

Why Kofi Annan? ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OF KOFI ANNAN GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

ofi Atta Annan, the seventh Secretary-General of United Nations, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and founding chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation, exemplified visionary and principled leadership over the course of his life and career. Of his numerous accomplishments establishment of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (The Global Fund), which changed the approach to preventing and managing infectious diseases and the practice of public health globally. Visionary and principled leadership is critical for Africa to implement a new public health order that will enhance the timely detection and effective response to public health threats, and to ensure Africa has a healthy and productive population. It is also critical for mitigating the economic and social effects of these health threats while contributing to sustainable achievement of Africa's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The world remembers an iconic global statesman, but besides his tireless efforts for peace and justice, he was also one of the greatest global health leaders of our time.

Professor Peter Piot
Director of the London
School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine speaking
about Kofi Annan¹

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Great statesman, global health advocate, extraordinary human being – Peter Piot pays tribute to Kofi Annan. London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London. Aug 20, 2018





Joseph J. Komwihangiro

am a Public Health Specialist, currently as the Country Director Pathfinder International, Tanzania. I have 20+ years of experience in organizational development, program portfolio development and management, staff development and leadership, and management of donor-funded health programs, with 14 years of senior leadership in INGOs. Prior to joining Pathfinder, I served as the Senior Director - Health Services at Marie Stopes International Tanzania (MST) where I led a team of over 200 staff providing SRHR services to women and youth across the country. I am a Doctor of Medicine (MD) and I hold an MPH, MBA, and a PgD in Poverty Policy Analysis. I am also a Commonwealth Professional Fellow in International Health. speak Kiswahili, English and Hungarian languages

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I have lead successful advocacy efforts resulting in SRHR policy change: Approval of misoprostol for provision of post-abortion care services.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My leadership challenge project is to collate [through a systematic review], local and regional evidence on Sayana Press (a subcutaneous single-use injectable contraceptive) provision by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and use the evidence to develop a smart advocacy strategy to advocate for task sharing to that effect









Abdou-Rajack Ndiaye

am a physician, colonel-doctor, director of Senegalese Armed Forces Health Services, professor of Rheumatology, specialist in Internal Medicine, graduate in Medical Methodology and Writing in Sciences, graduate in malaria control, I hold several diplomas and certificates. I have also been a public hospital deputy-director during 5 years, managing health system in times of crisis. I also have a certificate in International Law of Armed Conflict, Civilian and Military Cooperation. I worked like hospital practitioner with strong clinical experience during 15 years. I am author of two books. I believe to interdisciplinary.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I have been deployed in times of war in Darfur, a very hard battlefield in 2010 and I was the chief medical officer of the Sector West in border between Sudan and with Chad. I coordinated and directed the care and rescue of dozens of young women and children for a year as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission. I saved these people from possible death.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project is to offer and coordinate to our countries a strategic resilience plan to manage massive disaster situations such as: terrorist attacks, serious accidents, natural disasters, serious epidemics, gas or oil explosions, etc. This plan must be multidisciplinary, open, transferable, sustainable, ecological, inclusive and flexible. It must be able to synergize and integrate international organizations, NGOs, local players, social and anthropological players, in order to be applicable across the board. the objective is to be able and ready to contain and manage these exceptional, difficult and serious situations.







Ada Aghaji

am a Professor of Public Health Ophthalmology and Consultant Ophthalmologist at the College of Medicine, University of Nigeria, where I teach, conduct research and deliver clinical services in eyecare. In addition, I am the current Head of Department of Ophthalmology at the College of Medicine, University of Nigeria and Chairperson of National Rubella Expert Committee. My current work is centred around equitable access to quality eyecare, development of sustainable eye systems, including eye health promotion, and influencing policies to meet the health needs of underserved populations in Africa.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

During my sabbatical at the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency, I was privileged to influence the development of a policy to instil prophylactic antibiotics eyedrops in the eyes of all new-borns in Nigeria, to prevent blinding infective conjunctivitis. This policy has the potential to affect over 8 million babies born in Nigeria yearly.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... About 110 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are blind or visually impaired. About 90% of this vision loss is avoidable (treatable or preventable). Uptake of blindness prevention programmes have been suboptimal, in part due to lack of community leadership and ownership. My leadership challenge is to increase the uptake of eyecare services in communities through robust community eye health leadership and ownership. The ultimate goal is to eliminate avoidable blindness.







