

The African Youth Survey 2022 is dedicated to the hopes and aspirations of Africa's youth.

African Youth Survey 2022

*A White Paper on the findings of the Ichikowitz Family
Foundation – African Youth Survey 2022*

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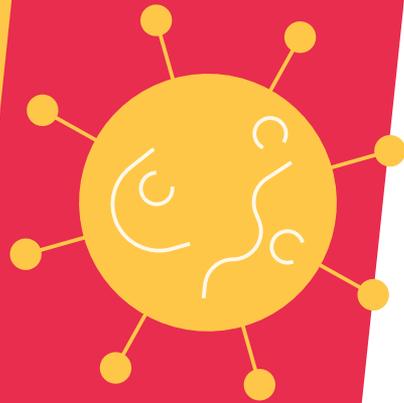
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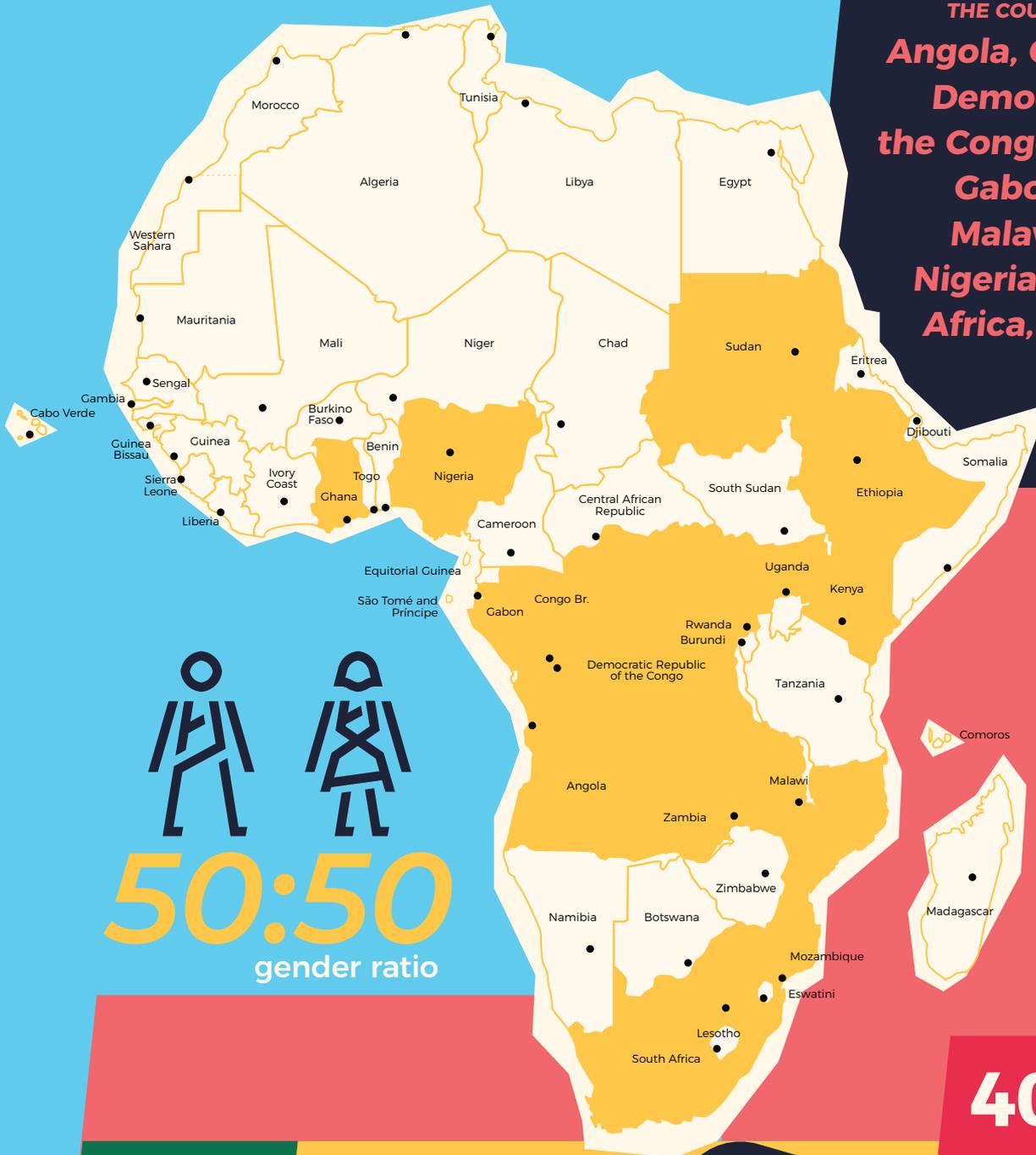


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THE COUNTRIES SAMPLED INCLUDED:
Angola, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia




50:50
 gender ratio

18-24
 years of age

40% responded they were currently students.

The following provides a breakdown of **highest education completed** across the sample:

- Elementary: 2%
- Some secondary school: 11%
- Finished secondary school: 44%
- Some university: 30%
- Finished university: 10%
- Some advanced degree: 2%
- Finished advanced degree: 1%

4,507

face-to-face interviews with country nationals



SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Ichikowitz Family Foundation launched the African Youth Survey in 2020 to provide governments, the private sector and civil society with insights into the aspirations, motivations and viewpoints of Africa's youth.

PSB Insights, an international research firm, has conducted two waves of research among youth across the continent for the Africa Youth Survey. Each wave consisted of:

- Face-to-face interviews across the continent (300 per market)
- African youth (nationals of each country) between the age of 18-24
- Sample split 50:50 male to female
- Three distinct interview locations across each country
- Five separate districts within each interview location
- Respondents offered to take the survey in a range of local languages for each country
- Responses recorded electronically via tablet

** Where 2019 numbers are stated on their own, this includes Congo Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.*

Where 2021 numbers are stated on their own, this includes Angola, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia.

Comparisons of change between 2019 and 2021 are shown only among like-for-like markets, which are Congo Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zambia.

Country	2019	2021
Angola	-	×
Congo Brazzaville	×	×
DRC	-	×
Ethiopia	×	×
Gabon	×	×
Ghana	×	×
Kenya	×	×
Malawi	×	×
Mali	×	-
Mozambique	-	×
Nigeria	×	×
Rwanda	×	×
Senegal	×	-
South Africa	×	×
Sudan	-	×
Togo	×	-
Uganda	-	×
Zambia	×	×
Zimbabwe	×	-
Total Countries	14	15
Total Interviews	4,200	4,507

The African Youth Survey

FOREWORD

In 2019, we embarked on a journey that was based on pure gut feel, one that had been forged in 35 years of hard-earned personal experience. We wanted to test the opinions of the next generation of Africa's leaders. We wanted to find out what it is that they want – and what they hope for.

But as sometimes happens, time and subsequent unfolding events have lent greater urgency, importance and wider relevance to this study than the researchers might have imagined.

The war in Ukraine that began in February this year, is stress-testing structures that have shaped Europe and the northern hemisphere since the end of world War II to breaking point, forcing a global rethink on alliances. In all of this, Africa will become even more important both from strategic point of view and for the resources, both natural and human, that it has.

The 2022 African Youth Survey provides us with an indication of how our next generation of African leaders will respond to these new demands – and in what direction.

This year, we have four new countries; Angola, DRC, Mozambique and Uganda. The total number of countries has gone up from 14 nations to 15. We have kept the sample size of 300 respondents in each country, scrupulously split 50:50 in terms of gender. We have now interviewed just under 10 000 young Africans in two separate surveys.

The survey remains unique: There is nothing else like it either in scope or focus. Its aim is still ambitious: to change the perception about Africa of the lost continent. It doesn't matter whether that sentiment plays out in first world power forums or on the Africa's dusty township soccer fields, we want to change it.

As we promised when we started in 2019, we won't alter people's perceptions by being the ones shouting the loudest from the rooftops. We will make our point by producing properly researched and verifiable data that everyone else can check for themselves.

The whole aim of this exercise is not just about changing perceptions though, it's about giving African countries the tools to understand their future leaders. When they do that, they can develop the power to get to the bottom of their own problems.

So many of Africa's youth today are marginalised. I hope this survey proves to them that someone is listening to their concerns and by sharing their dreams publicly, give them hope. It's about telling them that the dreams they dare to dream for themselves aren't unique, because so many others across Africa share the same hopes and the same fears. I hope this survey will give them the confidence to continue on the journeys that so many have begun, to unlock their own promise.

