

CONNECT



Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa



JUNE 2020

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INSIDE: YALDA launches Youth Stress Management Cafés

CRISIS OR OPPORTUNITY? PERSPECTIVES ON BUILDING BACK BETTER

By
Sheila Achieng',
Publicity and Communications Chair



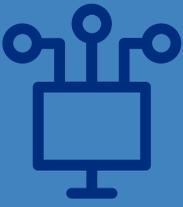
The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic will leave an indelible mark on humanity, unparalleled in scale and scope. In Africa, the negative effects are far reaching; affecting lives and livelihoods, creating challenges that will inevitably lead to socio-economic regression. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) estimates that Africa's collective GDP will contract by half, a situation precipitated by the economic shutdowns. According to the African Union, the continent stands to lose at least 20 million jobs thereby plunging the continent's vulnerable populations into economic hardship and extreme poverty.

Amidst the uncertainty, lies an opportunity to pivot and power Africa's ambitious development agenda. This pandemic provides an incentive to actualize ideas and make the 'African solutions to African problems' mantra a reality for millions of people. The challenges resulting from this pandemic could create opportunities for Africa's ongoing development efforts. The global disruption in the medical supply chain, for example, is an opportunity to innovate, apply 3D printing in medical manufacturing and evaluate national health systems. In addition, Africa must now craft her own strategy for economic recovery by leveraging existing resources and accelerating the development of infrastructure. Investment in local industries, strengthening regional value chains and bolstering continental economic cooperation are crucial in stimulating growth. Moreover, the actualization of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) will cushion African economies from the shocks experienced in global trade.

The youth of Africa at the epicenter of this pandemic can spearhead the continent's response to the crisis, and thus, their contribution should not be understated. Youth driven innovations and solutions have strengthened the mission to curb the contagion, and the need to involve and engage them has never been greater. Youth responsive policies and flexible economic ecosystems can be employed to enhance the economic potential of young people on the continent. To achieve this, we at the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development (YALDA) and the International Trade Center (ITC) have partnered to engage, train and empower young people in business. This partnership model, a first for Africa, gives under-resourced youth businesses from underserved markets the opportunity to participate in global trade. This endeavor not only amplifies the significance of youth participation but unveils the limitless possibilities for youth driven development in a post COVID world. Arguably, the winds of crisis have buoyed us to the shores of opportunity.

This edition of the YALDA quarterly newsletter narrates a different story of Africa; not as we see it, but as the youth of Africa have imagined it!





LEVERAGING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA POST COVID-19

By Shaima Sebri, Tunisia

“If your house was on fire and you had 60 seconds, what would you take?” This situation is metaphorically alike to what happened at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. At a time when the outside world, proximity, and basic day-to-day activities became a threat to the existence of humanity - what is the one major thing that humanity found refuge in? What has kept institutions afloat? Well, I'm glad you asked.

Digital platforms, data, and internet connectivity are three tools that have helped salvage and create new jobs provided access to information about the global situation in the face of a pandemic. Technology has facilitated access to services, purchase of products and secure money transfers from the comfort of people's homes. On a global scale, digital tools have assisted governments to manage some worst-case scenarios. An example is the Singaporean public health application TraceTogether that helped monitor the spread of COVID-19 through community-driven contact tracing. This application combines contact tracing and proximity features to track and alert those who have been close to a positive user by exchanging short-distance Bluetooth signals which helped reduce the risk of spreading the virus.



The fight against viruses in Africa went digital since before COVID-19 given that the continent has gone through health-related challenges in the past and learnt that in such times of massive shortage in resources, the key to a sustainable future is self-reliance. A critical look at the social tech-projects that have

emerged during the pandemic reveals that; since African digital innovators joined the fight against COVID-19 the governments' mission to contain the virus has been more structured and efficient. An example is Ronald Osumba, from Kenya, who invented mSafari, an application that provided the Kenyan Ministry of Health with contact tracing data of people who travel internally using public transport, a simple daily activity, that is often overlooked yet in the context of this pandemic, poses a high risk to the well-being of millions of citizens. It is astonishing how a simple idea can have such a massive impact by generating timely and reliable data about the virus' possible spread. Undoubtedly, innovators in Africa are encouraged to provide solutions that solve current problems and effectively save lives.

Self-sufficiency requires an understanding of socio-economic factors and the introduction of related innovative and



sustainable solutions. In Nigeria, there is an initiative where IT apps have been modified to be compatible with basic telephones and with an ability to operate independent of internet access, and is available in national languages such as Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director, United Nations Technology Bank as part of his statement, during the launching of the Tech Access Partnership (TAP) on 13th May in partnership with the United Nations agencies, spoke of a need to boost the resilience of countries“...By enabling developing countries to produce these technologies themselves, we can help set them on the path to recovery.” It is important that this recovery goes beyond the pandemic and address the economic, social, political and infrastructural deficiencies that have characterized the continent.

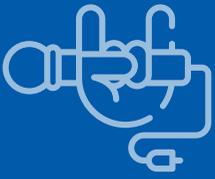


The African continent is well endowed in raw materials and thus, requires digital innovation that facilitates refinery and processing to finished goods for the global market. This will



enable the continent to rise to a self-sustaining economy. Such an economy could produce a diversified job market that absorbs different skills and experiences. Different sectors including government, the private sector and civil society can derive some benefits of technology for greater success. Two metrics that could be employed to measure the resulting success are: quality of life and equality of access to basic services. In developing economies, a slight increase in digitization capability, such as better delivery of public education and other government services, results in a more significant impact on the lives of people than in advanced economies that have to consider more complex factors.

Young African innovators can use technology to solve problems. However, they require access to resources such as funding, publicity and marketing and creativity stimulating activities such as tech competitions. It is important for Africa to join the global wave of digitization in pursuit of development. Technology can be employed to stimulate economic growth from the current periphery 'developing' status to a semi periphery 'emerging' status. This pandemic is providing an opportunity to create and implement a new system where governments and communities foster a culture of innovation through technology.



THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AfCFTA

By Yusuf Daya



Towards One African Market

Africa's continued dependence on export of primary commodities means that the continent remains vulnerable to price shocks, market vagaries and fluctuations of foreign economies. Of the 55 African countries, six depend on oil and gas exports for over 70% of their total merchandise export revenues; another 22 depend on a single non-fuel primary commodity for over 50 percent of their export earnings; and overall, 34 countries depend on up to 3 primary commodities for at least half of their foreign exchange earnings. While this bias towards the extractive sectors, and consequently extra-African trade, has helped Africa achieve growth rates which are among the highest in the world in recent years, it has also increased the region's exposure to major risks, including global volatility. The lack of value addition in Africa's export portfolio and low level of intra-African trade means that Africa's economic fortunes remain contingent on commodity price movements and external shocks, and even though Africa's exports have witnessed a reorientation towards Asia, China and India, the composition of Africa's trade has not changed and remains primarily commodity-driven.

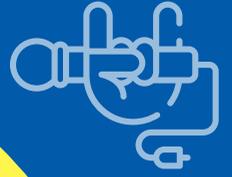
In order to ensure sustainability, Africa needs to diversify its trade both in terms of composition—with greater exports of value-added goods, and geography—with greater focus on intra-African trade. At about 15% intra-African trade

remains low and compares unfavorably with 33% for North America, 55% for Developing Asia and about 68% for Europe. These regions have demonstrated the important role of deepening intra-regional trade ties to achieve structural transformation, economic growth and human development. It is in this context that African leaders embarked on an ambitious programme to facilitate intra-African trade and launched the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a flagship project of the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The AfCFTA, which brings together African countries with a combined population of more than 1.2 billion people and a combined gross domestic product exceeding USD2.5 trillion, establishes the largest free trade area membership in the world since the launch of the World Trade Organization.

The AfCFTA entered into force on May 30, 2019 after reaching the 22-member ratification threshold and to date 54 of the 55 African Union Member States have signed the agreement with trading under the agreement set to commence in July 2020. The ambitious scope of the AfCFTA will see its coverage go beyond trade in goods to include services, investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy. The integrated market created by the AfCFTA will therefore facilitate more than just the movement of goods but also ideas, skills, and capital. Successful implementation is expected to generate welfare gains in excess of USD16 billion and could double the level of intra-African trade and unlock an estimated USD6.7 trillion in consumer and business spending by 2030.

The AfCFTA provides new impetus and dynamism to the process of African economic integration and structural transformation of African economies. In this reinvigorated era of African integration Africa's most valuable resource—its young population—will undoubtedly play a leading role. With over 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the





largest population of young people in the world and by 2050 this number is expected to exceed 800 million. Harnessing the productive, creative and innovative potential of this bulging youthful resource is critical to unlock the transformational potential of intra-African trade.

Africa's youth possess the power and wherewithal to become the entrepreneurs that will deliver the communities that can utilize and benefit the most from the AfCFTA. The AfCFTA, which will make it easier for young Africans to move freely across the continent and make it easier for young Africans to engage with each other, share ideas, build communities and break down the artificial imposed economic and societal borders dividing Africa. Building youth networks across Africa under an integrated market will build trust and foster innovative approaches to social development, creating opportunities for continent-wide approaches to entrepreneurship that carry economic and social benefit for all Africans.

