2015 Mandela Washington Fellows

CINDERELLA ANENA
Kampala, Uganda

Cinderella Anena has three years’ experience in researching democracy, governance, sexual and reproductive health, and projects development. She currently works as a program assistant at the Uganda office of the Institute for Reproductive Health at Georgetown University (US) where she supports research, programming, and communications through gender transformative interventions including the Gender Roles, Equality and Transformation (GREAT) Project. Cinderella’s passion for women’s rights is drawn from Irene Gleeson, an Australian philanthropist whose foundation supports over 6,000 war-affected people in Northern Uganda and who Cinderella supported volunteering for the fundraising drive to complete Gleeson’s last project, a women’s hospital. She holds a first class Bachelors’ degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Makerere University and co-founded the Young Acholi Girls Initiative (YAGI), a social movement mentoring young women on alternative and transformative leadership. Upon completion of the Fellowship, she plans to advocate for popularization of Women’s’ Agenda and Gender Equality.

CHRISTELLE DIBATA
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Christelle Dibata Nsimba is research analyst in the Democratic Republic of Congo Prime Minister’s office. For almost three years, she has been in charge of the production and presentation of the broadcast, Congo d’Excellence, an initiative of the Congolese Government which aims at presenting real success story of Congolese youth, to the youth, made in the Congolese way. She holds a license in Journalism, Information and Communication, and spent three years working for the channel, Digital Congo, where she presented cultural programs (in particular, fashion and the plastic arts). More and more interested in advertising, she was recruited by Optimum Corporate Communication, where she occupied the post of account executive within the clientele department. Her ambition is to create a university radio channel to interconnect young student for the development of a strong leadership for the Congo of tomorrow.

NONHLANHLA NELISIWE
Manzini, Swaziland

Nonhlanhla Nelisiwe has over eight years’ experience in various fields in the community development sector, particularly in women’s
empowerment. Nonhlanhla is a community facilitator for the Swaziland Young Women’s Network where she focuses on empowering women in politics and advocates for women’s rights in Swaziland. She volunteers in her community and schools around her community, where she teaches about behavior change, decision-making amongst young people, and involvement in decision-making. Nonhlanhla holds a diploma in HIV Management and on completion of the Fellowship she plans to continue her work in gender equality, with a focus on advocacy for women’s rights, women’s representation, and equal opportunities. It is her passion to see women treated as equal citizens in the country and she will not conform to a society that does not protect women and children.

RIEK DOAR
Juba, South Sudan

Riek James Doar has over three years' experience in various fields of the governance and community development sector, with a particular focus on justice. Currently, Riek is a deputy project manager for Pact Inc. Access to Justice Project, South Sudan where he focuses on initiating, designing, and implementing access to justice activities for the project in the country. He holds a postgraduate diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Center in Uganda, and a Bachelor’s degree in Law from Kampala International University. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he plans to continue his work in access to justice, with a focus on legal aid for the indigent members of the community, and awareness on legal and human rights.

HANS FOUNGUES
Libreville, Gabon

Hans Fougues has ten years' international experience in communication and over six years' experience in the community development sector. Currently, Hans is a private consultant working to develop peace-building activities, and leading the NGO, ‘Entrepreneurs Nouvelle Génération’ where he focuses on initiating and designing programs to foster sustainable development in Gabon. He volunteers in local community secondary schools to encourage youth to preserve the environment, and also bring together the government, social partners, private sector, and civic society to discuss the present and future of Gabonese workers and local communities. Hans holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Quebec in Montreal, as well as a diploma in Audiovisual Production, and completed a Master’s degree in Financial Engineering in a Libreville private school. Upon completion of the Fellowship, he plans to promote social entrepreneurship, strengthen democracy, and continue his advocacy for corporate social responsibility and good governance.
David Hofisi
Harare, Zimbabwe

David Tinashe Hofisi has over five years’ experience in the fields of human rights, constitutional litigation, and coalition building. He is currently a senior projects lawyer with Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, overseeing the constitutional litigation and monitoring portfolios. He also does voluntary work with the University of Zimbabwe’s branch of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace. David has made constitutional-monitoring presentations before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health, and before the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. At the 8th Viterbo Seminar on Global Administrative Law, he co-presented a paper he co-authored on the ease of doing business index and land grabbing. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, David plans to continue to work on strengthening the rule of law in Zimbabwe by using litigation, lobbying, and advocacy. He is the holder of a Master’s degree in Rule of Law for Development from Loyola University, Chicago.

