

IBRAHIM AMBALE

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

Ibrahim Ambale is a seasoned Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Research, and Learning expert with four years of dedicated experience in conducting research, monitoring, evaluation, data analysis, learning, and accountability. He has collaborated with renowned donors and institutions such as the World Bank, the EU, USAID, DANIDA, SIDA, LSHTM, SEDHURO, MSEA, NITA, EAMDA, FIPS, Caritas Internationalis, and the Government of Kenya, showcasing his proficiency and expertise in the field.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

Proficient in ODK, KoboToolbox, CommCare (GOAL Ireland) SurveyCTO, Survey Solutions, and REDCap. Knowledgeable in The International Recommendations on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS), Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning for Development Professionals (Humentum), CIPIT Data Protection Course (Strathmore University), GDPR Data Protection Officer Skills (University of Derby), Designing and Implementing Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (Agha Khan Foundation), Planning for Monitoring and Evaluation (Philanthropy University) Research and Proposal Writing in the Social Sciences, and Research Writing in the Social Sciences (INASP). Also experienced in Data Demand and Information Use in the HIV Programme (NASCOP).

Data Analysis and Visualization

Proficient in Python, Excel, SQL, VS Code, Google Colab, Jupyter Notebook, Anaconda, and Power BI. Skilled in EDA, DAX, Machine Learning, & NLP.

Database Management

Proficient in MySQL Workbench, SurveyCTO Onboarding (Dobility Inc), Data Management for Clinical Research [REDCap] (Vanderbilt University), CommCare Application Building (Dimagi Academy), Survey Solutions for Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (FAO), and An Introduction to ODK (Stats4SD). Also completed GIS Training Program (Central University of Karnataka).

Microsoft Office and Google Workspace

Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Microsoft 365, and Google Workspace.

Leadership and Management

Experienced in Leadership and Management, Stress Management, Tech Foundations, Time Management and Goal Setting, Developing Healthy Habits, Problem Definition and Problem Solving Techniques, Web Research, Communication and User Stories, Personal Growth, and Team Work (ALX Africa).

EXPERIENCE

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

Programme Officer Monitoring & Evaluation - Eritrea

August 2024 - August 2025

At CAFOD, I work closely with four key partners known as Eparchies: the Eparchy of Asmara, Barentu, Segeneity, and Keren. Together, we streamline data collection processes to ensure efficient reporting at both the project and regional levels, enhancing the effectiveness of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems. This collaboration supports the smooth implementation and monitoring of programs across Eritrea. In addition, I also support the Ukraine Programme working with one partner in Ukraine to implement MEL processes.

- **Programme Design and Management:** Contribute to the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of CAFOD's Eritrea Core Programmes, ensuring adherence to agreed standards, donor requirements, and effective use of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) data.
- **MEL System Development:** Develop and manage effective MEL systems, tools, and methodologies to document programme progress, outcomes, and sustainability, including regular updates to the monitoring and evaluation plan.
- **Partnership Development:** Develop and manage relationships with CAFOD's partner organisations, promoting adherence to agreed standards and supporting partners' capacity development in MEL and safeguarding.

- **Capacity Building:** Invest in and strengthen partners' MEL capacity by developing and implementing training materials and capacity-building strategies to improve MEL systems and processes.
- **Safeguarding and Accountability:** Lead on the development and implementation of safeguarding strategies, ensuring the protection, safety, dignity, and inclusion (SADI) of programme participants, and support partners in establishing feedback and complaints mechanisms.
- **Proposal Development:** Contribute to the development of programme and project proposals, and assess partners' capacities for implementation, ensuring MEL learning informs project design and donor reporting.
- **Documentation and Communication:** Capture and disseminate lessons learned, best practices, and success stories from programme implementation, and ensure effective communication with CAFOD teams and external stakeholders for fundraising and reporting.

