

**Conference Guidebook** 



Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2018 Omprakash Partner Conference in Accra, Ghana!

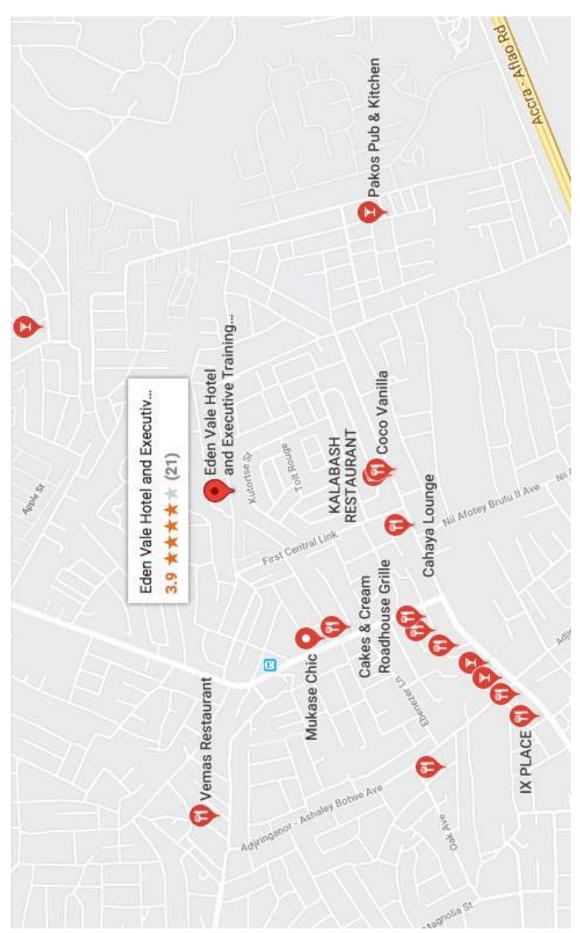
This is the 4th Omprakash Partner Conference, and the first to be held within Africa. With representatives in attendance from 14 countries, this is by far the most nationally diverse conference we have hosted thus far. It is a privilege to work within a global network of inspired and inspiring organizations and individuals.

We look forward to working, learning, and laughing during these 4 days together as we deepen our collective commitment to pushing beyond superficial efforts at 'charity' and striving for deeper processes of social change. Thank you for traveling from near and far to be here!

With gratitude, The Omprakash Team







There are plenty of restaurants within walking distance of Eden Vale!



# **Important Contact Information**

#### **Eden Vale Hotel and Executive Centre**

Eric Abang Amewuda Street Adjiringano, East Legon, Accra +233-30-251-5025

#### **Omprakash Admins WhatsApp**

Alex: +1-518-637-9272

Willy: +1-203-554-0350

Steve: +1-410-236-5855

# Help to Grow our Network!

Do you know of other peer organizations that would benefit from joining the Omprakash network?

Direct them to:

www.omprakash.org/become-a-partner



# Social Media Sharing & Photo Contest



# #OmprakashInAccra

When you share moments from the conference on social media, please use this hashtag!

After the conference, we will be selecting the best photo taken by a Partner and tagged with #OmprakashInAccra

The winning Partner will receive a surprise gift from Omprakash!





5:00 PM Welcome Reception @ Eden Vale

#### 6:00 PM Dinner @ Eden Vale



We welcome one participant from each Partner organization to come prepared to share a brief introduction of themselves and their work.



#### 7:30 AM Breakfast @ Eden Vale



#### 9:00 AM Intro: Problems and Possibilities for 'Doing Good' Across Differences

#### 9:15 AM Crowdsourced Introductory Session: Sharing Challenges

We welcome one participant from each Partner to share a brief story from their own experience. The story should illustrate a challenge you have encountered in the process of hosting volunteers, interns, or other visitors from a different context who arrive with an intention to make a positive impact.

#### 10:45 AM Coffee & Tea Break



#### 11:15 AM Roundtable: Exploring Different Program Models

In small groups, we will explore the implications of the following four program models and structures: <u>placements vs. direct recruitment</u> | <u>req'd fees vs.</u> <u>suggested donations vs. free</u> | <u>individuals vs. group</u> | <u>short-term vs. long-term</u>

#### 12:45 PM Lunch @ Eden Vale



#### 1:30 PM Unstructured Time: networking, brainstorming, etc.

#### 2:30 PM Panel & Large Group Discussion: Exploring Different Program Models

Representatives from each of the morning's small groups will form a panel to share insights and guide discussion with the larger group.

#### 4:00 PM Coffee & Tea Break



#### 4:30 PM Round Robin Workshops

Small groups of participants will rotate through scenario-based explorations of three Omprakash functionalities relevant to managing volunteers: <u>creating positions</u> | <u>reviewing applications & interviewing candidates</u> | <u>establishing Work Plan Agreements.</u>

#### 6:00 PM Dinner @ Eden Vale





# Saturday September 29th

7:30 AM	Breakfast @ Eden Vale			
9:00 AM	Intro: Social Service vs. Social Change			
9:15 AM	Scenario: Am I Doing Enough?			
	See Guidebook p. 9			
10:45 AM	Coffee & Tea Break			
11:15 AM	Roundtable: How do we move from 'service' to 'raising consciousness'?			
	Participants will be invited to discuss possibilities for 'consciousness raising' in their own work and the work of peer organizations, and to develop action plans for deepening their work. What does 'impact' look like in such efforts?			
12:45 PM	Lunch @ Eden Vale			
1:30 PM	Exercise: what we need & what we can offer			
2:30 PM	Scenarios: culture, power, and privilege			
	See Guidebook p. 10-12			
4:00 PM	Coffee & Tea Break			
4:30 PM	Round Robin Workshops			
	Small groups of participants will rotate through explorations of Custom EdGE, dealing with frustrated volunteers, and building effective fundraising campaigns.			
6:00 PM	Dinner independently (explore the area!)			





7:30 AM				
9:00 AM				
9:15 AM	Polyvocality Workshop			
	Participants will be invited to share how they document a range of voices and perspectives in different aspects of their work. To what extent can non-local actors such as Omprakash volunteers play a meaningful role in this work?			
10:45 AM	Coffee & Tea Break			
11:15 AM	Large Group Discussion: New Directions for Omprakash?			
12:15 PM	Closing Reflections			
12:45 PM	Lunch @ Eden Vale			
Then	Safe travels home & continual dialogue and partnership for social change!			



# **Session Scenarios**

We are excited to host a conference that does not feature lectures or 'experts' at a podium in front of the room. Instead, we want all participants to engage in exploring the nuances of each other's work across contexts. All of our sessions will revolve around group conversation. Across multiple sessions we will discuss the hypothetical scenarios detailed below. We hope you're ready to dive into these fun and tricky conversations!

