Africa Regional Program

Mieza Mea Alleah | GHANA
Senior Procurement Officer · Ghana National Gas Company

Mieza Mea Alleah is helping accelerate Ghana’s efforts to rapidly industrialize by providing cost-competitive natural gas and gas-based products for domestic and export markets, including the development of petrochemical industries, fertilizer and power generation. In addition to his interest in improving the ethics and efficiencies of corporate procurement practices and honing his skills in grassroots organizing and local development, Alleah is committed to supporting the next generation of leaders in Ghana. As a result of his fellowship, Alleah will institute a leadership program for undergraduate university students at the University of Ghana – Legon, his alma mater. This program will prepare youth to be active in public service, serve as role models for the community at large and commit to mentoring high school students to follow in their footsteps.

Yawa Hansen Quao | GHANA
Founding Director · Leading Ladies’ Network

Yawa Hansen Quao leads a nonprofit organization that provides capacity building centered on entrepreneurship and employability to more than 800 girls. For the past six years, the Leading Ladies’ Network has nurtured an ecosystem of women and girls who have ambitious goals, strong character and resolve, as well as immense curiosity and the drive to improve the world. Beyond Ghana, Hansen Quao’s organization also reaches out to support women-led and women-owned businesses in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan. Her fellowship project is to develop a leadership curriculum that prepares young women to run for leadership positions. Ultimately, Hansen Quao plans to build a pan-African organization to normalize women leaders in business and politics.

Teddy Totimeh | GHANA
Neurosurgeon · Greater Accra Regional Hospital

Dr. Teddy Totimeh was trained as a neurosurgeon at Ghana’s premier medical teaching establishment and the top-rated hospital in the country. He also is a lecturer in the surgical department and runs nationwide symposia on head trauma and primary trauma care. Totimeh’s vision is to open a privately owned acute care center to enhance the country’s response to severe infective disease, disaster, as well as significantly reduce Ghana’s very high mortality rates from trauma. Totimeh hopes that with the launch of this new acute care center, he and his medical team can help save hundreds of lives each year. A gifted writer, Totimeh has published a volume of essays, a novel, and a book of poetry.

Leaders bettering the world around them.
Salim Mohamed | KENYA
Executive Director · Carolina for Kibera

Twelve years ago, Salim Mohamed founded Carolina for Kibera (CfK), a nongovernmental organization that serves the population of Kibera – the biggest slum in Africa and home to an estimated one million people. Mohamed’s passion to break down negative stereotypes of impoverished slum dwellers and help them find their own self-confidence and success stems from his childhood as an orphan, when he organized sports teams as a teenager to help others like himself gain respect and dignity. CfK’s programs – which range from social service provision to youth sports leagues to empowerment activities for girls and women, among many others – have to date engaged 40,000 youth in sports, created 70 safe spaces for 50,000 girls, fed 15,000 displaced people and provided 400 school scholarships. On fellowship, Mohamed will formulate strategies that will allow him to sustain this impact, as well as expand and scale up CfK’s model to other regions of Kenya and Africa.

Nuru Mugambi | KENYA
Director · Kenya Bankers’ Association

Nuru Mugambi is a voice for progress in sustainable finance, consumer protection and alternative dispute resolution. Through the Kenya Bankers’ Association (KBA) Sustainable Finance Initiative (SFI), Mugambi has led all 46 KBA member bank CEOs to adopt standards that promote an inclusive, sustainable and environmentally-conscious growth agenda. The SFI is also meant to support emerging technologies that can democratize access to opportunity, as well as promote a culture of innovation. According to the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and German Investment Corporation (DEG), this is the first time in Africa that the banking industry has proactively adopted sustainability as an industrywide priority without regulatory intervention. Mugambi’s fellowship initiative is to establish a fund for the financing of small and medium-sized businesses in Kenya.

