

## Mrs Valentina Buj de Lauwerier



Mrs. Buj has been with UNICEF since 2008 as Global Malaria Advisor in the Health Section, Programme Division, New York.

In her role with UNICEF, she assists countries to continue scaling up integrated malaria interventions, and works to foster greater harmonization among global malaria initiatives. Mrs. Buj spends much of her time working in malaria endemic countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Kenya, Madagascar, Cameroon and Mozambique, where she supports countries in the development and implementation of their Global Fund grants for malaria as well as with the coordination and distribution of long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), anti-malarials (ACTs), malaria diagnostics (RDTs), intermittent preventive treatment during pregnancy (IPTp), seasonal malaria chemoprophylaxis (SMC), integrated community case management (iCCM) and the development of supportive community and health systems.

Prior to joining UNICEF, Mrs Buj worked for the World Health Organization's Global Malaria Programme, the International Rescue Committee, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme.

She holds a Masters Degree in Public Health, focusing on malaria control in refugee populations, as well as a Masters in International Affairs, focusing on Economic and Political Development and Refugee Law, both from Columbia University and is in the process of completing her PhD (Epidemiology) with the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (University of Basel) focused on improved delivery of malaria interventions in difficult contexts. Her initial training is in biochemistry from Bryn Mawr University. Ms. Buj has traveled extensively in Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Valentina is a citizen of both the US and Mexico and is the mother of a small Belgo-Mexican son. She is fluent in English, French and Spanish, trying to hold on to her Turkish, and is working on her Swahili, Lingala, Flemish and Portuguese.

## VALENTINA BUJ de LAUWERIER

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[valentinabuj@gmail.com](mailto:valentinabuj@gmail.com) (personal)

### Key Attributes and Skills

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding technical, organizational, and evaluation skills</li> <li>• Excellent communication skills: written and oral, interpersonal and public</li> <li>• Skilled in conducting programme evaluations, research, reporting, budgeting, grant management (particularly Global Fund), developing in-country capacity for malaria control and improving operational efficiency</li> <li>• Ability to work independently, with little supervision, and as a strong team player</li> </ul>
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### Professional Experience

