

CURRICULUM VITAE

MR. MARK OKOWA

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Key Qualifications

- Proven and successful track record of leading and managing significant development, human rights and governance projects for on-time and on-budget implementation.
- Well trained facilitator and report writer for internal and external dissemination
- An experienced University tutor, with an objective attitude and a role model to students.
- A successful project development expert with proven experience on project cycle management with international donor funded projects i.e. DFID, USAID among others.
- Positive, dynamic and proven leadership skills with the ability to accept and promote accountability.
- Self-motivated, results oriented team player with strong organization and presentation skills who is adept in interacting with all levels of management and staff.
- A respected visionary with the unique ability to both establish and execute strategic plans to accomplish key project and organizational objectives
- Proficient in the application of MS Office Suite, specifically Word, Excel and PowerPoint as well as data management packages like MS Access and SPSS.
- Fluent in spoken and written English with extensive experience in public contact; establishing instant rapport, resourceful and self-confident.

Education and Professional trainings

Formal Education:

1. **PHD Candidate of Political Sociology at Maseno University in Kenya** with a research study titled: **Factors behind the Ethnicization of politics in East Africa Region; a comparative study of Kenya and Tanzania.**
2. **MA International Relations and Democratic Politics (Political Science)**, Jan.2012 – Jan.2013, University of Westminster, London UK.

Achieved a Master of Arts degree with **MERIT**

The following were the modules of the MA study:

- International Relations Theoretical Perspectives;
- International State-Building – Exporting Democracy?
- The State, Politics And Violence;
- Democratic Politics' Key Debates and Issues;
- Global Change Toward A New Non-Western Order;
- Globalisation, Democratisation And Post-Authoritarian Transition and,
- Dissertation and Research Methods - with a thesis research on **Democracy and Ethnicity in Kenya**: – an in-depth study of the politicization of ethnicity within the framework of Kenya's multiparty democracy.

3. BA Sociology and Anthropology with IT, 2006, Maseno University, Kenya.

Achieved a 2nd Class Honour – upper division; some of the key course modules undertaken include;

- Sociology of Politics,
- Methods of Social Science research,
- Social Policy Research and Analysis,
- Social Security and Welfare Administration
- Anthropology of Poverty,
- Anthropology of Gender and Development,
- Anthropology of Family Systems ,
- Social Communication Skills,
- Counselling,
- Social aspects of Science and Technology,
- Information Systems Applications,
- IT and Society,

4. Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), Jan. 1994 – Nov. 1997, Kisumu Day High school, Kenya.

Professional Trainings

- Certificate in **Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Impact Assessment (PPMIA)**, March 2007, Institute of Rural Development Planning, Dodoma Tanzania.
- Certificate in **NGO Management and Development**, June –July 2006, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kenya.

The following modules were studied:

- i. Management and Administration of NGOs
 - ii. Finance Management, Auditing and Accountability
 - iii. Fund-raising and Organizational Sustainability
 - iv. Lake's Resource Management: Case Study of Lake Victoria
 - v. Gender, Culture and Development
 - vi. Health issues (Effect on Development in the Lake Basin)
 - vii. Monitoring and Evaluation of development projects
 - viii. Strategic planning
 - ix. Report writing
- Certificate in **Training of Trainers (TOT) for Policy Advocacy strategies, February 2003, International Family Health IFH (Consultants), Nairobi Kenya.**
- The training curriculum included:**
- i. Facilitation Skills and techniques
 - ii. Facts about HIV/AIDs in Kenya
 - iii. Guidance and counselling
 - iv. Message development and dissemination
 - v. Participatory Evaluation of community projects

Professional Experience

1. May 2013 – Present: **Advocacy Manager**, Peace Seekers Ministry (PSIM), Kenya.

Key tasks include

- Project development and fundraising
- Coordination of Peace building programs in Kisumu and Homabay Counties

- Capacity building of staffs of elected leaders, transitional authorities and other key stakeholders in the County governments of Kisumu and Homabay
 - ToT for staffs and partners on Key tools and methods in Policy advocacy
 - Quality assurance through structured M&E framework for programs and the organisation
 - Report writing and dissemination to stakeholders
2. April 2013 – Present: **Part time Lecturer – Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Maseno University, Kenya.**

Lectures the following courses

- Socio-political theories, structures and relations,
- Political Sociology
- Class, Power and inequalities
- Sociology of Crime
- Social Aspects of Science and Technology

3. August 2013 – Present: **Part time Lecturer – Dept. of Social Sciences, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) – Kisumu Campus, Kenya.**

Lectures the following courses

- Economy and Society
- Concepts in Governance systems
- Introduction to Anthropology
- Belief systems

4. April –August 2012: **Fundraising Officer, Marie Curie Cancer Care, London UK.**

Key responsibilities included:

- Developing project concepts in consultation with the project officers and partnering organizations.
- Researching on laws and regulations for fundraising within the UK
- Attending forums and events and speaking about Marie Curie Cancer Care and recruiting potential individual and cooperate donors.
- Supervising Street and estate fundraisers and weekly reports on achievements.
- Compiling monthly funding matrix reports for success monitoring.

