

JERUSHA GOVENDER

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2023

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am an innovator, entrepreneur and information communication specialist. I am passionate about innovative use of data and critical thinking to create positive shifts in development.

EDUCATION

Master of Management | University of Witwatersrand

2012 – 2014

Public and development management, Dissertation focus: Monitoring, evaluation, and organizational learning

Master of Public Health | University of Cape Town

2007-2009

Public health, Concentration: Epidemiology & Biostatistics; Dissertation focus: Adolescent sexual risk behavior

Bachelor of Science (Med) Honors | University of Cape Town

2002-2006

Major: Biochemistry and Biotechnology; Specialization: Pharmacology

EXPERIENCE

Co-founder & Director | Data Innovators

2015 - PRESENT

Developed the business model, marketing and launch of the small business focused on helping organisations make more strategic use of data.

Manage the overall operations, governance, business development and diverse team.

Led projects in Africa, North America and Europe with a reach of more than 50 organisations.

Consultant | Independent

2015 - 2019

Monitoring and evaluation technical and strategic advisory service provided to development organisations and individual professionals.

Senior technical advisor | Management Sciences for Health

2014 - 2015

Provided direction for M&E and Knowledge Management unit and functions for 6 countries and 3 regional project areas Recruited, managed and built technical capacity of multiple staff, including 11 M&E technical staff, 4 consultants, and 1 intern across 6 countries.

Led operations research and multiple reporting demands.

Monitoring & evaluation advisor | Management Sciences for Health

2012 - 2014

Coordinated project team monitoring and reporting; Led development of a web-based information management system for regional performance management; Provided M&E technical support to partner organizations within SADC region and MSH projects.

National monitoring manager | loveLife

2010 - 2012

Managed National M&E system implementation for reporting to more than 10 donors.

Managed development of mobile monitoring system including a pilot test, project GIS mapping project, and testing of Biometric scanning system for individual tracking.

Supervised a team of M&E staff and database consultants.

Operations research coordinator | Wits Health Research Institute

2010

Identified operations research needs in Inner City Johannesburg clinics in collaboration with Wits RHI M&E team.

Managed research processes - writing proposals, obtaining ethics committee approval, conducting and coordinating on-site research activities, disseminated to various stakeholders.

Monitoring & evaluation coordinator | TB/HIV Care Association

2009 - 2010

Monitored and evaluating TB and HIV client support and progress for management and PEPFAR donor reporting in communities in the Western Cape, South Africa.

Community evaluation fellow (intern) | TB/HIV Care Association

2008

Completed 6-month PEPFAR Fellowship program – an internship coordinated by the Foundation for Professional Development, South Africa.



OTHER ROLES & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Board member – Field Band Foundation – 2022-current
- Board member – South African M&E Association – 2017-2019
- Member of Responsible Data Governance in Africa Technical Working group – 2019-2020
- Certificate in Introduction to Directorship and Corporate Governance of Non-Profit Organisations 2023
- Keynote speaker at MERL Tech 2017, American Evaluation Association 2022 conferences
- Featured entrepreneur in local magazines and radio shows
- Featured data visualizations – Data Viz Society 2022, Vulekamali 2018.



SKILLS

- Leadership
- Innovation
- Strategic Planning
- Complex Problem-solving
- Project Management
- Business Development



RELEVANT CASES

Case 1 – Transitioning Data Innovators social enterprise

In 2015, I launched a small social enterprise. With no investment, I bootstrapped the organisation over 4 years to a team of 5 staff and valued at R8 million. In 2019, I identified the need for new leadership and support to grow the company. I partnered with another organization and conducted a scenario planning to determine possible models for growth and partnership. In 2019, [Data Innovators](#) was re-established as a social enterprise and partner foundation. We grew to team of 25 staff and estimated value of more than R20 million within 2 years of founding. We developed a model that allowed for diverse income streams, including a focus on accessing grants via our foundation, investments with favourable term agreements, annuity revenue through our software and long-term consulting fee contracts.

Case 2 – Overseeing the ECD Stimulus Project Management Office

In 2021-2022, I lead an initiative to support the implementation of the [ECD Stimulus Relief Fund](#) for the South African Department of Social Development. This required engagement with the national department, ECD practitioners, NGOs and activists in the ECD context. I supported the department in improving collaboration with the ECD national forum and local entities. The project was challenging, effected by restrictive government policy, and civil action against these. I advised the department on fair policy deviations that would increase the efficiency and access to funds by ECDs, and use of existing data to better manage and report progress to the sector. I dealt with appeal statements, media, supporting communication to the public and problem-solving around initiatives to assist ECDs with verification processes and documentation. I engaged with partners to set up a call-centre for support, Whatsapp bot, social media content, and helpdesks in communities with NGOs, government departments and community leaders to ensure DSD provided sufficient support to the ECD sector to access grants from the stimulus fund.

Case 3 – Contributing to responsible data governance

I believe thought leadership contributes to innovation by posing new thinking and contributing to discourse. I am particularly interested in responsible data and influencing how personal and group data is safeguarded and that we close the loop in sharing data with data providers, empowering individuals and communities to utilize data. I have contributed to the development of the [Responsible Data Governance in Africa Guidelines](#), and have presented these on 4 platforms internationally. In addition, I have led the establishment of a local Tech-enabled MERL Community of Practice in South Africa and convened a Steering Committee to support ongoing conversation and learning on topics related to responsible data and technology amongst public sector and civil society. These efforts are to create practical and innovative approaches to responsible data governance.

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