

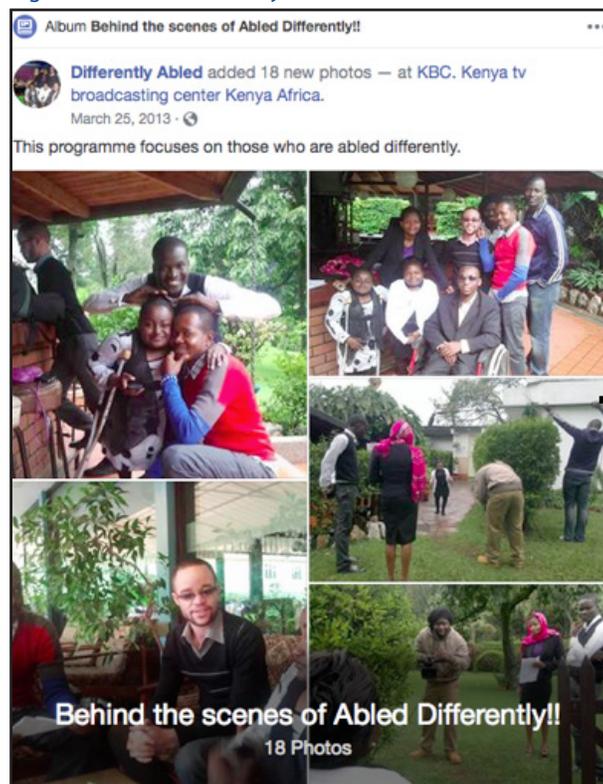
ADA International Fellowship Program: 2017 Fellows

Fall 2017 ADA alum **Jackline Lidubwi** is a senior producer for the [Kenya Broadcasting Corporation \(KBC\)](#), the country's national public television and radio network.

She produces a weekly 30-minute television program called *Abled Differently*, which profiles Kenyans with different disabilities and examines disability rights-related issues that affect their lives (see Figure 1). The program, which airs in primetime, is the first television series in Kenya to focus on people with disabilities. In addition to her work as a producer, Jackline serves as an advisor on KBC's Disability Mainstreaming Committee and mentors interns with disabilities.

Jackline used her ADA International Fellowship to further her work around mainstreaming disability rights in the media and around inclusive education. She spent her

Figure 1: *Abled Differently* Facebook Post.



fellowship at the [University of Massachusetts Boston School for Global Inclusion and Social Development](#) under the supervision and mentorship of Alvaro Tobar, the school's instructional media manager. For her follow-on project, she chose to encourage disability journalism in Kenya by teaching journalism students at universities across the country about best practices and appropriate terminologies on disability mainstreaming.



Jackline Lidubwi

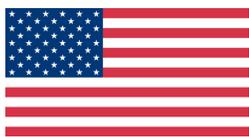
Since returning to Kenya, Jackline has made measurable progress toward implementing her fellowship goals. She has been lecturing at the University of Nairobi and St. Paul's University on the important role of media in promoting inclusive education in Kenya, while promoting opportunities for persons with disabilities in the media through social media and other venues (see Figure 2).

Jackline presented a paper, "The Role of Media in Promoting Inclusive Education," at the second East Africa Conference on Inclusive Education, held March 22–23, 2018 in Nairobi. The conference was sponsored by the Kenya Institute of Special Education in collaboration with the Kenya Ministry of Education. During the conference, Jackline had a chance to connect with the other Kenyan ADA alums and their fellowship mentors (see Figure 3).

Most recently, her paper "The Role of the Vernacular

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**"I'm forever grateful for the opportunity,
I'm a proud ADA Alum."**

—Jackline Lidubwi, Fall 2017 ADA Alum



The ADA International Fellowship Program was funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and implemented by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) in partnership with the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Radio Stations in Promoting Inclusive Education in Rural Communities in Kenya” was selected for presentation at the sixth Annual Disability Rights Conference, to be held November 6–7, 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa.

Jackline has also reached out to United Disabled Persons of Kenya, a federation of organizations for persons with disabilities in Kenya. She wants to collaborate with this group to develop a disability-reporting manual, making sure that people with disabilities are included in every aspect of producing this manual.

Asked about a positive impact that she was able to make six months after completing her fellowship, Jackline gave the example of a young journalist with a disability whom she had been mentoring for some time and who got employed by a Christian media house. “She started a replica show of Abled Differently in the station, and that for me is the greatest achievement because more stories of disability will be told,” said Jackline. In her role as a senior producer, Jackline has been able to cover more stories on inclusive education in her Abled Differently program.

Jackline’s program has won several awards for helping to highlight disability in the media. In addition to the 2014 Persons with Disabilities Accessibility Award, Jackline recently won the 2018 Kuza Award (see Figure 4), an initiative by the Communication Authority of Kenya, aimed at motivating broadcasters to provide quality programs that consider a broad spectrum of characteristics, such as language, culture, and moral values.

The ADA International Fellowship experience has clearly helped Jackline to engage more people in an effort to improve inclusive education in Kenya. “When I meet stakeholders in inclusive education, I engage them from a very informed angle, I contribute equally, and the mention that I was an ADA International Fellow on inclusive education is a big boost to my portfolio,” noted Jackline.

Figure 2: Abled Differently Facebook Post.



Figure 3: 2017 ADA Alum and Mentor Meeting.



Figure 4: 2018 Kuza Award. From L to R: Monica Juma and Jackline Lidubwi, both of KBC, pose with their KUZA awards.



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