

CURRICULUM VITAE

Mr. Witness M.O.T. Alfonso

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SUMMARY

Witness Alfonso is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Public Opinion and Research. A well rounded individual, Witness has expertise in the fields of governance, public health, disaster, social protection, development, gender, education, public health and Political Economy. He holds a Master of Arts degree (Development Studies) from the University of Malawi, Chancellor College (2018) and a Bachelor of Arts Humanities Degree from Mzuzu University. He has been a team leader on several research assignments with exemplary results. Witness has excellent research skills which include proposal writing and development, instrument development, fieldwork team training, fieldwork management, data quality control, data analysis (SPSS, STATA, EXCEL, Nvivo), monitoring and evaluations, report writing and dissemination of study results. Witness is an independent, critical and analytical player, who has over the years developed and advanced himself as a researcher with strong quantitative and qualitative research skills. He is a trainer, team player and builder, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills and fluent in English, Chichewa, Tumbuka, and Yao languages.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

1. Master of Arts in Development Studies-University of Malawi, Chancellor College.
 - Thesis title: "Determinants of loan default in Public Microfinance: The case of the Malawi Enterprise Development Fund.
2. Bachelor of Arts *Upper Second Class* – Mzuzu University, 2012
 - Thesis title: "An investigation into the response of the Mzuzu Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church towards the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goal

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

- 1- **Senior Research Associate**, Institute of Public Opinion and Research (IPOR)
Zomba, 2016 to date.

Duties

- Developing research proposals by responding to calls or request for proposals
- Facilitating research clearance process
- Developing study budgets
- Developing study instrument
- Training survey teams

- Fieldwork monitoring and management
- Data Cleaning and Analysis
- Writing technical field and study reports
- Disseminating/ Presenting study findings/ results
- Mentoring junior researchers
- Representing management in professional meetings and conferences

Projects Management

1. **Research Team Member:** Malawi Pre-Election and Governance Survey (May-June 2020). Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
2. **Research Team Member:** Malawi Covid-19 Survey (April-May 2020). Programme for Governance and Local Development
3. **Research Team Member:** Afrobarometer round 8 survey (November-December 2019). Centre for Social Research and Afrobarometer
4. **Researcher:** Midline Evaluation of the Malawi Public School Survey (October – December 2019). Centre for Evaluation and Development and World Bank
5. **Field Manager:** Governance and Local Development Survey: Understanding Social Institutions in Sub Saharan Africa. Programme for Governance and Local Development; University of Gothenburg, Sweden (September –November 2019)
6. **Consultant:** Assessment of Mainstreaming Youth Friendly Health Services on Service Quality and Voluntary Contraceptive Uptake: Measure Evaluation, UNC (Sept-December 2018)
7. **Co-Investigator:** Midline and Endline Evaluation of the United in Building and Advancing Life Expectations Project (UBALE; Sept-Nov 2018 and August-October 2019)
8. **Consultant:** Chifumira Kudzira Community Dialogues Nutrition Project-Story Workshop funded by UNICEF
9. **Field Manager:** Sociological Analysis of Traditional Authorities in Malawi -USAID (Qualitative and Quantitative study)-March-June 2018)
10. **Researcher:** Qualitative research on Malawi Resilience and Sustainable Poverty Escapes. Overseas Development Initiative (March-April 2018)

11. **Researcher:** Qualitative study on assessing the Institutional Coordination of Malawi's Social protection Sector. Overseas Development Initiative (June-July 2018)
12. **Co-Principal Investigator:** Zathu Wave One Tracker Survey. M&C Saatch for Girl Effect Malawi (September-November 2017)
13. **Field Manager:** Understanding the Information Needs, Communication Patterns, Preferences and Media Consumption Habits of Malawian Youth (partnered with M&C Saatch World Services for UNICEF Malawi: November to December 2016)
14. **Field Manager:** Chiefs in Democracy Study: A study conducted for Chancellor College's Political and Administrative Studies department.
15. **Team Leader:** Malawi Population based HIV Impact Assessment- **Centre Social Research and ICAP (September 2015- July 2016)**
16. **Team Leader:** Religion and Family Planning: Evaluation of the Impact of Population Weekends on Family Planning Adoption (IPOR-2015)

