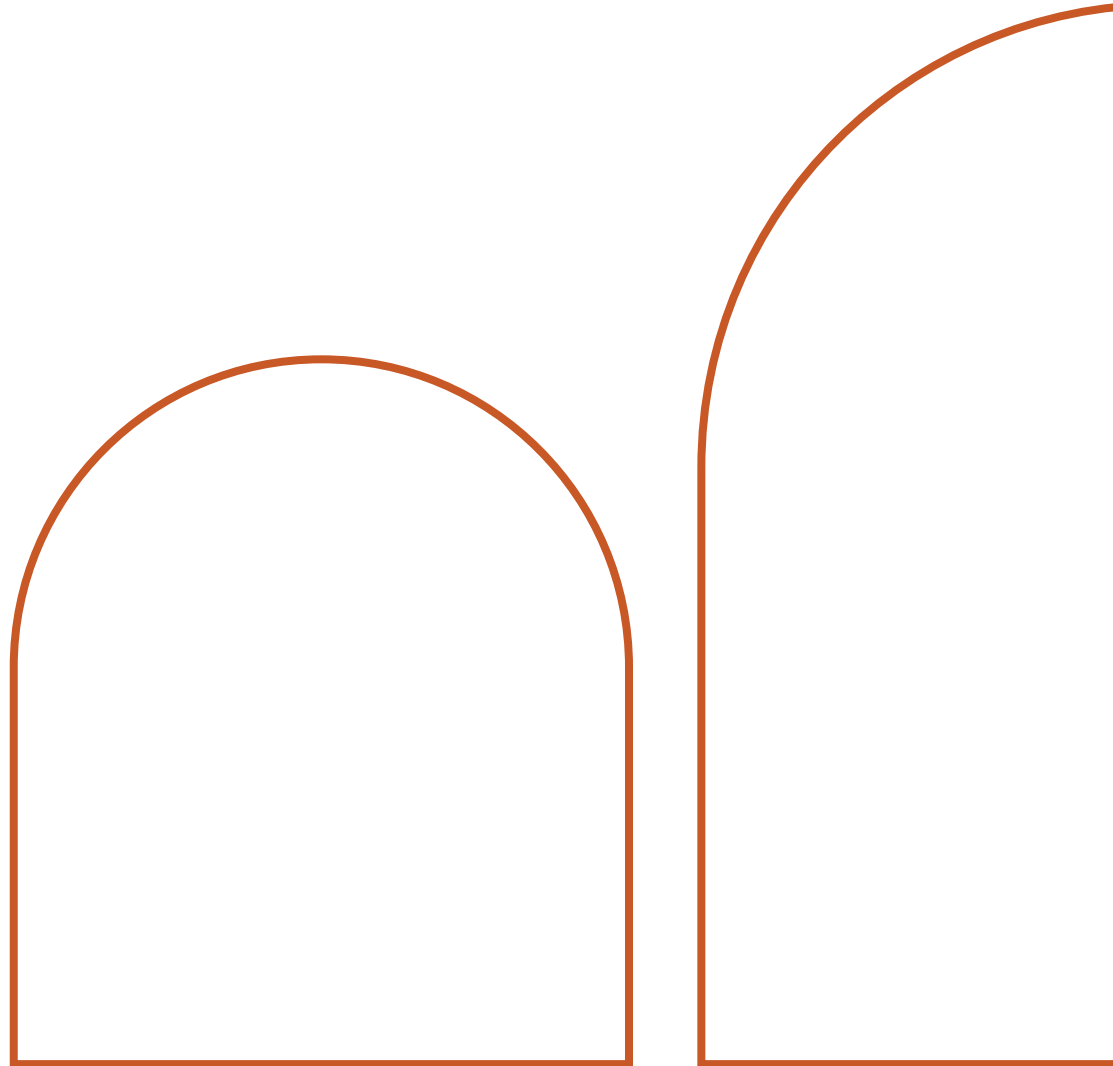


# YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS PROGRAMME

Fellows in the academic year  
2023-2024





## Enoch Randy AIKINS

**Nationality:** Ghana

**Areas of expertise:** Political Economy; Governance; Public Policy; Poverty; Corruption; Democracy; Public Economics; Policy Analysis

Enoch Randy Aikins is a development practitioner, policy analyst and researcher on African development and governance. Since May 2021, he has worked with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria as a Researcher in the African Futures and Innovation programme, where he analyses trends and futures of African development. Before that, Enoch was a research officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) in Accra, in charge of local governance and public sector reforms, where he championed and advocated for local governance reforms in Ghana. He worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana.

Also, since 2021, Enoch has been volunteering as a columnist for the Daily Graphic newspaper in Ghana, where he writes on various governance and developmental issues confronting Ghana and Africa. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty, and inequality. He has a MPhil in Economics (2017) and a B.A. in Economics and Mathematics (2014) from the University of Ghana, Legon. With over 40 publications, Enoch has expertise in policymaking and analysis for Africa's development.



## Zienab ANWAR

**Nationality:** Egypt

**Areas of expertise:** Migration and Citizenship; Displacement, Refugees, IDP; Economic Development; Social Status and Gender Inequalities; Peace Negotiations, Peacebuilding, Peacemaking

Zienab Anwar has over a decade of experience in designing and implementing research projects and evaluation frameworks for migration and economic empowerment programmes. In 2017, Zienab received her Master's degree from Atkinson School of Management in the United States of America with a focus on government and nonprofit management. Zienab worked with different international organisations such as Save the Children and Plan International within the functions of research, monitoring, and evaluation. Throughout her career with different international organisations and think tanks in Europe, Zienab has designed and implemented more than 30 evaluation and research studies with a focus on migration, peacebuilding, and economic empowerment.

