Statement of Purpose

With the rise of collaborative development interventions and the Global momentum around the Sustainable Development Goals, the 21st century is an exciting time to engage in International Development. In pursuit of sustainable development, we have registered an increase in economic growth, human development whereas illiteracy, child mortality rates and other ills are decreasing globally. However, even with the high influx of these development programmes, inequality between rich and poor, the Global North and Global South is widening instead of narrowing. The M.Sc. Development Management program will equip me with a solid theoretical and practical background and introduce me to the necessary tools for dealing with the practical problems of managing development to make a positive impact in the world.

I attended primary school with many of my friends, mostly girls in Uganda’s district of Kabale. Whereas we all excelled during our earlier years of education, the trend changed in upper primary. I watched my sisters and female friends fall victim to teenage pregnancies and drop-out of school, one-after-another. In Uganda, the teenage pregnancy rate stands at 25% and is the leading cause of school dropouts (UDHS 2016). I was pained by this predicament and promised myself to pursue a career to improve women’s lives.

As a teacher of English language and Literature at Kamwezi Vocational Institute in 2014, I observed that absenteeism and low performance were higher among girls than boys. Upon further inquiry from female students, I learnt that lack of sanitary pads and unhygienic school washrooms compelled them to miss lessons whenever they experienced their menstrual flow. I shared my findings with senior female teachers and the school administration. Furthermore, I liaised with the senior teachers to persuade the headteacher to renovate the washrooms, designate a special changing-room for girls experiencing menstruation and provide emergency sanitary pads. This intervention resulted in a 40% increase in girls’ classroom attendance and increased overall academic performance.

In order to find more opportunities for improving girls’ and women’s status beyond the confines of the school environment, I joined Kabale Women in Development (KWID) as a Projects Officer. In this role, untenable, I collaborated with Village Health Teams and other Civil Society Organizations to collect 2,306 signatures to petition (https://chimpreports.com/ndorwa-residents-petition-kabale-district-speaker-over-health-centre/) the area Member of Parliament Hon. Wilfred Niwagaba and Kabale District Local Council to renovate the facility. As a result, in July 2018, £70,000 was appropriated by the district for renovating the theatre and constructing staff houses. This resulted in improved quality of maternal and child health services. Maziba Health Center now conducts on average 20 lifesaving cesarean deliveries monthly.

Despite these achievements, I feel I have got to the highest I can get without formal education in development studies. My capacity in designing and managing more inclusive and sustainable development programs is largely wanting owing to the fact I do not have an academic background in development. An M.Sc. Development Management at LSE will give me the theory and practical tools to drive development interventions by enabling me to understand why some societies have succeeded and others have failed. I desire to advance my skills in research, design, and implementation of development interventions. My pursuit against poverty, gender inequality, and barriers to girls’ access to and completion of school, is still alive as ever. I believe that women’s empowerment will contribute to not only the attainment of SDG 5 but also accelerate sustainable development.

My ambition is to become a development management expert with a focus on gender equality and women empowerment to enhance the socio-economic and political status of women nationally and globally.

According to the United Nations Development Program’s Human Development Report (http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\_theme/country-notes/UGA.pdf), Uganda has a Gender Development Index value of 0.531, ranking at 127 out of 162 countries in the 2018 index. Being among the 40 countries with the lowest Gender Development Index shows that few women are participating in socio-economic development. Like Secretary-General António Guterres, I firmly believe that gender equality and women's rights are fundamental to global progress on peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development. I look forward to using the professional and personal skills and knowledge I will acquire at LSE to contribute to design, implement and manage development interventions geared towards protecting and promoting women’s rights, dignity, and leadership.

The M.Sc. Development Management Program at the London School of Economics and Political Science will enable me to actualize my career goal. I am fascinated by the Development Management module because it will enable me to explore why some societies have succeeded while others have failed. It will further guide me to explore the causes of development, identify the barriers, and evaluate solutions. Through the Globalization, Gender, and Development module, I look forward to understanding the theories and practices in the field of gender and international development. It will also enhance my gender perspectives, and the difference it makes in international development, thereby equipping me to create more gender-inclusive development.

Through the LSE’s Firoz Lalji Center for Africa, I hope to gain networks and skills to solve development challenges in Africa by utilizing their cutting-edge research. This research will be vital in enabling me to design and deliver more effective aid programs or policy outcomes especially in Africa.

Similarly, I am interested in the real-world consultancy project with leading development agencies such as World Bank, Oxfam, and Care International from which I will gain practical experiences in managing development. Studying at LSE will further allow me a membership at the London International Development Center (LIDC), a leading network of International Development researchers. LIDC membership will provide me with opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration in global development. While studying at LSE, I will not only attend research seminars and public lectures by world leaders but also enjoy the cultural facilities in London.

Importantly, through studying this program, I will interact with International students from different fields and be mentored by outstanding faculty, among whom Professor Naila Kabeer whose research in gender, poverty, social exclusion, labour markets, and livelihoods aligns with issues I find compelling in the development field.

Post-study, I plan to establish a non-profit organization that engages men as champions of gender equality and women empowerment. Men have not participated enough in conversations that regard gender equality, yet they are crucial to the achievement of this goal. I am convinced that to achieve gender justice, men, and boys should be allies to the empowerment of women. This non-profit organization will not only include men in discussions and interventions that foster gender equality but also rally men to support women to undertake various socio-economic and political endeavours to move us closer to SDG 5 -gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

Overall, an M.Sc. Development Management at LSE will instill in me the management and social skills to channel my passion and develop sustainable solutions to improve human and social conditions. Upon graduation, I will be more equipped to create change on a global scale. I am fully aware of the excellent reputation of LSE. Reading profiles of your faculty, course structure, research, and teaching facilities have deepened my interest in attending the London School of Economics and Political Science. I hope you will give me the privilege of studying at your fine institution to improve me academically, perk up my career prospects, and contribute to global socio-economic development.