Adams Adeiza | Entrepreneur (Leadership) | Nigeria

Adams Adeiza has over ten years' experience as a university lecturer, teaching entrepreneurship and leadership development at Bayero University, Kano. Through his innovative teaching and community engagements, Adams has assisted more than 3500 young entrepreneurs (mainly women) in Northern Nigeria to secure business grants and other services which have tremendously enhanced their success and livelihoods. Aside being a multiple award-winning academic, Adams is a successful entrepreneur, having founded and currently running AZIEDA Farms, SuccessPeak Consults, Neighborhood Cleaners, KhadCare Pharmacy & Stores, and others. He has won the Nigerian Young Manager of the Year award (2010), Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria awards (2012) and CVL Young Leader of the Year award (2013). Currently a PhD student, Adams' future aspiration is to become a professor of Entrepreneurship. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Adams plans to continue working towards encouraging quality leaders and successful entrepreneurs in Nigeria.

Elorm Bansah | Civil Engineer | Ghana

Elorm Bansah is a Civil Engineer with six years experience in oil and gas projects with Schlumberger in Africa, Asia and Europe. Elorm has experience volunteering as a Maths and English teacher at an NGO for orphans in her hometown of Sokode. She is passionate about children and has taught as a teacher in the children’s department of her church for nearly 10 years. A role she leverages to teach and mentor children and teenagers on making better choices in life. Elorm is especially passionate about mentoring young girls. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Elorm plans to structure her mentoring program to include more young people especially from disadvantaged communities and commercialize her private business in fruit processing and export.

Tigist Getachew Araya | Entrepreneur (Business Strategy) | Ethiopia

Tigist Getachew has seven years' experience in business strategy and related fields. In parallel with the UN job where she stayed four years, she worked pro bono with several local startups on financing, strategic planning, and business plans, while also managing the first fast-moving consumer goods industry analysis for Ethiopia for Euromonitor International. In 2013 she returned full time to the business world to co-found and lead East Africa Gate (EAGate), a boutique foreign investment and business advisory firm. She also works in youth entrepreneurship by mentoring Ethiopian entrepreneurs in bringing their ideas to life. Each year, she is also a mentor for Ethiopian applicants to the African Entrepreneurship Award – an initiative powered by BMCE Bank of Africa. Tigist holds a BA in Economics from the University of Toulouse, France, and a master's in International Management from IAE Toulouse, Graduate School of Management with business strategy as her major.
Joan Biwa | Entrepreneur (Finance) | Namibia

Joan Biwa is currently employed as an acquisition and retention manager at Old Mutual Namibia. She was recently asked to act as operations manager in her department. She enjoys working with people and finds it important to cultivate good working relationships with diverse stakeholders. In her personal capacity, she is the founder of an arts-based NGO called Art-Reach, which responds to the social challenges faced by the youth by providing alternative platforms of expression and engagement through the arts. Joan holds an undergraduate qualification in Financial Accounting and a postgraduate diploma in Marketing with various qualifications in Management. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington fellowship, she intends to optimize on the skills and networks gained from the program to ensure Art-Reach is a successful and impactful organization making a distinct difference in the upliftment of the youth in Namibia.

Yamundow Camara | Entrepreneur/Software Engineer | The Gambia

Yamundow Camara is a software engineer and has a BSc in Computer Science from the University of The Gambia. She is the co-founder of the Girls ICT Association where she works to empower and encourage more females into the field of technology to break the stereotype most girls face in their communities. Yamundow is the coordinator of Give1Project, a monthly tech camp for girls, where she provides digital literacy for high school goers from different regions in The Gambia by tutoring them on basic IT skills, programming languages and to build awareness on various career options in IT fields. She is also the country coordinator for MOVAAR, an association that focuses on building the entrepreneurial skills of students through education, mentorship programs, and small enterprise partnerships. Yamundow’s ambition is to empower women and girls in her community through IT by implementing a business that will provide them with job opportunities.

Ivanilda Dos Reis | Entrepreneur (Fashion) | Cabo Verde

Ivanilda (Vanny) Reis is founder and co-owner of Vaiss Models and Management, where she recruits, trains, and develops talent for the local and international fashion industry. She has several years of experience as an international fashion model, TV hostess, health and fitness instructor, and community developer. Vanny also volunteers in the local chapter of Global Shapers, and organizes sports and community events to support local charities. Vanny holds a degree in Physical Education and a master’s degree in Physical Health Education. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Vanny plans to continue improving the fashion industry in Cabo Verde and to contribute to the progress of the youth in her country through her work with Global Shapers and Vaiss Models.
Sylvia Kawalya | Entrepreneur (Beauty Care) | Uganda

Sylvia Kawalya is a professional make-up artist and entrepreneur with 10 years’ experience in the industry. Her mission is to use her experience and passion for beauty and art to inspire, empower and educate African women and girls to mold their own identities while honoring their dignity and humanity. In 2015, Sylvia successfully set up the first professional make-up studio in Kampala, which not only acts as a sales and service center, but also trains young women and single mothers in self-employment, self-empowerment, and make-up skills. In 2013, Sylvia founded Paramour Cosmetics Ltd, a make-up line with an expanding range of high-quality make-up products designed specifically to cater to the beauty needs of African women. By 2026 she hopes to have expanded into other African countries with a chain of make-up studios.

