Gooisekant 60, 1104 MM, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 

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# **KEY QUALIFICATIONS:**

Fifteen years of communications and advocacy experience of which 7 years in Sierra Leone. University degree and PhD obtained in the Netherlands.

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

# Stichting Plant N Boom [Plant A Tree Now], Maarssen, the Netherlands

Dec, 2022 - now

Founder & CEO

- Review B2B marketing strategy and overall strategy for carbon sequestration.
- Capacity building of staff maintaining a carbon inventory according to the GHG protokol.
- Acquisition and fundraising.
- Maintain contact with foundations, companies and Board of Directors.
- Ensure adherence to the GreenHouseGas (GHG) protocol carbon inventory procedures.

### War Child: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

uly, 2012 - Dec 2022

Advocacy Manager

- Reformulation of War Child's global advocacy strategy aligning it with the corporate objectives and communications strategy.
- Representing War Child in external networks including when necessary, serving as a spokesperson, attending conferences, seminars and lobby events.
- Responsible for full ownership of the targets and War Child's global advocacy objectives demonstrating impact, adhering to budget and agreed timeframes.
- Coordinated, motivated and advocacy support staff to deliver high quality global advocacy objectives.
- Focal point in War Child for Global Advocacy programming and campaigning.
- Focal point for advocacy support to all country offices

### War Child: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

July, 2011 – June, 2012

Advocacy, Research and Communications Officer

- Co-developed War Child Holland's (WCH's) global advocacy initiative and implementation plan ensuring acceptance of the initiative and visible progress.
- In collaboration with colleagues and members of the "kinderrechtencollectief", led the development of a chapter in the Netherlands NGO report to the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child (OPAC) for Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC).
- Liaise with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Parliamentarians and Politicians, Office of the SRSG CAAC, NGO Group, International Criminal Court on WCH's work with CAAC.
- Work with advocacy and communications team at head office in developing and positioning Global Advocacy as an area of (global) programming within War Child.
- Represent War Child in the media and meetings with the Platform Humanitarian Action, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Criminal Court and Conference on Child Protection in emergency environments.
- Manage the organisational development project focusing on roles and responsibilities as part of War Child's Organisational Development-2 plan.

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### War Child: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Aug, 2008 – June, 2011

Project manager advocacy and communications

- Developed War Child Sierra Leone's 5-year advocacy strategy through a participatory and consultative process with children and young adults. The successful results now serve as an example for other War Child Country programmes.
- Developed lessons learnt document on participation in Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to be shared with War Child's operational areas.
- Managed and coordinated the activities of 12 community development and advocacy officers in 2 districts, ensuring ongoing capacity building on advocacy, project management, monitoring and evaluation.
- Provided technical advice and support to reporting on human rights instruments including the UPR,
   OPAC & OPSC in Sierra Leone and the Netherlands.
- Built the capacity of National staff and members of the Child Rights Coalition in advocacy, monitoring and evaluation.
- Used innovative and creative methods of developing and disseminating advocacy messages such as drama performances, photo exhibitions and social networking media (e.g. facebook).
- Responsible for monitoring and communicating the government's compliance to international human rights instruments by visiting UN sessions and missions in Geneva, successfully presenting the recommendations and shadow reporting. A recent success compelled the government to withdraw an unwanted Amendment Act. The minister submitted an amendment placing the Child Rights Commission under the Ministry which was contrary to the Paris Principles for such commissions and not in the best interest of the child.
- Designed and directed the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation plan for program activities in line with the organisations advocacy indicators.

### Department for International Development (DFID), Sierra Leone

Feb-July 2008

Coordinator to the Promoting Information and Voice for Transparency on Elections (PIVOT) programme. The PIVOT programme aimed at integrating the advocacy and campaign strategies of several DFID recipient organisations aimed towards peaceful elections.

- Independently coordinated partner's activities to meet tight deadlines, reporting on wider issues of accountability, ethics and interaction with the state. Consortium partners include: National Democratic Institute, Fondation Hirondelle, Search for Common Ground, 50/50 group, Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the National Elections Watch.
- Critically analyzed the abilities of consortium partners to analyze rights issues and develop strategy to achieve sustainable impact, contributing to successful and peaceful 2008 local government elections in 12 districts nationwide, significantly increasing women's participation.
- Coordinated regular strategic planning and monitoring meetings with 6 consortium partners managing the programme advocacy outcomes and budgets.

