

Contact

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Top Skills

Consulting

Strategy

Program Management

Languages

Creoles and pidgins, English-based

Kanuri (Professional Working)

English

Hausa (Professional Working)

Honors-Awards

Champion of Change Award

Opportunity Desk Young Person of the month

Donors for Africa 50 Women in Development

Kings Leadership Award

Gold Level, 2012 National Union of Students (NUS) Pilot Skills Award

Halima Ibrahim Abba LLB, MPhil, FIIDM, FIHSD

Founder & Chair, Skills Outside School Foundation | Director, PIF Africa | Director, Tongston | Investor | Consultant | Advisor & Mentor
Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Summary

Halima Ibrahim Abba is multi-award-winning with 14 years' international public, private & non-profit institutional experience which cuts across Infrastructure & Industrialization Finance - Transport & Logistics; Power; Petrochemicals & Mineral Resource Refining; Agriculture & Agro-Processing; International Development; Education, Entrepreneurship & Employability.

Halima is the Associate Vice President & SA to the Chief Investment Officer at the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), a pan-African US \$10bn multi-lateral development finance institution focused on infrastructure & industrialization. She co-led the design, launch & operationalization of Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria (InfraCorp) with promoters – AFC, Central Bank of Nigeria & Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority, alongside the Federal Government of Nigeria, led by the Vice President. She is also the Chair of a leading pan-African education, employability & entrepreneurship organization, Skills Outside School Foundation, leveraging on data, advocacy & interventions with 150+ partners & 50,000+ beneficiaries across 7 countries in Africa, Asia & South America. She has worked in global investment banks & public sector institutions - Goldman Sachs, Nomura, JP Morgan & the Bureau of Public Enterprises.

She holds a First-Class (LLB) Law degree from Kings College London, UK & Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Development Studies from the prestigious Cambridge University, UK. She is an alum of Yale School of Management, Common Purpose Leadership Program, International Finance Faculty/Middlesex University, Harvard Business School Online, AMT and Euromoney.

She is an advisor, director, investor and consultant. She is the MD of PIF Africa, focused on people & processes, infrastructure & industry

and finance & funding. She is a Guidepoint Global Advisor. She is a mentor.

She is also a member of the Institute of Directors UK and Nigeria (Young Directors Forum), the Board Room Africa, Women on Boards UK, Young CEO Club (Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry), Development Studies Association, International Association for Community Development, African Leaders Network Women, International Institute of Directors & Managers, International Behavioral Public Policy Association, Institute for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Global Council for Promotion of International Trade group and Financial Management Association International.

Interests: Joining corporate/NGO/public sector boards; providing consultancy services to public sector, corporates & MSMEs; Guest lecturing & speaking opps.

Experience

PIF Africa

Director & Lead Consultant

March 2021 - Present (3 years 2 months)

PIF Africa is transforming SMEs into champions of industry, whilst building the capacity of public & non-profit organizations to support SMEs thereby driving sustainable socio-economic development in Africa. This is through our unique investment, consulting & advisory approach leveraging on our diverse specialisms.

We focus on 3 pillars:

1. People & Processes: We work with organizations to implement effective process optimization & people management solutions vital for sustainability, scale & success of African institutions.

2. Industry & Infrastructure: We provide strategic investments and advisory services focused on industrial & infrastructure assets across our priority sectors to foster sustainable socio-economic development in Africa.

3. Finance & Funding: We provide advisory services to structure and facilitate flexible and sustainable financing solutions for SMEs, non-profits and the public sector in Africa.

For more information, please visit - www.pif africa.org.

Guidepoint

Advisor

June 2021 - Present (2 years 11 months)

Guidepoint connects clients with vetted subject matter experts—Advisors—from our global professional network. Clients leverage the insights and perspectives shared by our Advisors to stay informed and make better business decision. Guide point has over a million advisors across 150+ industries globally.

