

# **Katy Allen-Mtui MBE**



**Founder/Director/Educator**  
**Education East Africa 1994 to Present**  
**[www.EducationEastAfrica.org](http://www.EducationEastAfrica.org)**

**MBE** for Services to Education in Tanzania 2001

**EXPERTISE:** Education, Law and Social Justice

**LANGUAGES:** English and Swahili

**PASSPORT:** British

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## BACKGROUND

After ten years as a solicitor in the City of London specializing in the laws of trusts and taxation, I took advantage of my training and experience to start an education charity. I established the charity in Tanzania and then in Rwanda. My legal skills have played a large part in the charity's success. Twenty-five years later, through many varied challenges, that charity, Education East Africa, is still going strong.

I have demonstrated the ability to conceive projects, set them up from scratch, pay attention to every detail, and pursue them with fortitude. In both Tanzania and Rwanda my work has gained the recognition of senior government officials, and in Tanzania I had a private audience with President Jakaya Kikwete. Indeed, my work in Tanzania was recognized with the award of an MBE in 2001.

Through hard work and with tenacity I have developed an exceptional method of educating children and teachers in rural primary schools. This is the fruition of working in rural primary school classrooms, getting to know the teachers and the constraints in their work, examining and analyzing primary school curriculum, reporting and presenting to officials, writing and adapting textbooks and teaching materials, overseeing the translation of materials, coordinating the printing and publishing of books, gaining permission for pilot projects, leading the projects, monitoring and evaluating them and demonstrating their success.

Unwavering from my principle that government primary education can and should be improved, despite the lack of available funding, I champion the cause of the disadvantaged child.

Not only do I have a unique understanding of Africa, I also have the experience of having lived most of my professional life abroad in challenging places with different cultures and diverse people.

## **SKILLS**

- Finding pragmatic solutions to complex problems
- Collaborating and working with people from exceptionally diverse backgrounds in three countries
- Diplomatically engaging with governments at every level
- Complying with multi-country laws and regulations relating to governance, employment, education, immigration, taxation, investment and non-profit status
- Project leadership, development, financing, budgeting, analysis, accounting and reporting
- Heading conferences and workshops
- Public speaking
- Training teachers, employees and volunteers
- Writing, designing and publishing textbooks, education and training materials in three languages
- Representing and advocating on behalf of the marginalized and oppressed
- Inspiring vision and enthusiasm in others

## WORK

Recognized as an expert in Primary Education and English as a Foreign Language for Children, I have been interviewed by television, radio and print in Tanzania and Rwanda, as well as in England.



### 2015 to Present:

- Moved to Rwanda and established, with local Rwandans, the non-government organization, Support to Primary Education Rwanda, to operate in partnership with Education East Africa
- Entered into agreements with the government of Rwanda to run our programme
- Coordinated the translation of books and materials into Kinyarwanda, and organized their printing and publishing
- Working with the teachers and pupils in rural primary schools
- Organized and led a Workshop for government officials
- Analyzed the primary school curriculum and wrote a detailed report at the request of the Minister for Education
- Advocating for change and actively engaging with the directors at the Rwanda Education Board, the Minister for Education, the Minister of State for Primary & Secondary Education, the President's Social Action Commission, Senators and MPs
- Leading and managing all details of the programme and working with employees, teachers, district officials, and with trustees in Rwanda and the UK

## **1998 – 2015:**

- Worked with the Minister for Education in Tanzania on course books to teach English in government primary schools
- Re-wrote teachers' guides for five course books in Swahili and English, and wrote a new two-year course
- Chaired a committee on behalf of the Tanzania Institute of Education and reported to the Minister for Education
- Private audience with His Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete
- Fundraised
- Established and ran a 'gap year' volunteer programme for eleven years
- Launched and operated a Whole School Development Programme in Tanzania for in-service training of school staff, while strengthening District Office and school management, and influencing national policy
- Networked with government officials and diplomats, organizations, businesses, donors, volunteers
- Led Education East Africa in Tanzania and England. Led trustees, employees, partners and volunteers

## **1994 – 1998:**

Started Education East Africa as a registered charity in England, and established it in Tanzania. I was the first non-Tanzanian to be given permission to work in government primary schools in Tanzania since Independence.

## **1981 – 1994:**

Solicitor in London specializing in the laws of trusts and taxation with Goodman Derrick and KPMG.

## **EDUCATION**

1980: BA (Hons) Law Degree University of Westminster, London

1981: Law Society Final Examinations, College of Law, London

1993: CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)  
International House, Piccadilly, London

## **REFERENCES**

### **Master Alexandra Beldam**

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**Education is the world's most powerful equalizer.**

**Compassion is the transformer.**

**- Katy Allen-Mtui**