Huda Ibrahim
Omdurman, Sudan

Huda Ibrahim has over three years’ experience working to help the development of her country. She is the junior editor and writer at In The City Sudan, where she writes on youth issues along with her experience in presenting radio shows dedicated to the Sudanese youth. She is a member at Bawasheq Alkheer Association, focusing on empowering women in rural areas of Sudan as well as in cities. She is a program officer at Youth Forum Organization where she focuses on girls’ education. She also volunteers in different organizations and her own community where she proudly helps in the development of Sudanese girls’ education. Huda holds a Bachelor’s degree in Counselling and Health Psychology from Ahfad University for Women, and executed research on violence against women in Sudan. Upon the completion of the Fellowship, she plans to continue her work in empowering women focusing on girls’ education.

Grace Jerry
Jos, Nigeria

Grace Jerry is a music artist, disability rights advocate, and peace promoter in Nigeria. She brought freshness to advocacy efforts through her unique blend of passion and music, bringing prominence to the important roles of persons with disabilities in development. Since emerging Miss Wheelchair National queen she has remained consistent in her passion to mainstream disability in development issues, through her work at Inclusive Friends where she
works as director, providing direction and inspiration for change. As WaterAid Nigeria’s official spokesperson on disability in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Grace works to ensure inclusive access for persons with disabilities and to end violence through benefit concerts, the proceeds of which have provided toilets for schools serving children with disabilities. Grace plans to use the knowledge and experience she gains from the Fellowship in deepening her advocacy efforts to end discrimination and violence against women with disabilities in Nigeria.

**CHARLES KAJOLOWEKA**  
Mzuzu, Malawi

Charles Kajoloweka is a human rights activist and the founder and executive director of Youth and Society (YAS), a human rights NGO in Malawi. At 29 years of age, he has enjoyed eight years’ experience in human rights advocacy, providing leadership in program designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and in resource mobilization. He is currently project manager of two governance and human rights projects: the Malawi National Youth Policy project and the Natural Resource Justice project, that protect the rights of indigenous communities around Viphya forest. A former student union leader at university, he is the current adviser to the American Ambassador to Malawi on youth issues. After the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Kajoloweka plans to establish a Youth Civic Leadership Program aimed at empowering 300 potential young civil society leaders, the new voices to strengthen civil society in Malawi and spur sustainable development.

**ARUNA KALLON**  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Aruna Kallon has over three years’ experience volunteering as a gender and civil rights campaigner, and is dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. He is currently editor and communications consultant at the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law-Sierra Leone (CARL-SL), where he helps develop the organization’s communication strategy, and advocates objectives aimed at promoting judicial accountability and increased access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Aruna holds a Bachelor of Arts with honors in English, and a Bachelor of Law with honors, both from Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone, where he is also a part-time lecturer of English. Aruna plans to use the experience of the Mandela Washington Fellowship to start an initiative that helps remove norms inimical to the development of youth potentials, such as forced early marriage, child sexual abuse, and harmful cultural practices, such as female genital mutilation.
Mireille Kayeye
Bujumbura, Burundi

Mireille Kayeye has over seven years’ experience using media and communication for social change. She started as a radio journalist of health-related programs and is currently the communication specialist for Fhi360. She is passionate about reporting on HIV, malaria, and maternal, reproductive and sexual health with a view of positively transforming Burundian’s lives. As the youth program coordinator of REAVI, a network of associations that fight violence and injustice against women, she organizes activities to educate girls on gender issues, youth leadership, and empowerment. She is currently launching the BAHO center, a space where raped girls who want to reintegrate school can leave their children. Mireille holds a Master’s in International Development, Politics and Gender from the Australian National University, focused on the trafficking of African women for forced labor in Australia that has gone unnoticed by African and Australian governments. She will continue helping vulnerable girls and empowering women.

Fernanda Lobato
Maputo, Mozambique

Fernanda Lobato graduated in political science and international relations at the New University of Lisbon, Portugal. She is a communication manager at the Centre for Collaborating in Health, a NGO that fights pediatric AIDS, funded by PEPFAR. She also volunteers as project manager for Eye of The Citizen, a project that aims to increase political participation in Mozambique for good governance and democracy. The Eye of the Citizen is a citizen bloggers platform and uses social media, blogs, and a website to encourage the concept of citizen-journalism and journalists, where every citizen can report problems through the use of technological tools. The Eye of the Citizen implemented a project of monitoring elections, and the technology platform allowed citizens to participate in the elections using their mobile phones (WhatsApp, social media etc.). This project gave a voice to all Mozambican citizen, in the aim for transparency and fair elections.

Anganile Thomson
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Anganile Thomson has eight years’ experience in media in Africa from the TV program, Imagine Africa, centered on creatively communicating the dangers of HIV/AIDS to youth across Africa, to working as a presenter and producer for the Tanzania National broadcaster on an inspirational youth show, Mawazohuru (freedom to dream) in which he interviews youth who came from nothing to success, inspiring many youths facing unemployment to meet their challenges. He does documentaries promoting children’s rights
working with UNICEF, and other NGOs and reaching out to more youths, Anganile has initiatives where he showcases his documentaries to students in universities and gives room for discussion on issues of concern including unemployment, education improvement etc. Anganile holds a diploma in Journalism from Wilnag college in Nairobi (TV production). Upon completion of the Mandela fellowship he will continue producing documentaries on youth challenges in Tanzania and other TV productions.