DanChurdaid (DCA) Kenya

Programme Assistant - Data Analysis and Reporting

June 2023 - August 2024

As an assistant, data analysis, and reporting, June 2023 to May 2024, and currently MEAL Officer, I worked with twenty one partners in the counties of Elgeyo Marakwet, Turkana, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Uasin Gishu, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, and West Pokot to streamline data collection processes, for smooth reporting at project and country office levels.

- I established a MEAL system that was adopted by DanChurchAid and its partners for use across projects.
- Establishment of data collection and analysis protocols to ensure smooth periodic reporting. Within the first three months of my tenure, I recorded a remarkable 71.69 percent data capture rate, while conducting rigorous quality checks on collected data to maintain data integrity and reliability.
- Facilitated the establishment of a data sharing policy between DCA and its partners, fostering seamless transmission of data among stakeholders.
- Designed and implemented data collection tools using KOBO Toolbox & CommCare platforms, ensuring efficient data collection across projects.
- Produced Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) reports, utilizing analytics to calculate variables such as Food Consumption Scores (FCS), Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN), and Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) to assess wellbeing of targeted project beneficiaries.
- Leveraged Excel's Power Query Editor and DAX in Power BI to transform and analyze data, generating actionable insights to support strategic decision-making, knowledge management, and program planning.
- Developed the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system for the European Union [Peaceful and Resilient Borderlands Programme \(PRBP\)](#) in the Karamoja Cluster in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. [\(IGAD\)](#)
- Conducted scheduled monitoring visits to partners project sites to track progress, identify challenges, and provide support to partners and project staff, collaborating closely with communication teams to facilitate data-driven storytelling and capture lessons learned.

NairobiBits Trust Kenya

Research & Community Engagement

October 2022 - March 2024

As a consultant, Oct 2022, Feb 2023, Oct 2023, and Feb 2024, I supported masters students, London School of Economics and Political Science, carry out their academic research in Nairobi Kenya, under the [S-Bize](#) programme.

- Coordinated research activities at Salama Youth Hub and Africa Youth Trust in Mukuru, Nairobi, and facilitated both virtual and face-to-face interviews, documenting research activities and lessons learnt during the research week, to inform future planning and decision-making.
- Organized a variety of interview formats, including 61 individual interviews, 6 focused group discussion (FGDs) 4 design thinking workshops, and 12 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs).
- Formulated a thorough budget plan and coordinated logistics to ensure a smooth research week.

Heifer International USA

Data Collection Specialist

September 2021 - December 2023

As a consultant, Jan - Dec 2023, and Sept 2021 - June 2022, I worked on Heifer's surveyCTO database to streamline data collection tools and procedures and enhance its capacity in monitoring and evaluation at a global level.

- Designed and operationalized research tools tailored for both Household and Corporate levels, leveraging on SurveyCTO platform and advanced XLS forms, meticulously documenting each step in an activity log to showcase the implementation of high-quality data assurance measures.
- Innovatively addressed data collection challenges by consolidating 15 short questionnaires into a unified global tool, simplifying data capture and storage processes.
- Provided comprehensive training sessions to MEAL Regional Managers in India, Nigeria, United States, Cambodia, and Bangladesh, as well as Research Assistants in Kenya, ensuring proficiency in tool utilization.
- Monitored data flow, conducted thorough data quality checks to validate the output of the tool, subsequently reviewing and finalizing the tool to address any issues identified during piloting.

Innovations for Poverty Action Kenya (IPA-K)

Field Officer

January 2020 - June 2023

As a Field Officer, I participated in the evaluation of the World Bank programme, known as [KYEOP](#), across multiple counties including Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos, Kajiado, Kisumu, Siaya, Vihiga, Kakamega, Busia, Nakuru, Nyandarua, and Laikipia. The program's objective was to uplift the well-being of youth in Kenya by providing them with vital training, internship, and business grant opportunities.

