



African Population and  
Health Research Center



**Countdown to 2030**  
*Women's Children's & Adolescent's Health*

# Empowering the Next Generation of African Researchers

**Countdown to 2030 Fellowship  
Program – Cohort 2 Fellows  
Transformational Journeys**



# Forward

The Countdown to 2030 for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health initiative works to improve coverage measurement and monitoring, while strengthening regional and country-level capacity for evidence generation and use.

In 2023, Countdown to 2030 launched its Fellowship Program. This inclusive initiative complements the Countdown's broader efforts in national and sub-national analyses to track progress toward the sustainable development goals (SDGs) related to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and

adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH+N).

The fellowship is designed to enhance research and analytical capacity in Countdown countries by equipping emerging early career researchers with the tools and mentorship needed to monitor and evaluate lifesaving RMNCAH+N interventions. It supports fellows in translating data into evidence, and evidence into action.

In its second year, the fellowship strengthened the skills of a diverse and dynamic cohort of fellows from ten Countdown collaborating countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea,

Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Beyond technical training, the program also fostered peer collaboration, policy engagement, and cross-country learning serving as a gateway into impactful careers in global health.

These fellows are now expert champions of RMNCAH+N research committed to informing policies, improving programs, and advocating for equitable health outcomes in their countries and beyond.

Here are some of their inspiring reflections on the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship program.

# Acknowledgement

## **Countdown to 2030 Principal Investigators in:**

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

## **Training Facilitators from:**

APRHC, University of Manitoba, University of Southampton, John Hopkins University, The International Center for Equity in Health-University of Pelotas.

## **2024 Countdown to 2030 Fellows Mentors:**

Abdoulaye Maiga, Agbessi Amouzou, Aluisio Barros, Andrea Blanchard, Arsene Brunelle Sandie, Cauane Blumenberg, Cheikh Faye, Dessalegn Melesse, Eliud Wekesa, Estelle Sidze, Jennifer Harris Requejo, Kristine Nilsen, Martin Mutua, Melinda Munos, Muhumuza Kananura Rornald, Yohannes Dibaba Wado.

## **APHRC Coordination Team-Members:**

Cheikh Faye, Nyandwi Alympio, Adja Aminata Mbengue, Corretta Tira, Assane Diouf and Diana Munjuri.



**Eliane Vanessa ASSOKOM  
OKOUBALIMBA, Cameroon**

When Eliane Vanessa ASSOKOM OKOUBALIMBA, a clinical biologist and lecturer at the University of Douala, stumbled upon the Countdown to 2030 fellowship on Google, she had no idea that it would profoundly shape her academic and professional trajectory. At the time, she was immersed in her PhD thesis and teaching responsibilities, driven by a strong desire to deepen her knowledge and sharpen her skills in sexual and reproductive health research.

The fellowship proved to be more than just an academic program for Eliane it was a

transformative experience.

“I have and continue to learn so much from the APHRC’s Countdown to 2030 fellowship. I now understand what to do in statistics, how to interpret results, and how to present different scientific documents from articles to policy briefs, OpEds, and pitches,” Eliane shares.

Eliane’s fellowship research tackled a critical but often overlooked topic: the patterns and trends of sexual and reproductive health among adolescent girls living in poor urban areas in Cameroon. She was inspired to

explore this issue after noticing that most studies dichotomized urban and rural health disparities, often assuming urban residents had better health outcomes. "That's not always the case," she explains. "Urban poverty can result in even worse outcomes than in rural settings. In Cameroon, no research had been done on this issue, which is why I decided to work on this unique topic."

Her findings have since been published in public library of science (PLOS), marking a significant milestone in her research journey. Her most significant takeaway from the fellowship is "Science is not just about lab work and dissertations," she emphasizes. "It's also about ensuring your voice reaches

policymakers, stakeholders, and even the general public. The fellowship gave me the tools to do just that to speak up and make real, accountable improvements for those most in need."

Despite her enthusiasm, the journey was not without its challenges. "Statistics, public health programs, demographic and health surveys (DHS), equiplots it was all new to me," she admits. "But I had the opportunity to meet incredibly supportive facilitators who helped me overcome my fears and encouraged me to work harder." With dedication and many sleepless nights, she turned what once felt overwhelming into an empowering learning experience.