Skills Outside School Foundation

Founder/Chair

June 2014 - Present (9 years 11 months)

Abuja, Nigeria

Skills Outside School Foundation (SOSF) is a leading pan-African education, employability & entrepreneurship organization, creating a world with human capital to drive socio-economic development through data, advocacy & interventions. We have worked with 150+ public, private, non-profit organizations and individuals including UNICEF, Access Bank, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture & the ACT Foundation.

Our impact spans 50,000+ in Africa, Latin America & South Asia. SOSF is a member of NNNGO, International Youth Council & UN Sustainable Youth Development Network amongst others.

SOSF has mainstreamed its interventions through public sector and international development agency engagements across 16 states. SOSF has contributed to several policy & regulatory changes - 2018 National Youth Policy, UBEC Act Amendment, Consultation on Non-Profit Regulation and Company & Allied Matters Act which led to the 2020 CAMA amongst many others.

Key Roles & Responsibilities

At Inception

- Led the development of the Foundation's corporate and governance structure, organogram, policies, strategy, programmatic interventions, legal documentation, communications material and marketing collateral end to end from set up to full operationalization in 18 months

At the Board Level

- Expertise: Governance, HR & Operations, People Management, Programs, Finance & Strategy
- Board Sub-Committee Membership: Audit, Remuneration & Compliance (Chair); Programs & Strategy Management (Chair)
- Steer foundations expansion plans across the continent and its operational, strategic and funding strategy
- Lead Strategic Planning and Management
- Lead Program Development, Management and Monitoring & Evaluation
- Lead Operational, HR and Finance Planning and Management
- Lead Stakeholder Engagement, Management and Advocacy

Visit <https://www.skillsoutsideschool.com/> for more information

Tongston Entrepreneurship Group: Holdings, Institute, College, Media and Ventures

Chief Operating and Financial Officer (Consultant)
November 2019 - Present (4 years 6 months)

Board Leadership

- Member of the Board as an Executive Director
- Member of the Executive Management team as Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer (on a consultancy basis)
- Member of the Investment Committee, Tongston Ventures, the investing, advisory and asset management arm of Tongston Group of companies

Key Responsibilities

- Development and maintenance of corporate governance and organizational structure
- Organizational planning and people management
- Oversee business development, strategy and stakeholder management
- Manage external counsel on legal, policy and regulatory matters
- Lead fundraising; structuring; finance and treasury matters
- Lead on structuring Tongston Ventures
- Manage and Lead 8 direct reports

Africa Finance Corporation

7 years 8 months

Associate Vice President, Investments / SA to the CIO

January 2022 - July 2023 (1 year 7 months)

Lagos, Nigeria

Currently on extended leave of absence for personal development.

- Set up and manage the CIOs office.
- Develop, implement and maintain AFCs investment strategy and policies.
- Single point of interface managing all investment division matters.
- Support CIO in managing a c.US\$6bn loan, project development and equity investment portfolio.
- Lead execution and processing of transactions across multiple sectors and products through approval processes and documentation.
- Support CIO in managing investment origination and execution across AFCs core sectors – Power; Transport & Logistics; Natural Resources – Mining and Oil & Gas; and Heavy Industries, Telecoms & Technology.
- Divisional People Management: resource planning, recruitment, onboarding, talent & incentive management, coaching and mentoring.
- Product development and deployment in line with institutional strategic objectives & market trends (debt, equity, quasi-equity, mezzanine, project development, off-balance sheet).
- Business Coordination - Budgeting, divisional performance, liquidity, subscriptions and pipeline management.
- Oversee management of investment approval processes from internal committees, management to board.
- Support debt and equity fundraising; country memberships; investor relations and communications.
- Represent the institution in various fora and improve AFCs overall brand visibility.
- Participation in mgt committees incl. Asset & Liability; Investment Committee.
- Management of Board & EXCO Affairs.
- Media Briefings, Thought Leadership Development and Reporting Input to management, board and external stakeholders.

