

# Rik U. Lubbers

PhD Candidate in Global Health & Spatial Sciences — University of Groningen / UMCG

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## PROFILE

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PhD Candidate in Global Health and Spatial Sciences, studying maternal and child health impacts of extreme weather events in Uganda. I integrate geospatial accessibility modelling (AccessMod) with pooled Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) analyses to quantify pathways from climate shocks to care seeking and undernutrition, spanning quantitative and qualitative methods with partners in Uganda and Switzerland.

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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2023 – Present  
Groningen, The Netherlands

### University Medical Center Groningen / University of Groningen

PhD Candidate

- Flood accessibility modelling in Kampala: developed AccessMod-based geospatial accessibility models to estimate flood disruption impacts on access to MNCH-relevant services.
- Drought and care-seeking pathways: pooled DHS analyses (survey-weighted spline modelling) to quantify drought-related pathways to care seeking for childhood danger signs and undernutrition.
- Qualitative fieldwork: designing and conducting interviews in Katakwi District on resilience, flood/drought exposure, and healthcare access.

2024 – 2024  
Kampala, Uganda

### Ministry of Health Uganda and UNFPA

Invited Facilitator

- Provided national-level technical support on GIS-based accessibility modelling (AccessMod).
- Strengthened EmONC service network optimisation across Uganda.

2021 – 2022  
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

### Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management

Research Assistant

- Curated a structured evidence database on substandard and falsified medicines.
- Implemented reproducible data extraction workflows.

2021 – 2021  
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

### Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management

Research Intern

- Contributed to conceptual development of a sub-national pharmaceutical system framework.
- Focused on essential-medicines access.

2020 – 2021  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

### Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Student Assistant, Statistics

- Taught applied statistics in small groups for pre-master health sciences students.

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. B. Kasagga, A. Nagawa, J. Harrison, E. Elobu, A. Curtis, Rik U. Lubbers, C. Peace Nsodi, M. Galukande, D. Ozgediz, R. Koch, N. Ray. Geospatial modeling of 1-hour and 2-hour access to surgical care in Uganda: a national scale-up analysis. *Preprint*, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-7937670/v1>
2. Rik U. Lubbers, T. Waiswa-Goossens, G. Weitkamp, R. Biesma. Geographical accessibility to public healthcare facilities and undernutrition in children under-five in Uganda: a cross-sectional spatial analysis. *African Geographical Review*, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19376812.2025.2538772>
3. Rik U. Lubbers, G. Weitkamp, F. Hierink, N. Ray, F. Oporia, O. Businge, R. Biesma-Blanco. Geospatial modelling reveals flood-driven inequities in nutrition-sensitive healthcare access across Kampala, Uganda. *Nature Communications Medicine (Submitted)*, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-8055572/v1>
4. Rik U. Lubbers. Shifting Perspectives to Address Epistemic Injustices in Global Health: The Role of Early-Career Researchers from the Global North. *Global Health Promotion (Under Review)*, 2025.
5. M. O. Kok, R. Biljers Fanda, Rik U. Lubbers, M. van Gulp, R. Ravinetto, A. Probandari. Assessing the performance of local pharmaceutical systems: an analytical approach to improve access to medicine. *The Journal of Medicine Access*, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1177/27550834251371502>

## FUNDING & GRANTS

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2026	<b>De Cock-Hadders Foundation — EUR 4,000</b> Scientific Research Grant (Recipient & Main Applicant)
2025	<b>University of Groningen — EUR 1,500</b> SSA Partial Travel Grant (Co-applicant)
2025-2026	<b>University of Groningen — EUR 3,100</b> Public Engagement Seed Fund (Recipient & Main Applicant)
2025-2026	<b>Rudolf Agricola School for Sustainable Development (University of Groningen) — EUR 1,800</b> Societal Impact Grant (Recipient & Main Applicant)
2022	<b>Groningen University Fund (GUF) — EUR 750</b> Personal Travel Grant (Recipient & Main Applicant)
2022	<b>University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) — EUR 267.50</b> Small Grant Support (Recipient & Main Applicant)
2022	<b>De Cock-Hadders Foundation — EUR 500</b> Scientific Internship Support (Recipient & Main Applicant)
2022	<b>GUIDE (CPE office) — EUR 250</b> Travel Support (Recipient & Main Applicant)

## SOFTWARE & DATA

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- **AMRemote\_looped\_MLC** (Workflow Utility): Batch-enabled AMRemote workflow to run AccessMod replay analyses across merged landcovers for barrier-change scenarios.
- **spatial.align** (R Package): Open-source tools for reproducible raster alignment. Open Research Award certificate (University of Groningen).