Eliane's enthusiasm for the fellowship program was immediate: "From the first days, I started recommending it. It's a unique opportunity, a fellowship to win." For future fellows, she offers a word of advice: "Find your topic at the start of the fellowship training, and collaborate closely with your facilitator."

Today, Eliane stands as a shining example of what determination and proper support can achieve. "I started with zero in statistics. Now I'm approaching the hero," she reflects with gratitude. "Thank you, Countdown to 2030 initiative and APHRC."



**Dr. Salisu Muhammed  
Ladan, Nigeria**

Dr. Salisu Ladan works at the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NASCP), Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Nigeria. His background is Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (Bayero University, Kano) and Master of Public Health (Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria). He joined the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship with a clear mission: to bridge the persistent disconnect between research findings and policy decisions in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (MNCAH) in Nigeria.

With years of experience as an anaesthetist, critical care physician, and public health researcher, he witnessed firsthand how evidence often failed to translate into meaningful change, especially in underserved communities.

"I was deeply motivated to use this fellowship to sharpen my ability to interpret and communicate data in ways that influence real health outcomes," Salisu shared.

For his fellowship project, Salisu explored the *"Prevalence and inequalities of missed opportunities for Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPTp) of malaria among pregnant women" using 2018 Nigeria demographic health survey data.*

His findings were intriguing: even among women who had four or more antenatal care visits, 7 out of 8 missed at least one opportunity to receive the recommended preventive treatment for malaria (IPTp-SP). The disparities were striking with the drivers

being geography, education, socioeconomic status, and systemic delivery gaps.

“This isn’t just a data point. It’s a policy failure,” he explained. “These missed opportunities are avoidable, and fixing them can save lives.”

The fellowship gave Dr. Salisu the technical and strategic tools to elevate his work. This included: advanced data analysis: mastery of stats for large-scale datasets. Equity-focused research: applying inequality metrics and disaggregated analyses. Scientific communication: writing policy-relevant research, now accepted in BMC Malaria. Knowledge translation: Creating policy briefs, presentations, and visual summaries. Peer learning: collaborating with fellows across Africa to enhance research quality.

“The program changed how I think and work.

I now approach public health problems with a policy lens,” he reflected.

Salisu’s professional path has evolved. “The fellowship helped me transition from service delivery to becoming a policy-oriented researcher,” he said. It also cemented his decision to pursue a PhD in global health, focusing on implementation science and systems strengthening.

He now actively contributes to shaping national strategies and feels empowered to lead health systems research with a sharper focus on equity and accountability.

“The Countdown to 2030 fellowship is more than a training program. It’s a transformative movement for Africa,” Salisu stated.

He highlights real-world impact and policy relevance, strong mentorship and technical guidance, emphasis on equity, leadership,

and knowledge translation, and lasting professional and academic growth.

His advice for future fellows is to choose a topic you’re passionate about, manage your time wisely, seek support early, think beyond publication. Focus on impact, engage with your peers and mentors, and be resilient and celebrate your progress.

Dr. Salisu Ladan leaves the program not only with a published study and sharpened skills but also with a renewed purpose to ensure that data speaks, and policy makers listen so that no woman or child is left behind.

“This fellowship made me realize that Africa has the talent, data, and determination to solve its health challenges. What we often lack is a platform, Countdown to 2030 is that platform.”



**Albert Ndagijimana,**  
**Rwanda**

Albert Ndagijimana has been teaching and conducting research at the University of Rwanda since 2013, when he came across the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship Program, 2024 call for applications via the APHRC website and through colleagues, he knew it was the right opportunity to deepen his skillset and add value to his ongoing PhD research in Public Health (Medical Sciences) at Umeå University, Sweden.

"I wanted to explore new analytical approaches especially spatial and equity analysis and use the fellowship to produce a paper that could strengthen my PhD," he explains.

Albert's fellowship research explored *trends and inequalities in childhood stunting in Rwanda using demographic and health survey data spanning nearly two decades (2000-2019)*. The study not only mapped out progress but also revealed persistent disparities across geographic areas.

