



ADIS21

AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM
Leapfrogging Africa: Health Care, Education, Technology, and Finance

Summary and Outcome of African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2021 (ADIS21)

July 2020 to February 2021







ADIS21 By The Numbers:



Countries Represented 57+



Builders of Africa's Future by The Number:

<p>Nominees:</p>  <p>190</p>	<p>Awardees:</p>  <p>11</p>
<p>Sectors:</p>  <p>4</p>	<p>Lead Funder:</p>  <p>1</p>
<p>Registrants</p>  <p>316</p>	<p>Attendees</p>  <p>172</p>

About African Diaspora Network

Founded in 2010, African Diaspora Network (ADN) has cultivated a global community invested in uplifting the continent of Africa and the communities in which we live. With over 1,200 on our online platform and a network of over 7,500 people, ADN has catalyzed numerous initiatives, projects, and collaborations through its proven strategy: **Inform, Engage, Activate.**

Mission

The mission of ADN is to sustainably serve its constituencies, marketplace, and partners. This is inextricably linked to engaging the African diaspora through an ethics of care, enhancing their well-being in their adopted homelands, and facilitating their strategic involvement in the development of Africa.

Vision

ADN's vision is to activate capital from the African diaspora and friends of Africa for the development of Africa and communities around the world. We aim to be a global leader in diaspora philanthropy, investment, and innovation.

Board of Directors

TWUM DJIN, Head of Engineering, Stripe
JOSH GHAIM, Ph.D., Founder & Managing Partner, IgniteGB Inc.
NDEYE MAKALOU, Commercial Director, Roche
ALMAZ NEGASH, Founder of ADN & Executive Director
INNOCENT SHUMBA, Partner, Ernst & Young, San Jose
DUNCAN GOLDIE-SCOT, Musoni Kenya, Ltd.
AGNIESZKA WINKLER, Founder, Winkler Group

Team

ALMAZ NEGASH, Founder of ADN & Executive Director
DANIEL HARTZ, Founding Board of ADN & Director of Finance and Operations
MEGAN HUNSBERGER, Program & Digital Media Manager
DEBRA PACIO, Content Developer & Storyteller
YINKA DJIN, Information Technology Associate
CAROLINE OCAMPO, Public Information & Brand Officer

Advisory Council

KEDEST TESFAGIORGIS, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

ABBEY OMOKHODION, Intel Corporation

DR. MICHAEL MOSCHEROSCH, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Inc.

DR JOSEPHINE FUBARA, Sanofi Consumer HealthCare

YOHANNES ASSEFA, Ethiopia Diaspora Trust Fund; USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub

LOKSAN HARLEY, Founder & Executive Director, Homelands Advisory

Our Programs

- African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)
- Builders of Africa's Future (BAF)
- Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE)
- Impact and Innovation Forums



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

March marks one year since the beginning of a major turning point in history. The COVID-19 pandemic is undoubtedly one of the defining plights of our 21st century, introducing a global health crisis that has devastated lives and livelihoods around the world. In a year defined by uncertainty, one thing is clear: we are one human family with a universal desire for our families and communities to be happy, healthy, and connected.

Being one human family means finding ways to support each other in times of challenge and difficulty. To prioritize the well-being of our network, African Diaspora Network began by pivoting our major convenings onto remote channels, such as the 2020 Impact & Innovation Series. Throughout the year, ADN provided public resources, including sources for health updates and opportunities for financial support for small businesses in our newsletter. Most notably, ADN successfully pivoted our flagship event, African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2021 (ADIS21), onto an online platform for the very first time.

I am humbled by the transformation and success of ADIS21. This virtual monthly series from July 2020 to February 2021 **garnered over 2,158 participants from 57 countries**. Each month featured experts on key topics addressing the challenges and vision of leapfrogging Africa through finance, education, health care, and connectivity. ADIS21 served as a platform for harnessing the resources and knowledge of our global community to find innovative ways to address the challenges of COVID-19 and envision a post-COVID world.

Thank you to all those who made the **first-ever virtual ADIS21** possible. My deepest gratitude to the ADN board, team, funders, moderators, speakers, and artists who have been integral to the success of this digital shift. To all our participants who tuned in and welcomed us in the comfort of your homes and work spaces, a special thank you for your trust and support of our efforts to inform, engage, and activate. We invite you to be a part of our upcoming events and programs, continuing to take place online until further notice. I look forward to the day that we can all once again gather our global family safely in person.

As always,
Thank You,



Almaz Negash
Founder & Executive Director
African Diaspora Network

About African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2021



AFRICAN DIASPORA INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM

Leapfrogging Africa: Global Health, Education, Technology, and Finance

African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS21) is the sixth annual global convening that celebrates and champions the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans, Diasporans and friends of Africa. Hosted by African Diaspora Network, the symposium inspires participants to be agents of change and active contributors to Africa's development and the communities we live in. The conference activates the potential of partnership, drawing over 1,300 delegates from across the globe over the last six years.

Leapfrogging Africa: Healthcare, Education, Connectivity, and Finance

The historic COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the trajectory of the decade and remarkably shaped the priorities of the global community. As nations rise to meet the challenges and effects of the novel coronavirus, Africa stands at a unique inflection point in its history to accelerate changes that were already underway. Decades of development are anticipated to be concentrated in the next few years.

- What role do Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa play as collaborators and global citizens in the fight against infectious disease?

