

Dr. Ryan Shelby, United States Agency for International Development (USAID); rshelby@usaid.gov

Dr. Ryan Shelby is a Career Diplomat & Supervisory Foreign Service Engineering Officer serving within USAID/Southern Africa (USAID/SA) since 2019.

At USAID/SA, Dr. Shelby serves in dual roles as the infrastructure diplomacy lead for 16 countries in Sub Saharan Africa as well as a warranted Contracting Officer in the Regional Executive Office.

In these roles, he provides procurement oversight & technical guidance in countering malign development practices and addressing corruption-enabling vulnerabilities in strategic infrastructure growth sectors: digital, critical minerals, water, energy, and climate resilient infrastructure.



Prior to his current position at USAID/SA, Dr. Shelby served in USAID/Haiti (2017-2019) and managed a team that concentrated on (1) climate resilient infrastructure, (2) housing rehabilitation, (3) clean energy systems, and (4) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies.

From 2013-2017, Dr. Shelby was a Senior Energy Engineering Advisor within USAID's Office of Energy & Infrastructure where he supported & led the Powering Agriculture: Grand Challenge for Development.

In 2019, Dr. Shelby was selected to receive the [2019 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal for National Security and International Affairs](#), given to the U.S. Government officials who have fostered innovation and have provided the greatest benefit to the American people.

Dr. Shelby has also received other awards during his time at USAID such the [2014 Meritorious Honor Award](#) for his efforts to support the success of Power Africa, the [2017 Superior Honor Group Award](#) for the development of the Agency's construction risk policy, the [2020 Meritorious Honor Award](#) for his efforts in the USAID/Southern Africa Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group, the [2021 Franklin Award](#) for his dedication to the COVID vaccination clinics, the [2021 Eagle Award](#) for the COVID Vaccine Distribution, the [2021 Franklin Award](#) for installation of 131 handwashing stations at schools in South Africa, and the [2021 Group Mission Award](#) for the Ubunye Roof repair.

In 2021, Dr. Shelby received the C. Herbert Rees Rising Star Award, given to one mid-career employee whose performance demonstrates potential for continued growth & ability to assume greater responsibility in USAID.

Dr. Shelby was also selected as a [Power 50 US National Security and Foreign Affairs Leader](#) by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Diversity in National Security Network in 2021.

For his dedication to public service and his commitment to the betterment of society, Dr. Shelby received the [2022 Mark Bingham Award for Excellence in Achievement by a Young Alumni](#) from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Shelby completed his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering where he focused on the user needs analysis, co-design and implementation of sustainable homes and energy systems that met the cultural sovereignty, economic, climate adaptation, and tribal sovereignty needs of Native American tribes in northern California.

Dr. Shelby received his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley with a concentration in design, and his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University with a concentration in propulsion systems.

Dr. Shelby also serves as an [Advisory Board Member for the Blum Center Master of Development Engineering program](#) at the University of California, Berkeley.

Shorten Bio

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A native of Alabama, Dr. Shelby completed his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering, his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University.

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