



# Annual Report 2016

Brussels, May 2017



**Nutrition Tiers Monde adhère au Code éthique de l'AERF**

**Vous avez un droit à l'information.**

*Ceci implique que les donateurs, collaborateurs et employés sont informés au moins annuellement de l'utilisation des fonds récoltés*

**Voeding Derde Wereld onderschrijft de Ethische Code van de VEF.**

**U beschikt over een recht op informatie.**

*Dit houdt in dat schenkers, medewerkers en personeelsleden tenminste jaarlijks op de hoogte gebracht worden van wat met de verworven fondsen gedaan werd.*

**Nutrition Third World subscribes to the Ethical Fundraising Code of AERF (The Association for Ethical Fund-Raising).**

**You are entitled to information.**

*This entails that donors, collaborators and staff are informed at least annually of the use of the funds received.*

# Table of Contents

<b>Highlights</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Overview</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Finance</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Annex 1</b>	<b>Simplified annual accounts</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Annex 2</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Annex 3</b>	<b>Advisory Board</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Annex 4</b>	<b>Scientific Committee and External Referees</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Annex 5</b>	<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Annex 6</b>	<b>List of NTW-funded research papers published in international peer reviewed journals in 2016</b>	<b>15</b>

## NUTRITION THIRD WORLD

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

### Highlights

With the conclusion of the EVIDENT project, all projects have now successfully been completed. There are no more outstanding debts to projects. The EVIDENT network still exists and some of the activities have been integrated in a CGIAR (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) project called SPEAR that is running under the supervision of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Due to a fall-back in donations no new projects have been accepted last year but we can still finance three projects in the years to come.

The results of NTW supported scientific studies continue to give rise to a large crop of publications in high-quality international scientific journals and to underpin policy decisions.

# OVERVIEW

## Introduction

Because the association was unable to find large grants from donors, the decision has remained to continue to support the EVIDENT until the end of 2016. The project is closed and no projects remain.

With a reduction of its cost structure and a prudent contraction of the grants allocated to researchers, the organisation has adapted well to the limited financial resources it was able to raise over the last years. It remains therefore financially sound. With the money that the association still has, we can still finance three project the years to come. New ways of financing the association will be explored the year to come.

The management structure of NTW remains entirely on a voluntary basis. The only costs of the organisation are related to maintenance of the website, and miscellaneous costs mainly related to administering the registration of the organisation. There are no employment costs, neither are there fund raising costs.

All projects have been successfully completed and the researchers are focussing on writing up and publishing the results.

## Support for research

### SUNRAY II: The international Knowledge network. EVIDENT

#### Rationale

With finite resources and ever-increasing research waste (*see* Lancet series on increasing value, reducing waste; Lancet 2014; 383: 166–75) there is urgent need to prioritise research agenda, especially in resource-limited settings. In 2012, the SUNRAY project ([www.sunrayafrica.co.za](http://www.sunrayafrica.co.za)) found that while a great deal of research was published, there was a substantial amount of duplication in research effort and a focus on ‘treatment’ rather than on preventive actions. Furthermore, the research portfolio was driven by donors rather than the needs and views of the local population and stakeholders.

The Evidence-informed Decision-making in Nutrition and Health (EVIDENT) partnership is an international hub created to strengthen capacities to address the disparity between research and local needs in nutrition and health in Africa. This will be achieved by empowering stakeholders to identify and prioritise their key nutrition and health concerns and providing them with a platform where these can be addressed. These needs are addressed by systematically reviewing and appraising the evidence and contextualizing it using additional cultural and economic data. This process ensures societal relevance so that decision-makers can make recommendations for policies adapted to their local

context. This has a two-fold benefit in that local information needs are met without the unnecessary duplication of research.

Unlike other initiatives, EVIDENT focuses on nutrition. Nutrition is fundamental as it plays a substantial role in an individual's overall health through the life cycle. It encompasses all issues that are at the forefront of global nutrition and health policy: stunting, underweight, maternal and child health, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity, and non-communicable diseases (e.g. heart disease, cancer, hypertension, diabetes etc.).

## **EVIDENT**

### *Mission statement*

To bridge the gap between researchers and decision-makers by identifying the information needs in nutrition and health and translating evidence into concrete recommendations actionable by responsible bodies, through collaborations amongst African researchers and decision-makers and with support from global experts.