# Scenario 1: Am I Doing Enough?

#### For discussion on Saturday AM

Suppose your organization supports the work of a local school that is housed in a worn-out old building with no heat or electricity, and the roof leaks whenever it rains. The school is run by the government, and students do not need to pay any tuition fees, but they do need to pay for books and uniforms. The government-paid teachers show up for work most days, but they often appear overwhelmed and under-prepared while trying to teach unruly students of mixed ages who are crammed into crowded classrooms.

You are currently hosting two different foreign volunteers, who have both been working as volunteer teaching aides for the past six weeks.

One day, the first volunteer, Amy, excitedly tells you that she has started a crowdfunding campaign with the goal of raising enough money to put a new roof on the building. Amy's friends and family back home have already donated over a thousand dollars, and she is optimistic that the money will keep coming in, especially if she continues uploading photos of herself with local children to the fundraising page. She knows that a new roof won't fix all of the problems with this school, but she is hopeful that if her fundraiser is really successful, she might be able to pay for an entirely new classroom in addition to the new roof. Moreover, Amy insists that "a little help is better than nothing," and she is proud to be doing her small part in helping to redistribute resources from her wealthy home community to a relatively poor community.

When you meet the second volunteer, Beatrice, later that day, she is more conflicted about her role. Alongside her volunteer teaching responsibilities, Beatrice has been conducting community-based research in an effort to understand the deeper forces that shape the education system in your local context...



# Scenario 1: Am I Doing Enough? (cont'd)

#### For discussion on Saturday AM

...She has interviewed parents and students, studied the country's official education policies, and reviewed local test scores and enrolment rates over the past decade. She also helped to organize a community event where local residents came to share food and discuss some of their own educational experiences and their frustrations with the current system. The outcome of all of this work has left her feeling much more skeptical of her ability to make an impact. "The more I learn," Beatrice says, "the more I realize that the problems with the local school are rooted in decades of poor governance and misguided policy." She is aware of Amy's crowdfunding campaign, and she admits to feeling a bit jealous. "I really want to make an impact," she says, "and I just don't feel like I'm doing enough."

As the organization's director, you feel conflicted — on the one hand, Amy's fundraising campaign would raise much-needed funds and would help to spread the word about your organization to a wider audience. On the other hand, you realize that the fundraising campaign would have a limited impact, and would leave larger systemic issues completely unaddressed: parents would continue to struggle to pay for the necessary books and uniforms, teachers would still be overworked and underpaid, and the students would still struggle to learn in an overcrowded and under-resourced school.

What advice would you offer to Amy? Would you promote her fundraiser throughout your communication channels, and encourage your donor base to support this cause? How would you respond to the concerns of Beatrice? What advice or support would you offer her?

## **Scenario 2: Corporal Punishment**

#### For discussion on Saturday PM

Jed is an American volunteer you are hosting as a teaching assistant at a local school supported by your organization. Some teachers at this school use corporal punishment as a way to discipline students. When students misbehave in class or do not complete their homework, the teacher strikes them across the hands with a wooden stick.

One day, Jed comes to you distressed after witnessing this taking place in one of his classes. Apparently, when he mentioned something after class to the teacher, she simply told him, "you must understand: this is our culture."

Unsatisfied with the teacher's response, Jed decided to speak to the school's principal. He explained to the principal that, as an undergraduate student in psychology, he is convinced that this practice has a damaging effect upon the students' mental health. Jed reports back to you that the principal just laughed and said "Nonsense! These kids don't have the luxury of being coddled like children in America. They have to do well in school or they will never have any opportunities."

Jed is upset with the responses of the teacher and the principal, and he's looking to you for support. How do you respond to Jed?



#### Scenario 3: Culture and Power

#### For discussion on Saturday PM

You are the director of an organization in a context where some women attend university and pursue professional careers, but most women are primarily mothers and homemakers. The domestic work of cooking, cleaning, and caring for children is widely considered 'women's work,' and the concept of a 'stay-at-home father' is non-existent.

Your organization is currently hosting two American volunteers, Jake and Candace, who are supervised by a male staff member on your team, Michael. One day, the supervisor Michael invites Jake and Candace over to his house for dinner with his wife and daughter, Michaelle and Grace. At the end of the meal when Michaelle and Grace start cleaning up, Jake and Candace both get up to help clear the table. Michael gestures for Jake to sit back down and says "No, no Jake, please sit. I'd like to talk strategy about tomorrow's community outreach event."

Jake stutters, unsure what to do as he awkwardly makes eye contact with Candace. After a pause, Jake hands his plate to Candace and sits back down. Candace was not involved in planning the next day's community outreach event, and she would feel bad if she didn't help out. Still, she can't help but feel the divide as 2 men chat at the table while 3 women clean the dishes.

A few days later, Candace brings it up with Jake and asks for his reflections. Jake admits that it felt a little strange. "But Michael wasn't trying to be rude," Jake tells Candace. "He was just trying to strategize about the community outreach event, and you weren't involved in planning the event. But anyway, you could have just sat back down and he wouldn't have cared."

Candace thinks that Jake is missing the point. "Do you not notice all the gender discrimination around here?" Candace asks Jake.

Jake says, "A little, but honestly it seems pretty similar to back home in Georgia, don't you think? I think the differences are just cultural. The culture here is a just a little behind our culture back home. Our job is to help them catch up. Maybe you should have said something to Michael in the moment. Or we could still bring it up with him."

Candace comes into your office the next day and tells you the story. She doesn't want you to punish anyone. She just wants your perspective. Is this a cultural misunderstanding? Is she being too sensitive? Would you suggest that Candace and Jake address this with Michael directly?



# Scenario 4: Dwelling in Inequality

#### For discussion on Saturday PM

You have recently accepted an intern, Elizabeth, who will be coming to work at your community center, which is located in a low-income neighborhood. When Elizabeth asks about accommodation options, you present two possible homestay options.

The first option is to stay with a family that lives in the low-income neighborhood where the community center is located. In this case, you explain to Elizabeth that she would be eating simple food with the family, using a bucket shower, and would not have access to the internet while at home.

The second homestay option is with a family that lives in a comfortable apartment in the adjacent middle-income neighborhood. Given that this family is more well-off, they have a more varied diet, a hot shower, and wifi at home.

You explain to Elizabeth that both homestay options are relatively safe — the organization has never experienced an issue with interns staying at either one — and the cost would be the same.

