Somaneh “Bouba” Diemé

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Bouba Diemé is a heart transplant survivor, social entrepreneur, and Mandela Washington Fellow dedicated to advancing cardiometabolic health in West Africa and beyond. Born in Dakar and raised in Manantali and Bamako, Bouba came to this work through his own experience: diagnosed with cardiomyopathy at 26, six years with a mechanical heart pump, and a transplant in Boston in 2022.

He founded the Heart of a Giant Foundation (HGF) in Boston in 2018 and launched programs in 2020 that deliver free cardiometabolic screening and coaching through trained community health workers. HGF has reached over 10,000 people, served 1,800+ participants in its screening and education program, identified and referred 47+ severe hypertension escalations to care between 2023 and 2025 (22 of them in 2025), and secured $1.2M+ in funding, while helping raise $500K+ for other organizations.

Alongside HGF, Bouba built a career in energy and infrastructure. At Enbridge, he managed stakeholder engagement and was a leader on the team that stood up new joint ventures and extensions. He directed over $100K in grants there. At National Grid, he led municipal engagement and Corporate Affairs. He also co-founded Yeelen Energy in Dakar and Bamako and consulted for Dalberg, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the City of Dakar.

Bouba holds a BEng in Electrical Engineering (2009), an Honours degree in Engineering and Technology Management (2010), and a Master of Management in Technology and Innovation (2014), all from the University of Pretoria, and is completing a Graduate Certificate in Human Factors in Medical Devices and Systems at Tufts (one course pending). Fluent in English, French, and Bambara (moderate in Malinké, fair in Wolof and Diola), he returned to Dakar in September 2026 to expand his mission in Senegal and Mali. He is engaging local priorities first: cardiometabolic health needs, facility infrastructure, and direct insights from patients, healthcare professionals, and their associations.

He serves on advisory and patient boards, is open to corporate board service, and welcomes conversations with teams advising governments and funders on health and development in Africa.

Links: heartofagiant.org · YouTube · Migraine Outreach · Enbridge · National Grid · CEE · Univ. of Pretoria · Tufts (Human Factors Cert.)

Press: CBS Change Makers · CBS news segment · WCVB Chronicle · AHA 2018 · AHA EmPOWERED · AAHFN profile · LZF spotlight · Vital Connections · Nefertiti Media · podcast · Heart-Failure.net essays · Boston Herald · SacBee California feature

Full resume and references available on demand.