



Ahmed Sheriff, Sierra Leone

Ahmed Sheriff has more than eight years of experience in healthcare service delivery. He holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery and works under the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation as one of the dental surgeons leading the country's National Oral Health Program. Since 2015, he has spearheaded voluntary medical and humanitarian projects such as medical and surgical camps, mobile clinics, environmental health campaigns, and health education programs. Ahmed is also chief executive officer and doctor at SierraDental Ltd, which aims to complement the government's efforts to improve access to oral health services and promote preventive measures to address pressing oral health issues, especially in remote communities in Sierra Leone.

As a student, he observed the oral health issues suffered by members of his community and the challenges people encountered seeking dental treatments. Many of them sought help from untrained individuals or resorted to harmful local remedies, resulting in life-threatening and in many cases fatal complications. This inspired him to form SierraDental Ltd. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, he will use apply his new skills and knowledge to boost his impact in bringing oral health services closer to Sierra Leoneans.



Ahmed Konneh, Liberia

Ahmed K. Konneh is a social entrepreneur with more than a decade of experience in education, youth development, and health technology. He is skilled at identifying new opportunities and building brands from the ground up to address social challenges. Currently, Ahmed is founder and chief executive officer of DjaraPharma, a health-tech startup that leverages technology to increase access to low-cost, high-quality medications in low-income communities across Liberia. Ahmed is passionate about social entrepreneurship, which he sees as a driver of sustainable economic growth across Africa and a tool needed for rebuilding broken communities. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, he plans to work toward a society where everyone has access to affordable and high-quality education and health care.



Ayitévi Firmin Elom Hounou-Adossi, Togo

Ayitévi Firmin Elom Hounou-Adossi has three years of experience in clinical medicine as a physician, more than four years as a research consultant and data analyst, and three years working on digital health projects. Currently, Ayitévi is founder and chief executive officer of efha Medicals, a startup that creates digital health solutions and provides consulting services in health research and biostatistics. The startup created a mobile and web application for blood donation in Togo, supported more than 40 students in their research, and created a blood transfusion information system. Ayitévi also volunteers as the board chair of Givers for Health, whose main objective is to contribute to the health of populations through health promotion, campaigns, and advocacy.

Ayitévi holds a state doctorate in medicine and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration in Business Unit Management. He is committed to contributing to equity in access to health care for populations. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ayitévi plans to implement the digitization of the Togolese blood transfusion system, to continue to develop his expertise in digital health and biostatistics, and to be a resource for public health in Africa.



Charles Stephen, Kenya

Charles Stephen has more than three years of experience in administrative positions. Currently, Charles is a coordinator at Home Caterers. He focuses on creating opportunities in home management, from catering to housekeeping. Previously, he has worked with hotels and a logistics company. Charles holds a diploma in Hospitality Management from Zetech University. He is motivated to meet people of diverse backgrounds and from different professional fields and share ideas and experiences in their professional and personal development journeys. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Charles intends to apply his new skills to his current position. He also plans to assume a leadership position in his community in Kenya, which he feels has a dire need for mentorship in agriculture and can thrive with training and materials. In addition, he hopes to see a return to school for children who have been unable to attain education because of a lack of funds.



Dibo Willis-Ambetsa, Kenya

Dibo Willis-Ambetsa has more than 10 years' experience in strategic communication, with a recent master's degree in Communications from Liverpool John Moores University and a keen personal interest in forensic linguistics. Currently, she works at the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy of Kenya as a digital lead. Dibo is founder of OnTrak Solutions, a registered Kenyan startup that focuses on sustainable agriculture and soil management. Dibo's interest in agriculture is motivated by the need to rehabilitate soil and use agricultural waste to manufacture common household products because of the effects of climate change, which are particularly strong for low-income families. She works with vulnerable women who live on less than two dollars a day in her village in Kakamega County, Kenya, allowing them to earn more while rehabilitating their lands and ensuring food security and dignified living. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Dibo plans to engage more women across her country and eventually expand across the entire continent.



Edward Ghartey, Ghana

Edward Nenyi Ghartey is a medical doctor by profession and an entrepreneur by calling. He has a decade of experience in medical practice and about eight years of experience in entrepreneurship. Edward is director at Baiden-Ghartey Medical, a healthcare company that operates two primary healthcare facilities: Baiden-Ghartey Hospital and Baiden-Ghartey Clinic. He is also director at the startup CapitalMed Pharmaceuticals, a pharmaceutical wholesaling company. Edward believes that education and decent jobs foster poverty eradication. In 2018, he championed an educational and health support campaign for the underprivileged in Cape Coast, dubbed Show Your Love, and he regularly serves as a special guest at Cape Coast's Education Services Stakeholder Meetings. Edward is a Chevening Alumnus. He holds a Master of Science in Entrepreneurship from Aston University and a medical degree from the University of Ghana. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Edward will work to create good jobs through entrepreneurship and to promote education among the youth of Ghana through volunteerism and philanthropy.



