

APF QUARTERLY

AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY FORUM NEWSLETTER

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GALVANIZED ACTION AND **IMPACT MAKING** IN UNPRECEDENTED **TIMES**

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ABOUT AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY FORUM

African Philanthropy Forum (APF) was established in 2014 to build a learning community of strategic African philanthropists and social investors committed to inclusive and sustainable development throughout the Continent.

It was incubated by the Global Philanthropy Forum (GPF), a global network of strategic philanthropists and social investors committed to international causes from 2014 - 2016. In 2017, APF became an independent entity and continues to be an affiliate of the GPF.

Over the years, APF has established a stronger presence on the Continent, with footprints in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe through its convenings and initiatives. APF has also invested in the development of two volumes of the Toolkit for African Philanthropists and the "Why Give" Series, which consists of interviews with Africa's strategic philanthropic leaders to showcase their motivations for giving.

Since inception, APF has reached over 2,500 philanthropists, social investors and key stakeholders in the philanthropic space across Africa and the world. Through APF's high impact convening and initiatives, the organization has facilitated collaborations, amplified the work of change makers and shared best philanthropic practices and strategies for promoting homegrown development.

Our Mission

African Philanthropy Forum is a strong and vibrant community of partners who through their strategic giving, investments and influence, foster shared prosperity on the African Continent.

Our Vision

To transform the culture of giving on the Continent to the extent that it exceeds development aid by 2030. (USD 42bn FDA in 2017, source: UNCTAD Report).

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OPPORTUNITIES IN DIGITAL RIGHTS FOR AFRICAN PHILANTHROPISTS



Over the past decade, the number of internet users worldwide has more than doubled. As of January 2020, the digital population consists of 4.54 billion users. In Africa, the number of internet users grew from 110.9 million to 522.81 million between 2010 and 2019. The internet has undeniably revolutionized the free flow of information between individuals by offering anyone with an internet connection the ability to gather and share information and ideas. This has had a profound effect on the exercise and the protection of the triad of information rights, which includes the right to privacy, the right to freedom of expression and the right to access of information. In turn, the field of digital rights has vastly expanded in recent years, even more rapidly since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Digital rights in any society grants its citizenry the opportunity to access quality education, healthcare and a chance at skills acquisition which eventually leads to social

and economic development. Protecting this right is simply not about the availability of infrastructure to enhance it but also extends to the local laws, and permissible content entrenched in such locale. If protection of digital rights can lead to empowerment, which will enhance the GDP of a Nation, prepare its people for the 4th Industrial Revolution and in all aspect, quicken the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, then its worrisome to see the level of repression and laws that suppress digital rights across the continent.

Citizens and digital subscribers across the various regions of Africa have respective hurdles that had to be crossed while many are still trying to fathom their status by asking:

- Do we have enough digital access and affordability?
- Can we drive digital innovation & catalyze free expression and civic participation in philanthropic activities?
- Are the proliferation of laws and regulations undermining the potential of digital technology to drive socio-economic and political development on the continent?

To educate stakeholders, social development organizations and galvanize action to address the issues listed above, APF had the webinar on Opportunities in Digital Rights for African Philanthropists on 9th of November. Midy Aponte of Spitfire Strategies moderated the session with the rich panel of Ruth Babette Ngene (Internews), Stan Getui (Luminate), Alberto Cerda Silva (The Ford Foundation), 'Gbenga Sesan (Paradigm Initiative) and Mosun Layode (APF).

Discussion

The discussion with panelists centered on gaining a deeper understanding of the need for the work that digital rights organizations do, and why partners, including philanthropists, are needed more now than ever to support this work.

Introduction to Internet and Digital Rights

- **Internet and digital rights are interconnected with issues in everyday life, including health, business and education.** However, research from the World Bank has shown that only

22 percent of people in Africa have access to the internet. Internet and digital rights require partners such as philanthropists, to take a holistic approach to capacity building for the organizations focused on the issue, ensuring that they have long-term, flexible funding that can be used in innovative ways to support internet access, training and organizational needs, like technical support.