This second edition of the African Youth Survey confirms some of the beliefs we have, shows us emerging trends and warns us too. Africa remains greater than the sum of its parts. The optimism we found in the first survey hasn't waned, but the level of confidence has in Africa as a whole and in the individual countries where the survey was conducted.

The youth won't stand by idly. The era of one man, one vote, once, is long gone on this continent. This has emerged in both surveys – then in full sight in Zambia in 2021. There are omens of tectonic change in other countries, particularly my own. The youth aren't prepared to wait for handouts, they want to be in charge of their own destinies. They will start their own businesses and they will move to where they believe those greatest opportunities lie. They will leave their homelands for the chance of a better life.

The survey is also incredibly useful for foreign investors. What Africa needs, according to the youth, is anything that will bring the greatest benefit: infrastructural development; water management; and, digital connectivity. Their greatest need is for initiatives and investment that will unlock the continent's economic promise and create sustainable and enriching jobs. The youth want to preserve the natural resources that are their heritage, but at the same time they understand that a major cause of poaching is poverty and the desperation to sustain communities who don't have any other way of surviving otherwise.

There is a lot to be excited by in this survey. What is very clear to me is the incredible value of a tool like this; the issues that were predicted in the inaugural survey had occurred by the time the researchers ventured out for the second time. I believe the African Youth Survey truly is a crystal ball into the next five years. I have no doubt that this can become one of the most critically important development tools for the continent. If you can understand what's in the minds of the youth now, you'll be incredibly well placed to speak to the leaders of those countries in 10 years' time, because that's where they will be.

What we sow now will be the fruits we reap. The question when we reap that harvest is whether, as the great Nigerian poet Ben Okri asks, we will be able to ensure that Africa's future is indeed better than its past?

I believe we will be.

IVOR ICHIKOWITZ
Chairman, Ichikowitz Family Foundation
Johannesburg, South Africa



GUEST FOREWORD

THE 21st Century is the much storeyed African Century. Many steps have been taken to turn this from slogan to substance, such as the establishment of the African Continental Free trade Agreement at the start of 2021, but so much more needs to be done.

But it will not be the elders of this continent that do it, but the generations that come after, especially the most important cohort of all – the 18 to 24-year-olds – since they are the leaders in waiting. What do they think? What do they need? Most, importantly, how do they feel?

Thanks to the second edition of the Africa Youth Survey, we know the answers to these pressing issues. We can take comfort from the most important question of all: Is there hope for Africa? The answer I am grateful to say is unequivocally yes.

For us, as the elders, our work is not finished, on the contrary there is much that we have to do. Africa is not a country, but 54 separate nations, the trends that we discover in this survey though show that we are all interlinked; the fears, hopes and desires of a group in the west are echoed in those of the east, resonate among those in the north and confirmed by those in the south.

The youth remain optimistic, but their confidence has dipped. They are worried about the future, especially when it comes to the direction of the continent. They are worried about jobs – especially the lack of them. They are concerned by how we are safeguarding and maintain our natural resources.

Some of them are increasingly despondent about their own countries too – and making their voices heard. If there was ever any reason to gloss over the findings of this year's survey, it's dispelled by the eerily prescient questioning of Zambia's youth – who came out in their numbers to vote and bring about peaceful regime change.

For far too long, a lack of relevant, real time and real-life information has bedevilled planning for this continent, all too often in the absence of it we keep to what we believe we know best. Sometimes we are right, but often we are blinded by the bias of our pre-conceptions.

The African Youth survey reminds us all too well of the old saying if you fail to plan you plan to fail. We can only plan with information that informs us about the people who will be the main beneficiaries of our plans.

We need to tread warily through the minefield of attracting foreign investment, yet never being seen to cede our sovereignty in the process. We need to fully understand the yearning desire for land ownership, that is a rich in symbolism for a people so long dispossessed of it as it is in its practical application. We must sate the hunger for data

connectivity, yet cage the beast of fake news that feeds fear and empowers the unscrupulous. We must encourage the growing awareness to protect minorities but evangelise on the need to include the LGBTQ+ community as deserving of the same respect and care.





We must be alive to the ambition of our youth – and how this will impact on our countries, especially my own which so many regard as the El Dorado of the continent to the extent that many of them will consider leaving their own countries to make life anew in another.

There is so much to learn, to inspire and to guide us in this African Youth Survey – but there is much to perplex us too. There are short term problems like the rise in vaccine hesitancy that will have a direct impact on longer term issues, but thanks to this initiative, we have been forewarned.

If we take its findings to heart, we shall be forearmed and the dream of the African Century will be one step closer to becoming the reality we all so dearly hope it shall be.

HE KGALEMA MOTLANTHE
Former President of the
Republic of South Africa

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 African Youth Survey provides a valuable update on the 'Afro-optimism' uncovered in the inaugural research conducted in 2019. This year's study conveys the challenges of a generation and continent hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, but shows their continued resilience and ambition despite the challenges. The study reflects tensions of youth in Africa and the challenges they will navigate in the coming years. While their personal and entrepreneurial ambitions remain strong, the declining perception that their country is on the right path coupled with polarizing national leaders that lack trustworthiness are diminishing levels of optimism for the future. Foreign leaders are expected to have a bigger impact on Africa than national figures, yet foreign companies are seen as vehicles that extract resources without sufficiently benefitting the local communities. There is a recognition among African youth of the challenges facing the continent, particularly with increasing concerns towards the disproportionate impact of climate change and the difficulties surrounding vaccine distribution to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

The research shows that while optimism about the future has declined, African youth remain focused about their personal and entrepreneurial ambitions. Three-quarters of youth know what they want to do with their lives, and a similar proportion have plans to start their own business within the next five years. Similarly, youth are optimistic that their quality of life will improve in the future with three-quarters saying that they expect their standard of living to get better over the next two years, and two-thirds believing that they will have a better life than their parents. Despite this, challenges remain for both their personal and professional ambitions – lack of access to capital and widespread and affordable internet limit entrepreneurial ambition, while perceptions towards the standard of living have declined by more than 10 points since the 2020 African Youth Survey. These concerns about long-term prospects may be driving desires of African youth to emigrate abroad, with more than half considering

emigrating to another country in the next three years to secure employment and educational opportunities for their future.

Moving to the broader national perspective, there is a declining perception among youth that their country is on the right path. In areas such as equality of rights, employment and creation of jobs, healthcare services, and maintaining political stability, African youth express sweeping dissatisfaction towards their governments' efforts to address these issues. However, national leaders are polarizing—they are seen to be the top driver of both positive and negative change in their country, and only two-in-five trust national leaders or local officials in national politics to do the right thing. This sentiment is in part driven by a perception that national leaders are deliberately misleading the public using fake news and misinformation, with three-quarters of youth acknowledging that fake news is a serious problem in their communities today. Unfortunately, the spread of fake news has led to greater divisions within societies across the African continent and youth say that misinformation impacts their ability to stay informed about the issues that matter to them.

In contrast to the domestic landscape, there is widespread agreement among African youth of the positive influence of foreign powers and expectation of foreign leaders

to have a bigger impact on the African continent over the next five years. China is seen to have by far the biggest impact on the continent, particularly in the areas of affordable products, foreign investment, and trade relations. The United States and the African Union are seen as the next two most influential powers. Linked to this is the legacy of former colonial powers, where a majority of African youth think that they have a positive influence on education, trade relations, and foreign direct investment in their country. However, a sizable minority are cynical of the influence former colonial powers continue to have, particularly on the politics and leadership of their country as well as access to the natural resources in their country. This is particularly directed towards foreign companies, with six-in-ten youth stating that foreign enterprises have been allowed to take advantage of their country's resources without sufficiently benefitting the local populations. Unsurprisingly, sentiment among youth in Africa is clearly directed towards taking back control of their country's natural resources.

With intensified focus on environmental issues, there is a recognition among African youth of the challenges facing the continent. Climate change is a key concern and youth are fearful of the impacts it will have on themselves, their communities, and future generations. Many are carrying out their own

actions, taking proactive responsibility for the environment around them and being part of the change they want to see in addressing climate change. However, youth are looking to their government to improve their handling of climate change-related issues. A particular area of focus is on access to water, with a third of African youth finding it difficult to access clean water on a daily basis. Young Africans want their governments to take further steps to address environmental issues and climate change, including reducing carbon emissions and adopting green energy sources.

