

### **Anita Smeets – Administration and Finance Coordinator**

Anita Smeets, a Belgian national, joined The MENTOR Initiative in Angola in early November 2014, as Coordinator for Administration & Finance (including HR and Logistics).

Anita holds Masters Degrees in Germanic Philology (1986), in Business Administration (1992) and in Politics & Science – Conflict & Development (2005). She worked for 6 years at JP Morgan / Euroclear in Brussels as Relationship and Sales manager for Scandinavian banks and brokers and later for Japanese investment banks based in London. In 1997 she transferred to the JP Morgan headquarters in New York as VP for Private Banking clients from the Benelux. She then joined the American Depositary Department as Head of Transactions. After she left JP Morgan voluntarily Anita traveled extensively, and then took the decision to re-orient her career towards development. Anita joined CBM ([www.cbm.org](http://www.cbm.org)) in 2006. CBM is a large international, Christian development organization focusing on improving the lives of persons with disabilities living in poverty. Anita started her CBM assignment in Goma, East DRC as Finance & Admin training manager with one of CBM's local partner organizations. In 2007 she became the Coordinator for CBM's work in the Great Lakes Region (Rwanda, Burundi, East DRC). In this capacity she was responsible for starting up the first co-implemented NTD programme with the Burundian Ministry of Health. In 2009 Anita became CBM's Regional Director for East Africa in Nairobi, and in 2010 she was appointed CEO of CBM Kenya. In 2012 she was asked to join CBM's Germany based International Office as Deputy VP for Programme Development. Anita left CBM voluntarily in early 2014.

### **Johan Willems- Country Director**

Johan is a Belgian national and joined The Mentor-Initiative team in Angola early November 2014, as NTD Programme Coordinator, and since 15 December he was appointed Country Director.

After his studies in Graphics Industries and Techniques, Johan started his career as employee in the private sector. He later got his Masters in Pedagogic and moved to teaching and lecturing in different education institutes, for 15 years. After following training on international cooperation and development work, he worked as a volunteer in a vocational training project in Goma, DRC. From there he was hired by CBM, as technical assistant to the NTD programme from the Ministry of Health in Burundi (2008-2010). From 2010, he worked as NTD programme coordinator for CBM, first based in Nairobi and responsible for the NTD programmes in Burundi, CAR, DRC and South-Sudan, in 2012 he moved to the CBM International Office in Germany. In September 2013, Johan joined The MENTOR Initiative as Country Director in CAR, leading the implementation of life saving malaria control programmes during the recent humanitarian crisis.

### **Sofia Imad – Zaire Province NTD Coordinator**

Sofia, French nationality, is a young programme manager, who has already proven experience as administration and finance officer and malaria programme coordinator working with The MENTOR Initiative in the challenging environment of southern Chad during the height of the recent crisis in the neighboring Central African Republic, resulting in massive refugee influx in the south of Chad, the region where she was working.

Sofia holds a Master's degree in International Relations, major in Project Management and a diploma on political sciences. After her studies, she started working at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva, Switzerland as humanitarian affairs assistant, later she worked as programme coordinator at the Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace in Ramallah.

Through the coordination of the malaria programme in Chad, Sofia build solid experience in public health programme management, on which she further builds on as NTD Programme Coordinator for the programme in the province Zaire, Angola. She started working with The MENTOR Initiative Angola on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 and will finish on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

### **Elena Catalan – WASH Coordinator**

Elena was contracted by The MENTOR Initiative as WASHE Coordinator in October 2014, she delivered services to the NTD programme in Angola, awaiting the issuing of her working permit for Angola. Elena has arrived and started working in Angola early January 2015.

Elena holds a master degree Critical Nurse Specialist and has built her career as health trainer in different institutes in Spain. In 2006, Elena started an international career in development work as health trainer in India. She was appointed as health and sanitation coordinator with the Spanish Red Cross in Darfur, Sudan, in 2006. In 2007, she worked as coordinator in a community HIV programme in Luanda, Angola. From 2009 till 2013, Elena has been coordinating WASH and Health Education programmes in Mozambique and Ethiopia, with Oxfam International. She has been working as critical care nurse in Spain in 2013 till recently.

**Spain - 10.2013 -1.2015-** Critical Care nurse in the Hospital Motril. **Granada, Spain.**

**-Mozambique -5.2013- 9.2013** - Water, sanitation, hygiene /health promotion: Public Health Promotion Intermon Oxfam

- Emergency flood Wash projects in Gaza region, Mozambique.

**-Ethiopia -01.2012-06.2012** - Water, sanitation, hygiene /health promotion: Public Health Promotion Intermon Oxfam

- Emergency drought response Wash projects in Somali region- Liben Ethiopia.

**-Mozambique- 06.2011 -12.2011** -Water, Sanitation, hygiene /health promotion: Public health Promotion Intermon Oxfam

- Emergency /Wash assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in Palma and Maratane. Mozambique.

**-Mozambique-07.2009-01.2011** - Water, sanitation, hygiene /health promotion: Public health Promotion Intermon Oxfam

- Health Delegate Coordination of a Primary Health Project in Erati- Nampula. Medicus Mundi Catalunya.

**-Angola- 3.2008-03.2007** -Health Delegate Spanish Red Cross

- Coordination of a Community HIV programme and 2 Primary Health Clinics in Luanda.

#### **Katie Eves – HQ Programme Coordinator**

After an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and 3 years of charity event management Katie spent 6 months volunteering in a remote area of eastern Ghana. After which she found work as a campaign coordinator with Red Cross for the first national level distribution of LLINs, integrated with measles vaccination, mebendazole and vitamin A administration in Togo in 2004.

She returned to the UK to complete a Master's in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine meanwhile working for a consultancy providing first aid and health training and advice to individuals and companies working in remote environments. Notably this involved supporting, training and writing policy for Rio Tinto in Guinea, Mozambique and DRC and BP across their global sites.

Upon completing her MSc she returned to Africa working for the International Federation of the Red Cross as Malaria and Community Health Delegate, responsible for malaria and community health projects in the 23 countries of West and Central Africa, loosely based in Dakar, Senegal.

Keen to return to the UK, she started work for The MENTOR Initiative in 2011 based initially in France working as Programme Manager for the Horn of Africa Emergency Response in Kenya and Somalia, followed by routine management of the Kenya and Liberia malaria and more recently Ebola programmes. She also managed the development, testing and roll out of MENTOR's USAID funded Malaria and Vector Borne Disease in Humanitarian Emergencies training, aimed at Ministries of Health and NGO programme managers, to develop capacity in the control of lesser known diseases. She took up responsibility for the Angola programme in September 2014 upon returning from maternity leave and now works 2.5 days per week on this programme.