ABDULRAHMAN ALI ABDALLA BANISHEYBA

AI × LMICs | AI Preparedness & Policy | Research & Government Relations | Blue Economy

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Interdisciplinary researcher and policy practitioner working at the intersection of AI preparedness, global governance, international development and government engagement. Currently serving as AI Preparedness & Policy Lead, Zanzibar, with Africa Jobs Fund, contributing to work on national AI preparedness, policy development and responsible government adoption. Pursuing the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's in Global Studies, with research interests spanning AI governance and safety, AI and biosecurity, international cooperation, and the institutional capacity of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Brings practical experience translating research and international frameworks into policy and institutional initiatives across AI preparedness, blue economy, global health and education. Founder of Wasomi Scholars, a research-access and research-to-impact initiative.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Africa Jobs Fund

AI Preparedness & Policy Lead, Zanzibar *| Zanzibar, Tanzania | Part-time | Aug 2026–Present*

- Contribute to AI preparedness and policy work focused initially on Zanzibar, examining national opportunities, risks, institutional capabilities and strategic priorities.
- Support engagement with the Ministry of Communications, Information Technology and Innovation of Zanzibar on AI preparedness and policy development.
- Contribute to analysis of responsible government AI adoption, including AI literacy, large language model (LLM) access and appropriate governance safeguards.
- Draw on international experience, research and analytical resources to inform context-specific policy recommendations, and support coordination with government stakeholders and international technical experts.

Wasomi Scholars

Founder & CEO *| Zanzibar, Tanzania | Feb 2023–Present*

- Founded and lead a research and education initiative aimed at strengthening research visibility, accessibility, continuity and impact in Zanzibar.
- Lead the design and strategic direction of a centralised digital repository for university theses, supporting public access to locally generated research and reducing duplication in student research topics.
- Engage government ministries, public institutions, universities, non-profits and private-sector partners to align the initiative with education and research priorities.
- Oversee development of the initiative's minimum viable product, including searchable research databases, metadata tagging, institutional dashboards and digital archiving frameworks.
- Guide policy-relevant features intended to improve access to publicly funded research and visibility of priority research areas.

Ethical Seafood Research (ESR)

Research Fellow — Sustainability & Blue Economy Policy Liaison Officer to Zanzibar *| Zanzibar, Tanzania | Jun 2023–Present*

- Serve as a liaison between ESR and government institutions in Zanzibar, coordinating meetings, consultations, documentation, research and policy engagement.
- Contributed as one of the core authors to the Zanzibar Aquaculture Development Strategy (2025–2038), a sustainability- and animal-welfare-oriented strategy signed by the Minister of Blue Economy and Fisheries.
- Support institutional partnerships and policy work relating to sustainable aquaculture and the blue economy.

Global Policy Research Group

Strategy Consultant — Health Progress Hub *| Zanzibar, Tanzania | May 2025–Jan 2026*

- Advised Health Progress Hub on strategy for its talent-development fellowship and capacity-building infrastructure connecting local professionals with high-impact organisations across LMICs.
- Supported talent pathways and placed a candidate to lead Health Learn's efforts in Kenya.

1Day Sooner

Malaria Advocacy Lead — Tanzania *| Tanzania | Jan 2024–Oct 2025*

- Led advocacy for informed, timely and effective rollout of the RTS,S and R21 malaria vaccines in Tanzania.
- Delivered a parliamentary capacity-building workshop on malaria and malaria vaccines at the Tanzanian Parliament, in partnership with the late WHO Afro Director-elect, Hon. Dr Faustine Ndugulile.

Charter Cities Institute (CCI)

Special Projects Consultant *| Zanzibar, Tanzania | Mar 2024–Jul 2024*

- Built relationships with government officials, local businesses, community leaders and NGOs to support special projects and institutional partnerships.

- Supported work connected to Zanzalu, a pop-up city event series on emerging technologies and new cities; the introduction of the African School of Economics Zanzibar via African Urban Lab; and strategic planning initiatives.

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Mandela Washington Fellow | *Minneapolis, USA | Jun 2024–Aug 2024*

- Selected for the U.S. Department of State-sponsored Mandela Washington Fellowship, delivered by the University of Minnesota in partnership with IREX.

