



AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK

2021

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A REMARKABLE YEAR

2021 marked a remarkable year of impact and adaptability for African Diaspora Network. Since April 2020, ADN has remained agile in adopting virtual offerings that have propelled us forward to increase the reach and breadth of our work. Over the past two years, we have been able to engage people from around 57 countries.

The year began strong with the first fully virtual Builders of Africa's Future Awards and ongoing engagement through the African Diaspora Investment Symposium and Impact and Innovation Forums. In a time of social distancing, the organization has played a pivotal role in keeping communities connected. Among our major strides include the launch of a new program, Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship, and two initiatives, Start Your Social Enterprise, and the ADN Telehealth Pilot. The organization also engaged in a series of donor engagement trainings that frame the path forward for our fundraising and development strategy.

We look forward to the possibilities as we work to sustain our programming, build the infrastructure of ADN, and continue to inform, activate, and engage our global community.

2021



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

[African Diaspora Investment Symposium \(ADIS\)](#) is the premier Silicon Valley conference that celebrates and fosters the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans in the Diaspora and friends of Africa. The symposium offers a dive deep into some of the hottest investment and development trends on the continent, and an opportunity to network with investors, make meaningful business connections, foster partnerships, and create impact.

From 2016 to 2020, ADN held five in-person African Diaspora Investment Symposiums in Santa Clara County, CA, with an attendance of 1,300 entrepreneurial, Africa-focused leaders and professionals from across the world.

Due to COVID-19, ADN pivoted to host a virtual ADIS 2021 with an attendance of 2,158 professionals. ADIS21 sessions included:

- [July 2020 Leveraging The Private Sector: DFIS, Investment Vehicles, And Funding Responses](#)
- [August 2020: Human Capital Development: From Health Care Access To Delivery](#)
- [September 2020: Digital Connectivity Across Africa](#)
- [October 2020: Amplify Innovation And Investment Hubs In Africa](#)
- [November 2020: Investment In Education And Online Learning In Africa](#)
- [February 2020: Innovation In Payments In Africa](#)

Speakers



Sessions



Registrants



Attendees



ADIS21

Countries Represented 57+





2021 African Diaspora Network Impact and Innovation Forums

Healthcare, Education, Finance, and Connectivity

[Impact and Innovation Forums](#) is a year-round speaker series in Silicon Valley, Washington, D.C., New York City, and virtually featuring thought-provoking conversations around strategic and consistent diaspora engagement in Africa's future. Through these sessions, the ADN network learns about the impactful work happening in Africa and the ways they can support the continent and the communities in which they live.

Between 2018 and 2020, ADN hosted the Impact and Innovation Forums with 900 participants in California, Washington, D.C, and New York. In 2021, Impact and Innovation Forums went virtual with 681 participants from 45+ different countries. ADN partnered with Invest Barbados, SME.NG, King Baudouin Foundation United States, the Mastercard Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and the Tiba Foundation to present webinars to Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa around topics of healthcare, education, technology, and finance.

- [March: Investment Opportunities In Barbados](#)
- [March: Investing In Women To Support Africa's Covid-19 Recovery](#)
- [April: Harnessing Knowledge And Resources: Entrepreneurship & Investment](#)
- [April: Social Entrepreneurs' Rapid Response To Crisis](#)
- [May: Investing In Grassroots African Healthcare Organizations](#)
- [July: The Role Of Faith In Philanthropic Giving To Africa](#)
- [September: Leveraging The Diaspora For The Benefit Of Households And National Economies In The Countries Of Origin And Destination](#)

Speakers



Sessions



Registrants



Attendees



IIF21

Countries Represented 58+



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



Dymus 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

[Builders of Africa's Future \(BAF\)](#) 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, agriculture, and other socioeconomic good. Since 2018, 42 entrepreneurs have participated in the program.

[The 2021 BAF cohort](#) includes 11 entrepreneurs from multiple sectors including tech, healthcare, education, and renewable energy. Each BAF awardee received a \$5,000.00 financial award thanks to our partners at the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) and enterprise training thanks to the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University.

Applicants



Awardees



Ecosystem Partners



BAF21

Sectors Represented



Countries Represented 4





Builders of Africa's Future

Start Your Social Enterprise



Funder



Enterprise Trainer

The African Diaspora Network is proud to announce the new partnership with Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the African Management Institute to showcase and award entrepreneurs who are running early-stage for-profit and not-for-profits that are addressing Africa's unique needs through the Builders of Africa's Future accelerator. These unique needs are in health, education, financial inclusion, connectivity and other social impact sectors.

The two-year grant will also support entrepreneurship training and mentorship for Catholic Sisters who are transforming their work from charity models to business models of development. After completing the initial '[Start Your Social Enterprise](#)' training, the Sisters will be eligible to submit applications for the Builders of Africa's Future accelerator program to receive continued support, mentoring and make connections possible to grow their visibility and enterprises. We look forward to working with Sister-led enterprises who provide innovative solutions to poverty for US and African communities.



Meet the Inaugural Accelerating Black Leadership & Entrepreneurship (ABLE) Cohort



Michael Akindede,
Founder, Surplus



Melanie Akwule,
Founder & CEO,
MINWO



Oulien Blackwell,
President,
Southside
Blooms



William Bill Coe,
Director & CEO,
Green Acres
Urban Farm and
Research Project



Laura Crandon,
Founder &
President,
Touch4Life, Inc.



VanNessa Duckett,
Founder, Polite
Piggy's Day Camp,
Inc.



