

PiAf Final Report I for Upload

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Quick View Information

PiAf Final Report I for Upload

Report Name (Org_Country_Year_Report Type)

PSI Cote d'Ivoire_Benin_2021-22_Final_report

Fellowship Year

2021-2022

Fellowship Organization

Population Services International (PSI)

Fellowship City

Cotonou

Fellowship Country

Benin

Please summarize all of the fellowship work you did this year as you would on your resume.

This past year, I served as a regional communications and evidence fellow in Francophone West Africa and Mozambique. I conducted the qualitative analysis of 60+ semi-structured interviews and quantitative analysis of 6000+ data points from projects focused on increasing family planning, safe abortion, and cervical cancer screening access/uptake. I also served as an author of various documentation reports, learning briefs, and journal abstracts for projects in Mozambique and Francophone West Africa; 2 were accepted for presentation by the International Conference on Family Planning. Finally, I coordinated a regional social media campaign in French on Meta (Facebook) to promote awareness about preventing unwanted pregnancies; the campaign reached 1.8 million users across Francophone West Africa.

List the three things that you are most proud of contributing to your fellowship organization over the past year.

1. Coordinating and leading a regional social media campaign that reached nearly 2 million people with messages about preventing unwanted pregnancies.
2. Conducting a qualitative analysis of nearly 60 interview transcripts regarding the successes and challenges of a social marketing program for family planning and safe abortion.
3. Developing a file of code in STATA to quantitatively analyze 6000 client records from a cervical cancer screening and family planning integration project.

Do you feel like you are a more competitive candidate for the types of jobs or academic programs you would like to pursue after your fellowship as a result of your PiAf fellowship experience?

Yes

Please briefly explain why you do or do not feel like a more competitive candidate for the types of jobs or academic programs you would like to pursue after your fellowship.

I feel that my PiAf fellowship has definitely made me a more competitive candidate for the types of jobs or academic programs I would like to pursue after my fellowship—such as being a public health researcher or program manager. It gave me real-world exposure and experience with qualitative and quantitative analysis, communications, report writing, and project coordination skills that would be crucial to these kinds of jobs. It has also given me considerable technical knowledge in sexual and reproductive health that would be invaluable in various public health or international development graduate programs that I would consider applying to. Finally, my fellowship gave me an insight into the more clinical side of public health and some exposure to research and knowledge in that area; I am now considering medical school as a result and thank my fellowship for giving me that exposure/perspective.

What have you learned about your own values and worldview through this year?

I have learned that my own values and worldview have previously been shaped in large part by the places in which I've lived, the people with whom I've interacted, and the institutions under which I have studied and worked. This year, especially with the complicated nature of working remotely for most of the year, has allowed me to begin shaping my values and worldview more independently of these past experiences and in conversation with the diverse set of colleagues I had the pleasure to work with. I have better understood what it means to engage responsibly in international development on the African continent, how this impacts my desirable jobs and hopes for the future, etc. I have adopted a more realistic understanding of international development work and what its limitations and benefits truly are, and how much work plays into those.

Looking back, what does PiAf mean to you? How did this experience affect you? What did you learn or gain from your fellowship?

PiAf to me truly means a community through which I can engage and learn from like-minded yet incredibly diverse individuals. PiAf is a space that challenges and inspires me, and one in which I have experienced considerable personal, intellectual, and professional growth. I learned so many technical and knowledge skills throughout my fellowship, but I also gained: a community of fellows and friends; considerable mentorship and support; an evolved worldview and values; and crucially a better understanding of where I'd like to take my future academic and professional endeavors.

What will you miss most once your fellowship has ended?

I will miss the teams I had the opportunity to work with, and especially my supervisors—who were absolutely wonderful and gave me so much support and guidance so that I could succeed. I will also miss the community of PiAf fellows and staff that I had the pleasure to meet in-person and interact with in Kigali, though I am excited to see them again soon if we ever happen to be in the same city.

If you could go back to the start of your fellowship year and do anything differently, would you? If so, what? What do you know now that you wish you had known at the beginning of your PiAf fellowship?

I think I would have made a bigger effort from the beginning to get to better know both my colleagues and my PiAf fellows cohort. I think this was challenging due to the remote nature of most of my fellowship, but I truly am so grateful for the wonderful connections I got to make during my fellowship and therefore wish that I would have begun that connecting process sooner/put a greater effort into it. What I know

now that I wish I had known at the beginning of my fellowship is that you really get out of it what you want, and that leaning into the PiAf community (and your work community if that culture exists) is on you and is definitely worth it/worth putting effort into!

Please provide a brief overview of your post-fellowship plans.

I will be moving to New York City to begin working as a management consultant focused on the health care industry. I plan to stay for 1-2 years before beginning graduate school in public health and/or medicine.

Please briefly describe your professional goals for the next five years.

My professional goals for the next 5 years are: to continue building upon the communications and research/analysis skills I have begun to develop during my PiAf fellowship while spending some time working in the private sector; apply to and begin graduate studies in public health and/or medicine; and move back into the international development sector once completed with these studies, taking with me the knowledge and skills I've built to that point.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

No

Link

Link Instructions

Final Fellow Report Part I					Link Info		
Which report are you comple...	Name	Fellowship Year	Fellowship Organization	Fellowship City	Active	Delete	Date
Final Report Part I	Yara El-Khatib	2021-2022	Population Services International (PSI)	Cotonou	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Added on 09/22/2022

Total Active Links:1, Total Deactivated Links:0, Current Active Links:1, Current Deactivated Links:0

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