CHIFUNDO KANJALA (PhD)

Data steward and Analyst | Researcher

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PROFILE

Experienced data, analytics and research professional with a doctoral degree in Epidemiology and 14 years' experience managing multidisciplinary and complex datasets, fostering scalable data re-use, and transforming data into actionable information using a wide range of integration, analysis and writing techniques.

Highly developed ability to initiate, develop and maintain warm relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, accompanied by solid leadership and strategic thinking skills.

Passionate about the rights of women, children and other vulnerable populations. Aspire to continually develop data stewardship and analytics expertise in the areas of vulnerable population protection. To lead multinational, multidisciplinary data platforms integrating disparate data and harnessing data science and artificial intelligence for responding to grand challenges impacting on children's wellbeing.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Data analytics

- Successfully anonymised complex survey datasets, using statistical disclosure control techniques, in preparation for data sharing
- Quantified the levels and trends in child mortality and the impact of HIV/ AIDS on child and adult mortality using national survey and population health surveillance data
- Contributed to the quantitative analysis of social protection and health data and writing up for several peer reviewed articles successfully published in reputable journals

Identifying and creating demand for data use

- Presented at UN World Data Forum in 2020 and 2021 highlighting an innovative pan-African data integration and analytics platform that I coordinate
- Co-organised and presented at two 2021 Malawi research ethics workshop on a proposed framework for health data sharing in Malawi
- Prepared and deposited open access data at data archives in Africa, the UK and the USA
- Co-led the development of an institutional data repository for better access of data by researchers

Building data and information management ecosystems

- Played a key coordination and thought leadership role in the development of an ambitious cloud-based platform for data sharing and analytics in East Africa.
- I was a key member of the Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit (MEIRU) data strategy team
- Led conversion of paper-based to electronic data collection for causes of death data and managed the electronically collected data

Data and analytics capacity building

- Co-led the training working group developing and delivering a data science curriculum for use by researchers, government scientists and university researchers affiliated with the INSPIRE network
- Contributed to the teaching a data management module for an MSc course in health data science at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London
- Facilitated workshops on data stewardship and privacy preservation techniques

Partnerships and resource mobilisation

- Initiated, developed and maintained partnerships with individuals and institutions over the past 13 years
- Articulated project value and purposes to key government stakeholders to achieve buy in from key ministry of health departments relating to data sharing

CAREER HISTORY

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND   Malawi
Monitoring Specialist (Data and analytics)   *April 2022-Current*
- Coordinating all types of data analytics, including but not limited to geospatial data, satellite imagery, big data, artificial intelligence and digital data in support of effective country programming.
- Facilitating the use of data as a driver to contribute to monitoring the situation of children and women in Malawi.
- Contributing to strategies for enhancing collaborations and capacity building on data analytics to improve the identification of the most disadvantaged children and women and facilitate development of solutions to address disparities.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE   Eastern and Southern Africa
Technical Lead, INSPIRE project   *May 2020-March 2022*
- Project management and leadership of the technical arm of a pan-African population health data system in the Implementation Network for Sharing Information from Research Entities (INSPRE) project
- Managerial and technical leadership of the Malawi Covid 19 data tracking team
- Technical leadership on data standards implementation
- Training curriculum and module material development
- Conduct data science research on integration of disparate health data sources using common data models
- Capacity strengthening on metadata, data anonymisation and data integration

Research data manager, documentalist and analyst   *September 2011 – March 2022*
- Leading the development of a structured metadata service Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) data
- Managerial and technical leadership for the cause of death data management an HDSS in rural northern Tanzania, including Managing field and data office staff, converting paper-based questionnaires to electronic formats, developing software for clinicians to use for determining cause of death from data reported by the deceased's close relatives
- Conducting data querying and extraction from complex longitudinal population surveillance databases in response to requests by researchers and for my own analyses
- Conducting research and analysing longitudinal data to address HIV epidemiology questions.

UNICEF   Zimbabwe
Data analyst consultant   *March 2011 – August 2011*
- Contracted to conduct studies on inequitable access to social service and generating information using the Multi Indicator Monitoring Survey (MIMS) to promote evidence-based policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and inform UNICEF's programming.

DIKGALE HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM   South Africa
INDEPTH Network Demography research fellow   *January 2009 - February 2011*
- Conducted population health studies to evaluate how population dynamics and environmental factors were associated with the health and other outcomes of a rural population in northern South Africa
- Co-managed the organisation's database and provided technical support to the researchers and field team

EDUCATION

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON   London, United Kingdom
PhD, Epidemiology   *September 2012-January 2020*

UNIVERISTY OF CAPE TOWN   Cape Town, South Africa
MPhil, Demography   *February 2006-December 2008*

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE   Harare, Zimbabwe
BSc (Honors) Statistics   *August 2000-June 2004*