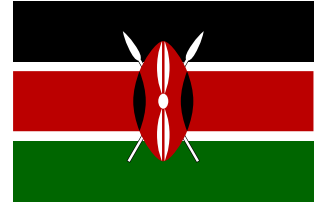


# The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



## Spring 2023 Professional Fellow



### **Erick Sande Oduor** Program Officer, United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK)

*“Through this Fellowship Program, I hope to learn how to create a society that will not only amplify our disability inclusion work but give impetus to the long-term collaborative efforts towards advancing an inclusive world.”*

Erick currently works as a program officer in the Global Labor Program at [United Disabled Persons of Kenya \(UDPK\)](#). UDPK is the national federation of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Kenya, advocating for inclusion and active participation of persons with disabilities in development processes and in all spheres of life.

Prior to joining UDPK, Erick worked as a spokesperson and advocacy officer for the Stammering Association of Kenya (SAK), a nonprofit support group that supports and empowers people who stammer/stutter. As part of his work for SAK, Erick founded the Listen to Us initiative that seeks to remove barriers hindering disability inclusion, particularly for the stammering/stuttering community, through advocacy programs and mobilization of OPDs.

Erick also previously interned with the Kenya State Department for Interior and Citizen Services' Samia Sub-County Civil Registration Office. While there, he took a lead role in organizing “community barazas,” or civic forums that sought to educate the public about civil registration services and other activities. Erick also interned with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities' (NCPWD) County Disability Services Office, helping implement programs targeting people with disabilities and OPDs at the community level.

Additionally, Erick is a 2022 alumnus of the [Bridge CRPD-SDGs](#), an online training program for disability rights advocates to learn how to use an inclusive and comprehensive CRPD perspective in development work. The program is a joint initiative of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

Erick holds a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from Moi University. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration at the University of Nairobi.

Erick's Fellowship follow-on project, titled Shiriki Program (the word shiriki means participation), aims to promote and champion a culture of meaningful and inclusive participation of people with disabilities and their organizations in budgetary processes. Specifically, Erick plans to convene people with disabilities and their organizations as well as policymakers from Busia County to discuss ways to make the county-level budgetary process more participatory and transparent. Specific activities include civic forum dialogues and training workshops.

Erick will complete a four-week Fellowship placement training with the University of Alaska Anchorage's [Center for Human Development \(CHD\)](#) in Anchorage, Alaska.

