverage and health research. Involved in launching two successful health start-ups (Nigeria Health Watch and EpiAFRIC). Has led more than 30 research projects across Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana and Nigeria. In 2021, he led a national survey to unpack Nigeria's epidemic preparedness prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nigeria's response to the pandemic and plans for the country's future preparedness for epidemics and pandemics. While at Nigeria Health Watch, he was Project Director of a Global Health Advocacy Incubator, which contributed to the government of Nigeria's unprecedented increase of the budget of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) by 75% in 2021. In 2015, he oversaw the evaluation of the African Union's intervention to end the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Has supported local and international NGOs in strategic planning, research, advocacy, health communications and more. Has authored and co-authored more than 120 [opinion pieces](#) written (45 specifically on COVID-19). Interviewed by top news outlets such as The New York Times, BBC, Al Jazeera, Forbes, The Lancet etc. A Senior New Voices Fellow at the Aspen Institute, Senior Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity at George Washington University and an Innovation Fellow at PandemicTech. A COVID-19 Top 100 healthcare professional globally in 2020 by Onalytica. Top 100 most influential Africans of 2020 by NewAfrican magazine. Two-time TEDx Speaker. He is a member of the Global Fellows Advisory Board at the Atlantic Institute, Rhodes Trust, Oxford.

Experience

JANUARY 2023 – PRESENT

Independent Contractor / UPSWELL

- Member of the Behavioral Insights Team leveraging the power of social and digital platforms alongside scientifically proven behavior models using make behavioral science research to develop health communications and advocacy contents
- Principal Investigator - Acceptability of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine Among Caregivers of girls aged 9-17 years in Nigeria. Coordinated concept development, questionnaires design, development of research protocol, application for Institutional Board Review and conduct of survey
- Principal Investigator - Knowledge, Purchase and Use of Medication Abortion in Nigeria and Ghana. Coordinating concept development, questionnaires design, development of research protocol, application for Institutional Board Review and conduct of survey

SEPTEMBER 2021 – JANUARY 2023

Health Strategy & Delivery Consultant / UPSWELL

- Principal Investigator - Drivers of and Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Nigeria. Coordinated concept development, questionnaires design, development of research protocol, application for Institutional Board Review and conduct of survey
- Oversaw social media training for 17 Nigerian coalition partners and 3 communications agencies by developing programs and integration of social media into a project aimed at using Facebook and Instagram to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake among healthcare providers in Nigeria
- Supported the production of 326 social media posts, which reached 12,831,570 users on Facebook and Instagram
- Moderated a Facebook live event with a Nollywood movie celebrity and 2 social media influencers, attended by 454 people

SEPTEMBER 2016 – NOVEMBER 2021

Chief Executive Officer / EpiAFRIC, Abuja, Nigeria

- Oversaw a survey to document Nigeria's epidemic preparedness and response to COVID-19
- Oversaw the development of strategic plan for an international NGO working in Nigeria
- Oversaw the monitoring and evaluation and evidence generation for the Early Warning Disease Outbreak Recognition System for an infectious diseases project in southwest Nigeria.
- Oversaw the documentation of FHI360 primary health care, immunization, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) project in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria
- Oversaw the conceptualization and development of a communications for a state health insurance agency in Nigeria
- Oversaw the 2019 [Mental Health in Nigeria Survey](#) – 5,315 respondents interviewed across all states in Nigeria
- Oversaw the “Health Meets Tech” Initiative across Africa – brought health and tech experts to develop digital health solutions to improve health across Africa. Conceptualized and oversaw seven hackathons in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa
- Oversaw a survey to learn the willingness of men to use reversible male contraceptives if they were available in Nigeria's 2 largest cities (Lagos and Kano) and Nigeria's federal capital territory (Abuja)
- Oversaw an “MSD for Mothers” survey to understand the value chain in procurement, transport, storage, distribution and use of maternal medicines in 6 Nigerian States
- Served as a Judge at the COVID-19 Global Hackathon 1.0. More than 18,000 innovators from 175 countries created 1,560 projects to #BuildForCOVID19