Additionally, youth also convey clear concern towards the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, seeing it as the most formative development for Africa over the last five years. While most approve of their country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, satisfaction with their country's healthcare services remains low, vaccine hesitancy is prevalent, and youth are split on what the focus of their countries should be. Reopening the economy is seen as a higher priority than preventing the spread of the pandemic and vaccine distribution. Unfortunately, myths and conspiracy theories about the pandemic, the origin of COVID-19, and how it spreads are prominent among African youth. The pandemic continues to cause unprecedented socioeconomic challenges for the continent and the world and impacts the day-to-day lives of young Africans.

The 2022 African Youth Survey provides new insights into a generation that has been hit hard by the global COVID-19 pandemic and is less optimistic about the future of the continent. Despite this, they remain focused on achieving their personal ambitions and securing opportunities that allow for future progress. Looking towards their national leaders and governments, youth have expressed clear concerns for various issues that will need to be addressed in order to reinvigorate and foster the levels of optimism that were identified across the continent in the inaugural survey.

Top 10 findings

What does Africa's youth have to say about the future of their world?

Afro-optimism: Optimism has declined, but it is a dip rather than a slide as African youth remain optimistic about their personal future and look ahead into an African century. Just under one-in-three youth think that the continent is headed in the right direction, and less than three-in-ten feel that their country is on the right track. Overall, only three-in-ten feel positively about the future of their country, while four-in-ten feel negatively and a quarter are uncertain.

COVID-19: While most approve of their country's COVID-19 response, concern remains high and vaccine hesitancy is prevalent. Over four-in-five African youth expressed concern about the spread of infectious disease but just four-in-ten are satisfied with the healthcare services and clinics available to them in their country. Africa's youth has been severely impacted by COVID-19, with 37% having to stop or pause their schooling and 19% became unemployed while 18% had to move back home. In addition, myths and conspiracy theories about coronavirus, its origins, and how it spreads are prominent among African youth.

Democratic Ambitions: Appetite for democracy is strong, particularly for African-style democracy rather than emulating Western-democratic systems. Above all else, African youth see equality of all citizens under the law, freedom of speech, and free and fair elections as the most important pillars of democracy.

Environment: The environment is a key concern for youth and while many are taking action themselves, they are looking to their government to improve their handling of climate change. Four-in-five expect governments to do more to address climate change, reduce carbon emissions and adopt greener energy sources. In terms of access to water, a third of youth find it difficult to access on a daily basis and nearly half spend more than a quarter of their income on clean water.

Connectivity and Media: Universal WiFi is considered a fundamental right and smartphone use is high, but that is not yet translating to widespread and affordable internet access. Nearly two-thirds of African youth find the price of mobile data coverage to be high, and just one-in-eight can afford data coverage at all times. In terms of news outlets, BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera are seen as the most trustworthy international sources of news, while Facebook is considered the least trustworthy with just one-in-eight finding it very trustworthy.

Employment: Job opportunities are a top concern and African youth are looking to their governments to do more. Youth across the continent say that creating new, well-paying jobs is the top priority for the continent to move forward, however, more than two-thirds are not satisfied with how their government is currently creating jobs and addressing unemployment. Additionally, three-quarters of African youth believe that owning land is essential for their financial wellbeing.

Foreign Relations: There is widespread agreement on the positive influence of foreign powers, but youth are concerned by neo-colonialism and foreign ownership of natural resources. China is seen as the most influential foreign power on individuals' countries, more so than the US, African Union, European Union, or WTO. Still, foreign powers are seen as the second most significant driver of negative change in the continent, with more than a quarter of youth saying they negatively impact the lives of citizens in their country. Foreign leaders are seen to have the biggest influence and while many say their voice is heard by national leaders, religious leaders are more trusted. Although African youth believe that their national leadership is the most significant driver of positive change in their country, national leaders and elected officials are seen as the least trustworthy when it comes to doing the right thing. Furthermore, three-quarters of youth say that politicians are deliberately sharing fake news to push their agenda.

Equality: While youth value equality under the law, many have experienced and are concerned about discrimination particularly for women and ethnic minorities. Just half of African youth feel that their country treats everyone equally under law, and a similar proportion have experienced discrimination on the basis of their identity and characteristics that define them. However, despite support for women's and ethnic minority rights, just two-in-five say their country should do more to protect the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

Security and Stability: Concern about the threat of terrorism is high among African youth, and around half say that terrorism, insurgency, and conflict have impacted their daily lives. Likewise, youth are highly concerned about the impact of political instability on the continent, so much so that achieving peace and stability in Africa is seen as a top five priority for the continent to progress. Nonetheless, only two-in-five are satisfied with their government's actions to maintain political stability in the country.

Personal Ambitions: Personal and entrepreneurial ambitions are not dampened by broader concerns, and youth say they know what they want to do and plan on starting families and getting married later than their parents. Less than one-third describe their current living standard as good, a decrease since the 2020 African Youth Survey, while a quarter of African youth describe their standard of living as poor. Still, youth across the continent are very optimistic that their standard of living will improve over the next two years and that they will have a better life than their parents. Around half say they are likely to consider emigrating to another country in the next three years, with South Africa being the most appealing destination within Africa.



AFRO-
OPTIMISM

Optimism has declined, but it is a dip rather than a slide as African youth remain optimistic about their personal future and look ahead into an African century.

After a strong wave of Afro-optimism in the 2020 African Youth Survey, African youth are now showing less confidence in the future of their continent and countries. Perceptions among youth that Africa is on the right track have declined from 40% in the 2020 African Youth Survey to 31% today.

- **Most likely to say Africa is going in the right direction:** Ghana (57%), Mozambique (49%), and Rwanda (45%)
- **Most likely to say Africa is going in the wrong direction:** Nigeria (75%), Zambia (70%), and Malawi (69%)

African youth are also less optimistic about the direction of their own countries, with just one-in-four (27%) saying their country is on the right track today compared to 38% in the 2020 African Youth Survey. Kenya (drop of 33% pts) and Rwanda (drop of 34% pts) have seen the sharpest declines in youth optimism about the direction of their country. Nonetheless, Rwanda (60%) and Ghana (56%) are still the countries in which youth are most likely to say that the country is on the right track.

11% decline in optimism

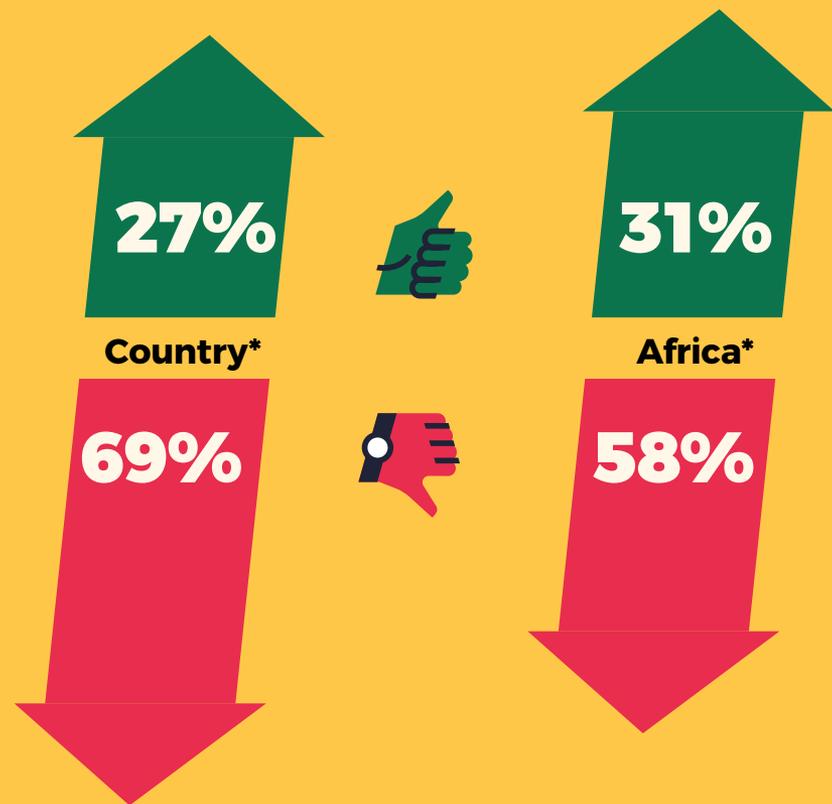
The decline in Afro-optimism can likely be attributed to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to cause unprecedented socioeconomic challenges for the continent and the world and impacts the day-to-day life of young Africans.

