



AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control
and Prevention

Safeguarding Africa's Health

FELLOWSHIP OF
KOFI ANNAN
GLOBAL HEALTH
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMME

2024/2025

www.africacdc.org

 [africacdc](#)



Why Kofi Annan?

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OF KOFI ANNAN GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Kofi Atta Annan, the seventh Secretary-General of the 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 was the 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

1. 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



**Dr Ayodele O.
Majekodunmi**

I am...

a One Health epidemiologist with over 15 years' experience in the control of neglected tropical diseases, zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and One Health governance, as well as their impact on rural livelihoods. For the past 3 years I have focused on national capacity building for health security at the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases, particularly for AMR and Surveillance. I am the current Co-Chair of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) as well as honorary Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh

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

My role in the development of Nigeria's the National Action Plan for Antimicrobial resistance. Specifically, leading production of the multisectoral national AMR Situation Analysis (2023) and the Surveillance Pillars for animal & environmental health.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Public Health leadership at the subnational level is essential for providing an enabling environment for frontline one health workers. My challenge is to build leadership capacity in subnational animal health leaders in Nigeria to support animal health systems strengthening and national health security. This will be achieved by rolling out ISAVET Veterinary Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Executives, building on a successful pilot in 2023.



Dr Rose Wafula

I am...

a Medical doctor, Public Health Practitioner who is passionate about robust sustainable systems for population health especially for women, adolescents and children. I have over 18 years' experience in health with substantial experience in developing (formulation, designs and planning), implementing, monitoring of public health programs. I am currently a Deputy Director of Medical Services and Head of the National AIDS and STI Control Program in the Ministry of Health. In previous roles, I have been charged with leading Gender Based Violence Prevention and response within the Ministry of Health including during the COVID-19 crisis. I also previously served as the program manager for the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV in Kenya.

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

The greatest achievement is the reduction of mother to child transmission rates for HIV by 50% between 2013 and 2016 in Kenya.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

There are 1,322,702 PLHIV on daily ART across 3,571 health facilities, 90% receiving care in Primary Care level facilities (2,3 and 4) in Kenya. About 70% of the PLHIV on treatment are older than 35 years and their needs include care for non-communicable diseases, Reproductive health and mental health support. The current HIV service delivery operates as vertical independent HIV clinics which results in high costs, parallel services, and gaps in quality of care. The isolation and labeling of stand-alone HIV clinics exacerbates stigma. Moreover, the evolving financial landscape underscore the need for efficiency gains and leverage for better outcomes. My project focuses on improving the quality of care for PLHIV through redesigning the HIV service delivery model to align with universal health coverage (UHC) reform agenda in Kenya and aimed at providing access to integrated, people-centered HIV services. At least 100 standalone HIV clinics at PHC level should be integrated into outpatient care or converted into chronic care clinics by end of the fellowship. This will be achieved through applying my coordination role in development of relevant policy tools and guidelines for HIV service integration into PHC



Dr André Rose

I am...

a Public Health Medicine Physician with an interest in population health, radiation safety, occupational health, transdisciplinary research, the intersection of art and health, and the plight of marginal communities. I have facilitated complex engagements with multiple stakeholders at national and provincial health departments, academic institutions, global agencies, civil societies, and local communities. I am dedicated to mentoring the next generation of African public health leaders and scientists. I am an artist and use my artistic expression as an advocacy voice to narrate and comment on challenging contemporary social issues.

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

During the COVID-19 pandemic I lead the vaccination rollout in the Northern Cape (NC) province in South Africa. This task allowed me to bring decisive leadership in an intricately complex environment. The NC is a geographically and ethnically diverse area offering multi-layered public health challenges. Under my leadership I improved vaccination coverage and strengthened the health system.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

SAPRIN is a national Research Infrastructure (RI) of Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems bringing together seven regional nodes. The aim of my challenge is to develop the 2025-2030 strategic plan for SAPRIN. The plan aims to develop SAPRIN's vision, mission, values, and value proposition. The importance of building strong science RI networks within Africa is paramount to moving the Continent forward as a science powerhouse. The success of SAPRIN can be a blueprint for developing similar RI networks across Africa. The value of RIs is that they reduce research costs, facilitate interdisciplinary research, and promote cross pollination of research ideas (within Africa).



