



Jerusha
Govender

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth:	27 January 1984
Languages:	English (Excellent), Afrikaans (Fair)
Years' Experience:	16 years
Countries worked in:	South Africa, Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Botswana, eSwatini, Ghana, Lesotho, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, UK, USA and Zimbabwe, in addition to remotely leading projects in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda and Uganda

CONTACT INFO

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ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Master of Management, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, 2012-2014
- Master of Public Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2007-2009
- Bachelor of Science (Med) Honors, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2002-2006

FIELD OF SPECIALISATION

Jerusha is a consultant at PDG specializing in innovation and tech-enabled M&E. She has worked extensively as a social entrepreneur and advisor in promoting responsible data practices and systems, data communication and the use of information for decision-making in development sector in Africa. Jerusha has led data and M&E projects with government departments, NGOs, and foundations. She has held leadership positions at Data Innovators as a Co-Founder, served on the board of the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association, and is currently on the board of Field Band Foundation.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2024 – Current

PDG, Johannesburg, South Africa
Consultant

Jerusha leads innovation, tech and data focused consulting projects that assists public services in decision-making. She provides technical advisory support across practice areas with a particular focus on monitoring, evaluation and learning.

2015 – 2023

Data Innovators, Johannesburg, South Africa
Co-founder & Director

Jerusha led the Digital Data Solutions practice and is supporting company start-up and business development. Jerusha managed Associate Directors, Managers, Analysts, Officers, Designers and consultants who implemented projects of varied scale (national, regional, international). Projects spanned across all service areas of the company, in Africa, North America and Europe with a reach of more than 50 organisations. Jerusha played technical roles in advising clients in areas of responsible data, data communication, tech-enabled and innovation in monitoring, evaluation, research and learning (MERL). This included funders, foundations, and INGOs and Government Departments.

2019 - 2021

Data Heroes, Johannesburg, South Africa
Founder

2015 - 2019

Independent, Johannesburg, South Africa
Consultant

2014 - 2015

Management Sciences for Health (INGO), Pretoria, South Africa
Senior technical advisor

2012 - 2014

Management Sciences for Health (INGO), Pretoria, South Africa
Monitoring & evaluation advisor

2010 - 2012

loveLife (NGO), Johannesburg, South Africa
National monitoring manager

2010

Wits Health Research Institute (NGO), Johannesburg, South Africa
Operations research coordinator

2009 - 2010

TB/HIV Care Association (NGO), Cape Town, South Africa
Monitoring & evaluation coordinator

2008

TB/HIV Care Association (NGO), Cape Town, South Africa
Community evaluation fellow (intern)

KEY PROJECTS

2023-2024 Pan-African Indigenous Evaluation Consortium, funded by Mastercard Foundation. Principle Investigator leading the innovation and tech-enabled MEL focus area as part of the consortium conducting research on African-rooted MEL practices and tools. The research assessed emerging trends and thinkers that may influence the role technology as an enabler and challenges affecting African rooted evaluation practices. The consortium is led by the University of Botswana, and includes partners from the University of Nazarene, University of Ghana and AfrEA.

2023 Mid-term evaluation of Digital Impact Alliance. Lead the implementation of the mid-term evaluation of the global initiative of Digital Impact Alliance. The evaluation included engaging academics, government, and organisational stakeholders. We reviewed frameworks for digital transformation and assessed gaps and lessons, including developing outcome stories for projects in Sudan and Kenya.

2023 Social network analysis of technical support ecosystem in Kenya, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Agulhas Knowledge Consulting. Designed the implementation of a network analysis to understand the existing ecosystem technical support providers working with organisations funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Data collection was implemented remotely with the support of a local partner in Kenya.

2022-2023 Evaluation of Lacuna Fund. Led the design and implementation of the [evaluation of Lacuna Fund](#), assessing the effectiveness of 3 years of grant-making processes and outcomes of the fund in addressing bias in machine learning in Africa. Jerusha engaged with various stakeholders and grantees addressing issues of bias in big datasets, including grassroots researchers and academics. We developed a comprehensive synthesis of quantitative and qualitative findings.