AFC 5-Year Strategy Transformation Associate: Investment Division Lead

January 2019 - July 2023 (4 years 7 months)

The role resulted from the need for transformational strategic initiatives to enable AFC achieve its US\$10bn target. I coordinate all investment team's initiatives

Key Responsibilities

- Drive design thinking process for initiatives sizing through to actualization & impact
- Regular performance tracking and intervention where necessary from the CIO
- Provided input into the initiatives for divisional improvement and excellence towards achieving AFCs ambitious 5-year target to attain a US\$10bn balance sheet
- Provide guidance across relevant functions
- Drive the transformation office lifecycle and processes for the investments team
- Flag initiative issues for specific action – debottlenecking, executive support, additional capacity as required
- Assessment of initiative progress and performance versus targets and timelines

Key Achievements

- Launch of the first of its kind sustainability policy ; flexi-working policy
- Launch & management of the first of its kind AFC academy, a comprehensive learning & development platform led by staff covering quantitative, technical, legal/documentation, product and sector specific sessions – Project development and bankability; macroanalysis, treasury and hedging; Microsoft Excel; etc. to build capacity and enhance knowledge sharing amongst staff

Other Achievements

- Designed & Implemented transformational initiatives:
 - = Employee Engagement: Flexi-working policy.
 - = Sustainability strategy.
 - = People Management: Career Management; Employee Recognition Framework
 - = Policy Development: Procurement, Expenses, Travel, IT, Phone, Grievance, etc.
 - = Talent Management: AFC Academy.
 - = Product Development: Off-balance sheet investments; Platform strategy.
 - = Process Improvement: Designed Customer relationship management framework.

- Led AFCs innovative ecosystem approach providing a framework for integrated infrastructure investments including the successful Gabon pilot and Sierra Leone Infrastructure Fund.

SA to the Chief Investment Officer | Senior Investment Associate

January 2020 - December 2021 (2 years)

Lagos, Nigeria

Key Responsibilities

- Strategic & Business Planning & Coordination
- Investment Origination & Execution
- Budget, Disbursements, Pipeline & Performance management

Quality Control of investment documents & processes

Management of divisional learning, development & resourcing needs; staff induction

- Single Point of interface on all divisional matters
- Investment product development in line with market trends & AFC strategic objectives

Represent AFC in conferences & fora driving new business & branding

- Participation in mgt committees incl. Asset & Liability; Investment Committee
- Management of Board & EXCO Affairs

Transaction Highlights

- Conceptualization, Structuring, Set up & Operationalization of the Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria (InfraCorp)
- Mergers & Acquisition; Equity & Quasi-Equity Investment for expansion: ARISE Ports and Logistics (comprising mineral, container & general cargo ports across Gabon, Cote D'Ivoire & Mauritania), ARISE Integrated Industrial Platform (comprising special economic zones across Gabon, Togo, Benin, & other markets) & ARISE Infrastructure Services (comprising airports, roads, utilities & related infra in Gabon, Togo & others)
- Sale of equity stake in Cabeolica to AP. Moller Capital
- Anergi Holdings Exit

Other Highlights

- Support CIO in delivering US\$300m+ gross revenues & managing c.US \$4.5bn portfolio
- Single handedly transitioned the new CIO
- Member of People's Consultative Forum leading on career management; organization wide policy review; operational manual
- Divisional internship program coordinator

- Launch of AFC academy, a learning & development platform led by staff across several topics – Project development & bankability; macroanalysis; hedging etc.

Board & Board Proxy Positions

- Secretary, Steering Committee & Co-Lead on InfraCorp set up, launch & operationalization
- Alternate Board Member Appointee on ARISE Integrated Industrial Platform & its subsidiaries - Togo PIA|Benin SIPI|GSEZ Nkok

Investments Associate | SA to the Chief Investment Officer

January 2019 - December 2019 (1 year)

Lagos

Set up the CIOs office (and own the SA role as it didn't exist prior) through creation of governance structures; operational policies; driving strategy; performance management; business development & execution. Introduced initiatives fostering better collaboration with other divisions, delivering a record year for the division in 2019.

