

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows

Leadership in Civic Engagement Institute | Summer 2023



Alfredo Zeca
Angola
he/him/his

Alfredo Zeca has eight years of experience in teaching English as a second language and 10 years of experience in civic engagement programs. Currently, Alfredo is junior education adviser for People in Need, a nongovernmental organization, and focuses on promoting civic engagement and active citizenship through documentary film screenings to discuss human rights issues. He is also chief executive officer of Alfred's English School and director of the Dare to Be Different Club. At the club, he works with teenagers to promote overcoming problems and day-to-day challenges, to create a space for emotional expression through various skills, and to help them adopt a different lifestyle using skills and talents. Alfredo has a specialization diploma in Teacher's Education. Alfredo is passionate about helping other young people become citizens who are not only going to complain about what is lacking in their communities but also going to help bring solutions to solve their problems by becoming changemakers. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Alfredo plans to make his social intervention nationally known through workshops, trainings, and awareness campaigns and to train others as a way to transform them and influence change in their lives.

Wend-Payengdé Côme Franck Ouedraogo has five years of experience in international development. Currently, Franck is working as program manager for a British nongovernmental organization called Tackle. Four years ago, Franck cofounded a youth-led nonprofit organization called African Youth Initiative for Development, where he focuses on engaging and empowering young people in the development process in their communities. Before that, Franck worked for two years with International Service, which makes up part of the UK-funded volunteering program International Citizen Service (ICS). At ICS, he held the positions of volunteer, team leader, and finally office volunteer. Franck focused on supporting the ICS program team in implementing community development projects in urban and rural communities. Franck holds a master's degree in Economics from Université Thomas Sankara. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Franck plans to make the maximum impact possible through youth empowerment, because he believes that young people should be given the opportunity to serve their community and obtain the skills to make decisions in the future.



Franck Ouedraogo
Burkina Faso
he/him/his

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



My name is Chancelle Bamuhaye and I'm from Burundi. Former child journalist of Unicef Burundi, I'm a child rights activist, founder and Executive Director of Hope for a Better Future, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote, defend and protect children's rights. I plan to continue to work on children's rights by focusing on education of the most vulnerable children specially batwa kids (indigenous people) and albino kids.

Chancelle Bamuhaye
Burundi
she/her/hers

Ornella Gati-Mounga has seven years of experience in administration in the Central African Republic. Currently, Ornella is an administrative assistant at Minusca United Nations and focuses on administration. She holds a bachelor's degree in Information Technology. Ornella is passionate about involving each member of her community, especially women and youth, to fight excision, forced marriages, and other gender-based violence, which constitute a big obstacle in her country. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ornella plans to centralize women's and youth platforms for a common fight against gender-based violence and to fight for changes in laws and policies that violate the development of women in the Central African Republic.



**Ornella Noura
Gati-Mounga**
Central African Republic
she/her/hers

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Shomari Kiete

Democratic Republic
of the Congo
he/him/his

Shomari Kiete is an agricultural engineer by training, who is passionate about the environment and climate change issues related to rural household poverty. He currently works for Gender2Connect, a Netherlands-based non-profit that works to close the gender gap for women in the agriculture sector globally. He is a feminist and rights activist for marginalized communities, women, and indigenous peoples. Shomari is committed to contributing to social change by mobilizing actors and resources to alleviate the misery of those most vulnerable and at risk, such as peasant farmers. Shomari is also committed to ensuring that women's rights to own and inherit land, make decisions about natural resources, and allocate the family income are respected and guaranteed by both national and international legal instruments. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Shomari plans to support various areas of interest including women's leadership and entrepreneurship, gender mainstreaming in development projects, climate and environmental justice for indigenous communities, feminization of agriculture and the challenges of its digitalization in rural areas, sexual and reproductive health rights, and educating and providing vocational skills to people with disabilities, youth, and women.