- **Digital inclusion is an integral piece of internet and digital rights.** It's especially important that people have safe and equal opportunities to access the internet and high-quality information. Many African countries have focused on enforcing a lockdown on internet usage, rather than using the same energy to increase access and support our youth in creating innovative platforms and tools for advancement.
- **Data protection is an important part of digital rights.** Data abuse can mean loss of money or government services, a stolen identity or many other cybercrimes. There are a number of civil society organizations working on this issue, including providing information to people about their data, or digital footprint, and how to take steps to protect it from being stolen or abused.
- **Engagement in the internet and digital rights space aids in the advancement of social-political issues.** Access to the internet is about social inclusion. It's a tool that can be used by advocates across issue areas to fulfill their missions – but the rules and policies need to be in place to ensure that all people, including women and people with disabilities, can access it.

Trends in the Global South

- **The issue of censorship continues to be one of the largest concerns when it comes to digital rights on the continent of Africa.** Social media platforms like Twitter have been banned in Nigeria, and TV shows have been cut off when they express unpopular sentiments. These are examples of how governments

across Africa are making new laws to limit free speech and close the last civic space: the internet.

- **Data abuse and privacy violations are common occurrences when there are no strong internet protection laws in place.** Across 20 countries in Africa, there have been problems with people taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to steal personal data from internet users to sell on the dark web. Strong internet protection laws can help to mitigate this danger.
- **As more African countries implement laws that restrict internet access, citizens will begin to push back against this new normal.** Civil society realizes that when situations are ignored long enough, they become the new normal, which raises the bar of new engagement. Because governments have pushed people into a corner, citizens are now more likely to ask questions and analyze the details of government policy.
- **A community of digital rights advocates across the continent of Africa can be first responders to internet rights violations.** In 2017, a 90-day internet shutdown in Cameroon inspired similar censorship in other regions, including a shutdown in Chad shortly thereafter. The lack of media attention and public backlash to Cameroon's shutdown made it easier for Chad and other smaller countries to follow suit. To fight back against any future shutdowns or violations, there is a need for a diverse coalition of lawyers, journalists



and technologists working on the ground to raise the alarm when there are violations of internet and digital rights.

Looking Forward

Weighing the economics of digital rights and what the continent stands to lose if citizenry don't advocate for its protection, participants noted the key role and importance of re-education on the impact of digital space in overall economic activities, emergency services access and a veritable platform for freedom of speech and free press exercise.

Gbenga Sesan noted that when the citizenry and end users know about digital privacy violations, we will see a

reduction in people willingly opting for their rights to be violated so as to access their digital rights. The ability to connect the implication of data violation and data rights will go a long way in the digital advocacy drive.

According to Babette of Internews, the problem doesn't stop where there is legislation; application of the law, human capacity availability to ensure such applications go a long way in ensuring digital rights. Legislators, stakeholders need to make effort to connect this issue with daily life process of users. The misconception that data protection only applies to online activities must be changed.

LAUNCH EVENT:

DISPARITIES IN FUNDING FOR AFRICAN NGOS

An official virtual launch to discuss the results and accompanying insights from the research on Disparities in Funding for African NGOs, a report that was released in July 2021, was held on the October 15. Mosun Layode, Executive Director of African Philanthropy Forum moderated the panel discussion that was made up of Gbenga Oyebo (Aluko & Oyebo), Degan Ali (Adeso), Fred Swaniker (African Leadership Group) and Andy Bryant (Segal Family Foundation).

Background

The research is a partnership between the African Philanthropy Forum (APF) and The Bridgespan Group to provide data and

essential insights for the many donors in Africa and around the world looking to make a difference on the African continent. APF and Bridgespan were prompted to examine the paucity of funding going to African NGOs in part because of research conducted by its Johannesburg office in 2020 and 2021 on large-scale African philanthropy. One of the stand-out findings of the report was that African NGOs received a relatively modest share of large gifts between 2010 and 2019: 14 percent of grants (by value) from non-African donors and just 9 percent from African donors⁴ (with large gifts defined as \$10 million for non-African funders and \$1 million for African funders).

