A safe and healthy future? Epidemiological studies on the health of asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Simone Goosen was born in 1967 in Bergen op Zoom, the Netherlands. After completing her secondary education at the Roncalli College there, she studied health sciences at the Radboud University Nijmegen. In 2002, she graduated and received her MSc in Epidemiology.

After completing her MSc, Simone briefly worked at the Radboud University. In 2003, she joined the department of infectious disease epidemiology at the National Institute of Public Health (RIVM). She worked for nearly three years on the epidemiology of gastroenteritis. In January 1996, she joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in Africa. She first worked for the WHO office in Mauritius as an advisor to the Ministry of Health on health information systems, from 1996 to 1998. Subsequently, she worked at WHO's Regional Office for Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe, until 2000. She worked amongst others on a self-assessment tool for district health teams, the use of participatory approaches in health promotion, the establishment of databases for regional programs, and training courses in health systems research. Her work brought her to a range of countries across Africa.

Back from Africa, Simone joined the Netherlands Association of Community Health Services (then called GGD Nederland, now called GGD GHOR Nederland). As of 2001, she has been responsible for the national level health research tasks of the Community Health Services for Asylum Seekers (MOA between 2000 and 2008 and PGA from 2009 onwards). The health research task of MOA and PGA entails the conversion of health-related questions from policy-makers and professionals to researchers as well as the translation of research results into information for policy-makers and professionals. Furthermore, it involves the monitoring of mortality, causes of death and suicidal behaviour among asylum seekers in the Netherlands. Simone was amongst others involved in the participation project A Healthy Asylum Seeker Centre (funded by ZonMW), the evaluation of ASERAG (a participatory method for hiv prevention among asylum seekers), and the studies ‘Gevlucht-Gezond?’ I and II.

To bring her epidemiological studies on the health of asylum seekers to an academic level, Simone sought the collaboration of the Department of Public Health at the Academic Medical Centre (AMC) of the University of Amsterdam. This collaboration has been the basis for this PhD thesis, on which she started working in 2008, while she continued working for GGD Nederland.

Simone is married to Johan Verburg. They have two sons: Tibo (2000) and Juma (2002).