Edward Mungai | KENYA
CEO · Kenya Climate Innovation Center

Edward Mungai is leading the push for clean technologies in Kenya. His organization, Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC), provides company incubation, capacity building and financing to entrepreneurs developing innovative solutions in energy, water, and agribusiness. Currently, the KCIC supports 133 green businesses, which directly employ 2,100 people. These companies provide 80,000 people with low-carbon sources of energy, mitigating more than 250,000 tons of carbon dioxide, and deliver clean water to 8,000 households. To amplify this impact, Mungai plans to develop an Africa Center for Sustainability Leadership at the Strathmore Business School in Nairobi. The initiative will engage leading international organizations and the private sector to develop future generations of leaders committed to advancing Africa’s corporate sustainability practices.
Anthony (Tonee) Ndungu | KENYA
Founder & CIO · Kytabu, Inc.

Tonee Ndungu is the creator of Kytabu, an educational app that provides low-cost access to digitalized versions of all Kenyan textbooks for primary and secondary students. This project was not only named the 2014 Microsoft4Afrika best education application, but Ndungu is also a strong candidate for inclusion in the government’s 2016 tablets-for-students program, which is forecast to reach 1.6 million Kenyan youth. One of the pioneers of the Kenyan tech sector, Ndungu also founded NAILAB, a tech startup accelerator based out of Nairobi. NAILAB companies have gone on to employ nearly 50,000 young people, helping address serious problems of under- and unemployment among Kenyan youth. Ndungu’s fellowship objective is to create a Kenyan angel investment network that will connect young African entrepreneurs with the funding and mentorship necessary to pursue the most innovative ideas and advance the social and economic development of the country.

Okomboli Ong’ong’a | KENYA
Fund Partner, Eastern Africa · Pan African Housing Fund

Okomboli Ong’ong’a oversees investment and construction activities across six countries in East Africa for the Pan African Housing Fund. This unique fund focuses on helping expand affordable and middle-income residential housing for families. Ongonga was instrumental in expanding the fund’s scope to include young adults, who make up more than 60% of the population and are in dire need of housing options. His advocacy led to the first large-scale, institutional-grade housing development in Eastern and Central Africa solely focused on housing young adults. Ong’ong’a will use his fellowship to lay the groundwork for a rental housing fund, which will create affordable rental and rent-to-own opportunities for young adults who cannot afford typical bank funding, but can afford to pay rent. Specifically, he will focus on understanding successful property management techniques, reducing resource intensity, and promoting pro-social behavior. This project has the potential to improve the living standards of 250,000 individuals and provide significant employment in the construction industry.

Miatta Gbanya | LIBERIA
Pool Fund Manager, Health Sector · Ministry of Health

Miatta Gbanya worked on the front lines of the Ebola response in Liberia to help ensure the epidemic was properly managed; her efforts were rewarded in May 2015 when Liberia was declared Ebola-free. Gbanya now manages an annual budget of approximately U.S.$11 million for the Ministry of Health, helping the government to effectively and efficiently manage funds received from multiple international donors, and ensure that the Ministry is able to achieve the goals of its National Health and Social Welfare Plan by centrally coordinating workforce planning and financial oversight. Her fellowship project is to develop a mechanism to better regulate healthcare service delivery and workforce planning so that healthcare workers are protected during emergency situations. As Liberia lost many healthcare workers during the Ebola epidemic, Gbanya is committed to creating a human resource management system that will improve the institutional response to future epidemics, saving the lives of not just patients, but also doctors and nurses.

Leaders bettering the world around them.
Ayodeji Adewunmi | NIGERIA
President, CEO and Co-Founder · Jobberman

Ayodeji Adewunmi is the President & CEO of Jobberman, a company he co-founded in 2009 while in college, and which is now the largest employment website in Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of revenue, audience and customers. Using technology to address massive youth unemployment, Jobberman placed over 70,000 people in jobs in 2014 and was named one of the most innovative companies in 2015 by Fast Company. Adewunmi believes the next level of impact will be in assisting students in developing skills that translate their education into better-paying forms of employment, as well as the creation of new companies and jobs. He believes that effective, university-based career centers can help address the skills gap. After he returns from his fellowship, Adewunmi plans to set up virtual career centers in partnership with 20 universities in Nigeria to achieve this goal.

