

## **Credentials**

BSc. Food Science and Nutrition (Hons), University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

Master of Public Health, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana

PhD Human Nutritional Sciences, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA

## **Profile**

Richmond Nii Okai Aryeetey is a Professor of Public Health Nutrition at the University of Ghana School of Public Health. He has over two decades of experience as a public health nutrition expert. He currently heads the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health. He has previously served as Head of the Department of Biostatistics. He joined the School of Public Health as a Lecturer in 2007. Professor Aryeetey is a fellow of the African Nutrition Leadership Program (2008), the Yale University Global Health Leadership Institute (2009 and 2010), and the Brown University International Advanced Research Institute (2011). He is currently a Visiting Professor at University of Sheffield's Centre for Health and Related Research. Prior to joining the University of Ghana, he worked as a Research Assistant with the WHO Multicentre Growth Reference study at the university of Ghana and as Researcher Officer with the Dodowa Health Research Centre. District Health Directorate. In 2022, Professor Aryeetey was inducted into the fellowship of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Richmond Aryeetey's interdisciplinary research intersects Human Nutrition, Public Health, Food Systems, and Public Policy, across the entire life course. However, his work places much emphasis on the nutrition of young children, adolescents, and women in reproductive age. His research interests focus on dietary intake, nutritional status of individuals and populations, food systems, diets, overweight and diet-related diseases. He is especially passionate about breastfeeding and complementary feeding of young children, and the drivers and barriers of young child feeding. His work has contributed to answering key questions about feeding of infants and young children. The nature of his work has only been possible through collaborations with a wide network of partners across the globe including in Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, Europe, and Asia.

### **Capacity building and mentoring**

Professor Aryeetey's work has incorporated a strong component of capacity building and mentoring. Professor Aryeetey has taught multiple courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels including Public Health Nutrition, Nutrition Rehabilitation Programs, Malnutrition and Food security, Applied Nutrition, Nutrition for Public Health Programming, Child Growth and Development, School Health and Education, and Health Surveillance Informatics. He also teaches Food security as a visiting Lecturer at University of Sheffield.

He has mentored several graduate and undergraduate students from multiple Departments across the University of Ghana including the School of Public Health, Nutrition and Food Science Department, and department of dietetics, Regional Institute of Population Studies, The Business School, Sociology Department, and School of Education. Eight of his PhDs have successfully completed their programs, and five more are in various stages of completion. He has also successfully mentored 55 master's students, and 15 undergraduate students.

Since 2018, he has led or co-led funded-mentoring programs that has strengthened research and professional skills of PhD students and early career scientists. Funding from the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II scholars program that he has led at University of Ghana has benefited more than 30 PhD students and Early Career Faculty from University of Ghana, UHAS, KNUST, UCC and institutions in other West African Countries, including Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, and La Cote D'Ivoire. In collaboration with University of Sheffield, Professor Aryeetey has co-led an educational and research exchange between University of Ghana and University of Sheffield under the ERASMUS+ mobility program. As part of the ERASMUS program, 12 faculty and staff of UG and 12 students visited and used laboratories and facilities at University of Sheffield on various research activities.

### **Research Support and Funding**

Professor Aryeetey has led multiple collaborative research grants. His research has attracted funding and resources from various funding agencies including the International Food Policy Research Institute, Family Larsson Rosenquist Foundation, European Commission, UNICEF Ghana, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IMMANA, Population Council, IDRC, and Global Affairs Canada.

The following are some of the grant-funded research that Professor Aryeetey has led as Principal investigator or Country Lead investigator:

- Nurtished: Adapting Foodshed Analysis for Nutrition Security Planning (IMMANA, 2023-2025)
- Netlinks: An Anglophone-Francophone network linking scholars and non-academic change agents to enhance health equity and sustainable inclusive growth in rural West Africa (Universities Canada, 2022-2024)
- LINKin-Ghana: A network of interdisciplinary, solution-oriented researchers to improve the livelihoods and food and nutrition security of adolescent girls and women farmers in rural Ghana. (Universities Canada, 2018-2021)
- Breastfeeding Best Practices intervention Framework (FLRF, 2020-2022)
- Operational Assessment Framework for Breastfeeding Intervention Evaluation (FLRF, 2024)
- Will #Breastfeed4Ghana go viral? Evaluating the dissemination and impact of the first breastfeeding social media marketing campaign in Ghana (ISRHML, 2017-2018)
- Becoming Baby Friendly Phase III (Yale University, 2018-2019)
- The 'Baby Friendly Country' metric: Assessing Readiness and Progress with Scaling-Up of National Breastfeeding Programs (Yale University, 2016-2017)
- Using Trials of Improved Practices to Strengthen Infant and Young Child Feeding Programming in Ghana (UNICEF, Ghana 2017-2019)
- Stories of Change in Nutrition in Ghana (IFPRI, 2017-2019)
- Assessment of capacity gaps for nutrition-sensitive agriculture policies and programming in Africa and South/South East Asia (IFPRI, 2016-2018)
- Landscape analysis of Nutrition enabling Environment (2018)
- Capacity development for evidence review phase of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines in sub-Saharan Africa (FAO, 2020-2022)
- Operational research on Financial Literacy and Educational Incentive Program for Adolescent Girls in Ghana (Population Council, 2014-2016)
- Conflict of Interest in food and nutrition research in Ghana (GECI-PH Network, 2020-2021)
- Sustainable food security and nutrition in HIV management in Ghana (CFAR, 2009-2010).
- Building sustainable capacity for research for health in Africa (EU Commission, 2010-2013).

So far, his research and collaborative activities has attracted a cumulative investment of over 7 million US Dollars of external funding into the University of Ghana. His research has resulted

in the publication of over 160 peer-reviewed journal articles, 5 book chapters, more than 30 peer-reviewed conference abstracts, and several technical and policy reports.

### **Editorial and review services**

Professor Aryeetey currently serves on the Editorial Boards of the following nutrition and food systems peer reviewed journals including Global Food security, Maternal and Child Nutrition, Environmental Research: Food systems, World Nutrition, and Academia Nutrition and dietetics. He reviews manuscripts for leading journals in his field of expertise including PLOS One, Journal of Human Lactation, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development, and the Ghana Medical Journal.

### **Professional service**

Outside the University, Professor Aryeetey has served on various committees and boards in Ghana, and externally. He is currently a member of the WHO's Strategic and Technical Group of Experts on Children, Adolescents, and Women's Health and Nutrition. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement as a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Expert. He has previously served as co-chair of the WHO Guidelines Development Group for Complementary feeding.

In Ghana, Professor Aryeetey has served on various national committees related to nutrition policy and programming including the SUN Cross-Sectoral Planning Group (CSPG), SUN Movement Technical Committee, the National Nutrition Partners Coordinating Committee, and the National Salt Iodization Committee. He is also a foundation member and Convenor of the Ghana SUN Academic Platform.

During his career, he has provided technical advice and participated in various processes to develop or revise national health and nutrition policies, strategies, and guidelines. Some of the most recent policy processes that he has been involved in include the National Nutrition Policy, National Policy for Aflatoxin control in food and Feed, revision of the National Breastfeeding Promotion Legislation (LI 1667), National Strategy on the Elimination of Trans Fatty Acids from Ghana's Food Supply, and the Essential Nutrition Actions. More Recently, he has co-led the development, pretesting, and publication of Ghana's first Food-based Dietary Guidelines

and its accompanying Food Systems Guidelines. He is currently co-leading a project supporting implementation of the Food-based Dietary Guidelines.

### **Professional Societies**

Professor Aryeetey is actively engaged with professional societies in his area of expertise. He is currently serving as a council member on the Executive Committee of the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation. Between 2011 and 2015, he served as Vice President of the Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS), and then as its Acting President between 2016 and 2017. He is also a member of the American Society of Nutrition, the African Nutrition Society, the Ghana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Ghana Science Association.

### **University Service**

Professor Aryeetey has served on various boards and committees in the University of Ghana including Academic Board, Appointments and Promotion, Consultancy and Field Practice, Education, and ORID Management Board. He has also served on various ad hoc roles including GUSA games planning, Program/course development, UGRF proposals review, Sports Patron, Floor Tutor in Akuafo Hall, and founding of the Legon Swimming Club.

### **Family and social life**

Professor Aryeetey is married to Mrs. Faustina Aryeetey and they are blessed with three children: David Nii Ayitey Aryeetey, Kevin Nii Ayikwei Aryeetey, and Faustina Naa Ayele Aryeetey. In addition, their home is open to several young people under their mentorship and supervision. Professor Aryeetey is a Christian and a member of the Legon Interdenominational Church. He loves music and is a member of the Legon Interdenominational Church Choir. He also loves reading, travelling, art, architecture, and sports. His love for sports is what drove him to establish the Legon Swimming Club in 2013. He also plays Tennis, Racket Ball, Table Tennis, and Pickle Ball.