"The topic is closely aligned with my PhD focus on undernutrition in children," he noted. "By layering spatial epidemiology with equity analysis, able to visualize both the progress and the hidden pockets of inequality."

His findings were presented at the Countdown

to 2030, 2025 Country Annual Meeting, and a journal submission is forthcoming pending final review from his mentor.

The Countdown to 2030 Fellowship has empowered Albert with several advanced capabilities. Spatial Epidemiology: Identifying stunting hotspots and coldspots across Rwanda, Equity Analysis: Deepened expertise in identifying health disparities, Systematic reviews and meta-analysis: A refresher that strengthened his academic toolkit: and Advocacy and Stakeholder engagement: Learning how to translate evidence for policy influence.

"These skills have not only strengthened my PhD work but have boosted my confidence

in teaching equity analysis to my master's students," Albert shared.

Balancing the fellowship alongside PhD coursework, teaching, and conferences was no small feat. "Time management was a real challenge," he admitted. "Additionally reaching alignment on my research topic with my mentor took time and patience."

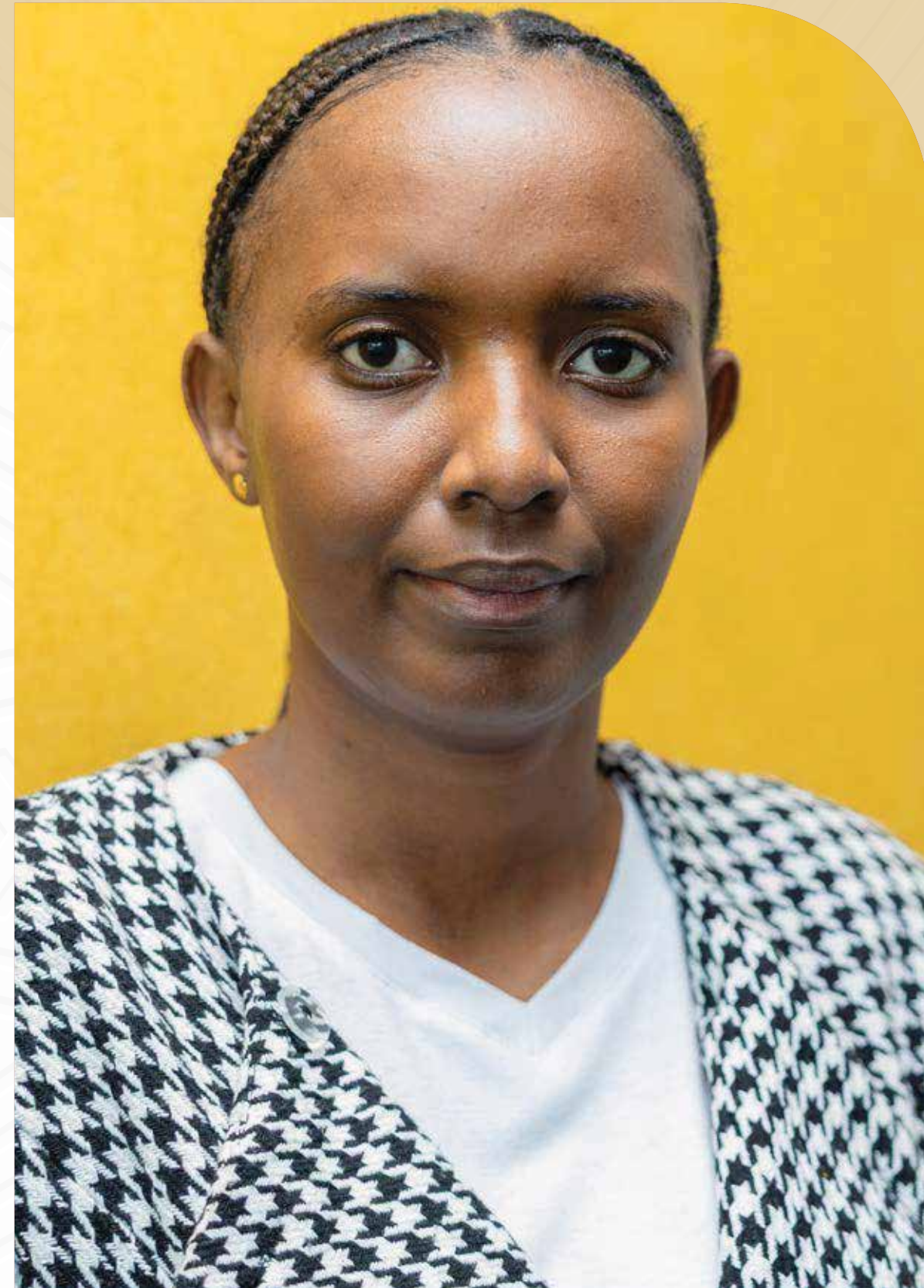
But with dedication, perseverance, and clear communication, Albert was able to successfully meet his research goals and contribute meaningfully to the fellowship.