Dr Adilson De Pina

I am...

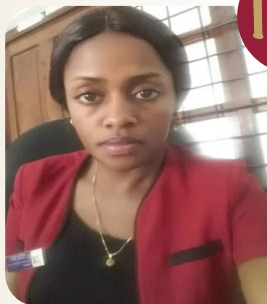
a specialist in Public Health, Monitoring and Evaluation for 13 years, leading the Malaria Elimination Program in Cabo Verde, supported by the Global Fund under the Ministry of Health, and supporting the HIV and TB program. For the past 5 years, I have focused on the Leadership development of Public Health leaders in Cabo Verde, working with the Universities, teaching Master courses in different areas of Health and leading research projects in the National Institute of Public Health. With extensive experience at national and international levels, I have collaborated with countries such as Guinea Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Ghana, Senegal and others, implementing HIV, TB and malaria Programs and participating in numerous international events, representing Cabo Verde.

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

Having achieved an excellent academic and professional career. Coming from a modest family, with 5 children boys, where parents from a rural area, with no education, being able to study and reach a doctorate level is something that makes me proud and I am an example of inspiration for many youths in Cabo Verde.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Leadership, management and Governance are essential for the success of any public health project or program. My challenge project proposes the development of an advocacy and social mobilization plan that aims to promote changes in behavior and attitudes regarding malaria preventive attitudes in the 4 communities in Cabo Verde. The aims is to work in the community empowerment and engagement in actions to prevent malaria reintroduction in Cabo Verde.



**Dr Witness M.
Mchwampaka**

I am...

a Medical Epidemiologist with a background as a Medical Doctor and an AMR Fellow in policy and human health. Currently, I serve as the coordinator of international Policies, Regulations and Global Health Security within the Ministry of Health in Tanzania. Over the past 10 years, I have worked at both Subnational and National levels in the Health Sector, demonstrating leadership and coordination skills at both Regional and Global levels through organizing and managing meetings, conferences and workshops. My experience includes coordinating Tanzania's second Joint External Evaluation (JEE), assisting Zambia in their JEE process and engaging the Diaspora Community on health issues. I have actively participated in the response to public health emergencies at the country level and beyond. Additionally, I have developed health-related plans, written proposal for resource mobilization and coordinated partners on specific interventions related to Global Health Security. I have demonstrated leadership as a consultant under WHO overseeing Polio campaigns across various regions. I have co-authored several articles published in international peer-reviewed journals and I am currently involved in producing a documentary on Primary Health.

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

My role as a Public Health Specialist that has given me the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of community health and wellbeing, as well as the prevention and promotion of health.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

My project is about addressing leadership challenges related to health system at Subnational level (in the selected regions). Despite of well stipulated roles of the Region Health Management Team (Subnational health management team) in the existing guidelines, challenges still do exist in terms of coordination, timely detection and reporting of Public Health Event and communication of the key information among the key output expected to be achieved by the Ministry of Health. Addressing leadership challenge is crucial for the long-term success at this level.

Through this project I will be able to; Conduct leadership Assessment among Region Health Management Team (RHMT) in the selected regions, designing mechanism to address the identified gaps from the conducted assessment and Communication Enhancement, improve communication channels between leaders and their teams

I am...



**Kerileng Matsilo
Thela**

a passionate public policy practitioner with a particular interest in public health. My work experience spans over 26 years all of which have been in the public sector. Currently responsible for coordinating development of health policies, planning and financing as well as health partnerships and resource mobilisation for strengthened health systems. I am a believer in lifelong learning and have keen interest in tackling development challenges for sustainable solutions that are centered in systems thinking approaches.

