

# The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



## Fall 2022 Professional Fellow



### **Salome N Gitau**

**Accountant**

**Kenya Education Management Institute**

**Motivation Peer Trainer**

*“I want to learn how to best advocate for the needs of people with spinal cord injury, especially those who are incontinent.”*

Salome works as an accountant for the Kenyan Education Management Institute. She has served as Vice Chairperson of the Africa Spinal Cord Injury Network (AFSCIN) since 2017. Trained by the Motivation Charitable Trust, Salome also serves as a motivation peer supporter for persons who recently acquired spinal cord injuries and are now using wheelchairs. Salome holds a higher diploma in human resources, a bachelor’s degree in commerce finance, and is pursuing a master’s degree in human resources management.

Salome’s follow-on project aims to engage persons with spinal cord injuries (SCI) to reduce stigma and shame about their disability by educating them on strategies for self-care, including incontinence management, how to access health insurance and incontinence supplies, and how to advocate for their needs. Together, Salome and persons with SCI will work to make patient information inclusive and accessible by developing content and designing and sharing materials.

Salome and her team of motivation peer trainers aim to reach approximately 140 persons with SCI over a 6-month follow-on project implementation period. The goals are to make health insurance programs inclusive and accessible for persons with SCI to live with dignity and as valued and respected members of society.

Salome will complete a 4-week Fellowship placement training with the University of Massachusetts Boston’s [Institute for Community Inclusion](#) in Boston, Massachusetts.

