

GEORGE NATANGWE PENDAPALA NEKWAYA

Fintech Founder | AI Product Manager | Data Strategist

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Fintech founder and MBA graduate with civil engineering foundations, data analytics expertise, and AI innovation. Founder of Buffr, a digital finance platform inspired by India's UPI, aimed at building financial identity for Southern Africa's next generation.

Distinguished as a Hassenfeld Fellow with immersive global business experience across Israel, India, Germany, and the UAE. Leveraging AI/ML to solve real-world problems in emerging markets—bridging the gap between technology, business strategy, and social impact.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder

Buffr Inc. | Windhoek, Namibia | January 2023 – Present

Building financial identity for Namibia's informal economy—a sector representing approximately 24.7% of GDP (approximately N\$8 billion).

Products Developed:

- **Buffr Payment Companion** — Instant payment infrastructure for emerging markets, inspired by India's UPI
- **BuffrLend** — Digital lending module
- **BuffrSign** — Digital signature module
- **Buffr Host** — Front desk AI for independent Hospitality properties

Key Achievements:

- Conducted comprehensive field studies on digital payment ecosystems across 5+ countries
- Selected for MassChallenge, Global Venture Labs, and Brandeis Spark accelerators
- Developed AI-powered credit scoring using ML-driven transaction analysis

Project Manager, DEIJ & Workforce Development

The Alliance for Climate Transition (ACT) | Massachusetts, USA | October 2024 – June 2025

Led comprehensive workforce development assessment in partnership with Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC).

Key Accomplishments:

- Conducted 14+ in-depth interviews with clean energy companies (startups to Fortune 500)
- Analyzed hiring needs across 50+ companies in the clean energy sector
- Developed diversity and inclusion strategies for clean energy workforce
- Authored comprehensive workforce development assessment report with actionable recommendations

Technical Project:

- **ACT Climate Economy Careers Platform** — Career platform with AI-powered resume analysis, skill gap identification, and real-time chat interface

Business Development Consultant

Aquasaic Corporation | Remote | October 2024 – March 2025

Strategic consulting for innovative water treatment technology startup

- Designed initial architecture for Aquasaic Aqua Intel Platform
- Conducted commercial and technical research on cutting-edge water treatment technologies
- Developed pitch decks tailored for funding opportunities (municipal, industrial, residential sectors)

Business Development Intern

Insait IO | Tel Aviv, Israel | June 2023 – July 2023

Fintech predictive analytics startup focused on AI applications in banking.

- Analyzed Valley National Bank financial data, identifying real estate loans as key revenue driver (>30% of industry revenue)
- Researched EU AI Act and US regulatory compliance considerations for AI in finance
- Developed compliance framework documentation for AI applications in banking, including analysis of GDPR, PATRIOT Act, Fair Lending Laws, ECOA, FCRA, and Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act
- Investigated emerging fintech trends: digital banking, personalized financial services
- Contributed to research on AI ethics in finance and potential risks of AI systems in banking
- Delivered strategic recommendations to senior leadership on compliance and market positioning

Business Operations Manager / Site Engineer

Polar Power Inc. | Windhoek, Namibia | July 2018 – April 2019

Led operations for multinational telecommunications and renewable energy company

Key Achievements:

- Successfully constructed 10 telecommunication towers for MTC (Namibia's largest carrier)
- Secured contract to design and deliver 2 portable WiFi trailer masts to BoFiNet (Botswana)
- Managed optical fiber installation project in Swakopmund
- Established partnerships with MTN Business, NECOR Ltd (Zambia), Victoria Consolidated (Tanzania)
- Directed teams of 10+ employees and managed subcontractors
- Created Bill of Quantities (BOQs) for materials and equipment; introduced tower kit solution that streamlined sourcing

International Sales Representative

Kanie Distribution and Supply Chain | Windhoek, Namibia | 2020 – 2021

- Represented company at Dubai Expo 2020 — world's largest business networking event
- Presented technical solutions at Namibia's 4th Industrial Revolution Expo
- Provided training to government officials on drone applications

Site Agent's Assistant

Namibia Road Products & Services | Windhoek, Namibia | 2017 – 2018

- Led road construction operations managing team of 15 workers
- Completed 3.5 km road upgrade project in Windhoek
- Coordinated with municipal stakeholders and managed project timelines
- Ensured quality workmanship through thorough inspections and adherence to standards

Civil Engineering Intern

Lithon Project Consultants | Ongwediva, Namibia | November 2015 – January 2016

- Evaluated 15+ tender documents for compliance with Namibian standards
- Conducted site inspections for stormwater infrastructure projects
- Assisted with civil engineering projects focusing on infrastructure development and municipal services

