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Professor Renzaho is an ARC Future Fellow and Professor of Humanitarian and Development Studies, University of Western Sydney (UWS). He joined UWS in 2015 and prior to that he was the Director of Migration, Social Disadvantage, and Health Programs within the Global Society Unit at Monash University (2012-2014) and a Principal Research Fellow at Deakin University (2007-2011). He has over 20 years of professional experience in humanitarian emergencies and development practice. From 2003 to 2006, he oversaw the evaluation of more than 40 AusAID NGO Cooperation Programs with World Vision Australia covering Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, the Pacific, and Asia. From 1992-1997 he worked with a number of United Nations including working with Care Australia, Concern Worldwide, Médecins Sans Frontières, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and the United Nations Children's Fund. He has been a member of a number of governmental and non-governmental boards, committees, expert panels, and taskforces. His research concentration is on migration and health, disaster epidemiology, and cultural competency & cross cultural practice. He has published more than 150 papers and attracted more than \$4.5 million in national competitive grants.

### **Exclusion of Migrants in Research and the Rhetoric of Social Cohesion: Lessons Learnt from the African Migrant Capacity Building and Performance Appraisal Initiative and the Need for a Cultural Competence Framework**

Sub-Saharan African (SSA) migrants represent 1.1% of the Australian population. Once in Australia, they are faced with many social and health issues. However, research is required to establish their needs, community vulnerability, and health profile. Yet they remain under-represented in community-based interventions and research. Researchers have often excluded SSA migrants in research arguing that they either fail to understand the importance of the research process or are unable to participate because of language barriers. One of the inclusion criteria in most randomised controlled trials is proficiency in spoken English, hence excluding migrant populations who do not speak English, yet who are more likely to experience the highest burden of diseases. The reasons for excluding participants from non-English speaking backgrounds are diverse including the prohibitive costs associated with interpreting and translation during recruitment or data collection. In addition, adopting such an approach introduces a substantial bias, making a meta-analysis of RCTs flawed and further excluding migrants from current evidence-based and subsequent policy formulation. In this paper, I will outline challenges associated with engaging SSA migrants in research, the 'etic' and 'emic' meanings of 'social cohesion' in the context of participation in research, and outline dimension of a culturally-competent tool for community engagement using data from the African Migrant Capacity Building and Performance Appraisal framework.