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Adaeze Oreh

am a family physician and public health professional from Nigeria. I have previously blood services coordinated enhancing blood safety, availability, and community prevention of HIV/AIDS hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Additionally, I have been involved in rural healthcare especially with regards to sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. I work in Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health and have a special interest in strengthening blood safety surveillance systems, primary health care, and universal health coverage.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

As Nigeria became increasingly faced with terrorism, together with my team, we developed a framework to ensure the availability of safe blood and blood products to survivors in the most remote terror and conflict affected regions. To achieve this, we worked collaboratively with sectors such as the military, paramilitary, transportation, and aviation services.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project is to coordinate the capacity building of relevant professionals and transfusing hospitals to routinely identify, report and audit hospital haemovigilance systems. The aim of this project is to strengthen systems of collecting and assessing data on unexpected or undesirable effects resulting from blood transfusion processes such as adverse reactions and infection transmission, to prevent their occurrence or recurrence, improve quality, safety and reduce wastages.







Ahmadou Boly

riginated from Mali, I am a medical doctor specialized in Clinical Epidemiology. For the past ten years I have been working on Public Health Emergency areas. As a Public Health Emergency Management Fellow of US CDC and Expert on Experts on Strategies and Tools for Public Health Emergency Preparedness of World Health Organization. I worked in the field of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response for five years and since April 2022, I am the head of the Mali Public Health Emergency Operations Department.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

The most important achievement to me is the development of PHEOC's normative documents. These documents are (Concept of operations; Handbook, SOPs and strategic plan).

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project focuses on finding solutions for sustainable financing of response activities to public health events in Mali. It's a challenge learned from the financial difficulties encountered during response activities of previous epidemics and disasters. The aim is to have funding sources that can be easily mobilized during public health events.









Alex Lwando

physician, insurer, healthcare manager and health economist with over 12 years significant and progressive experience boosting provision of health services, cutting costs and fostering efficiency in healthcare through the enhancement and campaign for alternative and sustainable models of healthcare financing. I have worked in the health systems strengthening, social health protection and health policy departments in Zambia and under the United Nations Peace Support Missions in Africa, I am currently the Acting Director Quality Assurance and Accreditation at the National Health Insurance Management Authority, overseeing operational implementation of the Scheme at over 374 accredited healthcare facilities countrywide. I am tasked with enhancing implementational processes at the accredited facilities, formulating relevant quality assurance policies and coordinating the development of healthcare Benefit Package that is accessed by Scheme members. I provide technical leadership to the benefit package review process, ensuring that it is responsive to the country's disease burden, epidemiological trends and stakeholder expectations.. I have served as Contingent Medical Officer under the United Nations Peace Support Mission in the Central African Republic, Chairman of the National Health Insurance Steering Committee of the Zambia Medical Association and Director Health Services in Zambia Army.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

Championing the introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme in Zambia as a vehicle towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by removing financial barriers to healthcare access.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... The inclusion and coverage of mental health conditions in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Benefit Package. With mental health suffering barriers to access in limited availability and affordability of mental health care services; inadequate mental health care policies; lack of education about mental illness, and stigma, a deliberate inclusion and coverage of their conditions in the NHIS will break these barriers and ensure not only UHC, but also protection of this group from social deterioration, worthlessness and a reduction or elimination of the inherent family and community dependency.







Ali Asy

professor at the Animal Health Research Institute, Egypt. an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, USA. a member of the international panel of experts on the global health security index. I also serve as a member of the examination and certification committee and as chair of the North Africa biosafety and biosecurity technical working group in the Africa CDC. A global mentor in IFBA global mentorship program. I dedicate my life to advancing capacities for animal and human health.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I have inspired, influenced, and motivated my colleagues from Tunisia and Morocco to develop and establish their national multisectoral multidisciplinary biosafety and biosecurity (BSBS) technical working group (TWG). These TWGs strengthen national BSBS by Translating the BSBS legislations into practices and ensuring a sustainable effective implementation of the BSBS program at the national level.