DATA ANALYTICS & RESEARCH PROJECTS

Machine Learning in Peer-to-Peer Lending | 2024

- Analyzed 1.8 million loan records using machine learning for investment optimization
- Implemented predictive models: random forests, gradient boosting
- Identified key factors affecting loan default rates and investment returns
- Demonstrated improved performance over random selection strategies

Time Series Analysis: AMD Stock Prices (1984-2024) | 2024

- Applied econometric techniques to 40-year stock price dataset
- Incorporated sentiment analysis of news articles and annual reports
- Used ARIMA modeling and GARCH volatility analysis
- Identified predictive factors for stock price forecasting

COVID-19 Economic Impact Analysis | 2024

- Analyzed pandemic effects on rental markets using Airbnb datasets (458,177 listings)
- Applied statistical techniques to assess market recovery patterns
- Quantified economic disruption and policy response effectiveness

Stripe Payment Processing Platform Analysis | 2023

- Comprehensive analysis of mobile payment market in SADC region
- Researched M-Pesa, Flutterwave, PayStack competitive landscape

- Analyzed Stripe's strategic deals and rationale for African expansion

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration (STEM-Designated)

Brandeis International Business School | Waltham, MA | May 2024

Concentrations: Data Analytics, Strategy & Innovation

GPA: 3.45/4.0

Relevant Coursework:

Analytics & Technology	Strategy & Business
Advanced Data Analytics	Competition and Strategy
Machine Learning for Business & Finance	Marketing Management
Forecasting in Finance and Economics	Business Dynamics: Managing in a Complex World
Python and Applications to Business Analytics	Business in Global Markets
Information Visualization	Entrepreneurship and Rapid Prototyping
Credit Risk Analysis	Business & Economic Strategies in Emerging Markets

Leadership & Campus Involvement:

- Vice President, International Business School Student Association (IBSSA)
- Graduate Student Senator & Board Member, Graduate Student Association (GSA)
- Instructional Assistant, Social Impact Investing and MBA Communication courses
- Led IBSSA to "2023 Student Group of the Year" recognition

Bachelor of Engineering: Civil & Environmental Engineering

Namibia University of Science & Technology | Windhoek, Namibia | October 2017

- Capstone Project: Comprehensive water tower system design for Kalkrand township
- International Exchange: FH-Aachen University, Germany (Project Management)
- Engineering Students Association Committee Member

AWARDS & HONORS

Award	Organization	Year
Asper Student Startup Prize Winner (Apps, Software & Computer Science)	Brandeis University	2023
Student Group of the Year (as IBSSA Vice President)	Brandeis University	2023
Student Choice for Community Engagement	Brandeis University	2023
Prime Liaison Recognition	Brandeis University	2024
Hassenfeld Fellowship for Global Markets Research	Brandeis International Business School	2023-2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming & Data Science

Python | R | SQL | JavaScript/TypeScript | PostgreSQL | Neo4j

AI/ML & Frameworks

Machine Learning | LangGraph | LlamaIndex | Pydantic AI | CrewAI | AutoGen | Scikit-learn | Time Series Analysis | Sentiment Analysis | RAG Systems

Web Development & Cloud

Next.js | FastAPI | SQLAlchemy | Supabase | AWS | Google Cloud Platform

Business & Analytics

Data Visualization | Financial Modeling | Forecasting | Market Research | Statistical Analysis | Process Optimization | Quantitative Analysis

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certification	Institution	Date
Agentic AI & Generative AI Bootcamp	Krish Naik Academy	2024-2025
Open Banking & Platforms Specialization	Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship	January 2023

Rearchitecting the Financial System	Singapore FinTech Festival / Elevandi / CFTE	November 2023
Fintech for Africa	Singapore Management University / CFTE / Elevandi	2023
Operations Management	University of Cape Town	March 2021
Digital Transformation	Professional Development	2021

HASSENFIELD FELLOWSHIP

Hassenfeld Fellowship — Global Business Immersion (2023-2024)

Israel:

- Visited innovative companies: Mobileye, Lemonade, Lightricks
- Deep dive into AI-driven innovations and startup culture
- Explored Jerusalem and Tel Aviv tech ecosystems

India:

- Engaged with industry leaders: Varun Beverages (Pepsi), Mahindra Group, ICICI Prudential, Welspun, Dabur, Bharti Airtel
- Visited National Stock Exchange of India
- Studied UPI payment system and India stack — primary inspiration for Buffr

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **New Elementary Namibia** — Collected and distributed educational materials, food, and clothing for impoverished schools; contributed to school refurbishment projects to improve early education standards
- **Global Entrepreneurship Network Namibia** — Developed 'Zizza Makazi' green hydrogen concept for HDF Energy

CONFERENCES & PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

- MIT FinTech Conference 2024 & 2025, Boston
- FinTech Junction 2023, Tel Aviv
- Black in E-Commerce 2023, Atlanta