Elizabeth is having a hard time deciding which of the two options to choose, and she asks your opinion. "It would be great to have hot showers and wifi," she says, "but I don't think I'd sleep at night knowing I'm living like a queen compared to the people I'm working with every day."

However, she explains to you that her parents are worried about the first option. Even if it's safe, they are worried that she will get sick if she has to take cold showers and eat simple foods. As she explains to you, her parents believe that Elizabeth is already sacrificing by "going over to Africa" to help your organization. Plus, her parents pointed out that staying in a poor neighborhood isn't going to change the fact that she's relatively rich and they are poor.

How do you respond to Elizabeth and the perspective of her parents? What would you suggest?

#### Scenario 5: A Different Environmentalism

#### For discussion on Saturday PM

You are hosting a volunteer, Patrick, who calls himself an 'environmentalist,' and tries to avoid buying bottled / bagged water whenever possible. However, one day during a field visit with several members of your team, he has to buy some bottled water.

After Patrick drinks the water, he asks how to dispose of the empty bottle, and one of your coworkers replies that he can just toss it on the ground. Everyone can see that he's visibly uncomfortable with the idea.

One co-worker chuckles and says, "You foreigners are so funny, always worrying about trash in the streets. Can't you see that the real issues here are poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition?"

Another of your team members chimes in, "You flew thousands of miles on a plane to get here, which causes so much environmental damage, and now you're worried about one little bottle?!"

How would you react if you were part of this discussion?



# Look who showed up!

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS
HAVE GATHERED FROM
14 COUNTRIES

W/ REPRESENTATIVES FROM



Thank you for making the journey!



# **Participant Index**

Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame	Africa ICT Right	Ghana	. 18
Paul Bahati Bebin Kithima	Bondeko RLC	Uganda	23
Solomon Owusu-Amankwaah	BGCF	Ghana	. 19
Padmore Quansah	CLED	Ghana	. 20
Moses Dickson	CLED	Ghana	. 20
Michael Nyanko	CLED	Ghana	. 20
Anthony Mensah	CLED	Ghana	. 20
Joshua Machinga	Common Ground for Africa	Kenya	. 15
Brinner Malanga	Common Ground for Africa	Kenya	. 15
Joshua Adrian Malunga	DIN Malawi	Malawi	. 16
Kyobe Shadrak	EACO Uganda	Uganda	. 27
Smith Tukahirwa	ENVENTURE	Uganda	. 19
James Osei-Yeboah	HCDP	Ghana	. 26
Anku Richard Effe	HCDP	Ghana	. 26
John Bolingo Ntahira	Hope of Children and Women	Uganda	18
Teresia Mwangi	Int'l Transformation Found	Kenya	. 21
Bonnie Nyambura	Int'l Transformation Found	Kenya	
Dohon Edoh	JVE	Togo	28
Alouka Sena	JVE	Togo	28
Aluora Luttah	JVE	Togo	28
Esther Kyazike	Kawempe Youth Centre	Uganda	
Duncan Nzangi	Light of Hope Youth Initiative	Kenya	
Ako Peter Agbor	Meg Wah (My Earth)	Cameroon	
Remigius Mushenga	Ngerengere River Eco Camp	Tanzania	
Silvanus Remigius Mushenga	Ngerengere River Eco Camp	Tanzania	
Jules Leaño	Omprakash	Germany	
Renee Barron	Omprakash	USA	
Lydia Howe	Omprakash	USA	32
Willy Oppenheim	Omprakash	USA	. 31
Alex Knott	Omprakash	Canada	. 31
Steve Sclar	Omprakash	USA	31
Esi Asare Prah	Omprakash (EdGE)	Ghana	. 33
Ishan Sood	Omprakash (EdGE)	USA	. 33
Jacqueline Vel	Pastoral Women's Council	Tanzania	. 16
Emmanuel Yamoah	Patriots Ghana	Ghana	. 22
Oppong Nyantaki	Patriots Ghana	Ghana	. 22
Douglas Opoku Agyeman	Patriots Ghana	Ghana	. 23
Winter Luc	Rajepre	Haiti	. 26
Joseph Wilnis	Rajepre	Haiti	. 27
Brandon Assoumani Niyibizi	RVCP	Rwanda	19
Jeny Pokharel	Samrakshak Samuha Nepal	Nepal	25
Davis Wafula	SAPCONE	Kenya	17
Thomas Amoni	SAPCONE	Kenya	. 17
Michele Raggio	SeedScience / Patriots Ghana	Italy	30
Derek Wultof	SOPISDEW	Cameroon	24
Tah Kennette Konsum	SOPISDEW	Cameroon	24
Anu Taranath	University of Washington	USA	30
Pape Momar Sow	USAID West Africa	Ghana	30
Santigie Bayo Dumbuya	We Yone Child Foundation	Sierra Leone	27
Philip Darko	WPD Ghana	Ghana	. 29
Cynthia Asare Kena	WPD Ghana	Ghana	. 29
Emmanuel Edem	WPD Ghana	Ghana	. 29





#### Joshua Machina

#### Common Ground for Africa | Kenya

Joshua Amwai Machinga is an Agronomist, businessman, politicians and entrepreneur in Kenya, the largest economy in the East African Community. He worked as consultant for World Bank/ODA with Kenya Indigenous Forest Conservation. He is the current Chief Executive Officer for Common Ground for Africa and Founding Director for Lenana Girls High School, a state of the art, and girls boarding high school providing world class Kenyan education. Driven by leadership, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation, the high school serves talented, but economically disadvantaged girls with demonstrable leadership potential in East Africa. He has stated that discipline is a key component that he acquired while studying in United States, and is critical to both his and his students' success. Mr. Machinga is also well known for placing students from varied backgrounds into universities in the United States, especially University of California, Santa Cruz. While responding to interview with Nation media, this is what Machinga had to say, "Apart from maintaining the school as a giant Academic institution, Lenana Girls High School has won both National and Pan African Awards. I placed 100% of our students into public universities with full government funding". Mr. Joshua Machinga is also the current Secretary of Education Board of North West Kenya Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.



# **Brinner Malanga**

Common Ground for Africa | Kenya

Brinner Nekesa Malanga is a Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology graduate with a Bachelors of Education degree and also holds a certificate in Special Education. She has had an honor of teaching Kakamega Boys National School. Besides being the Hospitality Staff at Common Ground for Africa (CGA), she teaches Kiswahili and CRE at Kiungani Secondary School. She honestly says it was one of the best decisions she ever made! She loves being part of a teaching staff that provides creative, engaging and immersive learning experiences for the students in her school. She taught for two years at Kiungani Secondary before taking on the role of HOD. Within this role, she now coordinates Kiswahili which is one of her favorite part of her job. It gives her a valid excuse to immerse herself in amazing literature, written both by published authors and the students at Kiungani!



