



Capacity-Building
& Knowledge Sharing
for Small and Medium
Organizations (SMO)

Small and Medium Organizations Impact Journey

Shifting power: localization in action

About the SMO Impact Journey series

Over the next few months, Spur Change is convening the sector for international cooperation to learn from small and medium organizations (SMOs) supported through the three windows of Global Affairs Canada's [SMOs for impact and innovation initiative \(the Development Impact Window \(DIW\), the Fund for Innovation and Transformation \(FIT\), and the Spur Change program\)](#).

This is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the unique value and contribution of SMO's work in Canada and abroad. [Learn more about the series here.](#)

This first session will highlight the work of Canadian SMOs and their partners who recognize, respect, and center their project around community-led approaches and leadership. They will share their impact journey through the lens of localization and the importance of building equitable relationships among partners.





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Talent Jumo
Katswe Sistahood

About the speaker

Talent Jumo is the Executive Director of the Harare-based organization, Katswe Sistahood. Talent is a passionate feminist activist from Zimbabwe. A teacher by profession, Talent has almost 20 years' experience working on women's rights and health programmes, particularly on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV and AIDS. She joined Zimbabwe's Community Working Group on Health in 2005, as a Gender Officer for the HIV programme. In 2007, she co-founded the Young Women's Leadership Initiative (now Katswe Sistahood) and has served as the Katswe Sistahood's Executive Director since 2012. In her work, Talent has continued to prioritise and support the rights of young women and adolescent girls as well as other marginalised groups, including sex workers and children who are sexually exploited for survival. In her role as the Executive Director for Katswe, she serves as the convener of Pepeta Africa, an advocacy platform for SRHR activists in Southern Africa. Until recently, she was a member of the NGO Delegation for the Global Fund against HIV, TB and Malaria. She is currently the chair of Right Here Right Now (Zimbabwe platform), a strategic partnership that envisions a world where young people, in all their diversity, acquire full and uninterrupted access to comprehensive sexuality education, and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including safe abortion.

About the organization

Founded in 2007, [Katswe Sistahood](#) is a feminist organisation fighting for the full attainment of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) by women in Zimbabwe. Katswe is a platform that enables young women to mobilise, organise and articulate their needs with regard to SRH education, SRH services and legal protection and helps them to better develop their capacity to understand and pursue their rights. Rooted in a feminist analysis and women's lived realities, Katswe creates safe spaces for learning, sharing and consciousness-raising that catalyse women's collective power to act.

About the project

Katswe is working with the Toronto-based [International Council of AIDS Service Organizations \(ICASO\)](#) to implement a SRHR project in Zimbabwe called Simba Utano/Health is Power. This project is supported by Global Affairs Canada through the [Development Impact Window](#).

This project aims to improve the health of adolescent girls and young women at risk of HIV in priority districts in Zimbabwe. Based on the concept of Simba Utano, which means "health is power" in the Shona language, the project increases knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV prevention among vulnerable adolescent girls and women, as well as their families and communities. The project also works with health service providers and others to build their capacity to provide quality, gender-responsive services and to build a supportive environment to strengthen HIV response in the project area. [Learn more.](#)



Catherine Liao
JESA UFV

About the speaker

Catherine Liao is a research associate at the Centre for Justice, Equity, and Sustainable Action (JESA) within the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), and a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia. Her research is characterized by a dedication to intersectional analysis, with a primary focus on addressing health and social inequities, with an emphasis on advancing gender inequalities.

Beyond her academic pursuits, Catherine holds the role of Vice-Chair and Director at Resurge Africa, a non-profit organization committed to enhancing burns and surgical care in Sierra Leone and Ghana. Her extensive involvement spans a wide array of initiatives that tackle complex health and social challenges, particularly at the crossroads of gender, ethnicity, race, and various social identities. Bringing a comprehensive perspective to her work in international development, Catherine draws from her extensive background in critical care nursing, coupled with her expertise in global health, health systems leadership, project management, research, and education.

About the organization

The [Centre for Justice, Equity, and Sustainable Action \(JESA\)](#) within the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) is made up of diverse faculty associates who engage in local and global dialogue, research, and action for equity, justice, and sustainability. They aim to contribute to transformative socio-economic and environmental change, action, and resiliency.

Their work promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, critical thought, local ways of knowing, and participatory and decolonial practices and approaches. They provide opportunities for the co-creation and generation of diverse knowledge and community-informed responses and actions.

About the project

Supported by [FIT](#), the University of the Fraser Valley and Albinism Royal Foundation (ARF) tested an innovation aimed at economically and socially empowering persons with albinism, particularly women and girls in Sierra Leone. Through increasing their income-generating and leadership skills, and enhancing the engagement of stakeholders, the innovation sought to empower persons with albinism to become influential role models and advocates for disability and gender rights. Workshops for participants covered skills training (in traditional weaving and tailoring), financial literacy, leadership, advocacy and gender equality. [Learn more](#).



Lilianna Coyes-Loiselle
VIDEA

About the speaker

Lilianna was born and raised on Treaty 6 Territory in Edmonton, Alberta, and she is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta. She works at VIDEA, an international development organization based in Victoria, B.C., as Head of Culture, Stories, and Reconciliation. In her role, Lili coordinates and collaborates on several programs addressing the issues she is most passionate about, including gender inequality, climate justice, and colonial violence. Lili is a member of the Prime Minister's Youth Council and a recent alumna of the University of Calgary, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Global Development studies and International Indigenous Studies. Active across communities in Canada, Uganda, and Zambia, Lili works hard to create safe, accessible spaces where marginalized voices can be at the centre of decision-making.

About the organization

[VIDEA](#) strengthens the environment where youth and communities, globally, have access to the education, skills and support necessary to take feminist leadership in developing their own sustainable solutions to gender equality, environment, Indigenous and human rights violations and injustice. VIDEA strives to support and inspire others, especially Indigenous, and underrepresented youth, to better understand global issues, and issues of oppression, discrimination, systemic sexism and colonialism, and to use their power and voice, towards more just communities. Localization and decolonization are central to the work and values at VIDEA.

About the project

In this presentation, Lilianna shares about VIDEA's decolonization journey as an organization and the impact this journey has had in the communities they work, their relationships with partners, and in the ways they work as a team. [Learn more.](#)

VIDEA has been supported by [the Spur Change program](#) for over three years. They have been an active participant in Spur Change's Youth Champion program as SMO mentors and with 8 youth taking part. VIDEA staff have also facilitated a decolonization workshop at the Spur Change conference and have participated in other capacity building opportunities hosted by the program through the years.