

BENINE MURIITHI

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS / MIGRATION

SUMMARY

A seasoned professional in international affairs, migration, and strategic partnerships, dedicated to designing and implementing impactful solutions for marginalized communities, including migrants and displaced populations. With over a decade of expertise in policy advocacy, cross-cultural engagement, and multilateral collaboration, I specialize in fostering international cooperation, strengthening diplomatic relationships, and building innovative partnerships to address global challenges.

My work is centred on advancing inclusive policies, promoting sustainable development, and driving transformative change through diplomacy, advocacy, and evidence-based strategies.

EDUCATION

- Graduate Diploma, International Law-University of Melbourne
- Master of Arts, Development Studies (International Political Economy)-Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, Netherlands
- Bachelor of Arts, Communication-Daystar University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CONSULTANT-ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIPS, THE TORIAH GROUP

Jul 2024 – Present

Kenya & Australia

- Spearheaded multi-sectoral stakeholder mapping and prioritization initiatives to support advocacy projects, enabling clients to identify high-impact partnerships and policy opportunities across East and Central Africa.
- Deliver comprehensive policy, regulatory, and industry analysis on regional developments, providing clients with actionable insights to shape engagement strategies and drive successful policy influence.
- Advise clients on stakeholder engagement strategies by leveraging robust in-country intelligence networks and open-source research, empowering them to navigate complex political landscapes and cultivate strategic relationships with key decision-makers.
- Manage and execute complex stakeholder advisory projects, coordinating cross-functional workstreams and maintaining strategic partnerships to ensure alignment with clients' advocacy goals and international priorities.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST – DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & WATER (DCCEEW)

Jul 2023 – June 2024

Victoria, Australia

Aim: To cultivate inclusive engagement and collaboration among diverse stakeholders to implement climate change mitigation strategies successfully.

- Developed and implemented a stakeholder engagement strategy for a climate change mitigation project, ensuring effective communication and collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including indigenous communities and multicultural organisations especially those supporting resettled refugees.
- Built strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, and industry representatives, to foster trust and cooperation in addressing climate change challenges.
- Conducted extensive community outreach and consultation, gathering feedback and insights from diverse communities to inform policy development and program implementation.

- Analysed stakeholder engagement metrics and prepared comprehensive reports, identifying areas for improvement and implementing data-driven recommendations to enhance project outcomes.

PROJECT OFFICER – CALD COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE(CITY OF CASEY, CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG & CARDINIA)

Apr 2021 - Jan 2023

City of Casey, Victoria, Australia

- Collaborated with teams to design and deliver targeted strategies addressing the unique needs of refugee and migrant communities across the region.
- Built and nurtured partnerships with local organizations, strengthening networks and fostering collaboration within CALD communities to enhance support systems.
- Identified systemic barriers faced by refugee and migrant populations, advocating for sustainable and equitable policy changes to improve community outcomes and promote social inclusion.
- Enhanced digital engagement by implementing digital competence initiatives, optimizing social media platforms to effectively reach and connect with diverse audiences and promoting integration programs.
- Coordinated and delivered tailored programs supporting the integration and well-being of refugees, asylum seekers, and CALD individuals, including language classes, cultural orientation, and employment support services.
- Conducted research and community consultations to identify challenges faced by CALD communities, providing evidence-based recommendations to drive policy improvements and equitable outcomes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA (MDA)

Mar 2019 - Mar 2021

Brisbane, Australia

Aim: To support the successful integration of refugees and migrants by developing and providing culturally sensitive resources and community engagement initiatives.

- Developed culturally sensitive communication materials and resources to support the settlement and integration of refugees and migrants in Australia.
- Facilitated cross-cultural training workshops for service providers, educators, and community leaders, enhancing their understanding of the unique needs of refugee and migrant populations.
- Conducted community outreach and engagement activities to raise awareness of multiculturalism and promote social cohesion among diverse communities.
- Provided interpreting and translation services to facilitate communication between refugee and migrant communities and service providers.