Andreas Koumato | Entrepreneur/Engineer | Chad

Andreas Koumato is a skilled computer engineer and motivated young entrepreneur from Chad. He is the co-founder and CEO of Mossosouk.com, the first online marketplace and most visited classified advertisement platform in his country. A passionate learner who has traveled all around Africa to network and improve his English, he also successfully co-founded Generation ABCD with other young Chadians. The initiative stands not only for ‘Anybody Can Dream’, but also for ‘Acting and Building the Chadian Dream’. As the innovation and entrepreneurship manager, he has dedicated two years to promoting a culture of excellence, ethical leadership, and technological entrepreneurship amongst the youth in order to make a positive and lasting change in his country and beyond. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Andreas plans to set up an incubator named ABCD Builders for Chadian startups, and to improve his businesses.

Nthato Malope | Entrepreneur (Media) | South Africa

Nthato Malope is a brand strategist at heart and uses his skill set to work with entrepreneurs, helping them achieve their highest potential by telling better stories about their ideas. Nthato co-founded and managed a media agency called Epiphany Media, working largely with NGOs like the British Council and the UN Human Rights Commission, and helped plan as well as manage some of their programs. Nthato co-hosts The Opportune Time radio show on Jozi Maboneng Radio, a show created as a platform for Jozi’s entrepreneurs to share their stories in order to inspire the next generation. He is working with the University of Johannesburg on rolling out an entrepreneurship hub for students who are interested in launching their startup ideas while they are studying, and this is the first of its kind in South Africa.
Kelechi Mbah | Entrepreneur (Business Development) | Nigeria

Kelechi Mbah has over a decade’s experience in the media telecoms and service industry. Currently, she is the founding MD/CEO of Service Desk Ltd, a business-process outsourcing firm, where she focuses on initiating, designing, and implementing business strategies for the organizations’ growth. She also founded The Business Leader Network Forum, an initiative with the aim of improving the Nigerian economy one business at a time. She has helped develop over a hundred businesses with her team using this platform. Besides a first degree in Biomedical Sciences and certifications in Entrepreneurship Management, Kelechi is a certified mediator at the Lagos multi-door court in Nigeria. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Kelechi plans to continue to make giant strides in entrepreneurship with an increased passion to help women-led businesses.

Judith Mongala | Marketing/Entrepreneur | Democratic Republic of the Congo

Judith Mongala is currently the marketing coordinator at PTA Bank, a regional African development finance institution promoting trade, socio-economic development and regional economic integration. Prior to working in this role, Judith was a senior account manager at Ogilvy Africa, a renowned marketing and communication firm. She also worked at Markinor, a market research firm, where she managed various brands throughout Africa. Judith is the founder of Zahabu Trading, a South African-based company that promotes products from local artisans and offers business opportunities in and out of Africa. In addition, she is the marketing officer for Dunia Africa Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that focuses on bringing underprivileged communities together (primarily women and children) under a banner of giving, service to humanity, community engagement, and empowerment. Judith’s focus is on resource mobilization, fundraising, marketing, and project implementation. She is currently pursuing an MBA at Warwick University, UK.

Peter Oiboo Morintat | Law | Kenya

Peter Oiboo Morintat is an advocate of four years’ standing of the High Court of Kenya. He is the president and partner of McKay Advocates, a premier, all-services law firm in Kenya and across East Africa. Oiboo has a rich experience in mergers and acquisitions, privatizations, corporate law, capital markets, tax law, international/cross-border commercial transactions, public-private partnerships, and structuring of mixed-use developments, as well as oil and gas law, energy law, infrastructure, private equity and immigration law. Oiboo is engaged on a volunteer basis in community education and offers pro bono legal services to the community. Upon his return from the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he intends to continue leading McKay Advocates and engaging further in community leadership.
Hellen Dausen Munis | Entrepreneur (Beauty Care) | Tanzania

Hellen Dausen Munis is an entrepreneur and organic skincare formulator at Nuya’s Essence, a natural bath and body-care brand founded by her in June 2014. Currently, Hellen oversees all business activities of her growing brand and also designs and handcrafts skincare products from scratch using high-quality botanical oils, butters and herbs. With a background in natural skincare science, she advocates for safe cosmetics and encourages green living in her community, and environmental conservation through her company philosophy. She volunteers in training small groups of women in making natural soaps and other products, and shares the basics of running a business. Hellen holds a Bachelor of Science in International Business Administration and Entrepreneurship from the United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to grow her business, employ and train more people, and increase awareness to the importance of using natural cosmetics.