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- What programs and projects are combatting COVID-19 and infectious disease broadly that are led by Africans or Diaspoans?
 - How do we most effectively channel our resources to support both the communities we live in and the African continent?
 - How do we improve access to health care, education, connectivity, and finance among the most vulnerable communities in Africa?

Our First Virtual Series

To prioritize community well-being in light of the current global health crisis, ADIS21 took place as a monthly virtual forum beginning in July 2020 to February 2021. Our objectives include:

- Learn about how African countries and organizations are addressing the current COVID-19 crisis in the short-term and preparing for future pandemics
- Gain insight on economic development trends and investment opportunities in Africa
- Engage with leaders and organizations facilitating productive investments on the continent
- Participate in a movement that redefines the roles of the African diaspora
- Examine trends in innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment conditions
- Explore how we can engage key global stakeholders in the well-being of the continent

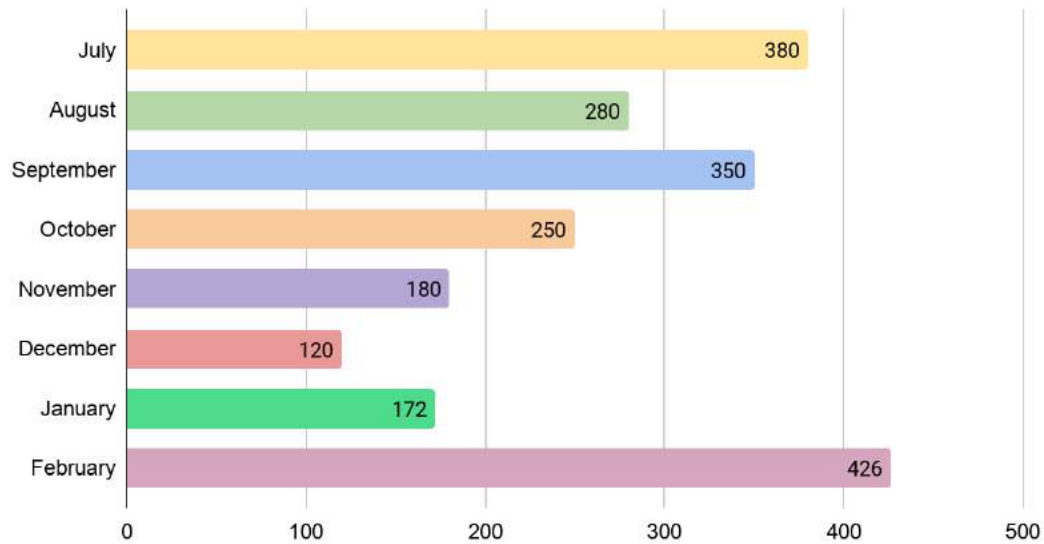
ADIS21 Impact Overview

ADIS21 Monthly Engagement

Topics:

July	Leveraging the Private Sector: DFIs, Investment Vehicles, and Funding Responses
August	Human Capital Development: From Healthcare Access to Delivery
September	Digital Connectivity Across Africa
October	Amplifying Innovation and Investment Hubs in Africa
November	Investment in Education and Online Learning in Africa
February	Innovation Payments in Africa