Eugene Nyalile, United Republic of Tanzania

Eugene Nyalile is a creative entrepreneur and cofounder of A.LE & TOM Natural Products, a premium honey brand. With a background in law and experience as a conflict mediator for small-scale farmers and pastoralist communities, Eugene saw firsthand the economic disparity between producers and buyers. Determined to make a difference, he pivoted into beekeeping and launched A.LE & TOM Honey in early 2021. Sourced sustainably from small-scale beekeepers in Tanzania, A.LE & TOM Honey is enjoyed by customers worldwide. Through his work with A.LE & TOM, Eugene is bridging the economic gap for small-scale honey producers while delivering a product that meets the highest standards of quality. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Eugene plans to use his new skills and knowledge to expand and grow his company to help more people in his community.



Isabel Gourgel Gavião, Angola

Isabel Gavião has more than six years of experience in law. Currently, Isabel is an associate lawyer at Manuel Gonçalves & Associados, Sociedade de Advogados, RL, focusing on company law, private investment, labor law, and litigation. She is also a volunteer at Ondjango Feminista, a feminist organization that advocates for the rights of women and girls in Angola. Isabel holds a master's degree in Public Law. She is committed to supporting the feminist cause. She believes that helping women develop their own businesses is one way of reducing women's poverty in Angola and, consequently, of reducing all kinds of violence to which women are subjected. For this reason, she chose the Business track at the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. After completing the Fellowship, Isabel plans to work with women, helping them legalize their businesses and make them sustainable.



Joy Nametsegang, Botswana

Joy Nametsegang has more than five years of experience in the legal field. Joy is a managing director of Gabehill Group Holdings, which focuses on catering services through the At Pallets Cafe restaurant and horticulture produce and poultry through Shashe River Gardens. She has worked for the government of Botswana under the Attorney General Chambers as a prosecutions counsel. Joy holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Namibia. Joy is passionate about growing her business to high levels of success and sustainability by tapping into the farm-to-restaurant value chain. She hopes to elevate her business skills and to acquire new knowledge that she can incorporate into the day-to-day running of her business. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Joy plans to share the acquired knowledge with other young people in the horticulture and restaurant business through small workshops and the Department of Agriculture office in her region.



Mbongeni Sibandze, Eswatini

Mbongeni J. Sibandze is the founder and director of operations at Antique Gardens, a commercial and residential landscaping and organic waste management business presently incubated at the Royal Science and Technology Park in Eswatini. Antique Gardens has received accolades, including the 2021 United Nations Development Programme/Standard Bank Ematfuba Ami first prize for Green Solutions. Mbongeni also serves as Ezulwini chapter representative for the Youth Chamber of Commerce and Industries, a nongovernmental organization that promotes and fosters trade, development, commerce, and industry for youth in Eswatini. Mbongeni holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Eswatini. He has also served as a policy and enforcement intern at the Central Bank of Eswatini. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Mbongeni plans to apply the knowledge he gained to expand Antique Gardens' market strategy, serve his articles of clerkship, and disseminate information on youth empowerment initiatives.



Mago Hasfa, Uganda

Hasfa Mago is a social innovator, author, speaker, and literacy specialist. She is well versed in early childhood literacy development and community empowerment through the implementation of programs based on Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. She has more than six years of experience in evidence-based literacy interventions. Currently, Hasfa is founder and literacy specialist at Read to Learn Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Uganda, where she leads management and literacy interventions and authors books and training materials. She has volunteered in university programs to develop the mindset and goal-setting abilities of young people. Hasfa holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She is committed to making sure that all children have access to books, libraries, and early literacy development interventions regardless of their socioeconomic situation. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Hasfa plans to share the knowledge and experience she gained with the rest of her team in Uganda and embark on scaling her project impact in East and Western Africa.



Mariama Kaba, Guinea

Mariama Kaba is a professional tour manager with a passion for introducing travelers to new and exciting destinations. Owner of Miranass Tourisme they're into creating and preparing detailed itineraries for tourists and ensuring pleasant travel experiences in Guinea.



