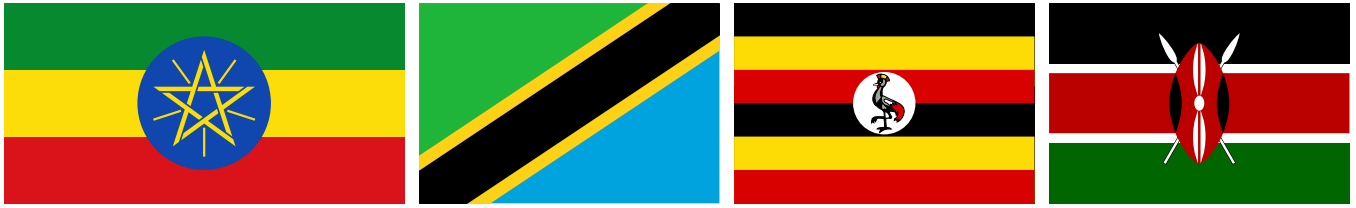


The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



Spring 2023 Professional Fellow



Nina Halima Mago **Founder and Chief Executive Officer,** **Purple Bench Initiative (PBI) Uganda**

“My motivation [to apply for this Fellowship] is the passion for change in the lives of people living with epilepsy so that they live meaningful, dignified, and highly impactful lives. I would not like other children and adults to experience what I went through, especially the stigma and discrimination as a young individual living with epilepsy.”

Nina Mago is the founder and chief executive officer of Purple Bench Initiative (PBI) Uganda, a patient-led, trailblazing organization creating awareness and solving society’s greatest challenges stemming from a lack of awareness about epilepsy. Nina’s vision is to ensure that persons affected by epilepsy live meaningful, dignified, and highly impactful lives.

“Through PBI, I seek to empower persons affected by promoting knowledge designed to fight discrimination, stigma, and human rights violations.” Nina is a frequent keynote speaker on epilepsy, mental health, and inclusion with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. She has presented and engaged with the World Health Organization (WHO), international Epilepsy Congresses, Epilepsy assessment courses, Rotary clubs, and corporate entities. In 2019, Nina received the International Bureau for Epilepsy’s (IBE) Golden Light Award. In 2020, she received the Row Foundation’s Amanda Award for her work and impact in Uganda.

Nina’s experiences and training in child and adolescent mental health and trauma interventions guide her mentorship work at various levels. Nina is the lead of the PBI Support Team and a member of the IBE Youth Team. As a global patient advocate, Nina has served on IBE’s Advocacy Committee and has led the IBE Diversity Committee with a priority on women and children.

Prior to PBI, Nina worked for the Rural Integrated Development Organization (RIDO) as an in-country program coordinator. Nina also worked for the Foundation for Sustainable Development as a local program coordinator. She holds a bachelor’s degree in ethics and development studies from Uganda Martyrs University.

For her Fellowship, Nina has proposed a project to create advocacy and awareness about epilepsy at various levels of society to foster active participation and inclusion of people with lived experiences. Nina’s project will focus on inclusion in education. Specific activities include public awareness campaigns, public meetings and workshops, and public education through community and grassroots training.

Nina will complete a four-week Fellowship placement training with the University of Oklahoma’s [Health Sciences Center](#) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



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