Bridgespan updated the research in 2021 to highlight a massive



response by African philanthropists to the COVID-19 pandemic: the number of gifts in 2020 was seven times the annual average for the previous decade. Yet African organisations still only received 9 percent of grants (by value) from African donors. 5 To be sure, the funding disparity faced by African NGOs is not a new dynamic.

Direction for African Philanthropy

According to Fred Swaniker, relationship building and delivery on promises are pivotal to the funding sustainability for African NGOs. Relationship building, however, takes time and he recommends the following four steps in the relationship building phase:

1. Establishing Connection
2. Continuous Interaction and Visibility
3. Trust
4. Collaboration

Most African NGOs tend not to follow the above phases, in specifics, meeting a funder and expecting trust and funding to follow immediately might leave the NGO disappointed.

According to Degan Ali of Adeso, cost of operations and overheads of some Global North's developmental organisations are some of the factors taking up the bulk of the funds and halting impactful local projects. The existing status-quo structure does not allow for effective impact and Africa need to stop being in denial and

depending on aid as a way out of poverty. Taking back and directing the narratives of Africa is key; well managed resources, power and infrastructural development will go a long way in convincing our donors that we have the capacity to make the change we want.

Gbenga Oyebo, APF Board member and Chairman of Aluko & Oyebo emphasized on the importance of strategic giving which is more impactful and effective than a rushed haphazard approach. The more African NGOs internalize strategic approach, the more social impact that will be made across the continent.

Harnessing the Power of African Philanthropy to Fund African Organizations

African Philanthropy Forum in collaboration with the Gerhart Center held a webinar on Harnessing the Power of African Philanthropy to Fund African Organizations during which findings from the report on "Disparities in Funding for African NGOs" was discussed.

At the core of the webinar was the low level of large-gift philanthropy that reaches African organizations, and the panel explores the ways in which philanthropists based within and outside of Africa can provide more support to proximate African NGOs.

The Challenges

The sustainability and long-term perspective of African philanthropy are factored into the actions, perceptions and efforts of galvanizing the next generation of philanthropic stakeholders on the continent. However, the hurdle of African philanthropists not being able to work with local NGOs maximally as a result of FX expectation, high cost of operation and dictated outcomes from funders, etc are still challenges that need to be addressed.

The tenacity of the African philanthropist and the long-term strategy of building a network of partners who will carry on

into the future is a challenge holding back the growth of the sector in Africa. Seeking out and identifying willing partners that are ready to work with NGOs on a long-term basis is a daunting task.

Another identified challenge is high staff turn over from African philanthropy organisations to global counterparts as a result of better financial perks and other benefits.

Funding African NGOs

A relatively small share of both international funding and African Philanthropy money reaches African NGOs

Way Forward

- **Knowledge Center:** Tsitsi Masiyiwa noted it is alarming that there are only 2 knowledge centers in Africa- Johannesburg and Cairo which are not enough to build a sustainable philanthropy in Africa which has 54 countries. As much as the continent can afford, there must have undergraduate, Masters and PhD programs with philanthropic curriculum as well as research centers to generate data and build knowledge. Achieving this will help build an ecosystem around knowledge and skills development as well as competency enhancement.
- **Role of the Media:** The African media must build an appetite to publish stories that motivates and inspire Africans to be interested in the sector. Across the continent, philanthropists are building hospitals, funds PPEs and participating in the process of minimizing effect of COVID during this pandemic. The drive and persistence as well as interest in philanthropic activities exists but the media need to appreciate local content, understand the local process share this with global journals and international reviews. and contribute knowledge for sustainability.
- **Powerplay Dynamics:** Ability to have a greater influence on how disbursed funds are utilized for local good is essentially needed. Global funders should work as partners with local NGOs who are in close proximity to the most vulnerable, rather than playing the role of dictating where, what and how the donated funds should be utilized.

