

MEET THE GENDER DATA MEDIA FELLOWS

2025/2026



About the Media Fellowship

The Data2X Media Fellowship on Gender Data for African Journalists, with support from the Gates Foundation, equips reporters from Sub-Saharan Africa to transform gender data into powerful stories that drive change.

Over one year, fellows receive hands-on training, mentorship, and opportunities to engage with policymakers and advocates, building the skills to produce high-quality, data-driven reporting that spotlights gender disparities, informs debate, and holds decision-makers accountable. By working with journalists to bridge the gap between evidence, communities, and policymakers, the fellowship strengthens the role of the media as a catalyst for gender equality and policy action.



**Winnie Kamau**

Kenya

Winnie is Head of the Association of Freelance Journalists (AFJ) and an experienced editor and data journalist passionate about data visualization through maps and infographics. She trains journalists and communicators in data journalism, AI in journalism, and mapping. A former Governing Board Member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative, she is Vice Chair of the Africa Internet Governance Forum MAG, advocating for an accessible, secure, and inclusive African internet ecosystem. She loves data—and people.

**William Abala**

Kenya

William is a journalist specializing in health and gender reporting, with a focus on SRHR and the intersection of health, human rights, and social justice. A graduate of Aga Khan University's Health Reporting program, he has produced impactful, data-driven stories through fellowships with the Thomson Reuters Foundation and Aga Khan University. He is also a member of the UNFCCC Youth Health Working Group, advocating for climate justice, primary healthcare, and youth engagement in health policy.

**Edyth Kambalame**

Malawi

Edyth is Bureau Chief for Nation Publications Limited in Malawi, is a seasoned journalist known for writing and editing impactful content that advances national development. She runs a weekly Weekend Nation column on gender equality, human rights, and development. An alumna of PRB's Women's Edition program, she holds a BA in Journalism and an MA in Gender and Media. Edyth champions journalism as a tool to empower communities and amplify women's and girls' perspectives in policymaking.

**Arafat Shaffick**

Uganda

Arafat is a journalist of Nubian descent born in Rwanda and raised in Uganda, began his media career at 19 as a news anchor and newsroom manager for the Youth Equality Centre. He later joined the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, before moving to NTV Uganda in 2019, where he advanced from assistant producer to producer of both the morning show and the flagship political program On the Spot. Alongside production, he reports on compelling human-interest stories

**Emmanuel Mulenga**

Zambia

Emmanuel is a media professional with over 18 years' experience, is Managing Partner at Ekot Radio, Mungwi District's first commercial station serving rural communities. He has led governance, health, and development initiatives with BBC Media Action, the EU-funded SGBV NATWAMPANE Project, and the SIDA-funded TIKAMBE SRHR Project. A seasoned mentor and trainer, he has delivered gender inclusion workshops, youth programming, and journalist training, using media to advance governance, health advocacy, youth empowerment, and gender equality.

**Ruth Butaumocho**

Zimbabwe

Ruth is a CNN award-winning journalist with 25 years of experience, is Operations Editor at Zimbabwe's largest converged media house, Zimpapers Group, managing 221 reporters across 11 publications, four radio stations, and a TV station. A gender and development trainer, she is a British Council and Women in News Accelerator alumna, and a mentor with the Tony Elumelu Foundation. She has led gender-focused media trainings, served on the boards of Gender Links and the Media Institute of Southern Africa, and judged national gender awards.