

# YOUNG AFRICAN LEADER FELLOWS

2021 - 2022







**Adesola  
Adeyemo**

**Nationality:** Nigeria

**Research topic:** Women empowerment and gender equality

Adesola holds a master's degree in international studies from the University of San Francisco. She has professional experience with non-profit and international non-governmental organisations like the African Union Commission.

Adesola specialises in international affairs, women and gender issues, advocacy, policy research, fundraising, and project management. She has an unwavering drive to create change and is passionate about working on maximizing her engagement in Africa by advocating for policies aimed at improving the lives of women.

Adesola intends on empowering women and girls by paving the way for them to tap into the numerous socio-economic and political opportunities the world has to offer. As an African, she hopes to continue to contribute to the materialisation of Agenda 2063's and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.





**Yannick  
Lionel  
Affessie**

**Nationality:** Cameroon

**Research topic:** From Cotonou to post Cotonou, which way for the EU – ACP cooperation on migration

Yannick Affessie is a Cameroonian diplomat who has been working since 2013 in the Ministry of External Relations. He is in the Department of European Affairs which is in charge of the follow-up of the cooperation ties between Cameroon and European countries on the one hand and Cameroon and EU institutions on the other hand.

Holder of two master's degrees in diplomacy and in European Affairs and graduate of the National School of Administration (ENA) of France, Affessie is always in the process of improving his skills with the constant idea of, if not change the world, at least make meaningful contributions for positive change in his country.





**Eric  
Edem  
Agbana**

**Nationality:** Ghana

**Research topic:** Peace and security

Eric is a youth leader and political activist in Ghana. He is the Deputy National Youth Organiser of Ghana's main opposition political party, National Democratic Congress. He has nearly a decade worth of experience in activism, public policy advocacy and social entrepreneurship.

Eric holds a Master of Arts Degree in Economic Policy Management, a Master of Science Degree in Development Finance and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.

Edem has received awards and recognition for his work within the public policy and political space. He is the youngest elected national executive of a political party in Ghana. He is a role model to many young people. Edem aspires to establish a globally influential public policy think tank.





**Yawo Edem  
Akpemado**

**Nationality:** Togo

**Research topic:** The problematic of peace and security in Africa

Yawo is Togolese Diplomat graduate from National School of Administration (ENA) of Togo in Diplomacy in 2009.

He started his service at Togolese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lomé in 2010 in the Department of African Integration. After serving during five years at the Ministry and the Presidency of the Republic, he was assigned at the Togolese Embassy in Washington DC, USA, from 2015 to 2019 as First Secretary then Second Counselor. He handled Education, social, Cultural and Diaspora files.

At the end of his mandate at Washington DC, Yawo was reassigned to the Embassy of Togo in New Delhi (India), since October 2019 as Second Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission.

He holds also master's degree in Law at University of Lomé.





**Adaku  
Ungonwa  
Apugo**

**Nationality:** Nigeria

**Research topic:** Peace and security in Nigeria

Adaku is one of the few young women at the forefront of policy and governance in Nigeria. She is committed to driving transformational change in Africa through public policy and responsive legislation that impacts lives.

She has spent the last eight years dedicated to public service, advising the leadership of Nigeria's parliament, currently leading Intergovernmental Affairs at the Office of the Speaker as his Special Assistant and acting as his arrowhead in engaging all arms of government across Africa's largest nation.

She is committed to excellence and holds several certificates on policy and governance, including an Master of Science in Public Policy and Ethics from Suffolk University (USA) and a master's degree degree from the University of Bonn (Germany) in European studies.





**Agnes  
Asele**

**Nationality:** Uganda

**Research topic:** Public Health

With 10 years of experience equipping organisations to achieve continued success through process improvements, Asele serves as: A Project and Grants Management Technical Officer at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention where she plays a key role in providing oversight of various projects and grants.

Recently, Asele has led the development and implementation of the \$27.3 Million African Development Bank 3year project and £20Million UK Aid/FCDO 2-year project for African Union's Member States support for COVID-19 response. She joined the African Union in 2014 to support the African Union Support for Ebola Outbreak in West Africa and later championed the establishment of Africa CDC.

