

## Priscilla Sampil obituary

Dear Colleagues,



It is with profound sadness that I share that our dear colleague Priscilla Sampil, USAID/Zimbabwe Supervisory Executive Officer, passed away on November 23, 2024. Priscilla was a loving mother to her three children, Aboubacar Dinah, Charlotte Binta, and Youssouf Emmanuel, and a devoted partner to her husband Mohamed. She is also survived by her mother Leslie Hunter, stepfather John Hunter, brother Emmanuel Ashamu, sisters Charlotte Ashamu and Elizabeth Deng, also a USAID Foreign Service Officer, and stepsister Madeline Hunter. My deepest sympathies are with them and all of her family and friends during this time of loss and grief.

Priscilla leaves behind an impressive legacy of achievements from her many years of public service. Earlier this year, I conveyed my appreciation to her for her initiative to advocate for and empower FSNs and advance our Agency's priorities in locally led development. The energy and dedication she brought to her work with USAID distinguish her as one of our Agency's finest officers.

Priscilla's career in public service spans more than 20 years and multiple U.S. agencies, including the Department of State, Peace Corps, and USAID. She grew up between Lagos, Nigeria and Charlottesville, Virginia and later attended Barnard College, Columbia University, where she studied Political Science and Economics. Priscilla began her journey in international development as an NGO worker in Guinea, later assuming positions with the U.S. Embassy and USAID in Guinea, with the Peace Corps in both Togo and Guinea as an Administrative Officer and Director of Management and Operations, and later with the USAID/Guinea Mission.

Priscilla's enthusiasm for international development led her to join USAID as a Foreign Service Officer in 2016, and in her first Foreign Service overseas assignment she served as the Supervisory Executive Officer in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Zimbabwe, as Executive Officer since 2021, Priscilla served as a champion for local staff and led efforts to improve FSN benefits such as health care. She also acted as the Deputy Mission Director through a period of extended leadership transition during which she led the Mission to partner with civil society and other stakeholders in the lead up to the 2023 Zimbabwe presidential election. Priscilla embodied the core values of our Agency and put Zimbabwe at the forefront of USAID's goal to ensure those we serve are at the center of their own development. Her efforts to launch and execute USAID/Zimbabwe's local internship program earlier this year left a lasting impact on the Mission and on the youth who participated. In fact, thanks to the success of the first intern cohort, a follow-on program has already seen over 1,000 applicants from Zimbabwe's talented pool of young people. Priscilla has left an important legacy through this initiative, which is expanding opportunities for youth and laying the groundwork for a future generation of local leadership.

Priscilla's memory lives in the minds and hearts of all who knew her. Please take a moment to reflect on and honor Priscilla by signing this [link](#) or the physical books to be placed in the lobby of the Ronald Reagan Building and the USAID Annex in Washington, DC; the U.S. Embassy in Harare; and at the USAID Mission in Kinshasa.

The loss of a colleague and friend can evoke powerful emotions of grief and sadness. We encourage you to seek support from our [Staff Care Program](#) and its team of clinicians now or at any time in the days ahead. You can reach them at 1-877-988-7243 (toll-free), or +44-0-208-987-6200 (reverse-charge), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

From USAID Counselor Clinton White, Dec. 2, 2024