

TOP 30

HR VOICES

IN AFRICA 2026



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OVERVIEW

Across the continent, HR professionals drive powerful contributions to the growth and transformation of the African workforce. Through their leadership, strategic vision, and deep commitment to people, they are helping organizations navigate change, build talent, and shape the future of work. Their work not only elevates standards in people management but also inspires a new generation of leaders to view human capital as the ultimate driver of success.

This report shines a spotlight on the Top 30 HR Voices in Africa, celebrating the remarkable impact these practitioners deliver across industries, regions, and communities. These individuals are more than experts in their fields; they are pioneers, mentors, and strategists who are redefining the relationship between talent and technology on a global scale.

At the heart of this report is a powerful narrative of diversity and regional excellence. Our analysis of the top voices reveals a landscape that is both seasoned and inclusive:

- **Gender-Balanced Leadership:** Women are at the forefront of the HR revolution in Africa, representing 60% of the list. These leaders are not just managing human capital; they are building platforms for employability and empowerment. Their male counterparts, making up 40%, include veterans who bring decades of expertise in strategy and organizational change.
- **Deep Professional Experience:** The leaders featured in this report are highly seasoned, with an average of **18.5** years of industry experience. From emerging powerhouses to veterans with up to forty years of experience, their journeys reflect a lifetime of dedication to the craft.