32%
REPORTED FEELING
OPTIMISTIC OR
EXCITED ABOUT THE
FUTURE OF THEIR
COUNTRY

When asked to describe how they feel about the future of their country, just one-in-three (32%) reported feeling optimistic or excited, while 41% said they felt concerned or pessimistic. The number of youth feeling optimistic or excited about their country's future has dropped from 43% in the 2020 African Youth Survey.

- **Most likely to feel optimistic** or excited about the future of their country: Rwanda (71%), Sudan (53%), Ethiopia (48%), and DRC (48%)
- **Most likely to feel pessimistic** or concerned about the future of their country: Angola (55%), Zambia (54%), and Malawi (53%)

Going in the right direction?



Feelings of optimism and excitement have declined, with just a third feeling positively about the future of their country

23% Optimistic

9% Excited

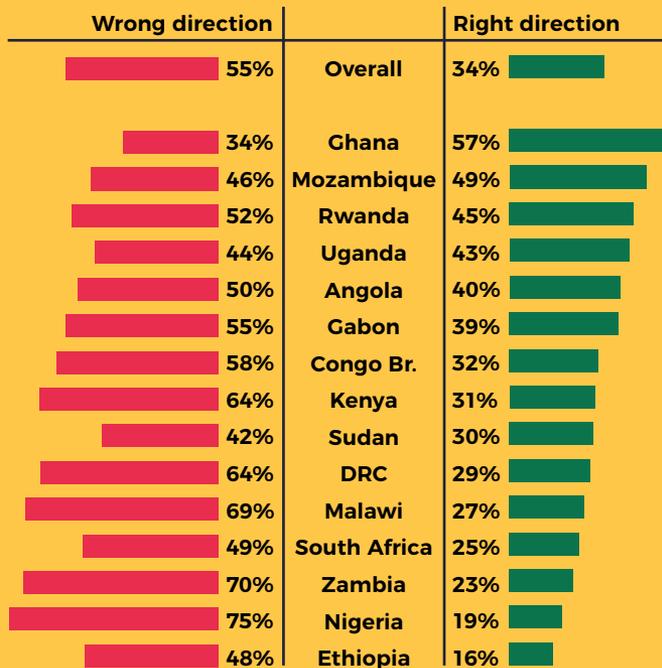
24% Uncertain

32% Concerned

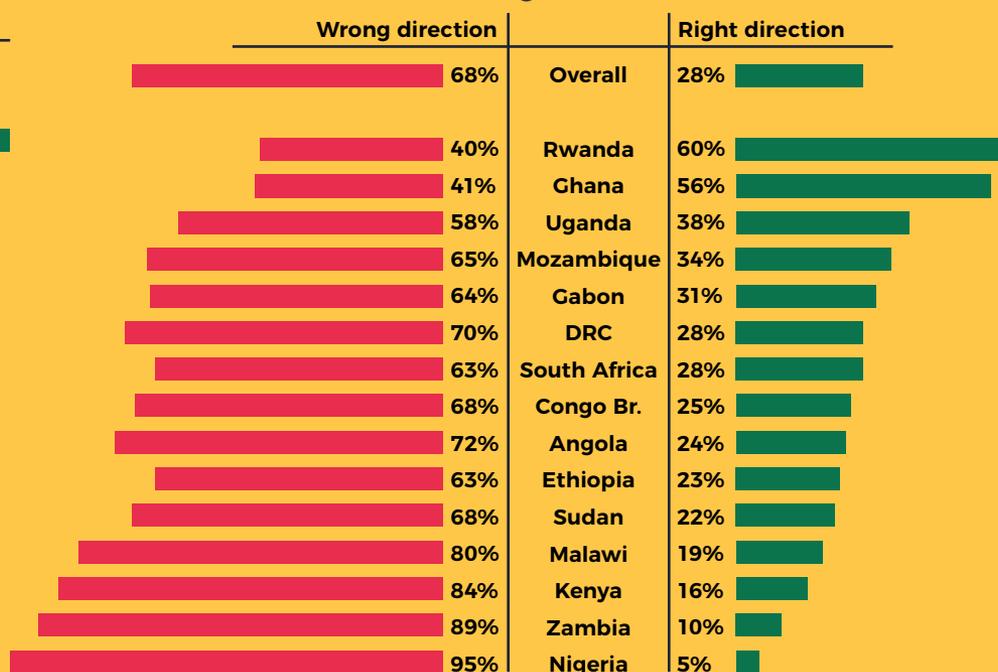
9% Pessimistic

23%

Continent direction



Country direction



Continent direction* Showing % selecting 'RIGHT DIRECTION', ranked by change

2019	Overall	2021
40%	Overall	31%
45%	Ghana	57%
30%	Gabon	39%
25%	Congo Br.	32%
13%	Ethiopia	16%
30%	South Africa	25%
28%	Zambia	23%
32%	Nigeria	19%
41%	Malawi	27%
67%	Kenya	31%
89%	Rwanda	45%



2019 ● 2021 ●

Country direction* Showing % selecting 'RIGHT DIRECTION', ranked by change

2019	Overall	2021
38%	Overall	27%
19%	Gabon	31%
12%	Ethiopia	23%
19%	Congo Br.	25%
54%	Ghana	56%
17%	Nigeria	5%
36%	Malawi	19%
47%	South Africa	28%
34%	Zambia	10%
49%	Kenya	16%
94%	Rwanda	60%



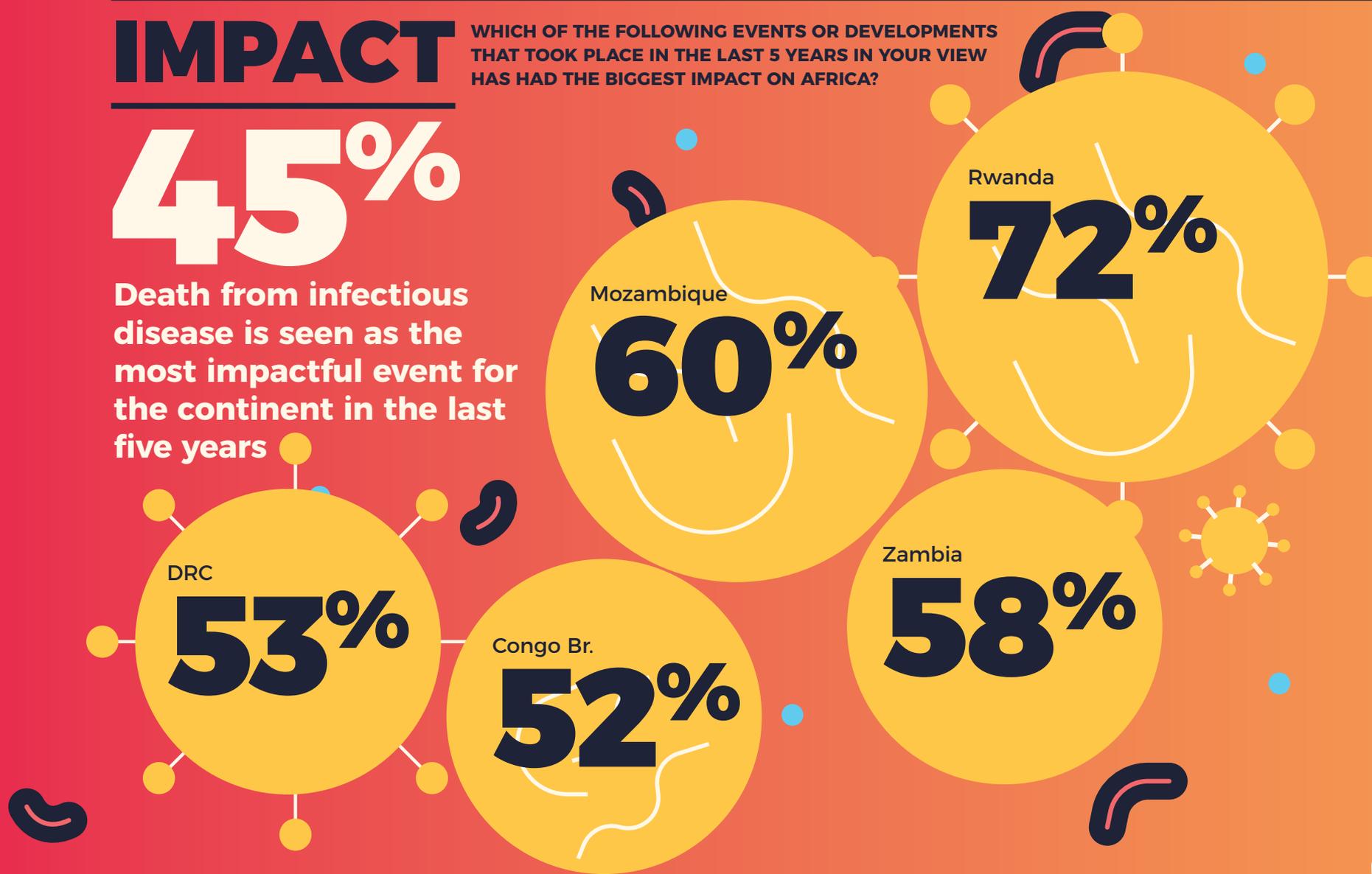
*Only showing countries tracked from 2019

IMPACT

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS OR DEVELOPMENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE LAST 5 YEARS IN YOUR VIEW HAS HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON AFRICA?