My Leadership Challenge Project is Raising Awareness on emerging biorisks advances associated with biotechnology in North Africa (NA). Dual-use research of concern (DURC) is research that is intended to provide a clear benefit, but which could easily be misapplied to do harm. In NA, there are no laws that regulate such research and no existing structures to assess these risks. To address this critical gap we will raise awareness and expand capacity among bioscience researchers on challenges in DURC and explore threat reduction measures in NA.











Bona Naita Nghishekwa

am a Namibian pharmacist currently serving as the director of Pharmaceutical Services. My career highlights include three years as the Procurement Manager for the Namibia Global Fund Program Management Unit. In 2014 I was appointed as the Chief Pharmacist in the National Medicines Policy Coordination unit in the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Namibia.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

My greatest achievement thus far is my appointment to the position of Director for Pharmaceutical Services in Namibia. I am currently in my first year of appointment in this position where I am tasked with planning, coordinating, and managing Pharmaceutical Services, overseeing policy development, and spearheading multilateral engagements with donor agencies, to coordinate all aspects related to pharmaceutical matters in the Namibian public health sector.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge involves the operationalization of a governance structure that will, strengthen collaboration, alignment, and visibility between stakeholders and the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Services. This governance structure will also ensure optimal use of available resources by aligning all stakeholder support to the priority areas as outlined in the medicines policy - through the provision of strategic direction and continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Policy.







Erastus Maina

am a public health professional from Kenya. I am passionate about global/public health and I have working experience in Global Fund (HIV/Malaria/TB)-related programs, reproductive health, surgical care improvement, and health systems strengthening. I have led or overseen several projects from start to completion in a few countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. I currently lead and coordinate delivery of services to the health sector at KPMG East Africa, including leading the Global Fund local fund agent teams.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

As the East Africa lead for the Safe Surgery 2020 program in East Africa, I worked with partners (government, academia, NGO and private sector) to successfully launch and seed the program in Tanzania and Ethiopia. A major achievement was the successful advocacy for safe surgical care leading to the development of the first ever Tanzania National Surgical Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plan (NSOAP).

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project is to mobilize a cohort of 200 youth health change agents in Kiharu Constituency (Murang'a County) in Kenya, who will support to address the challenge of rampant alcoholism among the youth in that region. The change agents will be trained, equipped, and based within communities and engaging daily with youthful populations to encourage healthy living – facilitating health promotion and preventive education to communities. The project will leverage and work closely with the county administration (health department) and community health system in the region.











Seynabou Mbow

rom Senegal, and I am a physician and public health professional. I'm currently working for the Ministry of Health and Social Action, at the division of non-communicable diseases, where I am head of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases office. Previously I worked in health districts in rural areas, and this experience enabled me to familiarize myself with the various health programmes and public health. I'm particularly interested in the fight against NCDs, as these are diseases with a high morbidity and mortality rate that can be prevented by simple measures.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

To have been able to coordinate the establishment of the Senegalese alliance against NCDs, which brings together civil society, learned societies and other stakeholders to support the Ministry of Health in its fight against these diseases.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... The aim of my project is to strengthen multisectoral collaboration to combat NCDs and their risk factors more effectively. By involving and coordinating the actions of ministerial sectors, technical and financial partners, civil society and all stakeholders, the response to NCDs can be a success.









Lamboly G.N Kumboneki

am a physician and public health professional from the Democratic Republic of Congo with over 10 years experience in research, evaluation and in the implementation of publichealth programs in Africa. I have supported large scale evaluations and implementation of strategies and policies in SADC Member States.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I have supported the development and implementation of several regional project in the SADC Region to address the HIV and AIDS epidemic as well as led and supported the development of several strategic and regional policies to facilitate movement of people during the COVID 19 pandemic.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project is to coordinate through the Regional Economic Communities the establishment of Regional Health Financing Hubs composed of health financing experts within the SADC Region and will provide the technical and practical expertise to support Member States to develop and implement the necessary reforms.









Chewe Mulenga

am a public health professional and Country Director for D-tree international in Zambia. I have extensive experience in public health centred on comprehensive sexual education, gender, mental health, RMNCH and HIV/AIDS. I have led programmatic work and supported public health research and programs across the globe including projects in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa and the United States. I am also an Atlas Corps Fellow, a Chevening Scholar and Board Chairperson of StrongMinds Zambia. I have a special interest in digital health and passionate about mental health.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I was co-founder of PsycHealth Zambia which has grown to be one of the largest private mental health service providers in Zambia and provides psychological services, capacity building, and research for mental health. It gives me great joy that I helped set-up this amazing organization that is helping people and changing lives.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My leadership challenge project is aimed at developing a community-based intervention that will drive mental health services to the community and influence the uptake of mental health services among adolescents and young adults in a specific poor urban compound in Lusaka, Zambia.