Jude Ilo | NIGERIA
Country Officer and Head of Nigeria Office · Open Society Initiative for West Africa

As the Nigerian representative for the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Udo Jude Ilo supports civic education and media campaigns on political participation, human rights, natural resources management and freedom of information. By building partnerships with local and regional groups that promote inclusive, democratic governance, transparency and accountability, and active citizenship, Ilo advocates for a robust civil society that holds political institutions accountable. One of his major accomplishments has been his involvement in the design of the Civil Society Election Situation Room, a hybrid form of election observation that engages with key stakeholders in real time to address challenges arising from elections – without waiting until after the elections to fix the problem. This initiative contributed significantly to the success of the 2011 and 2015 elections in Nigeria, and has been replicated across several African countries. Ilo will use his fellowship to delve deeper into the expanding roles of citizens in the protection of democracy. He will look at lessons from the struggle for voting and civil rights in the U.S., the movement for gender equality and other contemporary social movements to create a more just and inclusive democracy.

Fatima Kyari Mohammed | NIGERIA
Founder · LikeMinds Project

Fatima Kyari Mohammed runs the LikeMinds Project, a non-profit, non-partisan community based organization working to build a peaceful, equitable and just society. LikeMinds runs it’s activities under two programs: Volunteers for Peace which promotes volunteering and community engagement to foster and encourage shared responsibility for community wellbeing; and Vulnerable Communities which focuses on supporting underprivileged and disadvantaged communities. It advocates for basic human rights of the most vulnerable, promotes empowerment of women and youth, and mentors activists from within the communities served. Over the years volunteers have engaged in various activities including: humanitarian relief efforts to Internally Displaced Persons, social and economic empowerment of the most vulnerable, support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and support to schools for children with special needs. With the knowledge gained on the fellowship, Mohammed plans to grow LikeMinds into a regional hub for volunteerism across West Africa and, eventually, the entire continent.
Olusegun Olukoya | NIGERIA
Partner ∙ Nextzon Business Services

Olusegun Olukoya heads the Financial Services, e-business and Payments unit at Nextzon Business Services, a mid-sized management consulting and venture development firm operating from Lagos, Nigeria. His areas of expertise include corporate and competitive strategy development, business planning and set up, corporate governance and organizational restructuring. He is responsible for assisting local, international and regulatory institutions in the financial services sector articulate business strategies and implement transformational initiatives. He is also a key member of Nextzon’s African regional expansion team and has been active in assisting several Nigerian banks and insurance companies acquire and setup business interests across Africa. Olukoya is a member/ associate of several globally recognized platforms of highly accomplished individuals. During his fellowship, Olusegun would like to deepen his capacity to support local entrepreneurs and contribute in further shaping the emerging angel/start-up investing industry in Nigeria.

Musa Salmanu | NIGERIA
Press Officer to Chief of the Air Staff ∙ Nigerian Air Force

Musa Salmanu is responsible to the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) on strategic communications and influences policy response to complex humanitarian emergencies in the fight against Boko Haram in north eastern Nigeria. Salmanu is passionate about education as a means to achieve tolerance, peace and prosperity. He informally started programs in his local community that significantly improved high school students’ academic performance and increased the number of children attending school. Troubled by the estimated 10 million Nigerian children who are out of school and on the streets, Salmanu will use his fellowship to identify programs and practices to address this problem. He aims to pilot a program that will improve school enrollment rates for children 5 to 12 years old by compensating for the lack of a social safety net: providing nutrition and food for students; education on the importance of diversity and tolerance; and outreach to families to ensure girls are not left behind.

Shivon Byamukama | RWANDA
Company Secretary and Head of Corporate Affairs ∙ Bank of Kigali

Shivon Byamukama provides legal advisory services and implements good corporate governance practices for the Bank of Kigali, the largest bank in the country by total assets. She is dedicated to helping educated and professional women learn how to manage their financial independence, and the success of her informal advising and mentorship of 100 women has attracted the attention of large corporations who want to partner with her. With the insights gained on fellowship, Byamkuma will launch her own initiative, LegalBiz, a social enterprise aimed at giving women free, basic legal tools and guidance that they need to start and maintain successful businesses. LegalBiz will also create opportunities for mentorship and collaboration between woman-owned businesses in Rwanda, multiplying each person’s impact. Byamkuma’s goal is to help women achieve financial self-sufficiency.
Brian Kirungi | RWANDA
General Manager, Legal and Regulatory · Airtel Rwanda Ltd.

