#### MICHELLE NJOKI NYAGA

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Experienced manager offering 9 years' experience in formulation and execution of political strategies, project management, business development, and knowledge of Africa development policy.

#### **EDUCATION**

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, School of International and Public Affairs

Master of International Affairs, Economic and Political Development – Africa Region

New York, NY October 2019

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY - AFRICA, Chandaria Business School

Bachelor of Science, International Business Administration

Magna Cum Laude Honors

Nairobi, Kenya August 2013

# PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### NAVANTI GROUP (Senior Consultant – Africa Team)

Arlington, VA

June 2020 - June 2021

- Managed teams of researchers in Africa collecting data and assembling program-informative reports for Department of Defense and international aid organizations focusing on economic, social, security, violent extremism, international aid, and ethnic tensions in areas affected by Boko Haram, Islamic State, Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, and other insurgencies.
- Oversaw local teams of analysts creating data sets using qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies including large polls, face-to-face surveys, key informant interviews.
- Led over 30 qualitative security assessments (with 40-60 survey respondents), three quantitative security assessments (700-900 survey respondents), over 30 East, West, & North Africa market analytics reports, and over 30 security incident summaries of insurgency-affected areas.

# NAIROBI COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Public Service Manager)

Nairobi, Kenya

January 2016 - May 2017

- Directed the policy and partnerships department within the Chief of Staff's office, assisting with regulations, policies, and registration requirements for strategic growth and sustainability that better serve Nairobi residents.
- Analyzed existing and implemented new economic strategies to attract and expand business; reviewed modern techniques for business attraction & retention and resolved sensitive and controversial issues.

#### **UBER KENYA (Business Development Associate)**

Nairobi, Kenya

March 2015 - October 2015

- Supervised cross-functional teams and coordinated with senior management on developing the company's regulatory and political strategy in Kenya.
- Worked with cross functional teams and successfully improving cash collection efficiency by 20% over a one-year period.
- Worked with political bodies, policymakers and non-governmental organizations on technology policy issues and cultivated relationships with policy makers, civil society bodies and academics for Uber related initiatives.

#### RTI INTERNATIONAL (Program Assistant)

Nairobi, Kenya

July 2014 - February 2015

- Collaborated with the Kenyan Government on nationalizing a USAID funded, evidence-based education program, 'Tusome' (Let's Read) Early Grade Reading Activity, which aimed to drastically improve primary literacy outcomes for approximately 7M Kenyan children in grades 1 3.
- Developed, supported, and executed Tusome's policy strategy in support of its objectives and donor requirements.

### **U.S. EMBASSY (Commercial Assistant)**

Nairobi, Kenya

October 2012 - March 2014

- Facilitated screenings for potential merger opportunities for Kenyan and U.S. businesses.
- Performed research on Kenyan business market conditions, consulting with businesses exporting U.S. made products and services to Kenya and the larger East African region.
- Analyzed investment opportunities in several industry sectors for potential U.S. exporters, recommending investment strategies in the Kenyan market to top management.

#### PART TIME EXPERIENCE

#### **WEROBOTICS** (Graduate Workshop Consultant)

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania January 2019 - May 2019

- Piloted the development of M&E Framework for the company's global network of Flying Labs® that use drones for social good that was both feasible and practical.
- Consulted with key stakeholders such as government agencies, community members and other local NGO's to identify
  recommendations for a successful implementation strategy.
- Responsible for employee training and client relationship management for the effective implementation of the framework.

# **Backward Society Education (BASE) (Summer Associate)**

Dang, Nepal

June 2018 - August 2018

- Spearheaded the design and development of an innovative social project to empower 150 young women who had been previously domestically enslaved.
- Attained support from and regularly reported to international donors
- Diagnosed potential operational improvements, partnering with clients and 50+ employees on a 2-year transformation; increased efficiency by 25%.
- Conducted M&E processes to assess the organization's projects.

#### References:

Dr. Ben Piper

Senior Director for Africa Education, RTI International

Camille Richardson

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Middle East and Africa, U.S. Department of Commerce

Prof. John L. Hirsch

Senior Adviser (formerly VP & Head of Africa Program), International Peace Institute