

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/safia-verjee-4b579141 (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Strategic Partnerships
Team Leadership
Resource Mobilization

Languages

French (Elementary)
Swahili (Professional Working)
English (Native or Bilingual)

Publications

Temperature and heat in informal settlements in Nairobi

Safia Verjee

Executive Director - International Center for Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA)
Kenya

Summary

Safia is the Executive Director for the International Centre of Humanitarian Affairs based at the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). She is a seasoned humanitarian professional with over 15 years of experience dedicated to working closely with communities and like-minded partners to strengthen resilience through programming and innovation. As the Executive Director of the International Center of Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA) - the think tank of KRCS - Safia plays a pivotal role in shaping the organization's strategic direction, spearheading transformative initiatives, and advocating for impactful change in humanitarian interventions.

Safia holds a master's degree in public health from Cardiff University, Wales and a certificate in Leadership from Lancaster University.

Experience

Kenya Red Cross
Executive Director - ICHA
February 2024 - Present (5 months)
Nairobi County, Kenya

CARE Danmark
Regional Innovation Advisor
February 2022 - February 2024 (2 years 1 month)
Nairobi, Kenya

In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) - Regional Bureau in Nairobi and through the development of the joint IGNITE Hub, we are working with innovators, entrepreneurs and startups to design, test and scale solutions to strengthen food systems and climate resilience.

Learn more here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ignite-innovation-hub-for-eastern-africa/>

I am also working closely with CARE and WFP Country teams in the region to build and strengthen interest and skills in innovation and to support its application in humanitarian and development programmes

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC

Youth Innovation Advisor (Solferino Academy)

September 2021 - February 2022 (6 months)

Nairobi, Kenya

Leading the implementation of Limitless - the IFRC Youth Innovation Academy

Kenya Red Cross

10 years 2 months

Innovation Lead

February 2019 - January 2022 (3 years)

Nairobi

Over the three years, together with a passionate and determined team and with support from senior management, we achieved:

- setting up of the innovation department within the KRCS, growing from 3 to 10 full time staff
- Conceptualising, fund raising, constructing and operationalising the first ever innovation and fabrication lab within the RC Movement. Branded I.O.Me - 005, the space innovates with communities, artisans, experts to build skills in modern day fabrication, ideation, prototyping and testing.
- Establishing a functional Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) team, trained as drone pilots and growing the asset base to 4 drones with different functionalities - search and rescue, filming and small scale mapping, a fixed wing drone for large scale mapping (WingtraOne) and the Agras T16 for agricultural spraying. The only RC Society at the time to have an operational drone team
- Piloting of digital identities for cash and voucher assistance, reaching Kenyans who do not have a legally recognised ID
- Piloting and scaling of community inclusion vouchers (blockchain based e-vouchers) to support local economies in disaster recovery and strengthening resilience
- Supporting internal teams and other RC Societies with design thinking workshops to better understand community challenges and to co-create solutions with the end users

- Working closely with the Youth department to support and facilitate innovation for the youth as a key target group

Public Health Manager - WASH

August 2017 - February 2019 (1 year 7 months)

Nairobi, Kenya

As a public health manager in the WASH department I was overall responsible for the design, implementation, evaluation and management of large scale integrated WASH programmes that seek to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in vulnerable communities in Kenya. This includes specific project management, proposal development and resource mobilisation, financial and administrative management of the programmes, mentoring and leading project field teams to implement interventions in line with the agreed budget and timeline, monitoring, evaluation and reporting and donor relations management. I also have a keen interest in humanitarian innovation, specifically on co-designing solutions with affected communities, in particular with the youth.

DRM Programme Manager

May 2012 - July 2017 (5 years 3 months)

Nairobi

Programme Manager in the Disaster Risk Management Department. I currently manage food security and livelihood long term programmes in rural parts of the country and also focus on urban disaster risk reduction interventions in Nairobi.

Intern

December 2011 - April 2012 (5 months)

Nairobi

I work closely with the Public Health Managers in the Health Dept:

- Assist in Proposal Writing (requesting funds from donors such as USAID, the EU, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Setting up of an in-house health promotion newsletter
- Contributing health information and facts to the KRCS Twitter and Facebook accounts
- Assisted in carrying out a Health Needs Assessment of newly resettled IDP's in Subukia, Rift Valley

- Assisted in a training for volunteers for an endline survey for the Home Management of Malaria project

Hoggers Ltd (Steers and Debonairs Pizza, Kenya)

Assistant Marketing Manager

December 2009 - July 2010 (8 months)

Nairobi, Kenya

Reported to the Managing Director.

- Set up online/Social Network Marketing (Facebook)
- SMS Marketing
- Event Marketing (Food stalls at football competitions)
- Media Marketing (Radio, Newspaper, Magazines)
- New product promotion
- Working with individual restaurant managers on locality marketing.

Aga Khan University Hospital

Research Assistant

September 2009 - December 2009 (4 months)

Nairobi, Kenya

Reported to Director of Strategic Planning and assisted her in her duties.

Research and analysis of integrated health systems in various countries as well as, specific health centres and hospitals, including the Mayo Clinic and John Hopkins Hospital.

Education

Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd

MPH, Public Health · (2010 - 2011)

Lancaster University

International Health Leadership Development Programme, Management and Leadership · (2014 - 2015)

MacEwan University

BComm, Management, Marketing · (2005 - 2009)