

ENN



Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN): How we support and collaborate with research partners

Emergency Nutrition Network: Who we are

ENN is recognised globally as a thought partner and convener in nutrition.

We enhance the effectiveness of policy and programming by capturing and exchanging knowledge and experiences, convening actors and networks and by carrying out research to improve knowledge, stimulate learning and build evidence. Our vision is that every individual caught up in a nutritional emergency, or suffering from malnutrition anywhere in the world, receives the most effective help possible.

Our work is always driven by needs in the field and through our collaborations we provide support and encouragement to practitioners and decision-makers involved in nutrition and related interventions.

Established 25 years ago, we are a UK-registered charity with an experienced team of 24 technical and operational staff and a range of specialist associates who work globally.

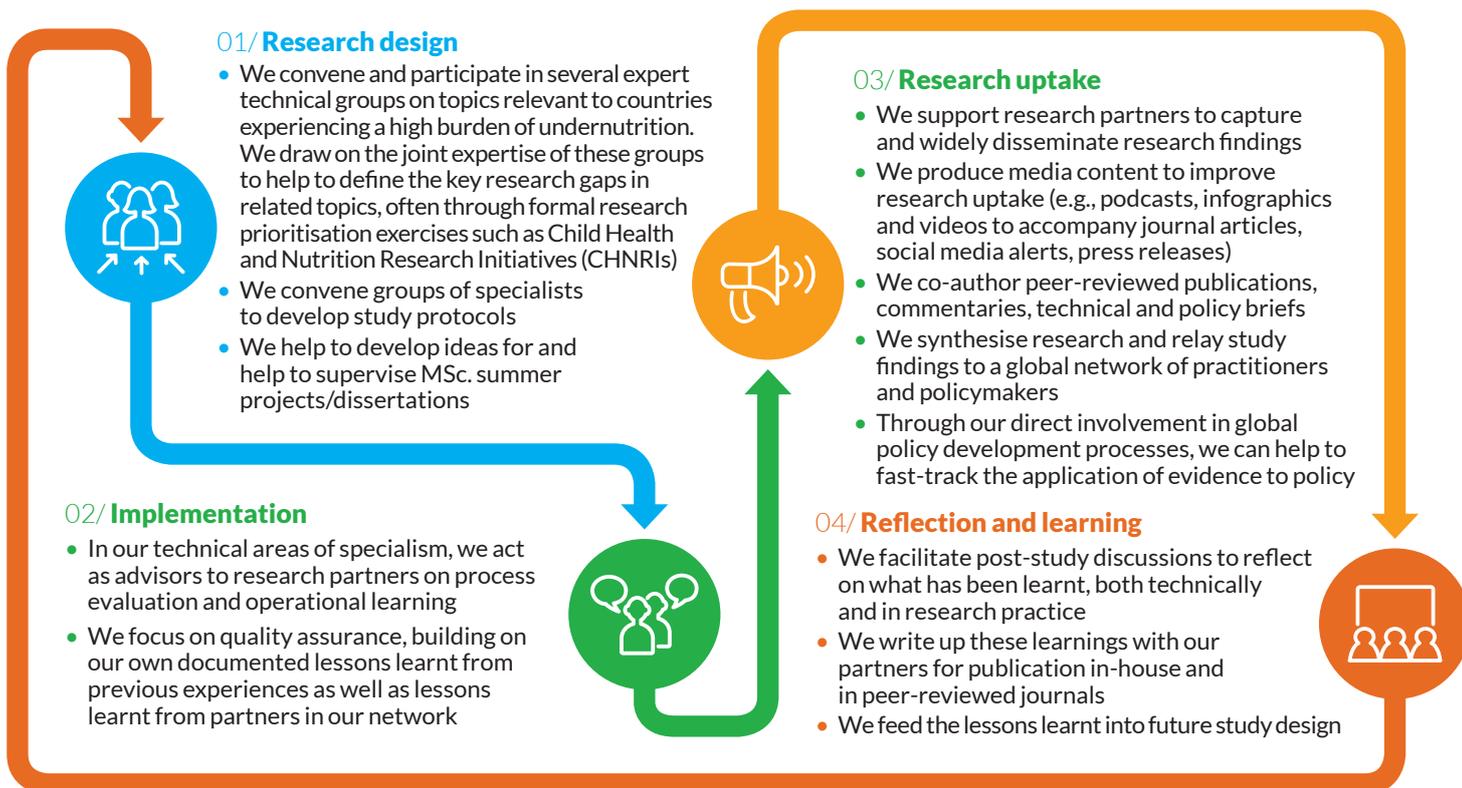
Our Research Partnerships

Our research partners include a range of universities and other institutions having a research focus such as NGOs, donors and United Nations agencies.

