

Tatyana El-Kour, PhD, MA, MS, RDN, FAND

Recognized expert and thought leader in population health and nutrition. A champion of systems' thinking. Highly skilled at innovating frameworks to transform processes and leverage technology to maximize effectiveness and outcomes. For over 20 years, Dr. El-Kour has delivered progressive strategies integrating and aligning complex humanitarian and development programs and projects on behalf of the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental agencies with a behaviour change focus. More recently, Dr. El-Kour's technical specialty has evolved to address the changing healthcare and food systems landscape, incorporating media psychology and technology to population health and humanitarian programming to effect regulatory and policy changes and drive population behaviour change.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA

Aug 2015 – Jan 2021 (Conferral date: 1 February 2021)

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Psychology with a concentration in Media Psychology. Additional concentration track: Social Impact of Mobile Media and Immersive Technology on Health Behaviour Change.

Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA

2015 – 2018 (Conferral date: 18 April 2018)

Master of Arts in Psychology with a concentration in Media Psychology.

Tufts University and Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA

2003 – 2005 (Conferral date: 22 May 2005)

Combined Master of Science/Dietetic Residency in Medical Nutrition Therapy and Policy.

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

2001 – 2003 (Conferral date: 1 August 2003)

Bachelor of Science/Pre-medical Track – General Dietetics.

University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

1995 – 1999 (Conferral date: 15 June 1999)

Bachelor of Science - Nutrition & Food Technology

CONTACT INFO



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Tatyanaelkour

LANGUAGES

English

Arabic

French

Spanish

SKILLS

Nutrition in Complex Emergencies
Food & Nutrition Policy
Strategic Planning
Operational Leadership
Programme Management, Implementation & Support
Technical Guidance
Monitoring & Evaluation
Capacity Building
Data & Knowledge Management
Problem Solving
Social and Behavior Change
Communication
Innovation & Social Impact
Cognitive Science
Emergent Technology

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Ph.D.

- 2018 recipient of The Michael R. Neal Legacy Award in recognition of collaboration, scholarship, innovation, and advocacy.
- 2017 recipient of the Worldwide Network for Gender Empowerment Research Fellowship.
- 2016 recipient of the Wagenheim Endowed Scholarship for International Doctoral Students.

Masters

- 2005 Rebecca Roubenoff Award for Excellence in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Tufts University and Tufts Medical Centre.
- 2005 Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy Graduation Class Valedictorian.
- 2004 Frances Stern Nutrition Centre Summer Scholarship.
- 2003 Frances Stern Nutrition Centre First Year Intern Scholarship, Tufts Medical Centre.
- 2003 First International Nutritionist/Dietitian Award, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation.

Bachelors:

- Dean's honour list.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, developing tools for effective online.
- Learning and implementing nutrition and dietetic related issues into course curriculum.
- Clinical Nutrition Traineeship, Royal Medical Services, Amman, Jordan.

CAREER EXPERIENCE

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER – MULTIPLE LOCATIONS - (2016 – Present)

Health and Nutrition Coordinator for Syria Mission – Damascus, Syria (Nov 2018 – Present)

Designs, oversees, coordinates technical leadership and management of health, mental health, nutrition, and care practice programming with a focus on integrated primary healthcare support, multisectoral engagement, healthcare management, nutrition, healthy lifestyle promotion, mental health and psychosocial support for emergency relief and early recovery within Syria. Manages multimillion dollar budgets for health and nutrition programs relevant to key donors, including BHA/OFDA, OCHA, SDC, SIDA, GAC, and AECID. Established and managed staff at high retention rate. Negotiates with key stakeholders (donors, authorities, international and national partners, counterparts, beneficiaries, and other external actors) in relation to needs and interventions.

Highlights of Expertise

Healthcare & Nutrition Systems
Nutritional Epidemiology
Humanitarian Nutrition
Programming & Coordination
Programmatic Leadership
Operations Management
Financial Management
Team Building & Leadership
Technical Quality Management
Monitoring & Evaluations
Survey Methodologies
Advocacy & Funding
Advanced Planning, Assessment & Analytical Skills
Advanced Training & Mentoring
Advanced Computer Skills, including Microsoft Office Suite, Statistical Software, Geographic Information Systems, Health & Nutrition Behaviour Change & Mental Wellbeing

Nutrition Coordinator for Lebanon Mission – Beirut, Lebanon (Jun 2017 - Sep 2017)

Led negotiation efforts with national and United Nations counterparts and guided policies related to nutritional program development for Action Against Hunger, while increasing advocacy efforts, funding, and visibility for nutrition sensitive and specific initiatives. Provided technical and operational leadership in building field teams that could manage emergency and sustainable nutritional needs. Built capacity of local staffing in relation to needs and interventions.

Regional Nutrition Officer - Middle East Region – Amman, Jordan (Jun 2016 - Dec 2016)

Collaborated in leading Syria's nutrition response system that included strengthening advocacy, funding, and profile-raising efforts for this crisis, while providing essential support for the refugees. Led negotiation, mediation, advocacy, and technical efforts for emergency and sustainable nutrition projects in the Middle East region, and Syrian environment.