SEPTEMBER 2016 – JANUARY 2021

Director Policy & Advocacy / Nigeria Health Watch, Abuja

- Project Director of the prevent epidemics in Nigeria (#PreventEpidemicsNaija) project, which contributed to the government of Nigeria increasing the budget of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control by 75% in 2021
- Overall lead for policy and advocacy initiatives implemented by the organisation
- Led the research and documentation to for the #GivingBirthInNigeria project – a project that documented why women die during pregnancy, childbirths and afterwards in 7 Nigerian states. Positive outcomes included ensuring maternal deaths in communities are counted. Production of “Why are women dying while giving birth in Nigeria report”
- Led the #healthEquity4FCTIndigenes project which inspired the provision of boreholes and drugs for prevention of tropical diseases in poor indigenous Abuja communities
- Coached and mentored several team members on health policy development, advocacy and communications

MAY 2014 – AUGUST 2016

Director of Consulting Services / EpiAFRIC, Abuja, Nigeria

- Oversaw the evaluation of the African Union Support to Ebola in West Africa (ASEOWA) in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- Oversaw the assessment of epidemic preparedness at 3 of Nigeria's international borders (Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos; Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja; and Idiroko Land Crossing between Nigeria and Benin Republic at Ogun State) as part of baseline assessment for the Integrated Response to Public Health Emergencies in Nigeria (IRPHEN) project.
- Trained 30 Chief Medical Directors of public and private hospitals in Lagos, Nigeria on population health and healthcare leadership
- Oversaw scoping research in Ghana and Nigeria to examine the feasibility of rolling out or supporting the roll out of a community-based health insurance scheme for Christian Aid UK in Nigeria
- Managed and oversaw the evaluation of the SURE-P maternal and child health project across 6 states in Nigeria

- Led the evaluation of Christina Aid UK's HIV/AIDS project in Nigeria and their project on primary health care, water and sanitation.

JULY 2012 – APRIL 2014

Senior Programme Officer / TY Danjuma Foundation, Abuja

- Led the Foundation's grant making in community health and also provided managerial oversight for grant making in education and income generation thematic areas. Managed grants of more than \$1 million yearly
- Developed new partnerships between the Foundation and local/international NGOs, bilateral/multilateral development agencies and various levels of government
- Developed monitoring forms and checklists for use during visits to grantee project sites. These forms assisted in analysing findings and giving feedback to grantees to improve project performance
- Led the development of annual action plans for my unit and participated in doing same for the organisation
- Led the process of developing the 2014-2018 organisational strategic plan – engaged with grantees, staff, beneficiaries and Board of Trustees of the Foundation to optimise grant acquisition and deployment

JANUARY 2012 – JUNE 2012

Senior Programme Officer / Nutrition International (formerly Micronutrient Initiative), Abuja

- Managed the organisation's support to the Nigerian government on iron and folic acid supplements for pregnant women
- Analysed various evaluation reports on the state of the Nigerian women and used findings to advise the Nigerian government and other partners on best ways of improving iron and folic acid supplementation for pregnant women
- Regularly interfaced with sub-grantees and gained practical experience in team and relationship building across development partners

MARCH 2012 – APRIL 2012

Consultant The Global Fund Evaluation / National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Abuja

- Provided evidence of performance, achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in implementing the Global Fund behaviour change communication, care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS components of the grant in Nigeria since the implementation of Global Fund Round 5
- Demonstrated the contributions of community level interventions in reduction of burden of HIV
- Outlined key recommendations on strategies/approaches for the next phase of the grant

MAY 2010 – JANUARY 2012

Programme Officer / TY Danjuma Foundation, Abuja

- Managed projects of eleven grantees with annual funding of \$2.3 million. The grantees interventions included immunizations, maternal/child health interventions, water/sanitation, free medical missions, sexual and reproductive health
- Managed large/multiple grants simultaneously and assessing the quality of health interventions
- Conducted rigorous due diligence and analysis of grant proposals to assesses the strength of the project, the grant applicant, and the financials of the applicant
- Successfully organised the first-ever roundtable in Nigeria that focused on, "assessing the impact of free medical missions"