CONVERSATION ON ENGAGING AFRICANS IN THE DIASPORA



In recent years, African migration has been on a steady rise and fueling the growth of cross-border flows. Africans residing in developed countries like the United States, France and the United Kingdom, notably account for up to a quarter of all funds remitted to the continent. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic, which heightened across the world in 2020 has proven the resilience of remittance flows into Africa. Now more than ever, we have an unprecedented opportunity to explore ways in which remittance flows to the continent can be duly harnessed for systems change in Africa. How we do so, depends on our ability to collaborate across sectors to enable systems that will facilitate the process.

In light of this, African Philanthropy Forum held a conversation on the topic 'Driving Systems Change in Africa: Exploring the Role of the Diaspora' with Lord Dr. Michael Hastings CBE, Chancellor of Regents University London as host.

The webinar provided insights into the role of the Diaspora in driving systemic change in Africa as well as obligations of actors within Africa to support the process of instituting the structures that support innovative approaches to receiving remittances. A highly interactive session that saw innovative ideas and solutions to some of the pertinent challenges we face on the Continent being explored.

APF PODCAST SERIES

This quarter, we kicked off the African Philanthropy Forum Podcast Series to contextualize the challenges and success stories of stakeholders in the social developmental sector. The APF community consists of experienced individuals with a track record successes in various fields across the continent and sharing there knowledge and lessons learnt with the world will inspire others to action.



Episode One:

Celebrating a Decade of Impact: Focus on TY Danjuma Foundation Gima H. Forje, CEO of the TY Danjuma Foundation was guest on the first episode of the APF podcast series and he shared insights on the motivation behind the setting up of the TY Danjuma Foundation, the philanthropic nature of the Chairman even while in the service of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as well as lessons the Foundation has learned in the first ten years of navigating the philanthropic landscape.

Access the episode here: <https://bit.ly/3pxpWoy>



Episode Two:

Directing the Narratives of Africa Episode Two was dedicated to the work Africa No Filter is doing in telling African stories without bias. The stories we hear and share about Africa have a great influence in shaping not just what others think of the continent, but how and what we think and act on as well. The narrative is a major factor in shaping public opinion about events, news, and even developmental stories on Africa. On this podcast session, we are glad to have Moky Makura, the Executive Director of Africa No Filter, an organization that supports the development of nuanced and contemporary stories that shift stereotypical and harmful narratives within and about Africa.

Access the episode here: <https://bit.ly/3ouHKkG>



Episode Three:

A Focus on Humanity United Humanity United is an organization that is dedicated to building peace and advancing human freedom. The organization's work is built on four strategic pillars that, together, help make the world more peaceful and free:

- Voice & Will
- Rule of Law & Good Governance
- Markets & Business- Ideas & Innovations

With a significant impact and work across Africa, we had a chat with Jesse Eaves, the Senior Director (Peacebuilding), on the firm's African vision, and many more.

Access the episode here: <https://bit.ly/2ZZWqK>

AFRICAN NGOS STRUGGLE TO FIND FUNDING

-Malika Ferot

There is a huge gap between the funding African non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are receiving compared to their governmental and international counterparts, according to a new report.

African philanthropists are only donating nine percent of their larger sums to African NGOs, according to the combined findings of The Bridgespan Group, a global nonprofit, and the African Philanthropy Forum, a network of strategic philanthropists and social entrepreneurs.

“What we found on the African funders side, is that a lot of large gifts (donations) are being directed to public sector entities, as well as direct implementation of initiatives through funders own operating foundations,” Siya Hayi-Charters, Consultant at The Bridgespan Group’s Johannesburg office, said at the “Harnessing the Power of African Philanthropy to Fund African Organizations,” virtual event earlier this month.

Hosted by the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy at the AUC School

of Business, the event focused on challenges that African NGOs are facing and what strategies they are currently implementing to combat them.

Philanthropist Tsitsi Masiyiwa believes there is great potential for philanthropy in Africa, and the response to the current COVID-19 pandemic is a great example of that. However, African NGOs are experiencing many obstacles.

The founding board member and the current Board Chair of the African Philanthropy Forum, Masiyiwa started her philanthropic work in the early 1990’s during the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Greatly impacted by the many orphans and families the pandemic left without breadwinners, she was ultimately inspired to dedicate her life and work to children.