Nuru Muro | Entrepreneur (Commerce) | Tanzania

Nuru Muro is an entrepreneur and the director of an electronic commerce website (Kivuko) in Tanzania. She is a co-founder of the company. She has been in the field of electronic commerce for over six years. She currently oversees order processing, office administration, customer service and experience, company public relations, and advertisements. As a volunteer, she has worked with Ubongo Kids, a company that produces kids’ TV shows that enhance their learning skills. In this role, she was responsible for national distributions, sales, and customer service of the program, CD. Nuru holds a master’s degree in Broadband and Mobile Communication Networks. On completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to continue her work on Kivuko. She also plans to take on the responsibly of mentoring young upcoming entrepreneurs in her country, as her one fundamental belief is that to be successful, one needs a strong support system.

Tapfuma Mutasa | Corporate Development | Zimbabwe

Tapfuma Mutasa has three years' business experience in the professional services and corporate development fields. He is currently working as a business analyst supporting the group chief financial officer of TSL Ltd, a Zimbabwe Stock Exchange-listed industrial holding company, where he overlooks the company's operational, strategic and financial initiatives. Outside of work he is involved in both rural and urban community-development schemes through his association with the Mutasa District of Manicaland and his role as a professional development director of the Rotaract Club of Harare West. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Tapfuma intends to continue working towards his goal of becoming the chief executive officer driving a blue-chip Zimbabwean company’s regional expansion, while leveraging this platform to empower fellow Zimbabweans economically. Tapfuma holds a master’s degree in Management from the University of Cambridge’s Judge Business School in the UK.
Nobukhosi Ndlovu | Entrepreneur (Leadership) | Zimbabwe

Prior to launching her company, Caudliss Trading, Nobukhosi Ndlovu worked as a human resource consultant. She started Nutrie Foods with the mission of empowering rural women through adding value to their produce. Nutrie Foods manufactures and packages organic peanut butter, maputi (corn snacks), matemba, and salt. She is also the founder of the Nobukhosi (Making of a Queen) Trust, which aims to empower rural girls through a program called 'Meet the CEO'. The program provides a platform for rural girls to spend a day with a female CEO. Nobukhosi holds an honors degree in Human Resource Management and a master's in Marketing Strategy from Midlands State University, Gweru, Zimbabwe. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to work towards empowering children and growing her Nutrie brand into a household name.

Etienne N'guessan | Entrepreneur (Commerce) | Cote d'Ivoire

Etienne N'guessan is a serial entrepreneur. He works in fields such as commodities trading and processing, ship breaking and recycling (SBRI), and e-commerce. Currently, Etienne holds a position as financial analyst at an investment fund called T. Livens Holdings S.A., where he focuses on creating value through different projects’ development. He also volunteers at Attoungblan Toastmasters as club treasurer, where he focuses on developing public speaking and communication skills with his community. Etienne holds a master’s degree in Management and Accounting from INPHB-CPDEC and three YALI certificates. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship 2016, Etienne plans to launch his e-commerce company and to protect the environment through developing ship breaking and recycling in Côte d’Ivoire.

Archibold Ntim-Frempong | Entrepreneur (Beauty Care) | South Africa

Archibold (Archie) Ntim is co-founder of AfroBotanics, a South African business that manufactures and retails natural hair and body care products in national retail chains such as Game. Archie took to entrepreneurship after seven years in corporate IT divisions in retail, consultancy, and educational sectors. His work as a business analyst creating solutions and improving efficiencies developed his entrepreneurial edge. He has taken the skills and experience gained in his business and role as chief operating officer and is on track towards creating a continental business, which already has a footprint in Zimbabwe and Swaziland. Archie holds a national diploma in Software Development and a Management Advancement Program certificate from Wits University. Upon completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Archie plans to work on improving the efficiencies in AfroBotanics so it increases its manufacturing capacity, employs more youth and builds more early childhood development centers like AfroBotanic’s community outreach program.
Angela Nzioki | Entrepreneur (IT) | Kenya

Angela Nzioki is the co-founder and country manager of Pluspeople Kenya Ltd. This Kenyan IT company has been recognized and earned awards for its focus on empowering small and medium enterprises in East Africa by offering IT solutions to professionally manage their businesses. Angela is passionate about IT and mentoring. She volunteers in various programs, where she mentors young, underserved girls; mid-career women; and older, less privileged micro-business women owners. Angela was a Zambezi Prize finalist for her social entrepreneurship, an award presented by the Legatum Center at MIT and the MasterCard Foundation. She is also a Skoll World Forum Young Leader (2016), an initiative that recognizes global young leaders in the field of social entrepreneurship. After the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Angela plans to continue empowering SMEs, with a special focus on solutions for underserved and underprivileged micro-businesses, enabling them to be financially included.

