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WORLD BANK GROUP AFRICA FELLOWS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST, AFRICA REGION

PROFILES OF THE COHORT



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Launched in 2013, the World Bank Group (WBG) Africa Fellowship Program offers a six-month WBG assignment to young and emerging African scholars who are completing or have recently completed their PhDs in an area relevant to the work of the World Bank. While gaining hands-on experience in the operations of the organization, the Fellows benefit from and contribute to research and innovation in multiple sectors. The Fellowship program has been very successful since its inception, building a strong pipeline of young African scholars and practitioners in international institutions, African governments, think tanks, and academia. The program is managed by the Chief Economist Office of the Africa Region.



3,039
Candidates



115
Shortlisted



26
Selected



14 (54%)
Females

FUNDED BY:



20 the program **6** various units in WBG



WHERE ARE THEY FROM

Countries of origin: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of, Ethiopia, Gambia, The, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo



WHERE THEY ARE WORKING

Matching of Fellows within units is undertaken by representatives from the GPs and global themes. They are working across various WBG institutions: Africa Chief Economist Office, Africa Gender Innovation Lab, Benin CMU, Climate Finance Mobilization Group, Climate Finance Mobilization Group, Corporate Risk Mgt. (IFC), Development Impact Group, Development Research Group, Education, Equitable Finance & Institutions, Gender Group, Health, Nutrition & Population, Health, Nutrition & Population, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, SAR Infrastructure Resilience, Social Protection and Labor, UNHCR, UNHCR, Water



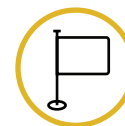
WHAT THEY ARE DOING

Gaining experience and contributing to:

- knowledge generation and dissemination;
- design of global and country policies
- building institutions to achieve inclusive growth
- technical assistance and lending operations.

While benefitting from, and contributing to:

- research,
- economic policy,
- technical assistance
- lending operations



WHERE THEY ARE GOING

After leaving the program former Fellows work in various positions at WBG:

- Consultants
- Young Professionals
- Economists

Others have been hired by:

- IMF
- Think tanks
- African Universities



BABATOMISIN ADENIRAN

Health, Nutrition and Population GP



NIGERIA

Babatomisin (Tomi) Adeniran is a reproductive health scientist with research interests in women’s health, broader health systems, and the application of digital health to enhance service delivery. She recently collaborated with an impact fund to develop a digital health solution addressing women’s health-related issues in London.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she is working with the Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice in the East Asia and Pacific region. She is providing technical support for the health-system strengthening project in Indonesia, with focus on laboratory equipment procurement, contributing to building equitable healthcare access and resilient health systems.

Adeniran holds a doctoral degree in women’s and reproductive health and a master’s degree in clinical embryology, both from the University of Oxford. Prior to this, she earned a bachelor’s degree in human Genetics from the University of Nottingham.



ERICK AGURE

Social Protection GP



KENYA

Erick Agure is a Public Health Specialist with expertise across diverse disciplines including epidemiology, nutrition, quality assurance, communications and advocacy, sexual reproductive health and rights, monitoring and evaluation, and human resources for health. His current research focuses on the intersection of climate change and health, particularly through the nutrition impact pathway. He is currently finalizing his doctoral degree in global health at the University of Bonn, Germany.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow with the Social Protection Global Practice, he works on developing sustainable health workers migration through the Program for Advancing Talent and Human Mobility for Africans (PATH) within the West African countries

of Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

Previously, Agure was a YALI Mandela Washington Fellow, a consultant at the World Health Organization, and a public health fellow at the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Agure holds a master’s degree in international health from Heidelberg University, Germany.



HARDI AHMED

Development Economics Research Group: (Poverty, Inequality & Human Development)



GHANA

Hardi Ahmed is an economist with research interests in development, especially in gender, social norms, health, and agriculture. He is currently a doctoral candidate in economics at the University of Alicante, Spain. Ahmed is also a graduate fellow at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Uganda and a former graduate fellow at the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA).

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, Ahmed works with the Development Economics Research Group: Poverty, Inequality & Human Development, contributing to research on trends and inequalities in education attainment between boys and girls in Africa.

Prior to his doctoral studies, he obtained a master’s degree in quantitative economics from the University of Alicante, Spain. He also has master’s degree in philosophy in economics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana.