Before joining the Young African Leaders Programme, Zienab was appointed as the country monitoring and evaluation manager for Terre des Hommes Egypt delegation where she led the Tdh country's transition to include evidence-based design and evaluation system and developed the country's accountability guidelines. Furthermore, she worked on the integration of learning functions within a migration programme to ensure a participatory, evidence-based, and informed decision-making process.

Zienab's research interest is focused on social and economic empowerment for vulnerable groups, especially refugees and asylum seekers, while promoting social cohesion and peace among different communities.



## Jonas Assouhan ATCHADE

**Nationality:** Benin

**Areas of expertise:** Climate Change; Sustainable Development; Urban Ecology

Jonas Assouhan Atchade holds a PhD in sustainable urban development with a focus on urban ecology and sanitation. He also holds two Master's degrees, with the first in natural resources and the other in climate change and sustainable development. He has been an ECOWAS Fellow under the Global Climate Change Alliance Fund and the World Bank respectively for his recent Master's degree and PhD research.

From 2022, Jonas has been working as Climate Change and Green Growth Project Officer at the African Development Bank (AfDB) on "building the capacity of African countries to access finance for sustainable energy projects from the Green Climate Funds (GCF)."

With his cutting-edge expertise in climate policy in Africa, Jonas is working with Africa Research and Impacts Network (ARIN) on climate-related loss and damage alignment and consideration in national policies of Least Developed Countries to facilitate institutional arrangements for the operationalisation and implementation of the new loss and damage climate fund in Africa.

Jonas has been a research fellow on the NDCs Financing in African Countries with Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and ARIN under IDRC financing. As a research fellow, he has been involved in climate actions in diverse aspects, notably, attending Africa Climate Week 2022 in Gabon, Pre COP-26 in DRC and COP27 in Sharm El Sheik. As active YPARD Policy Working Group member, Jonas has been a global youth delegate to attend the World Forestry Congress at Seoul in South Korea (May 2022). Jonas is also author and co-author of a range of scientific publications.



## Pedro Silva BAPTISTA

**Nationality:** Cape Verde

**Areas of expertise:** International Relations; Political Economy; Internet; Online Platforms; Africa

Pedro Silva Baptista is an independent professional and interdisciplinary Capeverdian. Serving as a policy advisor and strategist, he also applies his educational experience and entrepreneurial background to his business ventures. He has lived in Brazil, Spain, the Czech Republic, and Portugal, where he founded the start-up Portugal Nosso®, an eCommerce platform.

Pedro holds both a Bachelor's degree in International Business Relations (2013) and an MBA (2014) from the Higher Institute of Business and Tourism Sciences. In 2016, he earned a Master's in International Business from the University of Minho, where he later obtained a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Political Science and International Relations. Rewarded with the 3rd Cycle Academic Merit Award in 2017, his intellectual aptitudes favour his hands-on capabilities in the private sector. In 2016, he authored research that resulted in the publication of his first book, with policy recommendations on Foreign Direct Investment and economic diplomacy, as well as pioneering development frameworks for Capeverdian authorities. In the digital innovation and entrepreneurship sectors, he received the prestigious Best Digital Marketing Conversion Campaigns Award at the Digital Awards by AEP in 2019.

Within the scope of research, Pedro is interested in the commercial, diplomatic, and political components of the Africa-EU relationship; analysing these dynamics through the lens of the unique cooperation framework «The European Union-Cape Verde Special Partnership». In short, he seeks to impact the African Transition and advocate for Agenda 2063.

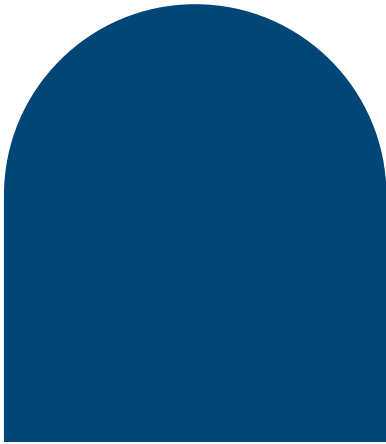


## Achref CHIBANI

**Nationality:** Tunisia

**Areas of expertise:** Energy and Climate; Middle East and North Africa (MENA); Climate Change Governance; Human Rights

Achref Chibani is a Tunisian journalist, researcher, and civil society activist whose core areas of focus are climate change, renewable energies, and human rights. He was formerly a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars' Middle East Program and a non-resident Fellow at TIMEP focusing on climate change in the Middle East and North Africa region.



## Nisreen ELSAIM

**Nationality:** Sudan

**Areas of expertise:** Energy and Climate; Climate Change Governance; Conflict and Peace; Public Policy; Sustainability; Environment; Climate Change Law and Governance; Environmental Justice; Civil Society; Peace Negotiations, Peacebuilding, Peacemaking

Nisreen Elsaïm is an environmental and climate activist, she started activism in 2012. She holds a Bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Khartoum, Sudan and a Master's degree in renewable energy from the same university. Nisreen is the founder of an NGO named "The Bridge of Humanity: A Network of Opportunities" which is based in France and aims to facilitate the partnership and collaboration between Sudan and France.