## **Esther Kyazike**

Kawempe Youth Centre | Uganda

Esther Kyazike is a librarian by profession and the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Kawempe Youth Centre (KYC) Uganda which is located in Kawempe division, Kampala. KYC, empowers young people with information and soft skills for improved education and livelihoods through Information and education, ICT4Development, Community Outreach and volunteer and internship programs.



Accra, Ghana | Sep 27-30



# Joshua Adrian Malunga

Development Initiative Network | Malawi

Joshua Adrian Malunga is the Program Coordinator for Development Initiative Network (DIN) Malawi in Chikwawa district, Malawi. Joshua has completed an advanced diploma in Public Health and a degree in Rural and Community Development from Skyway University. Joshua has previously worked as a Gender Officer and later HIV/AIDS Project Officer for the Nancholi Youth Organization until 2015. Currently, Joshua oversees 7 projects for DIN Malawi covering everything from Gender Issues to HIV/AIDS psychosocial support groups. He is also responsible for monitoring and evaluation for DIN Malawi. As Program Coordinator, Joshua plans the projects on a daily basis and is responsible for task delegation. Joshua also coordinates the international volunteer program and manages communication with other NGOs in Malawi. Joshua has attended several trainings including Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender Issues, Advocacy Policy, and Resource Mobilization and Proposal Development from the World University Service of Canada as well as Sexual Reproductive Health Rights from Blantyre District Health Office and the University of Glasgow. Joshua currently lives in Chikwawa with his wife, Joyce, and their daughter.



# **Anderson Frey Billiat**

Development Initiative Network | Malawi

He has the following qualifications: Advanced Diploma in Business Administration, Certificate of Journalism, Worked as Administrator at Chikwawa Private Secondary School, Trained in Project Management, Trained in Resource Mobilization, Experience in HIV/AIDS programs and Trained in community Based Organization Management. He has over 5 years' experience in the management of NGO projects and programme both local and International organizations. He is responsible for overseeing project implementation and he is responsible for final project performance evaluation on behalf of the entire management.



## Jacqueline Vel

Pastoral Women's Council | Tanzania

As a management consultant with a technology background, I am inspired by the power of individuals and community, by justice and by cross-cultural understanding. Experienced in business development, communications and project management I help organizations and individuals realize their potential and their dreams. From non-profits promoting women's rights, entrepreneurial skills and education for under-served women in remote communities, to social enterprises and for-profits expanding technology and business boundaries, I strive every day to make a sustainable difference in the lives of many.



#### **Thomas Amoni**

SAPCONE | Kenya

Mr. Amfry Amoni has spent his professional life serving his community in different positions, capacities, and institutions. He is a community advocate and organizer who believes that allyship and solidarity, equitable distribution and sharing of resources across communities as well as accountability and transparency in leadership would break the conflict trap and make his community stronger. He is the Executive Director of SAPCONE a non-profit organization that is striving to promote coexistence, access to education, peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods among the communities of Turkana County in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. He earned his Masters in Business Administration and Economics from Kibabii University in 2017 and a Bachelor of Arts in Project Planning and Management from University of Nairobi (UoN) in 2011. As an advocate and community organizer, Amfry has engaged Civil Society Organisations, local government leaders and the community members on several important issues and policies in the course of his profession. He believes in the essential wisdom, leadership, and potential of resilient communities in forging solutions for their problems. He is experienced in project management, human resource management, project monitoring and evaluation which also explain his skills in developing project monitoring and evaluation tools and frameworks.



**Davis Wafula**SAPCONE | Kenya



## **Duncan Nzangi**

Light of Hope Youth Initiative | Kenya

My name is Duncan Nzangi, The Founder and Director of Light of Hope Youth Initiative International. My mission is to create and build strong communities where young people and women can have a voice in their own communities. As I echo the words of Late Nelson Mandela that "Education is the most powerful weapon to give a child" my ultimate goal is a world where young people have the right to education and brighter future, despite their gender, race, co lour, religion hence become responsible and active citizens in developing their communities.





**Bolingo Ntahira John** 

Hope of Children and Women | Uganda

I am 42 years old born in Democratic of Congo currently Refugee in Uganda working with Hope of Children and Women Victims of Violence.



## Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame

Africa ICT Right | Ghana

Daniel Kwaku Ganyoame is the Founder and Executive Director of Africa ICT Right (AIR), an Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-oriented nonprofit organization that empowers underserved communities in Ghana through technology. He is a Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and Unleash SDG Innovation Lab program alumni.



**Ako Peter Agbor** 

Meg Wah | Cameroon

I have always had a love affair with the environment, ever since growing up in my village in Tali1 community, South West region of Cameroon. As an adventurous 12-year-old I used to hunt bush meat and grow vegetables for my family. I loved to interact with nature and was always curious about what it had to offer. However, for members of my family that love affair was better as a passing interest than an actual career. They wanted me to have a whitecollar job and they knew the perfect one; medicine. When I was 14, I noticed how Caterpillars and chain saws were chopping our forest down. We started experiencing water shortages, soil infertility and I could not have my normal dreams again because the habitats of these animals have been destroyed. From that moment I knew what I would do: I would become a doctor of the environment. I studied Environmental Sciences in the University of Buea, Cameroon. This helped me connect the dots of my experience with nature during my childhood. During this time, I and a few friends set up an organisation to clean up the environment and educate other students about the benefits of the same. My growing concern for nature protection and the quest for empowerment to me to Kanthari International Training institute for social visionaries in India where I was equipped with the skills needed to jump fully into living my dreams. Our daily activities in one way or the other contributes to degrading the environment. It is my greatest wish that we all join hands to ensure the sustainability of our planet.





#### Solomon Owusu-Amankwaah

Bright Generation Community Foundation | Ghana

Solomon is a young scientist with an abiding interest in driving stronger linkages between science, technology and societal development. He has a rich working life in a number of local and international development agencies and organizations where he has contributed immensely to project development and implementation. As the Director of Development for Bright Generation, his leadership has led to award of several high-stake projects in several regions of Ghana in the areas of education, environment and agriculture. He is pursuing his MPhil in Cell & Molecular Biology.



**Smith Tukahirwa** 

ENVENTURE | Uganda

Smith has over 5 years of experience in varied assignments (both technical and managerial) in the energy sector of Uganda. He holds a bachelors in Electrical engineering from Makerere University and is passionate about community transformation.