### *Partners*

EVIDENT is an Afrocentric initiative currently made up of 7 African-based partners: Benin (University of Abomey-Calavi), Ethiopia (Ethiopian Public Health Institute), Ghana (University of Ghana), South Africa (North West University), Tanzania (Sokoine University of Agriculture), Morocco (National School of Public Health) and Uganda (Makarere University). The network is completed with 4 European partners: Belgium (Institute of Tropical Medicine and Ghent University); Sheffield University, SchARR) and the Netherlands (Royal Institute of Tropical Medicine). These partners have long-standing relationships amongst themselves and have supported each other in the case study activities that have begun in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana and South Africa. The experiences gained from these countries will aid in the development of sound methodologies and practical tools to facilitate future evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in other resource-limited settings.

The partners are organized in country-level entities which, with support from a global network, advocate for EIDM by engaging decision-makers to generate nutrition and health related questions to facilitate evidence generation. EVIDENT is further supported in this process by scientific advisors.

### *Achievements*

EVIDENT progressed well in its last year of funding, placing heavy emphasis on completing the systematic reviews and case studies. The network was also present at various forums to raise awareness on EIDM and to increase its visibility internationally.

Process notes and capacity building exercises developed in 2015 facilitated the progress of case studies and systematic reviews. The SeCURE tool, one of the five process notes developed to guide the case studies, was published: Booth A (2016) Searching for qualitative research for inclusion in systematic reviews for wider dissemination and use: a structured methodological review. *Systematic Reviews*, 5(1). Case studies in Ghana, Benin, Ethiopia and South Africa (SA) prioritised questions from stakeholders to continue work on their systematic reviews; four of five reviews (including a review by Morocco) were registered with PROSPERO. These reviews will be ready for publication in early 2017.

The network spent much of 2016 attending conferences and workshops. Partners presented the knowledge network at the following events:

- LCIRAH-ANH (Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy) Academy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Evidence (African Evidence Network) Conference, Pretoria, SA

- ANEC (African Nutrition Epidemiology Conference) VII, Marrakech, Morocco
- ReSAKKS (Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System) Conference, Accra, Ghana
- Micronutrient Forum Global Conference, Cancun, Mexico
- WPHNA (World Public Health Nutrition Association's World Nutrition Congress), Cape Town, SA

EVIDENT was also invited to give two learning labs at the LCIRAH-ANH Academy Week in June 2016 in Ethiopia. The objective of these labs was to raise awareness on the use of systematic reviews in evidence-informed decision-making in nutrition and health.

EVIDENT wrote a chapter for the Annual Trends and Outlook Report 2015 by ReSAKSS (Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System). The report was titled 'The Challenges, Opportunities, and Lessons Learned in Evidence-informed Decision Making in Africa'.

A number of unexpected publications were underway by EVIDENT's European partners, including:

- publication of a protocol for systematic reviews "Verstraeten R, Hawwash D, Lachat C, Bonn N, Pinxten W, Gillespie S, Holdsworth, Booth A. Nutrition prioritisation: three inter-dependent (mapping, methodology, and ethics) systematic review outputs. PROSPERO 2016:CRD42016043805.
- Oluwabukola Olaitan, Rebecca Pradeilles, Emmanuel Cohen,- Hibbah A. Osei-Kwasi, Michelle Holdsworth (2016) Body size preferences of African women: A mixed-methods systematic review. Obesity Reviews (under review). CRD42015020509 (as part of MPH research attachment, 2014-15)
- Gissing SC, Pradeilles R, Hibbah A. Osei-Kwasi, Emmanuel Cohen, M Holdsworth (2016) Drivers of dietary behaviors in women living in urban Africa-a systematic mapping review. submitted to Public health Nutrition (awaiting reviewer assignment). PROSPERO: International prospective register of systematic reviews. Unique Identification Number: CRD42015017749. 2015. (as part of MPH research attachment, 2014-15)

Another indirect result from EVIDENT was the development of reporting guidelines for nutrition research known as "STROBE-nut". Developed by EVIDENT's partners at the University of Ghent, STROBE-nut provides a set of 24 items to consider when reporting research regarding nutritional epidemiology and dietary assessment, with the aim to increase completeness and interpretation of nutrition research and thereby to strengthen the quality of the evidence base.