It is Africa's youth that will ensure that the AfCFTA delivers on its ambition of promoting socio-economic development, structural transformation and industrial development through diversification. According to the United Nations Development Programme, Africa has the highest rate of potential entrepreneurs at 56%, compared to 21% in Asia and 31% in the Middle East. It is Africa's youth that will become the next generation of entrepreneurs, industrialists and innovators accelerating the transformation of African economies by trading, working and deploying their skills across the continent. It is Africa's youth that will inject the economic dynamism and act as catalysts for change that can drive economic transformation and sustainable development. This especially so in the context of the fourth industrial revolution and increasing digitalization where the continent's young and innovative population holds its greatest and inexhaustible natural resource—ideas and ambition. Nurturing this resource through education, training, access to finance and partnerships is essential if the full benefits of an integrated Africa are to be realized and we are able to deliver not only the 'Africa We Want' but also the Africa our youth deserve.



YALDA-ITC PARTNERSHIP

By Sheila Ochieng', Kenya

“We have advanced the case for intergenerational synergies and provided platforms for dialogue to advance the idea of co-leadership and co-creation of solutions that are central to attaining good leadership and governance with positive outcomes for the economic empowerment of youth.”

Africa's development blueprint, the Agenda 2063, captures the vision for 'the Africa we want' in 7 aspirations. The first of these ambitious pathways is, 'A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.' In line with Global Goal 10 on reduced inequalities, the aspiration enforces the importance of equitable societies as a key driver of development, yet inequality prevails in Africa. According to the United Nations Development program (UNDP), most Africa's resources are held by a minority. Notably, 10 of the world's 19 most inequitable societies are found in Africa. According to the United Nations Economic Commission, Africa's wealth is captured by 4% of the continent's total population. Correspondingly, the high levels of economic inequality fuel crime and insecurity that leverage the ignorance and deprivation of the huge population of the disenfranchised. To achieve development, Africa must adopt innovative models that address economic disparities. Africa's population constitutes a majority of youths. According to an empirical study youth will account for an overwhelming 42% of the world's global youth population. This translates to 75% of the continent's total population. It is therefore imperative to create youth responsive policies that place the demographic at the epicenter of Africa's economic growth. Governments and policy makers must engage the youth and leverage their potential as key economic drivers. Collaborative models, multi-sectoral partnerships and youth driven initiatives will harness youth energy for accelerated growth and broaden their prospects of inclusive development. The participation of youth in all aspects of development cannot be understated.

We at the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) have contributed to amplifying youth voices on the continent. We have advanced the case for intergenerational synergies and provided platforms for dialogue to advance the idea of co-leadership and co-creation of solutions that are central to attaining good leadership and governance with positive outcomes for the economic empowerment of youth. In 2019, YALDA partnered with the International Trade Center to amplify youth voices at the Annual World Export Development Forum held at the African Union headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. YALDA took charge of the Youth Media Zone, a concept that revolutionized youth participation in high level policy forums and secured their participation in international discourse. In addition, YALDA delivered youth aspirations on economic empowerment and decent jobs during the close of the Youth Economic Summit.

This year, as the world battles the Covid 19 pandemic, youth owned businesses have also been affected by the resulting negative economic outcomes on commercial activity. With this, YALDA partnered with the ITC to collect data on youth owned businesses, train and empower young business owners and provide information and mentorship required to build agile business models needed to navigate the challenges. In addition, YALDA and the ITC launched a video competition to empower youth in business, where the contest winner will receive technical assistance, global positioning of their business venture, strategy support and will be granted a once in a lifetime opportunity to interview ITC's executive director. The second and third runners up will each receive maximum publicity for their brands and an invitation to a future ITC event as an African youth speaker.



YALDA BRANCHES GO DIGITAL!

By John Obuaba, Ghana

Impact of COVID-19 on YALDA's activities

As the world battles COVID-19, YALDA's activities have also been impacted. Governments across the globe have imposed restrictions on human movement and contact, social gatherings, including the closing down of universities. This has greatly affected YALDA branches at university campuses in organizing activities. YALDA's iBoot Camp 2020 scheduled to take place in South Africa has also been postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ensuring continuous commitment of YALDA members

To ensure continuous engagement of branches, YALDA entreats all branches to go online. This offers an opportunity for members to keep engaging, networking and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though Africa is faced with slow internet connectivity, expensive internet services and with internet mostly accessible in cities and not easily accessible in rural areas, YALDA branches are expected to find innovative ways to help members with limited access to resources to join online activities. Branch leaders are also expected to make members feel appreciated and have a sense of ownership for the new digital strategy. Going digital means all branches should develop digital action plans; mobilize resources to implement the plans; monitor, evaluate and communicate results.

Developing your digital action plan

YALDA branches are faced with two strategic decisions. First is that all branch activities should be in response to COVID-19 and second, that all activities should take place online. With these, branches are assured of remaining active and relevant. Branches should formulate a clear action plan and ensure



that all members understand the plan and what is required of them. Branches should produce an online calendar and put all relevant dates in members' individual calendars, set up committees to manage specific parts of the plan and make sure systems are in place (such as evaluation forms) to monitor the implementation of the agenda and whether it is achieving its desired results in line with the Branch goals and vision.

Some online activities Branches can undertake

Webinars on socio economic and development topics featuring relevant speakers from the local community or beyond. Symposiums around topics based on current issues like COVID-19.

Campaign or Competition with relevant topics and themes

Training on how to use online tools; stress management; time management; writing compelling articles, stories, business plans and proposals; financial management; web designs and management; photography and graphic designing. Some online tools such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, GoToMeeting etc. are available for branches to hold online meetings.

Mobilizing resources to implement your actions

COVID-19 has caused a lot of changes in the fundraising community so fund seekers need to re-strategize and develop activities around COVID-19 response. Funders will likely consider programs that will positively impact the health sector as well as contribute to socio-economic recovery during Covid 19. For instance, YALDA US is launching a campaign to assist African students in need as a result of the pandemic Funds could be raised by selling souvenirs for local community campaigns on COVID-19. Branches could also have an initiative where they pool members' expertise to sell online services such as web designing and management, graphic designing among others.

YALDA branch activities are **GOING DIGITAL!**

Is yours ready?!

Date: Saturday, 30 May 2020
Time: 5pm EAT, 4pm CAT, 3pm WAT, 10am EST

Take part in the training and learn how you can successfully take your YALDA branch activities online and also support your local community during this COVID-19 crisis




 Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

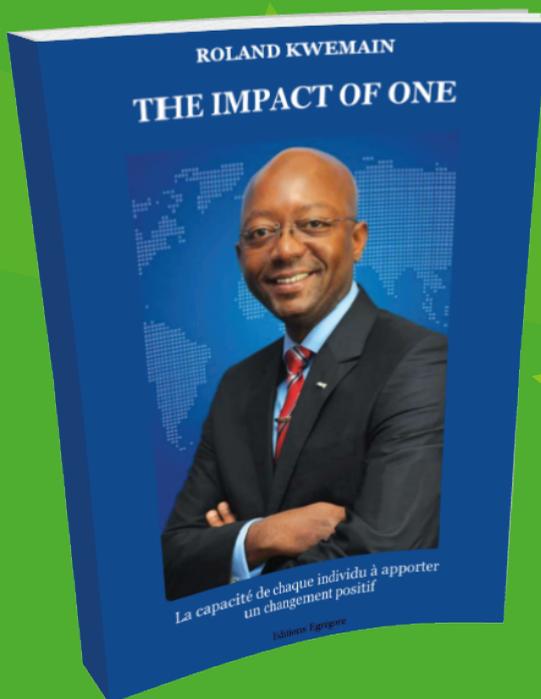


YALDA PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE

By Sheila Ochieng', Kenya



Roland KWEMAIN



The Impact of One

Roland KWEMAIN is a prolific speaker, leadership coach and astute corporate trainer. He is the chairman of Go Ahead Africa Ltd, a training and coaching firm whose objective is to contribute to the development of Africa by strengthening the capacity of its development actors. Roland is the founder of IMPACT TALKS and facilitates coaching sessions on various TV channels and social media platforms. He also served as the 2010 Junior Chamber International (JCI) president and has travelled to more than 90 countries adding value and creating impact via training, coaching and consultancy work. Roland considers himself a man of great values and is passionate about Africa's development and the realization of Africa's real economic potential. Mr. KWEMAIN is a family man; married to Marjolaine KWEMAIN and is a father to 3 children.

His work in the youth development space is mainly evident as part of the corporate social responsibility initiatives at Go Ahead Africa Ltd. In partnership with the Pan African Leadership and Entrepreneurship Foundation, Go Ahead Africa Ltd. organizes and facilitates leadership and entrepreneurship academies in several African countries. The participants are selected via a competitive and merit based process. Cameroon has hosted eight editions of these annual, week-long impactful life transforming sessions. These annual academies have directly impacted 750 young dynamic change agents.

Mr. Roland strongly believes in the YALDA vision and mission. Drawing from his leadership prowess, expertise and passion for young people, he willingly supports YALDA Cameroon's initiatives. Roland acknowledges and applauds YALDA's contribution towards Africa's development by nurturing proactive youth leaders who are positively transforming their communities by creating and implementing innovative, sustainable solutions to challenges facing the continent.

