

Builders of Africa's Future 2021

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Highlights - Action Steps

**Builders of
Africa's Future 2021
Awardees**

**Presented by
African Diaspora Network
& US Africa Development
Foundation**





**Alfred Chengula,
Tanzania**
Co-Founder & COO
Imara Technology



**Chibuzo Opara,
Nigeria**
Co-CEO
DrugStoc



**Winnie Gitau,
Kenya**
Co-founder,
Kwangu Kwako Limited



**Derrick Hosea Opio,
Uganda**
CEO & Founder
Onelamp



**Dysmus Kisilu,
Kenya**
CEO & Founder
Solar Freeze



**Eng Chrispinus Onyancha,
Uganda**
Founder & CEO
clinicPesa



**Waceke Nduati,
Kenya**
Founder
Centonomy



**Ian Tarimo,
Tanzania**
Co-Founder & Exec Dir.
Tai Tanzania



**Ken Oloo,
Kenya**
Founder & Team Lead
Filamujuani



**Prince Tillya,
Tanzania**
Co-Founder & Managing Dir.
FixChap



**Sr. Celestina Nwodo,
Nigeria**
Catholic Rev. Sister
Notre Dame Girls' Academy

Context:

The African Diaspora Network is delighted to celebrate the Fourth Builders of Africa's Future (BAF202). The Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) is a program that celebrates innovation and impact in early stage African enterprise. BAF serves to showcase and award entrepreneurs who are running early stage for-profit and nonprofits that are addressing Africa's unique needs through technology or differentiated business models. These unique needs are in health, education, energy, financial inclusion, gender inclusion, nutrition, commerce, industrial development, and other socio-economic good.

The African Diaspora Network's nomination committee identified 11 Builders of Africa's Future awardees. Each BAF Awardee will receive a \$5,000.00 Financial Prize thanks to our partners at the **United States African Development Foundation (USADF)** and training thanks to Ms. Pamela Roussos of the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University.

BAF Class of 2021:

Education

- Waceke Nduati, Centonomy
- Sr. Celestine Nwodo, Notre Dame High School
- Ken Oloo, Filamujuani

Connectivity/Technology

- Prince Prosper, FixChap,
- Ian Tarimo, Tai Tanzania

Healthcare

- Chibuzo Opara, DrugStoc
- Eng Chrispinus Onyancha, clinicPesa
- Winnie Gitau Kwangu, Kwako Limited

Renewable Energy/Agriculture

- Derrick Hosea Opio, One Lamp
- Alfred Chengula, Imara Technology
- Dysmus Kisilu, Solar Freeze

Summary



On January 27, 2021, African Diaspora Network hosted the Builders of Africa's Future 2021 award ceremony. The ceremony brought together 11 startups doing amazing work in Africa, partners, investors, and friends of Africa. The link to the **recording** can be found [here](#).

The session began with an uplifting performance by Zimbabwean born multi-talented singer and recording artist, Piwai. Her music, including 'We are Wondering' sung in Shona, featured the Mbira, an African thumb piano.



Almaz Negash, founder and executive director of African Diaspora Network, welcomed attendees and thanked partners, particularly United States African Development Foundation (USADF), the lead sponsor of BAF21. She thanked the nominating partners, the selection committee, and Pamela Roussos, Chief Community Officer at Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University, who was ADN's lead academic partner for BAF21.

Almaz then turned the floor to Liz Grossman Kitoyi, Chief Executive Officer of Baobab Consulting, who served as the Master of Ceremonies. Liz expressed her excitement for the day and encouraged the audience to share stories on social media to celebrate BAF. Liz

went through the agenda then introduced Twum Djin, Engineering Leadership at Stripe and ADN Board Chair.

Twum discussed how and why ADN began the Builders of Africa's Future program. According to Twum,



"BAF started in 2018 when we identified a visibility gap when it comes to African entrepreneurs. The continent has several early-stage businesses that are having a tremendous impact, making huge innovative strides and in general the rest of the world is oblivious to what is going on in the continent. So we envisioned BAF as a platform that amplifies stories.

