The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



Spring 2024 Professional Fellow



Josephine Namirimu

Communications and Advocacy Officer Cheshire Services Uganda

"This Fellowship Program is poised to reshape me in numerous ways, offering exposure to best practices in inclusive civic engagement, particularly in disability policy advocacy and gender equality and social inclusion."

Josephine is the Communications and Advocacy Officer at <u>Cheshire Services Uganda</u>, where she leads the organization's advocacy strategy development and implementation. Her responsibilities include stakeholder advocacy on the National Inclusive Education Policy, stakeholder management, and documenting impact stories.

Josephine conducts capacity-building trainings in disability inclusion, gender equality, and social inclusion, communication, branding, and visibility. Additionally, she serves as the secretary to the National Inclusive Education Policy Advocacy Committee of the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports, Department of Special Needs and Inclusive Education.

Josephine holds a master's degree in human rights and a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Josephine's follow-on project aims to empower youth with disabilities to advocate for inclusive education through tailored informational and training materials, storytelling, and policy engagement. As the Secretary of the National Inclusive Education Policy Advocacy Committee, Josephine will leverage her unique position and understanding of inclusive education in Uganda to create informational and training materials specifically tailored to youth. These materials will educate both youth with and without disabilities about the draft policy and its relevance and impact on all learners.

To provide a platform for the youth to share their stories, she will also coordinate meetings with members of Parliament of Uganda and advocate for integrating these materials and their experiences into Cheshire Services Uganda's student club manual. Through these initiatives, she aims to drive positive change in inclusive education and enhance the participation of people with disabilities in society.



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