Nisreen was the general coordinator for Youth and Environment - Sudan (YES) platform to give all youth working in relation to the environment the networking opportunities they need. She was also the Chair and a Co-founder of Sudan Youth Organization on Climate Change (SYOCC), which is a youth-led organisation.

As part of many regional and international platforms Nisreen led and mentored a large number of young people within YOUNGO, PACJA, Abu Dhabi youth Voices, and others. She is also a junior negotiator with the African Group of Negotiators in technology transfer, focusing on the policies of countries regarding climate change and renewable energies. In addition, she has written several policy papers on climate change, renewable energy, gender, and youth empowerment.

In 2020, Nisreen was chosen to chair the UN Secretary General's youth adviser on climate change along with six other young climate activists. She is also one of the first in the Cohort of the Marianne initiative for human rights defenders, an initiative by the French president.



## Fadima GOLOGO

**Nationality:** Mali

**Areas of expertise:** International Relations; International Human Rights Law; Conflict and Peace

Fadima Gologo is a Programme Officer at the European Union Delegation to Mali where she leads implementation of priority initiatives, coordinates communication strategies and fosters effective coordination among EU member states. After earning an LL.M. in International Human Rights Law from Brunel University in London, and a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Wartburg College in the U.S.A. Fadima acquired a breadth of experience working with multilateral organizations to implement activities and promote meaningful change. Her experience encompasses working with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Royal Danish Embassy in Mali. Her work included advancing educational reforms by means of capacity building for teachers and girls' education for the former, and managing a regional peace and stabilization programme covering Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger for the latter.

Fadima's professional background and rich cross-cultural experiences have not only sharpened her professional acumen, but also fuelled her determination to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development and global cooperation. Combining a passion for diplomacy, communication, and project management, Fadima aspires to be a driving force in fostering international collaboration and promoting peace and stability in regions facing complex challenges.

While she is not working, Fadima enjoys reading a good book, travelling, and the great outdoors.





## Mariam HASSAN

**Nationality:** Egypt

**Areas of expertise:** Covid-19; Public Health and Health Policy; Social Status and Gender Inequalities; Pandemics and Epidemics; Social Norms and Behaviour; Intergovernmental Institutions.

Mariam Hassan is a dentist and public health expert with over seven years of clinical practice and project management expertise. She holds two Master's degrees, including an MBA in non-profit management and a Master's in health policy, planning, and financing. Mariam has been selected as a recipient of both the Civil Society Leadership Award and Fulbright fellowship, highlighting her commitment to positively impacting the public health sector.

Over the past five years, Mariam has held various technical and management positions at local, national, and regional levels. In these roles, she has successfully coordinated, designed, and led health programmes and projects in specialised areas such as Community Health, Mental Health, resource mobilisation, NCDS, emergency response, migrants' health, Covid-19, and health systems strengthening. Furthermore, she has co-founded an award-winning start-up that focused on providing essential community-based mental health support to children and their families.

Her current research interests lie in decision-making science, specifically exploring the impact of leaders' personalities (thoughts, feelings, and attitudes) on decision-making processes and organisational behaviour within public health organisations. By delving into this area, Mariam aims to enhance the effectiveness of our work and optimise resource utilisation for maximum impact. Maintaining good health and wellness is crucial for leading a fulfilling life. She aims to contribute to discovering the simplest, most effective, and sustainable methods to help individuals achieve their full potential by promoting health and well-being.



## Apiwe HOTELE

**Nationality:** South Africa

**Areas of expertise:** Gender, Diversity, and Justice; STEM Entrepreneurship; Innovation; Inclusion

Apiwe Hotele is a passionate advocate for the inclusion of women in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). She is the founder and director of #BreakingTheStereotype, an NPO that aims to empower, motivate, and encourage females to study Science and Engineering and support them through their journey. Her company, Enlighten Edu, provides assistance to learners struggling with Maths and Science. Through the web platform, learners have live sessions, complete homework, and monitor their progress using analytics.

Apiwe holds a BSc in Computer Science and an MSc in Computer Engineering. Her technical background is in project management, product development, technology innovation, systems engineering and spearheading socio-economic initiatives to improve entrepreneurship in rural areas. Prior to focusing on her business, she worked for the South African Radio Astronomy (SARAO) spearheading various projects for the development and commercialization of innovative products that emanated from the development of the MeerKAT Radio Telescope.

Her personal mission is to create a society that is inclusive and confident in STEM regardless of their background, race, gender, or age.

She has received a number of awards, such as: Mail&Guardian's 200 Young South Africans, News24's 100 Young Mandelas, top inspiring women in ICT, NYDA trailblazer, won the Rising Star Award in the ICT category, acknowledged by Inside Education as one of the 100 Shining Stars in Science and named one of the 2023 Unsung Heroes by Sunday World under the business and entrepreneurship category.



## Adanvo Isaac HOUNGNIGBE

**Nationality:** Benin

**Areas of expertise:** Epidemic Preparedness and Response; Humanitarianism and Humanitarian Intervention; Public Health and Public Policy; Healthcare Survey Data; Quantitative Methods; Research Design and Methodology

Adanvo Isaac Houngnigbe obtained a Doctor of Medicine degree and a Master's in Epidemiology and Public Health from the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin). Since 2022, he has been working with Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in Benin on the Integrated Health Services Activities (IHSA) project funded by USAID. Within the IHSA project, he is involved in improving the coverage of COVID-19 vaccinations and strengthening the capacities of health facilities in infection prevention and control. He has also collaborated with UNFPA on a project to ensure continuity of maternal and neonatal health services in the context of COVID-19 in Benin during 2020 and 2021.

