

September 2019

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**SMART Africa
Center**



**SECURING OUR
CHILDREN'S
FUTURE TODAY**

Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

We hope you will enjoy the latest updates from SMART Africa and ICHAD. The ICHAD and SMART Africa teams had another productive month as we had four of our abstracts accepted for presentation at the 2020 [Society for Social Work and Research's Annual Conference](#), received three new grants, and held our first speaker series of the academic year. Our field teams continued to recruit new study participants, collect data and deliver interventions. This month, we also began recruitment for our new T37 Training Program. More information can be found on [our website](#) and below. Also, please enjoy this short video, [highlighting key moments from the 4th Annual Conference on Child Behavioral Health in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) that was held in Masaka, Uganda this past summer.

As always, please feel free to share any news or updates you would like us to include in our upcoming newsletter [here](#).

Best Regards,
ICHAD and SMART Africa Teams

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD



SMART Africa-Uganda

SMART Africa-Uganda is a scale-up study in Uganda that utilizes an adapted version of the evidence-based Multiple Family Group (MFG) intervention. This intervention has 16 sessions that aim to address behavioral health challenges in children and adolescents. This month, the team completed qualitative interviews for six facilitators and two head teachers across the four schools that completed the MFG intervention this month. These interviews were meant to develop an in-depth understanding of barriers to daily session attendance by families as well as determine issues of sustainability and replicability of the intervention. Additionally, the team completed 6-month follow-up assessments with guardians and children at four schools to assess how families were doing post intervention. The team has completed 93.3% of the participant assessments, in addition to the facilitator assessments.

A different group of four treatment arm schools receiving the MFG intervention has completed up to session 15 (of 16) of the MFG manual this month. As this group nears completion, the team is preparing to enroll an additional 12 schools in the treatment arm. The SMART Africa team has started training both parent peers and Community Health Care workers as facilitators to deliver the MFG sessions in these schools and have covered the first nine sessions. Many thanks to the Ugandan team for your great work during this busy field season!



SMART Africa-Kenya

SMART Africa-Kenya is a pilot study that tests the effectiveness of the Multiple Family Group (MFG) intervention amongst approximately 180 children and their caregivers in Kiambu County, Kenya. In September, the Kenya team conducted baseline assessments with all study participants and delivered the MFG sessions in three schools. Participants continue to express enthusiasm about the program. Great work, Kenya team for all your progress this month!



SMART Africa-Ghana

SMART Africa-Ghana is a pilot study that tests the effectiveness of the Multiple Family Group (MFG) Intervention amongst approximately 180 children and their caregivers in northern Ghana. The Ghana team continues to progress with the study implementation. In September, the team continued with the delivery of the MFG session in treatment schools, with a participation rate of more than 80 percent. Families continue to be enthusiastic about the sessions and the impacts they are having within their families. The team also entered data that was collected from the control schools. Keep up the great work Ghana team!



Suubi4Cancer

Suubi4Cancer seeks to identify confirmed and suspected cancer cases among a cohort of more than 3,000 youth living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. The team is actively collecting data and hopes to conclude the process by the end of the month. Data has been extracted from nine participating health facilities with more than 1,000 files already in the database. The Uganda team is coordinating with the St. Louis team to ensure data triangulation and quality. Also, congratulations to the team for submitting your first paper to the Cancer Causes and Control Journal!



Suubi4Her

Suubi4Her seeks to examine the impact and costs associated with an innovative combination intervention that aims to prevent HIV risk behaviors in communities heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS. In September, the Suubi4Her team delivered Multiple Family Group (MFG) intervention sessions in another set of 4 treatment schools (the first 4 schools completed all 16 sessions in August). Delivery of Financial Literacy Training (FLT) intervention sessions is also ongoing with the support of our partners Stanbic and Equity Banks. In addition, the 12-month follow-up assessment exercise is almost complete. A total of 1112 (out of 1260) participants from 46 schools (out of 47) have been interviewed. Congratulations to the Uganda team on all your efforts in the field!

