

MERCY ABUTSA

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EDUCATION

Cornell University, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Ithaca, NY
Masters in Global Development

Graduated May 2024

Concentration: Non-profit & NGO Management | **CGPA: 4.13/4.3**

Relevant Coursework: Environmental Governance, International Public & NGO Management, Evaluation of International Programs, Extension and Outreach, Youth Organization and Leadership, Issues in African Development

University of Jos, Nigeria

Graduated December 2019

Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communication

Second-Class Upper Division | **CGPA: 4.06/5.0**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | New York
Innovation Intern

June 2024 - September 2024

- Synthesized over ten (10) pieces of literature to identify best practices and approaches for equitable community engagement in freshwater conservation projects.
- Evaluated community and stakeholder engagement metrics to enhance equity integration in conservation projects across the Appalachian region.
- Conducted three focus group discussions with 18 TNC staff to identify motivations and approaches to equitable community engagement in freshwater conservation projects.
- Developed a report and slide decks with recommendations to support practitioners focused on equitable community engagement in freshwater projects.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | Remote
Communications and Engagement Intern

May 2024 - August 2024

- Developed scripts and guidance documents for the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Dialogue and Youth Hub at the SB60, ensuring alignment with the event agenda.
- Outlined objectives and engagement plans for COP29 President Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) strategy, amplifying 70% youth involvement in climate action.
- Performed assessment of ACE focal points, analyzing regional distributions and activities to inform decision-making for partnering UN agencies.
- Oversaw ACE communication platforms and website, driving public engagement and awareness around key activities, events, and International Day celebrations.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) | Abuja, Nigeria
Executive Assistant

August 2022 - July 2023

- Prepared inception reports for technical papers and established conceptual frameworks for donors and stakeholders, ensuring objectives were achieved within set timelines.
- Performed stakeholder mapping and engagement for a UNDP technical paper on Gender-Responsive Climate Action in Africa, managing data collection and validation processes.
- Analyzed 12 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from African countries to assess the integration of gender-responsiveness in climate policies.
- Co-wrote and reviewed grant proposals for alignment with funding requirements and strategic goals, successfully securing a \$50,000 grant from the World Economic Forum (WEF) and a €5,371 grant from GIZ.
- Supported inception and validation meetings for the Social Context Assessment of the Plastic Value Chain and prepared narrative reports to facilitate stakeholder engagement.
- Managed consultancy budgets and negotiated project deliverables to ensure efficiency for the WEP Global lead and other staff.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) | Abuja, Nigeria
Communications Assistant

July 2021 - August 2022

- Translated environmental and climate change policies into simplified, visual content for media distribution, enhancing climate literacy and engagement in Nigeria.
- Coordinated dialogue and communications among stakeholders for consultation on the Nigerian Climate Change Act (2021).
- Led organization of WEP Development Series and managed digital platforms, ensuring timely updates and achieving 90% audience engagement for key programs.

- Facilitated meetings and workshops in over 10 rural areas, guiding local stakeholders to understand climate change and adopt climate-smart practices.
- Drafted detailed reports from virtual and in-person events and workshops, significantly improving WEP's policy intervention and implementation efforts.
- Represented the organization at national and international climate consultations, amplifying its stance and programs to influence climate policies.

Word of Life Newspaper | Jos, Nigeria

May 2020 - July 2021

Staff Reporter

- Represented the newspaper at various development and peacebuilding events, ensuring multimedia coverage and preparing reports for publication.
- Crafted feature stories using an intersectional perspective to engage readers and create blog posts for online audiences.
- Coordinated meetings at the Dialogue, Reconciliation, and Peace Center (DREP) with Catholic priests to resolve ethno-religious conflict in Jos, Plateau state.
- Engaged with religious organizations to tackle the challenge of illiteracy and sought their intervention to enhance educational opportunities.

LEADERSHIP

Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizens (BKMC)

Youth AgriChampions 2024

- Researched best practices and developed a Youth Demand Paper on locally-led adaptation (LLA) for smallholder farmers in Africa, launched at the Africa Food Systems Summit.
- Served as COP29 Delegate – Panelist on three flagship events on Food Production and led advocacy on LLA for smallholder farmers.

International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) | Washington DC

Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit Volunteer

- Coordinated over 700 young African leaders and external stakeholders, answering questions, and providing helping hands to full-time staff ensuring seamless event management.

SKILLS

Proficient in: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), SharePoint, Canva, Zoom, Teams, and Data Management.

Expertise in Program Coordination, Communication & Engagement, Research and Analysis, Workshop/Event Planning, and Policy Analysis.

Technical Skills: Research, Grant & Report Writing, Result-based Management (RBM), Experience with online research databases, and Stakeholder Engagement.

Ability to: Pay Attention to details, Note-taking, and Manage Calendars for deadlines.

Conferences/Events

BKMC Delegate – 29th Conference of Parties (COP29)

- Speaker at Agri-Food System Summit – Climate Innovation Pavilion.
- Host for Hackathon session on Youth and Women for Climate-Resilient Agri-Food Systems.
- Panelist on Local food production and regional collaboration to support stability and peacebuilding.
- Panelist on Investing in agricultural innovation: mobilizing climate finance to support smallholder farmer

Liberian Studies Association 55th annual conference

- Panelist on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Poverty.

- United Nations General Assembly – Summit of the Future

- United Nations Youth ECOSOC Forum 2024

- Imagining Just Environmental and Climate Futures in Africa.

- WEP Delegate COP27.

- National Conference on Climate Change Nigeria, Beyond Cop27.

- Consultative Workshop on Nigeria Climate Change Act 2021.

- Climate Justice and Economic Resilience Project for Rural Women Farmers in Nigeria.