Brian Kirungi advises on all legal and regulatory issues, manages external and government relations and acts as Board Secretary for the largest telecom operator in Africa, and the third largest in the world, with 303 million subscribers globally. While at the International Finance Corporation, Kirungi managed reform projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. He served as head of the legal department at the Rwandan Ministry of Finance, during a critical time when the government was embarking on a challenging economic journey. During his tenure with the Ministry, he led and negotiated various multilateral and bi-lateral agreements. Kirungi worked with various Rwandan institutions to achieve a USD$12 million tax savings for the telecom sector, leading to the current mobile penetration of 78%. His skills managing multiple stakeholders have made him an authority in his field. Through his fellowship, Kirungi will launch an access to justice mobile app that will provide users with virtual legal services, especially those unable to afford them. It will include a corporate legal and regulatory journal to help generate and disseminate much-needed analysis.

Leonard Mungarulire | RWANDA
Regional Integration Advisor · Ministry of East African Community

Leonard Mungarulire helps promote the development goals of Rwanda and the East Africa Community (EAC), through economic and social integration of the region. The EAC market encompasses six member countries and provides access to a market of 162 million people with a combined GDP of $160.7 billion – forming a powerful consumer base for domestic, regional and global investors. It is the leading economic bloc in Africa and the second-fastest growing economic bloc in the world. Mungarulire has worked with and advised the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, as well as the Private Sector Federation. In addition, Mungarulire developed South Sudan’s medium-term industrial strategy for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that created job opportunities for the world’s newest independent state. His fellowship goals include developing an initiative that would catalyze intra-EAC trade and investment, currently only at 20% (compared to 60% in ASEAN or the EU). This cooperative mechanism will ensure sustained commitment and follow-through by policymakers and business leaders, leading to increased investment and job creation.

Lindelwa Farisani | SOUTH AFRICA
Director, Equity Sales · UBS Investment Bank

Lindelwa Farisani is a Director in Equity Sales at UBS South Africa, where she and her team have played a crucial role in advancing UBS as a leader in equity research for more than five years. In addition to advising equity investors in South Africa and abroad, Farisani leads her division's endeavors in Nigeria where there is growing interest amongst local and international investors for exposure to the region. Farisani is committed to education and mentoring underprivileged students through corporate and personal initiatives. On fellowship, she will use her background in finance to help small and medium-sized enterprises achieve their potential by researching effective models to improve access to finance and create business models for success. Growing access to finance for small businesses in South Africa would help in reducing the reliance on government and the private sector for jobs. The project will impact young, unemployed people and women-owned businesses, which have been shown to struggle the most in terms of growth due to lack of access to funding or help in scaling up.

Leaders bettering the world around them.
James Wanjohi | SOUTH AFRICA  
Founder · Africa Centre Building Sustainable Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

James Wanjohi founded Alpha Strategy Consulting, a boutique advisory house focused on delivering strategic support to governments, private sector and development partners driving innovation, entrepreneurship and small business growth. Wanjohi, a Kenyan citizen currently living and working in South Africa, is now developing the Africa Centre Building Sustainable Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (ACSEEs), with the aim of training 10,000 entrepreneurs in Africa. While Africa is receiving more foreign direct investment, he believes that the continent’s fast-paced population growth will require homegrown entrepreneurship to create sustainable economic growth. His vision is to promote entrepreneurship and vocational education; train entrepreneurs; and help them access seed capital and the technical capabilities requisite for inclusive entrepreneurial growth. Wanjohi will use his fellowship to identify research and implementation partners to support his efforts to catalyze entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa, and find best practices that can be customized to African youth, funders and government policymakers.

Sbusisiwe (Sbu) Myeni | SOUTH AFRICA  
CEO · Imbeleko Foundation

Sbu Myeni is a former banker who reinvented her life by launching a foundation providing holistic education and support for vulnerable children in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, a rural community outside Durban. Imbeleko currently runs two core activities: a series of afterschool programs and a scholarship fund. A number of other initiatives, ranging from nutrition and food, healthcare, mentoring, sports, arts and culture, and family counseling provide needed peripheral support to the children’s families to ensure their educational success. Imbeleko, which Myeni created as a legacy to honor her late sister, has and continues to serve hundreds of children and youth each year. On fellowship, Myeni will develop a social tourism venture as part of her foundation’s efforts to ensure long-term self-sufficiency, boost skills training and address youth employment. She will also explore afterschool program models throughout the U.S. in an effort to build a solid foundation to empower South Africa’s next generation.

