

IRENE DANQUAH

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| Inclusive Economic Development
| Women's / Youth Economic Empowerment (WEE/YEE)
| Public Health Nutrition | Policy Reform
| Multicountry Delivery | MEL | Systems Strengthening

15+ years supporting governments, donors and partners to design and deliver inclusive, market-responsive programmes

I support donors and development agencies to design and deliver evidence-driven, inclusive economic development and public-health programmes across regions. My work strengthens national systems, embeds WEE/YEE and public health nutrition (SDG 3), improves policy coherence and ensures accountability, learning and sustainable results. I bring deep experience in consortium delivery, MEL architecture, programme design, compliance, partner alignment and demand-driven technical assistance.

Core Capabilities for Development Programmes

- Evidence-informed, inclusion-led programme architecture
- Demand-driven TA for policy, institutional, ecosystem and business environment reform
- Consortium leadership and multi-agency coordination
- Governance, compliance, risk and performance systems
- Strategic MEL design and outcome harvesting
- Government, private-sector and civil-society engagement
- Knowledge products, toolkits, learning materials and dissemination
- WEE/YEE integration from design to delivery
- Public health nutrition, behaviour-change communication and wellbeing programmes

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME EXPERIENCE

Senior Enterprise and Economic Development Advisor – British Council (Global Role) | 2026–Present

Co-lead the organisation's **global enterprise development strategy**, improving programme design quality, MEL architecture, inclusion systems and donor-facing positioning across regions. Strengthened organisational coherence and embedded evidence-led and WEE/YEE-first design standards in enterprise and economic-development models. [Full case →](#)

ICR Facility – British Council Team Leader (EU/OACPS/BMZ/BC Consortium) | 2020–2025

Led British Council delivery across **ACP regions** in a multi-agency consortium.

- **Directed 23 country-level TA interventions across 13 ACP countries** and **contributed to all 78 British Council knowledge initiatives** within a **250-initiative, 79-country Knowledge Hub—mainstreaming WEE/YEE** across business environment reform portfolios and institutionalising inclusive PPDs in multiple contexts.
- **Policy and institutional shifts through TA.** Enabled creation/strengthening of national MSME coordination and monitoring mechanisms (Nigeria), gender-sensitive investment strategies (Tuvalu), and legal/policy frameworks for the social enterprise sector (Jamaica, Kenya, Ethiopia); produced toolkits, position papers, and diagnostic instruments adopted by public agencies and BMOs.
- **WEE outcomes at ecosystem level.** Achieved measurable adoption of gender-responsive practices by employers/chambers; advanced anti-GBVH workplace policies (Malawi, Zimbabwe); influenced national culture/CCI policy updates with gender provisions (Uganda); and supported women-focused access-to-finance diagnostics and checklists used by national agencies and DFIs.
- **Advanced sustainability** through BER4WEE training, a P4WEE Community of Practice, Impact Advisory Group, and handovers.

[Full case →](#)

Jobs for Youth Programme – Programme Lead, British Council (Ghana) | 2019

Designed and led an enterprise-growth pathway linking **skills** → **incubation/acceleration** → **markets** → **finance**. Delivered training to **3,200 youth**, supported **400 enterprises**, ran SME trade festivals and **120 enterprise grants**, and strengthened MEL and partner capability. Achieved **63% job creation** among acceleratees, with enterprises averaging **7 employees**, and a consistent **reinvestment** pattern – demonstrating enterprise resilience and inclusive economic outcomes. [Full case →](#)

Tullow Group Scholarship Scheme – Project / Alumni Manager, British Council (SSA and Americas) | 2014–2018

Strengthened governance, transparency and alumni systems for a multicountry postgraduate scholarship portfolio across **10 countries**. Coordinated host institutions in the **UK, France and Ireland**, supported full academic cycles, and maintained a **~99% return-to-country rate**. Alumni progressed into **senior public-sector roles**, private-sector leadership, entrepreneurship, and a , establishing the programme as a leadership pipeline for national development. [Full case →](#)

Olime Health – Founder/Lead (SDG 3) | 2011–Present

Lead a public-health nutrition consultancy delivering **behaviour-change communication, workplace wellbeing, health education**, and **evidence-based nutrition policy/research**. Built a sustained public-health communication platform reaching **150,000+ people**, producing multi-format health content, supporting organisational wellbeing strategies, and advancing population-level health literacy.

[Full case →](#)

TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE and LEARNING

Technical Expertise

- Enterprise development and ecosystem strengthening
- WEE/YEE integration and gender-responsive policy
- Public health nutrition, behaviour-change communication and health education
- Access-to-finance diagnostics and MSME strengthening
- Inclusive Public-Private Dialogue models
- Creative, social and green economy pathways
- Policy and regulatory reform
- MEL systems, outcome harvesting and learning architectures

Governance and Accountability

- Governance, compliance and risk management across donor-funded portfolios
- Consortium governance, joint implementation and partner alignment
- Financial oversight, procurement and cost control
- Structured donor reporting and transparent communication

Knowledge, Learning and Capacity Strengthening

- Toolkits, frameworks, learning guides and implementation packs
- Training design, webinar delivery, peer learning and CoP design and facilitation
- Train-the-trainer models and institutional capacity-building
- Evidence synthesis and knowledge translation for scalability

Contact and Collaboration

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