We are committed to further broadening our research collaborations and in particular we wish to support the increased localisation of research by establishing more partnerships in countries affected by a high burden of undernutrition. Our research engagement principles and practices are grounded in fair and collaborative partnerships to co-create evidence, in representative authorship, recognising each partner's full contributions and with an emphasis on open access research outputs. We believe that robust scientific evidence which impacts and informs national and international policy and practice must build from national capacities and collaborative research partnerships. This includes engaging policy makers and practitioners at the outset in order to better support and shape the research process and approach.

ENN's partnerships range from wide networks of researchers working on research prioritisation exercises and those participating in our special interest groups (for instance, our partnership with the Wasting-Stunting Technical Interest Group who were supported by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance to develop a [study protocol](#) bringing new evidence on undernutrition and mortality) to more focused collaborations for specific research questions (for instance our [current partnership](#) with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Jimma University in Ethiopia and GOAL, supported by the Eleanor Crook Foundation, to test an integrated care pathway model within existing health services for small and nutritionally at risk infants under six months and their mothers).

Our Support Across the Research Cycle



Our Technical Specialisms

Our research currently spans the following topics, amongst many others:

- The management of small and nutritionally at-risk infants under six months and their mothers ([MAMI](#))
- The relationship between wasting and stunting ([WaSt](#))
- Maternal nutrition
- School-age children and adolescent nutrition
- Wasting prevention
- COVID-19 and nutrition
- Food systems and climate change

See our [publications library](#), with the following recent examples

Strategies and interventions for healthy adolescent growth, nutrition, and development. *Lancet*, 2022. 399: 198-210. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01593-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01593-2)

The relationship between wasting and stunting in young children: A systematic review. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*, 2022. 18: e13246. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13246>

Women's nutrition: A summary of evidence, policy and practice including adolescent and maternal life stages. ENN, 2022. <https://www.ennonline.net/womensnutritionasummarytechnicalbriefingpaper>

Effectiveness of Breastfeeding Support Packages in Low-and Middle-Income Countries for Infants under Six Months: A Systematic Review. *Nutrients*, 2021, 13: 681. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13020681>

Maternal-focused interventions to improve infant growth and nutritional status in low-middle income countries. *PLoS ONE*, 2021, 16: e0256188. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0256188>

Special section on COVID-19 nutrition programming. *Field Exchange*, 2021, 65. <https://www.ennonline.net/fex/65/en>

Wasting in the wider context of undernutrition - An ENN Position Paper. ENN, 2020. <https://www.ennonline.net/ennwastingpositionpaper>

Story of change: ENN's role in Knowledge Management related to the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. ENN, 2020. <https://www.ennonline.net/storyofchangesunkm>

Adolescent nutrition mapping study: A global stakeholder survey of policies, research, interventions and data gaps. ENN, 2020. https://www.ennonline.net/attachments/3738/Adolescent-nutrition-mapping-study_16Dec2020.pdf

Anthropometry at birth and at age of routine vaccination to predict mortality in the first year of life: A birth cohort study in Burkina Faso. *PLoS One*, 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0213523>

The relationship between wasting and stunting: a retrospective cohort analysis of longitudinal data in Gambian children from 1976 to 2016. *Am J Clin Nutr*, 2019: 110:498-507. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/nqy326>

Research Dissemination

To help the international community to strengthen nutrition policy and programming, we offer the following free publications and resource platforms to share evidence, experiences and learning. These not only offer research staff and students a range of resources for immediate use but also represent the ways that ENN showcases ongoing research to a wide audience.

Field Exchange Publication (FEX)

Our flagship technical publication containing detailed field articles, research and evaluations on nutrition in emergencies and high burden contexts. Downloadable from the online [FEX library](#). Published in print and online.