Sajida Kimambo

am Public Health professional with over 18 years of combined professional experience in Global Health Programs in HIV, TB and SRH. Over the years, I have developed the leadership capacity to support the introduction of new projects/Health initiatives in resource-limited settings and working with a wide range of stakeholders.Currently, I am the country Director for Elizabeth's' Glaser Pediatric AIDS (EGPAF) Foundation in Tanzania which supports the Ministry of Health in the scale up of comprehensives HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Family planning program covering over 400 facilities in Tanzania.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I was awarded the US Government Mission Honor Award: For exemplary leadership in ensuring sustainable strategic implementation of pediatric HIV program in Tanzania leading to the doubling of Children on ART in 2015. In 2023 I was awarded the Top 50 Women in Managements Africa (WIMA) in: In recognition of the positive leadership influence and contributions to the rural communities of Tanzania.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

My leadership challenge will focus on resources mobilization for financing health challenges in mothers and children's health in Tanzania.











Esteller Mbadiwe

am a Pharmacist with an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing; my professional journey encompasses diverse roles in the public and private sectors across Nigeria and UK. With experience in clinical practice, policy and Government advisory, I founded Ducit Blue Solutions, a health consultancy based in Abuja. Our focus is on enhancing patient safety and improving the quality of healthcare delivery through the application of improvement science and a data-centric approach. My particular addressing antimicrobial interests lie in resistance (AMR), promoting Pan African capacity empowerment, and fostering youth productivity for a prosperous Africa.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

My leadership and coordination of antimicrobial resistance activities at the national, regional and global levels, including multisectoral coordination and developing the pioneer Youth Pan African One Health Antimicrobial resistance internship programme.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project is coordinating the 3rd cohort of our One health AMR internship programme, building the public health leaders of tomorrow by providing them with the tools and network to make a difference for our unique health challenges.









Amal Ali

am a Swedish-Somali dental surgeon and public health professional based in Hargeisa, Somaliland. I have over ten years of public health experience, focusing on non-communicable disease prevention and health promotion. Today, I'm a Public Health Consultant and the Technical Advisor to the Director General's office at the Ministry of Health Development, Somaliland. I am particularly interested in health system strengthening, health policy, health diplomacy, and workforce development in low- to middle-income settings.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

In the Scandinavia, I worked with local municipalities with planning and implementing disease prevention programmes targeting minorities and vulnerable communities through empowerment schemes. In my current role at the Ministry, I work daily to improve the population's health in Somaliland, ensuring public health interventions are evidence-based and reach communities most in need.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

My challenge project is leading and coordinating efforts to establish Somaliland's first Public Health Institute (SPHI) on behalf of the Ministry of Health, Somaliland. The long-term goal is for the SPHI to promote health; prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases and injuries.









S. Benedict Dossen

am a global mental health specialist and health systems strengthening practitioner. As a vital member of The Carter Center's Global Behavioral Health Team, I hold the position of Country Program Lead for Mental Health in Liberia. Over the past decade, I have dedicated my efforts to strengthening the public behavioral health system in Liberia. My primary focus is on building a sustainable mental health system by training the workforce, supporting policy reform, increasing investment, and combating stigma for improved population health and well-being. I have served on various national policy and ethics committees, contributing my expertise and leading technical working groups.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

A recent and important leadership achievement I take pride in is leading a multi-agency and interdisciplinary team in the development of a comprehensive and harmonized graduate-level clinical mental health curriculum, endorsed by the Liberian Ministry of Health, regulatory boards, and major training institutions. This curriculum aims to equip advanced practice providers with the necessary skills to effectively manage mental, neurological and substance use disorders across various platforms of care, including community-based service delivery.

My Leadership Challenge Project is My leadership challenge project focuses on improving the delivery of public mental health, neurological and substance use services in Liberia through a robust analysis of relevant services and stakeholders across the country. The project would develop a comprehensive map/data bases of key actors/services for enhancing coordination, reducing duplication and fragmentation, increasing monitoring, and alleviating harmful practices.