FIKAYO AKEREDOLU

Climate Finance Mobilization Group



NIGERIA

Fikayo Akeredolu is a doctoral candidate at Oxford University’s Department of Politics and International Relations, researching the political economy of climate and energy policy in resource-rich low- and middle-income countries. Her work examines state capacity, subsidy reforms, and the role of elite political settlements in shaping climate governance, using mixed methods to provide actionable insights for policymakers.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she works with the World Bank's Climate Change Fund Management Unit on carbon funds. She researches political economy barriers and opportunities in implementing nature-based programs to improve the uptake, delivery, and impact of results-based climate finance programs.

She holds a master's degree in contemporary Chinese studies from Oxford University and a master's degree in global affairs from Tsinghua University as a Schwarzman Scholar. An avid runner, Akeredolu has completed seven marathons and plans to finish three more by 2025.



BENIN

SULPICE AMONLE

Poverty & Equity GP

Sulpice Amonle is an applied economist with interests in international trade, agriculture, and climate change. He is close to completing his doctoral degree in agricultural economics at Laval University (Quebec, Canada), where his research explores the socioeconomic impacts of climate change and adaptation strategies.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, Amonle is currently supporting the World Bank's Poverty and Equity Global Practice by contributing to analytical projects that examine household vulnerability to climate change and the effects of fiscal policies on inequality and poverty in West Africa.

Prior to joining the World Bank Group, he gained valuable experience as an economist (trainee) at the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO). Additionally, he worked as a lecturer at Laval University, where he primarily taught quantitative methods.



TOGO

DENERA ATANGUEGNIMA

Equitable Growth Finance and Institutions

Denera Atanguegnima is an applied economist with a background in finance. Her research interests include international migration economics, financial inclusion, and labor markets. She has experience

in using large administrative datasets, both macro and micro, and applying various econometric and statistical methods to provide novel and causal evidence on policy-relevant issues.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she is providing analytical support to the Equitable Growth Finance and Institutions practice, working on domestic revenue mobilization issues in 22 countries across West and Central Africa.

Atanguegnima holds a doctoral degree in development economics from *Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Développement International* (CERDI), school of economics at Université Clermont Auvergne in France.



CAMEROON

ERIC JUNIOR BOMDZELE

Benin Country Management Unit

Eric Junior Bomdzele is an agri-environmental economist with research interests in climate-resilience agri-food systems, natural resources management, social protection and impact evaluation. He is a Chevening Alumnus, with extensive professional and research experiences with international research and development organizations.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, he is working with the Benin Country Management Unit, supporting the elaboration of country engagement products, portfolio reviews, monitoring and evaluation, data analyses, as well as backstopping staff in their operations activities in agriculture and rural development, environmental and social protection projects, especially in the conflict-and climate-prone Northern Gulf of Guinea Regions.

Bomdzele is a final year doctoral research fellow in agricultural economics at the University of Buea, Cameroon. He also holds two master's degrees: in Food Security & Development, University of Reading, UK, and Agricultural Economics, University of Buea, Cameroon.



HADDIJATOU CEESAY

Gender Group

Haddijatou Ceesay is a social scientist with research interests in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV). She recently completed her doctoral degree in health sociology at City, University of London

where her research centered on sexual and reproductive health education policy for young people in The Gambia.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, Ceesay is working with the Gender Group to increase the integration of SRH and GBV interventions within the Education and Social Protection Global Practices in line with the IDA21 commitments.

Her previous roles included consulting as a researcher and curriculum developer for agencies, including the United Nations Populations Fund, the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, and the Population Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in public health and health promotion from Brunel University of London.



THE GAMBIA



KARIMA CHIURI

Health, Nutrition and Population

Karima Chiuri is a global health specialist with primary training in medicine and epidemiology and research interests in women's health and cancer epidemiology. She is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a doctoral degree from the University of Oxford.

of Oxford.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, Chiuri is providing analytical and research support to the Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice team working with countries in East and Southern Africa on a host of cervical cancer prevention efforts. These include contributing toward increased access to HPV vaccination and increasing the focus on regular screening and early treatment of cervical cancer.



KENYA

Chiuri has served in several professional and research positions across the continent. Chiuri also holds a master's degree in Global Health and Epidemiology from the University of Oxford, and a bachelor degree of medicine & surgery (MBCbB) and a bachelor's of science degree (Hons) in medical physiology from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



GUYO GODANA DURETI

Africa Gender Innovation Lab

Dureti is an economist with a strong focus on development policy evaluations. His research spans areas such as land degradation and productivity, food security and nutrition, climate change resilience, and sustainable rural development.