5. March 2011 – January 2012: **Program Officer – Social Determinant of Health (SDH), USAID AphiaPlus project, Kenya.**

Key responsibilities included:

- Responsible for Coordination and Capacity Building trainings for the relevant Government and Local government officers targeted Community Based Organisations CBOs in Busia County to ensure effective implementation and sustainability of the activities of the project.
- Ensure quality implementation, monitoring and evaluation of APHIAplus project in integrated household livelihoods, community resiliency and disaster mitigation and management.
- Develop and coordinate project budgets for various APHIAplus (SDH) programmatic and supplementary activities within Busia County.
- Ensure APHIAplus project is implemented in compliance with Wold Vision, Government of Kenya and USAID acceptable standards and norms.
- Support the SDH Technical Specialist to facilitate development and rollout of needed programming and monitoring tools, methodological approaches, technical assistance, training/capacity building, M &E.

- Compile and submit timely relevant reports i.e (weekly, monthly and quarterly) on the project implementation.
6. July - August 2010: **Coordinator Hate Speech monitoring during the Constitutional referendum in Kenya**, USAID/DAI – Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) program, Kenya.
- Coordinated the recruitment and induction training for ‘Hate Speech’ monitors in four counties targeted during the campaigns for the referendum in Kenya.
 - Budget management and facilitation ensuring all the hate speech monitors were funded effectively for travel, communication and other logistics during the project.
 - Coordinated the documentation and reporting of elements off hate speech and ethnic incitement during campaigns towards the national referendum in Kenya August 2010.
 - Compile an activity report and disseminate to all relevant partners and stakeholders
7. February 2010 – March 2011: **Project Coordinator – Empowerment on Devolved governance systems and structures**, Villages Action Against Poverty (VAAP), Kenya.
- Achievements include:**
- Successfully fundraised and secured USAID-KTI grant for the project “Holding non-performing Public Officers accountable”, implemented in Nyanza from April 2010.
 - The project worked with local leaders and communities on the devolved structures and resources in Kenyan, through advocacy for equitable representation and accountability in the development projects from Humanitarian agencies and devolved funds.
 - I coordinated the preparation of project work plans in liaison with community structures and in line with organizational/project documents and USAID/DAI guidelines
 - Mobilisation of community members, Civil Society, government and political leaders and other stakeholders for consultation, planning and empowerment meetings.
 - Supervision of logistical support, budgets and program activities like meetings, radio talk shows processions and other field events related to the grant
5. June 2006 –February 2010: **Project Coordinator for Kenya – ‘JABOYA’ Project – “Increasing Social Cohesion & Equity, to contribute to poverty reduction in the Lake Victoria region of East Africa”**, Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), Nairobi Kenya
- The following were my roles and responsibilities:**
- Played significant role in project development and fundraising as the Lake Victoria basin resource person
 - Following successful fundraising and commencement of the project implementation, I facilitated the recruitment process for district project facilitators and community Mobilizers to carry out the day to day project activities at the district and community levels in Kenya respectively.
 - Designed and facilitated an outreach program on participatory policy formulation and implementation targeting all stakeholders in the fishing industry.
 - Organized and facilitated Country (Kenya), district and community level advocacy activities involving government officers, policy makers, community leaders and other stakeholders on policy related framework for fishing as an economic activity in Kenya.
 - Promoted Gender mainstreaming in the project at all levels.
 - Management of funds and other project resources at the community, districts and Country levels.
 - Review of all reports from community and districts level and compilation of the country level monthly, quarterly and annual financial and project implementation reports and submit as returns to the Regional office.
 - Coordinated Monitoring and evaluation in the project alongside professional consultants seconded by the donor

6. March 2006 – April 2010: **Regional Coordinator for Kenya, University-Community Partnership for Social Action Research Network (UCP-SARnet) – Arizona State University, USA.**

Key responsibilities were:

- Being the contact person and representative of UCP-SARnet in Kenya.
 - Promoting Local young community activists with the potential of becoming community leaders, training them and incorporating them in UCP-SARnet programs
 - Promoting local people and organizations to provide materials for videos and pictures of their local activities for global marketing and promotion
 - Creating and moderating special interest groups on UCP-SARnet devoted to the impact cultural context specific for Kenya has on organizing and effectiveness of community programs.
 - Sharing with UCP-SARnet members' information illustrating how global issues are addressed in their regions.
 - Coediting to UCP-SARnet newsletter devoted to community action in Kenya
 - Seeking sponsors and donors to fund activities of regional coordinators and affiliated community organizations.
7. Feb. 2003 – May.2006: **Project Coordinator for Advocacy Behaviour Change and Communication (ABC) for Young Peoples Sexual reproductive Health and Rights in Kenya, Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), Nairobi Kenya.**
- Preparation of Volunteer framework and recruitment of youth volunteers for the new youth reproductive health project
 - Organization and facilitation of the induction training for recruited Youth peer community educators and facilitators
 - Coordination of the volunteer Peer educators within the project catchment area.
 - Developed a partnership engagement program with youth, Women and other relevant NGOs working on HIV/Aids awareness campaigns,. Youth empowerment and environmental sustainability.
 - Documentation and reporting of project progress and results.
8. March 2001 – Dec. 2002: Youth Circle Volunteer –**Mandate the Future (MTF) Project, Moyale –Northern Kenya Regional Hub**
- Assisted the project coordinator with the planning and implementation of MTF North Eastern region project activities including: capacity building youth workshops on use of ICTs for advocacy
 - Mobilized youth – through local networks – for public sensitization forums on youth related problems
 - Developed and disseminated training/workshop and weekly project reports