Isaac is regularly sought after to enhance the capacities of youth, women, and religious leaders on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Additionally, he serves as an associate researcher at the Civic Academy for Africa's Future (CiAAF), a multidisciplinary and independent think-and-do tank. Furthermore, he provides support to researchers in research methodology, quantitative data analysis, and mapping of public health events. His main areas of interest include epidemic preparedness and response, maternal and child health, humanitarian response, health research including data analysis, leadership, and governance.

In 2018, he was selected as one of the 35 young leaders in Benin by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In 2019, Women Deliver recognised him among the 300 young leaders worldwide who significantly contribute to the health and well-being of women and girls globally.



## Jean Jacques IRADUKUNDA

**Nationality:** Rwanda

**Areas of expertise:** Digital Transformation; Technological Change and Society; Gender Equality; Employment; Education; Political Behaviour (Parties, Elections, Voting); Constitution-Making in Democratic Transitions

Jean Jacques Iradukunda, (born June 17, 1994, Rwanda), is the CEO of Igire Rwanda Organization running the SheCanCODE and the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs. He also serves as a Managing Director of Kira Group, a company that provides capacity development services to community members in Rwanda. He recently graduated from the Masters of Development Practice from Regis University. Jean Jacques is looking forward to starting a PhD soon so as to increase his abilities and better empower community members.

Igire Rwanda Organization runs SheCanCODE, a computer programming programme for girls and women. The programme has trained over 300 girls and women and placed 85% in Tech Jobs. The programme trains and places girls and women in Tech Employment opportunities as a way to reduce the technology gender digital gap in a male dominated field. Igire Rwanda Organization also runs the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, an entrepreneurship programme for girls and women. The programme provides girls and women with the entrepreneurship skills, competencies, and experiences they need to be competent entrepreneurs.

Through Jean Jacques' leadership, the organisation established funding partnerships with the United States Embassy in Kigali, Israel Embassy in Kigali, UN Women Rwanda, MasterCard Foundation and many more funding partners are coming on board. Jean Jacques is interested in understanding how politics influences community empowerment and fosters community livelihoods.



## Jawhratelkmal KANU

**Nationality:** Sudan

**Areas of expertise:** Economics; Political Economy; Governance; Conflict and Peace; Civil Society.

Jawhratelkmal Kanu is an economist, programme management expert, and a political economy analyst.

In her eight years experience implementing development projects in Sudan and the broader East Africa region, Jawhara's interests expanded to include political economy, conflict economics, and nonviolent mobilisations, she engages with these topics by conducting research and analysis; participating in local initiatives; and using multimedia to connect and share information with various audiences, including academics, non-governmental organisations, and policymakers.

Over the years, Jawhara has directly overseen and participated the formation of multiple youth groups, women rights networks, and local initiatives, which has and are contributing to shaping the political scene in Sudan. She also serves as a context analyst, an organiser, and a mobiliser of groups and networks supporting democratic efforts in the region.

Jawhara holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Khartoum (Sudan), and a Master's degree in Economics and Finance for Development from the University of Bradford (UK). She is also a founding member at the Sudanese Women Economists Association (SWEA), a Founder at Hiwarat Podcast, and a member of many global networks such as the Mo Ibrahim Now Generation Network (NGN), The Global Solutions Initiative's Young Global Changers, and fellow at the European University Institute's Young African Leaders Programme (YALP).

Currently, Jawhratelkmal Kanu serves as a program officer at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP).



## Johanna LINUS

**Nationality:** Namibia

**Areas of expertise:** Governance and Regulation; Public Policy; Sustainability; Policy Analysis; Environmental justice; Sub-Saharan Africa

Johanna Linus is a geologist with 12 years of experience in the sustainable development of mineral resources. She works as a Senior Geoscientist in the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Namibia, where she focuses on formalising the artisanal and small-scale mining sector, and on reviewing and updating mineral legislations. Before that, she worked as an exploration geologist for an international company exploring for base and rare metals in Namibia.

Johanna holds a Master of Laws in International Mineral Law and Policy with Distinction from the University of Dundee (UK), a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Namibia. She has also attended a course on Local Economic and Social Development in Extractives at the University of Queensland (Australia).

Her research focuses on analysing impacts of responsible sourcing on artisanal and small-scale miners; assessing the effectiveness of mining tax regimes in mineral producing countries; and evaluating just transition in the value chains of minerals and metals that are needed for the transition to low carbon economies. Johanna has a keen interest in maintaining environmental and social sustainability during the exploitation of mineral resources required to tackle climate change.



## Lawrence MAGUMBA

**Nationality:** Uganda

**Areas of expertise:** International Security; Policy Analysis; International Law and Justice; Conflict and Peace; Global Governance; Post-Conflict; Political Methodology

Lawrence Magumba is a legal, conflict, and political analyst with a career navigating politically sensitive and security risk environments across the Eastern Africa and Great Lakes Region, particularly the DRC, South Sudan, Rwanda, Somalia, and Burundi. In his role as Regional Political Officer at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), he provides analysis and advice on a range of issues across the full spectrum of regional politics.

Before joining the FCDO, he was a Legal Researcher (Transitional Justice) at the International Crimes Division of the High Court of Uganda. His significant contributions include drafting a contextual background report on the conflict in Northern Uganda, admitted as expert evidence in the ongoing trial of former LRA rebel commander, Thomas Kwoyelo.

