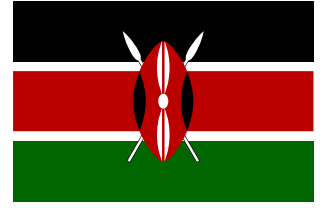


The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



Spring 2024 Professional Fellow



Erick Elizeus Mukiza

**Executive Director,
ESS Creative and Legal Foundation
Permanent Court Certified Mediator**

“I hope to utilize the Fellowship to refine my skills in promoting inclusive civic engagement, particularly by acquiring effective strategies for accommodating people with disabilities.”

Erick, a passionate disability inclusion Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) professional dedicated to advancing inclusive justice, currently serves as the Founder and Executive Director at ESS Creative and Legal Foundation. He is also a Certified Court Mediator accredited by the Tanzania Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

Erick's follow-on project aims to promote ADR as a more efficient and cost-effective way for people with disabilities to access legal justice. ADR avoids the complexities of court litigation, encouraging collaboration between parties and quicker resolutions.

For his follow-on project, Erick will partner with the non-profit organization Joy Women Entrepreneurship for the Deaf (FUWAVITA), a disabled persons' organization supporting women with hearing impairments, to empower them to resolve their disputes amicably. Erick aims to increase awareness of ADR among women with hearing impairments and advocate for systemic change through the creation and dissemination of accessible informational materials and personal stories.

Leveraging his legal background and practical understanding of legal processes and procedures, Erick will assist these women in utilizing ADR to access legal justice more efficiently and affordably. He will collaborate with FUWAVITA to provide education about the benefits of ADR through community outreach and legal clinics.

Concurrently, Erick will work with 10 women from FUWAVITA's network who would benefit from ADR, particularly mediation services, to empower them in resolving their disputes, document their stories anonymously, and share them as part of the campaign to raise awareness of ADR. The informational materials and stories, with the help of FUWAVITA and other disability partners, will be shared with women with hearing impairments and used to advocate for more systemic change.