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

I have lead a team of professionals that included, technical officers and legal advisors to work on and negotiate an Agreement to resolve an issue on a potential collaboration for a health facility project that would provide access to quality health services to a rural population of more than 3 000 people. The Agreement took almost 2 years before it could be signed to facilitate design the facility as phase 1 of the project. Presently, Phase 2 (construction) Agreement is being finalised for signing anticipated by August 2024 after which construction will start.

**My Leadership
Challenge Project is
about...**

Harnessing and leveraging on the leadership, strengths and skills that exist within the local communities to solve health challenges. It is based on a small village in the northern part of Botswana, with a population of about 1 400. It seeks to identify the assets within the community by employing the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach to public health challenges and in the process come up with interventions that could help to improve the community or individual's ability to achieve and maintain good health and well-being.



I am...

Dr Papa Samba Dieye

a medical doctor specialising in public health with over 20 years' experience in district management and health emergency management. I am currently the Director of the Health Emergency Operations Centre at the Ministry of Health and Social Action in Senegal. I participated in the training of trainers for the 2023 COUS in the Seychelles with support from Africa CDC and WHO. I am the deputy coordinator of the SURGE team in my country.

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

I am particularly proud to have contributed to the institutionalisation of decentralised emergency management with the creation of regional epidemiological surveillance and emergency management offices during the reform that led to the creation of regional health departments.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

My main challenge is to strengthen the territorialisation of emergency management with functional regional councils, effective EIR in each region and emergency funds for rapid and effective action at all levels.



Dr Bagnan Bato

I am...

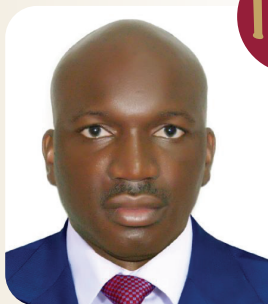
a health economist and current health advisor to the Minister of Economy and Finance. My 12 years in the profession have been spent strengthening health systems in Africa, specialising in cost evaluation and HIV project management. For the last five years, I have focused on universal health coverage through the development of the programme to optimise community-based interventions and the Universal Health Insurance mechanism in Togo. I am a member of the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AFHEA) and the Committee of International Experts on Digital Health in Africa (CEISNA). I was awarded the Honorary Diploma for best academic performance at CESAG in 2014.

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

I am most proud of having participated in the development of the national strategy for optimising the interventions of Community Health Workers (CHWs) and of my contribution to the establishment of the Universal Health Insurance (UHI) mechanism, which has been implemented in Togo since 1 January 2024.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

The effectiveness of a Universal Health Insurance (UHI) scheme is measured by a high-performance monitoring and evaluation system that provides objective assessment data useful for strategic and operational orientations. My challenge is to contribute to the development of a monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of AMU in Togo. This objective will be achieved thanks to the training opportunity offered by the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Fellowship program. Translated with DeepL.com (free version)



**Prof Youssouf
Traore**

I am...

a public health physician and epidemiologist and Associate Professor of Epidemiology. I teach courses to field epidemiologists (FETP) and public health specialists. For the past 15 years, I have been and continue to be the National Focal Point for the International Health Regulations, providing leadership and coordinating public health emergencies, health monitoring for diseases with epidemic potential and strengthening cross-border surveillance, while reporting to the WHO and other technical and financial partners. I am also a member of the “One Health” platform responsible for preventing, detecting and responding to public health emergencies, and work with Africa CDC, which makes me one of the pioneers of Event Based Surveillance in Africa. Finally, when it comes to managing points of entry (cross-border surveillance), the CDC/Atlanta enables me to think about and respond to cross-border challenges that are common to our continent.

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

My great pride lies in the production of normative documents relating to the signing of the decree on the creation and allocation of entry points to Côte d’Ivoire with several stakeholders. I’m also involved in drafting the Public Health Emergency Response Plan for the airport, port and land borders, within a multi-sectoral framework. From February 2016 to the present, I have been involved in coordinating activities at the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (COUSP) relating to the management of Covid-19, Dengue, Yellow Fever and other public health emergencies occurring in Côte d’Ivoire. Since 2018, I have been coordinating resource mapping (Remap) as part of the IHR and the drafting of the National Health Security Action Plan (PANSS).