Suubi4Her mHealth

Suubi4Her now has an mhealth component which is a cross-sectional collaborative project between ICHAD's faculty affiliate, Dr. Patricia Cavazos at Washington University's School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Dr. Fred Ssewamala (ICHAD Director). This study seeks to examine access and utilization of mobile phones (technology) and the acceptability of mhealth interventions among adolescent girls. Specifically, the study assesses behavioral health and psychosocial functioning, cell phone access, as well as beliefs and attitudes about tobacco, alcohol, substance use, sexual decision-making, and HIV-risk factors. A total of 118 surveys have been completed with randomly selected adolescents girls participating in the Suubi4Her study. The next phase of this study will include qualitative interviews in the form of focus group discussions with selected adolescents girls. The team hopes that results from the pilot study will provide a foundation to develop longitudinal studies that employ technology in the delivery of HIV risk reduction interventions among adolescents in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study is coordinated by William Byansi, a 3rd year PhD Student at Washington University Brown School and a Research Associate with SMART Africa and ICHAD.



Kyaterekera

The Kyaterekera Project is focused on reducing new incidences of sexually transmitted infections and HIV among female sex workers through a combination of economic empowerment, vocational skills training, and HIV risk reduction sessions. In September, the Kyaterekera team continued to recruit study participants. To date, 386 participants out of the targeted 990, have been recruited from 12 sites. All participants have completed baseline assessments. The team started delivering Financial Literacy Training (FLT) sessions to participants in the treatment arms. Participants in the first set of 4 treatment arm sites have received all 4 FLT sessions. For this exercise, the team is working with bank officials from Stanbic and Equity Banks to open up matched savings accounts for the study participants. This study was also recently highlighted in the Record at Washington University. You can read more [here](#). Congratulations Kyaterekera team, for your continued progress on this important study!

UPDATES FROM ICHAD AND SMART AFRICA TEAMS

NEW TEAM MEMBERS



**RACHEL
BRATHWAITE,
PHD**



**JESSICA
MCKAY**



**PORTIA
NARTEY**



**BRADLEY
HAMILTON**

ICHAD and SMART Africa Welcome New Team Members!

Please join us in welcoming our new masters students Phionah Namatovu, Rashida Namirembe, Lexa Stoppel, and Lily Zmachinski to the ICHAD and SMART Africa teams and congratulations to Wilberforce Tumwesige, a recent Brown School MSW-graduate who was recently hired to provide administrative support to SMART Africa and coordinate our Suubi4Her study.

Phionah Namatovu joins the team fresh off of her role as Study Coordinator for the SMART Africa Center in Uganda, as an MPH student at the Brown School. A Quantitative Economist by training, Phionah will continue to work for SMART Africa to coordinate the research and assist with data analysis and project dissemination activities. Phionah is interested in influencing policy by using evidence-based practices to improve behavioral health outcomes among children in vulnerable communities.

Rashida Namirembe also transitioned from her role as a Deputy Study Coordinator for ICHAD-Uganda, where she helped coordinate the Kyaterekera Study. She is currently working towards her MSW degree with a concentration in Children, Youth and Families at the Brown School. Rashida will continue to be engaged with the Kyaterekera study from the U.S.-side assisting with study coordination and dissemination. Rashida earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Uganda Christian University, Mukono where she interned with Uganda Youth Development Link and Reproductive Health Uganda. She engaged in conducting group and individual counseling sessions for young people living with HIV, sexually exploited children, and young mothers among others.

Lexa Stoppel is an MPH student with a concentration in Global Health, who will be assisting the team with capacity building and dissemination initiatives. Originally from St. Louis, Lexa received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. During her undergraduate studies, she participated in medical and community development work with non-profit organizations in Kenya, Uganda, Belize, and Haiti. After receiving her Bachelor of Science, she worked in community clinics as a patient advocate, diabetes educator, and volunteer program coordinator through Community HealthCorps, a branch of AmeriCorps, in Waco, Texas.

Finally, Lily Zmachinski also joined the team to assist with the SMART Africa Center. Her research interests involve the disparity of mental health services on a global scale. Prior to attending Washington University, she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador, which provided her with in-depth field experience working to benefit at-risk youth. Lily has research experience investigating trauma exposure, protective factors, and behavioral outcomes at Tulane University in the Child and Family Lab. Welcome to the team everyone!