Ghrace Thiphene Ndjelenki has more than three years of experience in assistantship and three years in sales. Currently, Ghrace is a management assistant with an oil company and previously worked in sales at a communication company. She has an association that helps women heal from emotional pain. Ghrace holds a master's degree in Strategic Human Resources Development. She is generous, motivated, and dedicated to helping women and leaders get to know and bring out the best in each other. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ghrace plans to expand the association and open a human resources firm to create jobs and to help women believe that with determination they can achieve their greatest dreams.



**Ghrace Thiphene
Ndjelenki**
Gabon
she/her/hers

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Shaibu Fuseini
Ghana
he/him/his

Shaibu Fuseini has more than 10 years of experience as a development professional and agri-entrepreneur leading strategic interventions with nongovernmental organizations in youth empowerment, agriculture, social entrepreneurship, climate change adaptation, and poverty alleviation. He is project coordinator at the Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana Project implemented by SOS Children's Villages Ghana, a European Union funded project that provides green jobs for youth and supports sustainable and climate-resilient local economies in two regions of Ghana. Shaibu is also operations officer and cofounder of AgricConnect, a national nonprofit agribusiness community and platform that supports rural and agrimarket development. He cofounded Eid Feast Ghana, an annual fundraising campaign that supports less privileged families with food and beverages during Eid festivities in Aboabo, a suburb of Kumasi. Shaibu is an active member of the Global Shapers-Kumasi Hub where he volunteers his time and resources for humanitarian work. He holds a master's degree in Development Policy and Planning from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, he aspires to be part of a generation of youthful changemakers who focus their efforts on influencing Africa's future through agricultural development.

Aua Jau is a human-rights advocate. Currently, she is executive director of the Guinean Association for Combating Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking of Talibé Children. She is also head of social and charity events at the South African Embassy in Bissau. Previously, Aua was part of state protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Guinea-Bissau. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Aua plans to continue her work as a human rights advocate.



Aua Jau
Guinea-Bissau
she/her/hers

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Linus Gitahi
Kenya
he/him/his

Linus Ikochel Gitahi has more than three years of experience in youth leadership and women's empowerment, having championed increased uptake of affirmative action funds by women and youth across Kenya's Bungoma County. Currently, Ikochel is Kenya chapter president of the Young African Leaders Initiative. He coordinates 47 county chapters in supporting Alumni initiatives across the country and champions strategic and meaningful partnerships with organizations and companies to elevate the alumni and connect them to opportunities. Ikochel is also founder of CLIN Legacy Organization, a community-based organization focused on sustainability, sanitation, and protection of the environment as well as empowering community social groups. Linus holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education. He is inspired by the joy of creating opportunities for youth and women through revamped agribusiness value chains and empowering them through community social groups and the desire to drive change by promoting positive climate change. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ikochel plans to reach out to more than 300 youth and women groups and conduct meaningful capacity building to provide simple but effective practical solutions to their challenges, with the aim of improving livelihoods at the grassroots level.

John Orimbo has more than 15 years of experience in disability rights and advocacy for children and youth. John is founder and chief executive of Ability Focus Africa, a nonprofit organization for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and PWD advocates within Africa that uses their abilities to work toward sustainable development through quality education and training, entrepreneurship, leadership, advocacy, and innovation. He has hands-on experience in the public sector, private sector, and civil society, having served as public policy adviser for the British Council's Next Generation Kenya project and disaster risk reduction focal point for the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth. John also volunteers on UNESCO's youth advisory board and UNICEF's children and youth with disabilities advisory board. John holds a bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Nairobi. John is motivated by his experience as a person with a disability; his whole life, he has tried to understand the challenges other PWDs face and research ways to help improve their lives. Upon completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, John plans to advocate at the County Government of Nakuru, Kenya, for PWDs inclusive participation in sustainable development, education, leadership, governance, and policy negotiations.