OVERVIEW

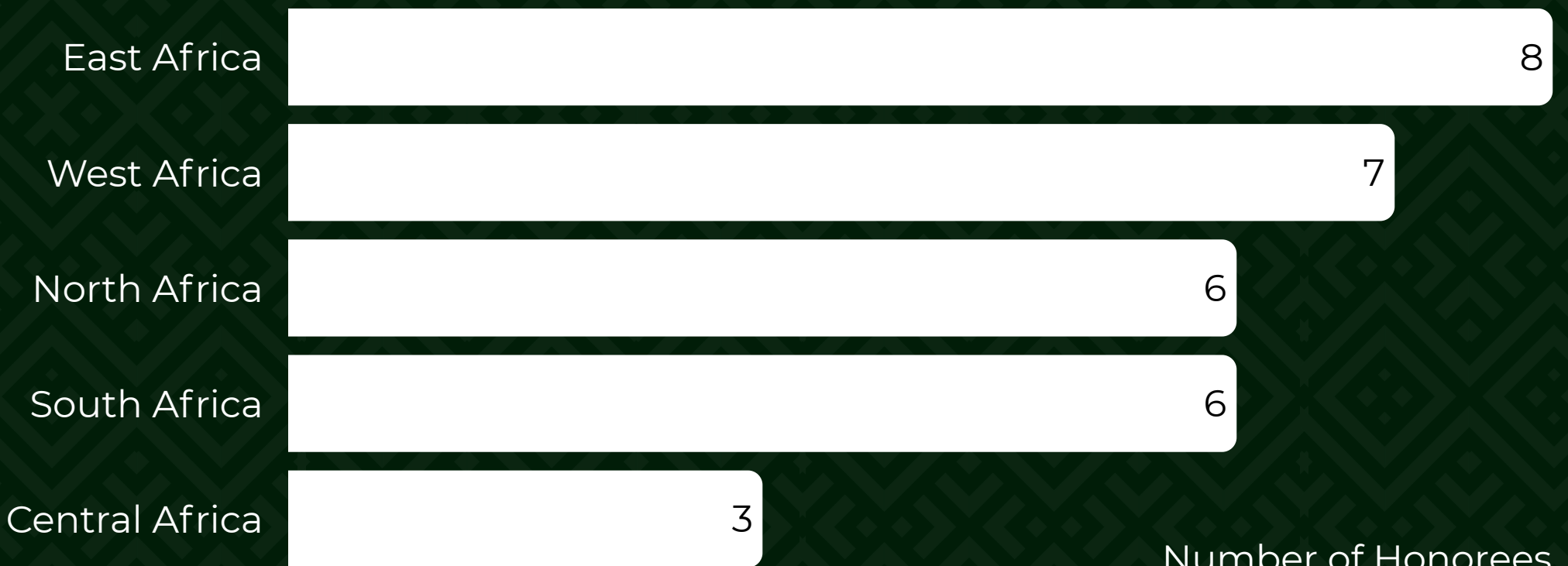
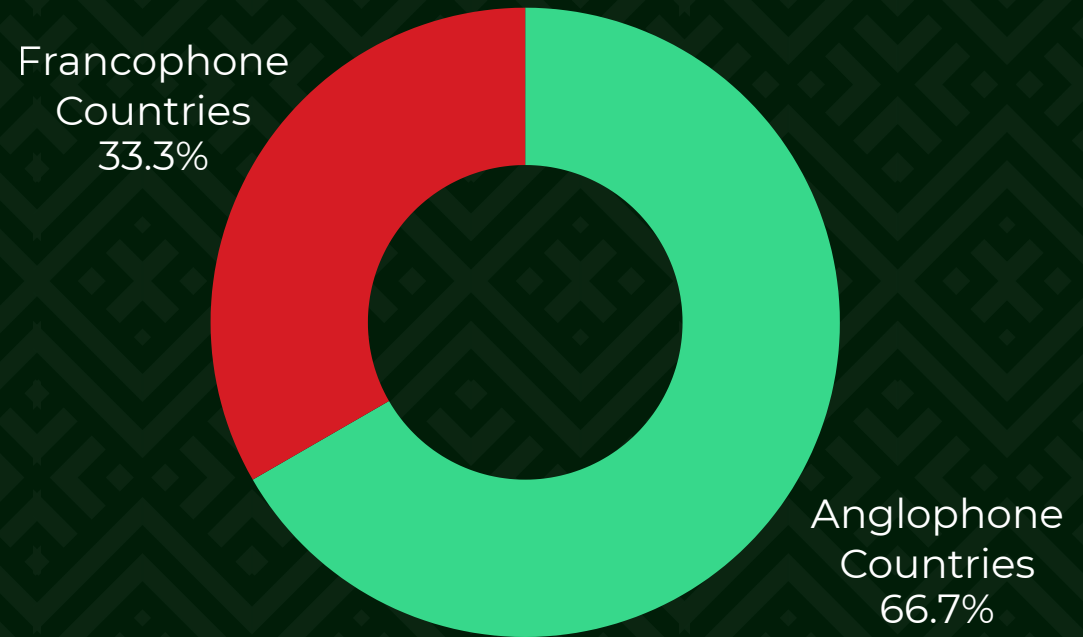
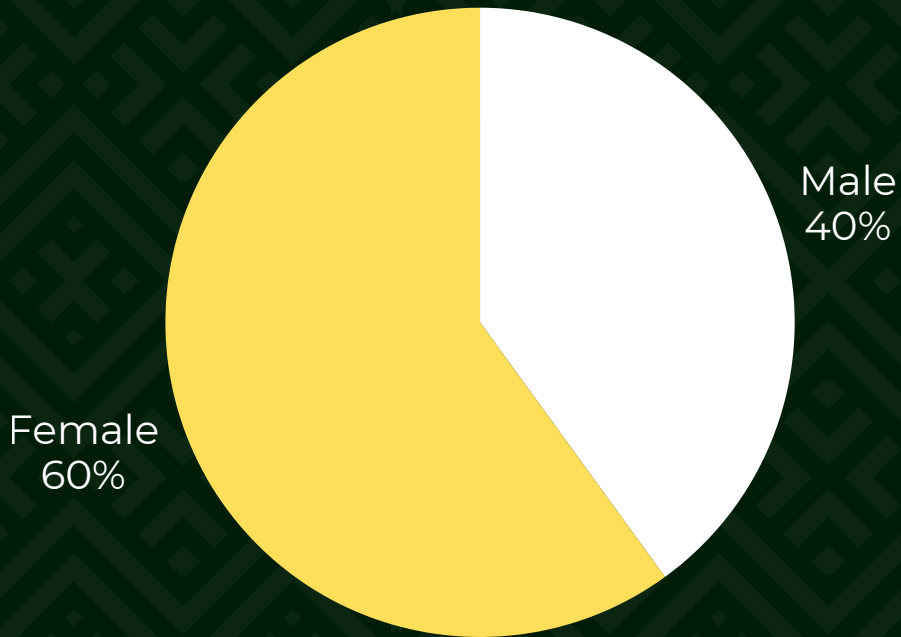
- **Pan-African Diversity:** These voices span twelve African countries, representing the rich diversity of the continent. From the strategic hubs of East Africa and the dynamic tech sectors of West Africa, to the robust corporate environments of North and Southern Africa, and the influential advocacy in Central Africa, this list captures a truly pan-African representation.

To select the professionals featured in this report, we carefully evaluated a blend of leadership and legacy. We looked for individuals holding pivotal roles within major organizations, but we went beyond titles to assess their true Industry Impact and the Innovation they bring to the HR landscape. Our selection process prioritized leaders who deliver tangible Business Results while consistently demonstrating Thought Leadership that challenges the status quo. We also sought out those whose Influence and Community Engagement foster growth beyond their own offices, placing a high value on their commitment to Social Impact and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion).

We also recognized the importance of language diversity, with a significant representation of Francophone professionals (33.33%), highlighting the interconnected nature of the African market.

