



Interview with SAMMY MUGA



Sammy Muga works in ERFA's Nairobi branch office and has been seconded to work as the Team Leader at Edmund Rice Centre Nairobi which is a merger of Mary Rice Centre, Edmund Rice Advocacy Network and Edmund Rice Karibu Group. The merger increases efficiency and effectiveness of Edmund Rice work in Nairobi. Sammy is responsible for leading the ERCN team, managing key stakeholder relationships and ensuring that the partnership with the Kibera community is empowering, collaborative and equitable. Sammy studied Community Development, Social Work & Welfare and Social Development and continues to love learning. He is currently pursuing BA in Strategic Development studies, planning and leadership Management.

How did you become involved in the Edmund Rice network?

I grew up in the slums of Kibera (one of the world's largest slums) and became involved with the Edmund Rice Karibu Group where I worked as a volunteer from 2008 to 2015 before being appointed Executive Officer in 2016. In 2013, I started supporting ERFA as an immersion leader coordinating visits for ERFA's Australian supporters.

What inspires you most in your work?

I am a person of incredible resilience with huge compassion and a deep sense of community service. I spend my spare time visiting orphanages within the slums of Nairobi, caring for children, helping them to feel worthy and appreciated and putting a smile on their faces. I also visit people in prisons, encouraging them to care for their inmates, to have fun and to study using donated books and pens. In my work at ERCN, I am passionate about fostering effectiveness, efficiency and impact; engaging with the Kibera community and other stakeholders to raise the consciousness about disability inclusiveness and to improve access to services for Children with Disabilities; and supporting households of Children with Disabilities through education.

give us opportunity and not sympathy



What difference has the Edmund Rice network made to your life?

The greatest difference for me is the achievements I have been able to contribute to in the Kibera community. As a result of the support from Australian donors, the community has become tighter and more inclusive, social capital has grown, and the community's skills in representation and advocacy have improved through financial resources, employment, social care and support, environmental sustainability and cultural and sports opportunities.

I am so grateful to the Edmund Rice family. ■