



**Peter Kidi Utong**

**Profile**

I was born and have lived my entire life in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. As a refugee, I have grown up at the receiving end of humanitarian assistance and experienced firsthand both the life-saving impact of aid and its deep failures.

My journey as a poet, writer, and refugee advocate has become my way of documenting and speaking out against the injustices refugees face. My poems and essays focus on issues such as food cuts, differentiated assistance, protests, police violence, and the mental health crisis in Kakuma. My work has been featured on Oxfam's from Poverty to Power blog, and I am currently collaborating with the London School of Economics on an upcoming book project. I also have forthcoming publications with the New Humanitarian, where I continue to highlight refugee perspectives through poetry and advocacy.

**Why is the CHS Alliance important to the sector?**

The CHS is important because it challenges the humanitarian sector to confront the gap between intention and reality. Too often, aid systems claim to serve people while failing to truly listen to them. Growing up in Kakuma refugee camp, I have seen how decisions made far away can shape lives without accountability to those affected. The CHS sets a clear standard that demands transparency, dignity, and community voice- not as an option, but as a responsibility. It calls on the sector to move beyond delivering aid as charity, and instead practice it as justice. For me, the CHS represents a necessary shift toward a system where people are not managed, but heard, respected, and involved in the decisions that affect their lives.

**What motivates you to join the Alliance's Board?**

Beyond writing, I have been deeply engaged in community-level advocacy. I speak on behalf of those who are silenced by fear of deportation or intimidation. I have seen women and children pushed into despair, suicide, and dangerous journeys back across borders due to flawed aid policies. These are not abstract statistics for me, they are my daily reality.

I bring to the CHS Alliance Board lived experience, creativity, and a strong commitment to accountability. I know what it means when humanitarian standards are not applied, when communities are excluded from decision-making, and when aid policies ignore the human cost. I want to contribute this perspective so that humanitarian systems are shaped not only by policy-makers, but also by the voices of those they affect.