He recommends the fellowship while affirming, "The fellowship gives you the skills to better deliver in your role and allows you to interrogate data in innovative ways. It's

not just about research it's about generating evidence that informs real action."

His advice to future fellows is simple but powerful: "Just dedication and patience."

Albert's journey illustrates how the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship serves as a bridge connecting academic research to national action and equipping Africa's next generation of researchers with the skills to lead on evidence-based policy change.



**Jacqueline Minja,**  
**Tanzania**

Jacqueline Minja came into the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship with a solid background in maternal and newborn health. At the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania, she has contributed to major initiatives like Countdown to 2030 and NEST360, working on data analysis, program evaluation, and capacity-building for healthcare workers. But she wanted to deepen her technical expertise and play a bigger role in transforming data into policy.

"I was driven by my passion for maternal, newborn, and child health, and the need to use

data more effectively to improve outcomes," she shared. "The fellowship aligned perfectly with my goals."

For her research, Jacqueline explored a nuanced issue: *how data sources impact monitoring of delivery and Penta3 coverage at the district level in Tanzania*. While facility data are often used to assess health coverage, her study questioned how accurate these estimates are particularly in rural areas where women might deliver in nearby urban districts.

This "urban pull" could skew facility-based data, underestimating rural coverage and

overestimating urban statistics. Survey data, on the other hand, are based on the woman's place of residence and may provide a more accurate picture.

"The goal was to reveal these discrepancies so that national programs can better monitor progress and design interventions that leave no one behind," Jacqueline explained.

The fellowship equipped Jacqueline with an impressive toolkit on statistical analysis using STATA, spatial mapping and data visualization using QGIS, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, scientific writing and policy translation, and critical thinking and communication in multidisciplinary settings.

"Regular mentorship and peer learning helped me approach my research more

systematically and align it with real policy needs," she said.

The fellowship experience reaffirmed Jacqueline's vision of becoming a skilled researcher who uses data to influence public health systems. It not only boosted her technical abilities but also expanded her professional network, provided a platform to present at conferences, and encouraged her to pursue further academic research.

"I now feel more confident to contribute to evidence-based interventions and the broader sustainable development goal agenda," she noted.

Her words to future fellows is, "Be proactive, stay curious, and take full advantage of this learning opportunity. Develop both your

technical and soft skills, and focus on the broader impact your research can have."

Jacqueline strongly encourages others to apply for the fellowship. "This is more than a learning program. It's a launchpad for professionals passionate about public health. It equips you with tools to make real change and connects you with a supportive community of peers and global experts."

Despite the technical complexity of her work, Jacqueline credits the supportive environment of the fellowship for making the journey smooth and successful.

"Thanks to my mentors and the Countdown team, I never felt stuck. Their guidance made all the difference."



**Sable Parfait Stephane,**  
**Côte d'Ivoire**

Before joining the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship, Dr. Sable Parfait Stephane was already wearing two hats. A lecturer at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, and medical researcher in the Nutrition Department at the National Institute of Public Health Côte d'Ivoire. His involvement with the Côte d'Ivoire Countdown country collaboration team led him to the fellowship, where he saw an opportunity to deepen his analytical skills and expand his research horizons.