Lawrence holds a Master of Laws in International Law with International Criminal Justice from The University of Kent, Canterbury, a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from Uganda Christian University, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Institute of Legal Practice and Development in Rwanda. These are further supplemented by certificates in Political Communication and Strategy, and Applied Conflict and Political Analysis.

Currently, Lawrence's research investigates regional dynamics and their impact on the utility and political barriers of conflict sensitivity in the Eastern DRC. His work focuses on understanding how decisions made in Kigali and Kampala shape conflict sensitivity in the Eastern DRC, providing valuable insights into more effective conflict management strategies.



## Magook Daniel MAYOM LUETH

**Nationality:** South Sudan

**Areas of expertise:** Macroeconomics; Macroeconomic Policy; Education Economics, Value Chain and Cooperative Development; Policy Analysis; Public Policy; International Economics; Public Finance

Magook Daniel Mayom Lueth is an economist, value chain, and policy development expert. He is a co-founder of the Economic Forum and Research Policy (EFRP), an economic think tank and consulting firm that aims to promote policy analysis through research, capacity building or training, and disseminating policy research results to policymakers.

Magook Daniel holds a Master's degree in economics from Reitaku University, Japan, and a Bachelor's degree of Science in Economics from the University of Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan. He is also a recipient of the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative Scholarship for Youth Award by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency in July 2016.

He currently works as a national Consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), South Sudan, providing technical support in the areas of value chain analysis and cooperative development, and dissemination of policies in the agricultural sector. He also works as an assistant lecturer of economics at Dr John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology, South Sudan.

He is an active member of Kakehashi Africa, a network of young professionals who participated in Japan's "ABE Initiative" programme and have local knowledge of 50+ African countries. Kakehashi Africa thrives to provide individuals and companies with the best solutions for their business. He serves as a chief ambassador of Kakehashi Africa in South Sudan mapping key investment and trade institutions on the Kakehashi platform and building a network with innovators and startups within and outside the country.





## Zikani Andrew MSUKU

**Nationality:** Malawi

**Areas of expertise:** Public Policy; Policy Analysis; Policy Responsiveness and Policy Feedback Effects; Public Administration

Zikani Andrew Msuku has over 8 years of experience working in the public sector in Malawi. He is currently the Principal Planning and Development Officer for the Malawi Judiciary. He oversaw the operationalisation of and heads the Planning and Policy Services department whose primary functions include coordinating the formulation and review of Malawi Judiciary's Strategic Plans, developing and analysing budgets, collecting, analysing and reporting court case statistics, and coordinating the planning, implementation and evaluation of government and donor-funded projects. Previously, he has also served as Training and Development Officer in the Training Section as well as Programme Manager for the Malawi Judiciary Development Programme.

Zikani has contributed significantly to establishing and maintaining linkages and funding agreements between the Malawi judiciary and its development partners especially on programmes that aim at increasing access to justice for vulnerable groups through proposal writing, developing implementation plans, and coordinating the implementation of activities. He has also overseen the development and review of key strategic documents such as the five-year Malawi Judiciary Strategic Plans and Malawi Judiciary Training and Development Policies.

His research interests include leadership and governance in public institutions as well as strategic and reformative approaches to public policy making. Zikani holds an MBA from National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan, and a Bachelor of Social Science (Economics) from the University of Malawi.



## Mukuka MULENGA

**Nationality:** Zambia

**Areas of expertise:** Gender Equality; Poverty; Sustainability; Environment; Sustainable Development Goals; Climate Change Governance

Mukuka Mulenga is a Sustainable Development Specialist with 12 years of work experience in the Government of the Republic of Zambia. Currently, she is appointed under the Department of Social Welfare as Social Welfare Officer in the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services. The department is mandated to alleviate extreme poverty in households.

Preceding her current appointment, Mukuka worked as a Subject Teacher and Chiefs Affairs Officer in the Ministries of Education and Chiefs and Traditional Affairs respectively. She also collaborates with Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations and communities. She fosters partnerships among these stakeholders on various development issues such as participatory planning, reducing rural poverty, and development. Her job focuses on addressing poverty, gender, and climate change problems in rural areas through engaging the communities and traditional leaders.

Mukuka is a holder of a Master of Science degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University in Sweden obtained in 2019 and funded by the Swedish Institute Scholarships for Global Professionals. She also received a research grant from the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy to conduct fieldwork in Zambia for her Master's thesis. She has further published in the Journal of Energy in Southern Africa. Mukuka also holds a Bachelor of Arts with Education degree in Psychology and History obtained from the University of Zambia in 2011. She is passionate about the environment, sustainable development, and improving living standards and resilience among the rural poor.



## Whitney MWANGI

**Nationality:** Kenya

**Areas of expertise:** Global Health; Policy; Advocacy; Youth Empowerment

Whitney Mwangi holds an MSc in Global Health (University of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, 2022) and a BA in Journalism (University of Nairobi School of Journalism, 2016). She works as a Health Policy and Advocacy Specialist at the African Union (AU) Commission. In this role, she leads policy development and advocacy focused on advancing the goal to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030. She has also contributed to the development and implementation of continental policies and advocacy strategies on the 2019 AU Assembly Declaration on Health Financing and the Africa CDC's COVID-19 response crisis communications (2020-2022).

Additionally, Whitney is a passionate advocate of youth empowerment. To this end, she is the Founder of the Story Book Africa a creative enterprise aimed at empowering Africa's youth for healing, growth, and development. It has four main avenues for impact: e-Shop, Blog, Podcast and Outreach Programs. She has served on the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) Youth Advisory Council and RBM Partnership to End Malaria Youth Workstream and provided strategic advice on malaria advocacy.