Key Transactions

- Development & All-Equity financing of a 60MW first privately financed wind farm in Djibouti, an important East African economic hub
- Additional equity investment into Arise Port & Logistics - a general cargo, container and bulk mineral port terminals in West Africa, with A.P. Moller Capital & Olam; ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms - special economic zone businesses & ARISE infrastructure Services - airports, water & electricity distribution businesses
- US\$160 million senior debt investment to Caisse des Dépôts et Consignation du Gabon
- 26MW Cabeolica Wind Farm Exit (Acquisition from InfraCo; Acquisition from Finfund; Sale to Anergj & Sale to AP. Moller Capital), providing 25% of Cape Verde's energy needs; reducing expensive fossil fuel reliance
- Mergers and Acquisitions: 2 x Award Winning merger of AFC and Harith S.A's electricity generation assets to set up Anergj Holdings - largest African-owned, African-situate, African-operated 1786MW power platform company with 7 power assets in 5 African countries -Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Cape Verde & Nigeria supplying electricity to 30+ million people
- Restructuring of the Cenpower Holdings Convertible Loan Facility
- Development of 12k barrels per day refinery, storage & ancillary infrastructure in Guinea

- Development of a 33MW solar project & transmission line in Guinea

Board & Board Proxy Positions

Permanent Alternate Director to the Chair, Anergi Board (prior to AFC Exit)

Observer, Anergi Adhoc Committee (Investments, Audit, Finance, HR, Governance) (prior to AFC Exit)

Observer on the 60MW Djibouti wind farm Steering Committee

Analyst - Senior Investment Analyst

December 2015 - December 2018 (3 years 1 month)

Lagos, Nigeria

Products: Equity, project development, mezzanine finance and structured & project finance experience

Sector: Power, Heavy Industry and Telecoms investments

Countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Benin, Mozambique, Tanzania, Guinea, Uganda, Zambia, Morocco, Cote D'Ivoire, Mauritania, Togo, Gambia, Mauritius and South Africa

Key Responsibilities

- Financial Modelling and Financial Analysis
- Investment Review and Credit Paper Writing
- Deal/Transaction Structuring, Due Diligence and Documentation
- End-of-End Project Management
- Stakeholder Management
- Investment Monitoring Reports

Key Transactions

- US\$50 million Senior debt financing to a diversified Chinese industrial group
- Acquisition of InfraCo, the co-developers stake to consolidate majority shareholding in the Cabeolica SA, a 26 MW wind farm in Cape Verde, operational since 2012
- US\$115 million Quasi-Equity syndicated financing alongside IFC & Gulf Capital into a diversified petrochemicals player in Egypt, Carbon Holdings to support the operations of propylene and ammonium grade ammonium nitrate plants in Egypt
- Construction monitoring of the US\$900 million 350MW Cenpower tri-fuel gas IPP, Ghana's first flagship project financed greenfield IPP

- Restructuring US\$50 million convertible debt investment in an East African cement company
- Portfolio Management of several investments: Mainone Cable Co West Africa, Cenpower Generation Co Ghana, Kenya Power Lighting Co, ARM Cement etc.
- Led the negotiation & documentation of the 2019-2022 Common Purpose Leadership program for staff, 2017 & 2021 AMT financial analysis & modelling training for analysts & associates

The Presidency, Bureau of Public Enterprises

Legal Enterprise Officer

December 2013 - September 2014 (10 months)