OTHER RESEARCH WORKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Supervisor:** Water For All Project (3rd phase October 2016)- **Centre for Social Research; University of Malawi**
2. **Supervisor:** Governance and Local Development Municipal Survey: Access to Social and Economic Services in Malawi (February to March 2016)-**Institute of Public Opinion and Research**
3. **Supervisor:** Disability and Access to Safe Water Hygiene and Sanitation: Scale of the problem, barriers to improvement and strategies for mitigation in Rumphi district. Evaluation of the Implementation Phase (December 2015) **Centre for Social Research; University of Malawi**
4. **Supervisor:** Water for All Project (July to September 2015 SALIMA)-**Centre for Social Research; University of Malawi**
5. **Supervisor:** Qualitative Research on the Social Cash Transfers and Rural Women Economic Empowerment (July 2015)-**FAO and Centre for Social Research; University of Malawi**
6. **Supervisor:** Floods and Droughts through Gendered Lens (February – March 2015)-**GOAL Malawi**

7. **Supervisor-** Disability and Access to Safe Water Hygiene and Sanitation: Scale of the problem, barriers to improvement and strategies for mitigation in Rumphi district (September to December 2014)- **Centre for Social Research, University Of Malawi**
8. **Supervisor:** Afrobarometer Round six survey (2014)- **Centre for Social Research, University Of Malawi**
9. **Research Assistant:** Afrobarometer Round five survey (2012)- **Centre for Social Research, University Of Malawi**
10. **Supervisor:** Comprehensive National Human Resources Survey (2012- 2013)-**Staff Development Institute**

TRAININGS ATTENDED

1. Quantitative Research Analysis and Report Writing, February 2020, Programme for Governance and Local Development, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
2. Quantitative Research designing and Analysis (November –December 2019), Afrobarometer 2019 Summer school, University of Capetown, South Africa
3. Proposal Writing and Development (2017), Centre for Social Research; Chancellor College
4. Certificate in the use of Demographic Health Surveys Data (2014), USAID and Department of Population Studies, Chancellor College

RESEARCH PAPERS/CONSULTANCY REPORTS

1. Barden-O’Fallon, J., Evans, S., Thakwalakwa, C., Alfonso, W., and Jackson, A., (2020) Evaluation of mainstreaming youth-friendly health in private clinics in Malawi. *BMC Health Service Res* 20,79.
2. Dulani, B., Chunga, J., Alfonso, W., and Swila, H. (2017). United In Building and Advancing Life Expectations Midline Evaluation Report. *Submitted to the University of Notre Damme Monitoring and Evaluation Department.*
3. Alfonso, W. and Dulani, B. (November, 2017). Zathu Wave One Tracker Survey Report submitted to M&C Saatch World Services.
4. Alfonso, W., and Dulani, B. (September, 2017). ‘Strengthened Citizen’s Participation for Development Resources and Results’ in Nkhatabay district. End of Project Evaluation Report. *Submitted to Catholic Commission for Justice and of Mzuzu Diocese*

5. Dulani, B., Alfonso, W., and Masumbu, M. (2017). Understanding the Information Needs, Communication Patterns, Preferences and Media Consumption Habits of Malawian Youth (January, 2017). *Report submitted to M&C Saatch World Services.*

COMPETENCIES

- Proposal development and writing
- Skills in quantitative data analysis using SPSS, STATA, EXCEL and Qualitative data analysis using thematic analysis and NVivo
- Excellent Computer skills in Microsoft Windows Applications (Word, Excel, Publisher, and power point)

HOBBIES

- Reading and writing, listening to music, watching and playing soccer

REFERENCES

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