Melba Sandi, United Republic of Tanzania

Melba William Sandi is an administrator, communicator, and entrepreneur with more than five years of expertise in her field. Currently, Melba is partnership and strategic communications officer at JamiForums, based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where she is dedicated to promoting civil and digital rights, social justice, democracy, accountability, and good governance. In addition, she is the founder of Melba Candles Company, which specializes in handmade, scented soy candles. Melba holds a master's degree in International Trade and a bachelor's degree in Public Relations. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Melba plans to expand Melba Candles and establish it as a household name for scented candles and candle accessories in East and Central Africa. She aims to grow Melba Candles Academy in East Africa by providing employment for young people and mentoring young women from impoverished communities, teaching them how to make handmade crafts and start their own businesses, which will allow them to become financially independent. She also aspires to become an expert in the field of corporate communications and partnerships.



Moussa Kebe, Mauritania

Moussa Kebe has more than nine years of experience in recruitment, career coaching, and talent management. Currently, Moussa is senior recruiter at AMS, where he focuses on sourcing and recruiting technical, scientific, and medical profiles. Moussa is also founder of Splash Guy Recruitment, which helps companies in their sourcing and recruitment of technical profiles. In doing so, Splash Guy Recruitment helps to create jobs in Mauritania to fight against illegal immigration. Moussa has a degree in Human Resources. He has written a book titled *Think Like Recruiters* to help job seekers find their way and successfully integrate into the workforce. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Moussa plans to concentrate on developing his company Splash Guy Recruitment to allow young Mauritians to work remotely with companies around the world, expanding their opportunities beyond Mauritania.



Ndagou Ndiaye, Senegal

Ndagou Ndiaye is a food entrepreneur. Currently, Ndagou is founder of Little Things and focuses on creating recipes with Senegalese local products as well as food photography and food stylism. She has also written *Njogonol Cookbook* in 2022, which contains all the snacks Senegalese used to eat when they were young. Ndagou holds a bachelor's degree in Chemical and Agrofood Industries and is pursuing a master's degree in Nutrition. She has always loved cooking and food photography, and so she is passionate about improving the photography quality of food advertising in Senegal. She also wants to influence communities by raising awareness about the benefits of healthy diets. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Ndagou plans to change the eating habits of her community by raising awareness and creating activities and programs about how healthy food can reduce food-related diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and malnutrition, and to promote the use of nutritious local products.



Oummu Kulthum Mohamed Ali Hassane, Comoros

Oummu Kulthum Mohamed Ali Hassane has more than four years of experience in agronomy. Currently, Oummu Kulthum is a teacher and researcher at the University of the Comoros. She takes care of practical work and tutorials in plant biology and physiology. She is also founder of Island Organic Bee, which produces organic honey and products derived from honey. During her high school and university years, she taught Islamic courses pro bono in a Koranic school. Oummu Kulthum holds a master's degree in Biology. She is motivated to learn more about entrepreneurship to boost her current business and her future endeavors. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Oummu Kulthum plans to create a second company (this one for papaya and pineapple production). She plans to train that company's workers by being their leader. She believes that the Fellowship will allow her to expand her skills in the business world; to learn the ways of others, especially in the business world in the United States; and, in turn, to bring this way of doing business to her community.



Papa Kalidou Diop, Senegal

Papa Kaldidou Diop has more than six years of experience in content creation. Currently, Kalidou is production coordinator for a streaming platform owned by a big telecom company and focuses on working with local film producers, musicians, and other artists. He founded and worked as an artist and repertoire representative for a popular Senegalese music label. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Kalidou plans to develop his skills so he can help youth take full advantage of the potential of cultural and creative industries.



Romanus Kanyanga, Namibia

Romanus Kanyanga has more than 10 years of experience in information technology (IT). He also has more than six years of experience in education and more than 10 years of experience in the media industry. Currently, Romanus is systems administrator and IT specialist for the Hardap Regional Council, where he focuses on network administration and computer software and hardware maintenance. Romanus also owns the media and information and communications technology (ICT) company Kanyanga Media Group. Through this company, he founded two community projects: ICT for All offers free ICT training to people in the community, and Media for All provides training in videography and photography to young people. Romanus holds a bachelor's degree in Systems Administration and Networking from the Namibian University of Science & Technology and is pursuing a degree in Business Administration. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Romanus plans to ensure that all communities in Namibia have access to information and communications technology. He also aims to transform agricultural businesses and local businesses through the implementation of corporate sustainability, food security and nutrition, resilient supply chains, and the revival of indigenous food production.