While it is impossible to perfectly capture every leading voice across such a vast continent, this list serves as a powerful representation of the talent currently shaping the industry. Each story demonstrates how knowledge, determination, and a people-first mindset can create a lasting impact on the continent's economic and social future.

DEMOGRAPHICS



Number of Honorees

Paul Kasimu is an award-winning human resources leader and executive coach with extensive experience driving organizational excellence across Africa and Europe. Currently, the Founder and CEO of C Suite Impact Consulting, he has led transformation strategies in the banking, aviation, and telecommunications sectors. Notably, he serves as the University Council Chair at United States International University-Africa.

As former Chief Human Resources Officer at Safaricom PLC and Group HR Director at East African Breweries, he orchestrated large-scale restructurings and established top-tier employer brands. His pioneering initiatives include global leadership development frameworks and multi-million-dollar aviation projects. Recognized as Kenya's first HR professional named Manager of the Year, Kasimu combines governance experience with certified expertise in Agile, performance, and executive coaching.

Paul Kasimu

Kenya

Mehert Yonas is an accomplished human resources executive with over twenty years of professional experience across corporate and non-profit sectors. Currently serving as the Human Resources Director for HEINEKEN Ethiopia, she specializes in guiding corporate people strategy to unlock commercial growth. Her core expertise encompasses regional change management, corporate compliance, metrics-driven talent acquisition, and sustainable organizational transformation.

Under her strategic leadership, HEINEKEN Ethiopia secured prestigious consecutive certifications as a Top Employer in both Ethiopia and Africa. Yonas is recognized for spearheading impactful regional initiatives, including the competitive Global Graduate Program aimed at developing future executive pipelines. An alumna of Addis Ababa University and Ashridge Executive Education, she champions inclusive workplace cultures, professional mentorship, and robust corporate sustainability.

Mehert Yonas

Ethiopia

Dr. Rita Ndzie is an internationally recognized Human Resources expert, women's leadership advocate, and professional influence strategist based in Cameroon. Widely respected across Africa and the French-speaking diaspora, Dr. Rita is passionate about talent development, career coaching, personal growth, and transforming lives through impactful leadership and social initiatives.

As the Founder of HR'TITUDE, she is committed to empowering professionals, showcasing talent, and helping individuals unlock their full potential. Beyond her professional influence, she actively supports vulnerable communities through initiatives focused on orphans and street children, reflecting her deep commitment to service and social impact.

Currently serving as President of the Network of Professionals of Cameroon, a community of over 800 professionals across Cameroon and the diaspora, Dr. Rita continues to shape conversations around leadership, influence, and the future of Human Resources in Africa.

Rita Ndzie

Cameroon

Angela Mwenderani is a dynamic and results-driven Human Resources professional with a rich background in maximizing human productivity and shaping culture within high-stakes, service-driven environments. Best known for her impactful leadership as Human Resources Manager at the premier Diani Sea Resort and Diani Sea Lodge, Angela specializes in navigating complex employee relations, building agile teams, and aligning workforce talent with exceptional service delivery.

Beyond her corporate HR mandate, Angela is a highly sought-after public speaker, career coach, and motivational storyteller. She is deeply passionate about empowering individuals to transition from standard employees to elite high-performers, leveraging her deep knowledge of emotional intelligence and workplace psychology to unlock hidden potential. By combining tactical HR infrastructure with a visionary approach to personal and professional development, Angela has established herself as a trusted change catalyst who builds not just compliant workforces, but thriving, high-achieving corporate communities.

Angela Mwenderani

Kenya

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Tom Shivo is a distinguished corporate strategist and human resources executive with more than thirty years of transformative leadership across the African continent. Currently serving as the Chief People Officer at Kenya Airways, he orchestrates large-scale workforce operations and visionary culture transformation initiatives. Under his strategic guidance, the national carrier secured prestigious recognition as a Top Employer for 2026.

Tom's expansive cross-sectoral expertise encompasses pivotal leadership roles within the telecommunications, manufacturing, and financial services industries. A former director at HF Group, Safaricom, and Airtel Africa, he is widely celebrated as a premier regional changemaker in people and culture. He seamlessly integrates his executive mandate with robust corporate governance, holding an MBA from the University of Nairobi and serving as a dedicated board director for non-profit organizations such as the Next Step Foundation.



Tom Shivo

Kenya

Evelyne Munyoki is a distinguished corporate strategist and global human resources executive with more than twenty-five years of transformative leadership across the aviation, insurance, banking, and international development sectors. Widely celebrated as a premier visionary in people and culture, she has secured prestigious international recognition, including the 2024 EMEA Leader of Distinction by HRO Today and the IHRM HR Director of the Year award. Her executive mandate seamlessly integrates boardroom advisory with a robust focus on execution excellence, dedicated to translating organizational purpose into sustainable corporate realities.