TUTOR - UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Jul 2019 - Dec 2019

Brisbane, Australia

- Taught and facilitated tutorials, lectures and seminars, prepared teaching materials and engaged students through interactive discussions, case studies and problem-solving activities.
- Assessed and graded assignments and exams, ensuring fairness and consistency in evaluations.
- Provided detailed feedback on written assignments, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.
- Ensured marks were accurately recorded and submitted in compliance with university deadlines.
- Collaborated with academic staff to align teaching strategies and course objectives.
- Administered course activities including monitoring attendance, managing assignments and maintaining accurate records.

UNDP – GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME -COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR AT ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODY (IEBC)

Mar 2017 – Dec 2017

Nairobi, Kenya

- Provided strategic communications guidance to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), enhancing public engagement and transparency in electoral processes.

- Developed and implemented comprehensive communication strategies, including voter education campaigns, to promote inclusivity, civic participation, and trust in democratic institutions.
- Collaborated with stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, and media, to ensure consistent messaging and alignment with national governance objectives.
- Produced high-quality communication materials, including press releases, reports, and digital content, to support electoral integrity and strengthen public confidence in the electoral system.

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER – AFRICA CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC FUTURES: KENYA PROJECT (AFRICA POLICY INSTITUTE)

Jun 2014 to Dec 2016

Nairobi, Kenya

- Developed and executed high-level communication strategies to position the Kenya Project as a thought leader in African policy discourse, fostering international engagement.
- Cultivated relationships with government agencies, multilateral organizations, and international think tanks to enhance policy influence and collaboration.
- Designed and implemented crisis communication frameworks, ensuring effective advocacy on geopolitical and economic issues affecting Africa's strategic future.
- Spearheaded media outreach, securing coverage in international platforms to amplify policy research and insights on Africa's role in global governance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER - UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Jun 2007 to Jul 2010

Kosovo & South Sudan

- Managed UNHCR's public information efforts during emergency responses in Kosovo and South Sudan, ensuring accurate and timely reporting to international media and stakeholders.
- Developed and executed communication strategies to highlight displacement crises, influencing donor funding, humanitarian policies, and global awareness.
- Engaged with government officials, international organizations, and civil society actors to align messaging and promote refugee protection frameworks.
- Produced compelling human-interest stories, press releases, and reports, amplifying the voices of displaced communities and enhancing UNHCR's visibility.
- Enhanced the communication abilities of local staff and journalists, ensuring precise reporting and impactful storytelling on refugee matters.

SKILLS

Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis | Stakeholder Engagement & Advocacy | Cross-Cultural Communication | Report Writing & Research | Project Management (PRINCE2 certified-Foundation) | Grant Management | Human Rights & Migration Policy Development

VOLUNTEER

Administration | Pushing Barriers (Brisbane, Australia) | Feb 2021 - Dec 2021

- Facilitated supportive social networks for youth with a refugee background by encouraging their inclusion and acceptance within a sporting community.
- Increased participation of refugee youth in organised sports activities by 30% through targeted outreach and mentorship programs.
- Organised and led 5 community sports events that fostered interaction and understanding between refugee youth and the local community.
- Established partnerships with 3 local sports clubs to provide access to training and resources for refugee youth.
- Developed and implemented a cultural sensitivity training program for coaches and volunteers, resulting in improved communication and understanding between participants.
- Coordinated transportation and logistics for refugee youth to attend sports events and practices, ensuring equal access and opportunity.

Donor Relations Officer | Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (Melbourne, Australia) | Dec 2021 - Jun 2022

- Increased annual recurring donations by 10% through the implementation of a monthly giving program.
- Developed and implemented a donor recognition program that resulted in a 5% increase in average donation amounts.
- Managed a portfolio of 100+ donors, ensuring timely communication, stewardship, and impact reporting.
- Represented the organisation at 5 community events and networking opportunities, resulting in 10 new donor leads.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Children's Rights in Theory and Practice** | Harvard X-Child Protection
- **International Migrations: a global issue** | Sciences Po
- **Diplomatic Protocol at UN Headquarters and Regional Offices** | UNITAR
- **Project Management: PRINCE2 - Certification (Foundation)** | APMG International