NEW R21
to Address
Female Youth
Migration in
Ghana

Dr. Ozge Sensoy Bahar

New R21 to Address Female Youth Migration in Ghana

Congratulations to ICHAD Co-Director Ozge Sensoy Bahar who was recently awarded an R21. The grant, funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, seeks to address the urgent need for evidence-based interventions that prevent poor female youth's rural-to-urban migration for child labor in low and middle-income countries. Specifically, the study will test an innovative combination intervention among 100 girls ages 11-14 at risk of dropping out of school and their caregivers. The control group will receive bolstered usual care, including books and school lunch and the treatment group will receive a combination intervention combining an evidence-informed family-level economic empowerment aimed at creating and strengthening financial stability through the use of matched children savings accounts (CSA) and microfinance in poor households combined with a multiple family group (MFG) intervention to address family communication and parental beliefs around gender and child labor/education.



NEW PILOT GRANT
to Explore Diet
and Health
Risks in Refugee
Communities

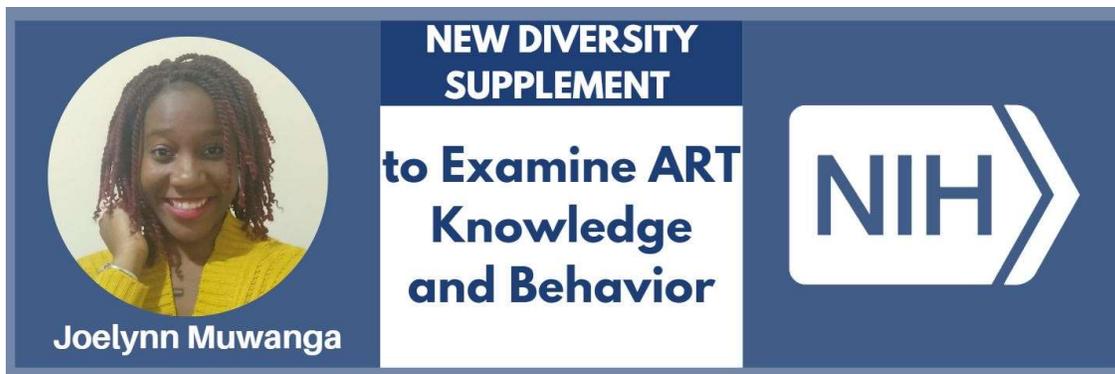
Dr. Proscovia Nabunya

Dr. Habiba Ibrahim

New Pilot Grant will Explore Diet and Health Risks in Refugee Communities

Congratulations to ICHAD Co-Director Dr. Proscovia Nabunya and ICHAD faculty affiliate Dr. Habiba Ibrahim on receiving a pilot grant award from Washington University's Center for

Diabetes Translation Research (CDTR) to explore food-related experiences and risk factors associated with diabetes among immigrants and refugees from eastern Africa, as they try to adapt to new cultures and food environments in the United States. The study will also explore the factors that influence or hinder the adaptation to food among immigrants and refugees as well as diabetes-related knowledge, beliefs and prevention attitudes. The team will work with the International Institute of St. Louis – one of the largest refugee resettlement agencies in the United States, to recruit study participants. Findings from this pilot study will inform the development of culturally appropriate and tailored interventions that target risk factors associated with diabetes among African immigrants.