Currently, the Group Human Resources Director at Britam, Munyoki, steered the organization toward its prestigious certification as a 2025 Top Employer in Africa. Her professional trajectory includes orchestrating large-scale people strategies as Chief People Officer at Kenya Airways, HR Director at the Co-operative Bank of Kenya, and CEWA HR Leader at IBM.

Evelyne Munyoki

Kenya

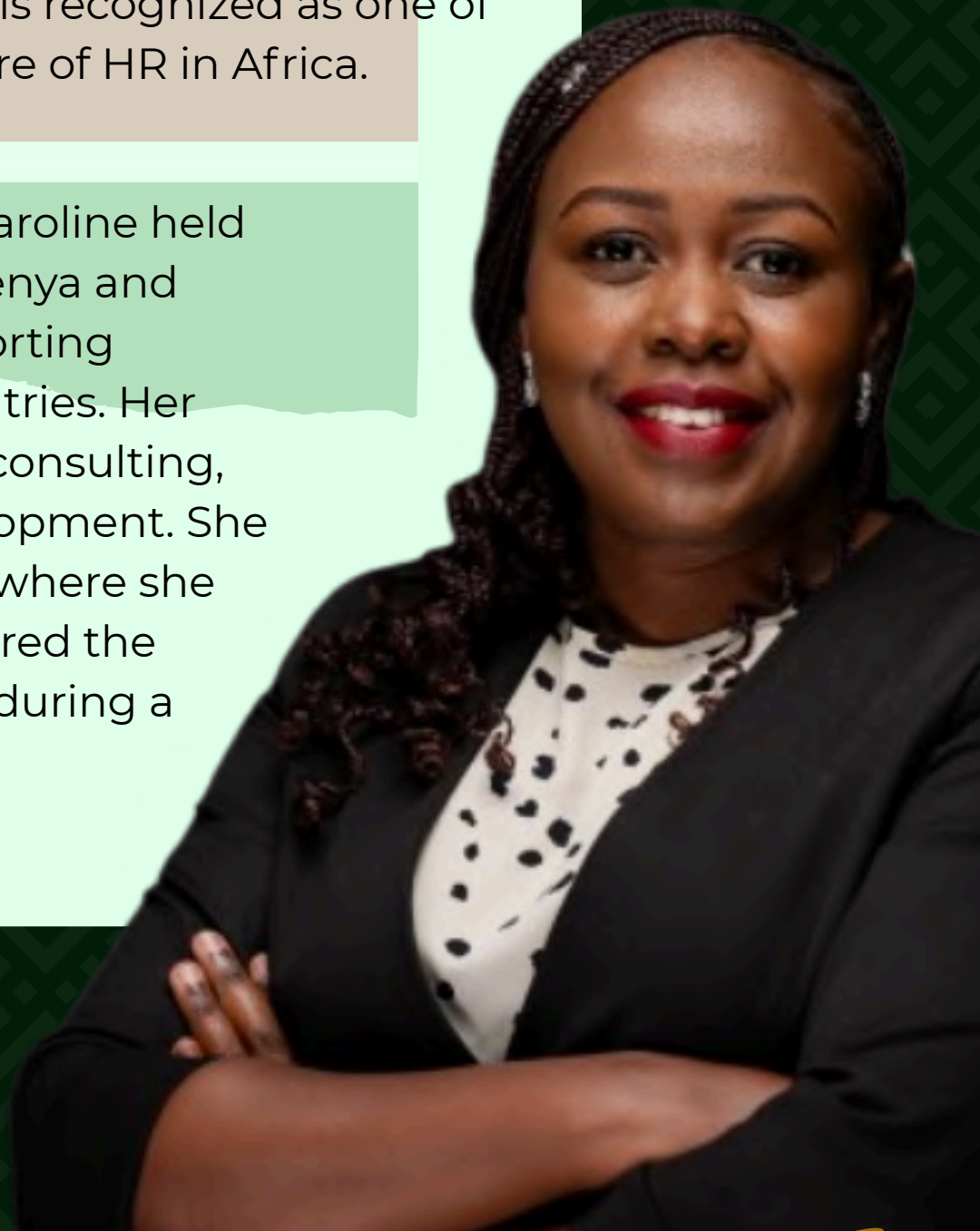


Caroline Karoki is a seasoned People & Culture leader with over 15 years of experience across Africa's professional services, consulting, and technology sectors. She currently serves as Head of People & Culture at Anjarwalla & Khanna, where she leads talent strategy, organizational transformation, culture development, and employee experience initiatives. Known for her people-centered leadership and strategic mindset, she is recognized as one of the influential voices shaping the future of HR in Africa.

