

ANDREA BERNASCONI

MD • DrPH • MSc • DTM&H

Senior Epidemiologist | Global Public Health | Disease Surveillance & Outbreak Response

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Epidemiologist and Global Public Health Specialist with 25+ years of experience across 30+ countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America. Led epidemiological surveillance, outbreak response, operational research, digital health and health-system strengthening initiatives for major governmental, humanitarian and research institutions.

Principal Investigator and Project Lead for multi-country programmes valued at up to EUR 10 million. Experienced in translating complex epidemiological and health data into operational, scientific and policy recommendations, particularly in humanitarian, low-resource and international settings.

Trained and mentored more than 300 Master's and PhD students, healthcare professionals and humanitarian staff in epidemiology, research methods and public health.

SELECTED CAREER IMPACT

- Led or contributed to epidemiological, operational and implementation research across 30+ countries.
- Directed and supervised multi-country programmes valued at up to EUR 10 million.
- Supported major outbreak responses encompassing Ebola, cholera, measles, meningitis, malaria and nutritional emergencies.
- Analysed health, surveillance and research datasets containing up to 500,000 records.
- Extensive expertise in digital health, health information systems and implementation science.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Epidemiological Surveillance • Outbreak Investigation and Response • Operational and Clinical Research • Health Systems Strengthening • Digital Health • Monitoring and Evaluation • Implementation Science • Global Health Security • Research Leadership • Capacity Building • Stakeholder Engagement

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical software: R, Stata, SAS, SPSS

Data visualisation & GIS: Tableau, QGIS

Digital health & data systems: DHIS2, CommCare

Research methods: Cross-sectional studies, cohort studies, implementation research, mixed-methods research, Randomised Controlled Trials, programme evaluation, outbreak investigations, survival analysis, multivariable modelling

LANGUAGES

Italian (Native) • English (C2) • French (C1) • Spanish (C1) • German (A2)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE | Remote

Freelance Epidemiologist & Research Consultant • March 2026 – Present

- Design and conduct epidemiological, operational and implementation research for healthcare institutions and research partners.
- Lead epidemiological analyses of necrotising enterocolitis incidence, mortality, risk factors and outcomes in collaboration with SwissNeoNet.

- Conduct longitudinal analyses of chronic low-back and widespread pain using CoLaus|PsyCoLaus cohort data.

PLOS Digital Health | Remote (part-time)

Academic Editor • March 2026 – Present

- Oversee the peer-review process and assess the methodological and scientific quality of submitted manuscripts.
- Select expert reviewers and make editorial decisions based on scientific rigour, transparency and publication standards.

RÉSEAU DE L'ARC | Moutier, Switzerland

Senior Researcher • July 2024 – August 2025

- Led epidemiological and health-services research using hospital, insurance-claims and population-survey data to support strategic planning.
- Developed analytical pipelines in R and analysed large real-world healthcare datasets containing hundreds of thousands of clinical encounters.
- Supported the design and evaluation of the VIVA Integrated Care Programme, focusing on healthcare quality, continuity of care and patient outcomes.
- Translated epidemiological findings into operational recommendations, institutional reports, publications and grant proposals.

ROBERT KOCH INSTITUTE (RKI) | Berlin, Germany

Senior Researcher • February 2021 – July 2024

- Led a major workstream within the EUR 10 million Digital Innovation for Pandemic Control programme evaluating digital health solutions for surveillance, vaccine logistics and pandemic preparedness across five countries.
- Served as Principal Investigator for a national Lassa fever seroprevalence study in Guinea.
- Led epidemiological and statistical analyses of large surveillance, survey and routine-health datasets.
- Coordinated epidemiology, biostatistics and operational-research training for 150 researchers from five African countries through the ANDEMIA network.
- Co-authored GIZ guidance on digital health implementation and governance in low- and middle-income countries.
- Provided research and epidemiology tutoring and mentoring to MSc and PhD students from Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

SWISS TROPICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE (Swiss TPH) / ICRC

Project Manager & Public Health Specialist – ALMANACH Programme • April 2016 – June 2018 and January 2020 - December 2020

Countries of assignment: Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia

- Led the implementation, scale-up and evaluation of ALMANACH (ALgorithm for the MANagement of Acute CHildhood Illnesses), an electronic clinical decision support system based on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness guidelines.
- Directed programme implementation across three countries, coordinating multidisciplinary teams and ensuring alignment with national health priorities and stakeholder expectations.
- Designed and conducted epidemiological, operational and implementation research to evaluate effectiveness, acceptability and scalability of digital clinical decision support tools in primary healthcare settings.
- Developed and analysed real-world datasets from routine primary healthcare consultations to assess utilization patterns, prescribing practices, guideline adherence and child health outcomes.
- Led impact evaluations on quality of care and health system performance, collaborating with Ministries of Health, international organisations and local partners to strengthen digital health governance.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) | Myanmar

Health Program Manager • July 2018 – December 2019

- Managed all ICRC health programmes across Shan States, overseeing planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in a complex humanitarian setting.
- Led public health and health systems strengthening initiatives aimed at improving service delivery, governance, resource allocation and programme performance.

- Conducted epidemiological analyses of routine health and surveillance data to support evidence-based programme management and strategic decision-making.
- Provided technical support for disease surveillance, outbreak preparedness and dengue response activities while supervising multidisciplinary teams.

EPICENTRE / MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF) | Barcelona, Spain

Epidemiologist & Research Advisor • August 2011 – April 2016

- Provided epidemiological leadership to MSF programmes across 30+ countries, supporting disease surveillance, outbreak response and operational research.
- Supported responses to Ebola in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; cholera in Tanzania, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Zambia and Sierra Leone; and measles, meningitis, malaria and nutritional emergencies.
- Designed and supervised mortality surveys, nutritional assessments, and vaccination-coverage surveys.
- Provided methodological and statistical support to clinical trials, observational studies and peer-reviewed publications.
- Trained and mentored health staff in surveillance, operational research and data analysis.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) | Afghanistan & Pakistan

Public Health Specialist • July 2008 – July 2011

Led prison-health reform, health-system strengthening and emergency-preparedness initiatives in collaboration with national authorities, WHO, the World Bank, USAID and the European Commission.

SEREMI – REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY | Alessandria, Italy

Epidemiologist / Public Health Officer • February 2007 – May 2008

Led communicable-disease surveillance activities and the development of regional Legionella prevention and control guidance.

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES (MSF) | Rome, Italy

Medical Doctor / Public Health Epidemiologist • 2005 – 2007

Provided clinical and epidemiological support to migrant-health programmes, including emergency activities in Lampedusa.

INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE (ITM) and UNIVERSITY OF PAVIA | Antwerp, Belgium

Researcher • 2001 – 2005

Contributed to a malaria randomised clinical trial research in Peru and epidemiological research on Type 1 diabetes in Italy.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Epidemiology

Utrecht University, The Netherlands | Expected 2026

MSc in Infectious Disease Control

Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium | 2006

Specialization in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine (DrPH)

University of Pavia, Italy | 2004

Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H)

Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium | 2003

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

University of Pavia, Italy | 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Full publication list available via ORCID: 0000-0002-1299-7114 ([link](#))

MAIN CERTIFICATIONS

- International Council for Harmonisation – Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP)
- Implementation Science (Washington University)
- Real-World Evidence in Medicine Development

- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Outbreak Response
- Project Cycle Management