SEPTEMBER 2008 – JANUARY 2012

Research Client / Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

- Successfully established a research relationship with my alma mater, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), United Kingdom

- The school sent postgraduate students annually to undertake collaborative research. This was geared towards entrenching evidence-based thinking in public health programming in Nigeria while providing data for the students' theses
- Mentored 3 students who researched on Neglected Tropical Diseases, Family planning and Post-Partum Haemorrhage

MARCH 2008 – MAY 2010

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer / Pathfinder International, Abuja

- Summarized, analysed and interpreted data collected from partners, project and field offices for monitoring project activities
- Trained health workers on Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor, use of the Non-pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (NASG) for management of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), blood loss estimation using blood drape and magnesium sulphate for the management of eclampsia
- Developed a case study form which led to development of a database for all clinical data from the project's 60 health facilities in 6 states, containing data on outcomes in more than 100,000 women resulting in a very useful tool for quickly analysing the information and making useful inferences

JULY 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2007

Overseas Research Experience / Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

- Evaluated the financing of antiretroviral drugs scale-up in Zambia
- This 8-week research provided a platform to gain practical experience and skills in research protocol development, conduct of interviews, transcribing of interviews, coding of transcribed interviews and data analysis in qualitative research
- Learnt the use of a qualitative research transcribing software, MAXQDA
- The research included budget analysis and viewed the subject matter along equity scales; Chama district (most disadvantaged) and Lusaka district (most advantaged)

MARCH 2006 – JUNE 2006

Consultant on Epidemiological Survey / Hanovia Medical Limited, Abuja

- Oversaw the development of forms/checklists used by field officers in data collection and collation
- Assessed the health status of the Enugu state, southeast Nigeria with focus on priority communicable diseases of public health importance
- Analysed the pattern of these priority diseases over a period of three years (2003 – 2005) in Enugu state, southeast Nigeria
- Analysed the status of the State Disease Surveillance and Notification and the Emergency Preparedness and Response to Disasters and Disease Epidemics

SEPTEMBER 2002 – DECEMBER 2006

Principal Technical Officer / National Programme on Immunization, Abuja

- Travelled extensively around Nigeria training immunization service providers, supervising and monitoring the conduct of routine and supplemental immunization campaigns especially the global polio eradication initiative
- Participated in the development of various forms/checklists for use in monitoring immunization service delivery
- Summarized state reports and data such as the 40 notifiable diseases and gave feedback to zonal offices for use when they visited states for monitoring and supportive supervision

JANUARY 2002 – SEPTEMBER 2002

Personal Assistant to CEO / National Programme on Immunization, Abuja

- Coordinated of administrative and some technical information as regards immunization service delivery in the office of the CEO

Core Competencies

Media relations, relationship management, strategic planning, effective leadership, communication, advocacy, storytelling, health content development, social media management

Education

Master of Sciences - Community Health / University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Bachelor of Sciences - Medicine and Surgery / Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria

Presentations

APRIL 2023 BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

From Colonial Medicine to Global Health Equity.

Spring 2023 Global Health Lecture delivered at the Boston University School of Public Health.

MARCH 2022 COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION

Health Justice in the Commonwealth: Towards Equitable Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Technology.

Ninety-minute panel discussion on global vaccine inequities and its effect across the Commonwealth

FEBRUARY 2021 UNIVERSITY OF GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY, RWANDA (VIRTUAL MEETING)

Lessons that Africa Can teach Richer nations in Responding to Pandemics

Two-hour lecture to Masters in Global Health Delivery Students Seminar Series

FEBRUARY 2021 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE, RHODE ISLAND (VIRTUAL MEETING)

Lessons that Africa Can teach Richer nations in Responding to Pandemics

MARCH 2020 MASSACHUSETTES INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Forward this to 10 people: The Epidemic of Health Misinformation in Nigeria

45-minute presentation at the 2nd Exploring Media Ecosystems Conference, Samberg Conference Centre, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

JUNE 2020 UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD (VIRTUAL MEETING)

Epidemic Preparedness: What can the Global North Learn from Africa.