Tsiferana Razafindrabesa | Entrepreneur (Hospitality) | Madagascar

Narioela Tsiferana Razafindrabesa has over four years of experience in tourism promotion, in vocational hospitality training in particular. She is founding member and school manager of the pilot hotel and catering school in Madagascar, developing basic technical-level training involving students up to grade 9, mainly from precarious personal situations. Currently, Tsiferana is on secondment as a technical consultant at the organizing committee of the XVIth Summit of French-speaking communities, where she has the responsibility of providing optimal accommodation for all participants. She also volunteers in her alumni association, where she regularly organizes job fairs. Tsiferana holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from Université Sainte-Anne, Nova Scotia, Canada. There she focused on Instructional Engineering. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Tsiferana plans to participate actively in the implementation of vocational hospitality training schools throughout Madagascar, with an emphasis on social equity.

Madina Thiam | Finance | Guinea

Madina Thiam has been working in the bank for two years and obtained a proficiency certificate in English after having achieved a master’s degree in Banking and Finance. Madina’s job as a credit risk controller for Ecobank, Guinea is her first job since university. Madina’s wish is to develop managerial skills to run a business and provide support to young people in the community, especially students. Madina also volunteers in a local community organization where financial support to young girls, especially illiterate ones, is provided. Madina plans to continue working in aid of helping communities upon returning home.
Florence Toffa | Entrepreneur (IT) | Ghana

Florence Toffa has over five years’ experience in non-governmental organization management and transforming lives in Ghana through mobile technology entrepreneurship training. She is the director of Mobile Web Ghana. She oversees the day-to-day management of the organization; initiating new projects, recruitment and supervision of staff, managing budget, sourcing for funding, organizing and coordinating training, and working with tech startups to launch their new ideas. She is passionate about empowering more women economically through technology entrepreneurship. Florence has significant experience in project management, startup mentorship and launching new projects. Florence has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology and a two-year certificate in Software Entrepreneurship from Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology. After the Fellowship, she plans to use the knowledge gained to help tech entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses and also start tech initiatives that will transform the lives of the youth and women.

Kémo Touré Jr | Entrepreneur (IT) | Senegal

Kémo Touré Jr is an African serial entrepreneur born in Ziguinchor and with over eight years of entrepreneurship experience in information and communication technology. Currently, he is the general manager of Wutiko (www.wutiko.com), a professional network he launched to connect the African business community, including job seekers, entrepreneurs, and companies. Kémo holds a master’s degree in Engineering from Ecole Centrale de Paris, France. After six months each at Accenture then at BNP Paribas, he launched his first startup in Europe in 2008. Two years later he decided to return to Africa. His different collaborations reflect his commitment to the community. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Kémo plans to continue his work, with the ambition to build a large business community and to help President Obama easily find the right jobs or partners in Africa after his presidency through Wutiko’s advanced mathematical algorithm.

Emerson Segbedji | Entrepreneur (Community Development) | Togo

Emerson Segbedji is the vice president of RIPNA (Regroupement inter professionnel des non-voyants artisans – in English, the professional association of blind artisans). Based in the east of Lomé, Togo’s capital, RIPNA has for the past six years worked to promote independence in everyday life. Knowing the importance of finance, Segbedji mentors people in local neighborhoods towards financial independence. As most members of the community didn’t attend school, they work mostly in crafts. Apart from mentoring, Segbedji manages all of the organization’s projects. After the completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Segbedji will apply what he has learned in the US so that the organization can keep on with its work.
Tessie Udegboka | Entrepreneur (Beauty Care) | Nigeria

Tessie Nkechi Udegboka has over eight years of experience working to better the lives of people living with HIV and semi-urban women. She is the MD of FinaFresh Cosmetics, where she is building a formidable team recruited from environmentally disadvantaged communities, with whom she works to develop products with efficient production. Tessie volunteers in rural communities through her organization, Whispering Hope Africa Initiative (WHAI), offering free capacity-building resources and training to better people’s lives. Tessie is certified in Entrepreneurship Management from Pan-Atlantic University and has acquired developmental skills in journalism, women and youth empowerment, leadership, management, and sustainability, amongst others. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Tessie plans to launch a cosmetics kit, the first in Africa, to meet the needs of about 80% of African women.