In 1996, she founded the Higherlife Foundation which has supported more than 250,000 children so far towards educational services. It is now one of the largest scholarship programs in Africa.

NGOs are often crucial for local communities, Masiyiwa pointed out, as they are more in touch with the members’ needs and priorities than the bigger international and governmental organizations.

One of the key findings of the report was that there is a lack of trust based on a skewed perception of what African NGOs can achieve. This is why funders end up supporting bigger and more well-known organizations.

NGOs often pay in the local average salary of the given

Figure 1. The funding landscape for African NGOs is diverse



country, and since that can rarely compete with the salary of larger organizations, the NGOs are constantly losing qualified and competent staff. "It's a competitive sector, and you always find that the most highly qualified personnel will go and work the international jobs, even though job security at some of the African NGOs are way better, but they pay in the local currency," Masiyiwa said.

Even the nine percent of all funds that the local NGOs do receive are usually smaller, more short-term and with more restricted grants. This is preventing the NGOs from actually investing and building strong resilient organizations and sustainable economic growth.

Masiyiwa believes knowledge is the answer. "What really interested me about this webinar is that it is hosted by the American University of Cairo – which is a center for philanthropy. Now, I am only aware of two centers on the continent. One in Johannesburg and one in Cairo. With 54 countries, there is no way we can really build sustainable African philanthropy, when we have only two centers of knowledge," said Masiyiwa.

Masiyiwa says that there should be centers of philanthropy in all African countries. They should offer masters, PhDs and conduct research on philanthropy to build sectors that collect all kinds of data.

She believes that this is how a pipeline of leadership made up of people with great skills in philanthropy is secured. "We will not get there without that ecosystem of knowledge and skills around African philanthropy," explains Masiyiwa.

Despite the many obstacles and challenges, Masiyiwa is still hopeful and motivated as ever. She thinks that the momentum

brought by COVID-19 should be taken advantage of. "We are seeing it more and more. Not only internally in African philanthropy, but also globally, there is a willingness to tackle and to see ways in which we can move forward collectively," commented Masiyiwa.

The webinar is part of a series brought by the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business. "The webinars are about bringing ideas to people by bringing good speakers. And hopefully getting people to think about 'The bottom and up', community, and their purpose in life," Director of the John D. Gerhart Center Ali Awni told The Caravan.

Awni explained that everything from equality to sustainability is about mindset. It is what determines what we think, and how we behave, and ultimately how we collectively shape the world. The attention and the focus should be with working "bottom – up" which means starting within our own communities.

While the speakers at the webinar discussed their strategies of finding new philanthropists, Awni believes the focus should be on the mainstream population. "Only 30 percent of all the funding comes from big philanthropists, the rest are coming from people like you and me. We might only give a \$100, and not a million, but there are hundreds of millions of us," Awni said. Awni seconds Masiyiwa in her focus on prioritizing and establishing foundations of knowledge to create informed individuals. That is how Awni believes working toward change becomes more accessible. "It all comes down to awareness. That is how mindsets are challenged and that is how we democratize and de-elitize change (in the world)," Awni said.



SUPPORT FOR THE KIREKA HOME FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

The practice of safe hygiene goes a long way in ensuring members of a community move up the sanitation ladder. With the assistance of the Uganda Breweries Limited, APF Board Members, Queen Sylvia and Mr Switihin Munyantwali were able to construct and donate a hygiene and sanitation unit to the Kireka Home for the Mentally Handicapped, Uganda.

The amenity, consisting of a bathroom, toilet, handwashing facilities and water storage tanks are critical to maintain a healthy status for the school and help ensure a boost in dignity, confidence, and regular school attendance.

The facility was handed over to the residential school on 16th December 2021.

**HIGHERLIFE
FOUNDATION**
TURNS

25

HIGHERLIFE FOUNDATION

Raising Africa's Future Leaders through Education



25 years ago, Higherlife foundation was born in response to the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic which left many children in Zimbabwe orphaned and vulnerable. "When my husband and I started our organization in 1996, it was at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Zimbabwe, we were compelled to respond to the heart-breaking crisis we were experiencing". said, Higherlife Foundation Co-Founder and Chair, Mrs Tsitsi Masiyiwa.