"I joined the program driven by a strong desire to improve my research and analysis capabilities," he shared.

Stephane's research addresses a pressing public health concern: *the quality of prenatal care and its link to low birth weight in Côte d'Ivoire*. His choice was rooted in a keen awareness of the wide-ranging impacts of nutrition-related issues—from health to social and economic consequences.

"Nutrition challenges have deep and lasting effects. Understanding their connection to birth outcomes is critical for informing policy and interventions," Dr. Stephane explained.

Through the fellowship, Stephane gained knowledge and skills on statistical and geospatial analysis, scientific writing formats

and structures, and effective research communication to stakeholders. These skills equipped him to navigate complex data, draw actionable insights, and articulate his findings clearly, an essential step toward shaping national health strategies.

Participating in the fellowship marked a turning point in Stephane's academic and professional path. It enhanced not just his technical capacity but also broadened his perspective on relevant publication topics and global maternal health priorities.

"The program had a significant impact on my career. It was an extraordinary experience with dedicated instructors and a highly supportive coordination team."

He highly recommends the fellowship, noting, "Yes without hesitation. It's an empowering journey for anyone seeking to grow in research and make a real impact in public health."

His advice to future fellows is, "Stay focused and manage your time well. Prioritize the program so you can complete it successfully and reap its full benefits."

In conclusion, Stephane shares, "This fellowship was not just training. It was transformation. It connected me with brilliant minds and gave me the confidence to lead in research and collaborate with experts across the continent."



**Rogers Nsubuga,**  
**Uganda**

Before joining the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship, Rogers Nsubuga was immersed in clinical trials focused on HIV prevention through PrEP at Makerere University. While the work was important, he grew curious about broader public health issues particularly those rooted in routine health systems data.

His curiosity led him to the APHRC website, where he discovered the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship Program, 2024 call for applications, which would later reshape his research interests.

"I was eager to expand my skills beyond HIV trials. This fellowship became the gateway to exploring maternal and child health from a systems perspective," he said.

Rogers' research *examined maternal and child health (MNCH) coverage in refugee-hosting versus non-hosting districts in Uganda*. The project was inspired by his experience working on a cluster randomized trial in refugee settlements, which highlighted the unique health challenges faced by displaced populations.

Using national routine health facility data, Rogers compared service coverage and composite coverage index (CCI) indicators, highlighting disparities in maternal and child health outcomes.

“The lack of granular refugee-level data was a challenge, but analyzing district-level trends still provided valuable insights,” he noted.

The fellowship helped Rogers strengthen core research competencies in scientific writing and methodology development, coverage, and CCI analysis, as well as health data mapping and visualization.

More importantly, the experience deepened his interest in routine health facility data so much so that he now plans to pursue a PhD

grounded in this area.

“It expanded my professional vision. I now see the untapped potential of routine data for policy-relevant research in Uganda.”

Rogers strongly encourages others to apply for the fellowship.

“The fellowship offers exposure to top experts and a solid mentorship structure. If you’re committed to growing as a researcher, this is the place to be.”

His advice for future fellows is to collaborate early: “Work closely with your country team and mentors from the start.” Be adaptable, “Novel research areas can be challenging but with persistence and support, they’re also the most rewarding. Maximize mentorship: This

is a rare opportunity to be guided by some of Africa’s top research minds.”

While Rogers is still finalizing his manuscript for submission to Biomed Central (BMC): Conflict and Migration, he believes that future fellows would benefit from a more tailored approach to mentorship, one that recognizes their strengths early and provides continued motivation beyond the fellowship period.

“Celebrate progress and support potential. That’s how we’ll grow Africa’s next generation of public health leaders,” he concludes.



**Dr. Mamadou Abdoulaye  
R. Diallo, Guinea**

Dr. Mamadou Diallo joined the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship with a clear purpose, to help improve maternal and child health outcomes across Africa, beginning with his home country, Guinea. As a researcher at the National Institute of Public Health in Guinea, he was already immersed in public health issues but he saw the fellowship as a powerful opportunity to deepen his impact.