June 2008 - Present	<p><b>UNICEF, Programme Division, Child and Community Health Unit, <i>Global Malaria Advisor</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of technical and implementation support to country teams – including national governments, country/regional/and global partnership networks and contributes to the planning, implementation, and monitoring &amp; evaluation of malaria and integrated community case management programmes – including LLIN, ACT, RDT and IPTp scale up.</li> <li>• Providing leadership and technical support as a UNICEF representative to workstreams within the RBM Harmonization Working Group (now Country and Regional Partner Support Committee), and as co-chair of the Malaria Advocacy Working Group (MAWG), focusing on proposal development, grant signature and increasing visibility of malaria on national and international platforms. Has facilitated various workshops on malaria project implementation, improving supply chain management, workplan development, gap analyses, business plans and needs assessments and increasing impact of malaria control interventions.</li> <li>• Support to countries with identified resource gaps to leverage additional resources, including GFATM, UNITAID, WB, USAID and UNICEF national committee resources. Contributed to the successful leveraging of nearly \$400 million from the GFATM for the DRC.</li> <li>• Strengthening and maintaining operational partnerships for Maternal and Child Health including scaling-up malaria control and prevention at country and global level – working closely with WHO, RBM, GFATM, UNITAID, IFRC, AMP and other partners.</li> <li>• Contributed to the policy and strategic thinking relating to malaria programme implementation and overall achievement of MDG and child survival objectives to the UNICEF HQ Health section and other relevant programme areas. Contributing author on numerous UNICEF publications.</li> </ul>
April 2005 – May 2008	<p><b>World Health Organization, Global Malaria Programme, Geneva <i>Technical Officer Public Health</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided day-to-day programmatic, operational and management support to HQ (particularly the director and associate director), regional and country staff ensuring that implementation and defined malaria interventions are carried out in accordance with specified objectives.</li> <li>• Contributor to the development of a WHO-wide policy and strategy on malaria control focusing on integrating mother and child health interventions, the expanded programme on immunization and others into a comprehensive strategy.</li> <li>• Author of various project proposals and concept papers describing WHO Malaria strategies, policies and interventions including annual malaria reports to UN Secretary General, summary reports to WHO's Director General and Assistant Director General HTM, and World Health Assembly reports.</li> <li>• Development and implementation of a tracking system for follow-up and regular update of strategic information on in-country malaria projects, including bottlenecks impeding scale-up.</li> <li>• GMP Communications/Partnership Facilitator: Assist with the design and development of concept papers, proposals, budgets, and informational materials for partner agencies, donors and other relevant stakeholders. WHO representative to various partner meetings including World Bank, GFATM, US-PMI.</li> <li>• WHO Focal Point to the Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group including facilitator of various workshops on malaria project implementation, improving supply chain management, workplan development, gap analyses and needs assessments and increasing impact of malaria control interventions.</li> </ul>
May 2003 – August 2003	<p><b>VOXIVA, Washington DC, <i>Programme Assistant</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated and technically managed the planning and development of a customizable health template to provide time-critical data to healthcare professionals and field operatives in Iraq.</li> <li>• Supervised project staff and provided appropriate support to ensure effective and timely project implementation.</li> <li>• Technical backstopping for field team in low security environment, including presentations on variable situation and project adaptation.</li> <li>• Represented the company on health matters to local health authorities, governmental departments, UN agencies, implementing partners, communities, and other relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• Development of future international projects with company CEO and VP for International Programs.</li> <li>• Assembly, and analysis of health and demographic data on proprietary <i>Alerta</i> software.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget management, hardware inventory and project variable database management.</li> </ul>
November 2002 – May 2003	<p><b>International Organization for Migration, Colombia Consultant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed capacitance and quick impact economic development programs to speed reintegration and rehabilitation of ex-combatant children into Colombian society.</li> <li>Original and comparative research into methods to prevent recruitment of minors.</li> <li>Produced recommendations on best practices for reintegration of ex-combatant child and adolescent soldiers.</li> <li>Produced recommendations and guidelines for integration of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child into local juridical processes, including drafting new laws to speed the reintegration of ex-combatants.</li> <li>Represented IOM on Child Rights' issues to local governmental agencies, legal sector partners, non-governmental organizations, and donors.</li> </ul>
May – Dec 2002	<p><b>International Rescue Committee, Rwanda, Health Programme Consultant, (Malaria).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned, implemented and evaluated epidemiological research on malaria among impoverished women, including the development of an original questionnaire for malaria demographics.</li> <li>Formulated proposals and designed strategies, including monitoring and evaluation systems, to reduce low birth weight and infant mortality rates due to undiagnosed malaria.</li> <li>Supervised and trained 12 national health programme staff in needs assessment, survey implementation and data analysis.</li> <li>Collaborated and coordinated project activities with healthcare professionals, government officials and partner agencies.</li> <li>Assisted in the development of Child Survival grant proposals to increase funding to address the health, social, and economic burden of malaria in the Kibungo area.</li> <li>Produced a report on Rwanda's methods of legal reconciliation in conjunction with the IRC's democracy and good governance program.</li> <li>Facilitated and supervised training seminars and workshops.</li> </ul>
May – Nov 2001	<p><b>United Nations Development Programme, Turkey Consultant/ Malaria Capacity Building Project.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted original and comparative research into increased incidence of malaria in South-Eastern Turkey</li> <li>Collaborated and coordinated project activities for malaria control including increasing access to anti-malaria medications, increasing entomological training in affected areas, and distribution of vector control methods.</li> <li>Liaised with government ministers, policy makers, scholars and practitioners to analyze economic, political and health impact of flooding of the Cukorova plain by the Ataturk dam.</li> <li>Developed guidelines and recommendations for mobile malaria clinics to work with Kurdish populations in South-Eastern Turkey.</li> <li>Authored final regional development plan for malaria control in South-Eastern Turkey.</li> </ul>
September 2000 – May 2001	<p><b>Inter-American Development Bank, Programme Assistant, Executive Vice-President.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisted the Office of the Executive Vice President in the analysis of Latin American health policy leading to the allocation of loans for health related projects.</li> <li>Policy formulation regarding the economic implications of health-related projects in Brazil, Colombia and Guyana.</li> <li>Analyzed distribution and implementation of health-related funds in the Amazon basin.</li> <li>Attended weekly staff meetings to discuss loan disbursement progress and contributed to the ongoing growth of various health-related programs.</li> </ul>
November 1999 – September 2000	<p><b>John Hopkins University, Baltimore Oncology Laboratory Research Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted research into monoclonal antibody therapy for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).</li> <li>Compiled and analyzed data and information related to patient immunological response.</li> <li>Produced detailed and comprehensive reports relating to infusion-related toxicity of different oncological medications.</li> <li>Lead author on scientific article detailing preliminary evidence of an in-vitro model for the prediction of infusion-related toxicity.</li> <li>Presented five abstracts and a poster related to ExVivo Induction of Cytokines by Campath-1H to the American Society of Hematology during November 2000 conference.</li> </ul>
May – Nov 1999	<p><b>Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington DC Pathology Programme Research Assistant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with a team of investigative scientists to extract and sequence DNA of 1918 influenza virus</li> </ul>

