

# Suleiman Wesonga Asman

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## EDUCATION

### **September 2020 – Strathmore Business School (SBS)**

Master of Public Policy and Management

### **May 2008: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA**

Evaluating Social Programs: Executive Training at J-PAL.

### **1996-2001: Egerton University, Njoro**

Bachelor of Agribusiness Management (BAM) Honors Degree

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## EXPERIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### **April 2018 – to date: Regional Director East Africa, Innovations for Poverty Action, Kenya**

Regional Director supporting countries in Eastern Africa from April 2018. Responsible for growing and strengthen IPA's research portfolio and operational presence across East African IPA offices to ensure that IPA's work influences local and regional decision-makers. Responsible for aligning priorities between IPA Global and Country Programs, coordinating and communicating these activities with IPA stakeholders, and ensuring that Country Programs portfolios are sustainable and well-positioned to achieve IPA's vision. Currently overseeing eight countries – Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, and Zambia.

### **May 2014 – March 2018: Country Director, Innovations for Poverty Action, Kenya**

Manage IPA operations in Kenya. I provide overall management support for IPA Kenya operations, including but not limited to strategic planning, negotiations with government bodies; management of personnel, legal and financial oversight; and planning for new and existing research projects, policy advocacy, and scale-up implementations. An exciting role that provides an opportunity to build on existing management experience and to develop organizational structures and systems for growing programs while also being involved in cutting-edge research and policy advocacy

### **Aug 2012 – May 2014: Research Manager, Innovations for Poverty Action, Kenya**

A supervisory role working closely with IPA's Kenyan country office to ensure adequate support is being given to research teams and that projects are working within the relevant policies and procedures. Participated in IPA's senior management strategy discussions and contributed to IPAK research policy development and capacity building. Key roles include:

- Supervision of seven research projects spread across Kenya.
- Provision of technical guidance on research design, survey development, data management and analysis, IRB compliance, and general project management.
- Participation in the project development process through partner outreaches, grant writing, and staff recruitment.
- Support in the dissemination of research results by writing or editing briefs, partner, and donor reports.
- Presentations to potential donors and partner organizations on the importance and use of Randomized Control Trials to evaluate development programs.
- Budgeting and enforcement of budgetary adherence.
- Staff training and capacity building.

- Onboarding new Project associates and Project Coordinators – initial training.

## **February 2011: University of Cape Town, South Africa**

Teaching Assistant for J-PAL Sponsored Course on evaluating social programs

## **Jan 2010 – Aug 2012: Project Coordinator – Innovations for Poverty Action, Kenya**

Managed four research projects based in different parts of Kenya. A versatile job that involved research design development, planning of field activities, data management, and finance management. Occasionally involved in running and management of projects outside Kenya: Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Specifically:

- Managed all aspects of four impact evaluations in Kenya:
  - "The Role of Mobile Banking in Expanding Trade Credit and Business Development in Kenya," 3 provinces - Nairobi, Central, and Rift valley
  - "Expanding Access to Micro Credit: The Role of Asset-Collateralized Loans", two provinces - Central and Rift valley
  - "The Economics of Slums in the Developing World" - Kibera slum - Nairobi
  - "Mobile Money: The Economics of M-PESA" – 4 years across the country
- Performed background research, held meetings with key informants (government officials, international and local non-governmental organizations, rural bank/SACCO staff, and research institutes), and led focus groups with rural populations.
- Trained survey teams and coordinated data collection in multiple rural and urban locations.
- Managed survey companies for quality and timely delivery of assignments.
- Negotiated for agreements and MoUs between local partners and IPA Kenya.
- Setting up of IPA satellite offices for purposes of efficiency in data collections and IRB compliance.

## **Jul 2007 – Dec 2009: Senior Evaluation Coordinator, Innovations for Poverty Action, Kenya**

The activities undertaken included maintaining regular communication between US-based Principal Investigators and Kenya-based field teams, helping each party understand the others' plans and needs. Led meetings with current and potential donors during their visits to Kenya. Drafted proposals in conjunction with evaluators and donors.

Other duties undertaken in the ordinary course of work included design and planning of field activities, Management of Data Entry, Management of Data Storage, ensuring Data Quality and Reporting: Writing quarterly reports for IPA Management and donors, Weekly reporting to academic collaborators based in the U.S., Kenya, or possibly other countries, Assisting in presentations of preliminary results to evaluation donors, Assisting in presentations of methodology and results to local authorities (i.e., District Commissioner, District Education Officer).