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

The problem of the increase in public road accidents in an African conurbation undergoing rapid economic and demographic expansion: the case of the city of Abidjan. The implementation of this ambitious project will make it possible to reduce the number of road accidents, which are a real public health problem in our regions, with their attendant social, psychological, economic and health consequences. The success of this project depends on the leadership, management and coordination of activities involving all the stakeholders. The major leadership challenge will be to mobilise all these players for success, with a view to raising awareness and monitoring and evaluating what has been achieved. This activity will benefit the people of Côte d’Ivoire, those living in Côte d’Ivoire, those involved in the transport sector and the academic world, so that the right decisions can be taken.



Dr Nicole Fouda Mbarga

I am...

a public health specialist with over 10 years' experience in Africa in the field of health security, a researcher and doctoral student in public health at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). For the past five years, I have focused on strengthening public health emergency preparedness and response and research in Africa, working with the World Health Organization (WHO), and other partners. I am passionate about gender issues and currently chair the executive board of Women In Global Health (WGH) in Cameroon. In 2024, I was awarded the Dr Richard Hoffman MD MPH DrPH Prize for Doctoral Students in Public Health at JHU.

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

Since 2019, I am co-founder of Women In Global Health (WGH) Cameroon, a network of more than 500 people who contribute to increasing gender equality in health in Cameroon through capacity building and visibility of women, access to opportunities, research, communication and advocacy for policies to promote women's leadership.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

It is of the utmost importance to involve all genders if we are to reposition Africa in the global architecture of public health. In Cameroon, my challenge is to document the current state of gender equality within the Health sector to promote gender transformational leadership of at least 200 women in public health by 2025. This will be achieved by investing in leadership programmes, including the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme.



Dr Yakaria Touré

I am...

a doctor specializing in international health, of Guinean nationality and I have more than 16 years of experience in the field of public health, mainly in the field of prevention and control of infectious diseases. During the last six years in my capacity as head of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC), I have coordinated with the various stakeholders in the response to epidemics of measles, yellow fever, Ebola, Marburg, Covid-19 and Lassa fever. Since February 2023, I have been a Technical Advisor to the General Directorate of the National Health Security Agency (ANSS).

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

My greatest pride is to have contributed to the establishment and operationalization of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) at the central and decentralized level (Region and health district) in my country, the PHEOC constitutes the coordinating body for all public health emergencies in the Republic of Guinea.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Leadership, management and coordination (LMC) are essential to the success of any public health project or program. The challenge I am setting myself is to facilitate the leadership development of 48 public health leaders in the coordination bodies of the central and decentralized level (Region and prefecture) of the EPI in my country by 2025. The objective is to contribute to improving routine EPI vaccination coverage to at least 67% by the end of 2025 through a more local and specific CML approach.

I am...



Dr Jennifer Mbabazi

a Global Health Specialist with over 15 years experience managing all levels of health systems strengthening development programs in East and West Africa, whilst collaborating with national governments, NGOs, multilateral organizations, and global health organizations. I am currently focused on Government Engagement and health systems strengthening in West Africa working with a development donor organization with a focus on women and girls. Prior to that, I was the Senior Technical Advisor on a Health Financing Advocacy Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), aimed at accelerating the implementation of the AU African Leadership Meeting (ALM) Investing in health Declaration. I also worked as a Senior Advisor, providing advisory and coordination support to the Board Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

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

I Contributed to the emergency response to the West African Ebola Epidemic and supporting the post Ebola recovery efforts. Specifically, I focused on strengthening the health system including the health information system. As a result, a system that was established to provide real time data for decision making and response. This was also used during COVID response.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Global priorities have undergone significant shifts and global health is facing challenges in maintaining the same level of attention and resources even after the COVID pandemic. With the shifting Global priorities and the current macroeconomic situation, there is need for an urgent reconsideration of our advocacy approach towards health financing. My challenge project will advocate for a more holistic and integrated approach that brings global health back to the global agenda whilst addressing not only How much is spent on health but Value for money.