#### CARE International: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Dec, 2006 – Dec, 2007

Communications advisor to the "Enhancing the Interaction and Interface between Civil Society and the State" (ENCISS). The ENCISS programme was funded by DFID and implemented by CARE International, aimed at creating linkages

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between relevant Government stakeholders and Civil Society partners. The communications advisor was responsible for internal and external communications.

- Coordinated and supported the successful peace building and advocacy campaign of the Civil Society Action Group for violence free elections in the 2007 presidential elections.
- Developed messages of accountability with the producers of radio programs by Search for Common Ground and UN Radio creating awareness and understanding for civil society – state engagement which had been largely absent during the war.
- Coordinated the production and dissemination of information about government reform programmes using radio and print media.
- Designed, developed and maintained the ENCISS website, showcasing project advocacy themes and successful implementation of communication strategies.
- Developed and implemented an impact assessment, including a baseline survey and mid-point project review ensuring accurate and timely compliance to donor reporting requirement.
- Editorial responsibility for the media work produced by Search for Common Ground advocating for a better around poverty reduction strategy and decentralization policy implementation.
- Translated ENCISS' advocacy strategy into concrete actions to be implemented by project officers in 3 districts, collecting success stories and case examples that served as indicators of progress.

### CARE International: Freetown, Sierra Leone

April, 2004 - Nov 2006

Advisor to the Human Rights and Development Centre

- Developed and implemented a work plan for a Human Rights Resource Centre that served as a starting point for grassroots social movement building in the country.
- Established a national directory, database and network of more than 200 Civil Society Organisations that provided a profile of who is doing what, where and how in Sierra Leone.
- Managed 7-10 staff members designed and coordinated capacity-building initiatives in journalism, human rights education, advocacy, research and reporting for civil society and government stakeholders.
- Developed and implemented monitoring and evaluation indicators and tools for this civil society strengthening program.
- Provided technical support to the project, funded by the European Commission (€ 1.7 million budget), to develop a strategy for the sustainability of local human rights organisations including Network Movement For Justice and Democracy that focuses on natural resource extraction.
- Developed and published the Resource Centre's brochure and head editor of the *Human Rights & Development Watch* magazine.
- Established close interpersonal relationships with decision-makers within civil society, the donor community and relevant Ministries.
- On a regular basis travelled within the country and to the African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights maintaining essential contacts and human rights networks.

### NLR: Amsterdam, Netherlands

April, 1997 - Jan. 2004

Project Manager, National Aerospace Laboratory (NLR)

- Practical work experience in Toulouse, France.
- Project manager to teams of 4-6 in aviation research.

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- Managed project substantial budgets keeping overhead low.
- Directed the acquisition, design, and evaluation of projects funded by the European Commission.
- Experience with computer databases, web design, word processing and spreadsheets.

## Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

1993-1997

PhD Assistant, Social Sciences: Psychology & Health

- Lecturer, Methods of Experimental Research.
- PhD research on work related stress at the Research Institute for Psychology & Health.
- Relevant courses: Journalism, Database management, Display design, Web design, Monitoring and Evaluation; Project Management, Human Rights Education

# Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij (NAM): NL

Aug. 1992 - Dec. 1992

Occupational Psychologist, NAM

• Evaluating work of off-shore safety personnel to advise management about health risks.

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### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

#### KETSO: Kakua Educative Tree Seeds Orchard, Port Loko Sierra Leone

Jan, 2004 – now

Founder & Board chair

- Review strategy for global sustainability and vision.
- Capacity building of staff in juice production, agroforestry and tree planting.
- Acquisition leading to winning a prize in the Sierra Leone business Bomba sustainability challenge.
- Maintain contact with investors and Board of Directors.
- Ensure adherence to European Food Safety Law and Global-GAP Organic Certification procedures.

## **EDUCATION:**

# **Groningen University**

1985-1992

MSc, Psychology

Concentration: information processing, and cognitive psychology

# Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

1993-1997

PhD, Psychology

Occupational psychology

Relevant training: European Food Safety Law and Global-GAP Organic agricultural methods

## Language Skills:

English: fluent

Dutch: fluent

• French: reading proficiency

Krio: speaking proficiency

### **REFERENCES:** Available on request