**NEW DIVERSITY
SUPPLEMENT**

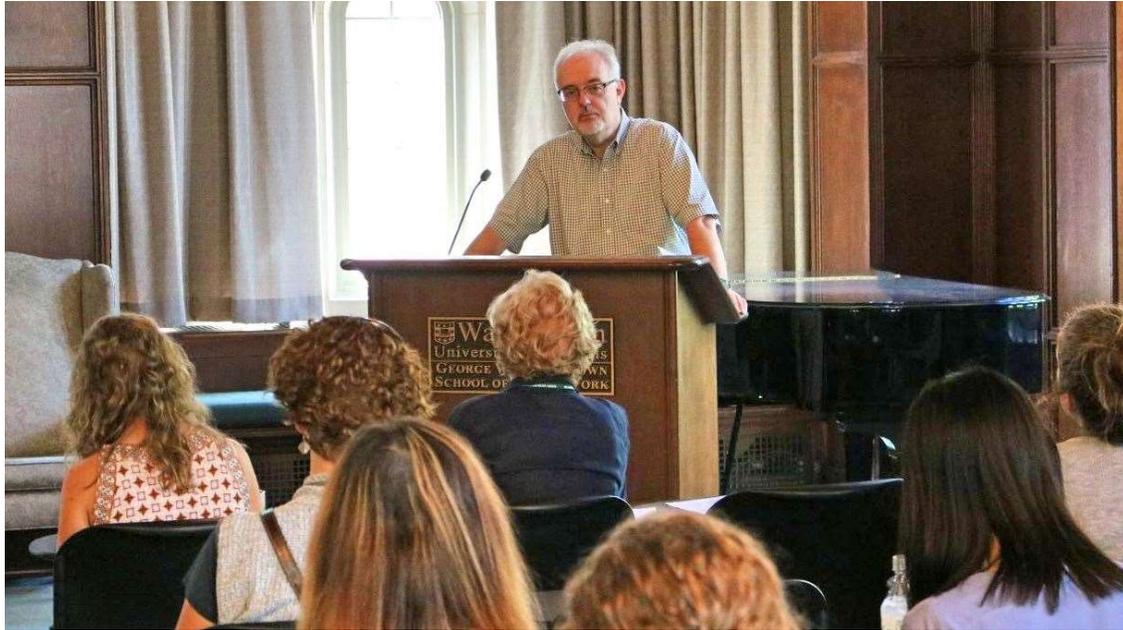
**to Examine ART
Knowledge
and Behavior**

NIH

Joelynn Muwanga

New Administrative/Diversity Supplement

Congratulations to ICHAD Research Assistant Joelynn Muwanga who has been awarded an administrative diversity supplement by the National Institute of Mental Health under the ongoing Suubi4Her study. This new supplement will assess the impact of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and attitudes on HIV testing behavior and adherence among the study participants. The study findings will enrich extant literature about the attitudes and perceptions of adolescent girls (an HIV vulnerable population) towards ART and provide insight which will be useful in informing the development of interventions, diagnosis, treatment and management of HIV, including adherence to ART. Joelynn will work on this study under the mentorship of ICHAD Director, Dr. Fred Ssewamala.



Dr. William Powderly Presents at the ICHAD and SMART Africa Speaker Series

Dr. William Powderly, Director of the Institute for Public Health, launched ICHAD and SMART Africa's joint speaker series for a new academic year with his presentation entitled, "*Linking Discovery Science and Public Health*." On September 4, Dr. Powderly spoke to a crowd of students, faculty, and staff at Washington University in St. Louis about how to enhance public health in the precision medicine era. He specifically spoke to some of the challenges, particularly in low resource communities, of focusing on individualized treatment vs. addressing the social determinants of health. Ultimately, our health system should combine population-based and individualized interventions to improve population health and narrow health disparities. Our sincerest thanks to Dr. Powderly for sharing his research and insight and for starting the series on such an inspiring note!

CAPACITY BUILDING

Training LEADers to Accelerate Global Mental Health Disparities Research Program

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Applications Due on December 1 for a New Training Opportunity

The recently awarded “[Training LEADers to Accelerate Global Mental Health Disparities Research](#)” (LEAD) T37 has begun recruiting our first cohort of trainees for Summer 2020. The LEAD Training Program will support pre- and postdoctoral trainees from underrepresented groups committed to conducting health disparities research, with a specific focus on global mental health prevention, intervention, services, and implementation research within resource-constrained settings. Phase 1 of the training program consists of 2-4 weeks at Washington University in St. Louis for targeted skills and didactic seminars plus field-based research experiences within the St. Louis community. Phase 2 consists of up to 8 weeks of mentored training in one of eight Sub-Saharan countries, with a current NIH-funded Mental Health Intervention. Applications are due December 1, 2019 and can be completed on the [LEAD Training Program](#) website.

