



# SAIH

Norwegian Students' and Academics'  
International Assistance Fund

# STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

PROMOTING CRITICAL THINKING IN  
ACADEMIC RESEARCH

**A COMPENDIUM OF  
IMPACT STORIES  
- 2024 COHORT**

Mentorship Facilitated by:  
Gabriel Simungala & Sydney Mupeta,  
Managing Partners, Dythel Consulting Ltd.



## Jeff Mwamba

Institution: **The University of Zambia.**

Research Topic: **The Governance of Higher Learning Institution: Perspective of Students with Disability at the University of Zambia.**

The three-month ZANEC research mentorship program has been a challenging yet rewarding experience. Throughout this journey, I learned valuable lessons, including practical ways to engage with research participants, critically analyze data findings and develop actionable recommendations. I am grateful to have been part of the 2024 cohort, and I appreciate ZANEC for bridging the gap between theory and practice by involving us in research on relevant issues.



## **Mercy Kapinga**

Institution: **Kwame Nkrumah University**

Research **Topic: Continuous Professional Development at Kwame Nkrumah University: Insights For Quality Teaching and Learning**

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of the mentorship program for crafting an exceptional experience that exceeded my expectations. This program enhanced my research skills and offered a unique opportunity to connect with remarkable individuals and talented young people who share my passion for research. The program's network extended beyond my peers; I was fortunate to meet influential professionals, including my mentor. I am excited to pay it forward and inspire others to strive for excellence in research.





## **Besa Nakazwe**

Institution: **The University of Zambia**

Research Topic: **Student Accommodation Crisis at the University of Zambia: Perspectives of Students' Academic performance**

The ZANEC mentorship program has truly opened my eyes to the challenges facing not only my university but also universities across the country. These challenges have far-reaching effects on students nationwide, and I commend ZANEC for bringing these issues to light through rigorous and reliable research. The mentorship program helped me to sharpen my critical thinking skills, a skill I now apply to all aspects of my life. I am deeply grateful to ZANEC and to my mentors, for this invaluable opportunity to enhance my research skills and promote critical thinking. Thank you for empowering me on this journey.



## **Leah Mutindya**

Institution: **Technical and Vocational Teachers College**

Research Topic: **The Loan Scheme in Zambia: Advocating for the Inclusion of the Technical and Vocational Teachers College**

The ZANEC mentorship program allowed me to conduct my first research project on the student loan scheme in Zambia, which has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. I focused on the necessity of including students from Technical and Vocational Teachers College (TVTC) in financial support programs. My research revealed the real-life struggles TVTC students face, particularly their limited access to funding. This journey enhanced my ability to communicate complex ideas effectively and reinforced my commitment to advocating for policies that recognize and support the diverse educational pathways available to all individuals.



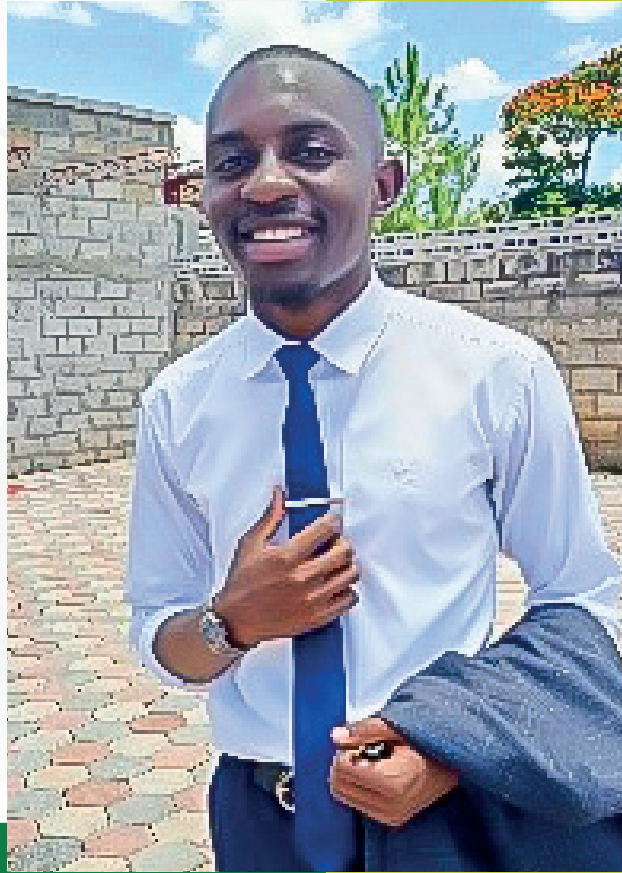
## **Musonda Chileshe**

Institution: **Cavendish University Zambia**

Research Topic: **Research and Innovation in Higher Education: Lived Experience of Students at Cavendish University.**

Participating in the three-month mentorship program organized by ZANEC has greatly improved my critical thinking and research skills. Collaborating with the ZANEC team and my fellow students throughout this research journey has been a rewarding experience. I have acquired invaluable insights that have transformed me into a more analytical thinker and effective problem solver. With these skills, I am well-prepared to further advance my research and academic capabilities.





## George Sakala

Institution: **Kwame Nkrumah University**

Research Topic: **Student's welfare services at Kwame Nkrumah University: Students Perceptions**

My experience in the ZANEC Student Research Mentorship Program was outstanding, significantly enhancing my research skills and confidence. I gained valuable insights into academic research and critical thinking and connected with peers and experienced mentors, which has expanded my professional network. I developed writing skills and learned how to effectively collect and apply new research findings. I highly recommend this program to anyone looking to improve their research skills and academic confidence.



## Moses Daka

Institution: **Cavendish University**

Research Topic: **The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education: A Critical Reflection on the Threats and Opportunities at Cavendish University Zambia.**

The ZANEC mentorship program has been pivotal in my personal and academic development. Under the guidance and support of my mentor, I have cultivated invaluable critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The program also offered opportunities to connect with students from various universities, which broadened my perspectives and encouraged collaboration. Furthermore, I acquired essential research skills that will enhance my future endeavours. I am genuinely grateful for the mentorship and experiences I gained through ZANEC.





## Mwenya Musonda

Institution: **The University of Zambia**

Research Topic: **Access and Inclusivity in Co-Curricular Activities: The Case of Students with Disabilities**

The three-month ZANEC mentorship program has been immensely beneficial, equipping me with critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze issues more deeply than they may initially appear. This mentorship has undoubtedly helped me grow as a qualitative researcher. I am particularly grateful to my mentor, who was always available to provide guidance and support. His insights on various research approaches have been invaluable and I am committed to utilizing the skills I have gained to become an effective and accomplished researcher.



## **Chileleko Habukali**

Institution: **Cavendish University Zambia**

Research Topic: **Access and Equity in Higher Education: Examining Trends at Cavendish University Zambia**

Participating in the ZANEC mentorship program has been a transformative experience, significantly enhancing my critical thinking and analytical skills. My mentor's engaging sessions and insightful guidance allowed me to examine campus issues more closely, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding me.



## **Patrick Mutale**

Institution: **The University of Zambia.**

Research Topic: **Education for All: Examining the Trends in the Allocation of Student Loans at the University of Zambia from 2020-2024**

This mentorship program has thoroughly prepared me for my academic research endeavours, equipping me with the tools to navigate intricate problems, think critically, and confidently tackle challenges. I sincerely extend my gratitude to ZANEC and my mentor for making this opportunity truly impactful.