45%

Death from infectious disease is seen as the most impactful event for the continent in the last five years



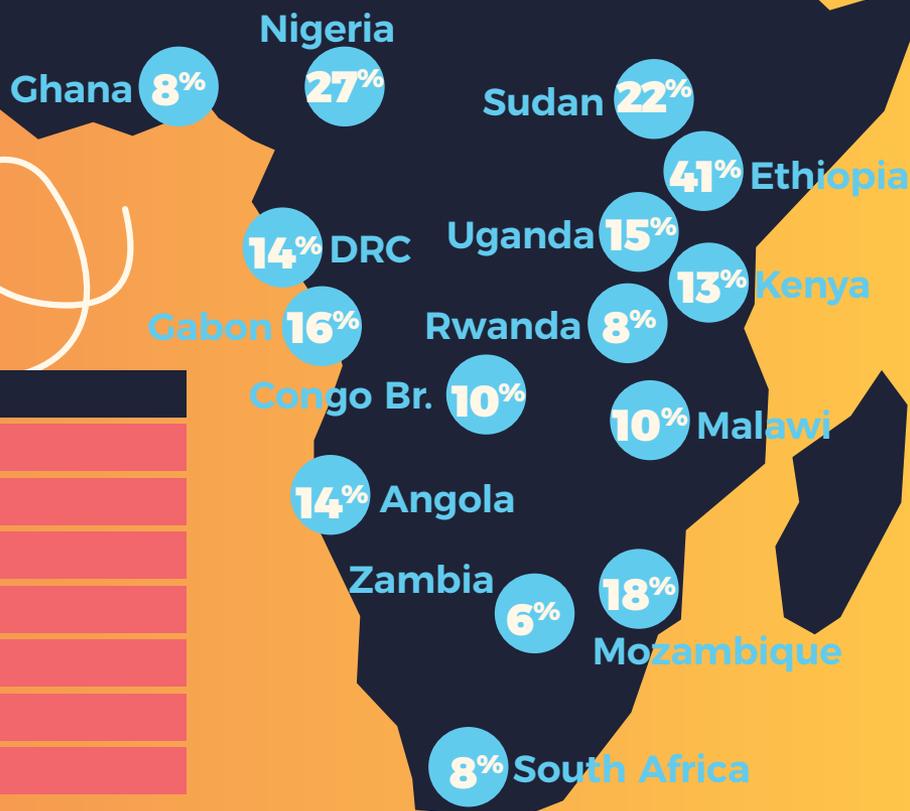
Percentage Event

Most impactful event of last 5 years

45%	Deaths from infectious disease (tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, COVID, etc)
15%	Political instability (civil unrest and conflict, rise of terrorism or extremist movements, etc)
9%	The technological/digital revolution (smartphones & social media, rise of e-commerce, access to Internet, etc)
9%	Democratic changes (free and fair elections, increased personal freedoms, women's rights, etc)
7%	Increased access to essential services and resources (electricity, water, education, healthcare, etc)
6%	International involvement in Africa (globalization, foreign direct investment, foreign aid, etc)
5%	Environmental challenges (drought, climate change, etc)

Youth across the continent agree that deaths from infectious disease and political instability are the two most significant events of the last five years.

15% Political instability



The decline in Afro-optimism can likely be attributed to the global COVID-19 pandemic

Nearly half (45%) of African youth say that deaths from infectious diseases such as COVID-19, Ebola, tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS is the event that has had the largest impact on the continent in the past five years, an increase of 19% since the 2020 African Youth Survey that is likely caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic spans the continent, as all countries identify deaths from infectious disease as the event with the greatest impact of the past five years. The only exception is Ethiopia, where youth say political instability is the event with the greatest impact. This sentiment among Ethiopian youth may be driven by the ongoing conflict that has encompassed the Tigray Region of the country since November 2020.

Political instability may be another reason for the decline in Afro-optimism, particularly in countries afflicted with conflict, civil war, and violent extremism in recent years.

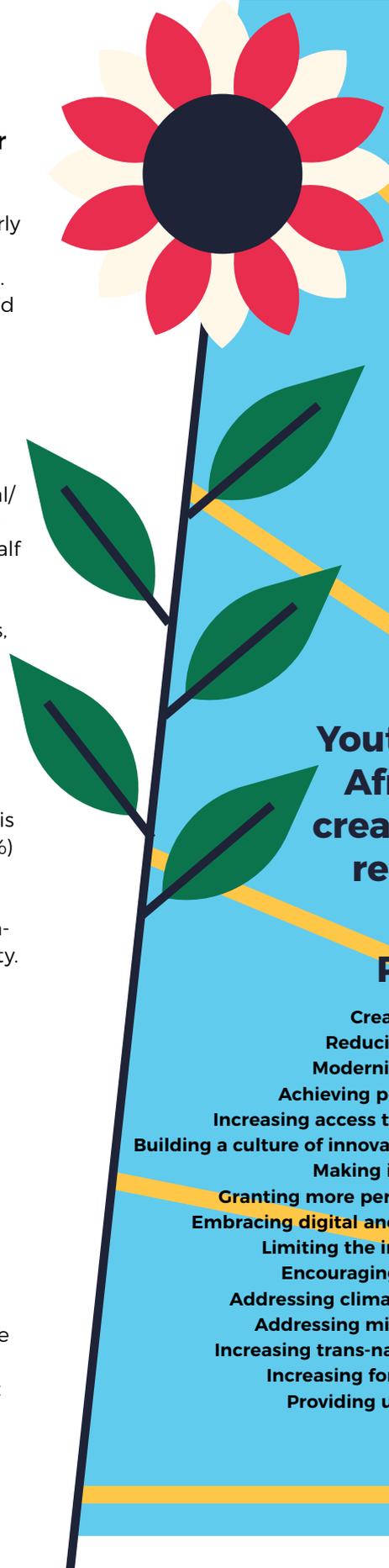
Political instability is a concern for African youth

Political instability may be another reason for the decline in Afro-optimism, particularly in countries afflicted with conflict, civil war, and violent extremism in recent years. Political instability is considered the second most impactful event or development for the continent over the last five years. The only exceptions are Ghana, where youth say increased access to social services is tied with deaths from infectious disease as most impactful, and South Africa and Congo Brazzaville, where the technological/digital revolution is considered the second most impactful development in the last half decade. Over two-in-five (41%) Ethiopian youth say that political instability has had the biggest impact over the past five years, and around one-in-five youth in Nigeria (27%) and Sudan (22%) say the same.

Three-quarters (75%) of African youth are concerned about political instability impacting the continent, half (53%) of which are very concerned. This sentiment is highest in Ethiopia where nine-in-ten (90%) express concern, followed by Kenya (84%), Ghana (83%), Nigeria (82%), Zambia (82%), and Mozambique (81%) where over four-in-five are concerned about political instability.

