

Junior Abdul-Wahab, PhD

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Selected Policy Impact

- Led development of The Gambia's National Policy Development Handbook.
- Supported public-sector reform negotiations contributing to 60–100% salary increases for lower-paid civil servants.
- Designed pilot digital transformation strategy for the Presidency.
- Co-authored World Bank Poverty & Gender Assessment and Gambia Economic Update.
- Coordinated World Bank Chief Economists of Government Forum involving 30+ African countries.

Professional Experience

UNICEF Innocenti, <i>Quantitative Research Consultant</i>	May 2026 – Present
World Bank, <i>Research Consultant</i>	October 2025 – May 2026
World Bank & African Center for Economic Transformation, <i>Presidential Fellow</i>	October 2023 – June 2025
Woosong University, <i>Assistant Professor</i>	March 2023 – February 2024
Green Climate Fund, <i>Evaluation Assistant</i>	July 2022 – March 2023
World Bank, <i>Research Consultant</i>	November 2021 – June 2022
Institute of Statistical Social & Economic Research, <i>Principal Research Assistant</i>	September 2018 – February 2020
Ghana Statistical Service, <i>District Field Coordinator</i>	August 2014 – May 2016

Other Experience

- Global Youth Climate Challenge, Volunteer Researcher, Remote (February 2025 – February 2026).
- KDI School, Graduate Teaching & Research Assistant, South Korea (February 2021 – July 2022).
- Korea Electric Power Corporation E&C, Business Intern (August 2017 – September 2017).
- University of Ghana, Teaching & Research Assistant, Ghana (August 2013 – July 2014).

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Development Policy (<i>summa cum laude</i>)	February 2020 – December 2022
• KDI School of Public Policy & Management, South Korea. <i>Dissertation:</i> Topics on Gender and Child Development Outcomes.	
Master of Public Policy (<i>summa cum laude</i>)	February 2017 – August 2018
• KDI School of Public Policy & Management, South Korea. <i>Thesis:</i> Institutions, Trade, and Economic Growth.	
Master of Philosophy, Economics	August 2014 – July 2016
• University of Ghana. <i>Thesis:</i> Export Quality and Economic Growth in ECOWAS.	
Bachelor of Arts, Economics & Political Science (<i>First Class</i>)	August 2009 – May 2013
• University of Ghana.	

Awards & Recognition

- Outstanding Thesis Award | December 2018 | KDI School
- Academic Excellence Award | Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017 | KDI School
- Certificate of Appreciation | August 2023 | Ghana Students in South Korea and Associates

Selected Publications & Policy Papers

- World Bank (2026). *The Gambia Economic Update: Learning Without Earning: Women's Educational Gains and Labor Market Constraints in The Gambia*. World Bank Group. (Co-author) [Full report]
- Abdul-Wahab, J., et al. (2025). *National Policy Development Handbook*. Banjul, The Gambia. [Full document]
- Abdul-Wahab, J., & Jobe, O. (2024). *The Gambia Policy Framework Diagnostic Report*. Ministry of Public Service, Administrative Reforms, Policy Coordination, and Delivery. [Full document]
- Abdul-Wahab, J. (2022). *Topics on gender and child development outcomes*. Doctoral dissertation, KDI School of Public Policy and Management. [Full report]
- Abdul-Wahab, J., & Rudolph, R. (2022). Gender, education, and jobs. In *The Gambia Poverty and Gender Assessment 2022: Securing a Robust and Inclusive Recovery* (pp. 43–61). World Bank Publications. [Full report]
- Abdul-Wahab, J., & Tabakis, C. (2018). Institutions, Trade, and Economic Growth: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa. KDI School of Public Policy & Management. [Full report]
- Independent Evaluation Unit (2023). *Second Performance Review of the Green Climate Fund*. Evaluation Report No. 13 (Feb). (Acknowledged for significant contribution). [Full report]

Working Papers

- Abdul-Wahab, J. (2025). Do Cash and In-Kind Food Transfers Differentially Affect Child Welfare? Identifying Mechanisms Using a Cluster Randomized Control Trial in Northern Uganda. (Draft Available).
- Abdul-Wahab, J., Mohammed, B., and Asiedu, E. (2023). The Trust Dividend: Evaluating the Impact of Internally-Driven Financial Sector Reforms on Consumer Deposits in Ghana. (Under Review).
- Abdul-Wahab, J., and Tabakis, C. (2023). Beyond the Ballot: How Local Female Political Leaders Shape Gender Norms in Ghana. (Draft Available).
- Abdul-Wahab, J., and Tabakis, C. (2022). Measuring women's status: A new measure and its implications for child development.

Conferences & Presentations

Organizing Roles

- Local Planning Chair, World Bank Chief Economists of Government Conference, Banjul (2025).
- Planning Committee Chair. GHASKA Innovation Conference, Seoul (2023).

Presentations

- IUCN Leaders Forum, Jeju (2022): Climate urgency and lessons from community-led climate action.
- DAAD Alumni Conference, Accra (2019): Mother's Bargaining Power and Child Health Outcomes.
- Ghana Studies Association, Accra (2019): Measuring Mother's Bargaining Power using Household Surveys.

Skills & Expertise

- Research Methods: Applied microeconometrics, survey design and implementation, policy design and evaluation, impact evaluation (RCT & quasi-experimental), monitoring and evaluation.
- Software & Tools: Stata, R, Python, Excel, Tableau, Power BI, Looker Studio.
- Thematic Expertise: Education, public sector reform, poverty & inequality, gender, jobs, agriculture, climate resilience.
- Languages: Fluent: English, Akan, Hausa | Intermediate: French | Basic: Arabic, Korean.