Rudy Marjorie Ossia-Mboula, Gabon

Rudy Marjorie Ossia-Mboula has nine years of experience in oil and gas field engineering and six years of experience in African art and handicrafts. She is founder and manager of Nda Africa's Home, a home design and stationery brand that promotes African culture and techniques while showcasing artists and artisans from across the continent. Rudy is also the leader of Back to Change the Narrative, a collective initiative that tells the success stories of leaders of all kinds who go back to their home countries and make positive impacts in their direct or indirect environments. Rudy Marjorie holds a master's degree in Electrical Engineering. Rudy Marjorie is driven by creativity and believes that collectivity leads to bigger impacts. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, she plans to federate more artists through Nda Africa's Home and increase their visibility and incomes.



Shameer Ramdin, Mauritius

Shameer C. M. Ramdin has more than six years of experience in management, spanning exponential technology such as augmented and virtual reality; information technology; development; agriculture; media journalism; entrepreneurship; and sustainability. Shameer is a proponent of sustainability and circular economy. He holds a Master of Science in Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Design as a Chevening scholar, while also aspiring to be a political leader in Mauritius. He is currently the growth and partnerships manager at Minority Africa, a Uganda-based startup advocating for minority communities on the continent through solution-oriented citizen journalism. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Shameer plans to expand his career in sustainability to facilitate systemic changes in the current global systems, with a focus on climate adaptation strategies and consolidating Minority Africa's presence across the continent while providing the network to build the equitable Africa he dreams of.



Vanessa Sifa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Vanessa Sifa has more than two years of experience in business. Currently, Vanessa is the founder and managing director of Ruchers du Congo, a social impact honey business that works directly with traditional beekeepers from the remote forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to give them equal opportunity across the business value chain. Vanessa volunteered during her internships at several hospitals and provided diet counseling for elderly and cardiovascular disease patients. She is an alumna of the Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Program. Vanessa is pursuing her medical degree at the Catholic University of Bukavu. She is passionate about improving her country's healthcare system through information and communication technology and by creating jobs and prosperity in remote communities. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Vanessa hopes to manage and grow her business into a modern wild forest honey processing company, while also adding other medical services to her business that leverages technology.



Terrance Mawanga, Zimbabwe

Terrance Mawanga has more than five years of experience as a technology entrepreneurship enthusiast, youth development devotee, and author. He is a youth advisory board member for the Local Works Zimbabwe Project, working on creating entrepreneurship solutions to reduce unemployment among Zimbabwean youths. He is developing UtanoForYou, an Afrocentric, artificial intelligence-based health technology platform. He founded Impetus Infinity, an incubation hub for youth-led startups, and interned at the African Trade Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. A self-proclaimed polymath, Terrance is also an international poetry champion and a book editor, and he was a judge for the 2021 and 2022 Queen's Commonwealth Essay Contests. Terrance won the role model award from Ignite Youth Organisation in December 2020.

Terrance holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering from Harare Institute of Technology. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Terrance plans to transform UtanoForYou into a powerhouse in the African digital healthcare space while turning Impetus Infinity into a world-class incubation hub and helping more youths make a living using their literary gifts



Tondi Mudambo, Zimbabwe

Tonderai Mudambo has more than five years of experience in the commercial law sector. Currently, Tonderai is a legal consultant and focuses on compliance and corporate finance. She is founder of a sustainable urban farming enterprise based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Tonderai holds an honors and graduate degree in Law. She is committed to advancing socioeconomic development through her professional and philanthropic endeavors. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Tonderai plans to collaborate with her expanded network and to use her new skills and knowledge to achieve her professional and entrepreneurial goals.



Tsakani Nyoni, South Africa

Tsakani Emmarencia Nyoni has more than four years of experience in the field of indigenous knowledge and qualitative research and social entrepreneurship. Currently, Tsakani shares her experience with social entrepreneurs and enterprises to help them achieve their goals, to address challenges, to measure their impact, and to apply for funding. Tsakani has volunteered at the University of Venda's Community Engagement and engaged with indigenous knowledge holders to understand the challenges they experience regarding the preservation of their knowledge and its contribution to climate change. As a volunteer, she cofounded an Indigenous Knowledge student chapter. Through the chapter, Tsakani facilitated webinars on indigenous and social entrepreneurship. She holds a bachelor's degree in Indigenous Knowledge Systems and is currently pursuing a master's degree in African Studies with a focus on cocreating Afrocentric ethical guidelines for digital content creation. After completing the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, Tsakani plans to share her new skills and experiences with social entrepreneurs in South Africa and to pursue lecturing.



Thapelo Ngoni, Botswana

Thapelo Ngoni is a credit analyst for a development bank called CEDA in Botswana, where the main focus is finding small, medium enterprises here in Botswana to better the lives of Batswana and tackling unemployment in the process. She is founder of an association called She For Him Association that is mainly focused in solving socio-economic problems and building sustainability to tackle mental health