"I wanted to be part of the solution, to help strengthen reproductive health systems on the continent," he shared.

Guinea has one of the lowest rates of modern contraceptive use in West Africa, a fact that guided Mamadou's decision to focus his research on this critical issue. His study explored patterns and barriers surrounding modern contraceptive uptake among women of reproductive age, providing evidence for programs aimed at increasing coverage.

"The data show that access and education remain major challenges. Our policies need to be informed by this reality," he emphasized.

While his findings are still under review for publication, they are already informing discussions within national health institutions.

Throughout the program, Mamadou gained a comprehensive understanding of the research-to-action pipeline. From defining research questions to analyzing data and translating results into policy insights, he emerged with a stronger foundation in public health research methods, evidence-informed policymaking, reproductive health metrics, and scientific communication.

"I learned how to not only conduct research, but also how to transform that research into actionable change," he said.

The fellowship has been transformational for Dr. Diallo's academic and professional outlook. It reinforced his passion for reproductive health and inspired him to advocate for evidence-based interventions in maternal and child health across Guinea.

"This experience positively shaped my career direction. It has broadened my perspective and increased my motivation to drive policy change," he noted.

He highly recommends the fellowship, noting, "I recommend the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship to anyone who wants to become a skilled, impactful researcher in maternal and child health. It is one of the best investments for Africa's future."

His advice for future fellows is to be patient and absorb the training: "The content is rich and valuable. Take the time to understand it fully." Stay focused on impact. Your work will contribute to improving lives, never lose sight of that." Make use of mentorship. Mamadou emphasizes that the mentors are key to growth and learning.

In conclusion, Dr. Diallo notes, "The Countdown to 2030 Fellowship is one of the best ways to build a generation of skilled African researchers dedicated to maternal and child health. It is exactly what our continent needs."



**Juliet Gamuchirai  
Nyamasve, Zimbabwe**

Juliet Nyamasve's journey to the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship was grounded in a strong foundation of public health research and health economics. Before joining the program, she had already been involved in high-level work from costing health services and analyzing blood product logistics to mentoring students and shaping national data-driven health strategies at the University of Zimbabwe.

"I was already part of Zimbabwe's CD2030 country team and deeply invested in using data for action," she shared. "The fellowship

offered the structure, mentorship, and community I needed to sharpen those skills and step into a new space of policy impact."

Juliet's research focused on a critical barrier to care, user fees. She examined *the effects of fee removal policies on inequalities in maternal health service utilization, analyzing which population groups gained and which remained behind.*

"Financial barriers are among the most preventable obstacles to healthcare," she emphasized. "By applying an equity lens, I hoped to produce insights that inform more

inclusive policies especially as Zimbabwe explores national health insurance and results-based management."

The Countdown to 2030 Fellowship expanded Juliet's research and leadership toolkit. She advanced her STATA skills and huge data management, conducted geospatial and equity analysis, used global tools like the WHO Health Equity Toolkit and the CD2030 R Shiny application dashboard, strengthened scientific writing and completed a specialization in evaluating large-scale health programs from Johns Hopkins University, and sharpened her policy communication and stakeholder engagement.

"The fellowship is a gift that keeps on giving.

My thinking, analysis, and communication have all evolved," Juliet reflected.

Juliet's experience has been transformational. She now plays a leading role in operational research fellowships in Zimbabwe, showcasing how to scale and share knowledge. Her manuscript is in progress for submission to BMJ Global Health, and her CAM2024 policy brief added real-time value to national discussions.

"This experience pushed me into new spaces academically, professionally, and personally. I now contribute more meaningfully to national and global dialogues."

She highly recommends the fellowship noting "Absolutely. All those sleepless nights are

worth it when you see the growth. The skills I gained will last a lifetime."

Her advice to future fellows is to be brave, "Explore beyond your comfort zone. Stay engaged. Leverage the mentorship and community and focus on the impact. Your research has the power to shift policy and save lives."

She concludes that, "The Countdown to 2030 Fellowship has been a transformative experience. I'm incredibly grateful for the mentorship, technical guidance, and generous support I've received. With continuous refinement, this fellowship will remain a powerful catalyst for data-driven change across Africa."