## RESEARCH VISITS

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- 2025 – 2025      **University of Geneva (UNIGE), Institute for Environmental Sciences, GeoHealth group**  
Visiting researcher — Geneva, Switzerland
- 2024 – 2024      **University of Geneva (UNIGE), Institute for Environmental Sciences, GeoHealth group**  
Visiting researcher — Geneva, Switzerland

## TEACHING & GUEST LECTURES

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- 2026 — Guest lecture (MNCH and planetary health) (University Medical Center Utrecht)
- 2025 — Invited session speaker, Summer School Global Health (breastfeeding and undernutrition), Speaker (University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG))
- 2025 — Guest Lecture, Struggle Seminar series, MNCH and planetary health (University of Groningen)
- 2025 — Guest Lecture, Project-Based Learning, Health Systems and Prevention, Public health assignment development (University of Groningen)
- 2025 — Guest lecture, BSc Geography programme (MNCH and planetary health) (University of Groningen)
- 2024 — Invited Session Speaker, Summer School Global Health, Breastfeeding and undernutrition; with Marieke de Sévaux (University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG))
- 2024 — Guest Lecture, Bachelor Medical Students, Preparation for Sub-Saharan Africa internships (University of Groningen)
- 2023 — Guest Lecture, University College Groningen, MNCH and planetary health (University of Groningen)

## CONFERENCES & ACADEMIC EVENTS

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- MakSPH TRIAD Research Dissemination Seminar (Makerere University School of Public Health, TRIAD Centre), oral dissemination seminar: Geospatial Modelling of Flood Impacts on Nutrition-Sensitive Healthcare Access in Kampala, Uganda. Kampala, 11 Nov 2025.
- Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health Junior Research Meet-up, oral presentation (keynote): Epistemic inequality in global health. Groningen, 24 Apr 2025.
- GROW Community Event, attendance (methods workshops). Elspeet, 15–16 May 2025.
- Urban Transitions 2024, poster presentation. Sitges, Spain, 5–8 Nov 2024.
- 3rd Annual Online Health Geography Symposium (AHGS), oral presentation. Online, 10 Dec 2024.
- World Public Health Nutrition Congress, attendance. 2024.
- ECTMIH 2023 (European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health), poster presentation. Utrecht, The Netherlands, 20–23 Nov 2023.

## DOCTORAL TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Methods

- Structural Equation Modeling in R using lavaan — Utrecht University (e-learning) (2–27 Mar 2025)
- Data management and FAIR data workshops — University of Groningen (2023 to 2024)

### Summer Schools

- A degrowth trajectory towards living with Earth through a Planetary Health lens — University of Groningen (Summer School) (2024)
- ECTMIH Academy, Utrecht University (Utrecht Summer School) — Utrecht, The Netherlands (19 Nov 2023)

## EDUCATION

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2021 – 2023	<b>MSc, Clinical and Psychosocial Epidemiology, track Health Systems and Prevention</b> University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands
2019 – 2021	<b>MSc, Health Sciences, track International Public Health</b> Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2015 – 2019	<b>BSc (Honours), Nursing</b> Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

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2026 – Present	<b>The Rob Foundation Nederland</b> Board member
2024 – Present	<b>Sub-Saharan Africa Research and Impact Commission, University of Groningen</b> Member
2023 – Present	<b>SSA PhD Network, University of Groningen</b> Member
2023 – 2024	<b>Sustainability Sounding Board, University of Groningen</b> Member

## PEER REVIEW

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- **Nature Cities**, Nature Portfolio — Reviewer, 2026.
- **Vaccine**, Elsevier — Reviewer, 2026.

## LANGUAGES

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Dutch (native) · English (proficient) · German, French, Spanish, Portuguese (working knowledge)