Seeing thousands of children orphaned and vulnerable as the disease took their parents and guardians, leaving them without support systems and with insecure futures, the Masiyiwa's through the Capernaum Trust, which would later become Higherlife Foundation, created a platform for these young people to fulfill their God-given purpose through scholarships, mentorship and other tools that have seen many become history makers and servant leaders in different spheres.

The past 25 years have seen the foundation grow from having one branch in Zimbabwe to spreading its footprint on the African Continent as it is now has branches in Burundi, Lesotho, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda and Swaziland. "Our philosophy is to go where they are, eat what they eat, and sleep where they sleep – these rich experiences inform our strategies and put people at the center of our interventions." Mrs Masiyiwa added.

With funding from Econet, Cassava, the Masiyiwa Family, in its 25-year history, Higherlife Foundation has grown to contribute towards Africa's development by implementing projects in Education; Global Health; Rural Transformation and Sustainable Livelihoods; and Disaster Relief and Preparedness, impacting millions of lives in the communities it serves.

Speaking at a 25th Anniversary celebration for the Foundation, the Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Mr Strive Masiyiwa shared that it had been more than 25 years since the work began in earnest and has always been about obedience to God's instruction.

"We are Africa's biggest home-grown foundation and philanthropic institution. We have gone beyond Zimbabwe, but we have our anchor here and in the Word of God. We don't give because we have, we have because we give.

"As we celebrate 25 years, we know we have a sacred mission. Our work is of God, and He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him," he added. Looking ahead, Higherlife Foundation is guided by Vision 2050, to see Zimbabwe and other African countries become upper-middle-income countries by 2050. It is aligned to the national Vision 2030, the National Development Strategy 1, and the African Union's Agenda 2063, the continental blueprint for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future.



MASTERCARD FOUNDATION AND LIGHT FOR THE WORLD LAUNCH ONLINE PLATFORM TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Light for the World Uganda, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, launched an online platform, Cap-Able, which will enable higher education institutions, primarily Scholars Program Partner Universities, to become more disability inclusive.

Cap-Able is a digital toolkit designed to equip administrators, lecturers, and management with the information, knowledge, and tools to create more inclusive learning institutions. The toolkit offers best practices for higher education institutions to improve enrollment and learning practices, create inclusive learning environments, and help young people effectively transition to the world of work. It is a one-stop-shop for educational material on disability inclusion in higher education.

“We need to come together and explore every avenue to facilitate access to education for people with disabilities,” said Musa Mwambu, a Disability Inclusion Advisor at Light for the World Uganda.

“Through strong partnerships like the one between Light for the World and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, we can swiftly deploy innovative, scalable solutions for students and educators. The accessibility nature of Cap-Able is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve together as we bridge the education gap for people with disabilities.”

Cap-Able will provide key resources to Scholars Program partners, educators, and students on understanding disability and inclusion, detailed information on different types of disabilities and inclusion needs, practical guidance on disability inclusion throughout the different phases of the



university experience, as well as a range of educational materials, quizzes, and games. The platform also provides an opportunity for users to share their experiences and other best practices on disability inclusion.

Creating prosperity across the continent requires leaders of all backgrounds and experiences who will work to ensure that emerging economic and social benefits are available to all. Equity and inclusion are central to the realization of the Mastercard Foundation’s vision and mission. It is reflected in the Foundation’s strategy, Young Africa Works, which has set out to enable 30 million youth, particularly women, to access dignified and fulfilling work by 2030.

“The Scholars Program seeks to inspire an inclusive approach in which all young people, no matter their starting point in life, have an equal opportunity to succeed,” said Andre Okunzuwa, Program Partner, Mastercard Foundation. “By leveraging technology, our hope is that Cap-Able will contribute to ensuring equitable access



for all young people, including those underrepresented in higher education by supporting institutions to access the knowledge needed to put disability inclusion into action.”