Roland KWEMAIN is the author of an autobiographical book "The Impact of One". Roland perceives life as fully appreciated when all its colors are beautifully expressed through a life of purpose that yields relevance. Where purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable. Many mismanage time, talent, resources out of ignorance of the fact that every person has a unique calling, mission and purpose; a purpose into which every individual ought to put in all their mind's energy and heart's enthusiasm. To fully discover and live up to one's purpose it is important to ensure that there's an alignment with one's vision, values, beliefs and actions. While there are many ways to discover one's purpose, it is important to have the "Impactitude Spirit" by identifying and developing one's aptitudes and attitude.



MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER

Patricia Njagi, Kenya



YALDA Senegal

Khady Diallo is a 23 year old M1 student at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal and a founder of Kadi's Care, a brand of hair products specially designed for kinky hair. Through her brand she aims to prove that black is beautiful. She has embraced entrepreneurship in order to contribute to her country's development by creating more and new job opportunities for her fellow youth. She endeavors to take up leadership positions which accord her the opportunity to serve and as a member of YALDA Senegal, she has been instrumental in the establishment of the branch despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Khady envisions a socially developed and economically empowered Africa. Through YALDA, she has gained leadership experience and had exposure coupled with an opportunity to engage with like minded individuals. She calls on all African youth to believe in themselves, maximize their abilities and be active participants and contributors to Africa's development. It is time for the new and younger generation to wake up and lead the change!



YALDA IEC

Nicholas Addae-Mensah is a soon to be medical doctor, with a vision to become a renowned public health physician. Nicholas is currently an active member of the Global Health Workforce Network (GHWN) Youth Hub. Nicholas has served in various leadership capacities and lead teams to plan and organize campaigns, advocacy programs, and carry out research in communities. As a selfless young leader and problem solver, Nicholas has worked with medical students from Jordan, Pakistan, and Argentina to plan and organize the Second Edition of IFMSA-SCOME InSimu International Diagnostic Championship to promote medical education among over 1 million students globally. Nicholas has also served in the Welfare Committee of the Pentecost Students' and Associate (PENSA) at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana for two consecutive years. Nicholas is passionate about making a difference in people's lives, and aims to contribute to making the world a better place. He is excited to volunteer for YALDA, and will use his skills and expertise to empower and encourage young Africans, building the capacity of young Africans and contributing to the goals of the African Youth Charter.



YALDA Malawi

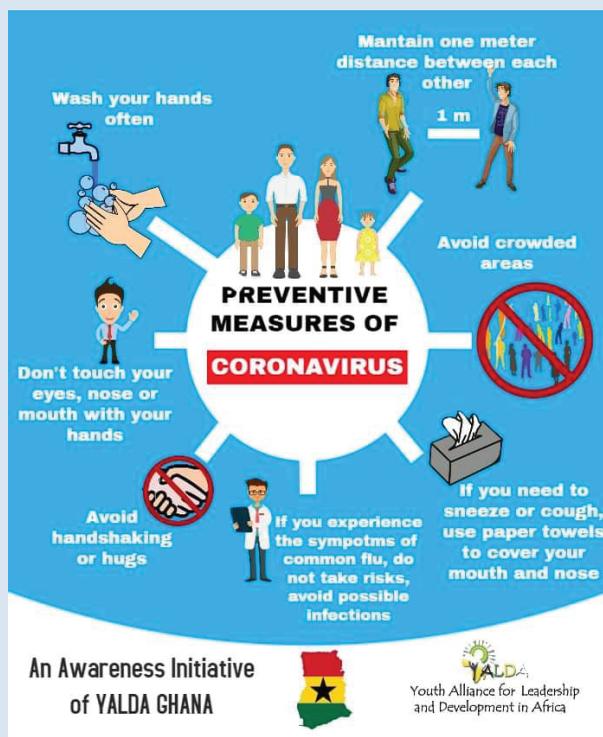
Nthanda L. Manduwi is the founder of By Ntha Media; a media agency that specialises in digital storytelling and she also heads Ntha Foundation; a trust/beneficiary organisation affiliated to her media agency. Nthanda is passionate about youth and enthusiastic about closing opportunity gaps by identifying problems in the society and subsequently, offering innovative solutions. Her youth engagement activities take place with the Nyenyezi Fellowship; a digital skills training platform that aids young people to create entrepreneurial opportunities from their talents. The advocacy fellows are encouraged to join YALDA Malawi and put what they have learnt into practice. In 2019, she was selected as a youth media expert to facilitate the youth media zone at the World Export Development Forum held at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Nthanda strongly believes that it is high time Africa broke free from the aid dependent ways of doing things and instead, shift towards solving problems with our ideas for sustainable development. "This is our continent. For too long we have waited for people to come and fix Africa for us. Now is the time to create the Africa that we want and our generation has the privilege to be tasked with this healthy challenge. We can do so by pushing forward relevant agenda and holding our leaders accountable in order to create the Africa we want our future generations to live in."



BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

By Katlego Nawa

BRANCH ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



YALDA GHANA

We have had a very fascinating and interesting quarter amidst the fear, anxiety and a state of uncertainty surrounding this quarter. We have been able to contribute our quota towards national development as well as youth empowerment.

For this quarter YALDA Ghana set to achieve three goals:

1. To increase awareness about YALDA and its vision in Ghana and thus, increase its membership base.
2. To contribute our quota in curtailing the negative effects of the covid19 pandemic.

3. To assist youth in matters of self-development in order for them to still remain even relevant after the pandemic

We were able to achieve their first goal through the work of our social media handles. YALDA Ghana now has a visible social media presence and this is a feat we are glad to have achieved. YALDA Ghana understanding its role in the Ghanaian society championed social media campaigns about covid19. This initiative was championed by our team of health personnel who make up our health committee.



YALDA GHANA

WHERE MONEY HIDES
LEARN HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR CHANCES OF GENERATING WEALTH

Host: Regina Tetteh

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Date: 11th June, 2020
Ghana 8pm (GMT +1)

TOSIN KATTO
BUSINESS COACH | NIGERIA
SPEAKER

To safeguard from Corona virus (COVID-19)

Let us comply and **STAY SAFE**

- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly with water and soap/hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching many surfaces, shaking hands and direct contact.
- Exercise social distancing, by keeping a 1m distance between you and people.
- If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical help immediately.
- Cover your nose/mouth when you sneeze or wear a recommended mask.
- For medical enquiries and care, call Ministry of Health (Toll free) 0800100066 | 0800203033

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Youth Development Programs

In this quarter our Facebook live programs received wonderful reviews and comments. YALDA Ghana organized youth development programs in the area of Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Leadership. These programs have been able to increase our YALDA Ghana membership base as the program caught the attention of many youths in the country. We were honoured to have both local and international speakers on our programs, one of them being on “how to generate wealth as youth”. Youth are victims of impulsive buying and overspending, it is important to make them aware of the fact that the very first step to building wealth is to spend

less than you make. There were many other success stories that we at YALDA Ghana are very proud of. The quarter has been an exciting one even though we were faced with a pandemic.



Ghana, home of the AfCFTA Commission

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the greatest breakthroughs for our continent in 2020. It being hosted will be a great advantage for us to use in spreading awareness about its grand benefit and to mobilize youth for the AfCFTA campaign. We believe that the future would be more exciting as we have plans underway to play a critical role in getting YALDA Ghana recognized at the Africa free continental trade agreement secretariat (AfCFTA).

YALDA UGANDA, Makerere University

YALDA Makerere University, Kampala (YALDA MUK) is one of the two fully functioning YALDA Uganda Branches. It operates at Makerere University – one of the oldest Universities in East Africa known for educating East African Presidents like Former President Lt. Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Former President Mwayi Kibaki of Kenya, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and many other leaders.

Operating under a total lock down due to COVID 19 has not been rosy, with universities closed and public transport limited. However, YALDA Makerere is adopting new digital platforms to increase reach and sustainably keep in touch with its membership.

Planned Activities for YALDA MUK.

1) Government Scholarship Webinar: YALDA MUK is working closely with the Managing Director of Higher Education Students Financing Board (HESFB) to organize a webinar to sensitize on the government fund towards university scholarships.

2) Membership Engagement: We are using our social media handles more to engage our members on the impact of COVID 19 as well as setting agenda discussions on University closure, policies to open and online schooling.

3) Meeting with KCCA: YALDA MUK had a meeting with the Youth Division Officers of Kampala City Council Authority – The meeting discussed to avail more Youth Wards and Sick Beds in Government Division Hospitals in preparation for the COVID 19 peaks. YALDA MUK is awaiting another meeting with the Minister of Health on the same.

4) Media: YALDA MUK has planned Radio talk shows on the Makerere University Radio. This is an online radio for the university mainly used by the Mass Communication Department as a learning tool for students.



YALDA BOTSWANA

Donation of “Care Packages” to Local Residents

As YALDA Botswana, we take note that it is without a doubt that COVID19 has created a lot of stigma and doubt as to who might be the carrier of the virus, but as much as we need to stay safe it is important that during this difficult time we unify to face the crisis. We believe that as human beings, we are at our best when we are caring for one another. Caring for each other is more important than ever during this isolation. Giving back is where you give, and expect nothing in return. No benefits for you, no recognition, nothing tangible is sent your way. Your biggest and sole reward is the realization that you have made a significant change in someone’s life. And if it’s not “significant” then it is a positive change nevertheless.

YALDA, having the core value of compassion took it upon itself to ease the weight of the pandemic effects off the Government by raising awareness about the deadly virus and donating “Care Packages” that included food items and hand sanitizers to the less privileged in Botswana. To make this possible it has joined forces Civil Society Organizations such as Ditshwanelo, BONELA, SkillShare International Botswana, Molyakgosi and Putting Women First Trust among others.

