

JERUSHA GOVENDER

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Catalyst in Data-Driven Creative Solutions for Sustainable Change | Entrepreneur & Strategic Advisor in Africa's Development Sector

Jerusha's **values** drive her professional journey and leadership. These are:

Creativity Harnessing innovative thinking and cross-sectoral collaborations for holistic problem-solving	Shifting Power Challenging power dynamics to re-establish balance and advocate for change in development	Communication is Key Amplifying the power of effective communication in decision-making and advocacy
Context First Grounding solutions in a deep understanding of contextual nuances	Female Future Championing female growth and leadership	Do Good Utilizing skills and knowledge to drive inclusive positive change

EDUCATION

Master of Management | University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

2012 – 2014

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

Master of Public Health | University of Cape Town, South Africa

2007-2009

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

Bachelor of Science (Med) Honors | University of Cape Town, South Africa

2002-2006

Major: Biochemistry and Biotechnology; Specialization: Pharmacology

Relevant Courses

- Introduction to Directorship and Corporate Governance of Non-Profit Organisations
- Infographics & Data Visualization
- Innovation in Evaluation Theory & Practice
- Project Management and, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Social Return on Investment



SKILLS



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



EXPERIENCE

Co-founder & Director | Data Innovators

2015 - 2023

Data Innovators aims to help organisations push data boundaries for positive futures by providing consulting and tech-enabled solutions in data communication, MERL, and capability building. Jerusha's role transitioned from Data Innovator (v1, 2015-2019) to Data Innovators (v2, 2020-present) which is a new company that launched on 01 June 2021, borne from the partnership between Data Innovator PTY Ltd and New Leaders Foundation.

Leadership & Governance:

Jerusha led the Digital Data Solutions practice and is supporting company start-up and business development. Jerusha served on the company board (1 of 2 company shareholders), Executive Committee, and Management Committee. Jerusha supported company strategy development and implementation, operations and marketing. In her role, Jerusha embedded a focus on innovation and responsible data practice in the company service offering. She drove business development growth in international foundations, international NGOs and partners.

Management:

Jerusha managed Associate Directors, Managers, Analysts, Officers, Designers and consultants who implemented projects of varied scale (national, regional, international). Projects spanned across all service areas of the company, in Africa, North America and Europe with a reach of more than 50 organisations. Project budgets ranged from USD 5,000 to more USD 300,000, over short-term or multi-year periods. Jerusha managed the profit and loss of the Digital Data Solutions practice, maintaining profit margins above 30%. She also reviewed company balance sheets, forecasts, budgets and annual financial statements. The overall small businesses revenue exceeded USD 1,000,000 and employed 25 staff and more than 10 consultants.

Technical:

Jerusha played technical roles in advising clients in areas of responsible data, data communication, tech-enabled and innovation in monitoring, evaluation, research and learning (MERL). This included funders, foundations, and INGOs and Government Departments. Jerusha developed team expertise in technical domains of data visualisation, social network analysis, and MERL – internally and in professional associations. She led the design, testing and implementation of the Data Artistry capability building programme implemented in tertiary institute courses, development entity and private sector team skills development.

Sample of projects and client relationships overseen by Jerusha:

- Foresight analysis and [scenario planning](#), CIVICUS, 2021
- [Evaluation](#) of Lacuna Fund, 2020-2023
- Mid-term evaluation of Digital Impact Alliance, 2023
- Tech-enabled MERL and Innovation in MERL research, and advisory support to Mastercard Foundation, 2021-2024
- Pan-African Indigenous Evaluation Consortium with 3 African universities, funded by Mastercard Foundation, 2023-2024
- Partner on 1 research and 2 network analysis projects with Agulhas Applied Knowledge, 2019-2024

Founder | Data Heroes

2019 - 2021

Leadership & Technical

Data Heroes is a not-for-profit company with the aim to help professionals and teams build data skills. These include the future skills which will catapult the way teams manage projects and make better evidence-informed decisions. Jerusha led the development of the prototype of Data Heroes online learning and resources, as well as the business model a flexible learning approach and data skills marketplace.

Consultant | Independent

2015 - 2019

Technical

Jerusha provided monitoring and evaluation technical and strategic advisory service provided to development organisations and individual professionals, concurrently with establishing Data Innovator. Jerusha supported USAID funded initiatives in leadership and management, regional capability building and supply chain management, as well as DG Murray Trust 5-year strategic review.

Senior technical advisor | Management Sciences for Health

2014 - 2015

Leadership, Management & Technical

Jerusha provided direction to the M&E and Knowledge Management unit and functions for 6 countries and 3 regional project areas in Southern Africa, including leading operations research and donor reporting. She recruited, managed and built technical capacity of multiple staff, including 11 M&E technical staff, 4 consultants, and 1 intern across 6 countries.

Monitoring & evaluation advisor | Management Sciences for Health

2012 - 2014

Technical

Jerusha 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

Leadership, Management & Technical

Jerusha managed a National M&E system implementation for reporting to more than 10 donors in South Africa. She managed development of mobile monitoring system including a pilot test, project GIS mapping project, and testing of biometric scanning system for individual tracking. The role included the supervision of a team of M&E staff and database consultants.

Operations research coordinator | Wits Health Research Institute

2010

Technical

The role required identification of operations research needs in Inner City Johannesburg clinics (South Africa) in collaboration with Wits RHI M&E team. Jerusha 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

Technical

Jerusha monitored and evaluated TB and HIV client support and progress for management and PEPFAR donor reporting in communities in the Western Cape, South Africa. Jerusha transitioned the project from a paper-based approach to M&E to a simple ICT and Excel based solution.

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

2008

Technical

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



OTHER ROLES & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Board member** & Chair of HR sub-committee – Field Band Foundation – 2022-current
- **Board member** & Deputy Chairperson – South African M&E Association – 2017-2019
- Member of Responsible Data Governance in Africa Technical Working group – 2019-2020
- Guest **presenting & lecturing** to UN Evaluation Group, BHP Foundation, Columbia University, Wits University
- Panel **speaker** at American Evaluation Association 2022 conferences
- Podcast **speaker** for European Evaluation Society, EvalEdge, 2022
- Keynote **speaker** at MERL Tech 2017
- Featured entrepreneur in local magazines and radio shows.
- Featured data visualizations – Data Viz Society 2022, Vulekamali 2018
- Volunteer health programme support in Brazil and Ghana in 2008



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 ZAR 8 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 ZAR 20 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 – Contributing to responsible data governance

I believe that thought leadership promotes 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.

Case 3 – 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, through which more than ZAR 150 million was disbursed to early childhood development (ECD) practitioners and centres in South Africa. 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 revisions to consider that would increase the efficiency and equitable access to funds by ECDs, and use of existing data to better manage and report progress to the sector.

The fund was highly contentious, and called for dealing 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.



REFERENCES ON REQUEST

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