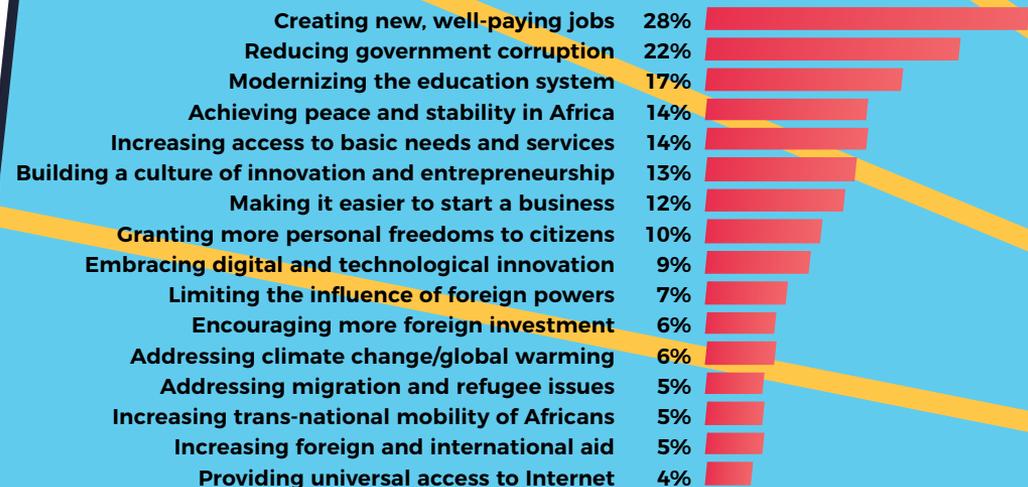
African youth remain positive about their personal futures

Despite challenges and uncertainty about the future of their country and the continent, African youth have maintained a strong sense of optimism about their personal futures. Three-quarters (77%) believe that their standard of living will improve over the course of the next two years, and two-thirds (67%) believe that they will have a better life than their parents. The discrepancies between those expecting improvements in the immediate future and those expecting to have a better life than their parents suggests that



Youth say the top priorities for the African continent to progress are creating new, well-paying jobs and reducing government corruption

Priorities for Africa to progress





some youth are optimistic in the short term but have doubts about their future in the long term.

Job creation is the top priority for youth

In order for the African continent to progress and move forward, youth think that the top priority should be creating new, well-paying jobs, followed by reducing government corruption. Creating new, well-paying jobs has increased since the 2020 African Youth Survey, taking the top priority spot from reducing government corruption. This increase can likely be attributed to concerns around employment, with the World Bank indicating that unemployment has steadily risen across the African continent over the last decade, and a significant spike in unemployment can be identified between 2019 and 2020¹, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A 2020 African Union study indicated that nearly 20 million jobs were at risk because of COVID-19,² and the World Economic Forum (WEF) estimated that informal workers on the continent saw their income drop by 81%.³ In context, informal workers make up 95% of youth employment. Youth in Kenya (41%) and Mozambique (41%) are most likely to prioritise creating new, well-paying jobs. In Ethiopia, Gabon and Sudan, youth have a slightly different perspective – Ethiopian youth want the continent to prioritise modernizing the education system (22%) and achieving peace and stability (22%). Sudanese youth also want to prioritise modernizing the education system (22%) and Gabonese youth think the continent's priority should be granting more personal freedoms to citizens (20%).

¹ *Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate) | Data (worldbank.org)*

² <https://www.africanews.com/2020/04/09/au-report-projects-20-million-job-loses-in-africa-due-to-coronavirus/>

³ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/covid-19-is-likely-to-increase-youth-unemployment-in-africa-this-is-how-business-can-mitigate-the-damage/>

A vision for Africa's youth

Chido Cleopatra Mpemba is the newly appointed Special Envoy of Youth, Cabinet of the Chairperson, the African Union Commission.



By 2030, Africa will account for 42% of the world's youth, according to the Population Research Bureau. This suggests that tomorrow belongs to us, but only if we seize the opportunity.

As a young African woman from Zimbabwe, I have known not only challenges but also the strength of will necessary to succeed despite all impediments. An earlier generation called this "moxie." Today you might call it zeal, or even a sense of destiny. No matter how difficult things may be, we know that the future depends on us and is now in our hands. War, disease, and economic uncertainty will not hold us back because we are confident in our abilities and Africa's place in a changing world.

The African Youth Survey (AYS) is a critically valuable resource not only to advocate for youth such as myself, but also for policy makers all over Africa. In concrete terms, it gauges the optimism, the entrepreneurial spirit, and attitudes across a range of hot-topic issues shared by my generation. While we may know these things intuitively, it is important to analyze the data and allow it to inform us as we craft solutions for the future of our continent.

And we can do it. Three-quarters (77%) of African youth say that their personal standard of living will get better over the next two years, and two-thirds say that they expect to have a better life than their parents. In this sense, we are one team with a shared dream.

Our generation wants to craft our own future ourselves. Seven-in-ten youth say that they are concerned about the influence of foreign powers on their country. But the influence of the African Union (AU) is seen as overwhelmingly positive, with over four-in-five saying it is very or somewhat positive. The AU takes this faith and trust seriously, and we have worked hard in the past year to elevate the voices of young Africans.

Yet we need to do more to respect our past and weave our cultures into the fabric of the present moment. Over three-quarters of African youth say that their local language is central to their national identity and over four-in-five say that their country should do more to protect the rights of ethnic minorities. Regardless of where we come from, we find a common language online, and at least 64% of us have some form of private access to the Internet. But even more of us – over 70% – believe that access to WiFi and being able to connect to the Internet is a human right. So just as we preserve our respective heritages, we must also work together to loop more young Africans into the conversation by expanding the frontiers of the digital age in Africa.

Job growth is a top priority for us, and over a quarter say that creating new, well-paying jobs is part of the gateway to a better future for Africa as a whole. Together with gainful employment, and land ownership as essential elements to becoming real stakeholders in the Twenty-First Century Africa. While the availability of good jobs is a top concern of young Africans, our optimism and entrepreneurial spirit suggest we will rise to meet these challenges.

Already, we see signs that African youth are not only acutely aware of what needs to be done but filled with the determination to do it.

Please take some time to analyze the findings in this most recent African Youth Survey. It is only in appreciating the benchmark of where we are at a certain moment that we are able to soar to our greatest potential.

This is our chance to build the African Century, and we will not let the moment pass.

It is our responsibility to encourage active citizenship: activity, that is, in all aspects of shaping the world around us. This includes opening the doors of business and politics to women, expanding access to technology, and taking maximum advantage of all that the digital age offers, and speaking up about issues that impact the larger world, such as climate change and public health.