ADIS21 Participants

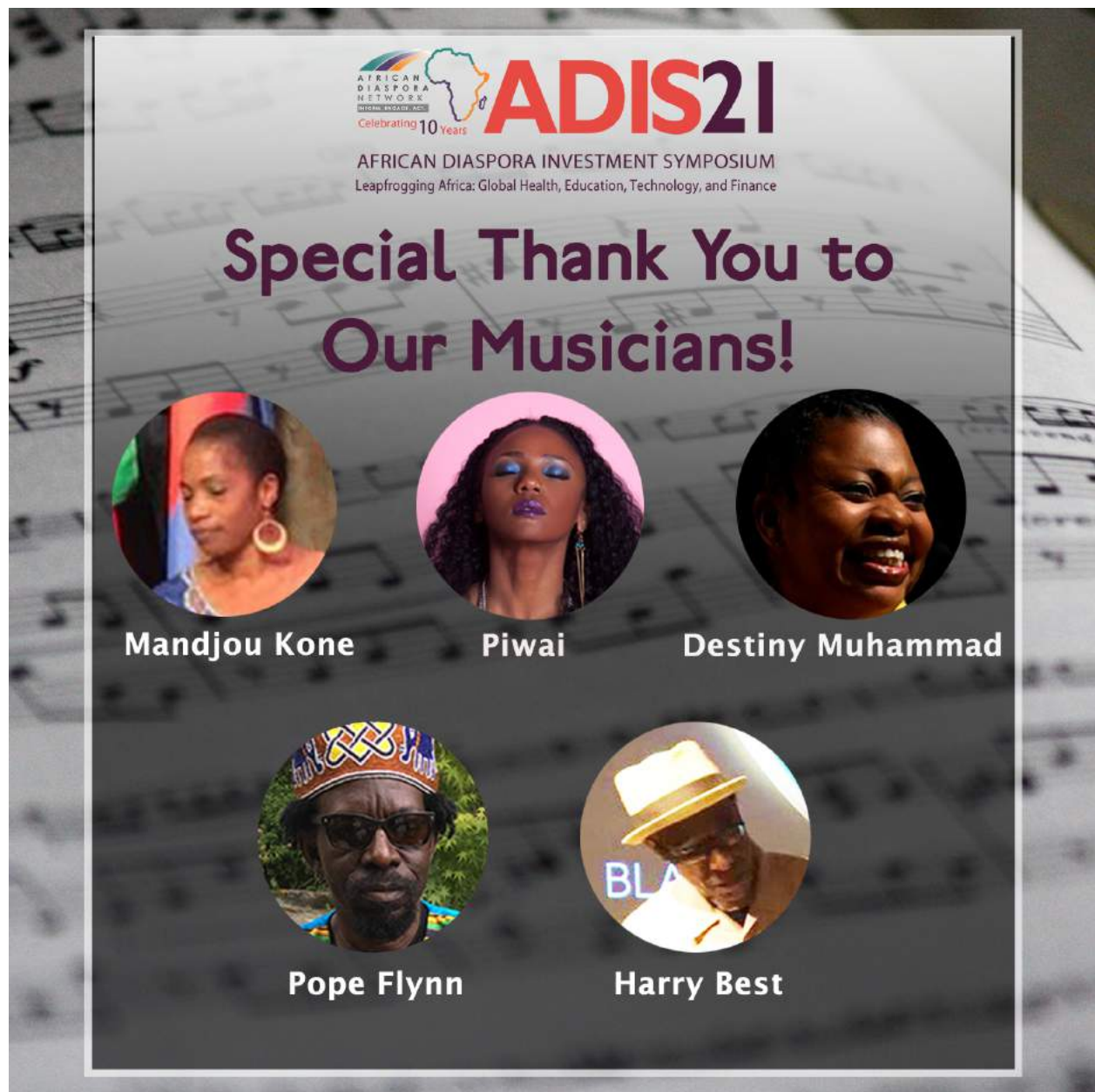


Total Engagement: 2,158 people



ADN Friends and Performers

The African Diaspora Network, in order to continue to support the performing arts community during COVID-19, decided to begin every virtual convening with a **LIVE PERFORMANCE** by a group of brilliant and talented artists. These artists are an integral part of our network and we give them special thanks for bringing some **joy into our day!**



ADIS21 Monthly Recap

July 2020: Leveraging the Private Sector: DFIs, Investment Vehicles, and Funding Responses

July 29, 2020 / Wednesday
8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 3:00 PM GMT

Fireside Chat
Global Response: To Organizations Across Africa and USA During COVID-19 and Post-pandemic Era

Panel Discussion
Leveraging the Private Sector: The Rising DFIs, Investment Vehicles, and Funding Responses

Dr. James Mwangi
Group Managing Director & Group CEO, Equity Group Holdings Limited, Kenya

Dr. Latanya Mapp Frett
CEO and President, Global Fund for Women

Peter Laugharn
President and CEO, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Sid Mofya, Moderator, Director/COO, Draper Venture Network

Viola Llewellyn
President and Co-Founder, Ovamba Solutions

Andile Ngeba
Founding Partner and Chairman, Convergence

Hafeeza E. Rashed
Senior Advisor, Communications and Outreach, King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBUS)

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What investments will be core to advancing the response and recovery of business? What economic impact is foreseen and how will government and international funders respond? What financial solutions exist for entrepreneurs and businesses?

This session examines a variety of investment vehicles and how we can leverage the private sector to deliver support across Africa.

The inaugural session of the virtual African Diaspora Investment Symposium brought together Africans, Diasporans and friends of Africa to highlight opportunities that accelerate investment opportunities to support communities through the COVID-19 health crisis. Experts on investment in Africa, ranging from development finance and private equity to impact investment shared the challenges presented by COVID-19 and the current global response by investors.

- **Dr. Latanya Mapp Frett:** *I'm very optimistic of where we are in social justice movements. GFW has been funding responses to COVID. We're seeing wonderful things. GFW offers flexible funding to address the most pressing needs of the community / women's organizations (help lines for domestic violence, abortion access, LGBTQ, masks for protection). The world is saying, "No more, we cannot live in a world with deep inequalities. We need to change things. This is a crisis but also an opportunity.*

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- ***Dr. James Mwangi:** Lots are going well. Most African countries have triggered prevention activities. We've seen strong campaign catch up (vaccinations, community awareness, action from government realigning efforts, hospital bed availability). Equity Group Foundation has challenged banks to protect lives, not just livelihood. Banks extend repayment periods to ensure enterprises can survive and adapt to the new environment. Equity Group Foundation is raising \$14M for health and welfare of frontline staff, equipping them with PPs.*

The fireside chat was followed by a panel discussion on the different types of financing and investment opportunities that are rising to the challenges presented by COVID-19 to create new funds that accelerate investment for a post-COVID-19 Africa.

- ***Andile Ngcaba:** We need to think about access to capital in Africa in a different way compared to venture capital, etc. Remittance last year was \$50B (family support, education, health care, better life). We need to invest in the Continent. Why not raise the billions in the continent? How do we mobilize African investment? How do we create African investment might? We need to have trust in people that they will bring a return on the investment.*
- ***Hafeeza E. Rashed:** Social Entrepreneurs (SEs) are providing a social benefit, and are part of a larger network and in touch with international companies. We need to figure out philanthropic options which build a vision and can get investors excited. SEs are recognizing that if they are connecting to philanthropic organizations then they can connect to the boards and networks (along with access to free money/funding).*

Action Steps:

- **Brainstorm new potential partnerships.** What organizations can you support or what organizations can you reach out to for support?
- **Listen to the women** you encounter in your professional and personal life. What are they contributing that you can learn from?
- **Support organizations that are combating inequality and violence toward women.**
- **Connect with youth in Africa.** Have conversations about how they see technology advancing in Africa.