Abuja, Nigeria

Key Responsibilities

- Drafted Key Recommendations & memoranda to the Vice President of Nigeria as the Chairman of the National Council on Privatisation on legal issues that arose from BPE's privatization efforts including liabilities, market reforms & performance issues from private sector
- Drafted legal opinions on several matters - labor disputes, borrowing powers of the federal government in relation to its concession agreement obligations, wrongful privatisation claims against the Government, employee matters etc.
- Developed Policy Frameworks & Conducted Bill Reviews
- Co-Managed the Bureau's External Solicitors
- Managed External Solicitors on all case matters: 100+ open cases at the time
- Handled 100+ case files and conducted updates on major cases with the BPE
- Participated in committee meetings
- Drafted Recommendations and briefs on External Solicitor appointments

Key Achievements

- Drafted the Policy Framework for the Nigerian Communications Act 2003 Reform following review of the Act including comparative analysis of regulatory laws and practices of other countries; post telecommunications sector reforms policy regime (focusing on the potency of the laws and their enforcement by the Regulatory Agencies)
- Reviewed bills in 3 key sectors that Nigeria privatized and liberalized – transport, power and telecommunications - Nigerian Postal Commission Bill; National Transport Commission Bill & Nigerian Railway Authority Bill
- Developed legal opinions on resolution of the labour liabilities from the power privatization exercise; BPE's financing arrangements for the overhaul of the

power assets; difficulties around international financing partnerships which were utilized by the BPE Mgt Committee in resolving the issues; many as the basis for resolution of key open cases

- Independently identified & implemented a case and agreement file management solution in the unit thereby enhancing staff efficiency and solicitor liaison within the first month of role

Africa Finance Corporation

Origination and Coverage Summer Analyst

August 2013 - October 2013 (3 months)

Lagos, Nigeria

Key Responsibilities and Achievements

- Assessed new project proposals that require equity, debt, mezzanine financing & project development
- Tracked new and existing projects in AFC's deal pipeline
- Developed Initial and Advanced Investment Memoranda for two key AFC projects in the mining sector and power sector which involved financial and investment analysis; this was put forward for review to the firms' investment committee
- Produced weekly sector analysis reports for the Investment and Origination & Coverage teams across AFC's countries of coverage in power, mining, oil & gas, telecommunications and heavy industry

Nomura

Sales & Structuring Summer Analyst

June 2012 - August 2012 (3 months)

- Completed a 10 week summer internship on the Fixed Income Sales and Trading floor
- Delivered winning stock pitch on YOOX.com in Summer Analyst Stock Pitch Challenge from 36 summer analysts

First Rotation - Emerging Markets Sales

- Produced my FX trade ideas which I presented to Emerging Markets and FX Strategists, traders and salespeople
- Created a model to analyse rates strategies over 1-15 year horizons in key CEEMEA markets
- Produced presentations delivered to several clients notably Government of Singapore Investment Corporation
- Daily morning commentary sent to the Emerging Markets team
- Produced research pieces relevant to the team

Second Rotation - Rates Structuring

- Provided trade ideas on Middle Eastern rates markets
- Priced trades on the internal Nomura Credit and Derivatives System
- Worked on a trade idea presentation pack for the team to be delivered to clients
- Summarized and sent our weekly Rates, Credit and FX Structuring meetings and sent it to my team

Other Rotations: 1) Fixed Income: Primary Loans, Credit Sales and Flow Rates Sales 2) Equities: Cash Sales Trading 3) Equities: Cash Trading 4) G10 FX Hedge Fund Sales 5) G10 Vanilla and Options Trading

Big Choice Group

Team Leader for London Brand Agents

August 2011 - March 2012 (8 months)

Key Responsibilities and Achievements

- Managed a Team of 40 brand agents across 4 London Universities
- Allocated monthly targets to brand agents and monitoring their progress
- Worked with the team of agents to increase on-campus visibility of several brands such as Accenture, Lidl, BP Oil and BPP through interactive campaigns
- Solved queries and issues raised by brand agents
- Produced monthly reports on my work as a team leader as well as project reports for campaigns deployed

Amana Capital Pensions Limited (now Sigma Pensions)

Intern, Investment Division

July 2011 - August 2011 (2 months)

Abuja, Nigeria

Responsibilities

Reviewed investment opportunities mainly money market instruments & government securities for funds under management

