

Zimbabwe Life Project Leadership Team Biographies



Lucia Vambe - Founder and CEO

Originally from Zimbabwe, **Lucia** is a highly qualified Mental Health Nurse and educator with over 30 years in the UK. She holds an MSc in Healthcare Practice, also teaching and leadership qualifications, with over 20 years' experience in the NHS.

Lucia currently works for the East London NHS Foundation Trust in the Education Directorate. In her role, she also serves as an honorary visiting lecturer in the School of Nursing at the University of Bedfordshire. Previously, Lucia held various positions within the Essex Partnership University NHS Trust, where she gained extensive experience in mental health nursing. During her tenure there, she was involved in writing clinical policies and leading the implementation of clinical practice improvement programmes, including the delivery of mandatory clinical risk training and suicide prevention training.

What she brings to ZLP: Lucia brings extensive experience in mental health nursing, clinical policy development, and training programs in clinical risk, suicide prevention and practice development initiatives. Her leadership and expertise in education and clinical practice improvement are invaluable assets to the team.



Muriel Gutu – Deputy CEO

Muriel holds an MSc in Public health, BA, Graduate certificate in education, higher diploma in Mental health, Nurse prescribing certificate and Leadership certificate. She started her career in the Zimbabwe ministry of education and has been working as a nurse in the UK for over 20 years. In her nursing career she specialised in mental health and substance misuse, and has worked in various NHS Trusts and voluntary organisations. Currently, she is the Group Clinical Lead for a Charitable organisation that works with people who have mental and substance misuse problems. She is also a Trustee for UK Hope World Wide, member and project lead for Zimbabwe Life Project charity.

What she brings to ZLP: Muriel brings extensive expertise in mental health and substance misuse, strong leadership skills, and experience in both NHS and charitable organisations. Her role as a Group Clinical Lead and her involvement in charitable projects add significant value to the team.

Board members



Kudzai Munyavi – Co-Chair

Kudzai is currently the Group Chief Financial Officer of Pharo Foundation, a non-profit organisation committed to fostering self-sufficiency in Africa. He has more than 15 years of experience spanning FMCG manufacturing and financial services; holding key roles in finance, strategy, fundraising and corporate finance. Kudzai is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Financial Analyst and holds a Masters in Leadership and Strategy from London Business School. **Brings financial expertise and strategic planning to the ZLP trustee role.**



Linda Braddick – Co-Chair

Linda is part owner and Managing Director of an advertising and communications agency, Grace Communications Ltd in the UK. Linda was born in Zimbabwe and holds a BA hons degree with majors in English, French and Journalism from Rhodes University in South Africa. She has worked in marketing and communications for over 20 years in both writing and strategic roles. **Brings extensive communications and marketing experience to the ZLP trustee role.**



Obi McKay – Trustee

Obi has been a Registered General Nurse (Level 1) for 40 years. Also, a BSc qualified Community Practice Specialist Teacher with twelve years School Nursing and Children’s Health Service experience with a Masters Qualification (MSc) in Public health practice.

From 2014 she worked as an Associate Director for mental health services with vast experience in bidding for funding and managing large projects, budgets, and services. Post retirement from January 2020 – February 2021 Obi supported a new child health Trust in South London as a Clinical Director to strategically develop their full governance agenda. Embedding national guidance to enable clinical effectiveness and safe practice.

Since 2022 on an ad hoc basis, she has supported funding applicants through CWB in an advisory capacity. She has also carried out stakeholder surveys with recommendations for CWB.

Brings healthcare expertise and strategic advisory skills to the ZLP trustee role.



Edgar Muzvidzwa - Trustee

Edgar has been with ZLP from its founding days to date and served in various capacities including stakeholder engagement and coordinating the activities in Zimbabwe. He is passionate about the 3rd sector which saw him providing strategic, HR and recruitment services in the healthcare sector for several years.

Edgar is an MBA holder, and a Bachelor of Commerce in Management with the University of South Africa, Higher Diploma in Human Resource Management (IPMZ), Diploma in Business Administration (ZIM) and a Certificate in Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (UZ). He is a chartered member CIPD and a project manager with PRINCE2 Foundation project management qualification.

Edgar has been the Managing Consultant at On The Rock Consultants Pvt Ltd since 2008 and has designed, coordinated and facilitated strategic solutions for organisations of different backgrounds. Some of the community centered organisations he worked with include Zimbabwe Bright Futures Syndicate, AFM Church of Zimbabwe Milton Park Branch, Women’s Showcase



Market, Lawfra Agroforestry
Management Bureau and Sungu Dzevana Trust among others.

Brings business management, fundraising, and project management skills to the ZLP trustee role.



Ian McKay - Trustee

Ian is a graduate with an MSc in Health Service Management and, prior to retirement, an extensive 38-year career in the NHS including over 27 years as a senior manager. His experience spans roles in front-line service delivery and commissioning. Ian has skills in service planning and development across health services including for children's community health, sexual health services and child and adolescent mental health. Notable achievements include developing teenage pregnancy services, leading strategies for Sure Start programme delivery and health services for young offenders. He has delivered major projects such as digitising child health records, recruiting health visitors to meet government targets and establishing the Family Nurse Partnership in Newham. Since retiring from the NHS, Ian has worked as a senior strategy manager and subsequently a senior project manager for a CIC. He managed a key worker COVID testing service and facilitated a programme to support capacity building and resilience for grassroots organisations including training and accessing statutory sources of funds. **He brings skills in planning, organisation, reporting, and development to his Trustee role at the Zimbabwe Life Project.**