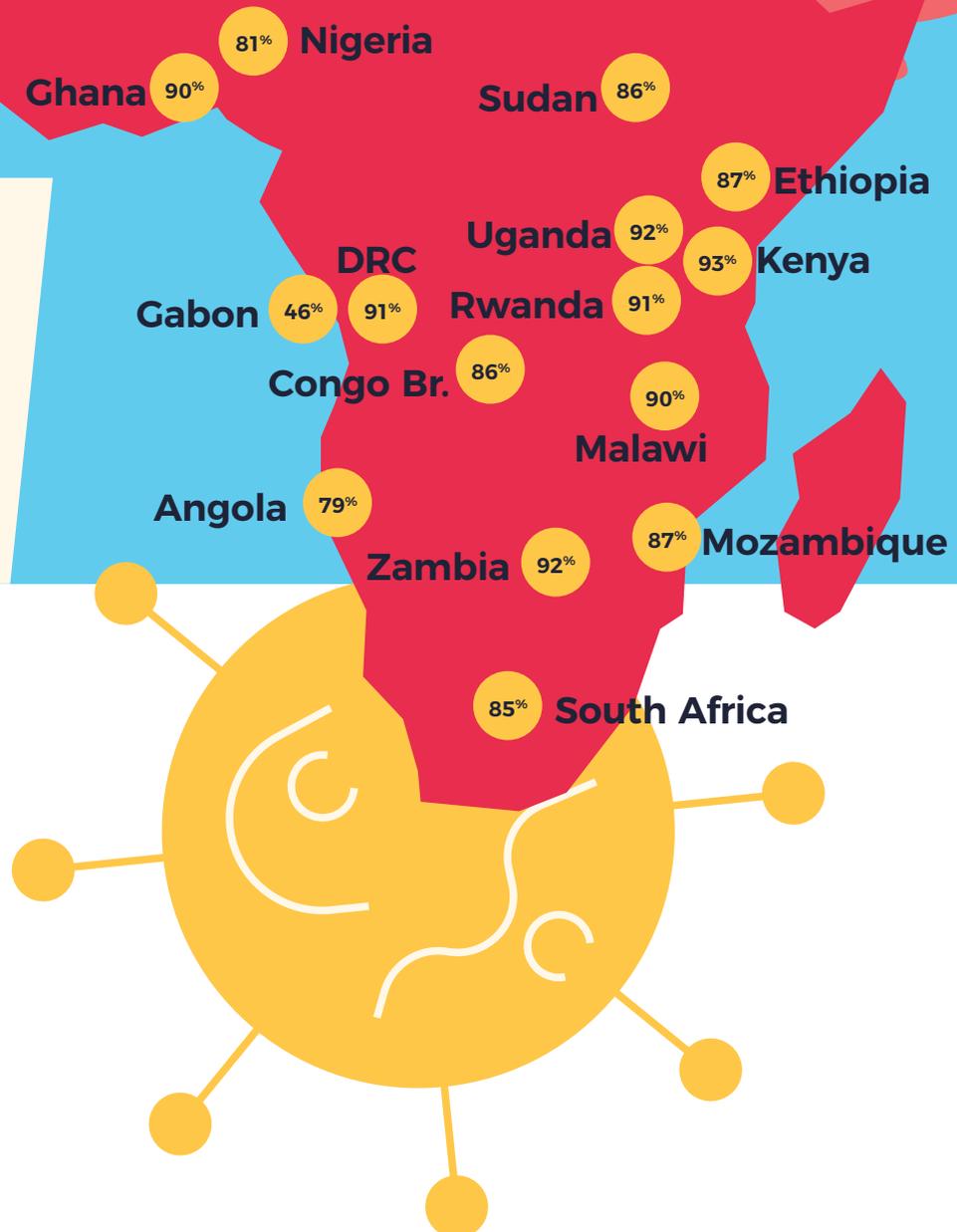


COVID-19

VERY CONCERNED 67%
SOMEWHAT CONCERNED 18%
NOT VERY CONCERNED 10%
NOT CONCERNED 4%
DON'T KNOW 1%

Concern over infectious disease:
85%

While most approve of their country's COVID-19 response, concern and vaccine hesitancy remain high, as myths and conspiracy theories about the pandemic are prevalent.



Even before the coronavirus pandemic swept across the globe, African youth were very concerned by the spread of infectious diseases, which have in recent years ravaged the continent. In the inaugural African Youth Survey conducted in 2019, 90% of young Africans reported being concerned by the spread of infectious diseases—a likely result of the recent Ebola pandemic alongside the long struggle with HIV/AIDS. As COVID-19 and its variants surge across the African continent, this year's findings indicate that African youth remain highly worried, with 85% expressing concern over the spread of infectious diseases. The only exception is Gabon, where less than half of youth express concern.

The impact of COVID-19 on the continent has been immense, with nearly half of the continent's youth pointing to death from infectious diseases as the single most impactful event or development for Africa in the past five years. This figure has nearly doubled compared to the inaugural research conducted in 2019, and the devastation of COVID-19 has undoubtedly fuelled this sharp increase. Rwandan youth are most likely to say this, with nearly three-quarters (72%) identifying deaths from infectious disease as the most impactful event of the past five years.

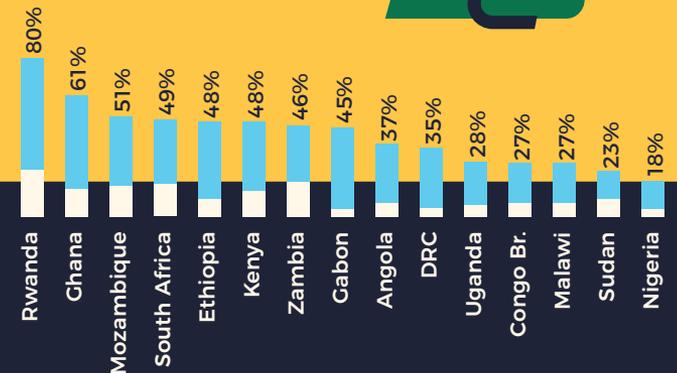
Concern over the spread of infectious diseases is exacerbated by lack of satisfaction with available healthcare services and clinics across the continent. Just one-in-ten (11%) African youth are very satisfied with healthcare services, with another 31% somewhat satisfied.

- **Highest satisfaction** with healthcare services ('Very' + 'Somewhat' satisfied): Rwanda (80%) and Ghana (61%)
- **Lowest satisfaction:** Nigeria (18%) and Sudan (23%)

Satisfaction with Healthcare / Clinics

42%

Somewhat satisfied
Very satisfied



Governments' handling of COVID-19

Youth across the continent express varying degrees of approval for the way their government is handling the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, nearly two-thirds approve of their national government's pandemic response efforts. In Rwanda and Ghana, more than eight-in-ten youth express approval. However, in Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, Malawi, Nigeria, and Sudan, less than half of young people approve of the government's handling of COVID-19.

The pandemic has had a detrimental effect on education, with nearly four-in-ten African youth reporting that they had to pause or stop their schooling as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. In addition, one-in-five young Africans became unemployed as a consequence of the pandemic and 18% were forced to move back home. For many, these challenges were compounding—they had both their education and their economic prospects cut.

Youth across the continent are split on what the focus should be for their countries, but a plurality believe that reopening their economy should be considered the highest priority for governments;

* Missing values = Other and Don't Know

63%

approve of how their national government is handling the response to the coronavirus outbreak, while

34% disapprove.



APPROVAL

BY COUNTRY:

Rwanda: 96%
Ghana: 86%
Mozambique: 76%
South Africa: 75%
Uganda: 74%
Kenya: 73%
Zambia: 66%
Ethiopia: 63%
Angola: 59%
DRC: 59%
Gabon: 47%
Congo Br.: 44%
Malawi: 44%
Nigeria: 41%
Sudan: 40%

29% believe preventing the spread of COVID-19 should be prioritized and 28% maintain that the priority should be vaccine distribution.

Just over half (55%) of Africa's youth have confidence that their country will be able to acquire adequate amounts of a safe and effective vaccine in the coming months. More than one-third (37%) are not confident in this, and the rest remain unsure. Rwanda (90%) and Ghana (80%) express the highest confidence levels, while just 37% of Nigerian youth and 31% of Sudanese youth say the same. Despite having one of the most successful vaccination campaigns in the continent, just 59% of South African youth have confidence that their country will have access to an adequate and safe vaccine supply.

Weak confidence levels are likely fuelled by a perception that global vaccine distribution has not been fair. When asked, 40% of youth do not agree that all countries have had fair and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines. This grievance is widespread and justified – despite constituting 17% of the global population, at the time of the fieldwork in April 2021, just 2% of all COVID-19 vaccines globally were administered in Africa.¹

¹ <https://www.afro.who.int/news/less-2-worlds-covid-19-vaccines-administered-africa>



PRESIDENT



Which should be prioritised in your country?

39%

REOPENING THE ECONOMY

Gabon: 72%
Nigeria: 69%
Malawi: 51%
Congo Br. 49%
DRC: 41%
Zambia: 39%
Kenya: 35%
Uganda: 32%
Angola: 31%
Ethiopia: 30%
Ghana: 29%
Sudan: 28%
Rwanda: 27%
Mozambique: 26%
South Africa: 22%

29%

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Mozambique: 51%
Ghana: 43%
Ethiopia: 39%
Kenya: 36%
South Africa: 36%
DRC: 33%
Angola: 32%
Zambia: 28%
Sudan: 26%
Rwanda: 24%
Uganda: 22%
Nigeria: 20%
Malawi: 20%
Congo Br. 19%
Gabon: 12%

28%

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

Rwanda: 49%
Uganda: 43%
South Africa: 39%
Angola: 35%
Sudan: 34%
Malawi: 29%
Congo Br. 28%
Kenya: 28%
Ghana: 26%
Zambia: 26%
Ethiopia: 25%
DRC: 22%
Mozambique: 21%
Gabon: 11%
Nigeria: 8%

