

## **Biography - Abel Wilson Walekhwa, Senior Epidemiologist, Science, Technology and Innovation, Office of the President, Uganda**



Abel Wilson Walekhwa serves as a Senior Epidemiologist, Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat (STI) under the Office of the President of Uganda. In 2024, Abel was selected as a Youth Representative on the global scientific One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) that advises the Quadripartite (WHO, FAO, WOA, UNEP) on One Health matters. At OHHLEP, Abel Co-chairs the Capacity Building and Career Development committee. Before that, Abel served as a youth representative at the African Union on the Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction (AYAB-DRR). He has served as a consultant for the last three years. Abel is currently finalising his PhD research at the University of

Cambridge, UK, with an expected date of completion of May 2026. He has five years of experience in higher education curriculum design, public health capacity building, and career mentorship. He founded the African Centre for Career Mentorship (ACCM) that specialises in bridging academic excellence with professional development. Through ACCM, Abel has designed structured mentoring programmes that empower students and early career professionals to secure competitive scholarships and career opportunities. As a youth, Abel connects well with young professionals seeking graduate school training and career advancement in Africa, where the average age of the population is 19 years.

### **Selected Outstanding Contributions**

- Founder, African Centre for Career Mentorship (ACCM) – Built an organisation that has served 2,850 early career professionals since 2021, enabling career transitions.
- Co-Chair, Scientific Committee, Uganda National Science Summit, 2025 – Led a strategic planning and review of scientific abstracts from 458 participants, advancing national dialogue on science and career pathways.
- Youth Representative, One Health High Level Panel (OHHLEP) – Co-chair of capacity building and Career Development and contributed to global policy discussions on data-science, evidence-based decision making, leveraging the quadripartite platform (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOA) to build intergovernmental partnerships.
- Chair of the Board, African Youth Action Network (AYAN) – Provided strategic direction that helped the organisation attract \$896.6 million in grants and expanded youth leadership across Uganda and South Sudan.
- Creator of Education Content – Developed a YouTube channel with 62 videos helping 42,000 professionals across 55 African countries.

### **Education Background**

- **University of Cambridge - United Kingdom (Oct 2022 – Aug 2026):** PhD-ABD
- **University of California, Berkeley, USA (Aug 2021- Sept 2022):** Epi/Bio Fellowship
- **Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda (2018-2021):** M. Public Health
- **Makerere University, August 2013- July 2016:** BSc Environmental Health Science

### **Research Productivity and Grants**

- Attracted over £1.5 million in research funding, including £1.3 million as a Co-PI of The AFRITRAC Project (2026-2028) will be implemented in seven African Countries

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