# Brandon Assoumani Niyibizi

Rwanda Village Community Promoters | Rwanda

I am NIYIBIZI Assoumani Brandon, a pharmacy student at the University of Rwanda currently helping the community through Rwanda Village community promoters as a director of the program. I am motivated to find an innovative solution to pressing challenges in the community. I joined RVCP Since 2016 there I developed a new sense of communication, leadership, and gained experience in volunteering. I partook different position including Project leader and Vice coordinator. My purpose is to increase the running projects in order to have a further reach and help more vulnerable communities to be healthy. Through the multidisciplinary team of volunteers and their diversity gives us the advantage to achieve lots. Serving RVCP is an honor and a privilege for me, It is not only a community of young leaders and change makers but also a community of students who are committed to helping the lives of the underprivileged.





Padmore Quansah

Campaign for Learning Disabilities | Ghana

Padmore holds a bachelor degree in Special Education and Home Economics from University of Education, Winneba. Currently reading Master of Philosophy in Special Education. He is a Special Education Clinician, Certified Irlen Screener and Founder & Executive Director of Campaign For Learning Disabilities-CLED Ghana. Padmore is a Member, International Dyslexia Association and International Association of Special Education. His interest is researching, designing interventions, and support services for children with learning differences and disabilities, their parents and educators.



**Anthony Mensah** 

Campaign for Learning Disabilities | Ghana

Mr. Mensah holds Bachelor of Education in Special Education Major and Physical Education Minor. He currently has a Master of Philosophy in Special Education at University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. Mr. Mensah is a resource teacher at St. Peter's Anglican Basic School.



**Moses Dickson** 

Campaign for Learning Disabilities | Ghana

Moses is a Senior High Art Graduate with dyscalculia and he provides assistant at CLED office. Moses also has been trained to assist with screening and supporting children with learning disabilities. Moses is currently studying Diploma in Communication Studies at Ghana Institute of Journalism, Accra.



Michael Nyanko

Campaign for Learning Disabilities | Ghana

Michael is a High School graduate with certificate in General Art and he has been trained as a Project Assistant. He joined CLED because CLED's services have benefitted his younger sister.





# Teresia Mwangi

International Transformation Foundation | Kenya

Teresia has been in charge of project implementation and volunteers since joining International Transformation Foundation. Helping others is what drives her and because of this, she works part- time with masaai girls who ran away from home due to early marriage. She is keen on networking and travelling around the world meeting different people and learning new cultures.



## **Bonnie Nyambura**

International Transformation Foundation | Kenya

Bonnie Kim is a Highly Sought After Global Leading Corporate Trainer, Global Conference & Seminar Speaker. Award Winning International Motivational Speaker who has Spoken in 3 Continents & 9 Countries (Europe, North America & Africa) (Italy, Germany, USA, Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya). He has Spoken in the United Nations as opening Keynote Address Speaker 2018 during 24th Annual MSMUN Conference. Guest Speaker during 7th Annual Conference at Kenya Institute of Management at Whitesands Beach Hotel in Mombasa in June 2018 among other leading conferences. Has worked with leading Multi National Organizations, Top Corporate, Government Institutions, Non Government Institutions, Education Institutions and Religious Institutions around the Globe with amazing feedbacks from his repetitive clients. He is a member of Rotary Club of Kikuyu, District 9212 in Kenya serving as Vice President / Club Administration Chairman. Currently pursuing my PhD in Christian Counseling at Landmark Baptist Theological Seminary. Holds a Masters Degree, Masters of Arts (MA) in Christian Counseling and Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Counseling from Landmark Baptist Theological Seminary, Texas State, United States of America (USA), Higher Diploma in Business Management from Association of Business Executive from United Kingdom (ABE - UK) Level 4, Level 5 & Level 6. Certified Professional Trainer from Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM-Kenya). He is currently serving Chairman -Board of Directors at International Transformation Foundation, an International NGO which has won several Global Awards.





#### **Emmanuel Yamoah**

Patriots Ghana | Ghana

Emmanuel has 4 years of leadership experience in the non-profit sector. He is currently the National Projects Manager of Patriots Ghana and mainly responsible for developing and implementing interventions that create equitable financial and social freedom for women and youths in rural communities. He has experience working with organizations such as the Danish Youth Council (DUF), Africa Online Volunteering Service, Cheerful Hearts Foundation, among others. He is an alumnus of President Obama's YALI Regional Leadership Centre Nigeria Cohort 3 and completed a certificate program in civic leadership. He also has a certificate in International Projects Management from DUF and has a bachelors degree in social work. He is good at working with young people, teaching, and his personal interests are go-karting and listening to music.



## **Oppong Nyantaki**

Patriots Ghana | Ghana

Oppong Nyantakyi is the Education Project Coordinator for Patriots Ghana. He is also the Education Project Manager and Volunteers Coordinator for Cheerful Hearts Foundation. Oppong works closely with schools in rural communities to improve the standard of teaching and learning to ensure quality education. He is passionate about rural community development, youth and women empowerment and volunteering. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in Economics at the Methodist University College in 2014 He became the founder and president of the Methodist University College (MUCG) chapter of Patriots Ghana. He performed his role as a leader to encourage, motivate and engaged youth in volunteering and rural community development. Following his passion for rural community development, Oppong interned with Cheerful Hearts Foundation(CHF) in 2012 on the Stop Child Labour and Trafficking project working closely with victims of child labour and trafficking in fishing communities. He worked as a supervisor and conducted interviews for a community research on child labour and trafficking. He continued to intern and volunteer with CHF in 2013 and 2014. He also served as an assistant project coordinator on the Public Health project of CHF which he assisted to conduct a research on nutrition and educated people to help improve nutrition in rural communities. In 2016, Oppong participated in a workshop by the Ghana Education Service under the USAID partnership for education project with the theme LEARNING and served as a facilitator in training School Management Committees(SMC's).



Accra, Ghana | Sep 27-30



## **Douglas Opoku Agyeman**

Patriots Ghana | Ghana

Douglas Opoku Agyeman is the public health project coordinator of Patriots Ghana. He is currently a student of the University of Ghana Business School offering Master of Philosophy in Marketing and a student of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management Studies from the University of Cape Coast. During his national service, he served as a teaching assistant in the Management Studies Department of Cape Coast University. Douglas is passionate about improving the social condition of his community and country. While at the university, Douglas founded the Patriots Ghana Chapter of the University of Cape Coast with two other dedicated students with the sole aim of promoting selfless leadership and volunteerism by engaging students in rural community development initiatives. After his 3 year term of leadership service, he recruited over 50 students who were engaged in several community development projects. He initiated the Patriots Reading project to help improve educational standards and reading habits after his research on the Fallen Standards of Education in Cape Coast Metropolis, 2013. Douglas worked with his team to organize a number of public health awareness campaigns in Junior High Schools and provided student volunteers who support the Ghana Health Services' national immunization programs. Out of his selfless and committed leadership qualities, he was selected among the only two Ghanaian who lead a community development initiative for the Hong Kong University in very deprived communities in the Northern and Ashanti regions of Ghana. Douglas also had the opportunity to work as an intern on the Cheerful Hearts Foundation's, Public Health and Child Labour and Trafficking Project in 2013 to 2015.



