

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Sharon Sekai Sibanda to our team as a volunteer Advanced research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Sharon was active with our project from 2020-09-22 to 2021-08-12 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Papua New Guinea and Eswatini. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Sharon Sekai Sibanda, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts more than 100 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Sharon has been a country expert for Papua New Guinea and Eswatini. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Papua New Guinea and Eswatini as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

After gaining sufficient experience and expertise within CoronaNet, RAs are promoted to Advanced Research Assistant, which is the position currently held by Sharon. This role involves coding an impressive number of 100 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 3 months. Advanced research assistants have gained high expertise in PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They have extensive knowledge of the taxonomy and the project structure, and provide support to other research assistants. With their considerable knowledge, they play an integral role in the success of the project.

In addition to being a country expert, Sharon took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Regional Manager:** This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Sharon Sekai Sibanda for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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