I am...

**Dr Nana Kadidia
Traore**

An Epidemiologist with 11 years of experience in the health system at all levels of the Malian health pyramid. Experience in managing health projects and programs, with the majority of these projects funded by international donors. I had the privilege of working in the national program for control and elimination of schistosomiasis and geohelminthiasis as assistant to the coordinator. Currently I am responsible for diseases surveillance with epidemiological potential, including community and cross-border surveillance, but also I'm the responder of coordination, capacity building and deployment of rapid response teams. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic allowed me to broaden and strengthen my skills, particularly in leadership, coordination, communication and diplomacy. In addition to the above, my interventions focus on research into emerging and re-emerging diseases interventions based on evidence.

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

Implementing the Covid-19 community response initiative in 36 health districts to ensure significant community support for Covid-19 screening and vaccination.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Extension of community-based epidemiological surveillance to 10 districts in the Sikasso region, with a view to scaling up the experience in Mali's 75 health districts, and possibly replicating it in other African countries that have not experienced this initiative.



Dr Guiet Mati Fatima

I am...

a student in public health leadership, I am a pharmacist with a Bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical sciences, a Master's degree in pharmaceutical regulation and a PhD in pharmaceutical regulation and law. I am a teacher-researcher and public health practitioner with 15 years' professional experience. I work in the field of public health from various angles, including access to medicines, the quality of medicines and pharmaceutical regulation, in order to make my contribution to improving the health of our populations. My work focuses mainly on research, in connection with the fight against substandard and falsified medicines. I support various African countries in strengthening their pharmaceutical regulations, building the capacity of the players involved, setting up activities to monitor the quality of medicines in the distribution chain and taking corrective and preventive action.

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

Steering the pharmaceutical reform process that led to new legislation and regulations for the pharmaceutical sector in Niger. Since 2018, I have been helping to train pharmacy students and providing support in around ten African countries in the fight against substandard and falsified medical products, which are a real public health scourge and a threat to the well-being of the African population.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

The "Use of a leadership strategy to improve the quality assurance of medicines in Niger". Medicines are the key to the success of any health system. The harmful effects of poor-quality medicines drastically reduce efforts to achieve Niger's health objectives. I have therefore set myself the challenge of training and raising the awareness of students, health professionals and law enforcement agencies, and of conducting high-level advocacy for a better system of drug quality assurance and strong, effective and efficient pharmaceutical regulation in the African region, as a guarantee of achieving public health objectives for a new health order.



I am...

**Dr Hind
Bouguerra**

a doctor and assistant professor of community medicine and public health at the Faculty of Medicine in Tunis, Tunisia. I am currently Director of the Department of Studies and Planning at the Ministry of Health in Tunisia, where I am responsible for steering the process of implementing the National Health Policy up to 2035 and drawing up sectoral development plans. Previously, I worked in several departments in disease surveillance and control, epidemic preparedness and response, field epidemiology and health research, including as a trainer in various international programmes such as the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET) and the World Health Organisation's Regional Training Programme for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (WHO/TDR).

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

This is my last job as Director, and I've been responsible for a diverse team of people of all ages and professional backgrounds, bringing a new way of working and a new vision.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

With the constant changes in health technologies and ongoing efforts to digitalise, the challenge I have set myself is to work on strengthening the health information system in Tunisia. This will facilitate the timely production of reliable data for better decision-making at all levels. I will achieve this by working closely with the stakeholders involved.

I am...