- Real life case studies for teaching
- Insight into programming innovations and challenges to inform research needs



26k
page views
a month



120+
countries
receive FEX



7,905
subscribers

Get involved

- Submit original research articles
- MSc. thesis summaries
- Submit summaries of research you have published elsewhere
- Encourage the partners you work with to share their experiences of nutrition programming
- Use our case studies in your teaching
- Submit news and events to share
- Encourage your staff and students to subscribe to FEX for free [here](#)

Media Hub & Webinars

Our [online media platform](#) hosts blogs, podcasts and videos. These channels complement our written publications by providing a space for reflections, interviews and updates.

- Provides the opportunity to bring to life the perspectives of our publication authors
- We deliver webinars to support learning and research dissemination



Webinars



Written
publications



Videos and
podcasts

Get involved

- Contact us to collaborate on podcasts, videos, blogs and webinars that showcase your research
- Encourage your staff and students to browse our library and listen to a wide variety of stakeholders sharing their experiences

en-net

We provide vital 'real-time' technical advice to programme implementers and researchers through our online platform, [en-net](#), linking people to an extensive network of peers and experts.

- Free, bilingual online platform for field practitioners seeking urgent technical advice on a broad range of nutrition issues



3,000
active users



127
countries



1,450
new users
in 2020

Get involved

- Gain inputs into emerging research theories and substantiate ideas by hearing about practical experiences and challenges on the ground
- Link an en-net discussion topic to the research you have published to generate interest and further uptake
- Encourage your staff and students to ask their technical questions on en-net and to participate in peer discussions

Networks and Convening

Our independence and neutrality positions us well to convene and coordinate several international expert groups involving the most experienced practitioners and academics.

Examples include:

- The [MAMI Global Network](#), (274 members)
- The Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) [Core Group](#), (73 individuals and 26 organisations)
- The [Wasting and Stunting Technical Interest Group](#), (42 members)
- The [Adolescent Nutrition Special Interest Group](#) (106 members)
- The '[Wasting Reset](#)', convening almost 50 partners to facilitate working groups and develop key messages for political and financial commitments in the lead up to the Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021.

We regularly offer our technical expertise to strengthen the activities of organisations working to reduce malnutrition globally. For example, we are core members of the [Global Nutrition Cluster \(GNC\)](#), we contribute as a technical expert in World Health Organization guidance development and we share our work in the Global Nutrition Report. ENN is a core team member of the GNC-Technical Alliance, overseeing a number of expert Global Thematic Working Groups and co-chairing the wasting Global Thematic Group with UNICEF. We are keen to strengthen our existing youth engagement going forwards.

Our Impact

We prioritise evidence-based research that drives practical solutions for people working in nutritional emergencies. Some examples of how our work has impacted policy and programming include:

The impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic** on nutrition services, drawing out the lessons learnt for improved programming. The focus has been on bringing under-represented topics and voices to the forefront.

The development and subsequent global adoption of the first internationally agreed operational guidance on how to support **infant and young child feeding in humanitarian crisis situations**, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2010 and again in 2018.

The collection and dissemination of research and programming experiences of **community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM)** helped to catalyse acceptance of this innovative, life-saving approach.

Our **research prioritisation exercises** using the Child Health & Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI) approach include wasting prevention, acute malnutrition research, management of wasting in infants under six months and nutrition of school-aged children and adolescents.

Our research has led to increasing recognition among international organisations that children who suffer from **concurrent wasting and stunting** are particularly vulnerable and require attention.

Our partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Jimma University (Ethiopia) and GOAL, testing strategies to ensure **access to community based care for small/nutritionally at risk infants under six months and their mothers**, with implications for national and international policy guidance change.

"A relatively small but highly effective agency which 'punches way above its weight', ENN is widely viewed as a fair and impartial mediator allowing difficult issues to be constructively explored."
Academic researcher

Find out more

For more information about ENN's collaboration with research partners, please contact us on research@ennonline.net

For more information on any aspects of our work and to access our publications and networks do please visit our website: ennonline.net

ENN is a UK registered charity (reg. no. 1115156) and a company limited by guarantee and governed by a board of trustees.



Our Team

ENN's wider team profiles can be found [here](#). Our senior technical team working on research portfolios includes:



Marie McGrath

ENN Technical Director [Publications list here](#)

Marie has been a Technical Director with ENN for 17 years. She studied Human Nutrition and Dietetics at Trinity College, Dublin, where she began her career as a Senior Paediatric Dietician before working for several years as an Emergency Nutritionist and Research Nutritionist. She is a part time PhD student at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) linked to her management of small and nutritionally at-risk infants under six months and their mothers (MAMI) work portfolio in Ethiopia.