Produced mandates for trades and liaising with Pension Fund Custodians and Discount Houses for effective execution

Produced monthly valuation reports for investments in various funds under management

Goldman Sachs

Securities (Sales & Trading) Spring Intern

April 2011 - April 2011 (1 month)

Daily desk rotations across Fixed Income Currencies and Commodities (FICC) and equities; Derivatives Sales/Trading, Interest Rate Product Sales/Trading, Emerging Markets (EM) Foreign Exchange (FX) Sales, GSS: Capital introduction, Sales and Consulting, Commodities Sales/Trading, Institutional Research and Pan European Sales

Responsibilities and Achievements

Delivered an individual stock pitch to a group of senior bankers and recruiters

Participated in group project advising a client on strategies to execute Short Term Interest Rates view using Options & Swaps

Nomura

Global Markets (Sales & Trading) Spring Intern

April 2011 - April 2011 (1 month)

Responsibilities

Work shadowed on Rates desk across sales and trading on the Fixed Income floor in the Global Markets Division

Insight into various clients dealt with and investment classes structured, traded and sold on the Rates desk

Presented an individual project on the financial crisis to a panel of recruiters

King's College London

Student Fundraiser

November 2010 - March 2011 (5 months)

Responsibilities

Worked 2 shifts a week calling alumni to get them re-connected with the college whilst building rapport

Sold the College's Annual Fund to alumni by making a case for alumni support through donations

Department for Education of UK
Member, Children and Youth Board
July 2009 - March 2011 (1 year 9 months)

Responsibilities

Communicated the views of younger generation, with regards to health, education & training, relationships and community volunteering opportunities to Government officials to form policies accordingly

Advised ministers and members of parliament and key stakeholders on programs aimed at getting young people actively involved in their communities and schools

Represented the youth to Government ministers, Members of Parliament and at various events

Key Policy Areas Worked on

1st Residential:

- Development and review of the Family and Relationships Green Paper
- Emotional Health Assignment
- Children's commissioner recruitment
- Participation in the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) Board of Directors meeting where the Children and Youth Board (CYB) presented the Family and Relationships green paper and to discuss Bullying and Discrimination and Positive Image and School Buildings

2nd Residential:

- Recommendations for Child Internet Safety
- Post 16 education and Community Service
- Aspirations and Career Advice
- Rights of children on information sharing and confidentiality vi-a-vis professionals that work with children
- Support positive experiences during adolescence and transition to adulthood

3rd Residential:

- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance
- Review of the updated Family and Relationship Green Paper
- Children's commissioner work review
- Surveys conducted for input into the work of the Children's workforce development council

4th Residential:

- Child Poverty and Youth Empowerment work via the Give Get Go Program
- Office of the children's commissioner review discussing effectiveness and role of children's commissioner

5th Residential:

- Youth policy review - working on a program to get young people actively involved in contributing positively to their communities
- Perspectives of Impact of Sexualization on youth and sex and relationship education

Africa Finance Corporation

Summer Intern

August 2010 - August 2010 (1 month)

Lagos, Nigeria

Responsibilities

Researched and analyzed financial information and public image of key firms within AFC's business mandate

Reviewed AFC's 5-year business plan and for other companies that the AFC is looking to invest in

Created power point slides on AFC which were subsequently used in AFC's standard marketing material

Education

University of Cambridge, Trinity College

Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Development Studies · (2014 - 2015)

CFA Institute

Chartered Financial Analyst · (2013 - 2015)

King's College London

LLB (Hons) First Class Honours, Law · (2010 - 2013)

Collingham College London

A-Level, Economics (A*), Mathematics (A), Chemistry (A), Further Mathematics (A), Extended Project (A*) · (2008 - 2010)

Nigerian Turkish International College, Abuja

West African Senior Certificate Examination (WAEC), Mathematics,
English, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Further Mathematics, Economics,
Geography · (2002 - 2008)