

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Venanzio Vella

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WORK EXPERIENCE

02 December 2011 – 29
November 2013

Key Expert in Epidemiology

CEU Consulting, Vienna (Austria)

Strengthening the National Early Warning System for Communicable Diseases and the capacities for International Health Regulations (IHR) in Bosnia.

Deliverables included:

- Pilot Testing of a new approach to measure the capacities of the International Health Regulations (IHR). This was based on the following steps: (a) creating the position of Local Focal Points (LFP) as liaison between the local level and the IHR National Focal Point (NFP); (b) appointing and training 18 LFP in using the WHO IHR Monitoring Framework to assess IHR capacities at the local level; (c) adapting the WHO IHR questionnaire to the local level to facilitate the data collection on IHR capacities by the LFP; and (d) producing the first local assessment of the IHR capacities;
- Analysis of the data on communicable diseases in Bosnia & Herzegovina for 2008-11 to assess data reliability, trends and establish threshold values for epidemics;
- Assessment of the Surveillance System for communicable diseases and development of Standard Operating Procedures and an Action Plan to strengthen the surveillance and early response against communicable diseases. This was done by matching international guidelines and best practices in surveillance and outbreak control with the feasibility allowed by the field conditions existing in Bosnia.

06 March 2009 – 18 December
2010

Senior Advisor in Epidemiology

Italian Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome (Italy)

Technical assistance to the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen the health management information systems and use the information to improve surveillance and control of communicable diseases.

Deliverables included:

- Monitoring of quarterly and annual indicators related to surveillance and control of communicable diseases, risk communication, immunization services, hygiene and environmental sanitation, human resources, laboratories, primary health care services and intersectoral coordination;
- Technical assistance to the national counterparts to produce the five year national Health Sector Development Programme for the period 2010/11 – 2014/15;
- Analysis of the hospital performance;
- Contribution to the Quarterly Bulletins, a publication of the Federal Ministry of Health; and
- Analysis of other data as requested by the Ministry of Health.

05 May 2001 – 30 April 2008

Senior Epidemiologist

Italian Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome (Italy)

Technical assistance in Epidemiology to a Provincial Department of Health (DOH) in South Africa to improve health planning and management.

Deliverables included:

- Assessment of the surveillance and control system of communicable diseases;
- An evaluation of the TB control programme;

- Management of the surveillance system of the first recorded major epidemic of extensive drug resistant (XDR) TB;
- An Economic evaluation of the programme distributing Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) against HIV/AIDS;
- Two Threshold Surveys to detect if the HIV resistance to ART had exceeded the threshold level recommended by the World Health Organization;
- Analysis of data sets on recorded death certificates obtained from National Statistics Office and another data-set obtained from the a demographic surveillance site;
- A discharge survey in 67 public hospitals;
- An evaluation of the management information system in the public hospitals;
- 16 issues of the Epidemiological Bulletin of the DOH;
- Increased access to health information by making it available on the web site of the DOH.

04 April 1992 – 31 December
1999

Public Health Specialist

The World Bank, Washington DC (USA)

Reference person for public health for several country teams of the World Bank.

Deliverables included:

- Analysis of national demographic and health surveys from Russia, South Africa, Malawi, Namibia and Lesotho to improve the lending process;
- Identification, preparation and supervision missions of health and nutrition programmes in Pakistan, Malawi and Lesotho;
- Technical support in setting up monitoring and evaluation systems for health programmes in Pakistan, Lesotho, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Togo;
- Operational research proposals to trust funds; and
- Updated health indicators for several countries.

01 September 1991 – 30 March
1992

Epidemiologist:

University of Ancona, Ancona (Italy)

Deliverables included:

- Analysis of the relationship between environmental pollution and respiratory diseases in the city of Ancona;
- Epidemiology training for the staff of the Public Health Institute;
- Formulation of research proposals.

15 April 1991 – 15 July 1991

Epidemiologist:

International Fund For Agricultural Development , Rome (Italy)

Deliverables included:

- Report on the use of anthropometric indicators in identifying poor households.

15 September 1986 – 30
September 1989

Primary Health Care Project Officer

UNICEF, Kampala (Uganda)

Task Manager for the UNICEF PHC programme

Deliverables included:

- Planned and managed the PHC activities supported by UNICEF in Uganda;
- Planned new UNICEF health projects;
- Conducted surveys on the child populations in several areas of Uganda;
- Monitored and Evaluated national health programmes; and

- Contributed to the Situation Analysis for the 5-year UNICEF Country Programme.

18 July 1984 – 17 July 1986

Expert Associate

The World Health Organization, Geneva (Switzerland)

Technical assistance in Monitoring & Evaluation

Deliverables included:

- Planned, implemented and analysed one health and nutrition survey, which covered a representative sample of the child population of 4 districts in North East Uganda;
- Contributed to multi-agency identification missions for health and nutrition projects in Northeast and Southwest Uganda;
- Contributed to a primary health care review in Ethiopia; and
- Assisted the Malawi Ministry of Health to plan a nutrition study on the causes of malnutrition.

14 November 1983 – 13 February
1984

Technical Officer

The World Health Organization, Geneva (Switzerland)

Contributed to multiagency missions to evaluate World Food Programme's supplementary feeding programmes in Syria and Pakistan.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01 October 1999 – 05 April 2001

MSc in Health Economics

MSc

University of York, York (United Kingdom)

Economic Evaluation of health programmes.

01 March 1983 – 16 January
1991

PhD

London School of Hygiene, London (United Kingdom)

The PhD was completed at the Department of Public Health & Policy of the London School of hygiene & Tropical Medicine. It was based on a longitudinal study and it analysed the relationship between anthropometric indicators and child mortality controlling for socioeconomic factors.

29 September 1981 – 15
December 1982

MSc in Epidemiology

London School of Hygiene, London (United Kingdom)

The thesis was based on analysis of occupational mortality in several countries.

03 December 1978 – 15 July
1981

Specialty in Paediatrics

University of Rome, Rome (Italy)

03 November 1972 – 03
November 1978

Medical Degree

University of Rome, Rome (Italy)

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2: Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

Communication skills I have worked in several international agencies such as WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank where communication skills were essential to the daily working activities.
I have been member of several toastmaster clubs.
I participated to the Carnegie leadership course and similar training which had public speaking as a major development objective.

Organisational / managerial skills I have been task manager for several health projects. This involved coordination of several multidisciplinary teams, monitoring and evaluation of project activities, management of procurement and distribution of supplies, and accounting of disbursements.

Job-related skills While in Bosnia I dealt with the pilot testing of a new approach to assess the local capacities related to the International Health Regulations.

Computer skills Microsoft Office, SPSS, TreeAge Pro