Dr Dissia Fittouin

a field epidemiologist, I have been working in the field of health security and the management of health emergencies since 2021 in Chad . Over the last five years, I have been involved in the management of health emergencies, particularly in the management of the Ebola virus epidemic in the DRC as a consultant with the WHO. Currently I am the coordinator of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center and RSI focal point

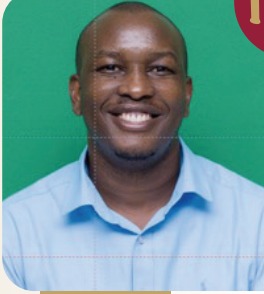
What is the single most leadership achievement your most proud of to date?

Contribute to breaking the chain of transmission of the Ebola epidemic in a major security context (attacks against health workers) in the DRC. Also, the establishment of the Operations Center Health Emergency Public in Chad constitutes a major achievement in my career .

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

The issue of mobilization requires strong leadership in the effective implementation of the actions of the national health security action plans with a significant contribution to improving the scores of the various RSI indicators. I will deploy all my energy to achieve this objective set within the framework of this scholarship .

I am...



**Dr John Mark
Bwanika**

a trained medical professional working at the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship and Research. I have the privilege of having received world-class mentorship at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in Uganda, where I started my medical career. I proceeded to co-found a digital health and telemedicine company called Rocket Health Africa that I have run for the last 11 years. I have led the operations of the company as well as its research agenda into the leading digital health company in East Africa. This work has been trend-setting for technology-enabled access to preventive health, disease management, surveillance and notifications.

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

I am very proud of my leadership that has led to the impact that Rocket Health has achieved over its lifetime including serving close to two million people over the last decade using telehealth, employing at least 500 professionals, inspired other local social enterprises and contributed significantly to policies and guidelines for digital health in Africa.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Data; its integrity, custodianship, transmission, analytics and eventual insights is critical in healthcare and especially in the private sector which is highly fragmented and individualistic in Africa.

My leadership challenge is focused on conceptualizing and designing an adoptable framework for standardizing and harmonizing healthcare data practices across sub-Saharan Africa.



**Dr Patrick
Ngassa Piotie**

I am...

a global health enthusiast from Cameroon with two decades of experience in medicine and public health. My medical journey began in Mali and extended to South Africa, where I co-founded the University of Pretoria Diabetes Research Centre. As the Senior Programme Manager at the Centre and Chairperson of the Diabetes Alliance, I lead significant initiatives in diabetes research, policy advocacy, and health systems strengthening. I played a pivotal role in organizing the 2023 South African Diabetes Summit, resulting in actionable policy recommendations to advance diabetes prevention and care. My interest lies in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and diabetes across Africa. Fluent in French and English, I have been recognized as a World Heart Federation Salim Yusuf Emerging Leader, and I am a member of the WHO Global Diabetes Compact Forum.

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

My proudest achievement is the establishment of South Africa's first exclusive Diabetes Research Centre at the University of Pretoria. As a co-founder, I played a pivotal role in creating a centre dedicated to advancing diabetes research and care. The centre has become a hub for transdisciplinary research, capacity building, and community outreach, significantly impacting diabetes management and prevention in South Africa.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

My project aims to tackle Africa's growing burden of NCDs, injuries, and mental health issues by establishing the Pan-African Collaboration Network for NCDs, Injuries, and Mental Health Research (PANCO.Net). This digital platform will serve as a central hub for researchers to share data, insights, and best practices. In addition to the platform, annual conferences and workshops will be organized to provide spaces for African researchers to develop innovative research projects and policy recommendations tailored to the specific needs of African communities, thereby promoting cooperation and knowledge exchange. This initiative will foster cross-cultural collaboration by engaging academic institutions and governmental bodies, ultimately enhancing the capacity for effective research and policy development across the continent.

I am...



**Prof. Adem Hiko
(PhD)**

a Veterinary Public Health and Biomedical Sciences student, practitioner, researcher and instructor for the past 25 years working in Ethiopia in collaboration with other international institutions primarily in the field of Biomedical Sciences, Food Safety, Zoonoses and Antimicrobial Resistance. For the past 5 years, I have focused on One Health Approach research on the aforementioned field that also encompasses environmental health, community knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) on health, and delivering of the related training as health challenge mitigation strategies. I am also working on Higher Education Leadership and health curriculum designing in Ethiopia. Currently, I am Vice-President II for Association of African Veterinary Education Establishment (2A2E-V) at African Union. In my past life, I was part of Emergence Health and Disaster responses through Haramaya University.