Experience in Research

| Dates | Institution | Topic | Position and duties performed |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| April – Dec. 2012 | University of Westminster, London UK | Democracy and Ethnicity in Kenya: An in-depth study of the politicization of ethnicity within the | Lead Researcher – MA candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the research proposal • Preparation of research tools and materials • Fundraising for field work study • Coordinated recruitment and induction |

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| | | framework of Kenya's multiparty democracy | training for research assistants in the field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of the research budgets and logistics. • Compilation of the research report into an MA thesis document |
| July 2006 | Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI) | Social Cohesion and Equity on Livelihoods within Lake Victoria: Baseline Survey on high poverty levels against abundant fish revenues | Research Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated recruitment and induction training for research assistants. • Coordination of the research budgets and logistics. • Supervision of Enumeration personnel and process • Receiving the research data and dispensing them to the research consultant. |
| May 2003 | Literacy For All (LIFA) | Status of Non Formal Education under the Changing Education Environment in Nyando District, Kenya | Research Assistant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of research tools to the respondents in schools and learning institutions • Compilation of the filled research questionnaires • Transmission of the data to the research consultant |
| Oct. 2002 | Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi | Voter Perception on General Elections in Kenya | Research Assistant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of data through questionnaires • Compilation of the questionnaires and submission to the consultant |
| Feb. 2002 | UN Habitat, ITDG and the Municipal of Kisumu | City Scan: Study on the City Development Strategies for Kisumu | Research Assistant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of data through questionnaires • Compilation of the questionnaires and submission to the consultant |

Paper Presentations

- Date:** 11th June 2012
Topic: The trends of transition: Is China Colonizing Africa? And who is complaining?
Forum: The Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Westminster, London UK.
- Date:** 14th April 2012
Topic: Increasing inequality: causes, consequences, and the great recession in an African context.
Forum: Centre for Employment Research and the University of Westminster, London UK.
- Date:** 12th -14th May 2011
Topic: The Youth as an integral component of the EA society; The equal opportunity concept.
Forum: National Youth Leaders Workshop on the East Africa Integration process, Nairobi Kenya.

Date: 14th December 2007
Topic: The role of Information Technology for emerging young Entrepreneurs in Africa.
Forum: Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Date: 11th November 2005
Topic: The role of Community Telecentres in information dissemination on HIV/AIDS, poverty and Drug abuse.
Forum: World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS), Tunis Tunisia.

Publications

- **Publisher:** African Journal of Political Science and International Relations
Title of the Journal: The fallacy behind the role of civil society in transitional democracies: The case of Kenyan ethno-political conflicts
Manuscript Number: AJPIR/05.09.13/0640
Current Status: Review
By (author) : Mark Okowa
- **Publisher:** LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing
Title of the Book: Politicization of Ethnicity; Case of Transitional Democracy in Kenya
ISBN-13: 978-3-659-49089-7
Published on: 2013-10-31
By (author) : Mark Okowa

Honors and Awards

- University of Westminster International Scholarship Award; The scholarship recognized my Academic achievements and services to the community through NGO work by fully supporting my Masters' study in London UK.
- Winner of the Global Young Social Entrepreneur 2007, Honored based on the use of ICT on the business model to empower the youth to network, learn from other progressive youth enterprises and to replicate success stories in their communities through community Telecentres
- Winner of the 2005 Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Youth and ICT Award in honor of my innovative approach in promoting use of ICT in information sharing on the effects and preventive measures of HIV/AIDs among Youths in Kenya.

Referees

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| 1. Dr. Paulina Tambakaki MA Course Leader School of Politics and IR University of Westminster 32-38 Wells Street London W1T 3UW +44 20 7911 5138 Email: tambakp@westminster.ac.uk | 2. Dr. Felix Kioli Head of Department Sociology & Anthropology Maseno university Private Bag Maseno 40105, Kenya 254 728 427787 felixngunzo@yahoo.com | 3. Rev. Walter Ang'ienda Chairman Board of Trustees Peace Seekers Ministry Box 4226 – Kisumu 40103 Kenya 254 720 993 940 pseekersim@yahoo.com |
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