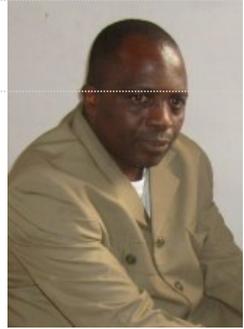


# Sadiki Byombukato

## MSc Public Economic Management and Finance (2004)



"I have gained a great sense of multicultural interactions at the university. I quickly improved my English (coming from a French-speaking country) and got more confidence in personal research and learning besides the courses taught by lecturers."



### Who are you currently working for and what is your job title?

I am currently working for the British International NGO called TEARFUND. My job title is: Country Representative for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### What is the best thing about what you are doing now?

I enjoy project field visits to see myself how Tearfund support is making a difference in lives of poor people (villages accessing clean water, children attending classes in schools built with our support, etc.). I also enjoy meetings with other international and local NGOs and with Government officials in the country to discuss social, humanitarian and development policies. Those meetings offer me an opportunity of influence on the country's social and development policies.

### How has your career developed since graduating from the University of Birmingham?

When I graduated, I was first contracted by Tearfund to conduct a project evaluation in the DRC in December 2004. Then, Tearfund opened a position of 'Regional Advisor for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic'. I applied for it, went through interviews and was successful. I worked then with Tearfund from February 2005 to March 2008 in that position. In April 2008, I was appointed to my current position of Country Representative for the DRC.

### Why did you originally apply to Birmingham?

I was looking for a Masters program on economic policies after previous studies in rural development and project management. The Birmingham's IDD department attracted me due to its orientation towards developing countries.

### What are your fondest memories of the University?

Wide learning opportunities on the university site in Edgbaston (library, IT, lots of academic events) in a lovely natural site very well maintained. I particularly enjoyed the multicultural openness of the university and life on-campus with fellow students from Asia, Africa, UK and elsewhere.

### How did you grow as a person by coming to University?

I have gained a great sense of multicultural interactions at the university. I quickly improved my English (coming from a French-speaking country) and got more confidence in personal research and learning besides the courses taught by lecturers.

### What did you think of the learning experience within the University?

Courses, assignments and intensive reading on public economic management, making policy, project analysis and planning equipped me for my current tasks on development policy, project planning, project evaluations and management.

### Did you find the University or your degree helpful to you in getting your first job?

Tearfund being a UK-based NGO, my degree from a UK university was well regarded and contributed to my recruitment.

### What advice would you give to current students studying on your degree programme?

If they are from outside the UK and can get accommodation on-campus, it is good to live on campus and increase interactions with fellow students from various countries worldwide.