REDR UK – ASSOCIATE TRAINER AND EXPERT CONSULTANT – (2017 – Present)

Deliver part-time independent consulting services for evidence based, gender-focused, multicultural, mediation, facilitation, training, and course development services targeting humanitarian programmatic leadership and management, proposal and report writing, monitoring and evaluation, basic and advanced project cycle management, public health, mental health, and the social factors related to health, program development, referral pathways, evaluations, surveys, monitoring, and impact assessments. Co-developed and delivered a series of online course modules during 2020 on special topic areas within the context of COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa region, including stress management, basic and advanced mental health support, gender and inclusion, basic risk communication and community engagement, and developed the advanced risk communication and community engagement module.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION – MULTIPLE LOCATIONS – (2005 – 2015)

International Technical Officer, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Director's Office – Cairo, Egypt – (Jun 2012 – Mar 2015)

Offered strong leadership and management efforts within the Office of the Regional Director, Eastern Mediterranean Regional office in Cairo, Egypt, leveraging decades of experience in public and private organizations, throughout tenure. Filled many roles due to success in negotiations, coordination, and execution of high-level dialogues and complex projects related to public health policies and programs, including mental health, Regional Committee meetings, and high-level meetings on saving the lives of mothers and children (2013), and the high-level regional forum on physical activity (2014).

- Identified effective change opportunities while managing opposition and uncertainty, then consistently meeting and exceeding organization's expectations.
- Counseled the regional and divisional directors, agency representatives, and external subject matter experts on securing data, preparing technical documentation, and reports.
- Performed project progress analysis and inter-program/sector activities related to priorities, and included non-communicable/communicable disease, family health, system strengthening, emergency preparedness, effective response systems, and emphasized food and nutrition programs.
- Created and secured info graphics and media support of pencilimation for salt reduction, mother and child health, physical activity benefits, and nutritional policy.

- Generated reports, with action item follow-up, and organized critical multidisciplinary meetings.
- Proposed and implemented analytical methods, tools, and metrics related to monitoring and evaluating technical initiatives.

National Professional Officer – Amman, Jordan - (Jun 2008 – Jun 2012)

Championed expert design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of local public health policies and programs, including food/nutrition program development. Advised on and drafted concept papers, research proposals, technical and progress reports in collaboration with program staff. Created/reviewed materials to raise regional/national awareness and advocacy efforts for scientists, health care professionals, students, patients, and the public, including intranet/internet data, press releases, op-ed columns in national/regional newspapers, and social media tools.

- Appointed on advisory boards for creation of national guidelines in support of food and nutrition programs.
- Developed and participated in a wide range of programs pertinent to micronutrient supplementation, breastfeeding, national food/nutrition policy and strategy, food security, food safety, non-communicable disease prevention, and management, palliative care, genetics and hereditary disorders, gender in health and development, human rights for health, and injury/disease prevention.
- Trained national stakeholders, including government, non-government, and private sectors for evidence-based and structured health and nutrition policies related to program areas.
- Appointed on various United Nations groups pertinent to communication, youth, violence, and social protection, and represented organization in meetings, conferences, or interagency missions.

Technical Officer – Amman, Jordan - (Mar 2006 – Jun 2008)

Developed, supported, and analysed implementation of national nutrition, macroeconomic, and public health strategies. Spearheaded nutrition and community-based initiatives in related programs, including non-communicable diseases, reproductive health, and emergency relief.

- Drafted concept papers, scientific proposals, technical and non-technical reports, progress reports, updates for bulletins, newsletter, Web site material, and press releases.
- Created tools and materials to support establishment of programs and policies.

Nutrition & Food Policy Advisor – Amman, Jordan - (Aug 2005 – Feb 2006)

Led the organization design, implementation, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation of local food and nutrition policies/programs.

- Advised on and authored public health nutrition research proposals in collaboration with program staff and developed and reviewed nutrition and health education materials.

PRIVATE CLINICAL PRACTICE – (Oct 2005 – Jun 2012)

Consultant - Clinical Nutrition, Dietetics, and Metabolism – Amman, Jordan - (Oct 2005 – Jun 2012)

Provided direct nutrition-focused physical assessment, diagnosis, care and monitoring to individuals and disadvantaged groups, including prevention and management of multiple macronutrient (protein and energy malnutrition) and micronutrient (iron, zinc, calcium, vitamins A, B, C, D and E, iodine, selenium, copper) deficiencies, fluid and electrolyte imbalances, drug-nutrient, and food-related interactions, behaviour change management, and diverse health and diet related challenges. Observed patient care, advised on best evidence-

based practices and customized products and treatment protocols.

- Appointed Subject Matter Expert to renowned regional hospitals in Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon to advise Opinion Leaders, Doctors, and hospital staff on nutritional support therapy and Standards of Practice development.
- Trained multidisciplinary healthcare staff at Al-Basheer Public Hospital in maintenance of oncology nutrition standards improving SOPs and patient satisfaction.
- Slashed length of critical care/hospital stay and improved electrolyte balance via nutrition support therapy to specific patient populations.
- Designed and implemented a program for paediatricians/paediatric gastroenterologists at Mashfa Al-Asad Al-Jame'ey in Damascus to apply pediatric nutrition support therapy that reduced mortality rates in neonatal and paediatric ICUs, particularly during times of reorganization and disruption.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Metabolic Nutrition Research Technician USDA Jean Mayer Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, Boston, MA.

Menu & Recipe Analyst Tufts University and Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA.

Statistical Data Entry Assistant Tufts University and Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA.

Nutrition Line Specialist Novartis Consumer Health Inc., Near East Regional Office, Amman, Jordan.

Medical Representative Jordan Drugstore Company, Amman, Jordan.

PROFESSIONAL BOARD CREDENTIALS

- 2015 – Present: Recognized Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND).
- 2005 – 2026: Dietetic Board Registration by Commission on Dietetic Registration.
- 2009 – 2014: Certified Nutrition Support Clinician Credential, National Board for Nutrition Support Certification.
- 2009 – 2013: The Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist Credential by Mayo Clinic.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- 2005 – Present: Government of Jordan Full Medical Nutrition Licensure of Practice.
- 1999 – Present: Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association Certificate of Practice for Agricultural Engineers.

ACTIVITIES

- Travel; Exercise; Culinary Diplomacy; Extraordinary Architecture; Reading; Writing; and Environmental Conservation