



### Lutho Mbonambi (South Africa)

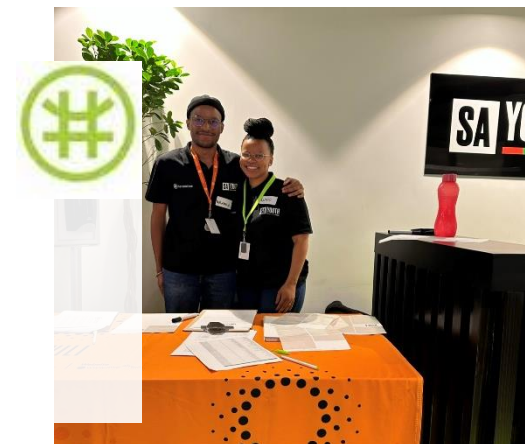
**Host organization:** Harambee

**Fellow position:** Strategic Projects Associate

**Fellowship duration:** July 2022 – June 2023

**Degree:** Masters in Economic Development

**Professional experience:** 7 years



#### Summary

Leveraging a background in economics and entrepreneurship, Lutho joined Harambee to support the development of the organisation’s micro-enterprise strategy, contribute to the implementation of strategic pilot projects as well as strengthen the organisation’s Systems Change work.

#### The problem Harambee aims to tackle

- South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, with the youth bearing the burden of unemployment.
- The economy is not creating enough job opportunities in the formal sector to absorb new entrants into the labor market.

#### ... contributing to the SDGs:



#### The solution Harambee provides...

- Harambee works to unlock jobs and break down the barriers that keep millions of young South Africans unemployed. Harambee’s platform, SA Youth, brings together many partners to create a single national network to allow young people to access a wide selection of jobs and skilling opportunities, and for opportunity holders to access young engaged work-seekers – for free.

#### Opportunity for a Fellow

- Leading the implementation of pilots to support youth through micro-entrepreneurship.
- Contributing strategic thinking on crucial components of Harambee’s micro-enterprise strategy.
- Ensuring close collaboration and coordination with partners to guarantee smooth implementation of activities and achievement of results as specified in grant agreements.

#### “My experience as a Fellow...

*has been life-changing! I’ve learned so much through the experience. I’ve met so many incredible, smart, passionate people – both fellows and colleagues. I’m honoured to have had the privilege of using my skills, creativity and life experiences to unlock earning opportunities for the youth of South Africa.”*

*- Lutho Mbonambi*



**Lutho’s achievements...**

- Managing a policy-level pilot with the World Bank, Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU), and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to measure how tweaks in policy can spur economic growth in the informal economy.
- Securing funding for a Skilling & Work Readiness Programme for Solar Installation. The program is aimed at addressing a critical need in the industry for entry level installation staff, for both residential and commercial installations.
- Led +8 internal “Make Your Own Money” roadshows to raise awareness of MYOM, it’s work, and areas of synergies and collaboration across different teams in the organisation.
- Assisted in the Johannesburg launch of Qwili, a commission-based opportunity that has empowered over 200 young people (over 80% of which are young females) to become sales agents in their communities through the Qwili app. After 3 months of participating in the opportunity, candidates in Johannesburg made combined sales of R1,202,761, with one candidate selling R239,487 alone.
- Selected as a host for Radio Harambee – an organisation wide communication platform to keep employees abreast of all Harambee news and create values-driven connection in the organisation.



**... contributing to Harambee**

- \$ 410k

Funding secured for Skilling & Work Readiness Programme in Solar Installation.
- +8

Make Your Own Money Roadshows held.
- +200

Young people earning income through a commission-based opportunity.

**Lutho’s next challenge**

Lutho will continue to work for Harambee as a Systems Change Specialist. In this role, she will help drive the organisation’s efforts to remove the systemic barriers that contribute to South Africa’s high unemployment rate.