

WANGECHI GITHAIGA CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

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Location: Nairobi, Kenya

SUMMARY

International development professional with multi-sector experience in education, gender, health, and WASH, with a strong track record in grant writing, proposal development, donor engagement, and strategic communications for fundraising. Skilled at translating complex programmatic goals into clear, compelling, and highly competitive proposals, coordinating inputs across multidisciplinary teams to deliver polished, high-quality submissions. Brings proven research and writing capabilities to advance evidence-based programming and strategic social investment in humanitarian and development contexts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Fundraising and Strategic Partnerships Contractor

Remote | March 2024 – Present | 1 year 10 months

Provide end-to-end proposal development, donor communications, and strategic partnership support to nonprofit, philanthropic, and social enterprise clients across education, gender justice, humanitarian response, and rural infrastructure. Leads research, narrative development, and coordination with senior leadership and technical teams to produce competitive funding submissions. Key successes with organizations I have worked with:

- [Freely In Hope](#) is a survivor-led organization providing education pathways for survivors of sexual violence and advancing child protection within schools. Led donor-focused proposal development and business development support, including responding to Terms of Reference (ToRs), prospecting new funding and consultancy opportunities, and supporting the organization's transition toward consultancy-based income. Developed and wrote winning proposals and donor materials, securing the organization's first multi-year partnership with Together Women Rise (\$50,000) to support safe learning environments for 3,000 girls in informal settlements. Produced advocacy-focused funding narratives and institutional briefings, including documentation for Ministry of Education trainings to advance survivor-led safeguarding frameworks within school systems.
- [The Fund for Congolese Women](#) is a national feminist grantmaking fund having supported 650+ grassroots women-led projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Secured \$115,000 in funding through GlobalGiving, the .ORG Impact Awards, and Daughters for Earth, supporting feminist philanthropy and movement-building across the DRC. Led emergency fundraising efforts in response to the early 2025 humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC, securing funding from the Irene M. Staehelin Foundation to support displaced and conflict-affected communities. I secured a \$65,000 partnership with GlobalGiving to support online campaigns across multiple programs and helped lead emergency fundraising during the 2025 eastern DRC refugee crisis, generating a \$50,000 contribution from the Irene M. Staehelin Foundation. Drafted executive-level speeches and strategic talking points to support international donor engagement, including for the organization's receipt of the Mother Teresa Humanitarian Prize. Led written briefings and strategic preparation for participation in high-level convenings with institutional funders and networks, including the UN Commission on the Status of Women (New York), the Women's Funding Network (Washington DC), and the Africa Philanthropy Network Conference (Zimbabwe).

- [Beyond Water](#) is a social enterprise delivering rural water services in Malawi. Developed high-impact funding proposals that were shortlisted as semi-finalist submissions for the Lipman Prize (University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School) and the Dovetail Impact Foundation. Led full-cycle proposal development to institutional and multilateral donors, including the SDG Impact Finance Initiative (a donor collective comprising GIZ, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and KOICA), articulating blended-finance models to scale rural water service delivery. Produced clear, persuasive technical and financial narratives that translated complex financing mechanisms into funder-ready submissions, strengthening the organization's competitiveness for large-scale, systems-level funding.

Development Manager, Sanku

Tanzania | 2022 – 2024 | 2yrs

[Sanku](#) is a global nutrition organization using tech-enabled fortification to reach 7M+ people.

Here, I led the design, writing, and management of 20+ complex multi-year, multi-country grants, securing over \$5M from donors including the Gates Foundation, Mulago Foundation, World Vision, Dovetail Impact Foundation, and Bayer Foundation. Produced high-level donor briefings, supported strategic funder engagement (contributing to \$1.5M in new funding) and acted as rapporteur in senior-level convenings with government and development stakeholders, tracking commitments and documenting outcomes to support follow-up and accountability.

Business Development Lead, Africa YES Centre

Kenya | 2021 | 1yr

Africa YES Centre empowers young entrepreneurs to realize their full potential and build sustainable social enterprises in Kenya. In this role, I secured a \$10,000 partnership with a European donor within my first three months and played a leading role in shaping the team's fundraising strategy, including designing targeted engagement approaches for different donor segments.

Grants Management Associate, Educate!

Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda | 2018 – 2020 | 2yrs

[Educate!](#) is an education nonprofit social enterprise partnering with schools and governments to equip youth with skills for economic success. Supported grant and program management for education initiatives across three East African countries, overseeing donor reporting, compliance, and funder communications for a major portion of the organization's portfolio. Produced clear, funder-ready reports and strategic updates to document results, capture learning, and strengthen donor relationships. Led an international donor visit and due diligence process resulting in a \$100,000 award. Co-led the design and rollout of a Salesforce-based donor management system (NPSP), customizing workflows and analytics to improve proposal tracking, reporting quality, and data-driven fundraising strategy.

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Bachelor of Laws (LLB, Hons), Strathmore University, Kenya