Fireside Chat: Global Response: To Organizations Across Africa and the U.S. during COVID-19 and the Post-Pandemic Era

- Moderator: Peter Laugharn, President and CEO, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

- Dr. James Mwangi, Group Managing Director, CEO, Equity Group Holdings; Executive Chairman, Equity Group Foundation
- Dr. Latanya Mapp Frett, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women

Panel Session: Leveraging the Private Sector: The Rising DFIs, Investment Vehicles, and Funding Responses

- Moderator: Sid Mofya, Director, Draper Venture Network
- Viola Llewellyn, President and Co-Founder, Ovamba Solutions
- Andile Ngcaba, Founding Partner and Chairman, Convergence
- Hafeeza E. Rashed, Senior Advisor, Communications and Outreach, King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS)

August 2020: Human Capital Development: From Health Care Access to Delivery

August 26, 2020 / Wednesday
8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 3:00 PM GMT

Fireside Chat Africa's Approach to COVID-19

Panel Discussion Human Capital Development: From Healthcare Access to Delivery

Dr. Amadou Alpha Sall,
CEO of Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal,
Director of the WHO collaborating center
for Arboviruses & Viral Hemorrhagic Fever

Ndeye Makalou, Pharm.D.,
Moderator
Global Commercial Supply Strategy
Leader, Genentech Roche

Josh Ghaim, PhD,
Moderator,
IgniteBrands

Josephine Fubara, PhD,
Chief Science Officer,
Sanofi Consumer
HealthCare

Alan Main,
Executive Vice President,
Consumer Healthcare

Eliane Ubulijoro, PhD,
Deputy Executive Director for
Programs, Global Open Data
in Agriculture and Nutrition
(GODAN)

#ADIS21 Registration: <http://adis21.africandiasporanetwork.org/>

Africa has the opportunity to leverage its unique expertise in infectious disease, including HIV and ebola. What key lessons learned can inform global solutions? What best practices among the 54 countries are transforming systems of healthcare and access and delivery for communities? How can we adopt practices such as telemedicine that can positively shape systems in Africa in the midst of the 2020 global health crisis?

The second virtual ADIS21 forum closely examined the intersection of human capital development and healthcare to address gaps in policy and infrastructure. Africans, Diasporans, and friends of Africa convened to spotlight ongoing healthcare initiatives and showcase Africa's leadership in research and innovation on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- **Dr. Amadou Alpha Sall:** *One of the main problems we have in Africa is access. When we talk about access, we talk about medical contribution. The healthcare system in Africa is weak and for that reason detection is not doing well and diagnostic, which is usually a point of entry, is hurt by that. That is why I wanted to have tests that can reach different populations-a test that is affordable in terms of financial access. We came up with a simple technology that allows us to do tests for \$1. We started two tests-one for antibody and one for antigen. In June we finalized the antibody one. It is available in terms of performance and we will begin manufacturing. After we manufacture the first batch, we will deploy in Senegal as a pilot study. We will have deployment in other countries starting next month.*

The fireside chat was followed by a panel discussion on the status of healthcare in Africa, the current narrative of investment and how we can change this. Speakers drew upon their unique expertise to share insights on building capacity on the continent.

- **Éliane Ubalijoro** asked where do we go from here? She pointed out how there are very few African companies around the world who are leading, locally or globally, in the health sector. She references proud efforts in areas such as Rwanda who has implemented the use of robots and pool testing, along with socioeconomic initiatives like digital transfers that reduce the spread of the virus.

Part of it is, what is your engagement? If we're in the diaspora how often do we go back? We can mentor, we can give talks, we can mentor one-on-one or we can give talks like we have today. We can mentor hundreds of people. I've been able to equip people who did not necessarily feel that they had the confidence, but they had great ideas. How do we ensure that recognition of Africans happens so it helps them get to the next level wherever they are?

Action Steps:

- **Direct Medical Support** to aid the healthcare workforce in Africa
- **Funding Initiatives to Scale**, including the production and distribution of COVID tests
- **Mentorship** to help young innovators make connections
- **Amplify Success Stories** of progress and medical advancement led in Africa and by Africans
- **Diaspora Investment**, bringing their knowledge, talents, and resources to fund healthcare related and other research projects.

Fireside Chat: Africa's Approach to COVID-19

- Ndeye Makalou, Global Commercial Supply Strategy Leader, Genentech Roche

- Dr. Amadou Alpha Sall, Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for arboviruses and viral hemorrhagic fevers, Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Senegal

Panel Session: Human Capital Development: From Healthcare Access to Delivery

- Josh Ghaim, PhD, Founder and Managing Partner – IgniteGB Inc.; Co-Founder and CEO - Small World Brands Inc
- Josephine Fubara, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Sanofi Consumer Health Care
- Alan Main, Executive Vice President, Consumer Healthcare
- Éliane Ubalijoro, PhD, Deputy Executive Director for Programs at Global Open Data in Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)

September 2020: Digital Connectivity Across Africa

September 23, 2020 / Wednesday
8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 3:00 PM GMT

Fireside Chat
The Africa Tech Infrastructure: How Can Technology Transform African Economy?