2021-2024 Innovation in MERL research, and advisory support to Mastercard Foundation. Lead the scan of innovations in MEL, provided advisory support in developing the theory of change for an Innovation Lab, engaging potential partners for the Labs, and developing case studies on brights spots and varied typology of social innovation entities on the continent

2021-2024 Tech-enabled MERL research, and advisory support to Mastercard Foundation. Co-lead the scan of technology partners, initiatives and solutions that support MEL implementation in Africa to support the foundation in strengthening the tech-enabled MEL ecosystem. We conducted interviews a sample of stakeholders and analysed the existing trends in the MEL and digital ecosystem influencing impact measurement.

2021 Global network mapping of CSOs and stakeholders addressing social cohesion and justice, Catholic Relief Services. Designed and implemented the network data collection of key funders, tertiary institutes and implementers addressing social cohesion and justice. The network data was collected through surveys, secondary database review and interviews. The network was analysed to determine the key players in the ecosystem who were funding or attempting to implement social cohesion and justice practices at regional, country and other levels. The insights informed the CRS Influence Strategy to integrate social cohesion and justice in development initiatives globally.

2019-2024 Foresight analysis and scenario planning, and evaluation advisory to CIVICUS. Provided various strategic and innovative MEL support to CIVICUS to develop the global MEL function and improve implementation. This included developing the evaluation strategy for the organisation, conducting a [foresight analysis and scenario planning](#) as part of the strategy review in 2022, and providing on-going advisory support to the CIVICUS MEL leadership team.

2018-2019 Business case for an integrated data management and analysis system for the South African Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Lead and facilitated a stakeholder mapping, situational analysis, technical and business requirements assessment of DPME data integration requirements. I developed stakeholder report and business case which documented the recommendations and operational plan for developing an integrated national data system.

2018, 2019, 2023 Annual Incentives Report for the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. Lead the case study collection, data analysis and report writing of three annual incentive reports and policy briefs. I engaged fund recipients and key stakeholders to document the lessons and outcomes of the incentives, and directed the creative design of the reports, infographics and animated outputs.

2018-2019 Social network analysis of European Climate Fund grantees in the UK, Children's Investment Fund Foundation and Agulhas Knowledge Consulting. Designed and implemented the network data collection at baseline and follow-up. Completed social network analysis of the network of ECF grantees (CSOs, individuals, climate change leaders, etc.) using Gephi, to understand the nature of knowledge sharing, partnership and strategic advice amongst grantees and with ECF. Data was collected remotely with the support of a local UK-based team. Additionally, a sense-making session was facilitated with grantee representatives to engage on the underlying factors influencing the network nature and identify key players who drive knowledge sharing.

2017-2018 Social network analysis of health advocacy fellows in South Africa, Tekano Fellowship Programme Evaluation and Barbara Klugman Consulting. Designed and implementation of network data collection at baseline and follow-up. Completed social network analysis of the network using Gephi to understand the nature of knowledge sharing and collaboration amongst health advocacy agents (researchers, NGOs, journalists) in South African. The baseline findings were used to assist in informing strategies to enable collaboration amongst fellows in implementing their health advocacy initiatives.

PUBLICATIONS

DURIEUX, M., FLINK, I., GOVENDER, J., IRURA, M., JASON, D., MUSILA, J., TSHUMA, B., SIBANDE, R., and RAFTREE, L. Responsible Data Governance for Monitoring and Evaluation in the African Context. Part 1: Overview of Data Governance and Part 2: Guidance for Responsible Data Governance in Monitoring and Evaluation. (2021). Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results – Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) and MERL Tech, Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management | University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

GOVENDER, J. and ZHOU, D. Chapter 7 - Big data and the rule of law: South African experience IN Big Data, the Rule of Law and Development: the evaluator's perspective. (2024). Ed. Frans L. Leeuw and Michael J. Bamberger. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd (Pending publication)

SOOMAR JN, FLISHER AJ, and MATHEWS C. Sexual coercion and adolescent risk behaviour: a systematic literature review. *J Child Adolesc Ment Health*. (2009) Dec;21(2):103-26. doi: 10.2989/JCAMH.2009.21.2.3.1011. PMID: 25865721. (Govender née Soomar)