Partners from the University of Sheffield wrote a blog on the EVIDENT partnership which was posted in the Public Health newsletter of Sheffield University. The KN's Ethiopian and Ghanaian partners were showcased in the SUN Movement's In Practice Brief (available on [www.scalingupnutrition.org](http://www.scalingupnutrition.org)). The Brief showcased six SUN countries where academic institutions are a part of multi-stakeholder platforms. The KN itself was also mentioned in the report as one of the nutrition knowledge hubs strengthening capacities of nutrition-related staff, facilitating access by governments and stakeholders to technical expertise, and strengthening and options for consideration when establishing sustainable mechanisms in EIDM.

The project was evaluated by two external evaluators who reviewed the long-term progress made on the project's goals and objectives, assessed EVIDENT's achievements in terms of the value and quality of the project, and evaluated the lessons learned from the project such as drivers, barriers, and opportunities. Data was collected by the evaluators through online surveys, interviews and participatory discussions. Results from this study were presented at EVIDENT's dissemination event held in Brussels in December 2016. They will further be written into a scientific paper fit for publication.

The dissemination event was organized to showcase the outputs of the KN over the last three years to funders and other stakeholders. IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute) presented the

SPEAR (Supporting Policies, Programs and Enabling Action through Research) flagship from A4NH (Agriculture for Nutrition and Health) (<http://a4nh.cgiar.org/>) and a plan on how the KN could fit into the flagship. A research protocol was developed and submitted jointly with A4NH on the 1st of August 2016. Together with A4NH, another complementary research protocol was developed for submission to the EU.

At the partner meeting in Ghana in May 2016, the network's Ghanaian and South African partners announced their intention to co-lead the next steps of the KN from January 2017. The network will be hosted jointly by the North-West University (NWU) and the University of Ghana with its administrative headquarters at the Centre of Excellence for Nutrition of NWU.

## **Financing the Association**

No specific fund raising activities were organised in 2016. No new projects were financed in 2016.

We received in total 6142.8 € in donations.

NTW has continued to be affiliated with the Association for Ethical Fundraising (AERF) and all communications from the organisation carry the logo of AERF with the latter's approval.

### **Tax exemption**

The organisation can continue to deliver tax exemption certificates for donations. The approval from the Ministry of Finance covers the period 2013 to 2018.

## **Governance and Administration**

### *The Board of Directors*

The new composition of the board of directors is given in Annex 3.

The Board met once times at the Bank Degroof-Petercam in Brussels, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May.

The *Advisory Board* remained unchanged in 2016 and its composition is given in Annex 4.

The *Scientific Committee* underwent one change in 2016. Prof Annemarie Kruger passed away unfortunately after a prolonged illness. Its composition (as of 31/12/2013) is given in Annex 5.

### *Management*

The *General Assembly* of NTW was held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## **Promotion and communication**

In 2016 the website was kept up to date but did not undergo major changes.

# FINANCE

## General

As in previous years, the Association's accounts have been kept by, Mr. Luc Lefebvre and the "Subsidiary Companies team" of Bank Degroof.-Petercam

PricewaterhouseCoopers Réviseurs d'Entreprises, represented by Mr. Damien Walgrave are the auditors of the Association. The Board would like to express its gratitude to PWC and their auditors for the excellent work delivered over the past years.

Tax relief certificates were sent to donors at the beginning of the year and financial reporting followed the format decided on in previous years.

## Financial report

**Tanzania:** A final transfer of 4356.85 € was made to closed the budget.

**Evident:** The last transfer of 79,728.54 € was transferred in 2016. The project closed with an unspent budget of 11,104.95 € and this sum will be transferred to the accounts of the association.

There are at present no outstanding project costs.

Regarding the accounts:

**Donations.** In 2016 the Association received an aggregate amount of 6142.8 € . The financial gains booked at 31 December 2016 amount to 14.601 €.

Financial charges of 383.64 € were booked at 31 December 2016.

Cost of goods and services, at 4,673.80 €, include costs for publications, maintenance of the server and web domain, and general administrative costs.

Project costs amount to 87,151.88 €.

