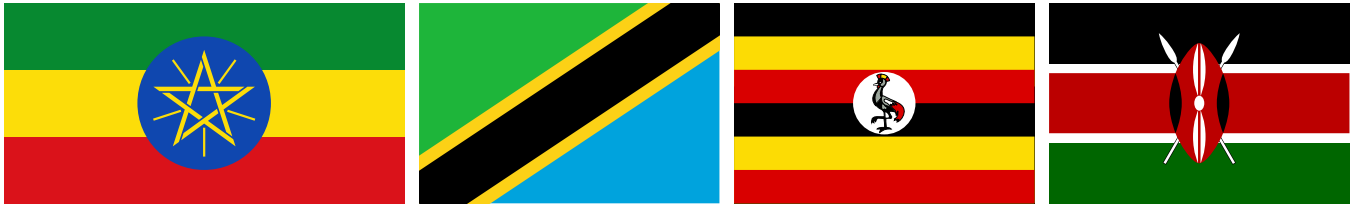


The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



Spring 2024 Professional Fellow



Eva Ephrem Chuwa **Special Needs Education Teacher** **Al Muntazi Special Education Needs**

“In this Fellowship, I want to deepen my understanding of advanced teaching strategies, particularly at the nursery level where the foundation is laid for learners with intellectual disabilities. I also aim to acquire advanced assessments for diverse intellectual disabilities and network with US colleagues to exchange best practices and resources.”

Eva is a Special Needs Education Teacher at Al Muntazi Special Education Needs, specializing in educating children, ages 4 – 7, with autism to prepare them for inclusive settings. Her primary focus is on improving children’s socialization, communication, and academic skills to promote confidence and acceptance in society. Eva’s passion and commitment for her work are rooted in her experience of growing up with a relative (an aunt) who has autism. Since the beginning of her career, Eva has been working with students with autism and actively advocates for inclusion within her school.

Eva holds a bachelor’s degree in Special Needs Education with a specialization in speech and hearing disabilities from Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University (SEKOMU) in Lushoto, Tanzania. Since graduating, Eva has completed professional development programs in early childhood management, intensive learning programs for children with disabilities, and child-centered teaching methods.

Eva believes that inclusive civic engagement of individuals with autism in Tanzania has been hindered by the absence of inclusive education, which starts from the nursery level onwards and prevents children with autism from fully exercising their rights. Leveraging her background and with support from both the Al Muntazir Nursery School and Special Education Needs School, Eva, with her follow-on project, aims to enhance the existing in-service nursery teacher training by incorporating best practices for autism inclusion from the US. Additionally, she aims to involve parents of children with autism through formal and informal engagement, adapting US advocacy methods to fit the Tanzanian cultural and academic context.