Panel Discussion Digital Connectivity Across Africa

Éliane Ubalijoro, PhD
Moderator
Deputy Executive Director for Programs at Global Open Data in Agriculture & Nutrition

Philip Thigo
Senior Director for Africa
Thunderbird School of Global Management

Thomas Debass
Moderator
Managing Director, Office of Global Partnerships at the U.S. Department of State

Anrofe Abdella
Regional Director
Microsoft 4Afrika Initiative

Joseph Nsengimana
Director of the Mastercard Foundation Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning

Nivi Sharma
COO of BRCK and Co-founder of alimu

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Digital connectivity across the continent is amplifying industry at all levels as the countries work to address the internet access gap. How is broadband cable progressing, particularly regarding inland access and delivery? How are smartphones becoming an integral part of commerce and everyday life? How can we create a system that helps innovators and entrepreneurs to quickly locate supplies and services in their area? What kind of impact the rollout of 5G could have for Africa? Are there nascent e-commerce and e-learning solutions suited for the continent?

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the September virtual forum examined key technologies that enhance digital connectivity on the continent, including nascent e-commerce and e-learning solutions as well as mobile tech. The fireside chat and panel addressed essential questions such as how technology can transform the African continent and existing barriers to digital connectivity.

- Recognizing that **Mr. Philip Thigo** is not particularly fond of the term 'leapfrogging', **Éliane Ubalijoro** asked, *Going back to the issue of mindset. Why does the concept of 'leapfrogging' bother you? What mindset should we have?*

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- **Mr. Philip Thigo** replied, *Because it predicts a future. I think of 'disruption'. It means to aspire to an end future, always looking at what is possible. We must be open and listening. We must be willing to grow. We don't know everything. That's why the diaspora network needs to move together to what we aspire. Technology will change, but we must invest in people. How do we invest in the next generation?*

Thomas Bass of the U.S. Department of State led the panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities with an overview on the state of African connectivity: *Despite lots of progress, Africa is still largely disconnected. Digital connection investments have been lagging. The U.S. government has been a huge support of Africa's connectivity efforts. My agency, DFC, is investing more than a billion dollars in economic growth and connectivity in a flagship 'Connect Africa Initiative.'*

- **Nivi Sharma** spoke about the three main barriers she sees to digital connectivity progress in Africa. She said, *As an education content provider, we kept running into this barrier of connectivity and infrastructure. We identified 3 main barriers to digital access.*

One is actual access-do people have a signal around them, do people have a smartphone? We know that only 10% of households in Africa have a computer. The second barrier to digital connectivity is affordability. It is perpetual and ubiquitous and we take it for granted.

One of the first steps we need to take when thinking about connectivity is really empathizing with what the reality on the ground is. We need a new business model. People don't have the money, but can they pay for connectivity with time and attention?

The third barrier is digital literacy. This is the largest, greatest network of knowledge and information in the world, and there are people only using it for Facebook and WhatsApp. People don't understand that there is more out there-better ways to leverage all the knowledge out there.

Action Steps:

- **Think Outside the Box:** How can technology be used as a tool to solve current problems and meet needs?
- **Empathize with people where they are:** Not everyone can afford tech. Can we get people to pay for technology with time and attention instead of money?
- **Be intentional about governance:** The relevance and utilization around technology is really dependent upon decisions we make today.
- **Invest:** The diaspora has an opportunity to invest in the development of digital connectivity with Africa.

Fireside Chat: The Africa Tech Infrastructure: How Can Technology Transform African Economy?

- Éliane Ubalijoro, Deputy Executive Director for Programs at Global Open Data in Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)
- Philip Thigo, Senior Director for Africa Thunderbird School of Global Management

Panel Session: Digital Connectivity Across Africa

- Thomas Debass, Managing Director of the Office of Global Partnerships, U.S. Department of State
- Amrote Abdella, Regional Director, Microsoft 4Afrika Initiative
- Joseph Nsengimana, Director, Mastercard Foundation Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning in ICT
- Nivi Sharma, COO, BRCK

October 2020: Amplify Innovation and Investment Hubs in Africa

Oct. 28, 2020 / Wednesday
8:00 AM PST, 3:00 PM GMT

ADIS21
Celebrating 10 Years

Fireside Chat Building Innovative Ecosystems In Africa: Destination Rwanda

Panel Discussion Amplify Innovation and Investment Hubs in Africa

C.D. Glin, Moderator
President and CEO of USADF

Hon. Paula Ingabire,
Rwandan Minister of ICT & Innovation

Saïda Benhayoune, Moderator
Innovation Practice Advisor at MIT

Hiruy Amanuel,
Co-founder & Managing Director of A.J. Ventures

Timothy Nzioka,
Director of Regional Program Operations, Kenya, at USADF

Nekesa Were,
Director of Strategy at Afrilabs

#ADIS21 Registration: <http://adis21.africandiasporanetwork.org/>

Across the continent, several countries have taken various approaches to building strongholds of investment and innovation. Rwanda is actively planning an innovation hub, Kigali Innovation City, to transform the country into a knowledge-based economy. In West Africa, Nigeria has partnered with U.S. officials to launch a West Africa Trade and Innovation Hub.

What public-private partnerships are advancing local economies? How can innovators from across Africa become a part of these developments? How do initiatives such as Africa50 provide a model for sustainability in innovation through infrastructure investment and place-based innovation centers?

The October session featured panelists of burgeoning industries from the North, East, South, and Western regions of Africa to share opportunities for private-public partnership and collaboration. Topics included public-private partnerships that are advancing local economies and how innovators from across Africa can be a part of these developments.