YOUSRA N’DIAYE
N’Djamena, Chad

Yousra N’diaye has over five years’ experience in different fields related to peace-building, gender issues, and the promotion of good governance. Currently, she is director of economic governance at the African Peer Review Mechanism where she focuses on economic and social integration of women in Chad. She also speaks regularly at conferences and writes articles on vital subjects such as girls education, tolerance, and peace. She has a homework assistance class and helps women in her neighborhood with administrative procedures. Yousra holds post-graduate diplomas in Economics and Political science from the University of Rheims and after the Mandela Washington Fellowship she plans to continue her activities in women’s empowerment and rights.

AVERTY NDZOYI
Sibiti, Republic of the Congo

Ndzoyi Averty Delamizere is the director and founder of the NGO, Espace Opoko, in a rural Sibiti, Congo-Brazzaville. He has over seven years of professional experience, and for three of these was head of the communication department at a mining company (MPD Congo, a subsidiary of Glencore). Averty resigned from this position to devote his life to empowering, educating and training young people in his community. Now, his mission is to provide support, skills, role models and resources to youths in the community so they can become productive and active members of the community, and country. As a strong believer in the idea of servant leadership, at the end of Mandela Washington Fellowship, Averty plans to continue his work in the community to improve living conditions and raise the level of education for students in his community.
Mirabel Ngong
Bamenda, Cameroon

Mirabel is a communications professional and feminist advocate with three years’ experience in the civil society. She has reached out to more than 400 women in the North West Region of Cameroon, strengthening leadership skills and boosting their political confidence. She also uses radio drama over community radio stations to advocates for the education of teenage single mothers. Currently, Mirabel is a project manager for World Vision for Education and Development (WVED) where she focuses on equipping youth with leadership and business skills, encouraging girls in the fields of science, and promoting developmental priorities that address self-reliant skills. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from National Polytechnic Bamenda in Cameroon, where she also took courses in gender studies. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she will continue to work with youth and women to build their leadership capacities and promote self-reliance.

Nandipha Ngulube
Kawambwa, Zambia

Nandipha Ngulube has eight years’ working experience in the legal fraternity, having begun as a legal assistant at a private practice in her third year of law school. She is currently an adjudicator in the Zambian Subordinate Court where she has worked for 26 months. Among other duties, she presides over the only juvenile court in the district and has experience in the processing of juvenile delinquents in the Juvenile Justice System. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Law from the Zambian Open University and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice at the same university. On her return from the Fellowship, she desires to establish an organization to work with juvenile delinquents within the province to ensure they are processed within the confines of the law and international human rights standards, for the promotion of their welfare and in their best interests.

Hlayisani Nkhwashu
Giyani, South Africa

Hlayisani Nkhwashu has 10 years’ experience in championing and volunteering youth socioeconomic programs such as HIV/AIDS campaigns, teenage pregnancy, alcohol and abuse substance with ANOVA, moral regeneration campaigns amongst youth, business development workshops with Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), Gospel Explosion live recordings, and assisting the community to register for subsistence farming government program. He also researched and edited documentaries for popular South African Broadcasting Co-operation (SABC) programs. He is currently the chairperson of the Ndengeza / Msengi /
Rotterdam / Maphalle Development Forum, through which he initiated a tarred road construction project for 26 km. He is involved in the live recordings of various musical projects, as technical and creative director, and is also working with musical groups to address xenophobic issues. He holds Media Consultant Diploma with Boston City Campus. Upon completion of the Fellowship, he will focus on youth infrastructure development initiative programs in the surrounding villages.

**Timi Olagunju**
Ibadan, Nigeria

Timi Olagunju has over five years' experience promoting good governance, human rights, democracy, and the youth agenda. He provides leadership to over three hundred and fifty young leaders in Nigeria through the Nigerian Youths in Motion (NYM), a non-profit organization that engages governments, institutions and communities in solving sociopolitical challenges, and promotes economic and societal growth upon which individuals and companies prosper. Timi holds a law degree from the University of Ibadan, and a certificate in the Science of Communication from the Graduate School of Communication in Amsterdam. He has trained thousands of young professional and students on how to creatively identify and solve socioeconomic challenges through the Eye for Accountability Initiative (EFAI). Timi is a lawyer, writer, and speaker dedicated to building stronger networks of sociopolitical thinkers, strategists, and problem-solvers across Nigeria, and eventually Africa, and intends to continue raising sociopolitical leaders upon his return from the Fellowship.