#### Paul Bahati Bebin Kithima

Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Center | Uganda

Paul is a refugee living in Kampala/Uganda. He survived torture and sexual violence from the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2012 due to his political opinions. In 2013 he joined the Men Of Hope Refugee Association, and started fighting against Sexual Violence in conflict zones with the support of the Refugee Law Project/School of Makerere University. From 2013 to 2015 he worked as outreach officer at Refugees United an online family tracing. In 2015 he became a volunteer at Interaid/UNHCR Uganda and later became a Community Extension worker for the same organization. Since 2016 he's training Ugandan Army officers, Police officers and UGABAG (Uganda Battle Group deployed for peacekeeping in Somalia) on the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in conflict. On 30th June 2018 he was appointed as the Director of the Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Center.



Accra, Ghana | Sep 27-30



#### Tah Kennette Konsum

SOPISDEW | Cameroon

Tah is a motivated professional science teacher with 12 years of teaching experience with the Cameroon Ministry of Secondary Education. He has spent the last six years volunteering for community development. He works passionately in advancing community empowerment by promoting local and global sustainable development through volunteering and participation. He is co-founder and volunteer as Executive Director of a Community Organization called Society for the Promotion of Initiatives in Sustainable Development and Welfare (SOPISDEW) with mission to empower people and communities. He is engaged in the constant innovation of a tool in the management of the teaching profession for sustainable development through a program called Education for Innovation and Sustainable Development (EISD). The tool is called Innovative Methodology Practice Applied for Community Teaching (IMPACT). The objective of this tool is to enable teachers become the drivers of positive change in the community, not just primarily changing the lives of the pupils and students. IMPACT adds significant value to teaching by engaging teachers to be fully involved in holistic community development. Communities are often very dynamic He believes that while lessons are given in the classroom to offer adaptation skills in facing the community, it is essential for lessons to be delivered in the community to promote sustainable community resilience in the face of the always dynamic community challenges. He teaches children in the classroom and also teaches and empowers the community about Climate Change, HIV/AIDS, Peace and Security, Female Genital Mutilation, and other emerging global problems. He is a member of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Network, YALI West Africa Alumni.



#### **Derek Wultof**

SOPISDEW | Cameroon

Derek Wultof holds a bachelor's degree in English language and linguistics from the University of Dschang in Cameroon since 2012. He has been volunteering with SOPISDEW Cameroon NGO for five years as a program coordinator. He Develops and implements programs that align with SOPISDEWs mission and support the organization's goals. His love for environmental protection issues has caused his community to trust and have entrusted him to lead his community as a community forest management officer. Derek has receive training with international recognized organizations like National Endowment for Democracy (NED) Washington DC on peace building and an entrepreneurial coach His interests include the role of leadership, gender, youth entrepreneurship and involvement in community development and the UN SDGs.





Remigius Mushenga

Ngerengere River Eco Camp | Tanzania

School board chairperson Ubena secondary school 2015 to date

School board member Gwata secondary school in Morogoro 2013 to date

Executive director Ngerengere River Eco camp/tour and Environmental services-Pwani/Morogoro Tanzania 2006 to date

Vice chairperson for the Ubena Ranch primary school committee 2013 to date



Silvanus Remigius Mushenga

Ngerengere River Eco Camp | Tanzania



Jeny Pokharel

Samrakshak Samuha Nepal (SASANE) | Nepal

Ms. Jeny Pokharel is a project coordinator at Samrakshak Samuha Nepal (SASANE), where she coordinates the entire project which comprises of important and major focused project like the paralegal training program, advocacy activities & anti-trafficking awareness raising activities. Ms. Jeny has worked with foreign donors working on eradicating human trafficking and child marriage engaging female survivors of violence and trafficking. She has been working closely with Nepal Police and also local government level stakeholders in the process of sensitizing the government officials on human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Before getting promoted to project coordinator, Ms. Pokharel worked as grant and report writing officer for an year, bearing the responsibility of preparing project and program reports and doing constant correspondence with the donors. She has written a proposal for United Nations World Tourism Organization on Innovation in Non Governmental Organization which was awarded as the best innovation in the tourism sector. She has also been working as Secretariat Office Manager for Girls Not Brides Nepal (a networking of 18 non-governmental organization) from the past year.





#### **Anku Richard Effe**

HCDP | Ghana

I am a dedicated and hard-working person who founded HCDP GHANA in 2009. I grew up in Ho, Ghana and graduated from Comtel College in computer science in Nigeria and this I helped establish a number of computer labs in rural Ghana. I am done college - E.P. University College and graduated with Bachelor Degree in Human Resources Management and Organizational Development with the hopes of making HCDP GHANA an even more successful NGO in Ghana. I enjoy being part of such a productive team and working on community programs to alleviate poverty as well as transforming communities.



#### James Osei-Yeboah

HCDP | Ghana

James Osei-Yeboah is currently an Assistant Lecturer, the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences. He has proven track record of over 10 years of innovation and excellence in the research-driven approach to Quality Laboratory Management and medical laboratory education. He is the originator of the novelty course computer aided research applications and co-founder of the Virtual Lecture Series NGIGO (No Garbage In, No Garbage Out). As a medical laboratory scientist / lecturer at Ho, his responsibilities include lecturer of Chemical Pathology, Haematology, Computer-Aided Research Applications and Laboratory management. James Osei-Yeboah is a graduate of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology- Kumasi, from where he received Bsc (Medical Laboratory Science and MPhil (Molecular Medicine). With a strong believe in maximizing the data generated in the daily laboratory testing, James have founded the Ghana Laboratory Collaborative Study, a project which sort to aid medical laboratory scientists on the field to capture, process and disseminate data generated through the daily administrative practice.



Winter Luc

Rajepre | Haiti

This conference will be a good to learn more about Omprakash foundation, meet the peoples in the other countries as the same mission. It will be an oportunity to share my experience and learn about the others person and organizations I can meet in the conference. It was my goal too, to visit Africa because my ancestors from in this continent.





Joseph Wilnis

Rajepre | Haiti

I'm very proud because I have a great oportunity to travel in Africa, this opportunity will help me know some stories or the others peoples share thèse with my Communitere.



