

Alice Azumi Iddi-Gubbels

Executive Director, PAMBE Ghana

Alice was born in the small village of Bonghini in a rural area of northern-eastern Ghana, the first of 17 children in her family. She grew up in a traditional, tightly knit subsistence farming community where relationships and solidarity were paramount. Alice was among the first in her village to go to school, and is one of the fortunate few from her area to receive university education. She has a diploma in Home Science and Nutrition from the University of Ghana, Masters degrees in Social Development Planning and Management from the University of Wales - UK, and in Early Childhood Education from Oklahoma City University, as well as Montessori Teaching Certification in preschool and lower elementary education.

The common theme throughout her professional life has been education and social development in marginalized communities. Alice has 20 years experience in integrated community development. This included community-based health care, water supply, functional literacy and local leadership development as well as building strong collaborative relationships among community leaders and with local government services. From 1980-82, Alice led a community-based health care program in Walewale (Northern Ghana). She organized and trained volunteer community health promoters and traditional midwives.

Alice worked as the World Neighbors Health Coordinator for the Integrated Rural Development Program in Bassar-Togo from 1983-86, and as Family Health Advisor West Africa from 1986 to 1987. She worked with Oxfam-GB from 1987-1997, first as Deputy Regional Representative for West Africa, and later as Country Program Director for Burkina Faso.

Alice moved with her family to Canada in late 1997. In 1998, she managed the francophone Africa program, which included West Africa, the African Great Lakes region and Madagascar for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace based in Montreal. She provided management and support to Oxfam Canada's food security program in Ethiopia from 1999 until she moved with her husband to Oklahoma City in 2000. Since then, Alice's career path has shifted to early childhood education. She served as the cultural enrichment facilitator for 2nd grade in Westminster School (OKC) for two years and as preschool teacher since.

Alice is passionate about quality basic education for children that starts with and builds on the local language and culture in poor, rural and underserved areas in her home area in Ghana. She is currently engaged in establishing a non-profit organization that will promote mother tongue-based bilingual education, using child-centered, experiential approach.

Alice enjoys nature, gardening, music, and dancing. She likes meeting people and learning first hand about new cultures.

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