**Sham Omar**
Wajir, Kenya

Shamsa Omar has over five years' experience in various fields of the leadership and community service sector. She currently works for the Centre for Victims of Torture as a psycho-social counsellor at Dadaab Refugee Camp, where she provides comprehensive psychosocial counselling to war trauma and torture survivors. She was awarded the Equity Group Foundation Scholarship for her undergraduate studies and now mentors Wings to Fly scholars under that foundation. She completed the SIDA-funded Program for Young Politicians in Africa Academy, and vied for a county representative position in the 2013 Kenya elections. She is part of a women’s peace-building and leadership program, holds a BA in Sociology from Moi University in Kenya, and is currently pursuing a postgraduate certificate at the Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, she plans to continue her work in peace-building and mentorship activities with a focus on women’s empowerment.
PEARL PILLAY  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Pearl Pillay has been an activist for the better part of the last 10 years with her experience in community development ranging from gender equality and environmental sustainability to worker’s rights and student politics. Currently, Pearl is a director at Youth Lab, a youth policy think tank which aims to create spaces for youth in South Africa to engage on policy issues which affect them. She runs the research and policy component of the organization and has vast experience in the organization of social movements. Through the years, she has expanded on her skills of research, youth development, entrepreneurship and communication and is currently pursuing her Master’s degree in Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, focusing on the implementation of the country’s National Development Plan. Upon completion of the Fellowship, Pearl plans to continue her work in youth development, race, and gender and youth involvement in policy making.

ROSELYNE SACHITI  
Harare, Zimbabwe

Roselyne Sachiti is an award-winning journalist with over 12 years’ experience in various fields in the community development sector. She focuses mainly on women and child health and violence against women, among other issues. She is the features editor for Zimbabwe’s largest newspaper, The Herald, where her main areas of focus are developmental features, writing on social issues, and clearing copy. Roselyne is also a champion for International Planned Parenthood (IPPF) and while doing her features also speaks to women in rural areas about family planning issues. She has a diploma in media studies and has enrolled for a degree in development studies with the Zimbabwe Open University. Upon completion of the Fellowship, Roselyne plans to continue her work in development issues and mentor other journalists. She also hopes to start an NGO to provide information on reproductive health, contraception in particular to women in marginalized communities.

KAMAKEI SANGIRIAKI  
Narok, Kenya

Kamakei Sangiriaki has seven years’ experience working for underprivileged rural populations - especially women, youth, and persons with disabilities - in Narok County in Kenya. He is the director for the Neighbors Peace Initiative, where he provides leadership on the facilitation of access to justice for minority groups, conflict resolution, and peace-building. He was the winner of the Unsung Peace Heroes award for exemplary actions to save lives during the Kenya 2007-8 post-election violence. Currently, Kamakei serves at the
United Nations Development Program’s Democratic Governance Facility representing the Youth of Kenya. He holds a post-graduate diploma in Project Management from the Kenya Institute of Management, an affiliate of The Management University of Africa, with a focus on Development Studies. Kamakei will use the experience gained from the Mandela Washington Fellowship to advance the Pieces to Peace project that seeks for a unifying factor for the people of Kenya.

**LINEO TSIKOANE**  
Maseru, Lesotho

Lineo Tsikoane is an experienced human rights lawyer and activist. She has been a prominent proponent of human rights, in particular women and children’s rights in Lesotho, for over fourteen years starting out as a child representative for both Lesotho and Africa. She is currently the director for Lesotho’s first and only public interest litigation center, with a particular focus on rural community’s rights and representation in development. She volunteers her time and skills to promote youth participation and protection of the rights of the vulnerable, with particular interest in the LGBTI community in Lesotho, women, and children. She holds a Master’s degree in International Human Rights Law and Practice from the University of York, England. Lineo intends to come back to Lesotho and further impact the human rights context of Lesotho, to implement a successful legal empowerment program, and advocate for the protection of human rights for all.

**DAGNACHEW WAKENE**  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dagnachew Bogale Wakene has been working for over nine years as an advocate, educator, and research consultant with a focus on disability rights and inclusive development. He holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and a Master’s of Philosophy majoring in Rehabilitation and Development Studies from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He is currently the Africa Regional Coordinator at Disability Rights Promotion International, a project run by York University, Canada to establish a monitoring system that addresses disability discrimination globally. He’s also co-founder of ThisAbility Consulting, an initiative which aims to bridge existing gaps of participatory disability research in Africa. A childhood polio-survivor, Dagnachew embraces an outstanding blend of lived experience and professional excellence in his fields of expertise. Upon completion of the Mandela Washington Fellowship, he will continue his robust contributions to efforts of creating an inclusive society in Ethiopia and the continent.