Previously, Asele provided editorial support for the Africa Peace & Conflict Journal at University for Peace. Asele holds a bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship and Business Management, master's degree in Management and Sustainable Economic Development, a Masters in Jurisprudence, and Masters in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. Her areas of interest include; health financing, law, policy and strategic partnership.





**Darlington  
Tshuma**

**Nationality:** Zimbabwe

**Research topic:** Regionalism from Peace and Security perspective

Darlington is a scholar and analyst with experience in democracy and peace activism, community organising and human rights education. He has written, published, and presented papers at international conferences and seminars on transitional justice, reconciliation, and peacebuilding in Africa.

He is highly experienced in peace, conflict and security research and has consulted for think tanks in Africa and Europe. Darlington's areas of interest and expertise broadly cover transitional justice, politics, state-building, gender, and peacebuilding.

His current research projects are on transnational reconciliation and peacebuilding in Southern Africa. Darlington enjoys the complexity of transdisciplinary research which he combines with participatory approaches for greater impact. With a career spanning over seven years, Darlington is highly experienced and competent in policy development and analysis, research, mediation support, peacebuilding training and facilitation.





**Itegbeyogene  
Patrick  
Ezekiel**

**Nationality:** Nigeria

**Research topic:** Sustainable means to addressing migration challenges

Itegbeyogene Patrick Ezekiel is a Senior Research Officer at the National Centre for Technology Management, Nigeria. He has over ten years of work experience in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policy research and recommendations.

He holds a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Ph.D. qualifications in Physics. He has received training on Science Diplomacy by AAAS-TWAS and the European InsSciDE. He was a recipient of the prestigious Frank Nabarro Prize awarded by the South African Institute of Physics.

He has provided sound STI policy advice, workshop training, and consultancy services to States and Local Governments in the North-West region of Nigeria. He is currently focused on enhancing STI development, using the instrumentality of Science Diplomacy.





**Hamid  
Khalafallah**

**Nationality:** Sudan

**Research topic:** The role of citizens in resolving transnational issues

Hamid is an international development professional, currently working for International IDEA in Sudan, supporting Sudan's democratic transition. He comes from a multi-disciplinary background, with academic qualifications in International Development and Communications Engineering. As well as being a Chevening Scholarship alumnus, he is the winner of the 2019 UK Development Studies Association dissertation prize.

Having started engaging with civil society in Sudan at a young age, he has over ten years of experience working with the non-profit sector. Additionally, Hamid has been active with various youth civil resistance groups in Sudan, promoting democratic practices and advocating for human rights.

His current work looks at the nexus between governance and development, with a focus on citizens' participation in policymaking.





**Gloria  
Kidulile**

**Nationality:** Tanzania

**Research topic:** The Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement: The case of Tanzania.

Ms. Gloria, a Senior Trade Officer in the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Tanzania, has been working actively in developing, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of trade policies, strategies and programmes within the East African Community (EAC), the African Union (AU) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Bringing more than 10 years of experience in international trade and development; primarily policy formulation, regional integration, trade facilitation and a good understanding of trade-related challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

In 2018, Gloria successfully completed the WTO Mission Internship Programme at the Permanent Mission of Tanzania in Geneva, a role that afforded her the opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge of the workings of the WTO while also assisting Tanzania Mission in covering the broad range of issues under the ever-expanding WTO work programme.

Currently, she is enrolled in the Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE) at the World Trade Institute - University of Bern, Switzerland. She also holds a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) and passed the examinations prescribed by the Tanzania Institute of Bankers (TIOB) and awarded the qualification of the Certified Professional Banker (CPB).

Eventually, the Young African Leadership Programme is an integral to her future plans of becoming an influential policy analyst as she will be able to further develop her competences and skills in an international environment.





**Mary  
Mwathi  
Kitonga**

**Nationality:** Kenya

**Research topic:** Strategy, programme management and the environment

Mary is a lawyer, advocate of the High Court of Kenya, a certified mediator, and arbitrator. She holds an LLM in International Environmental Law from the University of Kent.