The Association's own funds decreased in 2016 by 71,465 €. At 31 December 2016, own funds amount to 113,321 €.

## Nutrition Third World

### Annual Report 2016

#### Annex 1: Summary Annual Accounts

The annual accounts in their full legal format and the external auditor's report (PricewaterhouseCoopers) may be obtained on request at the following address: info@nutrition-ntw.org.

A summarised version is presented below. The auditor has issued an unqualified opinion.

#### Balance sheet as at 31.12.2016

Assets	(Euros 000)		Liabilities
Fixed assets	0.0	Association's funds	43.6
		Earmarked funds	30.2
Current assets		Result carried forward	39.5
Debtors (less than one year)	11.1	Total own funds	113.3
Short term investments	99.9		
Cash at banks	6.4		
Total current assets	117.4	Short term debts	4.1
Total	117.4	Total	117.4

#### Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 2016

Debit	(Euros 000)		Credit
Project related costs	87.1	Donations received	6.1
Publications, admin, IT	4.7		
Cost of goods & services	91.8		
		Financial gains	14.6
Financial charges	0.4		
		Negative results for the period	71.5
Total	92.2	Total	92.2

## **Nutrition Third World**

### **Annual Report 2016**

#### **Annex 2: Board of Directors**

**Mr. Alain Philippson (Chairman)**

Member of the Board of Directors, Bank Degroof-Petercam

**Dr. Patrick Kolsteren (Managing Director)**

MD, Head of the Nutrition and Child Health Unit at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp and Professor of Nutrition at the University of Ghent.

**Mrs. Corine du Bois (Director)**

Psychologue

**Dr. Denis Goldschmidt (Director)**

MD, Surgeon

**Dr. Isaline Greindl (Director)**

MD, Public Health Specialist, Technical Adviser in charge of the AEDES programmes

**Dr. Carl Lachat (Director)**

Post-doctoral researcher, Food Science and nutrition, Ghent University

**Mr. François Masquelin (Director)**

Barrister

-----

**Mr. Léo Goldschmidt (Honorary Chairman)**

Director, European Corporate Governance Institute

**Mr. René Devillez (Honorary Director)**

Doctor of Laws

Bank Manager, retired

## **Nutrition Third World**

### **Annual Report 2016**

#### **Annex 3: Advisory Board**

**Karel Boone**

Chairman and Managing Director, Lotus Bakeries N.V.

**Alain Bruyninckx**

Director of companies

**Pierre de Maret**

Former Rector, ULB, Brussels University

**Georges Jacobs**

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Group Delhaize

**Michel Lechat**

Professor Emeritus, UCL, Catholic University of Louvain

**Paul Tr n Van Tinh**

Former Ambassador of the European Union

**Marc Van Montagu**

Professor Emeritus, Ghent University

**Eric Wittouck**

Chairman, ARTAL Group S.A.

## **Nutrition Third World**

### **Annual Report 2016**

#### **Annex 4: Scientific Committee and External Referees**

##### **Scientific Committee**

###### **Bernard Brabin**

Professor of Tropical Paediatrics, Child and Reproductive Health Group, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

*Liverpool*

###### **Bart Criel**

MD, senior lecturer, Health Policy and Financing Unit, Public Health Department at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp

*Antwerp*

###### **Lena Davidsson**

PhD, Head Nutrition and Health-related Environmental Studies Sector. IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

*Vienna*

###### **André Huyghebaert**

PhD, former Head of the Department of Food Technology and Nutrition, former Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ghent.

*Ghent*

###### **Martin Kimanya**

PhD, Master in Food Science and Technology.

The Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)

*Arusha, Tanzania*

###### **Pierre Lefèvre**

PhD, sociologist, scientific collaborator, Epidemiology and Disease Control Unit, Department of Public Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine.

*Antwerp*

###### **Richard Longhurst**

PhD in Economics, consulting expert with the World Health Organisation, UNICEF and FAO, formerly senior civil servant of the Commonwealth, now evaluation consultant.

*London*

###### **Dr. Peter Mamiro**

PhD, Food Scientist and Nutritionist, Researcher in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania.

*Morogoro*

**Ruth Oniang'o**

PhD, nutritionist, Professor at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND), Member of the Kenyan Parliament.