**Dr. Chikondi Chapuma,**  
**Malawi**

When Dr. Chikondi Chapuma learned about the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship cohort 2 call for applications through a friend, she knew it aligned perfectly with her purpose. With over 8 years of experience in maternal health, and while pursuing a PhD in Global Health, she saw the fellowship as a platform to sharpen her research and amplify the lived realities of women in Malawi.

"The fellowship aligned with my career goals and came with a community of experts committed to supporting my growth, for free,"

she shared.

Dr. Chikondi's research explores the complex and often overlooked *link between maternal infections and health outcomes in Malawi*. Her motivation was deeply personal and grounded in years of clinical and field experience.

"The stories of women like aNatchathu, aNabanda, aNasibeko, and oNana who face septic miscarriages, traumatic pregnancies, and societal pressures remind me that

maternal health is not just clinical. It's cultural. It's structural. It's urgent."

Her research is a robust response to these stories translating lived realities into actionable evidence and advocacy.

The fellowship equipped Chikondi with a robust set of tools, including coverage and mortality analysis, equity in health, geospatial techniques, and systematic review and meta-analysis.

"I shifted from simply generating evidence to actively shaping interventions and partnerships that can save lives."

She currently has a manuscript under peer

review at BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, with two more in progress.

The Countdown to 2030 Fellowship has not only deepened Dr. Chapuma's technical expertise but also expanded her global network of maternal health champions. It has reshaped her professional focus from research to research with impact one that speaks to the needs of communities and drives policy conversations.

Her advice to future fellows is, "It's rare to have leading experts in your field take the time to listen to you. Come prepared, share boldly, and build connections that last beyond the

fellowship."

On whether she would recommend the fellowship to someone else, she notes, "Yes, in a heartbeat I would recommend this fellowship. It's transformative. With proper time management, you can balance it with your other commitments and come out empowered."



**Khaly Gueye,**  
**Senegal**

As a statistician at the Directorate of Maternal and Child Health within Senegal's Ministry of Health, Khaly Gueye works at the heart of reproductive health data. His motivation for joining the Countdown to 2030 Fellowship stemmed from a strong desire to extract and share the untapped insights hidden within national health datasets.

"These insights are crucial for reducing the burden of maternal deaths," Khaly noted. "I wanted to understand better and communicate what the numbers are telling us."

Khaly's fellowship research focused on *the impact of community-based health insurance schemes on maternal healthcare access*, a critical issue in Senegal, where maternal mortality remains at 153 per 100,000 live births, far above the national goal of 70 by 2030.

Between 2015 and 2019, the government invested over 100 billion CFA francs in expanding health insurance coverage through mutual schemes. Khaly's study aimed to evaluate whether this investment is effectively reducing barriers for women of reproductive age.

"Access to care is a recurring issue in maternal mortality. Understanding whether these schemes are making a difference is vital for accountability and future policymaking," he explained.

The fellowship introduced Khaly to key academic research principles, including rigorous methodological approaches from start to finish, enhanced academic communication, research structuring, and evidence translation for policy audiences.

"The training in how to conduct research from A to Z using a structured methodology made all the difference in how I approached my topic."

While his paper is still under review, BMC is one of the journals being considered for publication.

The fellowship has been transformative for Khaly's academic ambitions. With newly refined research skills and exposure to global best practices, he now plans to enroll in a PhD program a goal made more tangible by his experience in the fellowship.

"The Countdown fellowship helped me visualize and prepare for the next step in my academic journey."

He highly recommends the fellowship program, noting it offers an ideal environment to deepen your understanding of maternal health while building strong research skills. It's a true accelerator for professional growth.

His advice for future fellows is to start early, "Don't wait. Begin your research work immediately after your selection is confirmed. Be proactive with data needs as timely access

to data is critical. Anticipate and follow up early."

In conclusion, Khaly notes, "This fellowship is a vital initiative. It should be expanded to support more researchers—especially young professionals—and provide them with the opportunity to pursue doctoral studies. With the right support, we can turn data into impact and accelerate progress toward maternal health goals in Africa."



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