Mary has advised on Somalia's oil and gas policy and regulatory capacity. She has also worked in election legal reform, civic education, children and youth advocacy, policy, and legislative drafting; specifically, in the development of regulations for Kenyan advocates on Anti- Money Laundering and sexual harassment.

Mary is currently the Director of the Law Society of Kenya's Practice Standards Directorate. During the fellowship, she intends to utilize her diverse experiences in developing a strategy and solutions-based policy approach to transnational policy issues in African countries, particularly environmental governance, and sustainability.





**Phillip  
Luzzi**

**Nationality:** Uganda

**Research topic:** Sustainability, Green Transition and Energy

IPhillip Luzzi is a Ugandan national and career diplomat working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is fluent in English, Chinese and Swahili languages. Phillip studied his bachelor's degree at Shenyang University in China and his master's degree in Scotland at The University of Edinburgh.

Phillip is a motivated leader with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. He also an excellent researcher and writer with a strong passion for making a positive difference in his community and country.





**Tumaimi  
Malenga**

**Nationality:** Malawi

**Research topic:** Post tuberculosis lung damage amongst pulmonary tuberculosis survivors in East Africa: Health system challenges and research priorities

Tumaini is a Research and Policy Analyst with the African Institute for Development Policy. She co-leads projects related to public health and health policy linked with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine under the Health and Wellbeing theme.

Tumaini holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Psychology from Bellarmine University, a Master of Science in International Development from the University of Bath, and she recently defended her PhD in Public Health from the University of Malawi's College of Medicine, where she previously worked as the Programme Manager for the Training and Research Unit of Excellence, running clinical research trials on malaria. Tumaini's research interests are health behaviour, community engagement, social and behaviour change communication as well as health systems and policy.





**Hanifa  
Manda**

**Nationality:** Zimbabwe

**Research topic:** Peace and Security, Women and Youth Participation in Political Processes

Hanifa is a Human Rights, Democracy and Governance Specialist. She is currently a Regional Program Coordinator for a global institute focusing on building citizen-centred governments and amplifying marginalized voices.

Her skills range from facilitating capacity building workshops for political party leaders on effective citizen engagement methods and policy development, civic education, and legal transformation advocacy. Hanifa started as a youth leader and activist advocating for women and youth representation in meaningful leadership positions in Zimbabwe.

She obtained an MPhil in Multidisciplinary Human Rights from the University of Pretoria and has extensive experience working with government, civil society, and social activists to advocate for policy reform on issues like gender equality, freedom of expression and access to information.





**Muneinazvo  
Kujeke**

**Nationality:** Zimbabwe

**Research topic:** Youth, peace and security in Africa

Muneinazvo is a 32-year-old female with eight years of experience in the field of human security and development in Africa.

Equipped with a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master in Peace and Governance, she has worked with pan-African organisations in East, West and Southern Africa, specifically on the inclusion of vulnerable groups youth in peace and governance processes.

Over the years, she has conducted and disseminated research to key policy and decision makers at a regional and continental level. Her career goal is to explore and lead in strategies that make multilateralism and its associated policies and frameworks profit ordinary African citizens, whose involvement in governance matters contributes to sustainable peace and development on the continent.





**Augustina  
Odame**

**Nationality:** Ghana

**Research topic:** Implementation of AfCTA

Augustina is an economist and Consultant with broad expertise in: Digital Financial Services and Payment Systems. Passionate about African Development and harnessing the power of digital financial technology as a vehicle for inclusive, sustainable development, and improved social outcomes.





**Idah Holiarisoa  
Razafindrakoto**

**Nationality:** Madagascar

**Research topic:** Governance and transnational politics

Idah Holiarisoa Razafindrakoto is a young Malagasy resident in Cameroon. She has two passions in life, scientific research and arts. On the one hand, she works as a junior researcher (PhD Student). She specializes in Governance and Regional Integration and her topics of research and expertise are 'Energy Transition' and 'Visual Arts'. On the other hand, she is a manager of cultural projects and visual artist (drawings and travelogues).

She has developed and led artistic projects all over the world. Her life goals are: perpetual interculturality, knowledge sharing, lifelong creativity and personal development of her entourage.