

# IRENE DANQUAH

**Development Leader | Multicountry Delivery**  
**Enterprise and Economic Development**  
**Women's / Youth Economic Empowerment (WEE/YEE) | Public Health Nutrition**

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15+ years strengthening organisations, delivery systems, and inclusive economic outcomes across regions

## SUMMARY

I am a cross-sector development leader spanning enterprise and economic development, women's and youth economic empowerment (WEE/YEE), and public health nutrition. I currently serve as a Senior Enterprise and Economic Development Advisor at the British Council, co-leading the strategy, programme design, implementation support and MEL architecture for the organisation's internal global offer and external programme offer for enterprise and economic development. I have led multicountry portfolios, strengthened governance and delivery systems, and driven inclusive outcomes for women, youth and underserved communities. As Founder of Olime Health, I also lead a public health social enterprise reaching people with practical nutrition and wellbeing content.

## Signature Leadership Strengths

- Enterprise and economic development strategy and ecosystem design
- WEE and YEE integration across policy, programme design and delivery
- Public health nutrition and behaviour change communication (Olime Health)
- Multicountry programme leadership and cross-functional coordination
- Governance, MEL, delivery, and risk systems strengthening
- High-trust diplomacy with governments, donors and private sector
- Capability development, organisational performance, and adaptive delivery
- Strategic planning, communication and stakeholder alignment
- Donor, government and private-sector engagement across multi-country reform and enterprise ecosystems

## Roles I'm Suited For

C00 | Country Director / Executive Director | Portfolio Director | Programme/Delivery Director | Senior Enterprise and Economic Development Advisor

## EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT

- **Senior Enterprise and Economic Development Advisor (British Council, Global)** – Co-lead the **enterprise and economic development strategy**, shape the **internal global offer**, strengthen the **external programme offer**, and provide **technical leadership** on pursuits, programme models, implementation support and MEL, improving positioning, coherence and delivery quality across regions. [Full case →](#)
- **ICR Facility (British Council Team Leader, Global / ACP-Wide Consortium Role)** - Led the British Council ICR team—providing overall leadership, governance, and cross-functional coordination—and led British Council’s on-demand technical assistance portfolio (23 interventions in 13 countries), while contributing to British Council’s delivery within the consortium Knowledge Hub (part of 250 knowledge initiatives across 79 ACP countries; 78 led by British Council) to shift business environment reform portfolios toward WEE/YEE, institutionalise inclusive PPDs, and inform national policies and coordination mechanisms across ACP regions. [Full case →](#)
- **Jobs for Youth (British Council, Ghana)** – Directed an enterprise programme delivering training to 3,200 young Ghanaians, incubation and acceleration for 400 enterprises, SME trade festivals, 120 enterprise grants, and international market opportunities; achieved 63% job creation among acceleratees, with businesses averaging 7 employees and reinvestments. [Full case →](#)
- **Tullow Group Scholarship Scheme (British Council, Multicountry)** – Co-managed a flagship scholarship portfolio across 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas; alumni completed postgraduate studies in the UK, France and Ireland, with ~99% returning to home countries and progressing to senior roles in public agencies and private firms, founding businesses, and a few appointed as ministers. [Full case →](#)
- **Olime Health – Public Health Nutrition Social Enterprise (Founder/Lead)** – Ongoing leadership of a social enterprise with **150,000+ reach**, advancing **workplace wellbeing, health communication**, and **evidence-based nutrition policy/research** with a structured mission contribution to **SDG3**. [Full case →](#)
- **Organisational and Institutional Leadership (cross-portfolio)** - Designed governance, performance rhythms, MEL and inclusion checkpoints; aligned partners and operations for **predictable, adaptive delivery** across multicountry contexts. [Full case →](#)

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE and CREDENTIALS

### Thought Leadership and Publications

- **Co-Author:** *How to make the business environment work for WEE* (2024).
- **Author:** *Becoming A Healthier You* (2015).
- Public-health nutrition content and community engagement via **OlimeHealth.com**.
- Leadership and strategy and lessons from the field content via **IreneDanquah.com**
- Speaker/trainer on gender-responsive policy, **Women's / Youth Economic Empowerment (WEE/YEE)**, enterprise ecosystems, and multicountry delivery.

### Governance and Advisory Roles

- Council Member – Presbyterian Worship Centre, PRESEC Legon
- President – St. Monica's Old Students Association (2004)
- Board Member – Adubaale Foundation
- Portfolio / Programme Boards – British Council

### Certification and Training

- MSP®, APM, ANutr
- BSc Biochemistry, MSc Public Health Nutrition
- Gender-Responsive Policy
- Leadership and Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation

## Let's Collaborate

Open to **COO, Country Director/Executive Director, Portfolio Director/ Programme Director, Senior Enterprise and Economic Development roles**, and strategic advisory assignments.

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