One-hour panel discussion at the Oxford-SOAS Research for Development (R4D) Lunchtime Series

Opinion Pieces Written (<https://www.ifeanyiinsofor.com/opinion-pieces/>)

1. It's time to channel household expenditures into health insurance in Nigeria. <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-it-s-time-to-channel-household-expenditures-into-health-insurance-in-nigeria-96012>
2. Remittances could be a gamechanger in the quest for UHC. Here's how. <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-remittances-could-be-a-gamechanger-in-the-quest-for-uhc-here-s-how-94432>
3. Health Solidarity Is Health Security. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/vaccine-nationalism-global-health-solidarity-covid-by-ifeanyi-m-nsofor-2022-10>
4. We must increase people's access to and willingness to take COVID-19 vaccines. <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmjgh/2021/10/02/we-must-increase-peoples-access-to-and-willingness-to-take-covid-19-vaccines/>

5. Nigeria: Let's Eradicate Polio – an Urgent Health Priority. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202210150025.html>
6. Monkeypox: 5 Things You Should Know Now. <https://drifeanyinsofor.medium.com/monkeypox-5-things-you-should-know-now-5492724191ef>
7. Media coverage of monkeypox paints it as an African virus. That makes me mad. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2022/06/02/1102199023/opinion-media-coverage-of-monkeypox-paints-it-as-an-african-virus-that-makes-me->
8. Why I'm An Invisible Man In The Global Vaccine Campaign. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/01/26/960304622/opinion-why-im-an-invisible-man-in-the-global-vaccine-campaign>
9. Four lessons from Covid to help African leaders prepare for next pandemic. https://www.theafricareport.com/69237/four-lessons-from-covid-to-help-african-leaders-prepare-for-next-pandemic/?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=post_articles_twitter_02_03_2021&utm_medium=social
10. What developing countries can teach rich countries about how to respond to a pandemic. <https://theconversation.com/what-developing-countries-can-teach-rich-countries-about-how-to-respond-to-a-pandemic-146784>

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Outcomes of a social media campaign to promote COVID-19 vaccination in Nigeria. WD Evans, JB Bingenheimer, M Long, K Ndiaye... - Plos one, 2023. L Faust, AJ Zimmer, M Kohli, S Saha, J Boffa, ML Bayot... - Microbes and Infection, 2020. SARS-CoV-2 testing in low-and middle-income countries: availability and affordability in the private health sector
2. COVID-19 calls for health systems strengthening in Africa: A case of Nigeria. EE Elebesunu, GI Oke, YA Adebisi, IMW Nsofor - The International Journal of Health Planning and ...,
3. Decolonising global health evaluation: Synthesis from a scoping review
Pant I, Khosla S, Lama JT, Shanker V, AlKhalidi M, et al. (2022), PLOS Global Public Health 2(11): e0000306. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0000306>
4. SARS-CoV-2 testing in low- and middle-income countries: availability and affordability in the private health sector. Faust L, Zimmer A, Kohli M, Saha S, Boffa J, Bayot M, Nsofor I, et al. 2020. Microbes and Infection, 22(10): 511-4.
5. Sub-Saharan Africa Tackles COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities. Mezue K, Edwards P, Nsofor I, et al. 2020. Ethnicity & Disease, 30(4): 693-4.
6. Lay media reporting of monkeypox in Nigeria. Oyebanji O, Ofonagoro U, Akande O, Nsofor, I et al. 2019. BMJ Global Health, 4(6): p.e002019.
7. Tuberculosis in Nigeria: Rapid Assessment of Infectious Disease Surveillance and Reporting. Aruna O, Oyediran K and Nsofor I. 2019. — MEASURE Evaluation. [online] Measureevaluation.org. Available at: <https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/tr-18-292/> .
8. Evaluation on implementation of the African programme for onchocerciasis control in Nigeria. Xie Z, Nsofor I, Tolhurst R. Beijing Da Xue Xue Bao Yi Xue Ban. 2012 Jun 18; 44(3):403-6. Chinese. PMID: 22692311.