- **C.D. Glin:** *On the continent, digital transformation is full speed and nowhere is that truer than in Rwanda where the government is an active sponsor for and supporter of information and communication technology (ICT) and has worked diligently to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurs and tech hubs to thrive.*
- **Hon. Paula Ingabire:** *I think it was a natural combination to bring ICT and innovation together as we think about the solutions we create. What we have been trying to do is see, how do we think about innovation more broadly, whether it's digitally enabled or not, for us to be able to tap into this creative talent that we have within the economy. We want to be a testbed that is attracting talent from across Africa to come and work together here, provide the necessary conducive environment, and then the solutions they are building because you have a diverse team of innovators and entrepreneurs coming together will allow to build solutions that not only respond to Rwanda's challenges, but solutions that can be exported outside of Rwanda.*

The fireside chat, moderated by Saida Benhayoune, Innovation Practice Advisor at MIT, explored unique approaches African countries are using to build innovative ecosystems and both challenges and opportunities in amplifying innovation hubs.

- **Nekesa Were:** *In Kenya we have Konza City. It's been five years in the making. It's been a labor of love for those involved in building it out. What I love about this project is that the government has invested a lot of time in building community. A lot of people believe in the vision of what it is.*

We now look forward to seeing how the government begins to complement what innovators have done within the Kenyan innovation ecosystem and hopefully soon the two parts align. Potentially then what Konza City would do is enable the Kenyan innovative ecosystem to leapfrog.

Action Steps:

- **Network:** Look for opportunities on ADN's online networking platform. To join, click [here](#).
- **Partner:** Are there individuals or organizations around you that share your passions? Are there ways that you can partner together to make a difference?
- **Invest:** Saida Benhayoune shared a framework developed by MIT D-Lab for understanding and facilitating dialog around innovation ecosystems. How might you contribute to this framework and dialog?

Fireside Chat: Building Innovative Ecosystems In Africa: Destination Rwanda

- C.D. Glin, President and CEO of the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF)
- The Honorable, Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Government of Rwanda

Panel Session: Amplify Innovation and Investment Hubs in Africa

- Saida Benhayoune, Innovation Practice Advisor, MIT
- Nekesa Were, Director of Strategy, Afrilabs
- Hiruy Amanuel, Co-founder and Managing Director, A.J. Ventures
- Timothy Nzioka, Director of Regional Program Operations, USADF - Nairobi

November 2020: Investment in Education and Online Learning in Africa

The banner for the November 18, 2020 event, ADIS21, is set against a red and orange background. It features two main sections: 'Fireside Chat' and 'Panel Discussion'. The 'Fireside Chat' section, titled 'Education as the Driver of Africa's Future', includes a circular portrait of Agnieszka Winkler, Moderator, and a circular portrait of Patrick Awuah, Founder and President of Ashesi University. The 'Panel Discussion' section, titled 'Investment in Education and Online Learning in Africa', includes circular portraits of Kofi Appenteng (Moderator, President of Africa-America Institute (AAI)), Stéphan-Eloise Gras (Executive Director, Digital Africa), Diane Saty Kouame (Leader of Scholars Program e-learning initiative, Mastercard Foundation), and Demilade Oluwasina (Faculty, African Leadership University). The event date and time are listed at the top: Nov. 18, 2020 / Wednesday, 8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 4:00 PM GMT & 5:00 PM CET. The ADIS21 logo, celebrating 10 years, is in the top right corner. The hashtag #ADIS21 and the registration link <http://adis21.africandiasporanetwork.org/> are at the bottom left.

Nov. 18, 2020 / Wednesday
8:00 AM PST, 11:00 AM EST, 4:00 PM GMT & 5:00 PM CET

Fireside Chat Education as the Driver of Africa's Future

Panel Discussion Investment in Education and Online Learning in Africa

Agnieszka Winkler, Moderator
Board of Directors, ADN & other public & private boards

Patrick Awuah, Founder and President, Ashesi University

Kofi Appenteng, Moderator
President, Africa-America Institute (AAI)

Stéphan-Eloise Gras, Executive Director, Digital Africa

Diane Saty Kouame, Leader of Scholars Program e-learning initiative, Mastercard Foundation

Demilade Oluwasina, Faculty, African Leadership University

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Technological innovations in Africa can drastically reduce barriers and bring millions of African students online for the first time, provided that we can overcome connectivity infrastructure challenges and hardware/material costs.

How do we align the AU Continental Education Strategy for Africa with technological integration? What are the opportunities and challenges that the continent will need to address to systematize both in-person and remote educational opportunities? How do we ensure pedagogical continuity and the opportunity that e-learning represents in this context?

Recognizing the global movement toward remote learning in response to COVID-19, the November virtual forum examined online education as a key component to accelerating opportunity for youth and communities in Africa.

The session began with a fireside chat that explored the development of a new educational institution in Ghana.

- **Patrick Awuah:** *It all begins with the vision of the organization and the people that you assemble at the organization to execute that vision. For us, right from the very beginning, we were very clear that we weren't just building a university-we were building an institution that was about helping to transform a continent. Our reason for existence was for the transformation of the continent. Everything we did, we led with that.*

The panel took a deep dive into the ongoing global innovation around online education:

- **Stéphan-Eloïse Gras:** *COVID forced us into de-centering our approach to traditional ways of working, teaching, and just interacting with people. Online education is a major necessity and opportunity for accelerating what we were already seeing. Moving to full online education means we need to find a way to include both basic skills in education and digital literacies. How do we foster creativity and how do we design an attention-healthy environment for both students and professionals so that we can continue enjoying the capacity of technology for distributing knowledge, capital, and know-how and at the same time remain in this fluid experience of both learning and working?*
- **Diane Saty Kouame:** *COVID-19 has highlighted the progress of online learning. It is introducing the possibility of blended learning which will have an impact way beyond the disruption of learning which is in front of us today. For us at the Mastercard Foundation, investing in online education is not only about responding to the disruption of classes because of COVID-19, it is also about investing in the education system of the future. We did a survey across our 25 partner universities and what we found is a need for digital designers to convert online curriculum and a need for quality assessment. We also saw a need for devices and connectivity. This is very crucial.*

Action Steps:

- **Seek Best Practices:** Look to partner organizations for best practices in how to change and progress current ways of doing things. Share your methods with partners as well so they can learn from you.
- **Be Inclusive:** Continually think of new ways to make online learning more inclusive.
- **Change the Narrative:** Share positive stories about the work people are doing on the continent of Africa to advance online and blended learning opportunities.