Before joining Anjarwalla & Khanna, Caroline held senior HR leadership roles at KPMG Kenya and Prime Personnel Africa Limited, supporting operations across several African countries. Her career reflects strong expertise in HR consulting, recruitment, and organizational development. She also played a key role at SWVL Kenya, where she established the HR function, restructured the organization, and led people strategy during a critical growth phase.

Caroline Karoki

Kenya



Rabina Masanja Rienks is an experienced People & Culture executive with a strong track record of driving transformative people strategies across African markets in industries such as Banking and FMCG. Known for her strategic mindset and commercial acumen, she has built a reputation for aligning talent strategy with business growth and organizational success. She works closely with C-suite and board leaders to deliver practical, business-focused solutions to complex workforce and organizational challenges.

Throughout her career, Rabina has led high-performing, multi-geographic teams while championing leadership development, workforce optimization, and HR transformation. Passionate about unlocking human potential, she is committed to creating environments where individuals and teams can thrive. Beyond her professional work, her interest in travel, art, and cultural exploration continues to shape her global outlook and people-centered leadership approach.

Rabina Masanja Rienks

Tanzania



Ruth Yohannes C. is an accomplished Human Resource and management professional with over 15 years of experience across local and international organizations in diverse sectors. She is widely recognized for her expertise in leadership development, professional training, and organizational transformation initiatives. As the Founder and Managing Lead of The Talent Firm, Ruth delivers innovative human capital solutions that support both individual and organizational growth.

Ruth leads projects in organizational development, capacity building, recruitment, employee outsourcing, and career-readiness training tailored to evolving workforce needs. Backed by strong academic credentials in Management and Human Resource Management from Addis Ababa University, she combines strategic HR expertise with a passion for empowering people and strengthening institutions. Her work continues to inspire positive change across businesses, communities, and emerging professionals.

Ruth Yohannes C.

Ethiopia



Emmanuel Michael is a globally recognized HR thought leader, Certified Leadership and Career Success Coach, and strategic business executive with nearly three decades of management experience, including over 21 years in HR leadership. He currently serves as Director of Human Resources at Eko Hotels and Suites, where he leads HR strategy for one of Africa's leading hospitality brands. Passionate about leadership excellence and people development, Emmanuel is dedicated to helping future leaders unlock their full potential.

In addition to his corporate role, Emmanuel serves as Chair of the HRCI Certification Council and is the Founder and Lead Coach at HRwithEM, where he mentors professionals through coaching and career development programs. His expertise spans leadership development, employee experience, and strategic HR transformation. Widely respected across the HR community, he has been recognized among Africa's Top HR Thought Leaders and Nigeria's leading LinkedIn personalities for his impact and influence.



Emmanuel Michael

Nigeria



Michael Otchere Duah is an experienced Human Resource leader with over 17 years of expertise in people strategy, organizational transformation, and business growth across Africa. Currently serving as Human Resources Director for East & West Africa at Unilever, he leads strategic people initiatives focused on workforce development, agility, and business transformation. Known for his expertise in change management, organization design, and employee engagement, Michael has built a strong reputation as a transformational HR executive within global organizations.

Throughout his career, Michael has held leadership roles across Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, and other parts of West Africa, contributing to culture transformation and operational excellence. He also led the transformation of Unilever's Plantation business in East Africa through manpower optimization and technology integration initiatives. Passionate about inclusion and the future of work, Michael actively champions equity, gender-balanced workplaces, and agile business transformation across organizations.

Michael Otchere Duah

Ghana



Dr. Omotola Dayo-Adedapo is an award-winning Human Resources leader, career coach, and talent development expert with over 16 years of experience across the HR value chain. She currently holds a leadership role in the financial services sector and is widely recognized for her impact on strategic HR, leadership development, workplace learning, and career transformation across Africa. Known as “The Talent Builder,” she is passionate about empowering professionals through people-centered leadership and learning innovation.

She is the founder of HR TALENT HUB NG and Career LEAP with Omotola DA, platforms dedicated to mentoring, upskilling, and connecting HR and career professionals. Through coaching, training programs, and community initiatives, her work has impacted hundreds of professionals. Dr. Adedapo also holds globally recognized certifications, including GPHR and SHRM-SCP, and has been recognized among the Top 100 Career Women in Africa and Top 300 Global HR Leaders and Influencers.



Omotola Dayo-Adedapo

Nigeria



Funke Amobi is a globally recognized HR and business transformation leader with over 30 years of experience across the Oil & Gas, Banking, and Telecommunications sectors. She currently serves as Executive Director, Operations at Stanbic IBTC Bank, where she oversees banking operations, enterprise transformation, customer experience, procurement, and real estate management. Widely respected for her expertise in people strategy and organizational transformation, Funke has earned global recognition, including being named among the 100 Most Influential HR Professionals by Times Ascent India.