“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.”

- Theodore Roosevelt

#STAYATHOME

#STAYSAFE

#CORONAFREENATION





Update on Citizen’s Report Initiative for Implementation of SDGs in Botswana

On another note, the Citizens Report phase (including our funding contract) for 2020 has come to an end; having been disrupted by the pandemic. Though lots of strides were made, some of the projects that were agreed on have not been completed and as per the contract, the remaining balance will be returned to the funder. However, we are happy though that there has been some success as we have managed to train Community Champions in Dukwi, Selibe Phikwe, and Gaborone West with the hope that the foundation we have given them is something they can build on and keep demanding accountability.



Join in on the Conversation.

PHATSIMO JOINS SWIFT & SAMANTHA TODAY THE MIDDAY FIX

WHEN: July 15 2020 @1415hrs

TOPIC: Citizen Economic Empowerment Policy: The Critical Elements...

WHAT: Phatsimo believes firmly in the principles of Pan-Africanism- that the green pastures that young Africans yearn for can be cultivated by them. Very passionate about youth development issues and an Entrepreneurship & Indigenous Innovation enthusiast, she is Chairperson of VALDA Botswana where they do a lot to empower upcoming African Entrepreneurs & also works for Botswana University where mainstreaming Entrepreneurship is part of her portfolio. Her background is in Economics and Public Administration.

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Phatsimo Mosemanengae



#STAYATHOME

#STAYSAFE

#CORONAFREENATION



COVID-19 AND MENTAL HEALTH

By Vivian Onyali, Nigeria



The outbreak of COVID-19 which stunned the world and negatively impacted the world's economies has been characterized by limited and conflicting descriptions of causes and effects. One of the major effects has been on the mental

health of citizens due to concerns such as employment lay-offs, loss of loved ones, long and uncertain stay at home orders which have led to loneliness, depression and a plethora of other mental issues. In Africa, a poorly equipped health sector, seems likely to crumble under the added pressures of the pandemic. Here are some insights that are helpful coping mechanisms during this trying time.

PATIENCE

It is particularly important to set realistic goals at this time. Accepting that you may not accomplish all tasks is key towards a healthy mind frame. Excessive pressure or guilt for not performing optimally only leads to further spiral towards a sub

optimal performance. Setting routines and sticking to them however is essential towards maximizing time and effort.

EXERCISE

In many countries, stay at home restrictions have not yet been lifted and gyms remain closed. Exercise however is important for maintaining not only physical fitness but mental stability as well. It can be performed in open private and/or public areas. Exercise is known to release endorphins which improves mood and performance. Of course, exercise routines should be done while practicing social distancing and maintaining other outlined safety guidelines.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

Contact with friends and family should still be maintained via Zoom, Facebook, Instagram and other social media apps. It is still important to communicate and share thoughts, feelings and ideas with loved ones. It is wise while staying informed and updated on current events to take a break from listening to the news and focus on positive thoughts and outcomes.

PASSION

With this enormous amount of free time, it may be wise to invest in your interests and goals. It may be cooking, writing or reading. It is also an ideal time to learn new skills such as coding, technical work or whatever interests you.

YALDA LAUNCHES YOUTH STRESS MANAGEMENT CAFÉS

By Patricia Njagi, Kenya and Geneva Magsino, USA

As the African continent tries to grapple with the devastating health and socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, a mental health crisis looms for African youth. With deaths and confirmed cases rising, young people continue to experience grief, fear, uncertainty, and economic turmoil in isolation given the government instituted lockdowns and social distancing measures meant to curb the spread of the virus. While psychological distress during this time could come from various sources, the brutal socio-economic impact plays a large role in worsening this distress. According to McKinsey & Company the pandemic's economic consequences could cut Africa's GDP growth in 2020 by 3-8 percentage points, pushing 23 million Africans into extreme poverty and undoing the development progress made in the last 5 years.

African youth need dedicated support to manage their mental health

African youth are most vulnerable to developing mental health challenges in the wake of this economic turmoil. They already face double the unemployment rate of adults with only one in six with wage employment. Undoubtedly, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is having a great impact on their mental and behavioural health. Many young people are struggling with cancelled classes, forced unemployment, lack of income, increased family burden amongst

others. This has led to a surge in young peoples' levels of stress, anxiety, hopelessness and despair. Recognizing this, YALDA has prioritized addressing the mental health challenges faced by African youth in its COVID-19 response by engaging African youth in meaningful conversations to help them deal with their mental health stresses.

YALDA supports African youth through Stress Management Cafés

To mitigate the potential behavioral health impact of the lockdowns on young people across the continent, YALDA is hosting mental health stress management cafés to provide a platform for them to have open conversations on managing the impact of COVID-19. These take place 3 times a week and are open to all young people across Africa and in the Diaspora and over 500 youth have signed up to participate. During the cafés, participants provide insights on what is times a week and are open to all young people across Africa and in the Diaspora and over 500 youth have signed up to participate. During the cafés, participants provide insights on what is happening in their respective countries in terms of the measures that have been put in place and how this has impacted their economies and their individual lives. Participants are then encouraged to share the emotions they are feeling and the kind of support they need. They also share what they are doing to manage their time and to

remain positive. The exchange allows the young people to express themselves in a safe and open environment as well as support and encourage each other. They are also able to learn from one another on what is working well and not so well as they seek out new and innovate ways and resources to help manage their stress.

The rationale of the stress management tool kit

Participants have found these cafés extremely impactful given the practical tools they have learnt on how to manage their stress, make productive use of the time so as to emerge as better individuals during and once the COVID-19 pandemic is over. The suggestions that have been shared by participants in the sessions include: reading more (and staying away from or greatly reducing consumption of news and social media about the pandemic); engaging in daily physical exercises; taking up a new hobby; seeking skills training opportunities online, and engaging in community outreach programs to help the vulnerable. An added plus to the cafés is that young people are able to connect with others from across Africa and establish new friendships and connections.

While a one-time call is not enough to effectively impact stress management skills on the youth, YALDA launched a Resilience Boot Camp which brings together participants of the Stress Management Cafés for a seven-week intensive engagement and training on practical ways to deal with stress. Every Resilience Boot Camp session is followed up with tasks that participants work on during the week and submit before the next training. Of all the tasks, one constant task is the speed-friending exercise; a YALDA tradition where a participant is paired up with a buddy from a different country for every week. The participants are given a set of questions to ask one another and then asked to exchange photos of themselves and any other topic relevant to that week. Following the exchanges, the participants share what they learnt about each other by email and at the beginning of the sessions. Feedback from participants has reaffirmed the importance and timely nature of the Stress Management Café's and the Resilience Boot Camps, with most terming the experience as; Great, Transformative, Amazing and Insightful. Some feedback received via social media includes:

“Great, and thanks to YALDA for this opportunity. I am learning a lot from this interactive insightful thoughts exchange session to manage stress. The networking and sharing of thoughts with fellow Africans is amazing.”

“I absolutely love the experience of the Cafe that I attended. What a wonderful way to destress, open up about how you feel, learn from others on how they are managing to stay positive and actually pick up a few practical tips that I am implementing!”

“Great program you guys are running, Learning a lot from the boot camps and really wish more youth can experience this opportunity”

“Thank you YALDA for creating an opportunity to and engage with each other during these difficult times. Speaking out your problems actually releases tension.”

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

Are you feeling stressed, anxious, overwhelmed, hopeless and/or bored out of your mind because of the current COVID-19 crisis?

You are NOT alone

Join us for the **YALDA COVID-19 stress management cafés** for practical tools to help you overcome the mental health challenges posed by COVID-19.

Register here TODAY: <https://forms.gle/xW8GZEWcusUNeZT16>

Leveraging technology

Despite the restrictions in movement to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, YALDA's Stress Management Cafés reached out and connected with diverse groups of youth on the African continent. The youth included students, entrepreneurs, award-winning writers, medical practitioners and professionals from varying fields. YALDA seized the opportunity to utilize technology by organizing these virtual meetings and thereby continuing to engage members and temporarily replace in-person meetings, conferences, workshops and training activities. Using virtual meetings, YALDA is able to build the capacity of youth as leaders in their communities as well as nurture skills to empower young Africans to play an active role in the socio-economic development of the continent. Even though access to reliable internet threatened participation in the online sessions, the determination of youth to partake in the sessions is commendable and worthy of emulation.

Through these cafés YALDA has confirmed that young people on the continent are concerned about their mental well-being. However, there are very few resources or platforms to engage them in addressing the mental health challenges they may be facing. The amazing thing about the Stress Management Cafés is that they provide the digital platform for young Africans to network and share their experiences and coping strategies during this pandemic. Notably, despite the disruption and uncertainty ravaging the world there are youth who have identified opportunities in different spaces and are already pursuing them. *Through the cafés these individuals have been able to inspire others to seek out similar opportunities instead of letting these opportunities pass them by. Also, the stories shared by participants inspired others and contributed to improving the mental well-being of the youth in Africa. In the end, the use of technology-based virtual meetings has fostered communication and productive collaboration between students, youth and leading professionals with the aim to de-stress and improve their mental health.*





WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL WEBINAR

Learn more Coronavirus (COVID-19) and How to identify trusted sources about it on social media

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus around the world has demanded urgent action at both individual and institutional levels. Experts predict that Sub-Saharan Africa—and other poor regions—could be hardest hit in terms of health, as well as socioeconomically and Africa's youth have expressed concern about the pandemic and its impact on their countries, and are urgently in need of trusted sources for COVID-19 information. During this roundtable hosted by YALDA in partnership with World Bank Group Africa Region through the Youth Transforming Africa (YTA) Initiative, young Africans learnt more about COVID-19 and how to identify trusted sources of information on the internet, including on social media. The medical and communications experts featured in this webinar responded and addressed some of the myths and false information that has been circulated on digital platforms and also provided insights into the role of youth in countering misinformation.