Lesego Sennelo | SOUTH AFRICA  
Managing Director · AWCA Investment Holdings

Lesego Sennelo leads a nonprofit focused on accelerating the advancement of African women chartered accountants. AWCA Investment Holdings was formed in 2008 by 60 black women chartered accountants with the goal of creating wealth in the long term while also generating sustainable income for the African Women Chartered Accountants (AWCA) forum. It currently has assets of approximately U.S.$3.4 million. AWCA is an important professional association in South Africa and has made strides in achieving gender parity in the field, increasing the number of women chartered accountants from 476 to 4,416 in 14 years. During her fellowship, Sennelo will develop a leadership academy for the AWCA member base to equip both aspirant and qualified chartered accountants to play an effective role in the global business landscape and improve their communities through philanthropy.
Victoria Marwa Heilman | TANZANIA
Lecturer and Architect · School of Architecture and Design, Ardhi University

Victoria Marwa Heilman is passionate about incorporating innovative technology into buildings and creating environmentally friendly spaces. She is working on mainstreaming sustainable design and construction into Ardhi University’s architecture curriculum. In addition to her academic work, Heilman founded and leads the Tanzania Women Architects for Humanity (TAWAH) which has had success in rebuilding houses after natural disasters using low-cost, locally available materials and involving the affected community. She plans to use her fellowship to expand TAWAH’s work building more affordable housing in Tanzania, to enhance the architecture curriculum at her university, and to encourage more women to enter the field.

Sabasaba Moshingi | TANZANIA
CEO · Tanzania Postal Bank

As head of one of the oldest banks in Tanzania, Sabasaba Moshingi plays a key role in the country’s financial inclusion efforts. Under his leadership, the bank has conceived and aggressively pursued a strategy to make banking more accessible and beneficial for thousands of Tanzanians. Moshingi’s results-driven approach has led to the bank’s launch of a loan program for pensioners and plans to target those most neglected by financial institutions, such as informal businesses. During his fellowship, Moshingi will explore the ways in which he can develop additional financial instruments to expand banking services to people still deemed too risky for traditional banking mechanisms. He will also pursue ways to foster an innovative culture in his company and enhance the company’s corporate social responsibilities activities. Mushingi’s goal is to develop a strategy that will focus on reaching Tanzania’s unbanked to reduce rates of poverty. The project hopes to turn the Tanzania Postal Bank into the country’s leading financial inclusion bank and be at the forefront of improving the economic well-being of every Tanzanian citizens.

Maria Tsehai | TANZANIA
Co-owner and Director of Production · Compass Communications

Maria Tsehai leads Compass Communications, a well-known independent production house, communications and events management company. Tsehai is also the founder of #ChangeTanzania, a nonpartisan social movement focused on bringing positive, sustainable change to Tanzania. The movement currently has over 50,000 members and followers on Facebook and Twitter, and has recently run successful campaigns to repeal an unpopular tax on sim cards and draw attention to repressive cybercrime laws. Because of this activism, Tsehai was appointed by the president of Tanzania to be a member of the Constituent Assembly in 2014. Tsehai plans to use her communications talent to launch a TV station, Kwanza TV, which will be the first station in Tanzania to buy and co-produce content with independent producers, providing unprecedented opportunity for young and creative people.
Barbra Nyangairi is a human rights activist and mother of a deaf child who co-founded the Deaf Zimbabwe Trust (DZT), dedicated to advancing the rights of deaf people in Zimbabwe. Due to a lack of resources, cultural awareness and societal stigma, deaf people in Zimbabwe struggle to participate fully in the education system, access critical information about healthcare and social services, participate in cultural activities and find meaningful employment. Since 2012, DZT has made significant strides by ensuring educational accommodations for deaf students in school, instituting sign language interpreters on nightly news broadcasts, launching free cervical cancer screenings for deaf women and significantly raising societal awareness of the rights of deaf people and others with disabilities. Nyangairi’s fellowship initiative is to improve the educational outcomes of deaf students in elementary and secondary schools by training and employing deaf and hearing-impaired teachers.