

LCHE SEMINAR**Wednesday JUNE 19th 11.00-12.30**

HEC campus

Salle 109 du bâtiment Extranef

1015 Lausanne-Chamberonne (Station UNIL – Chamberonne)

Child growth, parental knowledge and supplementation – Evidence from Zambia

SPEAKER**PROF GÜNTHER FINK**

Günther Fink is the Eckenstein-Geigy Professor of Epidemiology and Household Economics at the University of Basel, as well as the Head of the Household Economics and Health System Research Unit at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. His work focuses on developing and evaluating new and innovative approaches to improving health and development in low resource settings, and on measuring the long-term economic benefits of health improvements, particularly during the early childhood period.

ABSTRACT

Malnutrition remains a critical challenge affecting child development worldwide, particularly in resource limited settings. We conducted a randomized controlled trial in Zambia to investigate the effects of providing growth information and nutritional supplements on children's physical and cognitive development. Caregivers of young children were randomly assigned to either receive a growth chart, food supplements or both. The primary outcomes measured were changes in children's height and weight over a 18 months period. We find no height impacts for growth charts but significant improvements in child growth and development with supplements. Despite the observed benefits and generally very positive caregiver feedback on the supplements, willingness to pay for supplements was limited, suggesting that a relatively high level of subsidization would be needed to sustain supplementation programs at scale.