We have seen in our BAF cohorts in previous years that several of the entrepreneurs have gone on to secure funding, they've formed partnerships, they've received further recognition as a consequence to this platform. This year I am especially proud that we are also partnering with USADF to secure this 5K seed investment for each of the 11 businesses that we have in our cohort. My hope is that if you are an investor that you would join USADF in supporting these entrepreneurs."

Next, Liz introduced the keynote speaker, C.D. Glin, President and CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF). C.D. said,

"Now that we are together, now that we are aligned, we are not going anywhere, Almaz. You can count on our support for many years to come and you can count that we will be drawing in others as we all work to build Africa's future.



I congratulate the 11 Builders of Africa's Future winners and am glad to note that 3 of the winners are past USADF grantees (Derrick Hosea Opio, One Lamp, Dysmus Kisilu, Solar Freeze, and Ian Tarimo, Tai Tanzania). We are proud of what you have accomplished and excited about where you and the other 8 Builders of Africa's Future winners will go as you develop, grow, and scale your enterprise and organizations."

After C.D's keynote address, the Builders of Africa's Future Nomination Committee, Dr. Michael Moscherosch, Director R&D, Fellow, Social Innovation at Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc., and Josephine Fubara, Chief Science Officer at Sanofi Consumer Healthcare, spoke about the selection process.

Josephine said, "Partnerships are critical for the success of BAF and for funding BAF candidates. I



want to take some time to say thank you to our partners. I want to start off by thanking USADF-thank you to C.D. and your team for your support. I want to thank Stanford Seed, MIT D-Lab, Segal Family Foundation, and Conrad Hilton Foundation just to name a few. We hope you guys are as excited as we are to showcase the enterprises. We hope, consistent with what C.D. said, that you will invest in them, that you will support them-whether it's through mentoring

or through funding and sponsoring-because they need the support in order to amplify and continue to grow their businesses and enterprises."

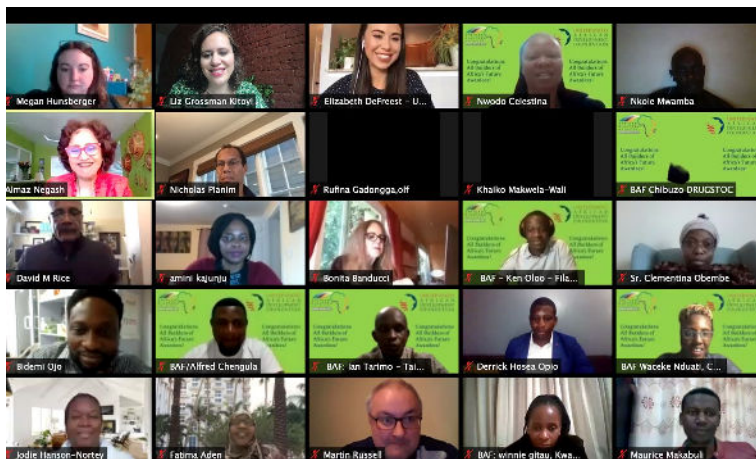
Josephine then welcomed Michael to talk a bit about the BAF process.

Michael said, "The experience of finding the Builders of Africa's Future was beautiful-it was a lot of fun. We received almost a hundred nominations. It was not easy for us to really pick the 2021 winners. To be eligible the companies had to be in business for at least 6 months and

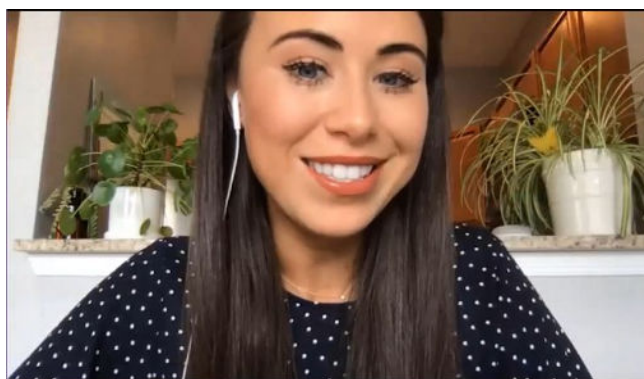


they had to address an unmet need on the continent. We received nominations for for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. We looked at the size of the impact that the enterprise is making and how they used appropriate innovations to address unmet needs on the continent. We also took into consideration if and how an entrepreneur could benefit from being selected as a Builder of Africa's Future.