## **Nov 2009 – Jan 2010: Data Analyst, Financial Sector Deepening Trust, Kenya**

Recruited for two months on a job that focused on collecting financial data from groups in Nyanza and Eastern provinces. It also involved analysis of existing data as well as newly collected data.

## **Dec 2007 – Feb 2008: Consultant, Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (TSF-CIAT)**

A three-month consulting position in analyzing data and writing a draft report from data collected from Western Kenya in the long and short rain seasons on "Farmers' Evaluation of the IR-Maize Technology for the control of *Striga hermonthica* in Western Kenya."

## **Oct 2005 – Jun 2007: Technical Research Supervisor, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)**

A research consultant in Western Kenya on a collaborative Striga control project sponsored by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and implemented by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), involved in all planning phases of the studies, workshops, enumerator training, data collection (including geo-referencing of land size and land use), and supervision and data analysis.

## **2002-2004: Research Enumerator, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy Analysis and Development, Nairobi**

Took part in three different surveys, each on average for two months. Responsibilities that first introduced me to research work and data collection and supervision.

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## **PERSONAL**

**Skills:** Proficient in STATA, SPSS, Excel, Microsoft Access, Pendragon, and Blaise.

**Personal:** Critical time management, an ardent believer in fairness and efficiency, travel (Rwanda, South Africa, USA, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Turkey, Ghana, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia)

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## **REPORTS AND PAPERS COAUTHORED/SUPPORTED**

- Arega D. Alene, V.M. Manyong, G. Omany, H.D. Mignouna, M. Bokanga and G. Odhiambo (2008), "Smallholder market participation under transactions costs: Maize supply and fertilizer demand in Kenya," *Food Policy*, 33 (4), pp. 318-328.
- Arega D. Alene, Victor M. Manyong, Gospel O. Omany, Hodeba D. Mignouna, Mpoko Bokanga, and George D. Odhiambo. (2008), "Economic Efficiency and Supply Response of Women as Farm Managers: Comparative Evidence from Western Kenya," *World Development*, 36 (7), pp. 1247-1260.
- A. D. Alene, V.M. Manyong, O. B. Ayedun, V. Rweyendela, and A.S. Wesonga 2006, "Baseline Study of Striga Control Using IR Maize in Western Province," Research Report. AATF, Nairobi, Kenya and IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- A. D. Alene, V.M. Manyong, G. D. Odhiambo, O. B. Ayedun, V. Rweyendela, and A.S. Wesonga. S. J. Nindi 2007, "Farmers' Perception of IR-Maize Technology on the Control of Striga in Lake Victoria zone of Kenya," Report. AATF, Nairobi, Kenya and IITA, Ibadan Nigeria.
- A. D. Alene, V.M. Manyong, G. D. Odhiambo, O. B. Ayedun, V. Rweyendela, and A.S. Wesonga 2-007, "Farmers' Perception on Striga Control Technologies in Nyanza Province, Kenya," Report, AATF, Nairobi, Kenya and IITA, Ibadan Nigeria.
- A. D. Alene, V.M. Manyong, G. D. Odhiambo, O. B. Ayedun, V. Rweyendela, and A.S. Wesonga 2007, "Farmers' Perception on Striga Control Technologies in Western Province, Kenya," Report, AATF, Nairobi, Kenya and IITA, Ibadan Nigeria.
- Jack, William, and Tavneet Suri (2014), "Risk Sharing and Transactions Costs: Evidence from Kenya's Mobile Money Revolution," *American Economic Review*, January 2014.
- William Jack, Adam Ray and Tavneet Suri 2013, "Transaction Networks: Evidence from Mobile Money in Kenya," *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*, May 2013.

- William Jack, Thomas Stoker, and Tavneet Suri "Documenting the Birth of a Financial Economy," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, June 2012.
- Benjamin Marx, Thomas Stoker and Tavneet Suri 2013, "There Is No Free House: Ethnic Patronage and Property Rights in a Kenyan Slum," Working Paper, under review.
- Benjamin Marx, Thomas Stoker and Tavneet Suri 2013, "The Economics of Slums in the Developing World," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Fall 2013.

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## REFEREES

**Professor Tavneet Suri**

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