John Orimbo
Kenya
he/him/his

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Ismail Usama
Kenya
he/him/his

Ismail Bwana Usama has more than half a decade of experience in charity organizations. Currently, Ismail is the program manager of Pamoja Initiative, a community-based organization focusing on improving the well-being of marginalized communities through education, sports, culture, climate action, and governance. He worked at Malu Lodge, Naivasha, Kenya, as general manager at age 25. He later joined Roots Kenya Limited, a company that focuses on producing cold-pressed virgin coconut oil for export. And he volunteered at Safari Doctors (a community-based organization that provides free primary health care to marginalized communities) as the youth coordinator for the Youth Health Ambassador program. Ismail also cofounded Mai Beverages Ltd, a local social enterprise that provides subsidized water solutions to the community while solving the problem of plastics on Lamu Island. Ismail holds a Bachelor of Science in Ecotourism, Hotel, and Institution Management with Information Technology. Ismail is motivated to push for community empowerment, positive change, and overall well-being in the community. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ismail plans to go back to the community and address the challenges it faces with a different approach and mindset to ensure a positive outcome.

José Makavelo is program coordinator of American Corner Taolagnaro. American Corner Taolagnaro is a cross-cultural resource center in Fort-Dauphin, Madagascar. While managing more than 1,000 members at the Corner, José runs activities that focus on English language learning and teaching, strategic cultural programs, and alumni engagement. The Corner provides information about the United States and skills building with the support of the U.S. Embassy in Madagascar, local stakeholders, and volunteers in Fort-Dauphin. José studied General Education at the Lycee Pole Fort-Dauphin and has participated in the Pan Africa Youth Leadership Program (PAYLP) Alumni All-Stars. PAYLP engages youth from 38 African countries in U.S.-based cultural exchange and civic engagement training. José is passionate about community development and education. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, José plans to increase outreach services at the Corner by replicating some of its activities and implementing them in rural areas around Fort-Dauphin where people have a dearth of access to information. To do so, he will collaborate with Malagasy and American teachers, volunteers, and local community leaders to build community libraries that will be accessible to students, teachers, and the general public in remote areas around Fort-Dauphin.



José Makavelo
Madagascar
he/him/his

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Robert Mhango
Malawi
he/him/his

Robert Lwitiko Mhango has more than seven years of experience as a changemaker in education and charity in Malawi. Robert is founder and executive director of Mtuli Foundation, which works with communities through the plan, act, and evaluate together model to facilitate proper and inclusive early childhood development; positive youth development; climate resilience; sustainable agricultural interventions; and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene. Robert has also worked as a volunteer teacher, education development officer, and lecturer. He recently won a grant from the U.S. Embassy to implement a project with children with disabilities in Karonga, Malawi. Robert holds a bachelor's degree in Technical Education from the University of Malawi. He is passionate about serving and inspiring others. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Robert plans to create a youth engagement platform where youth can address their community problems and learn from each other to adapt. He also wants to promote local interventions that address the barriers some groups face to participating in development.

Aïché Goumané is a passionate leader, who is dedicated to empower Youth leadership and promote Community service. With over 7 years of experience, Aïché is the co-founder and current president of Platform of English Speakers, a dynamic learning platform represented in many localities in Mali. She also served as vice-president of the National Council of Mali English Clubs. Today, Aïché is a TV host on Africable TV, a subregional television channel. After the Fellowship, Aïché intends to set up the "Malian Community Support Center for the education of children and young people". Her mission is to provide equal opportunities and training for the development of her country and Africa.



Aïché Goumané
Mali
she/her/hers

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Laina Ndeshitila has six years of experience in social work. Currently, Laina is a social worker at Tsumeb District Hospital in Namibia and handles case management, group work, community work, administration, and research. She identifies and assesses the socioemotional needs of patients and renders psychotherapy and psychosocial support services. Laina holds a bachelor's degree (with honors) in Social Work from the University of Namibia and a certificate in Civic Engagement from the African Civic Engagement Academy. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, she plans to coordinate and collaborate with various stakeholders to enhance the quality of her clients' lives. Laina also plans to guide and influence the behavior and work of others toward achieving the objectives of national development plans.