He is keen on the application of econometric causal inferences, machine learning techniques, and satellite remote sensing in areas of agriculture and environment and is currently a doctoral researcher in the Land Economics Group at the University of Bonn, Germany.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, he is working with the Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL), where he provides analytical support for studies on labor market participation, gender gaps, and an impact evaluation of digital extension on agricultural productivity and food nutrition.

Dureti holds a double master's degree in agricultural, food and environmental policy analysis from the University of Bonn, Germany, and the Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Sweden, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.



ETHIOPIA



ABDULRASHEED ISAH

Climate Finance Mobilization Unit

Abdulrasheed Isah is currently completing a doctoral degree in climate finance and policy at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. His research interests include the climate finance needs of developing countries, the role of public policy in energy transition, and the



NIGERIA

techno-economic-environmental impacts of energy policies in developing countries.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, he is primarily supporting the Climate Finance Mobilization Unit with research on the financial instruments of the multilateral climate funds (MCFs) and options for enhancing concessional project and program financing. His research and findings will inform the Bank's engagement with the MCFs and negotiations on the use of grant and non-grant instruments in programs under preparation.

Previously, Isah completed a Center for Economic Global Action Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, a master's degree in development economics at School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, and a bachelor's degree in economics at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He has received prestigious scholarships including from the Commonwealth Commission and German Academic Exchange Service.



MIENKE KNIPE

Development Research Group
(Sustainability and Infrastructure)



SOUTH AFRICA

Mienke Knipe is a transport economist with research interests including transport feasibility studies, urban public transport, aviation, and labour mobility. Mienke will graduate with a doctoral degree in transport economics in 2025 from Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she is working with the Development Research Group: Sustainability and Infrastructure on a research project about the typology and funding taxonomy of urban transport systems in developing countries. The intent of this research is to create an understanding of the cost, revenue, and subsidies of various transport options to identify supply and funding gaps.

Prior to this, Knipe graduated with three degrees, cum laude, in six years while working part-time as a university lecturer and transport specialist consultant. A career milestone for her has been the opportunity to lead a MyCiTi project, the largest bus rapid transit (BRT) system on the African continent.



ARNOLD MUSUNGU LUMUMBAH

World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on
Forced Displacement



KENYA

Arnold Musungu Lumumbah is an applied development economist whose research interests span education, labor, agriculture, and climate change, with a particular focus on Africa.

As a WBG-Africa fellow, Arnold has joined the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC), where, using satellite and socioeconomic microdata, he is working on research projects at the intersection of climate change, conflict, and internal displacement.

Lumumbah holds a master's degree in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and is a doctoral candidate in development economics at the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany. He is a former fellow at the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), University of California, Berkeley. Prior to his doctoral studies, he worked as a socio-economist at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology and served as an Open Data and Public Policy Fellow at Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture.



ELIAS NDATABAYE MAOMBI

Social Protection GP



CONGO,
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF

Elias Maombi is an applied economist with research interests in energy, disasters, natural resources, conflicts and conservation. He is a doctoral candidate in applied economics at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). His current research focus is on the multidimensional impact of access to electricity and intrahousehold decisions upon disasters.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, he is working with the Social Protection and Labor (Africa East) unit. He is mainly providing analytical and operational support for the impact evaluation of a Cash for Jobs project in Burundi.

Elias is a teaching and research assistant at the Université Catholique de Bukavu (DRC) and a doctoral fellow at the Institute of Development Policy and Management (Belgium). He was also a 2024 UNU-WIDER doctoral fellow. He holds a master's degree in development evaluation and management and a master's in economics.



BRIAN MICHENI

Education GP



KENYA

Brian Micheni is an education specialist with a research focus on teacher quality, pedagogy, curriculum implementation, and inclusive education. His doctoral research at the University of Oxford examines how performance-based accountability measures shape teacher practices and professionalism.

As a WBG-Africa fellow working with the education team for Eastern and Southern Africa, Brian is currently involved in competency-based curriculum reform in Comoros and structured pedagogy initiatives in Ethiopia. He has teaching experience in both Kenya and Uganda and has worked with organizations and institutions such as the Aga Khan Foundation and the Stanford Mussallem Center for Bio-design on various education development projects.

