

CURRICULUM VITAE

JUSTINE ABENAITWE

Qualitative Research and Evaluation Specialist

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PROFILE

Justine is a qualitative researcher and evaluation specialist with over 10 years of experience working on public health, and development programs in sub-Saharan Africa. Has led and contributed to multi-country assessments for organizations including UNICEF, GIZ, and IFC, with substantial experience in immunization programs, HIV prevention, livelihoods interventions, and youth economic empowerment. She is also skilled at engaging diverse stakeholders and synthesizing complex qualitative data to produce comprehensive evaluation findings. Strong ability to build relationships across government, community, and organizational levels to ensure quality data collection and meaningful stakeholder participation.

Core Competencies: Cross-cultural research methods | Field research coordination | multi-stakeholder engagement | Qualitative data analysis and interpretation | In-depth interviewing and focus group facilitation | Proposal writing

EDUCATION

Master of Science - Public Health/Health Promotion

Sept 2014 - Oct 2015

Leeds Beckett University, Leeds, United Kingdom.

Post Graduate Diploma in Development studies

Sept 2012- Sept 2013

Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Social Sciences (Psychology, Social Administration) Sept 2004 - Jan 2008

Makerere University, Kampala.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED) | Remote. Qualitative Research and Evaluation Manager | May 2025 – Present. **Junior Qualitative Research and Evaluation Manager** | May 2023 - April 2025

- Qualitative Research Officer, Global SDG Synthesis Coalition: Synthesis of Implementation and Effectiveness of Social Assistance Interventions to Reach the Furthest Behind – Conducted systematic data extraction using EPPI-Reviewer tool from studies across multiple countries
- Qualitative Research Officer for UNICEF Immunization Review in Africa (RIA) evaluation – Led report writing for three spotlight countries; contributed to document review and qualitative data analysis across government, NGO, and community stakeholder perspectives
- Qualitative Researcher for CLASP multi-country assessment on barriers to adoption of cleaner, more efficient appliances through the Productive Use Appliance Financing Facility (PUAFF) in six African countries: Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Kenya – Conducted key informant interviews with 20+ stakeholders, led qualitative data analysis, and authored comprehensive findings report
- Junior Qualitative Research and Evaluation Manager for International Finance Corporation (IFC) / Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) midline evaluation of the macadamia outgrower program's impact on smallholder farmer livelihoods in Malawi – Developed evaluation framework, created data collection tools, trained field research teams, conducted qualitative analysis, and authored evaluation report
- Junior Qualitative Research and Evaluation Manager for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF)

Response to Increased Demand on Government Services and Creation of Economic Opportunities (RISE) project in Northern Uganda – Supported qualitative data coding and thematic analysis, contributed to synthesizing findings into policy-relevant recommendations

Makerere University | Kampala, Uganda | Jan 2023 – April 2023

Research Officer - MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program Tracer Study

- Developed comprehensive data collection tools and administered survey questionnaires for longitudinal scholar tracking
- Conducted 25+ in-depth interviews with program alumni and contributed to analysis of scholarship program outcomes and career trajectories
- Prepared detailed fieldwork reports and contributed to the assessment findings

Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration | Kampala, Uganda | Mar 2022 – Dec 2022

Survey Coordinator - Global Fund-funded Malaria Survey

- Coordinated multi-regional survey implementation to estimate pfhrp2/3 gene deletion in *P. falciparum* parasites across Karamoja, Lango, Acholi, and West Nile regions
- Managed field teams and ensured data quality standards throughout survey implementation

Makerere University School of Public Health | Kampala, Uganda | Jan 2022 – Feb 2022

Research Associate

- Reviewed and refined data collection tools for study on effectiveness of mobile money payments to vaccination campaign healthcare workers on polio vaccination coverage and quality in Uganda
- Conducted field data collection, performed preliminary analysis, and contributed to report writing

Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC) | Kampala, Uganda | Nov 2017 – June 2021

Evaluation Officer - Global Fund Prospective Uganda Country Program Evaluation (PCE)

- Led comprehensive evaluation of HIV prevention and treatment programs funded by Global Fund across 15+ implementing organizations in Uganda
- Developed complex evaluation frameworks incorporating Theory of Change and logical framework approaches
- Conducted extensive stakeholder engagement with government officials, civil society organizations, and community representatives
- Managed evaluation timelines, coordinated data collection activities, performed qualitative analysis, authored evaluation reports, and facilitated findings dissemination
- **Senior Research Officer** for Gavi Full Country Evaluation – Conducted qualitative data collection and analysis with immunization program stakeholders.

Integrated Community-Based Initiatives (ICoBI) | Uganda

Community Linkages Coordinator | May 2017 – Aug 2017 (Maternity cover)

- Served as liaison between communities and Gulu Regional Referral Hospital for University Research Co., LLC SUSTAIN Project to improve linkages along the continuum of HIV care and enhance retention of HIV-positive clients

District Program Coordinator | Mar 2016 – Sept 2016

- Coordinated USAID Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) Program activities across Lira district, Northern Uganda, managing community-based interventions targeting adolescent girls and young women

Qualitative Research Officer | Sept 2013 – Sept 2014

- Designed qualitative research tools for the Linkages study, a randomized trial evaluating community-based HIV testing and linkage to care interventions
- Conducted participant interviews and ensured data quality control, contributing to ethical HIV research practices

Kabwohe Clinical Research Center | Sheema, Uganda | Nov 2009 – Sept 2014

Qualitative Research Officer - Partners Demonstration Project

- Conducted qualitative research for open-label prospective interventional study of ART and PrEP for HIV prevention among heterosexual HIV sero-discordant couples
- **Study Counsellor** for Partners PrEP clinical trial – Provided specialized counseling to study participants on adherence to study drugs and ARVs, HIV risk reduction strategies, family planning, and positive living approaches
- **Study Coordinator** for Partners PrEP Ancillary Adherence Sub-study – Managed coordination of multi-site research activities

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLICATION

Salisbury N, Nawaz S, Abenaitwe J, Batzel A, Grapa E, Casas FR, et al. (2024) **Ambitions and realities: Are Global Fund investments designed to achieve resilient and sustainable systems for health?** Findings from the Global Fund Prospective Country Evaluation. PLOS Glob Public Health 4(11): <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0003914>

Beyond HIV Prevention: Everyday Life Priorities and Demand for PrEP among Ugandan HIV Sero discordant Couples.

Available: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6338102/>

- *Role:* Data collection
- *Summary:* This qualitative study explores the daily life priorities influencing the demand for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among Ugandan couples with differing HIV statuses.

Integrated Delivery of Antiretroviral Treatment and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis: A Prospective Implementation Study in Kenya and Uganda. Available: <https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002099>

- *Role:* Data collection
- *Summary:* This study evaluated the feasibility and outcomes of integrating antiretroviral therapy (ART) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) delivery in clinical settings in Kenya and Uganda

SOFTWARE & TOOLS

- Qualitative Analysis: MAXQDA (Advanced), Dedoose (Intermediate)
- Systematic Reviews: EPPI-Reviewer (Intermediate)
- MS Office Suite (Advanced)