Laina Ndeshitila
Namibia
she/her/hers

Godspower Oyubu is a lecturer at the Department of Integrated Science at Delta State College of Education in Mosogar, Nigeria. He is a certified strategic and human resource expert and project manager with more than seven years of experience mentoring teenagers in academics, leadership, business, and management. Godspower is also founder and executive director of Kerux Academic Institute (KAI), a nonprofit that provides free educational training and mentorship to teenagers. Through KAI, Godspower has mentored more than 1,000 teenagers. Many of these teens have since taken leadership roles in other organizations, some have ventured into business, and some have gone on to acquire additional skills and continue to expand the horizon of their leadership abilities. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Godspower will use the skills and network he acquires to further his work mentoring teenagers, less privileged youth, and people with disabilities in Nigeria. He also plans to create an easily accessible online platform so that he can reach millions of teenagers worldwide.



Godspower Oyubu
Nigeria
he/him/his

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Mimwind' Paka Tizi
Republic of the Congo
she/her/hers

Mimwind' Paka Tizi has more than eight years of experience in the social and educational sectors. Currently, Mimwind' is founder and president of Elba, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) that empowers and educates women in the Republic of Congo. She also works as a university services planner and since 2021 has been a Google student ambassador. Mimwind' is an Ashoka Changemaker, and Ashoka and American Express named one of her tech projects among the 24 best projects in Africa. In addition, she is a member of African Woman in Dialogue, a nonprofit that seeks to unite African women. Mimwind' holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing Management from Cambridge International College. She is passionate about education, women's rights, and women's empowerment, and she believes that civic and social leadership are key to changing people's mindsets and bringing progress to Africa. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Mimwind' plans to expand the influence of Elba in the areas of women's rights and civic leadership, using lessons learned from NGOs in the United States.

Sarentha Luther has more than six years of experience in Counseling and Therapy and more than two years of experience working with people with neurodiverse conditions, such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and intellectual disability. Sarentha is founder, clinical director, and practicing psychologist at NeuroSey Services and Consultancy, the only private practice in Seychelles that offers diagnoses and therapy for people with autism, ADHD, and dyslexia. Sarentha also holds training and workshops in areas related to neurodevelopmental or neurodegenerative conditions, such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Sarentha is a Chevening Scholar (2019-20) with a master's in Clinical Neuropsychology from Bangor University and a bachelor's with honors in Psychology from Middlesex University. Sarentha is motivated to help create a more accepting and inclusive environment for people with neurodiverse conditions in the Seychelles. She has a passion for teaching and advocacy. Upon completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Sarentha hopes to start her doctoral degree and pursue her passion for teaching. She also aims to create a nongovernmental organization that will provide a sense of belonging and a place for community for adolescents and adults with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and other neurodiverse conditions in Seychelles.



Sarentha Luther
Seychelles
she/her/hers

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Farah Mumin
Somalia
he/him/his

Farah Isse Mumin has six years of experience in pastoralist health and livelihood improvement. He is a veterinarian, researcher, and a One Health implementation advocate who trains community animal health workers and professionals in Somalia. He is the current elected chair of the Puntland Livestock Professionals Association. Farah holds a doctorate of Veterinarian Medicine from Jimma University in Ethiopia, a master's degree in Vaccine Production from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, and a master's degree in Infection and Immunity from the University of Liverpool. He is pursuing a doctorate at the Institute of Infection, Veterinary, and Ecological Sciences from the University of Liverpool but is based in Puntland, Somalia. He is also a Graduate Fellow at the International Livestock Research Institute, where he focuses on preventing and managing infectious and zoonoses diseases in pastoral settings using a One Health approach. After the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Farah plans to leverage the knowledge and skills he acquires to create intensive civic engagement training that enriches his community conversation interventions (a tested method to improve community knowledge on zoonoses) and makes community training programs more inclusive and participatory.