FELLOWS CORNER



Dr. Ernestina Korleki Dankyi

Congratulations to SMART Africa Global Fellow and Research Fellow at the Centre for Social Policy Studies at the University of Ghana, Dr. Ernestina Korleki Dankyi for being awarded a [grant by the Society for Research in Child Development](#) (SRCD). This grant will explore the harsh conditions experienced by Street Children in Ghana and examine the existing institutions and programs for street children and how these are positioned to meet the sustainable development goals. In addition to this grant, Dr. Dankyi was invited to present her findings at the SRDC's Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland this past March. Dr. Dankyi, along with SMART Africa Kenya member Dr. Keng-Yen Huang, presented on "*Mental Health Experiences of Street Children in Ghana and the Sustainable Development Goals*," which highlighted the daily risks these street children face, and the effects on their long-term potential. Dr. Dankyi is also working on a related manuscript about the factors associated with street children's mental health in Ghana's Golden Triangle Cities. Focusing on capacity building efforts, Dr. Dankyi also participated in a career guidance talk entitled: "Working as a Social Worker" hosted by the Association of African Universities, where she discussed the various roles social worker can play and the ethics that are involved in the profession. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Congratulations Dr. Dankyi on all your recent accomplishments!

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



Global Implementation Conference (GIC) Presentation

As one of the largest implementation conferences, the GIC brings together practitioners from across the world to discuss implementation science, practice, and policy. This year's conference was held September 15-17 in Glasgow, Scotland. ICHAD and SMART Africa were represented by our implementation partner and ChildFund Director, Mr. Simba Machingaidze. Mr. Machingaidze presented on a panel entitled, *"Implementation Research for Contextualized Sustainability in Low-Income Countries and the Role of Government, Academia, Communities, and NGOs."* In his presentation, Mr. Machingaidze discussed how SMART Africa has used the Practical, Robust Implementation and Sustainability Model (PRISM) as a guiding principle for our work through collaboration with community stakeholders, task-shifting and policymaker engagement to create multi-level influences on our evidence-based Multiple Family Group intervention. He also provided background on SMART Africa and ChildFund's roles in developing the Child and Adolescent Mental Health policy guidelines that were presented to the Ugandan government and discussed how the SMART Africa scale-up study utilizes Uganda's National Development Plan and Vision 2040 objectives in our work. Many thanks to Mr. Machingaidze for representing SMART Africa and our work so well at this conference!

SOCIAL CORNER



Conference Celebration/Student Welcome

The ICHAD and SMART Africa teams (who never need an excuse to celebrate) met at Salt and Smoke in September to welcome our new students and celebrate the completion of our successful 4th Annual Conference on Child Behavioral Health in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Ssewamala thanked everyone for their hard work and during the qualitative portion of the evening, we determined that Salt and Smokes “Trashed Wings” will be placed on our regular order list.



September 12 - An Amazing day for the ICHAD/SMART Africa Teams!

And then there were three more! Let September 12, 2019 go down in the ICHAD history books as we welcomed three new mini-members on the same day. Malaika Abigail Bbaale, Liam Mutebi, and Fenris Yang all burst onto the scene last month and we could not be happier. Congratulations to staff members Jacqueline Bbaale, Ronald Mutebi, and Lyla Yang for your new additions!

UPCOMING EVENTS

A promotional banner for a speaker series. On the left is a portrait of Dr. Benjamin Ola Akande, a Black man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie. To the right of the portrait is a dark blue background with white text. At the top left of this background is the 'ichad Brown School' logo with the tagline 'SECURING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE TODAY'. To the right is the 'SMART Africa Center Brown School' logo with a globe icon. The main text in the center reads 'SPEAKER SERIES' in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom, it says 'October 2019' in white capital letters.

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SPEAKER SERIES

October 2019

Speaker Series: Dr. Benjamin Ola. Akande

Dr. Benjamin Ola. Akande, Assistant Vice Chancellor of International Programs-Africa, and the Associate Director of the Global Health Center, will be presenting at ICHAD and SMART Africa's October Speaker Series. His presentation, *"My American Journey: A 40 year perspective from an African in America"* will take place at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, October 29 in Goldfarb Room 132. You can register for the event [here](#).