Micheni is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a master's degree in Comparative and International Education from the University of Oxford.



MUSTAPHA WASSEJA MOHAMMED

Development Research Group
(Macroeconomics and Growth)



KENYA

Mustapha Wasseja is an economist with interests in macroeconomics, climate change, labor productivity, and spatial econometrics. His research focuses on understanding the economic impacts of heat stress, particularly its effects on labor productivity and GDP growth.

As a World Bank Africa Fellow, Mustapha is based in the Macroeconomics and Growth Team

of the Development Research Group. In addition to his work on heat stress and economic performance, he is also contributing to the roads and climate vulnerability project in Nepal, which explores how climate risks affect infrastructure resilience and economic outcomes.

Mustapha holds a doctorate in economics from Edinburgh Business School (Heriot-Watt University) under the Scottish Graduate Program in Economics, United Kingdom. He also holds an MSc in Economics from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, and a BSc in Economics and Statistics from Chuka University, Kenya.



TOWERA MOYO

Development Impact and Evaluation



MALAWI

Towera Moyo is a computer scientist with research interests in artificial intelligence, data science, development policy, digital transformation, and technology for social good. She recently completed a doctoral degree in Computer Science at the University of Oxford, where her research focused on leveraging artificial intelligence to detect human trafficking in Africa.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she works within the Development Impact and Evaluation unit, providing technical and research support, particularly to the government analytics project. She leverages data science to enhance public service delivery, improve development outcomes, and contribute to AI-driven solutions.

Prior to her earning her doctoral degree, Moyo earned her bachelor's degree in management information systems from the University of Malawi. She later worked as a software engineer for the central government of Malawi.



PRISCILLA NIYOKWIRINGIRWA

Climate Change and Disaster Risk
Management (South Asia)



RWANDA

Priscilla Niyokwiringirwa is a geo-information scientist specializing in natural hazards and disaster

risk assessment. She is currently a doctoral researcher at the University of Genova, focusing on geomorphological hazards and related risks in the Ligurian Apennines. Her research focuses on using a combination of geo-information technology (GIS) and remote sensing, as well as physical and data-driven based models for earth surface hazards (e.g., Landslide and soil erosion modelling).

As a WBG African Fellow, within the South Asia Infrastructure Resilience Policy and Finance Unit, part of the South Asia Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Priscilla's work focuses on providing technical and research supports for projects on natural hazards/Disaster Risk Management, Landslide Early warning system, geospatial technologies and remote sensing in Hind Kush Himalaya region.

Prior to receiving her doctoral degree, Niyokwirwa earned her master's degree in geo-information science and earth observation in the specialization of Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction from the Faculty of ITC, University of Twente, The Netherlands.



NIGERIA

AMEN-PATRICK NWOSU

Health Nutrition & Population (East Asia & Pacific)

Amen-Patrick (Amen) Nwosu is a physician, global health analyst, and health systems specialist with varied experiences in clinical and public health research, programs, and practice. He is completing a doctorate in global health analytics from Imperial College London where he is working to develop a digital, and fit-for-purpose, early warning system against maternal sepsis, using routinely collected and available clinical health data.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, Amen is working in the Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice in the East Asia Pacific region, based in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he is exploring the case for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) innovations in healthcare and developing a visualisation toolkit for the Climate-Smart Health Systems Collaborative of the Joint Learning Network.

Amen is passionate about digitisation and the

increased utilisation of information technology innovations for health systems strengthening. He holds a master's in global health from the University of Oxford.



KENYA

MBITHE NZOMO

World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement

Mbithe Nzomo is a computer scientist and AI researcher with interests in using technology to inform data-driven health decision-making and policy. She is a doctoral candidate in computer science at the University of Cape Town, where she researches explainable, human-centered, and hybrid AI approaches for personalized disease prediction and decision support.

As a WBG Africa Fellow, Nzomo is working with the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement. She is investigating the impact of climate change on health outcomes among forcibly displaced people, applying data science and AI methodologies to enhance understanding and response strategies.

Nzomo holds a master's degree in advanced computer science with distinction from the University of Manchester, and a bachelor's degree in informatics from Strathmore University. She is a recipient of several prestigious awards recognizing her academic excellence, leadership, and research impact.