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

Handling mass food poisoning from consumption of infected camel meat and saving 38 of 41 individual lives at Midaga Tola District, East Hararge Zone-Ethiopia..

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Health is relevant to every sector and needed to be practiced daily as One Health approach. The need for multi-sectoral collaboration for effective diseases management were recommended. The future leaders, policy makers and implementers of multi-sectoral institution are graduates of respective discipline departments in the University. Therefore, the aim of this leadership challenge project is to integrate One Health program among higher education departments as a sustainable strategy for controlling, preventing and early warnings of zoonosis, AMR and emerging diseases.

I am...



**Prof Lantonirina
Ravaoarisoa**

a lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Medicine in Antananarivo, Madagascar, a specialist in public health (PhD) and Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine. I have worked for the Madagascan Ministry of Health for over 20 years, mainly in teaching and research in the field of public health. In recent years, I have been Director of the Malagasy Medical Analysis Laboratory, which is a central department of the Ministry of Health, and then Director General of the National Institute of Public and Community Health.

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

Overcoming numerous challenges was a source of great pride, which ultimately led to the establishment of the Malagasy Medical Analysis Laboratory, which is the Ministry of Health's public health laboratory. I was honoured to be appointed Director of this new department, and in light of the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, I was tasked with getting it up and running in just four months with no budget.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

My leadership challenge project concerns the reorganisation of the practical public health training course for students at Madagascar's medical faculties, with the aim of producing general practitioners with the skills needed to organise and deliver primary healthcare. The challenge of this project is to get the players concerned (education, health, technical and financial partners) involved in organising and implementing the reorganisation.



I am...

Dr Linnet Ongeru

a principal clinical research scientist and psychiatrist in Kenya, specializing in integrating mental health services into primary care. Over the past 12 years, I have led research on trauma, suicide, substance use, and depression. Currently, I head the mental health department at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). I have also been involved in policy work, serving on the Presidential Mental Health National Task Force and various MOH technical working groups. I am a recipient of two postdoctoral fellowships: the Fogarty Global Mental Health Fellowship and a Psychiatry Genetics fellowship from Harvard School of Public Health.

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

My proudest achievement is being appointed to the Presidential Task Force on Mental Health in 2019. We conducted a nationwide stakeholder engagement and developed a national report on the status of mental health. To date, 70% of our key recommendations have been implemented.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

My leadership challenge project proposes to address Africa's high suicide rates by developing a training manual for religious leaders in mental health and suicide prevention. The project aims to equip these trusted community figures with basic skills to identify at-risk individuals, provide initial support, and make appropriate referrals. By integrating religious leaders into suicide prevention strategies, the project seeks to expand the reach of mental health services, reduce stigma, and create a more culturally relevant and accessible approach to addressing the suicide crisis in Africa.



**Mr Peter
Badimak Yaro**

I am...

a Public Mental Health and Development Worker, a mental development advocate, with over two decades of work experience in Ghana and sub-Saharan Africa. I work to contribute to fashioning and implementing initiatives that bring lasting solutions to inadequate access to essential Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS), poverty and vulnerability, and, discrimination and marginalisation. Over the last five years, I have focused on promoting community-based and integrated mental health care at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level of Ghana's health care system and right to treatment.. I am the Executive Director of BasicNeeds-Ghana.

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

My single most achievement has been in making mental health issues gain recognition in health and social development initiatives, increasing the number of the Ghanaian population aware of mental health issues and positively influencing their care and support for people with mental health and psychosocial support needs, with a steadily responsive health system to mental health issues in Ghana.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Despite the presence of legislation(s), policies and plans, Leadership and political will to invest in and maximise best practices of integrating mental health at the PHC level is vital. My challenge project is to influence the strengthening of community health structures and bureaucracies that accelerate the integration of mental healthcare into general health care services at the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) centres of Ghana's PHC.