AIM (formerly Charity Entrepreneurship)

Research Training Program Fellow | *Zanzibar, Tanzania | Apr 2024–Jul 2024*

- Conducted applied research using effectiveness metrics, including Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) and Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALYs), to identify high-priority problems and assess interventions and charities.

Zanzibar Fisheries and Marine Resources Research Institute (ZAFIRI)

Research Intern | *Zanzibar, Tanzania | Aug 2022–May 2023*

- Conducted comparative research on Zanzibar's role in Tanzania's marine spatial planning process, drawing on the Åland Islands' participation in Finland's marine spatial planning.
- Facilitated partnerships with international development partners; introductions made led to a €80,000 project between the institute and a Finnish university.

Regeneration 2030

Communications Intern | *Åland Islands, Finland | Feb 2023–Apr 2023*

- Designed and executed a 10-week communications strategy to increase the reach and engagement of the organisation's position paper.
- Audited digital communications channels, produced written and video content, coordinated distribution and updated web content.

Future Academy

Fellow | *Stockholm, Sweden | Oct 2022–Apr 2023*

- Developed a project concept focused on adapting proven projects, initiatives and social enterprises to new geographies while accounting for local context and needs.

SELECTED RESEARCH & ACADEMIC PROJECTS

"Raising the Floor of Global Biosecurity: International Investment, Uneven National Capacities and Collective Security"

Research proposal | Introduction to Global Studies

Examines how international investment in neglected national biosecurity capacities could strengthen global biological security. Engages with global public goods, collective action, international spillovers and uneven development, and explores the potential role of defence-related spending and market-shaping mechanisms.

"Multilateralism and Global Biosecurity: Exploring the Potential for EU–China Cooperation in an Era of Strategic Rivalry"

Research topic | EU–East Asia Relations

Explores the potential for EU–China cooperation on global biosecurity amid strategic rivalry, with attention to multilateralism, international institutions and the possibilities and constraints of international coordination.

EDUCATION

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's in Global Studies (EMGS)

Ghent University & Leipzig University | 2026–2028 (expected)

Fully funded through the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) scholarship. Current studies at Ghent University; programme registration at Leipzig University. Planned mobility: Fudan University (Sep–Dec 2027) and Roskilde University (2027–2028).

Bachelor of Natural Resources — Sustainable Coastal Management

Novia University of Applied Sciences, Finland | Aug 2021–Dec 2025

Thesis: "Participation of Autonomous and Semi-autonomous Regions in the National Plans: Case of Zanzibar and Åland and their Participation in the Tanzanian and Finnish Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) respectively."

Bachelor of Business Administration — Business Management

Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Finland | Jan 2021–Dec 2021

Exchange studies through the Erasmus+ programme.

Bachelor programme — Economics

Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Türkiye | Aug 2018–Dec 2021

Turkish Government scholarship recipient; member of the Diplomacy and Model United Nations Club; Under-Secretary-General for UNEP at ESOGU Model United Nations.

Bachelor of Arts — International Relations

Anadolu University, Türkiye | Aug 2020–Dec 2021

Participated in Model United Nations and Model European Union conferences, receiving awards including Best Delegate.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATIONS

Biosecurity Certificate *— BlueDot Impact | December 2025*

Completed a 30-hour intensive course examining the evolving biosecurity threat landscape, including risks associated with AI and synthetic biology. Evaluated prevention, detection and response measures for pandemic threats, including non-pharmaceutical interventions and rapid medical countermeasures, and developed an action plan for contributing to a pandemic-proof world.

SKILLS

AI preparedness and policy · Policy analysis and recommendations · Research and desk-based research · Government relations and stakeholder engagement · Global governance and international relations · International development · Strategic planning · Advocacy and negotiation · Project and programme management · Blue economy and sustainable coastal management · Geographic Information Systems (GIS) · Python and SQL for data analysis · Digital communications and analytics · Web development and analytics · MS Office and Google Workspace · ClickUp, Notion and Slack

LANGUAGES

Swahili — Native | English — C2 | Turkish — C1 | Arabic — B1 | Finnish — A1