## Education

Aug 2016 – 2020 (expected)	<b>Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel. Doctor of Philosophy Ph.D. (Epidemiology)</b>
September 2001 – February 2004	<p><b>Columbia University, New York, NY, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) &amp; Mailman School of Public Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Master of Public Health (MPH) in Population and Family Health (Forced Migration), February 2004</b></li> <li>Courses: Health Consequences of Forced Migration, Epidemiology, Research Design, Complex Emergencies, Public Health Program Planning and Management, Reproductive Health, Program Evaluation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Master of International Affairs (MIA) in Economic and Political Development</b>, February 2004 Courses: International Law, Human Rights Law, UN &amp; Human Rights, Contemporary Diplomacy, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian Crises: Root Causes to Rebuilding</li> </ul>
Sept 1996 – May 1999	<b>Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bachelor of Science (AB), Biology (Biochemistry) <i>Magna Cum Laude</i></b> <i>Honors Thesis</i></li> </ul>
Additional Courses & Certificates	<b>Georgetown University</b> (Jan - May 2000) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Certificate in Macro and Micro Economics</b></li> </ul> <b>World Bank Institute</b> (September - December 2006) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Health Outcomes and the Poor</i></b>. E-learning course</li> </ul> <b>University of Pennsylvania</b> (July 2011) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Advances in Social Norms</i></b></li> </ul> <b>Harvard University</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>School of Public Health: Science of Eradication: Malaria</i></b> (June 2012)</li> <li>• <b><i>Business School: Dynamic Leadership Certificate</i></b> (November 2012 – May 2013)</li> </ul> <b>London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</b> (May - Sept 2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Health Equity and Financing</i></b></li> </ul>

### Publications

May 2017	<b>Do rapid diagnostic tests improve overall quality of care?</b> <b>BMJ 2017; 357</b> doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j2290">https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j2290</a> Contributing author
Nov 2015	<b>Progress for Children Beyond Averages: Learning from the MDGs. No. 11. UNICEF</b> <a href="http://www.unicef.by/uploads/models/2015/09/unicef_2015_progress_for_children.pdf">http://www.unicef.by/uploads/models/2015/09/unicef_2015_progress_for_children.pdf</a> contributing author
Sept 2015	<b>Achieving the Malaria MDG Target, Reversing the Incidence of Malaria 2000–2015, WHO &amp; UNICEF</b> <a href="http://data.unicef.org/resources/achieving-the-malaria-mdg-target.html">http://data.unicef.org/resources/achieving-the-malaria-mdg-target.html</a> contributing author
July 2014	<b>The contribution of malaria control to maternal and newborn health. RBM Progress &amp; Impact series # 10</b> <a href="http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/microsites/ProgressImpactSeries/docs/report17-en.pdf">http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/microsites/ProgressImpactSeries/docs/report17-en.pdf</a> contributing author
June 2014	<b>Community Health Workers and Stand-Alone or Integrated Case. Management of Malaria: A Systematic Literature Review.</b> <i>Smith Paintain L, Willey B, Kedenge S, Sharkey A, Kim J, Buj V, Webster J, Schellenberg D, Ngongo N.</i> Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2014 Sep;91(3):461-70. doi: 10.4269/ajtmh.14-0094. Epub 2014 Jun 23. Review
Sept 2012	<b>GLOBAL PLAN FOR INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE management IN MALARIA VECTORS, WHO</b> <a href="http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44846/1/9789241564472_eng.pdf">http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44846/1/9789241564472_eng.pdf</a> contributor
Dec 2011	<b>LLINs for continuous and campaign distribution in sub-Saharan Africa: A collation of Global Funding commitments for 2011-2016</b> <a href="https://www.k4health.org/sites/default/files/2-GF_Routine_Nets_Review_ENGLISH_FINAL_0.pdf">https://www.k4health.org/sites/default/files/2-GF_Routine_Nets_Review_ENGLISH_FINAL_0.pdf</a> contributor
Sept 2011	<b>A decade of partnerships and results. RBM Progress &amp; impact series, #7</b> <a href="http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/microsites/ProgressImpactSeries/docs/report8-en.pdf">http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/microsites/ProgressImpactSeries/docs/report8-en.pdf</a> contributing author