René English

am a medical doctor and public health medicine specialist from South Africa. I work in the field of public health, and health systems and policy research. I am also an academic and lead a public health and health systems academic division at the University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town. I have worked in the South African public health sector and for a large health non-governmental organization. I have a special interest in the health system, global health and health professions education. I am passionate about capacitating the next generation of global public health professionals.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I have been fortunate to lead various teams of public and other health professionals where we made research, academic and other contributions towards building the local public health system, and the leadership capacities of those working within the public sector, and of those training to be health professionals.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My personal leadership challenge is to leverage the power of the internet and social media, and launch an equity- and social determinants of health-focused online and social media campaign that (1) raises awareness and knowledge of priority global and public health issues (2) brings together students-practitioners-communities from across Africa to build knowledge, influence policy and practice, strengthen programme implementation and share good practices and learnings across a range of settings.









Moumini Niaone

r. Moumini Niaoné is a Physician and Burkina Faso's National Director of Community Health. He is a Fulbright Scholar, a founding member and chief operation officer of a non profit Pull for Progress. Dr. Moumini is a lecturer at the School of medicine at the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo Ouaga I. He has been awarded the medal of Knight of Merit order of Burkina Faso for his social impact on vulnerable communities.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I am founding member chief operation officer of a non profit Pull for Progress that is making a difference in the life of thousands of people especially in the most vulnerable in hard to reach places. Which led me to my current position as Director of Community Health at the National Agency of Primary Health Care Management of the Ministry of Health.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... Fighting vaccine hesitancy in rural community through an large network of community radios with an audience of hundred of thousand members. Building upon an existing Community Health Clubs initiative, we will create a platform for dialogue among community members, and with experts in the spoken language of the communities. Listening groups, gate keepers will be trained to identify and correct fake news. An advocacy strategy based on evidence will follow to influence the national health policy to adopt the model. The experience will be shared in many other African countries for adoption.







Oyeladun Okunromade

am a physician and public health professional from Nigeria. Currently working as the Ag. Director and head of surveillance and epidemiology department at Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and National focal point for IHR. I am also currently a member of Africa CDC expert working group on priority setting and resource optimization for public health emergency in Africa. I have a special interest in facilitating implementation of health security globally and passionate about the next generation of public health leaders.

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I have been fortunate to lead on several projects in Nigeria but the most single achievements I am most proud of is leading the National Surveillance for Covid-19 EOC in Nigeria. This led to the release of timely, accurate and up to date data daily for 3 years on all our social media platform for decision making across the country and also making data available to all our international partners on a daily basis.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project is to optimize the digital surveillance platform in Nigeria. The aim is to ensure a comprehensive country level digital health security surveillance systems roadmap geared towards IDSR priorities and synchronized with all National surveillance platform.







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Damaris Matoke-Muhia

am a molecular biology research scientist and Ag. Deputy Director Biotechnology Research Programme at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). Also, a Programme Manager (Capacity Building, Gender Mainstreaming and Career Progression) at the Pan African Mosquito Association (PAMCA) where I oversee the Women in Vector control programme. My research interest is on utilizing genomics in the control of diseases. I have a passion in mentoring women in STEM

What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

I'm proud to have led in the establishment of the Women in the control of vector-borne diseases initiative. The initiative is to mentor, train, network, recognize and empower both professional and non-professional women in Africa. This is a fulfilling and satisfying initiate as I believe that empowering women in the fight of vector borne diseases will increase the number of women at decision making tables, synergize the efforts thus accelerate to the elimination of these diseases from Africa and beyond.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about... My challenge project is to build a pool of women in the African continent with the capability (skills, technical knowhow), confidence, and support to access opportunities for advancing their career in vector control through mentorship, training and networking.





KOFI ANNAN FELLOWSHIP

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Supporting aspirational public health leaders from Africa in acquiring advanced skills and competencies to strategize, manage and lead public health programmes that will transform public health in Africa

Established in honour of the late Kofi Annan, a visionary and principled leader as epitomized by one of his brainchild achievements, the establishment of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund) in 2001, which transformed the approach to preventing and managing infectious diseases and the practice of public health globally.