# Santigie Bayo Dumbuya

We Yone Child Foundation | Sierra Leone

Santigie Bayo Dumbuya has over 14 years of experience in the child and community development especially focusing on education and livelihood. Santigie is the Founder and Director of We Yone Child Foundation, where he focuses on managing partners and staff of over 27 including fundraising and coordinating International volunteers in various projects the organisation works on. Base on his vast skills. Santigie has coordinated the construction and funding of three Primary Schools in Freetown and Street Child UK's programmes and projects funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID). Santigie hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and Administration and have achieved several trainings; local, international and online. Santigie is committed to child development and improving community livelihood in Sierra Leone. Santigie is an Alumni member of the Commonwealth Common Purpose with a designated badge. And upon completing the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) - Regional Leadership Centre Accra Ghana, Emerging Leaders program, Santigie plans to continue his work in child development, protection and community livelihood development.



# **Kyobe Shadrak**

Empower and Care Organization | Uganda

An energetic, ambitious individual who has developed a mature and responsible approach to any task undertaken. As a management graduate with over 12 years' managerial experience and with ability to take crucial decisions, organise people and systems to achieve set goals, I am a very fair, balanced and objective leader who is able to positively influence and increasingly build a network of support towards a set goal. I posses Excellent communication skills and able to relate effectively with stakeholders at various levels, a strategic thinker with excellent human resource and administration skills. During my managerial roles I have undertaken routine performance management, effective problem solving, report writing, effective team building. I have adequate knowledge in project planning and management as well.





#### **Dohon Edoh**

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement | Togo

A teacher by profession with 20 years of experience working with the your. Mr. Edoh has a passion for young people impacting knowledge and engaging in activities that ensure capacity development, and horning of skills and talents for young people to secure a stable and sustainable future. He has been part of the JVE Board of Directors and was elected president in 2015.



#### Alouka Sena

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement | Togo

On seeing the immediate impacts of environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity, Mr. Alouka founded the Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE) in a small village in Togo. Today Mr. Alouka is leading an African environmental movement of young entrepreneurs aware of their responsibilities, capable of supporting themselves, providing sustainable solutions to improve the living conditions of populations and engaging as citizens in over 27 countries. Sena has engaged over 2000 youths in advocacy, education and awareness on environment; training of green entrepreneurs and promoting sustainable development in African communities. YVE is now one of the largest youth oriented environmental NGOs with volunteerism as a core value. Sena is also an environmental journalist awarded by the IUCN Reuters Environmental Media Awards.



#### **Aluora Annette Luttah**

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement | Togo

Luttah is the Project Coordinator at JVE International headquarters in Lomé, Togo. Starting out as volunteer at the UN Environment Programme, she has been actively involved in youth development projects across Africa working with various civil society organizations to build capacity of youth as future leaders. Luttah currently coordinates the JVE National Representations set up in 25 African countries, actively engaging young people in social and developmental, environmental activities that contribute to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Luttah is a nature lover and enjoys travelling to gather new experiences.





# **Philip Darko**

#### World Partners for Development | Ghana

Philip is the founder of World Partners for Development-Ghana (WPD-Ghana), one the outstanding social impact NGOs in Ghana. Phil also plays an important role as the Director for International Programs in the coordination of WPD-Ghana with other global organizations and volunteers. He has worked in the nonprofit sector for more than 20 years, and worked with ISODEC, Ghana on World Bank Rural Water & Sanitation Projects for 3 years in Ghana as a Regional Engineer. Being a Civil Engineer and a Business Technologist by profession, Philip has deep understanding and skills in social innovative programs, including: Solar and Microflush Toilet Technologies, Capacity Building, and Innovative Social Enterprise. He therefore effectively provides technical assistance to WPD-Ghana and other NGOs to ensure 21st Century innovative programs that impact society. Philip graduated from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana, in Civil Engineering, and had his Masters degree from the George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA, in Business Technology. Philip also holds Planning and Design of Sanitation Systems and Technologies certificate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.



## Cynthia Asare Kena

World Partners for Development | Ghana

Cynthia is responsible for managing World Partners for Development-Ghana programs and staff. She is well vested in women empowerment and development, and a gender-mainstreaming expert with a career spanning more than 10 years. Throughout her career, Cynthia has focused on the rights of all people, and particularly women, to live with dignity, and realize their potential. She also serves as a Board Member for the Samaritan Women in Pokuase, Accra. With her passion for children, Cynthia devotes her time as a teacher for school children at local community schools. Cynthia holds a Bachelors Degree in Education from the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. She is also certified in Entrepreneurship and Gender-mainstreaming.



#### **Emmanuel Edem**

World Partners for Development | Ghana

Edem is responsible for coordinating and organizing programs according to WPD-Ghana community programming model. He also performs general administrative, training, IT services, and office management duties as assigned in addition to program planning and implementation. Edem supports field teams in design and management of country and thematic projects. He coordinates volunteer schedules and training. He previously worked as a graphic designer with Youngstar Consult in Accra before joining WPD-Ghana. Edem is currently pursuing his first degree education in Information Studies and Psychology at the University of Ghana, Legon.





**Mbeng Simon Nsah** 

Better Family Foundation | Cameroon

Mbeng Simon Nsah has been the director of BFF since its conception in 2006. Simon is a Fundong native so is very in touch with the needs of his community. Alongside being a very active director he is holds teaching positions in 3 government schools in the Fundong area as well as being very busy in the church, his village's development union. Simon indeed wears many hats, not only does he teach but he also attends classes while pursuing a second Master's Degree in Special Education in the University of Buea.



**Anu Taranath** 

University of Washington | USA

For the past 18 years, Dr. Anu has been teaching about postcolonial studies, African literature, global issues, human rights and feminism at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA. She directs study abroad programs that introduce US students to the Global South, and encourages them to think critically about power, privilege and identity in a global framework. As a consultant, Dr. Anu works with universities, businesses and NGOs to help people dismantle established social hierarchies and put into practice their good intentions. She enjoys collaborating with wonderful activists, scholars and change-makers from different regions.



Michele Raggio

SeedScience / Patriots Ghana | Italy

Michele is a science teacher and researcher and has recently completed a doctorate in Materials Science at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. After some years of experience as a science communicator and several international volunteering experiences, he has recently launched an innovative non-profit education project (SeedScience) to raise awareness and develop creativity and critical thinking skills in young students.