Whitney also has personal interests in art and culture. She has written, designed and published two e-books and a 30-day set of affirmation cards; *Trouble in Paradise*, *Crowns of The World* and *#DearFriend*, respectively. She remains an avid student of life, global health, leadership, policy and diplomacy to improve her capacity to write impactful stories, provide leadership and add value to the young generation rising behind her in Africa.



## Krishnaveni NAGEN

**Nationality:** Mauritius

**Areas of expertise:** Microeconomics and Microeconomic Theory; Macroeconomics; Macroeconomic Policy; Regional Integration and Cooperation

Krishnaveni Nagen graduated from the University of Mauritius in 2012, with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance. She was thereafter awarded the prestigious Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Africa scholarship to pursue her Master's degree in Economics in India. During her stay in India, she participated in various national and international seminars where she delivered presentations and contributed articles on the Indian E-commerce sector and E-entrepreneurship.

After working in the private sector for almost 4 years, Krishnaveni joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius as an Analyst. There, she contributes in advancing regional cooperation in significant areas such as maritime safety and security, blue economy, climate change, women's economic empowerment, and tourism, amongst others. She works closely with regional organisations and several national/international stakeholders in the elaboration, implementation, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of regional projects and programmes across various sectors.

Krishnaveni has a rich experience working with senior officials from various countries given her participation in several regional forums, workshops, and meetings, both at technical and ministerial levels. She is also actively involved in the preparation of briefing notes, technical dossiers, speeches, and reports for high-level meetings.

Her interests include regional integration and regional policies, climate change, financial inclusion, and maritime safety and security.



## Selma NDI

**Nationality:** Cameroon

**Areas of expertise:** Digital Transformation; Technological Change and Society; Gender Equality; Digital Markets; Science and Technology Policy

Selma Ndi, CEO and founder of Data Girl Technologies, is a force to be reckoned with in the tech world. With an unwavering passion for empowering women, she has created an ed-tech start-up that revolutionises the way women acquire digital skills and that harnesses their potential to monetise these talents. Over the past three years, her organisation has successfully trained over 3000 ambitious girls from across the nation and beyond in the art of Web development, empowering them to conquer the digital realm.

As a Full-Stack Web Developer, Selma not only excels in her own technical prowess but also dedicates herself as a tech mentor at the CareerFoundry institute. Her wealth of knowledge extends beyond her coding expertise, as she holds an esteemed MBA degree in Business Administration from the ICT University in Yaounde, Cameroon.

In 2018, Selma was acknowledged as Cameroon's exceptional youth of the year, a testament to her dedication and impact. Additionally, her talent as a Web developer earned her the prestigious title of the best Web developer Women in Tech Startups in 2020. Continuing to soar to new heights, Selma's accomplishments caught the attention of Forbes in July 2021, propelling her into the spotlight as a recognised industry leader. Additionally, she secured a coveted spot in the esteemed 2022 TechWomen fellowship at Silicon Valley, USA.

Her ultimate goal is to bridge the gender gap in the tech world by empowering women with the skills and confidence they need to succeed. She is passionate about fostering a supportive and inclusive tech community where women thrive and excel.



## Sentle NELL

**Nationality:** South Africa

**Areas of expertise:** Renewable Energy; Sustainability; Energy and Climate

With a background in development financing in Africa and as one of the youngest black women in the renewable energy sector in South Africa, Sentle Nell currently works as Chief Sustainability Officer, for an energy multi-national. She interacts with various global Independent Power Producers, local communities, government institutions and international financiers. Sentle holds a Master's degree in Science from the University of Sussex, which focused on Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

As part of her ethos of “being the change one requires” Sentle supports various civic organisations through her work that focus on supporting community-based climate change mitigation enterprises and introducing investors in sustainable economic development strategies and social entrepreneurship in Africa. Sentle is a seasoned development practitioner, speaker, and facilitator, who has a passion for rural socio-economic capacitation and collaboration.



## Mayamiko NYANKALWA

**Nationality:** Malawi

**Areas of expertise:** Law Enforcement Administration; Crime Prevention and Criminal Investigations; Peacebuilding; Conflict Prevention; Mediation and Negotiation; Governance and Human Rights Law; Capacity Building; Regulatory Compliance.

Mayamiko Nyankalwa is a security and legal expert who holds a Master of Laws (LLM) degree specialising in criminal law from the University of Illinois in the United States of America. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Security Studies from the Mzuzu University of Malawi.

With over 13 years of invaluable experience in the Malawi Police Service, Mayamiko has held diverse positions ranging from Research and Policy Planning Officer, where he conducted extensive research on security policies, contributed to strategic planning, and excelled as a Criminal Investigations Officer, designing and executing community policing strategies and investigating high-profile cases involving corruption, cybercrime, terrorism, and human trafficking.

Mayamiko is a prominent figure in the peace and security domain, renowned for his achievements in Malawi and across Africa. He has an impressive track record in implementing security sector reforms, drafting national security and peace policies, and leading consultancy projects in broad areas of criminal justice and human rights, public safety, and security. He has also participated in peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations across African countries such as Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mayamiko is currently an adjunct lecturer at the Malawi School of Government, where he teaches international relations and diplomacy, foreign policy, migration, and international security. He is also a Visiting Scholar and Research Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence School of Transnational Governance. His research interests include peace and conflict resolution, corruption and governance, migration and international security, and international human rights.



