Nominee Statement: Monicah Cheptoo Bitok

# Position: IAPB Board Group C Trustee

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| **Nominee Job Title** | | | | |
|  | | | Inclusive Eye Health Advisor | |
| **Nominee Organisation** | | | | |
|  | | | CBM Global Disability Inclusion | |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** | | | | |
|  | CBM Global Disability Inclusion | | | |
| **Represented by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Danny Haddad |
| **Seconded by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Babar Qureshi |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** | | | | |
|  | | Helen Keller International | | |
| **Seconding Statement** | | | | |
|  | | Passionate for social change and inclusion, Dr. Monicah Bitok is a Public Health Specialist geared towards a better world for all through Inclusive Eye Health (IEH).  As the current IEH Advisor for CBM Global, an International NGO that works alongside people with disabilities to address poverty and exclusion, Monicah provides technical advisory support and capacity building to CBM Global partners and Country Offices to ensure that they deliver accessible eye care services for all.  She has nearly 6 years of combined clinical experience in ophthalmology, 3 years of which was spent as an Ophthalmologist at Presbyterian Church of East Africa Kikuyu Hospital. This allowed her to foster a deeper and clearer understanding of public health and leadership in eye care.  In line with her personal advocacies, Monicah was the Deputy Head, and Head of Clinical Services and Quality Assurance at the Ophthalmic Services Unit of the MoH Kenya. She has actively served and helped coordinate the Kenya National Prevention of Blindness working group for the last 6 years, enabling her to see first-hand what the situation of eye care is in a developing country. Apart from overseeing the quality improvement and assurance of clinical ophthalmology in Kenya, a few notable efforts she had spearheaded includes the Cataract Surgical Outcome Monitoring Program and the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening program, which had expanded to cover 10 counties and 10 hospitals. She was part of the team that led the improvement of the ophthalmological section of the Kenya Essential Medicines List in 2016. She also managed the development of the specifications for consumable for the Kenya Essential Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA), as well as the Scope of Practice for Eye Care Workforce in Kenya.  With an intention to improve access of services in the country, Monicah dabbled in Strategic Plan Development, specifically the development of The Kenya National Strategic Plan 20-24. She worked with a team of 5 on the advancement of the Medical Disability Assessment and Categorisation Guideline. Throughout, she advocated for the integration of eye care services through routine support supervisory visits to the counties.  We are very pleased to nominate Dr. Bitok a voice from the south that brings with her wealth of experience from the field and will be an asset to the board. | | |
| **Nominee Statement** | | | | |
|  | I am honored to be nominated as a Group C elected Trustee of the Board of IAPB. I believe that my experience working as an ophthalmologist in Kenya, with the Ministry of Health, local communities and with NGOs will provide the IAPB Board of Trustees a solid vision for policy making for this important organization. This experience is especially at this time, when we are developing a post Vision 2020 strategy and working to implement the WHO World Report on Vision, a crucial one to give a vision for People Centered Integrated Eye Care. My interests and experience in Public Health aspects of Eye Care, inclusiveness and ensuring that we leave no-one behind, Quality Assurance and management of programs will benefit the board immensely. My sincere thanks for your consideration. | | | |