The Cap-Able website has been designed to ensure a user-friendly experience with robust navigation and functionality features. Created with the user experience in mind, the website includes an accessibility menu that will ensure users are able to customize anything and control everything based on their unique accessibility needs — preferred button types, language and locales, size, position, colour, and more.

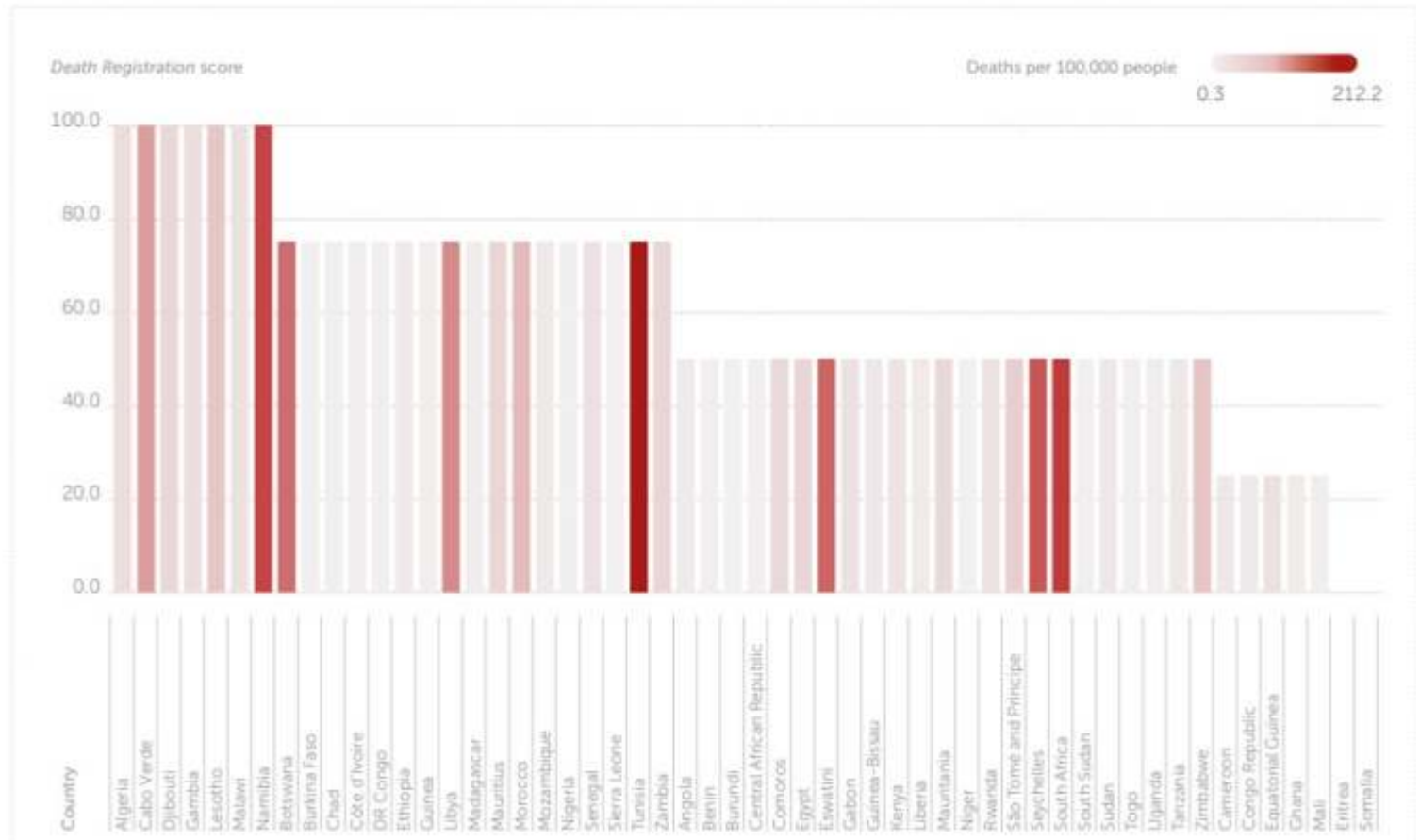
Cap-Able, while designed to support partners of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, can also be useful to other institutions, staff, and students who are interested in taking on a more active role in creating an enabling environment for people with disabilities.