Although funding is very important-I have worked with a lot of startups-they always apply for the funding and tell me afterwards the quality mentoring and training is even more valuable over the long-run because it's harder to come by. Effective mentors can actually have a long-lasting impact on the startups. They can improve their business skills, they can help them build a network of supporters that they can reach out to, and look to for advice, or even just using them as a sounding board. The BAF program has shown that it works."



After the 2021 Builders of Africa's Future awardees were announced, participants then separated into 4 breakout rooms divided by sector: Healthcare, Education, Renewable Energy/Agriculture, and Technology/Connectivity to hear the entrepreneurs pitches. The pitches can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).



When the breakout sessions were over, everyone returned to the main room for the award ceremony. Almaz Negash, founder and executive director of ADN, and Elizabeth DeFreest, Office of the President at U.S. African Development Foundation, presented certificates to the awardees and each awardee said a few

words. Elizabeth said, "Thank you for bringing us together. On behalf of the USADF, we would

like to congratulate the awardees. We are honored to support you. You are changemakers and movers and shakers and really the builders of the future."



Next, Daniel Boateng, Admissions & Harambe Bretton Woods Director, and Harambean Melvyn Lubega, part of the Harambeans class of 2016 and Co-Founder of GO1, announced the winner of the Harambeand and ADN award. Derrick Hosea Opio, CEO and Founder of One Lamp, was presented the award which included a \$2,500 check and admittance to the 2021 Class of Harambeans. The winner will have a God-given right to \$100,000 courtesy of the Harambean Prosperity fund, which is a co-investment vehicle to accelerate the growth of Harambean-funded ventures.



(Daniel Boateng Left, Derrick Hosea Opio Right)

In closing, Almaz made a few announcements:

- **Conrad Hilton Foundation** will be joining **USADF in 2022** to create a fully-fledged BAF program that can bring together BAFs of the past, present, and future.
- Builders of America's Future - thanks to seed funding **Silicon Valley Community Foundation**, we are in the process of creating **Builders of America's Future**, tailored for black Africans social and business entrepreneurs in the United States. The program training will be led by our friends at Santa Clara University School of Business Executive Center. More on this soon.

Suggested Action Steps:

- **Invest in African Entrepreneurs:** You can find a list of this year's Builders of Africa's Future awardees [here](#).
- **Mentor:** Consider mentoring African-led start up organizations.
- **Research African-Led Organizations:** Are there African-Led organizations that you can support/purchase from?
- **Follow the Builders of Africa's Future 2021 awardees:** Stay up-to-date on what the awardees are doing by following their social media pages listed on page 10 of this summary report.

Highlights

- ADN started BAF in 2018 to address a visibility gap for African entrepreneurs. BAF amplifies the stories of entrepreneurs in Africa.
- Several past BAF awardees have gone on to secure additional funding, formed partnerships, and received other recognitions.
- USADF and ADN plan to partner for years to come on the Builders of Africa's Future program.
- The Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship provided training to this year's BAF awardees.

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- BAF21 partners included USADF, the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship, Harambeans, Baobab Consulting, Conrad Hilton Foundation, Sakuti Cultural Network, Santa Clara University, Lead Trust. Co, Siemens Stiftung, Stanford Seed, the Baobab Network, MIT D-Lab, and Segal Family Foundation.
 - In addition to the BAF award, Derrick Hosea Opio, CEO and Founder of One Lamp, received the Harambean and ADN award.

See the entire session recording [here](#).

Conclusion

Thanks to our partners, this year's Builders of Africa's Future program was a success. The BAF awardees are doing inspiring work in and for the continent of Africa and we look forward to supporting them in any way that we can. If you would like to connect with the awardees, please reach out to them via their social networking platforms or email Megan Hunsberger, ADN's program manager, for more information at megan@africandiasporanetwork.org.

Thank you,

The African Diaspora Network Team

Resources:

Visit [ADIS21](#) Website for Information on the Builders of Africa's Future 2021

Register for #ADIS21 February!



Innovation in Payments in Africa

Wednesday February 17~ 8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 4:00 PM GMT

Registration Link [here](#).



Thank you to all who made
Builders of Africa's Future 2021 possible!



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