Prior to her current role, Funke served as Regional Head of People & Culture for Nigeria & West Africa at Standard Bank Group, leading strategic people initiatives across the region. She is also an Honorary Professor at Lancaster University Management School and serves on advisory boards including Lagos Business School. Beyond her corporate leadership, Funke is an author, mentor, and speaker passionate about women empowerment, youth development, and helping professionals achieve career success.

Funke Amobi

Nigeria



With a remarkable career spanning more than two decades, **Kunbi Adeoti** is a highly recognized, transformative HR leader renowned for evolving human resource functions across Sub-Saharan Africa. As the Chief People Experience Officer at Leadway Group, Kunbi directs the human capital strategy and customer experience across a massive portfolio of entities, including Leadway Assurance, Leadway Health, and Leadway Hotels.

Before her executive tenure at Leadway, Kunbi built a stellar reputation across the telecommunications and financial services sectors, holding strategic leadership positions at Standard Chartered Bank, Alcatel-Lucent, and Airtel Networks (Zain/Celtel).

A true global thought leader, she is a member of the prestigious Forbes Human Resources Council and an Independent Executive Director on several boards. Kunbi pairs rigorous corporate governance with an infectious passion for mentoring the next generation of HR talent and advocating for workplace equity.

Kunbi Adeoti

Nigeria



Omolara Yeku, popularly known as “Lara Yeku” is a respected Human Resources and organizational transformation leader with expertise in people strategy, leadership development, design thinking, and workplace transformation. She is known for her passion for helping individuals and organizations achieve growth through innovative HR practices and human-centered leadership. Currently serving in a senior HR leadership role within the manufacturing sector, she drives strategic people initiatives and organizational change.

Beyond her corporate role, Omolara is dedicated to mentoring professionals, coaching emerging leaders, and promoting modern workplace practices focused on employee engagement, talent retention, and continuous learning. With certifications in coaching, change management, and business analysis, she combines strategic HR expertise with a strong focus on innovation and personal growth. Through speaking engagements and thought leadership, she continues to shape conversations around leadership, career development, and the future of work across Africa.

Lara Yeku

Nigeria



Eric Bissiongol is a seasoned Human Resources executive and organizational management expert with over 20 years of experience across banking, telecommunications, manufacturing, and multinational corporate environments. He currently serves in a senior HR leadership role at Société Générale, where he oversees human capital and organizational strategy across Central and East Africa. Known for his strong expertise in aligning HR strategy with business goals, he has built a reputation as a transformational people leader.

Throughout his career, Eric has held leadership roles in major global organizations including UBA, Nestlé, Diageo, Schlumberger, BAT, Intelcia, and Société Générale. His expertise spans talent management, organizational development, reward systems, industrial relations, and labor law. Beyond corporate leadership, he is also a consultant, university lecturer, and facilitator passionate about talent development and Africa's growth through effective human capital management.



Eric Bissiongol

Cameroon



Hossam El Omari is a seasoned Human Resources executive with nearly 20 years of experience in people strategy, organizational growth, and talent transformation within the automotive industry. He has held HR leadership roles in globally recognized companies such as Renault Group and M-AUTOMOTIV, where he has helped align workforce development with business performance. Known for his strategic mindset, he is focused on building strong HR systems that support organizational success.

His expertise includes talent acquisition, organizational development, employee engagement, and HR business partnering. Throughout his career, Hossam has been committed to developing high-performing teams and fostering innovative workplace cultures. Through his experience and forward-thinking approach, he has become a respected voice in modern HR leadership across North Africa's automotive sector.



Hossam El Omari

Morocco



Joseph Komlan (Noubouke) Kpati is a results-driven professional with growing experience in human resources, business operations, and organizational development across the African corporate landscape. He is known for his strong foundation in leadership, workforce coordination, and strategic management, combining professionalism with a people-centered approach in dynamic work environments. His work reflects a commitment to excellence, adaptability, and continuous growth.

He brings a modern, solution-oriented approach to talent management, team development, and operational efficiency. Throughout his professional journey, Joseph has focused on empowering individuals and improving organizational performance through effective collaboration and leadership. With strong interpersonal skills and a forward-thinking mindset, he continues to position himself as a promising professional within Africa's evolving HR and business ecosystem.

Joseph Komlan (Noubouke) Kpati

Togo



Nicole Ngatchou is a distinguished Human Resources leader and international consultant with over 40 years of experience in shaping people strategy, organizational excellence, and HR transformation across Africa. She is widely recognized for her expertise in HR auditing, talent management, recruitment, training, and organizational development. Through her long career, she has built a legacy of fostering high-performing, people-centered workplaces.