Fireside Chat: Education as the Driver of Africa's Future

- Agnieszka Winkler, Board of Directors, ADN and other public & private boards
- Patrick Awuah, Founder and President, Ashesi University

Panel Session: Investment in Education and Online Learning in Africa

- Kofi Appenteng, President, Africa-America Institute (AAI)
- Stéphan-Eloïse Gras, Executive Director, Digital Africa
- Diane Saty Kouame, Leader of Scholars Program e-learning initiative, Mastercard Foundation
- Demilade Oluwasina, Faculty African Leadership University

February 2021: Innovation in Payments in Africa

Innovation in Payments in Africa

Feb. 17, 2021 / Wednesday
8AM PST, 11AM EST, 4PM GMT, 5PM CET

ADIS21

Fireside Chat

Panel Discussion

Nicole Van Der Tuin, Moderator
CEO, First Access

Iyinoluwa Aboyeji,
General Partner and Co-founder, Future Africa

Semhar Araia, Moderator
Head, Diaspora Policy, Africa, Middle East & Turkey, Public Policy Team Facebook

Kojo Bookye,
Director of Public Policy for Africa, Facebook

Frandine Dove,
Project Manager, DMA Global (DMAG)

Yemiru Chanyalew,
CEO, Moneta Technologies

Omosalewa "O" Adeyem,
Global Partnerships & Expansion, Flutterwave, Inc.

The digital payment space has transformed everyday lives across the continent, from the introduction of mobile phones to the adoption of digital payment systems by merchants to streamline their finance systems. How does Africa continue to develop its digital economy through innovation? What existing and new models have provided game-changing tools in various industries?

The final virtual session of African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2021, sponsored by Facebook, took a deep dive into examples of leading technology companies and their technological solutions to further advance economic growth.

- **Iyinoluwa Aboyeji:** *One thing I have internalized when it comes to diaspora engagement in Africa is that ability to bring back capital in various forms. Our governments do not have the resources to develop on their own. We have to get really innovative in how we leapfrog development.*

Human capital is important. A lot of people don't know how to do stuff not because they are backward, they just don't know. We now have an online medium for educating and the diaspora should play a more major role in educating young people. We need advocates.

We need to invest in Africa and open up opportunities for Africans. We need to think in terms of more than sending money home. It is also about bringing people along with you and building relationships that uplift all of us.

The panel session pivoted the focus toward innovation in inclusion and payments in Africa. Speakers highlighted the diaspora's ability to bring back capital in three forms: financial, human, and social capital.

- **Semhar Araia:** For our work, the role of the diaspora is not considered an add-on or an afterthought it is actually a very integral part of our work on the continent. The diasporas are critical stakeholders in driving growth and prosperity on the continent and the communities in which they reside.
- **Omosalewa "O" Adeyemi:** In order for us to reach critical mass and have true impact, we need to figure out a way to work hand in hand with the public sector. Because of the nature of access to infrastructure in the African continent today, it can be quite slow to gain critical mass on innovative solutions that are out in market today and until we figure out a way to work with the public sector, to work with regulators, to work with governments across different countries, to put some of those infrastructure needs in place, we'll make progress but not at the level that we can to truly drive change on the continent and to impact all demographics of people. It requires cross collaboration.
- **Kojo Boakye:** Policy and getting the policy right is going to be critically important. How do we grow these small companies and how do we release the potential of crypto and digital payments on the continent? The role of policy makers and the public sector in doing that and creating the frameworks for that is really important.

Action Steps:

- **Consider Underrepresented Audiences:** When developing payment tools, keep in mind underserved populations.
- **Support Female Entrepreneurs:** Women play an essential role in post-covid economic recovery. Commit to understanding gender dynamics and how women can contribute to recovery.
- **Cross-Collaborate:** Public and private sectors need to work together to make the greatest progress in innovation in payments and financial inclusion.

Fireside Chat: Innovation in Payments in Africa

- Nicole Van Der Tuin, CEO, First Access (moderator)
- Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, General Partner and co-founder, Future Africa

Panel Session: Innovation, Inclusion, and Payments in Africa

- Semhar Araia, Head of Diaspora Policy, Facebook
- Kojo Boakye, Director of Public Policy for Africa, Facebook
- Francine Dove, Project Manager, DMA Global (DMAG)
- Omosalewa "O" Adeyemi, Global Partnerships & Expansion, Flutterwave, Inc.
- Yemiru Chanyalew, CEO, Moneta Technologies

Builders of Africa's Future 2021

**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

African Diaspora Network (ADN), in partnership with the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) and the Miller Center for Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University, proudly announces the eleven recipients of the 2021 Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) award:

- **Alfred Chengula**, Co-Founder & COO at Imara Technology
- **Winnie Gitau**, Co-founder of Kwangu Kwako Limited
- **Derrick Hosea Opio**, CEO & Founder at Onelamp
- **Dysmus Kisilu**, CEO and Founder of Solar Freeze
- **Waceke Nduati**, Founder of Centonomy
- **Sr. Celestina Nwodo**, Catholic Rev. Sister, Notre Dame Girls' Academy

-
- **Ken Oloo**, Founder and Team Lead of Filamujuani
 - **Eng Chrispinus Onyancha**, Founder & CEO at clinicPesa
 - **Chibuzo Opara**, Co-CEO of DrugStoc
 - **Ian Tarimo**, Co-founder and Executive Director of Tai Tanzania
 - **Prince Tillya**, Co-Founder and Managing Director of FixChap

Builders of Africa's Future (BAF) is a session 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 nonprofit organizations 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. This session invites the 2021 awardees to share their work and accomplishments with the broader ADN community and ADIS21 participants.

The Builders of Africa's Future awardees were carefully selected from across the continent in partnership with nominating partners: Stanford SEED, MIT, Segal Family Foundation, and Siemens Stiftung, to name a few. Each of these entrepreneurs also fit the following criteria: possession of a tangible physical or digital product, demonstrable traction in product usage, addressing challenges unique to the African socio-economic climate, and must have been in operation for a minimum of 6 months.

The 2021 Builders of Africa's Future awardees each received \$5,000 courtesy of USADF, entrepreneurship training from the Miller Center for Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University, and an opportunity to pitch to investors during a virtual event at the January 27, 2021 convening of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS21). The awardees will also gain access to the African Diaspora Network's global community and join the exclusive BAF cohort.

Next Steps & Action

Our Strategic Direction



ADIS21 sets a foundation in alignment with the African Diaspora Network strategic plan. Over the next three years, ADN will focus on four strategic pillars to accelerate African development:

- **Connectivity:** ADN has established its brand as a convener for the African and African diaspora community through The African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS). In this next phase, we will apply a digital strategy to deliver year-round convenings that keep the development and wellbeing of the continent at the forefront.
- **Education:** We see an unprecedented opportunity for Africa to accelerate education through technology. ADN's community comprises students, education experts, and technologists with a shared interest in supporting this mass migration in EdTech.
- **Healthcare:** With the acceleration of healthcare digitization, ADN will work with community partners to make healthcare more accessible to Africans at a time when the continent calls greater attention to health.

-
- **Finance:** Key programs like the Builders of Africa's Future and ABLE include partnerships with social and impact funds that will scale through technology and emerging enterprises to ensure a sustainable economic outlook for Africans.

In collaboration with our global network, we will leverage the power of technology and employ digital strategies to catalyze progress that bypasses physical infrastructures that the continent has lacked for more than a century.

Our Programs

- **The African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)** - an annual conference in Silicon Valley and virtually that celebrates and champions the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans, Diasporans and friends of Africa. Hosted by African Diaspora Network, the symposium inspires participants to be agents of change and active contributors to Africa's development and the communities we live in. The conference activates the potential of partnership, drawing over 1,300 delegates from across the globe over the last six years.
- **Impact and Innovation Forum** - Since 2018, ADN has hosted the Impact and Innovation Forum as a year-round speaker series bringing together Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa from across sectors ranging from government to business to NGOs to academia in order to strengthen partnerships and to advance the development of the African continent. This year, ADN will host the Impact and Innovation series virtually to adapt to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more [here](#).

- **Builders of Africa's Future (BAF)** - a session 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 not-for-profits 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.

Learn more [here](#).

- **Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE)** - an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support small businesses and nonprofit organizations led by African-Americans based in the United States. Adapted from ADN's Builders of Africa's Future program that celebrates innovation and impact among early-stage African enterprises, ABLE identifies 20 Black business leaders catalyzing an array of sustainable solutions to poverty across multiple sectors at the local and national level. **Learn more [here](#).**

Thank You to Our Funders



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**Mastercard Foundation
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**Twum Djin,
Goodwater
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IgniteBrands**

**Ndeye Makalou,
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Regga Tekeste

Tewelde Stephanos

**Special Thanks to the ADIS21 PR Partner
Baobab Consulting**



Ways to Engage

African Diaspora Network is a network-based organization, thriving upon the collective ideation, action, and collaboration of Africans, Diasporans, and friends of Africa. We invite you to be a part of our growing community of over 1,200 online platform users and 7,500 global participants.

- **Join Our Online Platform** – We welcome you to join our community of active, generous, and consistent participants who receive countless benefits that have added proven value to their professional and personal lives. Platform users have unique access to ADN and the global leaders, innovators, investors, and entrepreneurs like you who seek to uplift the African continent. Click [here](#) to join.
- **Become a Mentor** – Share your expertise as a mentor for the Builders of Africa's Future and ABLE cohorts. Provide key insights, introduce resources and connections, open up opportunities for professional training or workshops, and offer guidance and support to the next generation of rising stars in African entrepreneurship.
- **Become a Partner** – Become a valued partner in our mission and vision of bridging opportunities that uplift the continent and the communities in which we live. ADN welcomes champions seeking opportunities to develop strategic partnerships, particularly in the areas of connectivity, healthcare, education, and finance.
- **Become a Funder** – Support the African Diaspora Network as we activate the capital of the African diaspora and friends of Africa for the development of the continent. Your gift enables us to provide physical and virtual forums that accelerate access to resources that foster partnerships, share knowledge, and advance investment opportunities. To support ADN, click [here](#).

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