Tebogo Clemence Molepo has more than seven years of experience at the Department of Education in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Currently, Tebogo is chair of Change Initiative Dynamic Foundation. This nonprofit organization develops newly appointed educators and nurtures talented primary and secondary school students who are struggling academically, especially in digital literacy areas such as coding and robotics. He also works as an information and communications technology integration facilitator and mentor for educators and young children. Tebogo holds a bachelor's degree in Education. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Tebogo plans to grow his organization so he can serve many more educators and students.



Tebogo Molepo
South Africa
he/him/his

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Lydia Moyo
Tanzania
she/her/hers

Lydia Charles Moyo has more than 10 years of experience working with women and girls to promote economic empowerment and to influence sexual reproductive health and rights outcomes. Lydia is founder and executive director of Her Initiative, which focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting financial resilience among women and girls in Tanzania. She is founder and lead of Panda Digital Platform, the first Swahili hybrid e-learning platform for skills development and links to resources for women entrepreneurs. She has worked with Femina Hip as a radio and TV presenter to promote youth healthy lifestyles, economic empowerment, and citizen engagement. She was also the leader of the Girl Power Team, which led menstrual hygiene campaigns throughout Tanzania. Lydia holds a bachelor's degree in Public Relations and Advertising. Lydia is passionate about helping others realize their dreams and aiding women and girls to choose and create opportunities for themselves without being limited by poverty, families, or communities. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Lydia hopes to invest in accelerating job creation and technology for young women and girls and to develop youth-led funding that will support initiatives for women's and girls' rights.

Komlan Apétolé Gbassakpo is a legal publicist. He has been a professional personal development coach since 2017. Currently, Komlan Apétolé is general manager of KAG (Komlan Apétolé Groupe), a company that specializes in personal development coaching and office computing. He is also a writer and is president of the Potential Club, a sports club for people with disabilities. Moreover, he is Togo's Paralympic Champion in table tennis. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, he plans to expand his personal development work at KAG.



**Komlan Apétolé
Gbassakpo**
Togo
he/him/his

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Eddy Balina
Uganda
he/him/his

Eddy Balina has more than 10 years of experience in youth empowerment and peacebuilding. Currently, Eddy is executive director at the Non-Violence Project Uganda, focusing on violence prevention and advocacy. Eddy is also cofounder of Ripples of Hope Schools, which nurtures the potential of children in Uganda's underserved communities through quality, low-cost education. He holds a bachelor's degree in Development and is currently a student of Law. Eddy is motivated by his personal experience as a victim of violence, and he is determined to take positive action. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Eddy plans to build synergy between teachers and schools and to scale up nonviolence education across Uganda by leveraging technology, sports, and creative arts.

Ritah Bunonge has more than eight years of experience in teaching. Currently, Ritah is a special education teacher at Samfya Primary School in Samfya District, Zambia, and she focuses on teaching, assessing, and placing learners with hearing impairments. She is also founder of Feed A Child Foundation, a nongovernmental organization based in Samfya District. Ritah holds a bachelor's degree in Special Education. She is passionate about working with and helping children with disabilities and the vulnerable in society. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ritah plans to widen and enrich her community engagements with her new skills and knowledge.



Ritah Bunonge
Zambia
she/her/hers

Kansas State University Mandela Washington Fellows



Annesley Ndondo
Zimbabwe
he/him/his

Annesley Ndondo has more than four years of experience as a male feminist in Zimbabwe in rights advocacy for girls and women. In 2020, Annesley founded Mwanasikana Wanhasi, a girls' and women's rights grassroots organization that is currently working toward gender justice in Zimbabwe. He sits on the youth advisory board for the Youth in Mind Project implemented by Friendship Bench Zimbabwe. Annesley also volunteers with several civil society organizations. He holds an honors degree in Social Work. Annesley is passionate about the inclusion of boys and men in issues of gender equality because he strongly holds that women's rights are human rights. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Annesley plans to strengthen his advocacy strategies and forge regional coalitions with fellows to influence perceptions and policies on women's rights in southern Africa.