## Albert Kwame ODUM

**Nationality:** Ghana

**Areas of expertise:** Finance; Project Management; Digital Transformation;  
Public Administration

Albert Kwame Odum is a Finance professional with a project management advantage. As a Corporate Strategy Analyst at the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA), he leads transformation initiatives and strategies within the Support Services Division to ensure alignment with the vision of the Authority. He possesses a track record for driving organisational excellence and project success within commercial banking, mining, and tax administration.

Albert has been pivotal to the GRA's Agenda to transform into a world-class revenue administration and to achieve a tax-to-GDP ratio of 18% by 2025. He provides useful insights for critical decisions by Top Management, and has collaborated extensively with organisations like McKinsey, KPMG, IMF, EY, World Bank, Office of the Vice President of Ghana, and other multilateral and state agencies.

As an alumnus of the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Africa programme (SEO Africa-Class of 2017) – a non-profit talent development programme – Albert is focused on giving back to society through mentorship and youth support. He leads the Project Management Institute (Ghana Chapter) as the Vice President of Finance and is a lead advocate of project management in Ghana, Africa and at the global level.

Albert has completed the Level II (of 3 levels) of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) programme and is a holder of Project Management Professional (PMP®). He holds an MBA from the University of Ghana, and a Bachelor's degree from KNUST, Ghana. He is committed to leading efforts to close the infrastructure financing gap in Ghana and Africa, leveraging on his extensive experience and network.





## Jeffrey ONGANGA

**Nationality:** Gabon

**Areas of expertise:** International Relations; Communication and Media; Citizen Participation; Science communication; Digital Transformation

Jeffrey Onganga is an international civil servant at the African Union with over 12 years of experience in international relations, political communication, public information, public affairs, and corporate communications. He is currently deployed as the Head of the Media, Communications, and Advocacy Unit of the Pan-African Parliament, the legislative arm of the African Union. He actively participates in creating awareness among the peoples of Africa on the African Union's objectives, policy aims and programs.

In spearheading advocacy and public information campaigns continent-wide in favour of the Pan-African Parliament's vision, Jeffrey has, since 2017, developed and maintained networks with national and international partners, deliberative organs of the African Union Member States, heads of media institutions, academia, and civil society organisations. He has played a leading role in designing and implementing strategies aimed at showcasing the Pan-African Parliament's role in promoting peace and security, human rights and consolidating democratic institutions and culture, good governance transparency, and the rule of law.

Prior to joining the African Union, Jeffrey worked as a Senior Consultant in the Strategic Communications division of FTI Consulting, an Independent global business advisory firm with offices in numerous countries. In 2019, Jeffrey was selected for the European Union Visitors Program (EUVP), aimed at young promising leaders from countries outside the EU to gain a first-hand appreciation of the EU's institutions, policies, values, and people to increase mutual understanding between professionals from non-EU countries and their EU counterparts. Jeffrey holds a Master's degree in Public Relations Management.



## Abdoulie PUYE

**Nationality:** Gambia

**Areas of expertise:** Global Economics: Trade, Investment and Development; International Economics; Economic Development; Public Policy; Sustainability Strategy

Abdoulie Puye is a Development Economist active in the field of Public-Private Partnerships. Abdoulie holds a Master's degree in Development Policy (International Development & Sustainable Development) at the Korean Development Institute (KDI) in South Korea and a Bachelor's degree in Management and Economics at the University of The Gambia. Abdoulie has over 10 years of experience working for the Government of the Gambia, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs under the Directorate of Public-Private Partnerships.

During his work, he has gathered significant experience in the formulation and implementation of development policy. Abdoulie was involved in the country's National Development Blueprint and other development policies, such as Gambia National Public-Private Partnerships Policy. In addition, he has gained experience in structuring investment and trade arrangements, mobilising resources from development partners, conducting economic analysis, fiscal risks assessment of development projects and the structuring, implementation, and management of Public-Private Partnership projects for infrastructure development and service delivery.

Abdoulie's goals towards the Young African Leaders Fellowship are on the African Union Agenda 2063. He aims to contribute towards a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Secondly, Abdoulie seeks to contribute towards an integrated continent, politically united, and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of the African renaissance.



## Thabang RAMAKHULA

**Nationality:** Lesotho

**Areas of expertise:** Gender Governance; Democracy; Political Behaviour; Politics and Society

Dr Thabang Ramakhula is a governance, gender and human rights lawyer, scholar, and expert, with over 8 years of cross-cutting focus on governance, women and children's rights, gender, gender mainstreaming, and environmental rights. She also has over 4 years of experience with gender-based violence, women's economic rights, and project support experience in the civil society organisation sector.

Thabang holds a Doctorate Degree in Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law from the University of the Free State (2023), as a Margaret McNamara Education Grant and Open Society Fellowship scholar. She has a Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa from the University of Pretoria (2018), as a DAAD scholar. She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Free State Centre for Human Rights, University of the Free State. Her experience includes work across various states such as Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda and Armenia. She has facilitated trainings of government officials, local government employees and political party members on issues of gender governance (2017 - 2022). Thabang has also presented a paper in Yerevan, Armenia, on the role of the diaspora in bridging the gap between citizens and government in 2018. In 2019, Thabang was amongst the winners of Africa Portal and the South African Institute of International Affairs' "The Women, Power & Policy Making Series" competition.



