



## **Mildred Oiza AJEBON**

**Home Country:** Nigeria

**Degree:** PhD in Geography

**Expertise:** GIS, Remote Sensing, Statistics

**Research Focus:** Environmental Epidemiology,  
Geodemographics,  
Deprivation

**Host University:** University of Durham, United  
Kingdom

**Fellowship Awarded:** 2015

Mildred Ajebon was born in Igarra, a town in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area in Edo State, Nigeria. Her parents, sadly now deceased, were both peasant farmers. She began her studies in her home town, and completed her secondary education at the Igarra Girls' Grammar School.

Mildred attended the University of Benin, Nigeria, where in 2007 she obtained a BSc in Geography and Regional Planning. During her time as an undergraduate she developed an interest in geographical information systems (GIS) and remote sensing applications in environmental epidemiology, which aims to investigate environmental conditions that impact the health of deprived populations. Mildred continued her interest in this field with an MSc in GIS from the University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria in 2010. She started her teaching career in 2008 as a Graduate Assistant at the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria. She is currently a lecturer in the Department of Geography and Regional Planning, University of Benin (UNIBEN), Nigeria. She gained a second MSc in GIS from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom in 2012.

The PhD research aims to identify vulnerable populations and geographical areas using advanced geospatial technologies and statistical methods. Mildred is using GIS and remote sensing applications to map a range of diseases, health outcomes and health care systems. Statistical models are being used to analyze area deprivation and therefore help to optimize health care systems. The work uses a multidisciplinary approach that draws on experience from geography, medicine, statistics, environmental and geospatial sciences. This is particularly important as most health research in Nigeria focuses only on overall public health.

On successful completion of her PhD studies, Mildred expects to return to lecturing at UNIBEN. She plans to lead a multidisciplinary team of GIS and medical geography researchers to initiate a postgraduate study option in Health Geography. Her research team will focus on reducing the vulnerability of deprived areas, building resilience and improving health outcomes for disease and health care issues in developing countries.