Musopa Kalenga

Blog4Dev Winner, 2019. Zambia

MODERATOR



Dr. Christabel Ngwashi (MD)

Medical Doctor Blog4Dev 2019 Winner, Cameroon

AFRICA CAN

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

LEARN MORE ABOUT
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
How to identify trusted sources about it on Social Media

ROUNDTABLE

African Youth!
Join us for an insightful discussion on COVID-19 in Africa.

We will address **YOUR** questions on the virus.
How **YOU** as a young African can deal with COVID-19 news on various platforms, especially on social media!

DATE
Saturday, 18 April 2020

TIME
4pm CAT, 3pm West African Time, 10am EST



Pretty Thogo

Operations Director, YALDA Botswana

MODERATOR



Alexandre Hery

External Affairs Officer, World Bank Africa

MAY WEBINAR

YALDA Branches Go Digital!

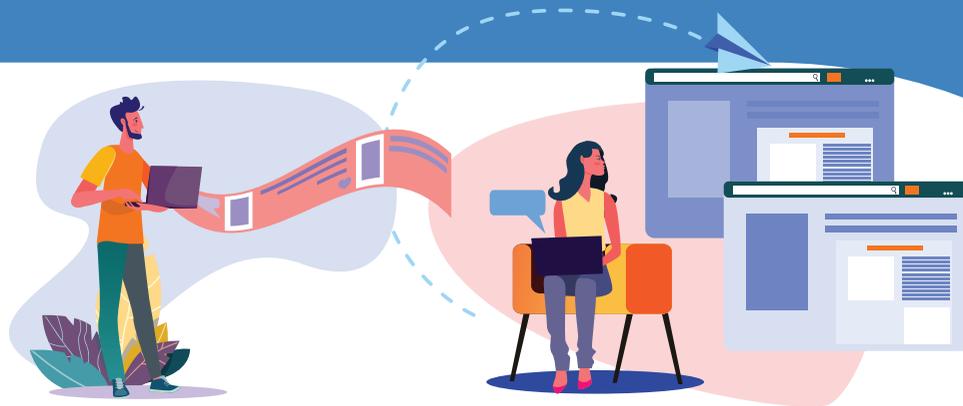
Across the continent, authorities have enacted various confinement measures including strict restrictions on public gatherings. Among other impacts, this has led to the shutdown of universities which are; YALDA's major stakeholders. To address this, YALDA held a training session for Branch Executives on how they can leverage technology and ensure they remain operational by conducting their activities online. The training revolved around: types of activities branches can undertake such as skills-based trainings, online fundraising techniques and how to leverage them, organizing and taking part in webinars and competitions. The digital platforms that can be used include Zoom, Skype, WebEx, Telegram or GoToMeeting.

YALDA branch activities are GOING DIGITAL!
Is yours ready?!

Date: Saturday, 30 May 2020
Time: 5pm EAT, 4pm CAT, 3pm WAT, 10am EST

Take part in the training and learn how you can successfully take your YALDA branch activities online and also support your local community during this COVID-19 crisis

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa



Mohammed Kerkulah
YALDA Liberia
MODERATOR/TRAINER



Chelvin Ramsamy
Regional Associate for Southern Africa
TRAINER



Notilija Arcenia Vilanculo
Regional Associate for Lusophone Africa
TRAINER



John Obuaba
Regional Associate for West Africa
TRAINER

THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19 & THE WORLD BANK SUPPORT TO AFRICA

JOIN US FOR AN INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND HOW THE WORLD BANK IS HELPING THE CONTINENT CHART A SUSTAINABLE PATH TOWARDS RECOVERY.

DATE: SATURDAY, 13 JUNE 2020
TIME: 5PM EAT, 4PM CAT, 2PM GMT, 10AM EST



JUNE WEBINAR

The Economic Impacts of COVID19 & the World Bank Support to Africa

This webinar was hosted in collaboration with the World Bank Africa Region and featured a panel of experts; including civil society representatives who shared their perspectives on the on-going pandemic. According to the 21st volume of Africa's Pulse, the World Bank's biannual analysis of the financial, macroeconomic and welfare outlooks for Sub-Saharan Africa, the pandemic has sparked the region's first recession in 25 years, with economic growth projected to decline from 2.4% in 2019 to between -2.1 to -5.1%. The webinar provided an inclusive platform for all stakeholders, including youth, to recognize their share of responsibility in minimizing the economic disruptions caused by this pandemic and in safeguarding the economic milestones that have been achieved over the past 10 years.



Diarietou Gaye
Director of Strategy and Operations, World Bank, Africa Region
SPEAKER



Franklin Cudjoe
Founding President and CEO of IMANI Center for Policy and Education (Ghana)
SPEAKER



Jeremy Riro
Strategy Consultant and Investment Advisor Blog4Dev 2016 winner (Kenya)
MODERATOR



Maura Leary
Acting Communications Manager for the World Bank's Africa Region
SPEAKER



Joshua Mawerere
Executive Director, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA), Uganda
MODERATOR



Eliane Mbende
StudentBlog4Dev 2020 winner (Cameroon)



YALDA INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the international community, YALDA not only recognizes and participates in important holidays, but also encourages the youth to participate in these events, thereby advancing the youth agenda.

Here are our thoughts on the important holidays commemorated in the second quarter:

In the month of March, YALDA released a message of solidarity as the world battled a new challenge, the

COVID-19 pandemic. The message was intended to inspire hope and encourage youth to act where they are and with what they have to alleviate the suffering of those within the community. The call to action has inspired millions of youth on the continent and beyond. Youth have been the driving force behind the coordinated response efforts and have played a major role in initiating community campaigns, sensitization workshops and spearheaded humanitarian assistance for the vulnerable members within their communities and nations.

YALDA COVID-19 STATEMENT



Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

African Youth TAKE ACTION NOW

The last few weeks have reminded us that we are a globalized society, interconnected through trade and industry, regional networks and partnerships, political camaraderie and the common thread that defines our existence. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has challenged our unity as a people and shocked us into the reality of the uncertain times that we now live in. We at the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) acknowledge that we are living in unprecedented times that demand a global perspective and dynamic solutions to the new, emerging challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has, undoubtedly, challenged conventional thinking and the sacredness of the comfort zones in which we previously flourished. The world's strongest economic systems have largely shut down, slowing down commercial activity, and thousands of livelihoods threatened as countries around the world declared an affront to the pandemic. Further still, global health systems and supply chains have been subjected to the ultimate litmus test as the scourge courses its way across the world, indiscriminately infecting thousands and affecting many, irrespective of their nationality or socioeconomic status. In a bid to flatten the curve, our basic freedom of movement and association has been curtailed. To numb the pain of separation, families, relatives, friends and whole communities have turned to technology to not only restore social contact but also mend the social fabric that has been singed by the pandemic. In addition, we have witnessed a raft of policy responses from global leaders aimed at protecting citizens through provision of economic safety nets while simultaneously containing the spread of the virus.

According to statistics, the contagion has infected people in 185 jurisdictions spread over various regions. Amref Africa reports that the pandemic has spread over 45 African countries, posing a real threat to economic growth. Lockdowns, curfews and travel restrictions put in place to stop new infections will inevitably slow down commerce. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) postulates that Africa may lose half its GDP with economic growth falling from 3.2% to about 2%. This will lead to massive job losses on a continent already struggling with some of the world's highest unemployment rates and a large proportion of its working poor living from hand-to-mouth. Africa must, out of necessity, leverage the current situation to develop agile policy response systems to

cushion its citizens from economic hardships. It must also prioritize the development of digital infrastructure and adopt innovative business models that will guarantee continuity and sustainability.

As advocates of youth empowerment, YALDA positions Africa's youth to be problem solvers. We encourage young people to be proactive and take initiative to develop solutions to address the challenges faced by their communities, especially in these unprecedented times. We also believe that Africa's youth are critical in contributing to Africa's development and that we must celebrate their diverse skills and talents as we enhance their leadership potential. Africa's transformation will undoubtedly be vested in strategic leadership that is able to chart a way forward in these volatile times. As youth, we need to participate in the development of practical solutions and advance inclusive engagement and involvement that rallies Africa's demographic majority in the concerted effort towards fighting this disease.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us hard earned lessons on unity and humanity. In the quietness of isolation, we are reminded that no man is an island. As YALDA, our thoughts and prayers are with the deeply affected; we stand in solidarity with them and embrace the belief that we will, as a people, overcome the hardships posed by this pandemic. Our hope is anchored in the relentless effort of many to find a cure and/or a vaccine, as well as the indomitable human spirit that will dominate these uncharted waters towards new frontiers of human development. We call on you, Africa's youth, to **TAKE ACTION NOW** to develop innovative, adaptable solutions to tackle the challenges and mitigate the negative effects of this pandemic on our communities. We encourage you to share your ideas with us on what you are doing to assist your community to withstand the negative impacts of the virus. Your ideas might inspire other young people to develop solutions in their own countries and societies. Share with us on contact@yaldafrika.org or on our social media platforms.

