

## MS. MERCY KALONDU PETER

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### PROFILE

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Statistician and research professional with a strong track record of generating evidence to inform food security policy and humanitarian response across East Africa. With experience spanning food security assessments, agricultural market analysis, and household resilience research, she has worked with IFPRI's Food Security Portal, REACH Initiative, and KIPPRA to support policymakers and development partners in addressing food insecurity and trade-related vulnerabilities. IPC Level I certified with deep expertise in Market Monitoring Initiatives (JMMI), Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNA), and Cash and Food assistance programming. Skilled in R, Stata, Python, Power BI, and KoboToolbox, with a strong ability to translate complex data into actionable food security policy insights.

### KEY COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS

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- **Research Design & Methodology:** Survey design, sampling frameworks, qualitative and quantitative methods, data validation, reproducible research practices.
- **Statistical Analysis:** Advanced skills in regression analysis, hypothesis testing, Bayesian modelling, and time-series analysis for causal inference and impact evaluation.
- **Data Analysis & Visualisation:** Proficient in R, Stata, Python, SPSS, Power BI, Tableau, and Excel.
- **Survey Programming:** Extensive experience with ODK, SurveyCTO, KoboToolbox, and Survey Solutions.
- **GIS & Spatial Analysis:** Skilled in QGIS for spatial mapping and geostatistical analysis.
- **Reproducible Research & Code Management:** Version control using GitHub to support transparent and reproducible research.
- **Capacity Building:** Proven track record in training and mentoring staff on statistical methods, research tools, and data practices.
- **Stakeholder Engagement & Communication:** Able to present technical findings clearly and engage effectively with policymakers and partners.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Research Consultant (Principal Investigator)– Food Security Portal** | *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)* | Aug 2025 – Nov 2025

- Conducted a literature review on strengthening household resilience to trade and price shocks in East Africa.
- Authored a best practice research brief on mitigating the adverse food security impacts of shocks with a focus on innovative methods to strengthen household resilience to price and trade shocks in East Africa.

**Senior Database Officer** | *ACTED / REACH Initiative (KEN/SOM Mission)* | Aug 2023 – Mar 2025

- Led end-to-end data management for food security assessments, including Joint Market Monitoring Initiatives (JMMI) and Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNA) across Kenya and Somalia, generating critical evidence on food access, market functionality, and household vulnerability.

- Designed rigorous sampling frameworks and survey methodologies to ensure representative and high-quality food security data for humanitarian decision-making.
- Developed interactive dashboards using R Shiny, Tableau, and Power BI to communicate food security findings to humanitarian partners and donors.
- Programmed mobile-based data collection tools (ODK, KoboToolbox) and oversaw data validation, cleaning, and automation pipelines to uphold data integrity.
- Facilitated capacity building sessions for staff on food security frameworks, data collection, and analysis.
- Participated in inter-agency coordination meetings and external workshops to share food security evidence and support data-driven humanitarian response.

**Part-Time Lecturer** | *Machakos University* | Sep 2021 – Aug 2023

- Taught mathematics and statistics at the undergraduate level.
- Designed coursework, assessments, and exams.

**Research/Project Management Fellow** | *Qhala Limited* | Mar 2023 – May 2023

- Conducted literature reviews for health research and participated in stakeholder engagements.
- Participated in a research project on the One Health platform and regulatory sandbox for Africa CDC.
- Supported data collection with key informants.

**Researcher and Public Policy Analyst – Young Professional Programme** | *Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)* | Nov 2021 – Oct 2022

- Selected for KIPPRA's prestigious Young Professional Programme, a competitive national scheme developing Kenya's next generation of policy researchers.
- Conducted food and agricultural market analysis, preparing daily, weekly, and quarterly market reports to inform government planning and strategy.
- Developed policy-oriented outputs, including policy briefs, discussion papers, research blogs, and reports on food security, energy, smart cities, and poverty reduction in Kenya.
- Disseminated research outputs through seminars, roundtables, workshops, and national conferences.

**Intern** | *Public Service Commission – Uwezo Fund Oversight Board* | Jan 2020 – Jan 2021

- Assisted in loan application processing, compliance verification, loan recovery, group training, and loan ageing analysis.

**Data Entry Clerk** | *University of Nairobi* | Apr 2015 – Jul 2017

- Performed data entry, analysis, digitisation, and content management for the University Digital Repository.

## EDUCATION

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**Master of Science in Mathematics (Statistics)**

Pan African University & Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology | 2017 – 2020  
 Thesis: Bayesian Non-Parametric Mixture Model for Surrogate Marker. Supported by the African Union Commission Scholarship.

**Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science**

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology | 2011 – 2015 | First Class Honours

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND SHORT COURSES**

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- Research and Policy Analysis – KIPPRA, Nov 2021 – Oct 2022
- Pro-WEAI Survey Fieldwork Module – IFPRI, Nov 2022
- Impact Evaluation – IFPRI, Nov 2022
- Essentials of Humanitarian Data Analysis and Training of Trainers – RedR UK, 2024
- MEB, GAP Analysis and Calculating the Transfer Value – CALP Network, 2024
- Market-Based Programming in Emergencies – CALP Network, 2024
- IPC Acute Food Insecurity Level 1 Training – FAO, 2024 ★ Food Security Classification
- Planning for Monitoring and Evaluation – Philanthropy University, 2025

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- Peter, M.K., Mbugua, L., & Wanjoya, A. (2019). Bayesian Non-Parametric Mixture Model with Application to Modelling Biological Markers. *Journal of Data Analysis and Information Processing*, 7, 141–152. DOI: 10.4236/jdaip.2019.74009
- Optimizing Cash Plus Interventions to Improve Household Resilience and Food Security – Report (FAO).
- Pathways to Development of Nairobi Towards Gaining a Smart City Status – Policy Brief and Discussion Paper, KIPPRA.
- Promoting the Use of Solar Energy in the Manufacturing Sector in Kenya – Policy Blog, KIPPRA.
- Reducing Multiple Deprivations in Arid Counties in Kenya – Policy Blog, KIPPRA.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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- Fellow Member, Royal Statistical Society
- Ordinary Member, Statistical Society of Kenya

## **CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND SUMMER SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

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- Summer School on Biostatistics and Biomathematics – March 2023. Theme: Models, Statistics, and Genetics: Understanding Epidemics.
- Bayesian Data Analysis: Theory and Practice – November 2018, hosted by JKUAT School of Mathematical Sciences.

## **AWARDS**

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- African Union Commission Scholarship (2017) – master’s program at Pan African University, JKUAT, Nairobi, Kenya.