# Lugard Kaunda Ogaro

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A visionary and results-driven humanitarian leader with over 22 years of experience in program management, strategic planning, fundraising, and resource mobilization. I have led multi-sectoral initiatives across WASH, shelter, financial inclusion, education, food security, and livelihoods in East Africa, with a strong focus on gender equality, climate resilience, and poverty alleviation. My leadership experience includes managing multi-disciplinary teams, driving organizational change, and developing evidence-based, locally-driven solutions. I have successfully mobilized resources from institutional donors, private sector actors, and philanthropic organizations while fostering partnerships with government and civil society stakeholders. Currently pursuing a PhD in Disaster Management and Sustainable Development, I am committed to creating systemic change that addresses the root causes of inequality and poverty.

## SKILLS

Strategic Leadership & Program Management | Resource Mobilization & Fundraising | Team Leadership & Capacity Building | Partnership Building & Stakeholder Engagement | Financial & Operational Management | Gender and Diversity Sensitivity | Program Design & Impact Measurement | Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience Building | People and Relationship Management | Operational & Financial Management | Interpersonal Skills | Innovation & Adaptability | Advocacy & Thought Leadership | Problem-Solving | Flexibility | Negotiation | Decision Making | Risk Management | Legal Compliance

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

* Managed a diverse team to deliver sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, and food security initiatives while overseeing program redesigns to maintain responsiveness to evolving needs.
* Cultivated and managed strategic partnerships with international stakeholders and donors, securing funding for multi-million-dollar programs.
* Led regional growth planning efforts and expanded partnerships with governments and civil society organizations to enhance program effectiveness and sustainability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.
* Designed and implemented a comprehensive MEL framework for several programs, ensuring they were evidence-based, locally driven, and responsive to marginalized communities.
* Oversaw multi-million-dollar budgets, ensuring financial integrity, transparency, and compliance with donor regulations and organizational policies.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Startup Lead | June 2024 - Current**

Mercy Corps

* Established and managed a €12M EC-funded food security program, aligning with organizational goals to address poverty and climate change adaptation.
* Led recruitment and development of a diverse program team, fostering a culture of collaboration and accountability.
* Developed and implemented a comprehensive MEAL framework to track program progress and inform adaptive management.
* Cultivated strategic partnerships with stakeholders to enhance program reach and foster local ownership.
* Ensured compliance with donor regulations and financial management standards, safeguarding resources and ensuring transparency.

**Acting Regional Director and Senior Advisor | January 2024 – May 2024**

One Earth Future

* Provided strategic leadership for Somalia programs, ensuring alignment with organizational objectives and donor expectations.
* Managed partnerships with key stakeholders, enhancing program effectiveness and fostering a collaborative environment.
* Led the development of regional growth plans, ensuring programs were adaptable and responsive to local contexts.
* Engaged with government entities and donors to secure support for program initiatives and advocate for systemic changes.
* Coordinated donor engagement activities to maintain strong relationships and secure sustainable funding.

**Director of Programs | December 2020 – June 2023**

Mercy Corps

* Developed and executed country strategies for emergency, early recovery, and development programs.
* Fostered partnerships with stakeholders to ensure successful implementation and sustainability of programs.
* Managed comprehensive MEAL frameworks to track program performance and facilitate continuous improvement.
* Oversaw budget controls and financial management, ensuring operational readiness to respond to crises.

**Chief of Party | November 2019 - November 2020**

Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

* Provided strategic leadership for a USD 17 million program focused on durable solutions for Somali refugees.
* Led a multidisciplinary team to ensure effective program implementation and achievement of strategic objectives.
* Cultivated relationships with stakeholders to secure continued funding and support for initiatives.
* Directed advocacy efforts and ensured transparent project reporting to keep stakeholders informed.

## EDUCATION

PhD in Disaster Management & Sustainable Development - Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (December 2024)

MSc in Civil Engineering (Environmental Health option) - University of Nairobi (2011)

B.Sc. (Hons) in Civil Engineering - Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (2002)

Diploma in International Environmental Law - United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (2013)

## CERTIFICATIONS

Project and Infrastructure Financing (2024) - The Knowledge Academy

Personal MBA (2023) - Pan African Leadership Institute

Political Economy Analysis in Action (2020) - Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

System Dynamics Modelling for Business Analysis (2019) - TU Berlin, Germany

People Management Training (2019) - Danish Refugee Council

Advanced System Dynamics (2015) - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain

GIS and Remote Sensing (2015) - RCMRD, Kenya

Gender Mainstreaming, Harassment at Workplace, and Work Ethics (2014) - UNDP