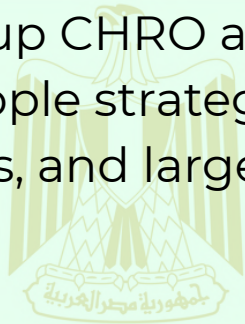
She is the Founder and CEO of Cabinet NAAS RH, where she supports organizations in structuring and optimizing HR practices through innovation, ethics, and strategic leadership. Her work spans workforce development, competency assessment, and HR quality management, helping businesses align people strategy with long-term growth. A certified HR Manager and HR Business Partner, she remains committed to advancing a human-centered approach to HR across Africa.

Nicole Ngatchou

Cameroon



Nermeen AbouSalem is a seasoned Global Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) and HR transformation leader with over 20 years of experience across Egypt, the UK, GCC, and the wider MENA region. She currently serves as Chief People and Culture Officer at Gates Developments, following her role as Group CHRO at PetroApp Group. She is known for aligning people strategies with business goals across startups, scale-ups, and large corporates preparing for IPOs.



Her expertise spans talent management, total rewards, organizational development, employer branding, and HR transformation across industries such as technology, telecom, real estate, and oil & gas. Nermeen has a strong track record of building HR functions from the ground up, driving cultural change, and using HR analytics for scalable growth. She also advocates for women empowerment and modern HR practices, while actively sharing insights on future-of-work trends across the MENA region.

Nermeen AbouSalem

Egypt



Anis Ben Othmen is the Country HR Director for SETCAR GROUP in Ben Arous, Tunisia, bringing a robust career driving HR strategies across manufacturing and international firms. Previously the HR Director at Enedo Oyj (2021–2023) in Tunis, he has held senior roles across multinational operations, specializing in talent acquisition, people analytics, and organizational development for the tech and industrial sectors. Educated at the Institut Supérieur de Gestion, Anis excels as an HR operations specialist, IT recruiter, and people analytics expert.

With multilingual skills and a sharp focus on high-growth environments, his professional journey includes early roles as an HR assistant at Business Solutions and various project management capacities before ascending to lead regional HR functions. Known for his recruitment prowess in cloud, tech, and business development positions, Anis actively contributes to HR transformation and talent acquisition within Tunisia's competitive landscape. His leadership seamlessly blends operational excellence with strategic people management for sustainable growth.

Anis Ben Othmen

Tunisia

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Heba Ezzat has served as HR Director for Egypt and Lebanon at Schindler Group since January 2024, bringing extensive expertise as a People and Culture Director and Strategic People Partner. With an MBA and a proven track record at global giants like BAT, Amazon, M.H. Alshaya, and Network International, she drives HR strategies focused on talent acquisition, employee engagement, and organizational growth in dynamic markets. Passionate about people, her career emphasizes resourceful executive leadership across multinational environments.

Recognized for her bilingual proficiency and strategic acumen, Heba excels in fostering high-performance cultures, backed by an educational foundation from UCAM Universidad Católica San Antonio. Her leadership champions human-centric HR practices, aligning business objectives with employee development in highly competitive sectors. As a key player in regional HR leadership, she continues to shape talent strategies for sustainable success.

Heba Ezzat
Egypt





Hatem Bacha is the Country Human Resources Director for Tunisia at Valeo, a global automotive leader, a role he has held since January 2012. Based in Tunis, he drives comprehensive HR strategies in a high-stakes manufacturing environment, focusing on talent management, employee relations, and organizational development for the automotive sector.

His long-term leadership at Valeo underscores his deep expertise in regional HR operations, supporting business growth amid Tunisia's competitive industrial landscape. Multilingual and strategically minded, Hatem excels at fostering high-performance teams essential for driving innovation and scalability in multinational operations.

Hatem Bacha

Tunisia



Boubaker Guelbi is a seasoned Human Resources Director with over 20 years of experience in strategic HR management, organizational development, and talent leadership across international industries. He currently serves as HR Director at ALL Circuits, a global leader in electronic card and systems manufacturing. He is known for designing and implementing HR strategies that align with business goals, corporate culture, and long-term organizational growth.

Throughout his career, Boubaker has held senior HR leadership roles in organizations such as ATEMS and Groupe Solitaire - IGT, gaining broad experience across manufacturing and international business environments. He is skilled in developing HR policies and management frameworks that strengthen human capital and performance. Fluent in Arabic, Italian, and French, he works effectively in multicultural settings and is committed to fostering diversity, inclusion, and sustainable organizational development.



Boubaker Guelbi

Tunisia



Thakazelwa N. is a highly accomplished Human Resources leader with over 20 years of experience in the HR profession, including more than 10 years in senior leadership roles across diverse sectors. She is recognized for her strong strategic mindset and technical expertise in driving people and culture strategies that support business transformation and organizational effectiveness. Her leadership consistently focuses on strengthening workforce performance and enabling sustainable growth.