**Dr Kenneth
Okware Kalani**

I am...

a Psychiatrist and Senior Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health of Uganda. I have been a health practitioner in Uganda for the past 12 years, initially working as a general practitioner and later as a mental health practitioner. Over the last five years, I have concentrated on coordinating mental health services in Uganda. I currently co-chair the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sub-pillar and serve as the General Secretary of the Uganda Association of Psychiatrists. In the past, I have coordinated the national MHPSS response during the Ebola and COVID-19 outbreaks in Uganda.

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

I successfully coordinated the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) response during the recent Ebola outbreak in Uganda. This involved leading and managing a team of over 100 clinical and community MHPSS responders and establishing effective pathways for mental health services in an outbreak scenario.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Maximizing existing resources to enhance mental health services in Uganda. This challenge will promote the efficient utilization of available resources to expand the coverage of mental health services across the country. This will be achieved through dialogue and collaboration with partners providing mental health services in Uganda.



**Dr Jibril Omuya
Abdulmalik**

I am...

an Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Consultant Psychiatrist with the Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. I am a passionate mental health advocate and contribute a weekly newspaper column since 2016 with the Nigerian Tribune on thursdays, to promote better understanding of mental health in the community. I am dedicated to continuous learning and community service aimed at improving mental health services in Nigeria and across Africa. This can only be achieved via a public mental health approach with all stakeholders on board.

**What is the single
most leadership
achievement you're most
proud of to date?**

I am very proud of the privilege to serve as the Founder of Asido Foundation, a Not-for-Profit Mental Health Advocacy organization, which promotes mental health awareness, and fights against shame and stigma (www.asidofoundation.com). It is a leading organization that is promoting open conversations about mental illness in Nigeria, with plans to extend to other African Countries in due course.

**My Leadership
Challenge Project is
about...**

Africa's population is predominantly youthful, and their mental health challenges require urgent attention. My project involves training at least 100 university students across 4 selected tertiary institutions in Nigeria that will culminate in the establishment of a student club in each school. These students will be trained in the basics of mental health, psychological first aid, mental health advocacy as well as leadership skills to transform them into mental health champions in their schools. The goal is to have these student champions promote mental wellness, encourage other students to avoid drug abuse, provide peer to peer support etc.



Dr Abdul Jalloh

I am...

a Psychiatrist and Mental Health Lead at the Ministry of Health, and a lecturer at the University of Sierra Leone. I am dedicated to advancing healthcare delivery through advocacy and strengthening mental health policies, programs, and research. I am committed to enhancing my leadership abilities to continue leading efforts in reshaping the discourse on African global health and to become a committed advocate for lasting change.

What is the single most leadership achievement you're most proud of to date?

I am proud of the significant achievement in improving the mental health landscape in Sierra Leone. This endeavour included refurbishing the national psychiatric hospital, eliminating patient chaining, raising awareness of mental health issues, and developing human resources dedicated to mental health.

My Leadership Challenge Project is about...

Stigma, discrimination, and limited resources are significant barriers to accessing mental health care in developing countries, including Sierra Leone, creating a huge treatment gap. Addressing these attributable factors requires effective leadership. My project is to reduce mental health stigma and improve access to care in Sierra Leone. This will be accomplished through a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach encompassing public health awareness campaigns, community-based programs, training and capacity building of 50 mental health professionals and community health workers through the WHO mhGAP. Furthermore, partnerships and collaborations with relevant stakeholders will be formed to facilitate the integration of mental health care into primary health care and disease programs like HIV/AIDS and TB.



Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention,
Ring Road, 16/17, Haile Garment Square,
P.O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
Tel: +251 (0) 11 551 77 00,
Fax:+251 (0) 11 551 78 44

Africa CDC is a continental autonomous health agency of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

Safeguarding Africa's Health

www.africadc.org

 [africadc](https://www.facebook.com/africadc)