NIGERIA

PRAISE OTITO OBANYA

Corporate Risk Management (IFC)

Praise Otito Obanya is an applied mathematician, specializing in risk analytics. Her research interests include risk analysis, multivariate analysis, time series analysis and process control. Praise is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at North-West University, South Africa.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she is working with the Risk Strategy unit in the Corporate Risk Management department of the IFC. Her project involves

the development and application of stress testing tools to assess and prevent financial exposure in IFC investments, and ensure informed decisions are made regarding portfolio risk management.

Praise holds a doctoral degree and master's degree in risk analytics from North-West University, South Africa. She also holds a bachelor's (Hons) degree in applied mathematics from the same university. In addition, she has a bachelor's degree in mathematics, which she obtained from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.



HARRIETTE ADHIAMBO OKAL

Water Practice GP



KENYA

Harriette Okal is a water professional with experience in sustainable water resource management, hydrological modelling, water systems, and climate resilience. She is finalizing her doctoral degree

in hydrology at the Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, where her research integrates remotely sensed data to reduce hydrological modelling uncertainty, advancing sustainable water management across Africa.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, Okal works with the Water Practice team in East Africa on projects in Kenya and Somalia aimed at improving access to clean water and sanitation, basin planning, and building water sector institutional capacity.

Prior to this, she served as an associate scientist—water systems at SEI-Africa. Okal is deeply committed to leveraging science and innovation to address water resource challenges, advance climate resilience, and promote sustainable development across Africa and the world. Okal holds a master's degree in land and water management and a bachelor's degree⁴ in water resource management.



ISMAËL OUEDRAOGO

Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region



BURKINA FASO

Ismaël Ouedraogo is a medical anthropologist with research interests in newborn and maternal health, sOuedraogo is currently a doctoral candidate in development economics at the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI) at Université Clermont Auvergne, France. His research investigates how geopolitics influence international trade patterns, FDI flows, the structure of GVCs, and the allocation of development aid.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, Ouedraogo is providing analytical support and contributing to research papers and publications focusing on trade, integration, GVCs, and structural change in the Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region.

In addition to his doctoral research, Ismaël has also served as a teaching assistant at Université Clermont Auvergne and has participated in capacity-building programs supported by the World Bank through the Fondation pour les Études et la Recherche sur le Développement International (FERDI).



CHANTALE OWEGGI

Development Research Group (Poverty, Inequality & Human Development)



KENYA

Chantale Oweggi is an economist specializing in development economics and public policy. She is currently a third-year doctoral candidate in economics at the Laboratoire d'Économie d'Orléans and Université Clermont Auvergne. Her research explores energy access, forest resources, climate change, firm innovation, public private partnership investments and gender issues in developing countries.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she works with the Poverty, Inequality and Human Development team of the Development Research Group. She works on Randomized Control Trial (RCT) projects in Tanzania and Ethiopia, providing technical assistance on

questionnaire design, field work, RCT design and evaluating outcomes on early childhood development and gender empowerment components of the interventions. Oweggi holds a master's degree in development economics from Université Clermont Auvergne.



BIBATA WASSONGUEMA

Health, Nutrition and Population



BURKINA FASO

Wassonguema is a health economist with a research focus on women and children, health and nutrition. Her work involves conducting economic evaluations, including cost analysis, cost-effectiveness and benefit-cost analysis, to inform

evidence-based decision-making in health and nutrition policy. She holds a doctoral degree in public health with a specialization in health economics from Paris Cité University.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she is working with the Health, Nutrition, and Population Global Practice, where she provides research and analytical support for the Democratic Republic of Congo's Health and Nutrition Multisectoral Program.

She also earned a master's degree in development and health economics from Clermont Auvergne University and a master's in public health with a specialization in Epidemiology from Paul Sabatier University in France.



CHRISTELLE FIFAME ZOZOUNGBO

Development Research Group (Poverty, Inequality & Human Development)



BENIN

Zozoungbo is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Economics at Pennsylvania State University. She specializes in applied econometrics/causal inference

and development economics (household economics, labor economics, and human capital). Her research focuses on how social and economic factors influence educational and labor market outcomes.

As a WBG-Africa Fellow, she is working with the

Development Research Group on evaluating the impact of early child education intervention in India and the analysis of the effect of child stunting on adult outcomes in the Philippines.

She has a master's degree in mathematics, economics, and statistics from the African School of Economics and a bachelor's degree in planning and project management from the Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée et de Management.



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