Tanya Khara

ENN Technical Director [Publications list here](#)

Tanya joined ENN in 2017 bringing with her more than 20 years' experience working on nutrition programming, policy and research. She has an MSc in Public Health from LSHTM. Tanya is passionate about shaping research to address the challenges limiting the reach and effectiveness of nutrition services and was an integral member of the research team responsible for developing the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and subsequently driving its adaptation and uptake. Tanya is ENN's technical lead on our body of work on the relationship between wasting and stunting.



Emily Mates

ENN Technical Director

Emily has worked for over 20 years in international public health and nutrition programming. She has been an ENN Technical Director for nine years where she leads several technical areas including Adolescent and Maternal Nutrition. She has technical interests in bridging the sectors of nutrition and health and in supporting governments to develop strategies and policies for longer-term solutions to the problems of malnutrition. She has an MSc in Public Health from LSHTM.



Dr Philip James

Senior Technical Associate [Publications list here](#)

Over the past 18 years, Philip has split his time between humanitarian and academic work in the maternal and child nutrition field. He holds a PhD and MSc in Public Health Nutrition from LSHTM. Prior to joining ENN, Philip was an Assistant Professor at LSHTM where his research focused on the prevention of undernutrition. Philip's ongoing research interests with ENN include how best to prevent undernutrition by focusing on maternal nutrition status across the life cycle.



Nicki Connell MBE

Senior Technical Associate

Nicki is the Co-Editor of ENN's publication, Field Exchange. She brings over 12 years' experience to this role having qualified at LSHTM with a MSc in Public Health Nutrition. In 2019, Nicki was recognised for her efforts in the nutrition sector by being awarded an MBE for services to emergency nutrition crises abroad. Key technical areas of interest to Nicki include MAMI, infant and young child feeding in emergencies and CMAM.



Bridget Fenn

Nutrition Epidemiologist [Publications list here](#)

Bridget is an epidemiologist (MSc Epidemiology, LSHTM) with a background in nutrition (MSc Nutrition, King's College, London). Bridget has 25 years' experience in the development and humanitarian sectors working for national and international agencies in operational, political and academic capacities on child and maternal nutrition and health and environmental projects.



Natalie Sessions

Senior Nutritionist

Natalie works across several projects within ENN's portfolio and was recently responsible for the global coordination of ENN's Knowledge Management work for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. She has particular interests in wasting and stunting, the humanitarian and development nexus of nutrition programming and in situating nutrition within the broader humanitarian and development landscape. She has an MSc in Public Health Nutrition from LSHTM.



Dr Natasha Lelijveld

Senior Nutritionist [Publications list here](#)

Natasha completed her PhD at University College London where her research considered the long-term effects of severe acute malnutrition in Malawi and continued her research at LSHTM exploring interventions for vulnerable infants. Natasha spent time as a post-doc at the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto and taught the "Nutrition in Emergencies" course for Master's students at the University of Southampton. At ENN, Natasha focuses on adolescent and maternal nutrition.



Brenda Akwanyi

Senior Nutritionist

Brenda has worked with UNICEF, World Vision International, Concern Worldwide and Action Contre la Faim across several regions. Her thematic areas of expertise include country and regional level technical leadership and quality oversight on the treatment and prevention of malnutrition programmes. Brenda has an MSc in Public Health from Leeds Metropolitan University and a Master's degree in Agribusiness Management from Rome Business School.

Our senior team are supported by a rich research team including **Gwénola Desplats**, MSc International Nutrition, bringing considerable experience of working in West Africa, **Dr Stephanie Wrottesley** ([publications list here](#)), PhD, MSc Public Health Nutrition, specialising in maternal and adolescent nutrition, **Eilise Brennan**, MSc Nutrition for Global Health, focusing on MAMI and maternal nutrition, **Eleanor Rogers**, MSc Public Health, specialising in MAMI research and practice and **Thomas Stubbs**, MSc Epidemiology, working across ENN's Field Exchange portfolio. We also draw on our pool of highly experienced research consultants to complement the specialisms, skills and knowledge of our team.