Kristal Hansley,
CEO, WeSolar



Tonya Hicks,
Founder &
President, Women
Do Everything LLC



Dr. Christophe E.
Jackson, CEO,
Gideon MedTech



NL. Shasha
Jumbe, CEO &
Co-Founder, Level
42 AI, Inc.



Dr. Nehemiah
Mabry, Founder &
CEO, STEMedia



Akissi Stokes,
CEO &
Co-Founder,
WUNDERgrubs,
LLC



Mike Tadesse,
Founder,
HappyPlate



Jay Veal, M. Ed.,
CEO, INC Education



Dana Weeks,
Co-Founder &
CEO, MedTrans
Go



Jared Wilson, Chief
Innovation Officer,
ABCD & Company

Funders **bill.com**



KLA+
FOUNDATION



Academic Partner

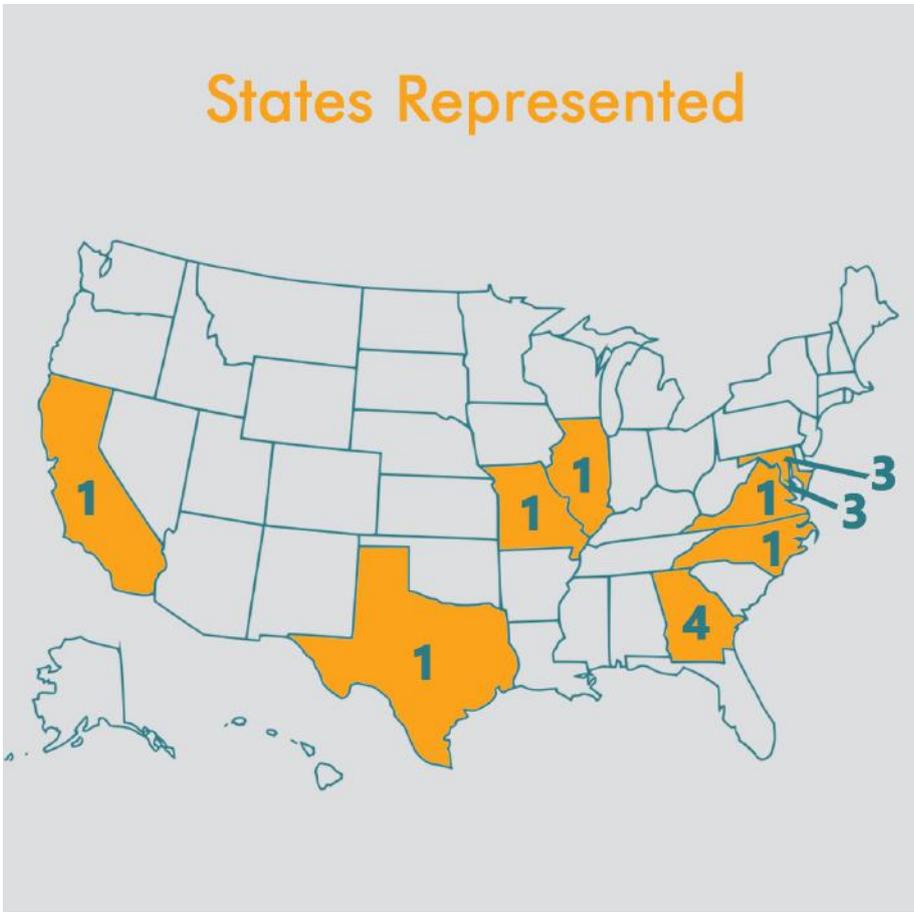


[Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship \(ABLE\)](#) is an enterprise accelerator program designed to strengthen, energize, and support small businesses and nonprofit organizations led by Black entrepreneurs in the United States.

Adapted from ADN's Builders of Africa's Future program that celebrates innovation and impact among early-stage African enterprises, ABLE identifies 15-20 Black business leaders catalyzing an array of sustainable solutions to poverty across multiple sectors at the local and national level. This includes education, healthcare, finance, renewable energy, and connectivity, all of which address essential community needs while spurring sustainable growth.

ADN collaborated with seed funder Silicon Valley Community Foundation, lead funder Bill.com, and the CA Black Freedom Fund and the County of Santa Clara as funders, with academic partner, Silicon Valley Executive Center at the Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University, to launch the inaugural cohort of 16 entrepreneurs in 2021. The entrepreneurs began their training and one-on-one mentorship in September 2021 and the cohort will continue their training as they prepare for their program graduation and pitch day in February 2022.

The ABLE program exemplifies the work of ADN over the last 10 years to unite Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa. The ABLE and BAF programs, although separate programs, are also strongly connected. We look forward to seeing the first ABLE cohort as they collaborate with their African brother and sister entrepreneurs from the BAF program.





TELEHEALTH

ADN Telehealth Pilot

Future of Healthcare in Africa

Expanding digitized healthcare services by mobilizing African medical professionals abroad

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

Seed Funder

IGNITE VENTURE STUDIO

Partner

Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group

Partner


SANOFI

Partner

African Diaspora Network (ADN) is piloting a new [telehealth pilot](#) with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The telehealth pilot leverages technology that expands digital health access, at home or point of care diagnostics, wellness and prevention opportunities, and medicine delivery directly to consumers and patients when needed. Formally titled “The Future of Healthcare in Africa: Expanding digitized healthcare services by mobilizing African medical professionals abroad,” this project seeks to address challenges amplified by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has placed a spotlight on the global shortage of healthcare workers at all levels. Beginning in October 2021, the pilot is currently in the design phase and is convening a pilot advisory committee for planning.



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