## Hercílio Rafael SEDA

**Nationality:** Mozambique

**Areas of expertise:** Mining; Environment; Renewable Energy

Hercílio Rafael Seda is a Mozambican national with a Master's degree in Geology from the University of Oran II, Mohamed Ben Ahmed in Algeria. He has experience in exploration geology, resource estimation and modelling, geological mapping, drilling operations supervision, and geotechnical core logging, among other skills.

Currently, Hercílio is working as an Exploration Manager for Gondwana Exploration and M. Consultants, Lda, where he is supervising exploration activities for the Chirodzi project in Tete, Mozambique. He is responsible for conceptualising and generating exploration targets, planning, coordinating and managing drilling programs and contractors, ensuring quality control of data collection, and producing technical reports for the company and the mines department.

Before this role, Hercílio worked as a Resource Geologist and Exploration Geologist for the same company, where he was responsible for advanced GIS and data analysis, resource estimation and modelling, preparing geological exploration programmes, executing and reporting, and designing, managing and executing exploration programmes. Hercílio's technical knowledge in geology, geophysics, and mining, along with his leadership and teamwork abilities, proactive problem-solving approach, and adaptability to multicultural environments make him a valuable member of a geoscientific team.

Hercílio's ambition is to improve environmental practices and policies in the mining sector in Mozambique, Africa, and worldwide to reduce damages to the planet and work on conservation for the next generations.



## Tuwilika Nailoke SHAIMEMANYA

**Nationality:** Namibia

**Areas of expertise:** Energy and Climate; Inequality; Digital Transformation; Artificial Intelligence (AI); Gender Equality; Discrimination and Marginalisation; Social Status and Gender Inequalities; Poverty

Tuwilika Nailoke Shaimemanya is an Urban Designer and Architect passionate about urban politics and gender. She has vast knowledge and experience within the fields of urban design and architecture and has worked across the private sector and with international organisations such as GIZ Namibia to guide urban and rural development and to upgrade informal settlements. She has a proven record working with multidisciplinary stakeholders to address urban challenges by taking on a gendered approach and to support the co-creation of inclusive and resilient neighborhoods.

In 2021, Tuwilika was awarded as the top student in the Master of Urban Design programme at the University of Cape Town for her dissertation titled: 'Spatial narratives: Redefining permanent gendered infrastructure for temporal female traders in Eveline Street (informal settlement) Windhoek, Namibia'. Her dissertation sparked her interest in gender-responsive policy making, urban governance and the governance of participatory planning which she believes are crucial in forging a healthy democracy, economy, and society. She has a rich academic background with a Master's degree in Urban Design, Honours degree in City and Regional Planning and a Bachelor of Architecture, all accomplished at the University of Cape Town.

As a Young African Leaders Fellow, she will focus on developing policy work and gaining leadership skills that can harness her capabilities in implementing urban policies and gender inclusive policies.



## Leah TEFAMARIAM

**Nationality:** Kenya

**Areas of expertise:** Civil Society; Gender Equality; Human Rights; Development Aid; Citizen Participation

Leah Tesfamariam holds a Master's degree in Democratic Governance and Civil Society from Osnabrück University, Germany, funded by the Helmut-Schmidt Public Policy and Good Governance Programme. Leah was recognised as "Most Outstanding Student" for her academic achievement coupled with her contribution in the community. She is a 2020 recipient of the Casimir Pulaski Scholarship, receiving a post-graduate diploma in International Security at the European Academy of Diplomacy in Warsaw, Poland. In 2019, she was a young delegate at the Berlin Foreign Policy Forum.

She currently serves as a technical advisor and leads gender mainstreaming at Never Again Rwanda (NAR). NAR is a peacebuilding and social justice organisation based in Kigali aimed at promoting social cohesion in the Rwandan society in the aftermath of the genocide. Her leadership role entails: project management, resource mobilisation, donor liaison, partnership building and promoting inclusivity and equitable outcomes of programmes.

Through her current role, Leah led a partnership between NAR and the National Women's Council aimed at "increasing women's effective participation in governance and decision-making processes at grassroots level". Leah is also a columnist at The New Times Rwanda, contributing on topical societal issues such as, "The Rise of Debt Distress" affecting developing nations.

Her career interest is in international development. Her work in development spans seven years and has focused primarily on civil society, gender equality, human rights, development aid, citizen participation and governance.



## Najwa WHEBA

**Nationality:** Libya

**Areas of expertise:** Conflict and Peace; Migration and Citizenship; Post-Conflict; Transitional Justice; Libya

Najwa Wheba is the first female Presidential Spokesperson in Libya, appointed in April 2021 for the Libyan Presidential Council. She announced the launch of the first Reconciliation Commission in Libya, and is currently serving as the voice of the three-member council.

Najwa holds a Master's degree in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Work from the Doha Institute, and a bachelor's degree in French language from the University of Tripoli. She has publications about reconciliation and state building in Libya. She has written many articles in Arabic about economy, environment or governance related topics.

Najwa started her career as a passionate journalist accumulating over 12 years of work experience. First, as a radio journalist in 2009, and later she moved to work as a TV journalist, covering various Libyan events as a host or a reporter on many topics, including migration crises through the Central Road in the Mediterranean in 2016. She also worked as a digital producer for Al Jazeera Network in Doha.

She has led many local training programmes as a co-founder of a local non-governmental organisation that implements environmental projects in Libya, she has also designed local projects funded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, implemented in Libya. In 2023, Najwa was selected by the Ministry of Youth in Libya, as one of 40 young influencers with positive contributions in society.