COVID-19 IN AFRICA: A CHALLENGING ROAD TO RECOVERY

-MO Ibrahim Foundation

African countries: cumulative COVID-19 deaths (17 November 2021)
and Death Registration sub-indicator (2019)



Insights from the IIAG

Africa's vaccine autonomy is an immediate priority, with less than 10% of African countries projected to hit key COVID-19 vaccination goals by the end of 2021. While more than 7.6 billion COVID-19 vaccines have been administered globally, Africa accounts for just 2.9% of these. Recovery will only be achieved, at health or economic levels, with a significant increase in vaccination rates.

The pandemic has exposed Africa's still fragile health capacities

and excessive dependence on external supply. Increasing vaccine development and manufacturing capacities on the continent will not only bring health and social benefits, it will also create business opportunities and local employment. Significant barriers to Africa's health sovereignty remain:

- no sound health policy without sound data
- healthcare is neither affordable nor accessible for most Africans
- most countries remain unprepared for any future pandemics.

Recent social gains threatened by covid-19 impact

By 2040, Africa will have the largest potential workforce in the world, with a working age population of 1.1 billion. Providing this workforce with relevant education, training and employment prospects is essential. Young people without prospects are a potential recipe for unrest.

- In sub-Saharan Africa, being out of school means being out of learning.
- Women and girls bear the brunt of COVID-19's economic and social impact.
- Restrictions have added further strain to participatory and civic spaces.

Despite significant challenges, there are grounds for optimism. Discussions at the 2021 Ibrahim Forum led unanimously to the conclusion that the current crisis also offers an opportunity to 'build back better'. But this transformative recovery can only be achieved if key hurdles are overcome. Current economic growth models, overly dependent on external supply and demand, must be amended.

However, there can be:

- no social recovery without wider social safety nets
- no economic transformation without energy access
- no digital economy without fixing the digital divide
- no integrated economy without adequate intra-continental transport networks.

Gender Strain

The fallout of the pandemic is aggravated for women and girls due to the intensification of existing intersecting vulnerabilities and inequalities, more

prominently for women and girls in rural areas, or those of lower socioeconomic status or with disabilities. Women are severely impacted by the economic and financial consequences of the pandemic, with approximately 92% of sub-Saharan African women working in the informal sector with very limited social protection. Due to COVID-19, women have also taken on more unpaid domestic care work than men.

Across nine African countries, on average almost 10% more women reported an increase in time spent on at least one unpaid domestic activity since the start of the pandemic compared to men. At the same time, women are under-represented in COVID-19 task forces accounting for only 19% of task force members in Africa. Food security is a major challenge for women and girls due to decreasing incomes.

The closure of markets, as well as socio-cultural practices in households affect the quality and quantity of food they consume during crises situations such as COVID-19. Stay-at-home orders and reduced access to support and emergency services have exposed girls and women to increased levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

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ANTH
ROPY**

It is the last month of the year and despite the hurdles created by the pandemic, the festive season is upon us and beckons for connection with families and friends. As we all look back at the year, the friends, families and colleagues we've lost, opportunities the pandemic swept away etc, let us not forget to hold on to the lessons we've learnt and the progress we have made. The several webinars we've had has shown us we can still build on those connections and thrive, build our homegrown philanthropic sphere and make great impacts.

Our commitment is to be better in the coming year and achieve better results, the experience of the last 24 months will help us navigate the next 24 months, envisage and predict trends to help us do better. All of us can do things differently in the coming year by giving ourselves, friends and organisation an APF Membership this season.

African Philanthropy Forum members, their Boards and staff benefit from a year long access to programs, conversations, research and information to enhance the effectiveness of your philanthropic initiatives and help build a dynamic homegrown philanthropic in Africa.

Download our membership park here: <https://bit.ly/3yq25uW>

THANK YOU





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