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Summary

I have recently launched a new part time project developing an online community called Jijaze (which means to fill yourself up in KiSwahili) for women who want to make a difference, offering them opportunities to learn, connect and replenish themselves.

As that project develops I am seeking part time and/or occasional consultancy opportunities that fit my range of skills and allow me to continue to work in the charitable sector and support the kinds of change I believe in.

I am particularly committed to and interested in working on the rights of women and other marginalised groups and have over 15 years experience supporting development work in Africa.

My skills include supporting grant making and management, programming, evaluation, strategy and the process of change within organisations. I am able to write and facilitate in both English and KiSwahili and have considerable experience living and working in East and Southern Africa.

Recent Assignments

Relief Grant Management, Comic Relief (Women & Girls Programme) Sept 2012-Dec 2016

Since 2012 I have regularly been acting as a Relief Programme Manager for Comic Relief on the Women & Girls Programme and from time to time also on the Slums and Children and Young Peoples Programmes. The role involves reviewing reports, liaising with grantees and providing feedback as well as addressing any issues of concern. Most recently I supported the Women & Girls Programme two days a week from Sept-Dec 2016 while a new member of staff was recruited.

Grants Assessor, Comic Relief (Women & Girls Programme) 2012-date

Since 2012 I have been an Assessor for Comic Relief predominantly on the Women & Girls Programme. This involves meeting with grantees to assess their applications and writing a full report for consideration by the decision making committees within Comic Relief. I also carry out Governance and Finance Assessments and have travelled overseas to assess grants being made directly to African organisations.

Documentation Consultancy, Future Assemblies Project Sept-Nov 2016

I developed project documentation for this project that sort to bring together diverse communities across the UK to discuss dynamic strategies for dealing with the challenges people face in post-Brexit Britain.

Online Course Testing, maryannmhina.co.uk 2016

During 2016 I tested providing two online courses via my website, one of them called StoryPower was delivered by email and focused on personal story telling (built on my experience establishing a live event called The Story Party – see below) and the other was a virtual action learning circle for women interested in starting their own new projects, called The Birthing Circle.

During 2015 and early 2016 I was on maternity leave.

Previous Assignments

Barefoot Guide London Workshop, Co-Facilitation	2014
Research to identify best practice resources on partnership, BOND	2014
Strategic Review, Gender and Development Network 2011-2013	2014
Establishment of The Story Party, a regular live event in London, www.thestoryparty.co.uk	2013-2014
M&E Framework Development, AbleChildAfrica	2013
Development of M&E Framework for Voices for Development, Restless Development & VSO	2013
Sightsavers DFID Innovation Fund evaluation	2013
Co-Founder, Red Tent Directory, Development and on-going management of online listings site	2013
Womankind IPR DFID PPA evaluation	2012
Cecily's Fund, Consultancy and mentoring support to Executive Director	2012
Trust Women's Project, long-term Organisational Change Consultant	2012
Establishment of www.partnershipmatters.org	2011-12
Fundraising, Communications and Programme Monitoring Visit, Women and Children First	2011-12
Multilingual Project Planning Workshop, Nairobi Kenya, AbleChildAfrica	2011
Programme Evaluation, BasicNeeds Tanzania and UK	2011
Trustee, The Charity of Rebecca Hussey for Africans	2012-2014

Previous Work Experience

Executive Director, AbleChildAfrica

2004-2011

Led the process of strategic change that culminated in expansion beyond Uganda into four new countries and the development of new partnerships, name and image. Managing a small team of staff and volunteers and relationships with partner organisations and with donors and policy makers. Responsible for all aspects of running the organisation including strategy and business planning, annual planning and budgeting, financial accounting and reporting, making grants to partners, servicing and liaising with the board of Trustees and fundraising.

Chair (Voluntary), Lambeth Women's Aid

2006-2011

Lambeth Women's Aid, now merged with Solace Women's Aid provided accommodation, support and advice to women who had experienced domestic violence. Monthly meetings, management of Director, regular meetings with local government and like-minded organisations including national women's aid fora and leading a merger process with Solace Women's Aid.

Board Member, AVID 2006-2008

2006-2011

AVID (Association for Visitors in Immigration Detention) is an umbrella organisation for the visitors groups who visits people who are detained under the Immigration Acts across the UK, providing support and training to groups and advocacy for people who are detained.

Regional Representative (East Africa), BasicNeeds

2002-2004

Based in Dar es Salaam I led the situational analysis, programme design and development of three of BasicNeeds programmes (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya) and the successful establishment of four funded projects, raising over £1m for new work in East Africa in two years.

Information Worker, ARVAC (Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector) 2001 - 2002

Led a consultation process and devised and facilitated training programme for community groups to help them carry out research, obtain funding and evaluate their work.

Education

Masters in Anthropological Research, Goldsmiths College, University of London

2001 – 2003

I took all my classes in Year One whilst working part-time and wrote my thesis, about the lives of mentally ill people in Tanzania, in my second year whilst based in Tanzania with BasicNeeds.

BA (Hons) Swahili and Social Anthropology (First Class), School of Oriental and African Studies 1997-2001

My degree included a year spent in Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania studying Swahili language and literature. I am a competent Swahili speaker.

Other Training

Certified Shadow Work Coach, 2014 – www.shadowwork.eu

Accredited Action Learning and Virtual Action Learning Facilitator, 2009 - www.actionlearningassociates.co.uk

Publications

'*The Poetry of an Orphaned Nation: Newspaper Poetry and the Death of Nyerere*' in 'Memories and memory uses of Nyerere' (Mkuki and Nyota: 2016) edited by Marie-Aude Fouere.

'*Listening to our Grandmothers: The Transformational Wisdom of our Elders*' (Kipepeo Press, 2013)

'*Delineated Stories: Getting involved in Mental Health in Tanzania*' Uncertainty in Contemporary Africa (NAI, 2009).

Translation and Female Voiceover (Kiswahili), 'Forests for People: An Introduction to Community Forestry' (Forests Monitor and Tropenbos International, 2010).