Let us all do our part to defeat this pandemic and reverse its scourge on our communities.

#YALDACares

#COVID19

#coronavirus

#StayAtHome

#KnowTheFacts



APRIL
World Creativity and Innovation Day

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

Join the Creative Revolution

21 April 2020

**world
creativity &
innovation
day 2020**

#yalda4creativity #IAmCreative
#WCIW #WCID
#WorldCreativity2020

**world
creativity & innovation
day 2020**

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

Join the Creative Revolution

21 April 2020

World Creativity and Innovation Day is a global UN day celebrated on April 21 to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving with respect to advancing the United Nations sustainable development goals, also known as the "global goals". Adopted on the 21st of April 2017, the first World Creativity and Innovation Day was celebrated on April 21, 2018. The purpose of the world creativity and innovation day is to remind and encourage people to use their creativity to make the world a better place. World Creativity and Innovation Day is well-positioned to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking and advance the achievement of the sustainable future we desire. It is important to galvanize independent thinking and exploration of new, fresh and innovative solutions.

Creative industries have contributed towards different aspects of economic development. According to a survey conducted by IBM on business executives, creativity was ranked as the number one factor for future business success above management disciplines, integrity, and even vision. Another study by Adobe creativity and education postulates that 71% of college educated professionals believe creative thinking should be taught as a course like math and science, while 65% agree that creative thinking and innovation is important for problem solving in their career. Undoubtedly, the place of creativity and innovation in our world cannot be overstated.

Furthermore, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) states that "the creative industries hold great potential for developing countries that seek to diversify their economies and livelihoods into one of the most dynamic sectors of the world economy". Generating US \$4.2 billion and 547,000 jobs, the rapidly growing sector of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) in Africa is believed to be on the verge of becoming one of the major drivers of sustainable development and economic growth in the continent. In Nigeria, for instance, the creative industry generates between US \$300 to US \$800-million and is the country's second largest industry, thereby providing a source of income and contributing towards the national GDP.

In cognizance of the economic potential of creative industries, Africa has put in place policy structures to protect and advance the industry. UNCTAD has been publishing Creative Economy reports that provide insight on the economic value and net contribution of the creative industry. At the continental level there are several policy documents that support the development and growth of creative industries: the 2008 Nairobi Plan of Action on Cultural Industries, the 2010 Abuja Declaration and Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, and the more recent Praia Declaration focusing on the potential of young Africans in the creative economy.

Creativity and innovation have the potential to transform Africa's economic landscape by providing an opportunity for the growth of creative enterprise and social entrepreneurship. Deploying creativity and innovation in problem solving generates sustainable solutions while creating alternative sources of employment. We at the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) call on all youth and youth driven enterprises to leverage creativity and innovation to generate localized scalable solutions that are easily adaptable to solve Africa's problems. Moreover, innovation is important in refining efficiency and sustainability in business models, thereby making them viable vehicles for economic growth and sustainable development. Together with our partners, we will continue to engage in efforts that shape the mindset of the youth across the African continent and the desire by capitalizing on rewarding creativity and innovation and creating awareness of its importance.

**African youth we call on you to Dare to Innovate,
especially given these unprecedented times!**

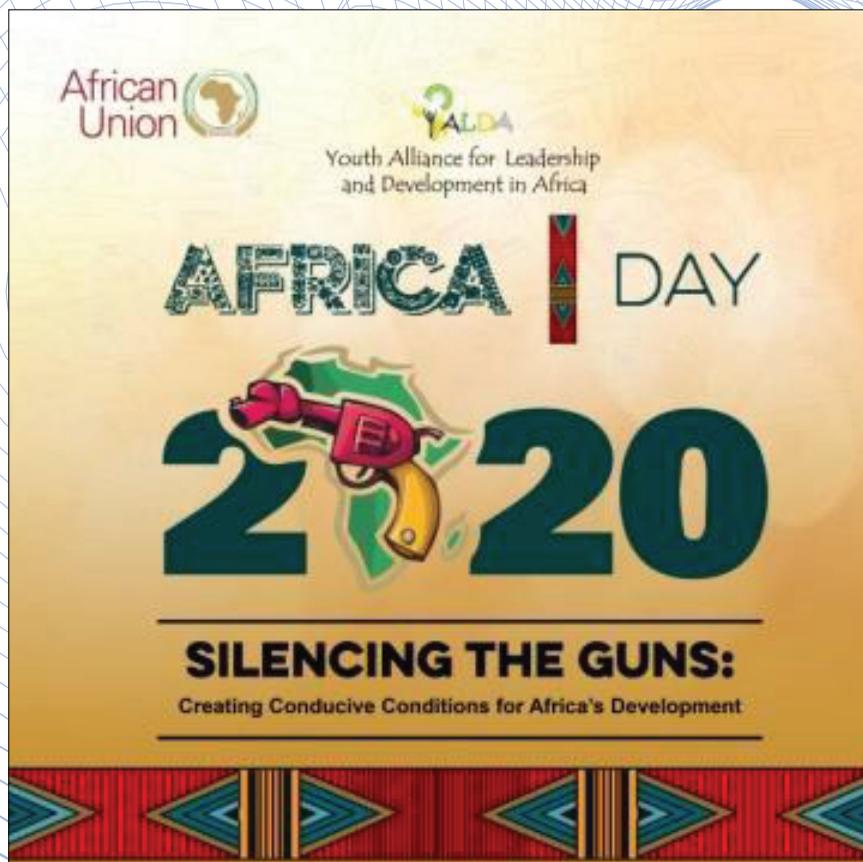
**Have a Creatively
Revolutionary Day!**

#yalda4creativity #IAmCreative #WCIW
#WCID #WorldCreativity2020

World Creativity and Innovation Day is a global UN Day celebrated annually on April 21 since 2018 to raise awareness around the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving with respect to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The annual celebration which serves as a reminder for people to use their creativity to make the world a better place is founded on the ideas of independent thinking, and exploration of new, fresh and innovative solutions



MAY Africa Day






Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

SILENCING THE GUNS:

Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development

Africa Day marks one of the first vital steps undertaken by 30 independent African countries to form the new African Union (AU), originally the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), in realizing Africa's unification. With only 3 years left for Africa to reach her 60th anniversary since starting the journey towards attaining continental continuity, today, the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (WALDA) joins the rest of the continent and the world, in not only celebrating the beginning of reaching total African collaboration, but also celebrating Africa's success so far in securing peace and unity.

AU's theme for 2020 is, "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development". Africa Day reflects the genesis of officiating Africa's development goals and thus, evokes a certain remembrance of the triumphs made by the continent. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) estimates that in 2019, deaths from terrorism were at a 52 percentage lower than their peak in 2014 with 98 countries recording an improvement on their GTI score, compared to 40 that recorded deterioration. Globally, African countries that experienced the largest fall in the number of terrorism related deaths are Somalia and Nigeria.

Initiative of Africa's strides in uniting herself, on March 25th, 2018, 44 African countries signed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in Kigali, Rwanda. On the same day, 30 of the 44 countries signed the protocol on the free movement of people, while 47 countries signed the Kigali declaration which sets the political goal of establishing a free trade area. The AfCFTA is one of Africa's greatest feats directed at uniting the continent and signals a new push and conviction towards trade and economic integration through the free movement of goods and people in order to boost intra-African trade.

However, some countries are still characterized by hostility and marred with conflict and this challenges the attainment of Africa's economic and social development through AfCFTA's implementation given the complexities that exist due to disruption in the provision of services and the access to goods. Youth in Africa are often perceived as the main perpetrators of political violence, social unrest and violent extremism. Popular protests across the continent are also often explained by the socioeconomic and political marginalization of youth and this therefore, impacts on the level of engagement and contribution of youth in the development agenda.

At WALDA, we continue to engage young people across the continent as equal stakeholders in the development agenda by championing their effective participation in policy formulation and decision making. With this, our efforts are geared towards building their capacity to take up positive leadership positions in their communities and provide authentic and sustainable solutions to some of the most pressing challenges in their communities. In this light, spaces that promote bi-lateral and multilateral dialogues and negotiations are critical. As we commemorate this year's Africa Day, let us- young people- be reminded of the commitments made by those who have gone before us, and take up the leadership mantle towards the realization of the Africa we want. Let us disengage from activities that stir up violence and conflict and instead pursue opportunities that foster collaboration.

A reminiscent Africa Day to you all!

#AfricaDay
#AfricanUnion
#SilenceGuns
#yalda4AfricaDay
#yalda4peace



Africa Day marks one of the first vital steps undertaken by 30 independent African countries to form what is now known as the African Union (AU), in realizing Africa's unification. Africa Day reflects the genesis of officiating Africa's development goals and thus, evokes a certain remembrance of the triumphs of the continent. Drawing from this year's theme, one notable milestone is in 2019, where 98 countries globally recorded an improvement in their Global Terrorism Index (GTI) with two African countries - Somalia and Nigeria experiencing the largest drop in the number of deaths.



