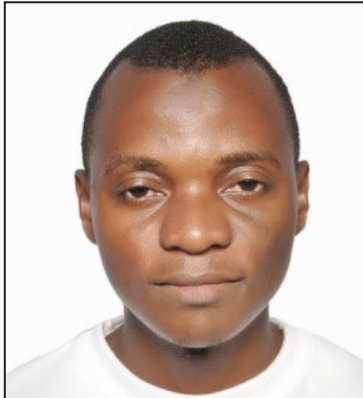


The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



Fall 2022 Professional Fellow



Harunah Damba

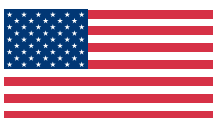
**Scientist, Uganda Virus Research Institute
Chairperson, United Persons with
Disabilities (UPWD)**

“I look to the Fellowship Program to gain top-notch leadership and project management skills, tools, and connections that will allow me to implement, successfully manage, and scale my proposed project.”

Harunah is the chairperson of the United Persons with Disabilities (UPWD), an organization that provides social entrepreneurship opportunities for persons with disabilities. Harunah’s organization has helped more than 50 people with disabilities build confidence and resilience and raise their aspirations to achieve a better and brighter future. Harunah graduated with an honors degree in biomedical laboratory technology from Makerere University, where he served both as a minister and representative for students with disabilities. After graduating, he took a position as the only Deaf scientist at the Uganda Virus Research Institute.

For his follow-on project, Harunah aims to increase the employment of graduates with disabilities by establishing Graduate Savings and Credit Co-Operative Societies or ‘SACCOs’, and by training graduates on soft skills for job searching, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. The overarching project objective is to eradicate poverty among working-age people with disabilities in Kampala and Wakiso districts in Uganda.

Harunah will complete a 4-week Fellowship placement training with the University of Arizona’s [Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities](#) in Tucson, Arizona.



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