### Events (Coordinator)

April 2015	<b>UNICEF commemorates World Malaria Day: Scaling up interventions against malaria during pregnancy –</b> UNICEF, WHO's Global Malaria Programme, USAID's Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition and Johns Hopkins' JHPIEGO commemorate World Malaria Day 2015 including presentations of latest data. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMWPWZFjne0&amp;feature=youtu.b">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMWPWZFjne0&amp;feature=youtu.b</a>
April 2013	<b>UNICEF: Focus on Africa (Malaria)</b> UNICEF, United Against Malaria, the RBM MAWG and the UN Special Envoy's Office commemorate World Malaria Day 2013 including presentations of latest data. <a href="http://www.unicef.org/health/files/Malaria_brochure_18April2013.pdf">http://www.unicef.org/health/files/Malaria_brochure_18April2013.pdf</a>

### Training and Workshops (Facilitator)

Aug 2015	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization &amp; Malaria Advocacy Working Group: Gap Analysis &amp; Africa Resource Mobilization for malaria (ARMM) Toolkit Deployment Entebbe, Uganda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four-day technical workshop to support National Malaria Control Programmes to prepare gap analyses for submission to GFATM NFM as well as deploy ARMM toolkit</li> </ul>
Nov 2014	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: Mock Technical Review Panel for GFATM NFM Concept Note Development and Review</b>
March 2014	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: GFATM NFM Concept Note Introduction and Review</b>
Dec 2013	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: GFATM New Funding Modality Preparatory</b>

	<b>Review</b>
June 2012	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group Programmatic Gap Analysis and Filling the Funding Gap Workshop Senegal, Dakar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four day workshop to develop comprehensive malaria programmatic gap analysis as well as facilitate the advocacy track to empower participating countries to mobilize resources and fill financing gaps.</li> </ul>
March 2012	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: Transitional Funding Review Panel Nairobi, Kenya</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four-day technical workshop to review proposals prepared by National Malaria Control Programmes for submission to the auxiliary GFATM transitional funding mechanism</li> </ul>
April – May 2011	<b>RBM East African Regional Network Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three day review of NMCP roadmaps and malaria multi-year strategic plans</li> </ul>
Jan 2011	<b>GFATM Technical Assistance Development Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two-day panel on development of Technical Assistance plans in Global Fund Workshops</li> </ul>
Nov 2010	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: Mock Technical Review Panel Dakar Senegal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four-day technical workshop to review proposals prepared by National Malaria Control Programmes for submission to Round 10.</li> </ul>
May 2009	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: Mock Technical Review Panel Nairobi, Kenya</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three-day technical workshop to review proposals prepared by National Malaria Control Programmes for submission to Round 9.</li> </ul>
Dec 2008	<b>RBM GFATM Accelerating Grant Signature Workshop, Dakar Senegal</b> Support to countries to accelerate GFATM Round 8 Grant Signature
May 2008	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: Mock Technical Review Panel Nairobi, Kenya</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three-day technical workshop to review proposals prepared by National Malaria Control Programmes for submission to Round 8.</li> </ul>
June 2007	<b>Roll Back Malaria Harmonization Working Group: Mock Technical Review Panel Nairobi, Kenya</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two-day technical workshop to review proposals prepared by National Malaria Control Programmes for submission to Round 7.</li> </ul>
May 2007	<b>WHO ATM GFATM Proposal Preparation/ Commodity Management Workshop, Dakar Senegal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of comprehensive gap analyses for submission to GFATM R7</li> </ul>
March - April 2007	<b>RBM Trainings for GFATM R7 Proposal Development: Nairobi Kenya (English) &amp; Douala Cameroon (Fr)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four-day training on preparation of proposals for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB &amp; Malaria Including, description of malaria control activities, epidemiological analysis and budget &amp; workplan preparation.</li> </ul>

#### Interviews, Blog Posts (limited)

Sept 2015	<a href="http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/french/2015/09/objectifs-du-millenaire-pour-le-developpement-la-lutte-contre-le-pal-en-bonne-voie/#.Vfqupo0w_cs">http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/french/2015/09/objectifs-du-millenaire-pour-le-developpement-la-lutte-contre-le-pal-en-bonne-voie/#.Vfqupo0w_cs</a>
April 2015	<a href="https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/author/valentinabuj/">https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/author/valentinabuj/</a>

#### Professional Associations

<b>Roll Back Malaria</b>	Alternate Board Member, Founding member Harmonization Working Group, co-chair Malaria Advocacy Working Group (2014 to 2016)
<b>MMV APMAC</b>	Sitting member
<b>New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS)</b>	Honorary fellow and Mentor of Women in the Sciences
<b>American Society of Tropical Medicine &amp; Hygiene</b>	Continuing Member

#### Skills

<b>Computers</b>	MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Internet Research tools, Outlook, EPIInfo, STATA, SPSS
<b>Languages</b>	Fluency in English, Spanish, and French and basic understanding of Portuguese.