*Nairobi*

**Leonor Pacheco Santos**

PhD, nutritionist, formerly Professor at the Federal University of Bahia, Member of IVACG (International Vitamin A Consultative Group), now with the Federal Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger.

*Brasilia*

**Wim Van Lerberghe**

MD, PhD, Professor and formerly Head of the Department of Public Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp; coordinator, Health Systems Policies and Operations, World Health Organisation.

*Geneva*

**External Referee****Dr. J. Van Camp (Belgium)**

Department of Food Safety and Food Quality, Research Group Food Chemistry and Human Nutrition, Ghent University

*Ghent*

## **Nutrition Third World**

### **Annual Report 2015**

#### **Annex 5: List of abbreviations**

<b>AEDES</b>	Agence Européenne pour le Développement et la Santé
<b>AERF</b>	Association pour l’Ethique dans la Recherche de fonds
<b>AUTHeR</b>	Africa Unit for Trans-disciplinary Health Research
<b>CGIAR</b>	Consultancy Group International Research in Agricultural Research
<b>GAIN</b>	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute
<b>IMCI</b>	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
<b>IRD</b>	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (ex ORSTOM), France
<b>IUC</b>	Inter University Cooperation
<b>IVACG</b> <b>LCPUFA</b>	International Vitamin A Consultative Group Long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids
<b>NTW</b>	Nutrition Third World
<b>ULB</b>	Université Libre de Bruxelles
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>VLIR</b>	Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad (Flemish Inter-University Council)
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program

## Nutrition Third World

### Annual Report 2016

#### Annex 6: List of NTW-funded research papers published in international peer-reviewed journals in 2016

- 1 (NCD-RisC) NRFC: A century of trends in adult human height. *eLife* 2016;5.
- 2 (NCD-RisC) NRFC: Trends in adult body-mass index in 200 countries from 1975 to 2014: A pooled analysis of 1698 population-based measurement studies with 19.2 million participants. *Lancet* 2016;387:1377-1396.
- 3 (NCD-RisC) NRFC: Worldwide trends in diabetes since 1980: A pooled analysis of 751 population-based studies with 4.4 million participants. *Lancet* 2016;387:1513-1530.
- 4 (NCD-RisC) NRFC: Worldwide trends in blood pressure from 1975 to 2015: A pooled analysis of 1479 population-based measurement studies with 19.1 million participants. *Lancet* 2017;389:37-55.
- 5 Andrade S, Lachat C, Cardon G, Ochoa-Aviles A, Verstraeten R, Van Camp J, Ortiz J, Ramirez P, Donoso S, Kolsteren P: Two years of school-based intervention program could improve the physical fitness among ecuadorian adolescents at health risk: Subgroups analysis from a cluster-randomized trial. *BMC pediatrics* 2016;16:51.
- 6 Lachat C, Hawwash D, Ocke MC, Berg C, Forsum E, Hornell A, Larsson C, Sonestedt E, Wirfalt E, Akesson A, Kolsteren P, Byrnes G, De Keyzer W, Van Camp J, Cade JE, Slimani N, Cevallos M, Egger M, Huybrechts I: Strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology-nutritional epidemiology (strobe-nut): An extension of the strobe statement. *PLoS medicine* 2016;13:e1002036.
- 7 Lachat C, Hawwash D, Ocke MC, Berg C, Forsum E, Hornell A, Larsson CL, Sonestedt E, Wirfalt E, Akesson A, Kolsteren P, Byrnes G, De Keyzer W, Van Camp J, Cade JE, Slimani N, Cevallos M, Egger M, Huybrechts I: Strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology - nutritional epidemiology (strobe-nut): An extension of the strobe statement. *Nutrition bulletin* 2016;41:240-251.
- 8 Magoha H, Kimanya M, De Meulenaer B, Roberfroid D, Lachat C, Kolsteren P: Risk of dietary exposure to aflatoxins and fumonisins in infants less than 6 months of age in rombo, northern tanzania. *Maternal & child nutrition* 2016;12:516-527.
- 9 Verstraeten R, Leroy JL, Pieniak Z, Ochoa-Aviles A, Holdsworth M, Verbeke W, Maes L, Kolsteren P: Individual and environmental factors influencing adolescents' dietary behavior in low- and middle-income settings. *PloS one* 2016;11:e0157744.