



A Decade in Development Work: A Story from Issack Kitururu (BA in Development Studies, MA in Rural Development)

Born and raised from the slopes of Pare Mountain, Same District in Tanzania, Issack Kitururu is an experienced development practitioner who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Development Studies at Bugema University (Uganda) in 2006 and Masters of Arts in Rural Development in Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania) in 2010.

The foundation of my career was positioned at Bugema University where I had an opportunity to be exposed to the full range of development concepts and practices - from the grassroots' level to the international level -, all of which tended to strengthen my intense interest in the field of development and more especially in behaviour change for healthy lives. Among the components of my studies included social dimensions of development, development psychology, counselling techniques, gender and development, development communication and political economy for agrarian change and natural resource assessment for development planning, project planning and management, public relations; among others.

As a practitioner, I have had an opportunity of working with faith-based organisations, civil society organisations (local and international) and public institution in Uganda and Tanzania for a decade. During this time I have been involved and became more competent in communication for social change (malaria, nutrition, eye health, education, agricultural technology adoption, primary health service uptake), social research (qualitative and quantitative), evaluation, project management and documentation, reporting, network brokering, content management, strategy development, risk management, process improvement and contract administration, human resource management among others.

Started my career as a Program Assistant in 2006, I have had an opportunity to lead teams in international organisations (including Population Services International and Helen Keller International - both

in Tanzania) in designing and managing social marketing and behaviour change programs for nutrition, agriculture, malaria (vector control and case management) and sanitation and hygiene. I have also be a core member in the development and piloting of the National Malaria Control Communication Strategy and National Nutrition Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy, of which the latter was launched by H.E President Jakaya Kikwete in 2013. Since early 2016 I have been leading a team that is supporting Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in the development and implementation of community engagement intervention for improving literacy and numeracy basic skills (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) for children aged 4 to 13 years.

Over years I have managed to build and maintain a working relationship and a strong professional network within CSO and Public Bureaux in Tanzania and overseas.

As stated elsewhere in this document, fundamental skills of my career were laid at Bugema University School of Social Science, Development Studies Department under the leadership of Mr. Keith Tibenda, Dr. Paul Mukasa, Mr. Davis Lubwama just to mention but a few. The support provided was beyond mastering the concepts of development communication or strategies of change or development planning process; it was about how to become a proactive person and have a great sense of responsibility, how to analyse situations and come up with professional yet timely solutions and the power of negotiation. These are the skills that I treasure!