Pape Momar Sow

USAID YALI Regional Coordinator | Ghana





**Alex Knott** 

#### Omprakash | Canada

Alex grew up in England, South Africa and Singapore, so she caught the travel bug at a young age. Since leaving home, her love of travel, interest in other cultures, and interrogation of international development has taken her around the world. She has taught English in Cambodia and China, conducted anthropological research in Mexico and Greece, studied in Turkey, supported local NGOs in Kenya and Argentina, and worked with IOM in Costa Rica. After completing her BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from UBC in Vancouver, she returned to England for her MA degree at SOAS, University of London. Her thesis focused on the interactions between international volunteers and asylum seekers in refugee camps on the Greek Aegean Islands. When not contemplating how to make a positive contribution to the world, she enjoys time with family and friends, learning new languages, enjoying nature and writing fiction.



## Willy Oppenheim

Omprakash | USA

Willy came up with the initial idea for Omprakash after serving as a volunteer English teacher at the Louisiana-Himalaya Association (LHA) in northern India in the autumn of 2004. He then attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where he completed a self-designed major in religion, education, and anthropology. As an educator and educational researcher, Willy has worked in classrooms in the United States, India, Pakistan, and China, and in the wilderness as an instructor for the National Outdoor Leadership School. In 2009, he received a Rhodes Scholarship and went on to earn a doctoral degree in Education from Oxford University. Willy sits as President of the Omprakash Board of Directors and is involved with all operations of Omprakash. He lives in Seattle, Washington, and enjoys rock climbing, telemark skiing, flyfishing, playing guitar, and baking bread.



**Steve Sclar** 

Omprakash | USA

Steve likes to be framed by mountains, as in the Amnye Machen range where he researched indoor air quality, the Akwapim-Togo range where he assisted a mobile clinic, the Heklugjá fissure where he farmed, the Piemonte Alps where he couchsurfed, the Seven Devils where he honeymooned, and the Appalachians where he continues to take refuge from the U.S. eastern seaboard. He graduated from Emory University with an MPH in Global Environmental Health and the College of William & Mary with a BBA in Marketing and Environmental Science. Steve co-founded Omprakash EdGE and currently serves as EdGE Director. In his spare time, he'll hopefully be outdoors and/or crafting something.





Jules Leaño

Omprakash | Germany

Jules is an EdGE Mentor who completed an MA in Visual Anthropology, combining her love of filmmaking with a preoccupation with social issues, politics and language. Much of her research focuses on the Arab world and surrounding areas, in particular, representations of the region in western media and how they are understood in the areas portrayed. Having volunteered as a development worker in Palestine and the contrasting assumptions she encountered after returning to the UK, she became interested in the relationships the media creates between geographies through imagination and collective memory, and how that informs political opinion and policy. Her current research focuses on alternative narratives emerging through music and videos post-Arab Spring. In addition, she uses experimental ethnographic documentary to explore questions such as the position of the editor in the negotiation of narrative, and how to reveal these processes. In addition to these issues, she has a keen interest in human rights and structural inequality, LGBTQ and women's issues. When she isn't debating intersectional feminism or making films, Jules can be found playing gigs, compiling playlists and radio documentaries, wandering around Europe, attempting to study German and Arabic, plotting ways to decolonise filmmaking (amongst other things), representing her Filipina roots through cooking, and fueling her chili addiction.



Lydia Howe

Omprakash | USA

Lydia is an EdGE Mentor, filmmaker and visual anthropologist, with an interest in how anthropology and art intersect to produce visual media that fosters social change and dialogue. Her love for documentary filmmaking was catalysed by her experience helping to produce video scripts for NGOs on gender and education in Kampala. During her time in Uganda, Lydia also worked on LGBTQI issues at a human rights organisation. Volunteering on community projects in Nigeria inspired her undergraduate research exploring British and Nigerian volunteer perspectives on development. Lydia has since continued to think critically about the dynamics of international human rights frameworks, the diversity of cross-cultural experiences, perceptions of culture, volunteering and the power of representation through visual narratives. She has gone on to make films for community organisations and independent documentaries exploring interfaith dialogue, peace and reconciliation work, the representation of British Muslims, language and notions of multiculturalism. This has included films on the challenging of farright extremism in her home town and an exploration of relationships between multilingualism and identity among Moroccan women living in the UK. Lydia has also worked as a community project coordinator and teacher of English as a second language.





**Renee Barron** 

Omprakash | USA

Renee has been an EdGE Mentor with Omprakash since January 2017. Her professional interests lie broadly in the area of disaster response and recovery, specifically at the intersection where short-term humanitarian aid transitions into long-term sustainable development. Most recently, Renee served as Habitat for Humanity International's (HFHI) Associate Director for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response, responsible for US and Canada Field Operations. This position oversaw disaster preparedness, daily hazard monitoring, initial emergency response, and long-term recovery initiatives for more than 1400 affiliates across North America. Previous roles with HFHI include strategic planning and program support to Habitat's National Office in Haiti as well as curriculum design and development of training materials for Habitat's Veterans Build program. Renee holds a Masters of Development Practice from Emory University and a Masters of Management from American Military University.



Esi Asare Prah

Omprakash | Ghana

Esi Asare Prah is an Omprakash Ethical Global Engagement Grant Winner who worked with Msichana Empowerment Kuria in Kenya from March to June 2018. She is a young feminist and population Health Enthusiast. She holds a bachelor degree in Population and Health from the University of Cape Coast (Ghana). Esi is a member and former chairperson of Youth Action Movement Ghana, where she works to promote and ensure that young people have access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, through the formation of youth health clubs, peer education, community out reaches, radio talk shows, among others. Esi also work to promote girl child education. In 2014, Esi initiated a community girl child empowerment project in her community which she called the Go Girl Movement. She currently has girl child clubs in all junior high schools in her community where she mentors and offer age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to over 200 girls under the project. Esi has worked as a Projects Assistant with Marie Stopes Ghana, and serve as a member of its Youth Advisory Board.



Ishan Sood

Omprakash | USA

Ishan Sood is a current EdGE Gap Year student working with World Partners for Development in Ghana. He recently graduated from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland, Florida and will be attending Florida State University after his gap year. He has been waiting to take a gap year to allow himself to rejuvenate before attending FSU.



# Thank you to **Patriots Ghana** — our conference host — for all of their help with planning and logistics!

~and~

Thank you to all the donors that helped to make this conference possible!

Ankur Luthra Michael Ludin Paula Vlamings Patricia Driver Sarah Zellweger Deborah Hsieh Bryan Diaz Tom Smith Will Smith Katherine Smith **Edward Ian Panes** Sara Adamak Lacey Worel Alyssa Hoyle Amara Stuehling **Peldun Tenzing** Michael Hromadka Tyrell Kahan **Emily Bartlett** Camirra Williamson Vinisha Browne **Utsav Bansal** Michelle Kincaid Vance Walstra FTI Consulting



# **2018 Omprakash Partner Conference** Accra, Ghana

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