A banner for the Qualitative Health Research Conference. It features a black background with white text. At the top left is the University of Alberta logo and the text 'UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY'. The main text in the center reads 'QUALITATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE' in large, bold, white capital letters. Below that, it says 'VANCOUVER - CANADA' and 'OCTOBER 25 - 29, 2019'. On the right side, there is a colorful graphic of a tree with various icons (like a plus sign, a person, a gear, etc.) on its branches.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

QUALITATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

VANCOUVER - CANADA

OCTOBER 25 - 29, 2019

Qualitative Health Research Conference

The Qualitative Health Research Conference (QHR) is a three-day annual conference focusing on qualitative research in health disciplines. This year it is being held in Vancouver, Canada on October 25-29, 2019. This conference includes presentations, posters, discussion sessions, networking events and more. [You can learn more here](#).



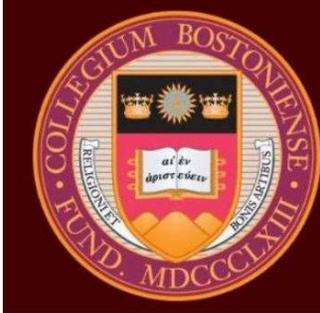
33rd Annual Research & Policy Conference

Since 1988, this annual conference has been a leader in promoting the development of the research base essential to improved service systems for children and youth with mental health challenges and their families. Known widely as “*The Tampa Conference*,” this annual gathering of more than 700 researchers, evaluators, policymakers, administrators, parents, and advocates is sponsored by Child & Family Studies at the University of South Florida. [You can learn more here.](#)

OPPORTUNITIES



ICHAD is hiring a Study Coordinator to manage the day-to-day activities of an NIH-funded R01, to include: coordinate research activities, assist with the submission and tracking of IRB protocols, conduct data analysis, develop study progress reports, and disseminate study findings among other things. You can apply [here](#). (Job number 45467)



BOSTON COLLEGE

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Openings

[Boston College School of Social Work](#) is looking for a postdoctoral fellow for the [Research Program on Children and Adversity \(RPCA\)](#) to work on the implementation science, research project at the direction of Drs. [Theresa Betancourt](#) (PI) and Alethea Desrosiers (Co-PI). The postdoctoral fellow will be required to spend at least 50% time in Sierra Leone, with the option of based in-country. The remaining time will be at Boston College. The postdoctoral fellow will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of data collection and management, data analysis, study design, and implementation science related to the project. A strong focus of this position is to provide skills in multilevel modeling, data analysis, study design oversight, scientific writing, and implementation science processes. Previous NIH experience is also highly desired. You can learn more [here](#).

There is also a Postdoctoral Research Fellow opening at the [Research Program on Children and Adversity \(RPCA\)](#) at Boston College. This program focuses on improving protections and care for children, youth, and families facing multiple forms of adversity, including due to armed conflict, poverty, and infectious disease. The Program is devoted to applied cross-cultural research in health and human rights. RPCA research directly addresses strategies and methods to close the global implementation gap in providing protections and effective services for youth and families experiencing adversity. You can learn more [here](#).

UCLA

Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program

The University of California Los Angeles recently posted a full-time opportunity in Epidemiology. The [UCLA Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program in Global AIDS Prevention Research](#) lasts three years and will involve the completion of at least one major HIV prevention research project in a global setting. Fellows must also make a research presentation in at least one major scientific conference and be published as a first author in leading scientific journals. UCLA will close the application for this position on December 16, 2019.

awid

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) is an international, feminist, membership organization committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development, and women's human rights. They currently have several job listings available for positions in different organizations around the world. Job opportunities can be found [here](#).



ICRW is made up of a diverse staff that is committed to alleviating global poverty by helping women and girls in developing countries improve their lives. The organization values a collegial and stimulating work environment in which employees feel valued, challenged and respected. ICRW offers a variety of job opportunities in research, administration, finance, and communications. In addition, they offer post-doctoral fellowships and internships. Job opportunities can be found [here](#).



Global Health Council (GHC) is the leading membership organization supporting and connecting advocates, implementers and stakeholders around global health priorities worldwide. The GHC job board is your resource for thousands of resumes and interested job seekers in the global health field. As the largest group of global health organizations in the United States, GHC has a broad network of NGOs, universities, companies, and partners that, together, created the most comprehensive job board for the global health sector. Job opportunities can be found [here](#).

SMART Africa Center
International Center For Child Health and

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