

28th October, 2019

To: The Admissions Office
New York University
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Re: **Recommendation of Ms. Edith Sabiiti for admission to your program**

By copy this letter, I would like to strongly recommend Ms. Edith Sabiiti to your program at NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. I have known Edith for a period of at least three years, during which time I have been her academic and professional mentor during and following her completion of a degree in Nutrition. She completed a Bachelor's Degree in Food Science and Technology and a Master's Degree in Public Health and Food Safety.

Since completion of her basic degree, Edith has distinguished herself as a leader, mobilizer and innovator in the area of food and nutrition for prevention and control of chronic diseases. Her story is one of persistence and professionalism. She started the Africa Diabetes Alliance (ADA), an organization whose mission is to increase awareness and promote healthy lives for people living with diabetes, especially type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is one of the diseases facing an upward trend in Uganda with grossly inadequate support mechanisms to people living with the disease. Edith has single-handedly mobilised and brought together an alliance of stakeholders to provide a much needed support system for people with diabetes. Through her organization, she has developed nutritional counselling guidelines and conducted a series of education activities in various forms. These have included diabetes support camps, positive living seminars, school seminars targeting those living with diabetes in schools, and walk-in consultations from people seeking vital information. She has undertaken initiatives to increase access to point-of-care monitoring devices for people with type 1 diabetes, in the process contributing immensely to saving lives. She started a Facebook page under the names of the Africa Diabetes Alliance, to further foster information sharing and building a community of stakeholders. She has developed an array of educational videos and other multi-media content to support the education of patients at a distance. Her organization provides counselling services to increase and promotes sharing of experiences from people living with diabetes, so as bring hope to diabetes sufferers who might not be coping well.

Being her professional mentor, I have observed her to be a highly motivated, resilient, and self-driven health professional. She is highly intelligent and exhibits maturity in her approach to social mobilization. Empowered with the appropriate technical support, I am strongly convinced that she has immense potential for impact to public service, especially in the area of addressing diabetes, one of the key emerging challenges to low income countries. The health systems of low income countries like Uganda are highly un-prepared for an epidemic of chronic lifestyle diseases that is already unfolding, driven by a rapid nutritional and lifestyle transition. It is people like Edith who will sow the seeds for transformation of public services to attune them to the challenge.

The applicant exhibits immense potential for growth in the areas of leadership, building collaborations and networks, and organizing stakeholders for social development initiatives. She needs international exposure to help her learn from experienced resource persons and peers on the linkages needed to drive such initiatives as she has started to a global reach. Given that she is able to mobilize people to act on a very resource limited platform, I think she has excellent organizational skills that when applied to healthy living and nutrition will provide a pioneering case-study that countries like Uganda can use to build a responsive chronic care system. Lastly, Edith has a very high level of integrity, works excellently with teams and is highly diligent and focused in the work that she does. She relates to people of all walks and levels of service. She is also a woman in leadership, an attribute that is highly desirable if public services are to improve in our region. I therefore give her the highest level of recommendation to your program and affirm that she is a very valuable add to your initiative.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Roy William Mayega (MB.ChB, MPH, PhD)
Lecturer, Makerere University School of Public Health
Chief of Party, ResilientAfrica Network