JUNE
Day of the African Child

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

Day of the African Child

“Access to a child-friendly justice system in Africa”

16th June 2020

ACERWC African Union

#DAC2020
#ChildJusticeAfrica
#YALDA4TheAfricanChild
#ChildofAfrica

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

16th June 2020

International Day of the African Child

Access to a Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa

This year's Day of the African Child marks the 30th annual commemoration of the 16th of June 1976 Uprising in Soweto, South Africa; where unarmed students who marched in protest of apartheid-inspired education were brutally murdered. Drawing from their bravery to claim their right to non-discriminatory education, the annual commemoration of the Day of the African Child celebrates the children of Africa, while at the same time calling for serious introspection and commitment towards addressing challenges facing children across the continent.

This year's theme, "Access to a Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa", was adopted during the African Union's 34th ordinary session held on 7th to 8th February 2019. The theme calls for the implementation of child-friendly justice systems, including the application of a child rights based approach and use the four principles of children's rights as a tool for realising access to a child-friendly justice system in Africa. The four principles of children's rights are: non-discrimination, best interests of the child, the right to survival and development and the views of the child. Based on the notion that childhood has a value in itself, these principles make children equal human beings to adults.

Child abuse is one of the major threats to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. Children in Africa continue to face different forms of abuse such as torture, sexual exploitation, military recruitment, forced labour, trafficking and abduction during conflicts. Worse still, Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) is still rampant, with some countries still seeing alarming rates as high as 90%. Disturbingly, the level of the child marriage is highest in Africa where nearly 4 in 10 young women are married before the age of 18. Given the extent of abuse they face, children in Africa willingly or unwillingly engage legal systems in different capacities: whether as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders; subjects in protection proceedings; or in succession and inheritance cases. Additionally, there are major inconsistencies in dealing with children who are in conflict with the law. These range from adopting "juvenile" systems, to consideration of diversion, to arrest or even use trial system.

Many African countries have embraced policy reform mechanisms to ensure that children are protected, as part of the Africa Union's Agenda 2040-Fostering an Africa fit for Children- outlines the importance of ensuring that "children benefit from a child-sensitive criminal justice system. Established in 2016, the policies aim to restore the dignity of the African child. It purposes to achieve this through assessing the achievements and challenges faced towards the effective implementation of the African Children's Charter". Notably, progress has been made in the implementation of African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. However, progress is still at an early stage in many countries. For example, Malawi, Namibia, Mauritania and parts of Tanzania launched specialized children courts, and police units dedicated to dealing with offences against children. Another promising practice is the introduction of child rights focused modules in police training programmes, as seen in Namibia and Zambia.

Child-friendly justice embraces the idea that courts can be a powerful tool to positively shape children's lives and prepare them for adulthood. As the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA), we acknowledge that access to child-friendly justice systems is the epicentre of all legal dialogues. We passionately champion the access to justice systems that steer child development so they can be responsible members of the community. Today, we urge all stakeholders—policy makers, organisations working on children's rights, humanitarian institutions, academics etc. All to collaborate and adopt mechanisms and structures that mainstream children's issues in all rule of the law efforts. These must also effectively ensure that the best interests of the African child are given primary consideration. Undoubtedly, access to child-friendly justice systems will provide viable roadmap for the wholesome development of African children.

Let's do our part to ensure the implementation of child-friendly justice systems across Africa!

#DAC2020
#ChildJusticeAfrica
#YALDA4TheAfricanChild
#ChildofAfrica

ACERWC African Union

This year's Day of the African Child marked the 30th annual commemoration of the 16th of June 1976 Uprising in Soweto, South Africa; where unarmed students who marched in protest of apartheid-inspired education were brutally murdered. Child abuse remains a threat to development at a time when Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) is still rampant in some communities, with some countries recording rates of incidence as high as in 90% of all girl children. Day of the African Child celebrates the children of Africa, while at the same time calling for serious introspection and commitment towards addressing challenges facing children across the continent.



YALDA DIGITAL WARRIORS

By Sheila Ochieng', Kenya

Publicity and Communications Team Members
making an impact through digital activism 2019/20

The YALDA Big 5

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa



CHIDINMA AHIKA
NIGERIA
First in Class Digital Activist



BETHELHEM JAMBO KASSA
ETHIOPIA
2nd Place



RAMSES WATO
CAMEROON
3rd Place



ABINAIDAH CHASEBA
ZAMBIA
4th Place



KATLEGO NAWA
BOTSWANA
5th Place

"I am guided each day by these three questions: 'What are you fixing?' 'What are you making?' and 'Who are you helping' "

Juliana Rotich

Lets celebrate African youth who have taken up the clarion call to make impact in the lives of others by sharing stories of hope, courage and resilience. You too can contribute towards shaping Africa by sharing inspiring content on social media!

Social Media Boosters Team Members
making an impact through digital activism 2019/20

The YALDA Big 5

YALDA
Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa



MOSHOOD TAIWO TUNDE
NIGERIA
First in Class Social Media Booster



ELVA NONOFO BATLOGILE
BOTSWANA
2nd Place



DANANDAAR JAYENANG
GHANA
3rd Place



CHRISTOPHER MOKAYA
KENYA
4th Place



LESEGO GAETWESEPE
BOTSWANA
5th Place

"I am guided each day by these three questions: 'What are you fixing?' 'What are you making?' and 'Who are you helping' "

Juliana Rotich

Lets celebrate African youth who have taken up the clarion call to make impact in the lives of others by sharing stories of hope, courage and resilience. You too can contribute towards shaping Africa by sharing inspiring content on social media!

Technology is ubiquitous! From its basic forms to the most complex, technology has permeated our existence and is an integral component of our daily lives. Social media, in particular, has had its impact on young people who make up the demographic majority in Africa. Increasingly, social media tools have been repurposed to play a greater role in development by educating social peers, highlighting crisis hotspots and advancing social causes.

We at the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development celebrate young change makers who have leveraged the power of social to empower their peers by sharing new and thought- provoking ideas, insightful perspectives and alternative viewpoints. Together, they have repurposed social media to play a role in youth empowerment by highlighting the issues that matter to the youth. These young people are changing the tides on modern day advocacy, one comment at a time!



Q&A (FOCUS ON THE FUTURE OF WORK POST COVID-19)

By Raghda Medhat, Egypt

In the recent past, blue chip companies like Twitter, Amazon, Facebook and Google have activated the 'Work From Home' policy across their offices around the world. Zoom has a market value of \$42Bn owing to an increased demand for video conferencing⁴. Before March 2020, most individuals and institutions perceived working from home as a luxury of the affluent but the COVID-19 pandemic has proved this to be the contrary. The future of the work space for many is now likely to be remote, allowing for flexibility, time saving and enabling teams to accomplish tasks by collaborating on shared platforms despite geographical separation.

Additionally, the disruption caused by the pandemic has affected the financial performance of different sectors which has influenced their attractiveness for investment. Institutions and individuals have had to renegotiate contracts in order to take into consideration the impact of the pandemic on their economic performance. Some sectors in the economy will experience growth while others will experience a decline. With massive job losses, pay cuts and lost income for entrepreneurs, here are some insights into what the work landscape may look like in the aftermath of the pandemic.



Q: How will work look like after the pandemic?

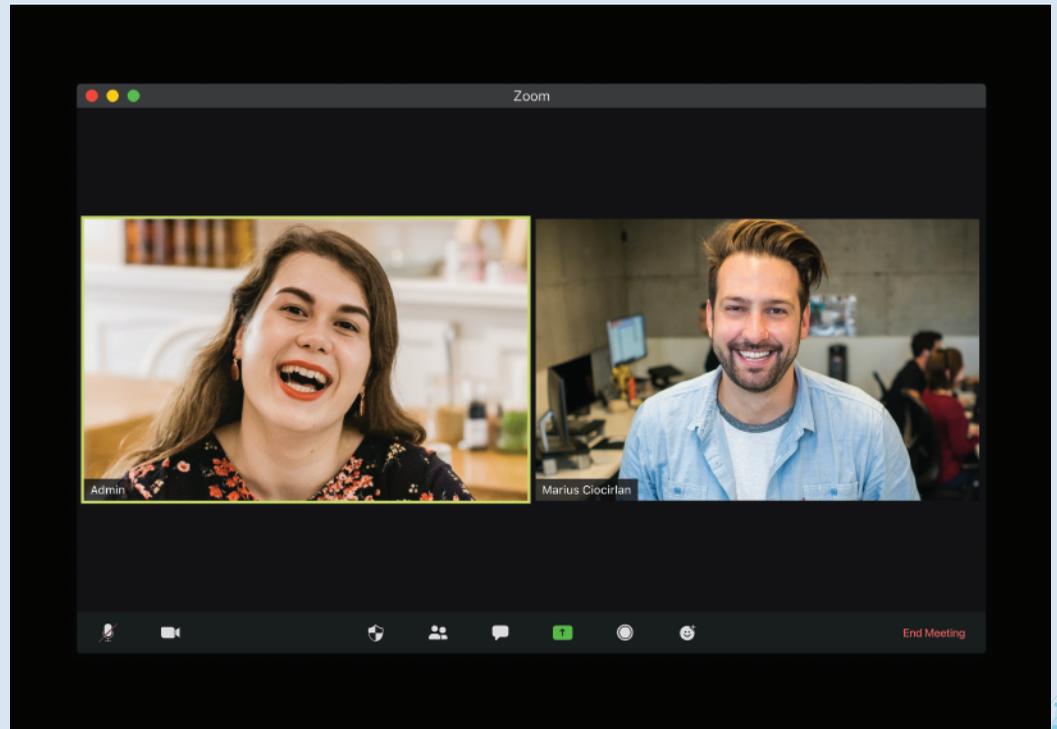
A: After the implementation of directives by World Health Organization on social distancing, wearing of masks in public places and avoiding the large gatherings in order to contain the spread of COVID-19, many companies and institutions have already adopted a Work from Home (WFH) policy until December 2020. Other policies that have been adopted include a maximum 20% capacity of in office employees at a given time.