- Effectively conducted the endline evaluation from February to May 2023, collecting data from 47 participants.
- Utilized GPS tracking to locate missing project participants during the midline evaluation from April to June 2022, successfully interviewing 53 SME owners.
- Conducted a successful baseline evaluation from January to March 2020, engaging with 97 participants, screening them for eligibility, and subsequently conducting interviews.
- Effectively implemented logistical arrangements to facilitate travel across various counties, prioritizing security measures and cultural sensitivity, while adhering to research ethics protocols.

Trocaire Somalia

KOBO Toolbox Programmer

December 2022 - January 2023

As a consultant from December 2022 to January 2023, I developed a highly efficient data collection tool using Kobo Toolbox for the endline evaluation of the [FIRM ACTS](#) project in the Gedo region of Somalia.

- Programmed high quality data collection tool in Kobo Toolbox and trained 16 research assistants.
- Handled the data collection process successfully by monitoring data flow, checking for data completeness, inconsistencies, and submissions.

African Population & Health Research Center (APHRC) Kenya

Field Interviewer

June 2021 - May 2022

As a seasonal field interviewer, I participated in a research study aimed at deepening our understanding of early childhood development in Nairobi slums, with a specific emphasis on the informal childcare sector as part of the [NECS](#) project.

- Carried out mapping activities, identifying and documenting 120 childcare centers, early childhood development (ECD) training centers, and schools. Additionally, listed 630 households with children aged 5 years and below.
- Conducted 30 in-depth interviews with childcare service providers, community health promoters (CHP), and early childhood development center heads, and facilitated 5 focused group discussions (FGDs), four of which involved 8 to 10 community members each, and one consisting of 12 Community Health Promoters. Additionally, conducted household survey with 288 participants.

Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International Kenya

Research Assistant

August 2019 - September 2020

As a Research Assistant/Data Enumerator, I effectively participated in the evaluation of the USAID [KCDMS](#) programme, designed to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty and malnutrition in Kenya by spurring competitive, inclusive, and resilient market systems in the horticulture and dairy sectors, Kisumu, Vihiga, and Kakamega Counties.

- During the endline evaluation conducted from August to September 2020, I successfully reached a total of 97 small-scale farmers and collected high-quality data using Kobo Collect. I conducted thorough data quality checks to identify and resolve any inconsistencies before submitting the data to the server.

- Effectively completed 48 interviews within the two counties I worked in during the midline evaluation in August 2019.
- Participated in piloting of the tool and role plays to iron out technical issues on Kobo and the flow of the questionnaire.
- I assisted in translating the tool into the local dialect, participated in role plays, and piloted the tool to identify and address technical and language barriers.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Ungano Tena Youth Organization

Student Mentor

August 2019 - July 2023

As a Student Mentor and Volunteer, I made a significant impact on the lives of over 400 adolescents within the Mukuru Community while contributing to the [A-LOT Change](#) programme. This [programme](#) aims to enhance access to quality secondary education among youth in urban informal settlements, particularly in areas such as Viwandani and Korogocho.

- Provided training to over 400 adolescents on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), hygiene maintenance, life skills, and offered support with school work and career guidance. Additionally, I monitored behavior change, identified cases, provided guidance and counseling, and managed mental health support for them.

EDUCATION

ExploreAI Academy

September 2023 - August 2024

Nanodegree: Data Science

Graduation, ongoing

Data Preparation, Structured Query Language, Data Visualization & Storytelling, Python, Machine Learning (Regression), Natural Language Processing & Classification, Unsupervised Learning, Amazon Web Services (AWS) Foundations.

Mastercard Foundation Scholarship

Kenyatta University

September 2012 - April 2016

Bachelor of Economics and Statistics

Graduation, 15th July 2016

Qualification: Second Class Honors, Upper Division

Kenyatta University Orphans and Vulnerable Students Scholarship (OVS)

Kenyatta University

September 2015 - April 2016

Leadership Development and Mentorship

Attainment date, 11th April, 2016

Growing Leaders Programme; Qualification: Credit 1