She has deep expertise across change management, mergers and acquisitions, organizational restructuring, talent management, total rewards, employee relations, and learning and development. Throughout her career, Thakazelwa has led HR initiatives that enhance capability building and operational excellence. She remains committed to developing high-performing teams and delivering people strategies that drive long-term business success.



Thakazelwa N.

South Africa



Jonathan Muthige is an experienced Group Human Resources Director and business leader with a career spanning the oil and gas, FMCG, retail, and banking sectors. He has led HR functions across Europe, the USA, Asia, and Africa, gaining strong expertise in managing multicultural teams and driving organizational transformation in global environments. His work focuses on aligning people strategy with business performance and growth.

His expertise includes human resources management, talent and performance management, leadership development, and organizational design. Beyond HR, he has held roles in sales, project management, and banking operations, contributing to executive-level business strategy and decision-making.

Jonathan completed his executive education at Wharton and Harvard Business School, and was named IPM HR Leader of the Year in 2025 for his outstanding impact on the profession.



Jonathan Muthige

South Africa



Sibongile Bobo Mngxali is a strategic Human Resources and People & Culture leader currently serving as Head of People and Culture at Roche Diagnostics. She is passionate about driving people strategies that deliver measurable business value while enabling innovation, agility, and alignment with Roche's vision of "Doing Now What Patients Need Next." Her leadership focuses on positioning HR as a key driver of organizational success.

She leads initiatives in leadership cultivation, coaching, employee experience, transformation, and diversity and inclusion, combining commercial insight with people-centered leadership. Sibongile is also committed to youth empowerment and talent advancement through robust bursary and early-career programmes. Guided by a purpose-driven approach, she is dedicated to empowering women, nurturing future leaders, and supporting meaningful personal and professional growth.

Sibongile Bobo Mngxali

South Africa



Mónica Dos Santos Dias is a dynamic Human Resources professional with over 10 years of experience driving people strategy, talent development, and organizational growth across Mozambique's corporate landscape. She is skilled in learning and development, talent management, HR business partnering, and workforce planning, and is recognized for building people-centered workplaces that support sustainable business success. She currently serves as Head of Human Capital at Tongaat Hulett Mozambique, where she aligns HR strategy with business objectives.

In this capacity, she leads initiatives that foster an inclusive, collaborative, and high-performing workplace culture while strengthening people management practices. Previously, she held HR leadership roles at Coca-Cola Sabco Mozambique, leading learning, development, and talent management initiatives. She also served as an HR Business Partner and consultant, supporting organizations with HR strategy and organizational effectiveness, and continues to champion innovative HR practices.

Mónica Dos Santos Dias

Mozambique



Imran Esmael is an ethical and strategic Human Resources leader with over 15 years of experience delivering business impact through organizational transformation, restructuring, design, and culture effectiveness programmes. He currently serves as Head of Human Resources at Hollard Mozambique, where he aligns people strategies with business growth and operational excellence. His leadership focuses on enabling strong governance, stakeholder management, and sustainable organizational performance.

Throughout his career, Imran has led end-to-end HR workstreams in mergers and acquisitions, including due diligence and post-merger integration, as well as supporting business expansion and greenfield projects. He has held senior roles in organizations such as AB InBev, SABMiller, Heineken, British American Tobacco, and Hollard Insurance. With experience across Southern Africa and international exposure in Ecuador and Romania, he brings a strong global perspective to HR and organizational transformation.

Imran Esmael

Mozambique



Bridget Makhura is an accomplished business and people executive with leadership experience across human resources, commercial operations, and corporate governance in the African market. She currently serves as Chief People and Sustainability Officer at Clicks Group, where she leads strategic initiatives focused on people development, sustainability, and long-term organizational growth. Her work seamlessly blends commercial insight with a strong focus on talent and transformation.

Previously, she held multiple senior leadership roles at AB InBev Africa, including Vice President of People, Regional Commercial Director, and Country Managing Director for Eswatini, alongside various operational and board positions. She also served as a Non-Executive Director for several breweries in the region. Bridget holds an MBA from GIBS Business School and a Master's in Chemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand, combining strong analytical expertise with strategic business leadership across Africa.

Bridget Makhura

South Africa



CONCLUSION

As Africa continues to rise as a global hub for innovation, enterprise, and human capital development, the role of HR leaders has never been more critical. The voices featured in this report remind us that sustainable growth begins with people, and transformational leadership is rooted in empathy, strategy, and the courage to challenge convention.

While this report highlights 30 outstanding professionals, it also serves as a tribute to the broader HR community across the continent, many of whom are making meaningful contributions every day. We hope this publication sparks conversations, encourages collaboration, and inspires the next generation of HR leaders to continue building workplaces where people can thrive.





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