

# Anitha Ndekezi, M.B.B.S.

*M.P.H. Candidate, Global Health Track*

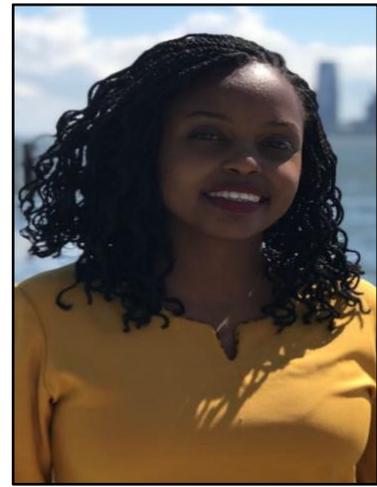
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**Practicum Sites:** Resonate Rwanda and VUMC  
(Emerging Infections Program)

**Practicum Site Supervisors:** Claire Uwineza, M.B.A.  
(Resonate) and Tiffanie M. Markus, Ph.D., C.C.R.P.

## ***Youth Empowerment Program Evaluation and Public Health Surveillance impact on Public Health***

**Keywords:** social determinants of health, Covid-19, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation



**Introduction:** This practicum experience was based within two sites: Resonate Rwanda and Tennessee Emerging Infection Program (EIP). In Resonate Rwanda the public health issue being addressed was social determinants of health affecting the youth through participation on the Monitoring and Evaluation team. In EIP the public health issue being addressed was Covid-19 in Nashville, Tennessee through work with the public health surveillance team. The primary objectives of the practicum were to learn more about surveillance work, improve data analysis skills, and work effectively with interprofessional teams.

**Methods:** During the practicum, training from the organizations included using different tools such as Stata, REDCap and Excel. To gain more understanding of the projects and organization team meetings and got feedback from her supervisors. To gain tangible skills, surveillance work with EIP was conducted along with producing numerous evaluation reports for Resonate Rwanda.

**Results:** The outcomes of this practicum experience have been to gain an understanding of surveillance work and its importance to public health along with improved data analysis skills. There have been opportunities to produce evaluation reports and provide recommendations to Resonate Rwanda's youth program. Current work includes the development of a descriptive report for a retrospective study with EIP.

**Conclusions:** The evaluation administered at Resonate Rwanda was aimed at supporting the Monitoring and Evaluation team in determining the program's effectiveness. This goal was achieved through assisting the team in bringing changes where necessary for an effective youth program in poverty reduction. In surveillance work at EIP, gained an understanding of the importance of good data collection, which impacts health policies. Overall, the student was able to achieve all her practicum objectives and is grateful to Resonate Rwanda and Tennessee EIP program for their supervision and guidance through this hands-on learning process.