Q: How will technology affect how people work?

A: Companies have been exposed to a new world of processes and adopted technology to keep their business functional. With most people working remotely, reliable technology is key to avoid inconveniences which can stall progress. Access to quality internet connection as well as compatible devices has become essential, and not a luxury.

Q: Will the physical workspaces be the same?

A: It is expected that most companies will decrease office spaces due to the implementation of policies that allow only 20% to 60% employee capacity at the office. Some institutions are expected to consolidate and form regional hubs or create co-working spaces. Other companies will allow their employees to work with employees from different institutions in the same spaces, with excess space being transformed for alternative use.



Q: What will be the future of meetings and business travel?

A: Many believe that this could be the end of in-person meetings and business travels, as big corporates could substitute with other video-conferencing tools. COVID-19 still poses a threat to the health of individuals and without a vaccine or cure, both local and international travel are a huge risk to take. On the other hand, video conferencing tools will allow companies to eliminate huge costs associated with travel logistics and hospitality.

Q: Will the standard hours of work change?

A: During the pandemic and with the enactment of curfews, standard work hours in some cases have been reduced. Post pandemic; it is projected that this will remain in place in order to help companies maintain their remuneration structures at a minimum. Institutions may adopt the practice of working in shifts in order to continue delivering services while maintaining the 20%-60% employee capacity policy at workplaces.

Q: Will work structures be affected?

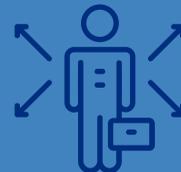
A: Given the reduced number of employees and flexible work schedules, institutions may revise their structures and resolve to completely scrap off some layers of middle management, in a trend similar to post the financial crisis of 2008.

Q: What skills will be needed for entry level jobs?

A: One industry that is still hiring and thriving, is the information technology field. Many students and employees will re-direct their careers towards this field. People want to be safe and secure and will start taking up opportunities for training to gain experience in IT. Consequently, one of the skills that will be required for entry level jobs is competency in using different technologies to perform tasks or solve problems.

Q: What will the investment landscape look like?

A: Reference cannot be made to the future of work without thinking of the investments sector. Given that the pandemic has disrupted the profitability of ventures and thus, their attractiveness. With the critical role that technology is playing to help keep institutions and businesses operational, investors will be more willing to channel their funds into ventures that are solving problems using technology.

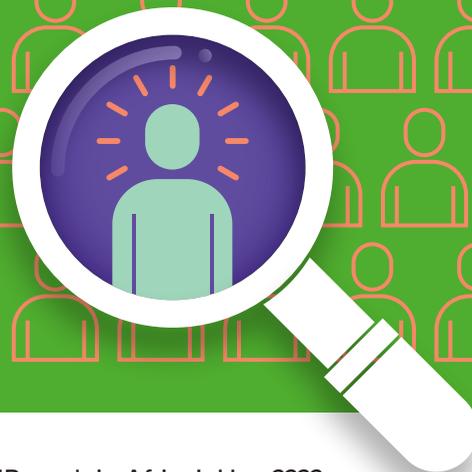


OPPORTUNITIES CORNER

By YALDA Research Team

YALDA International Recruiting Volunteers!

YALDA International Executive Committee is Recruiting!



Join the YALDA team for a ONCE IN A LIFETIME opportunity to make YOUR mark in Africa! How????
Join YALDA International Executive Committee TODAY! There are 3 open positions that fit our unique and AMAZING gifts so apply NOW and do not be left out! **Deadline 15 July, 2020!**

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/YF1HXkT9aizfubpq6>

YALDA - ITC Video Contest for Youth Tackling Business challenges in the era of COVID-19 Young entrepreneurs!

How has COVID-19 impacted your business and innovation?

Share your video by 15 July for your chance to increase visibility and win a special prize.

Submission guidelines <https://bit.ly/entrepreneurvideocontest>

A campaign by @ITCnews @ITC_Youth @yaldafrica @ye_community

Let YALDA help you cope with COVID-19 mental health challenges

Are you feeling stressed, anxious, overwhelmed, hopeless and/or bored out of your mind because of the current COVID-19 crisis?

You are NOT alone!

Join us for the YALDA COVID-19 stress management cafés for practical tools to help you overcome the mental health challenges posed by COVID-19.

Register here TODAY: <https://forms.gle/xW8GZEWcusUNeZT16>

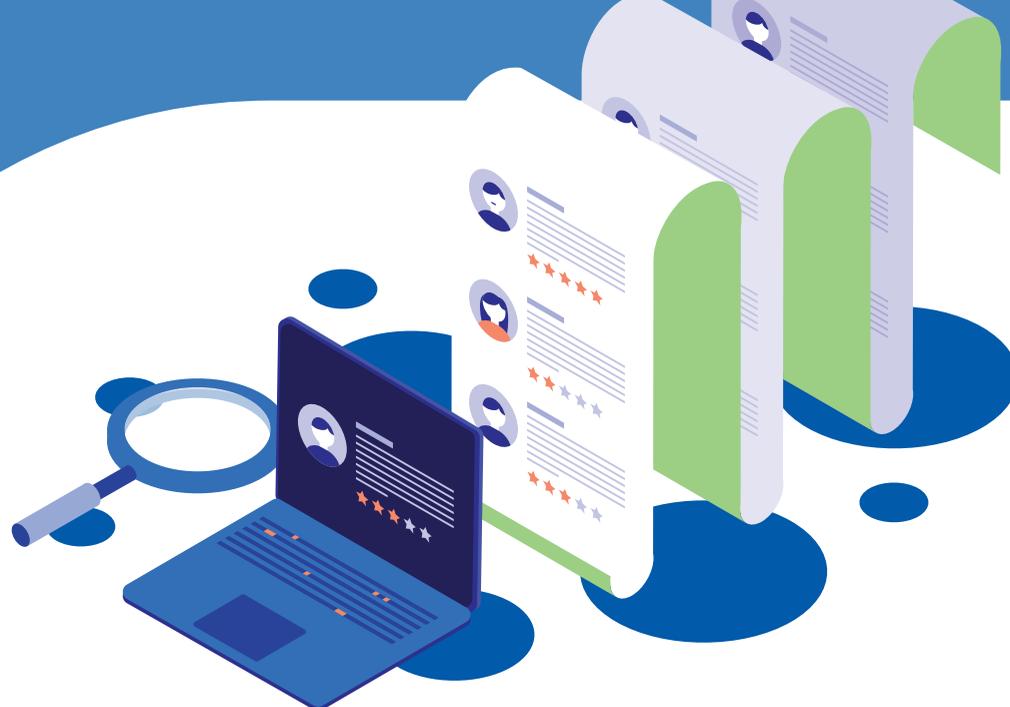
Let YALDA help you cope with COVID-19 mental health challenges

Calling to all young entrepreneurs!

What challenges and/or opportunities are you currently experiencing during COVID-19?

We want to hear from you! Your insights will inform decisions made at the highest levels and help us improve the conditions for youth-led businesses around the world.

Please complete ITC - YALDA survey here: https://linktr.ee/ITC_YouthTrade



Have you registered for YALDA Monthly Webinars?

In 2020, along with its own monthly webinars, YALDA is pleased to announce that it will be co-hosting 4 webinars with the World Bank's Africa division.

We will also continue our exceptionally popular webinars certificate programme. This programme rewards those of you who tirelessly participate in all our webinars every year and give input.

For more info and to register please click here immediately: <https://forms.gle/awGTtMHS8x4h1VRJA>

Contests & Challenges

UNICEF Innovation Funding for Blockchain Startups 2020 (up to \$100K equity-free investments)
Deadline July 26, 2020

African Union Democracy and Governance in Africa- Youth Innovation Challenge 2020
Deadline July 28, 2020

World of Legal Research Blog Writing Competition 2020
Deadline July 10, 2020

Conferences & Workshops

Girl UP Global Leadership Summit
Deadline July 15, 2020

Funding

Canon Collins Social Justice Scholarships 2021 for Masters Study in South Africa
Deadline August 10, 2020

Grants & Fellowships
AFS Prize for Young Global Citizens (\$12,800 prize)
Deadline July 28, 2020

Ignite Innovation Lab (IGL) Digital Transformation Program 2020 for African Start Ups
Deadline July 24, 2020

Acumen West Africa Fellowship 2020 for Entrepreneurs and Organization-builders
Deadline August 6, 2020

Employment - Internships - Volunteer - Professional Development

Employment

Pulitzer Center is hiring an Outreach Assistant
Deadline July 24, 2020

Internships

UNOSSC Communications/Knowledge Management Reporting Internship 2020 in New York, New York
Deadline rolling

Miles Morland Foundation Writing Scholarship 2020 for Africans
Deadline September 18, 2020