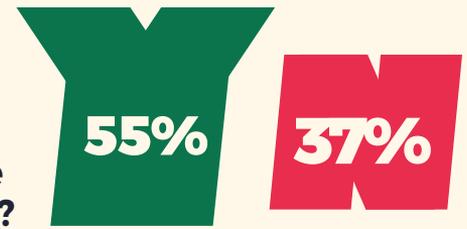
* Missing values = Other and Don't Know

Vaccine hesitancy and COVID-19 myths are rife

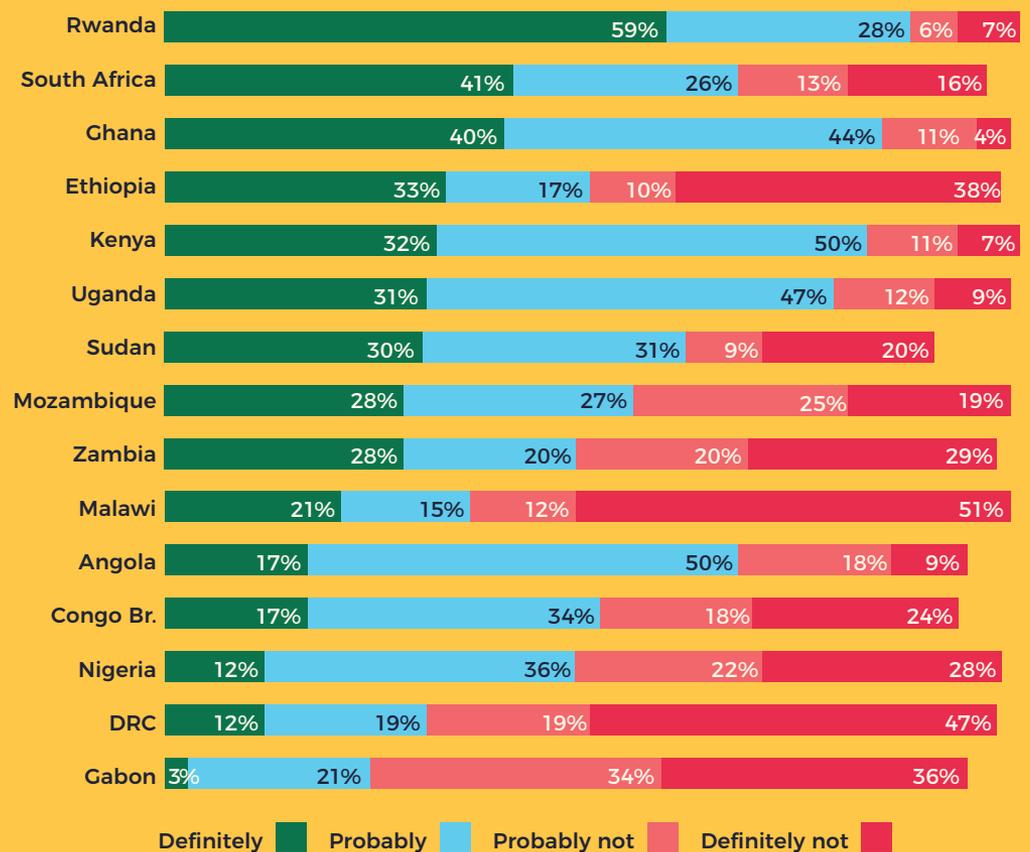
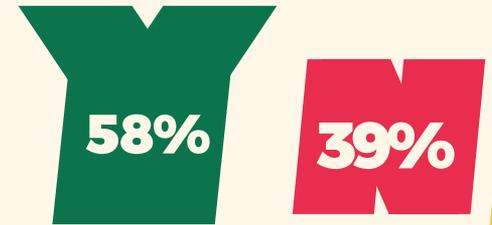
The impact of COVID-19 has been worsened by the state of 'vaccine apathy' presently plaguing the continent; when asked, nearly four-in-ten young African men and women would probably not or definitely not take the vaccine, if given the opportunity. Of these, a quarter are adamant that they will not be vaccinated. While 58% of young people are likely to be vaccinated, just one-in-four say they will definitely get the vaccine. Refusal to take the vaccine is highest in Malawi and DRC, where around half of youth definitely will not get a COVID-19 vaccine made available to them.

It is likely vaccine uptake is being hindered by the prevalence of myths and conspiracy theories about coronavirus and its origins and spread. For example, 37% of young people say that it is definitely or probably true that young people are immune to COVID-19, and youth in DRC (54%) and Malawi (51%) are most likely to say this. Nearly three-in-five (58%) say that the death toll from COVID-19 was deliberately exaggerated to further political agendas, and more than half (56%) believe coronavirus was developed in a laboratory and intentionally spread by the Chinese government. A third (34%) contend that 5G technology has been contributing to the spread of COVID-19. A survey conducted by the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine found that reasons for vaccine hesitancy also included issues like believing the COVID-19 pandemic was a planned event by foreign actors, and perceptions that Africans were being used as test subjects for vaccine trials.²

How confident are you that your country will be able to acquire adequate amounts of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine in the coming few months?



If a coronavirus vaccine was available free to everyone who wanted it in your country, would you get a vaccine?



² African Perceptions on COVID-19 Vaccines: A Comprehensive Study - ORB International (orb-international.com)

Since the start of the outbreak of coronavirus, which of the following have you experienced?

- HAD TO PAUSE OR STOP MY SCHOOLING** 37%
- BECAME UNEMPLOYED** 19%
- MOVED BACK HOME** 18%
- HAD MY WORK HOURS REDUCED** 10%
- HAD TO CARE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS** 10%
- STARTED A NEW BUSINESS** 9%
- HAD MY PAY CUT** 8%
- FORCED TO SWITCH TO PART TIME** 7%
- ENTERED INFORMAL ECONOMY** 7%
- STARTED ANOTHER CAREER** 6%
- TOOK AN ADDITIONAL JOB TO PAY BILLS** 6%
- TOOK UNPAID LEAVE** 5%

HAD TO PAUSE OR STOP MY SCHOOLING - TOP 3 COUNTRIES:
Malawi: 61%; Sudan: 53%; Angola: 49%

37%
stopped or paused
schooling



19%
became
unemployed

440%

do not agree that all countries have had fair and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines

DISAGREE BY COUNTRY:
Rwanda: 61%
Ethiopia: 60%
Malawi: 59%
Mozambique: 49%
Zambia: 39%
Kenya: 38%
South Africa: 38%
Gabon: 37%
Congo Br.: 34%
DRC: 34%
Nigeria: 34%
Sudan: 30%
Ghana: 29%
Uganda: 29%
Angola: 24%

* Missing values = Other and Don't Know

The percentage of African youth who believe the following statements to be true

78%



Wearing a facemask can help protect you against COVID-19

Rwanda: 89%
 Uganda: 88%
 Ghana: 87%
 Mozambique: 85%
 South Africa: 85%
 Ethiopia: 85%
 Sudan: 82%
 Kenya: 79%
 Malawi: 79%
 Nigeria: 76%
 Zambia: 75%
 Congo Br.: 74%
 DRC: 73%
 Angola: 64%
 Gabon: 62%

64%



It is possible to have COVID-19 without showing any symptoms

Rwanda: 86%
 Ethiopia: 85%
 Malawi: 77%
 Kenya: 74%
 Mozambique: 73%
 Nigeria: 71%
 Sudan: 66%
 Gabon: 66%
 Ghana: 64%
 South Africa: 60%
 Uganda: 58%
 Zambia: 53%
 Angola: 52%
 DRC: 46%
 Congo Br.: 26%

58%



The death toll from COVID-19 has been deliberately exaggerated to further political agendas

Malawi: 80%
 Kenya: 72%
 Zambia: 66%
 Nigeria: 66%
 DRC: 64%
 Mozambique: 64%
 Angola: 64%
 Congo Br.: 62%
 South Africa: 59%
 Sudan: 58%
 Uganda: 57%
 Gabon: 52%
 Ghana: 42%
 Ethiopia: 40%
 Rwanda: 32%

56%



COVID-19 was intentionally developed in a laboratory and spread by the Chinese government

Gabon: 68%
Uganda: 67%
Mozambique: 67%
Sudan: 63%
DRC: 61%
Malawi: 60%
Nigeria: 59%
Zambia: 59%
Angola: 56%
Kenya: 56%
Congo Br.: 55%
South Africa: 48%
Rwanda: 41%
Ghana: 38%
Ethiopia: 36%

37%



Young people are immune to COVID-19

DRC: 54%
Malawi: 51%
Gabon: 50%
Nigeria: 49%
Kenya: 46%
Sudan: 45%
Congo Br.: 43%
Ghana: 36%
South Africa: 35%
Angola: 29%
Uganda: 26%
Ethiopia: 24%
Mozambique: 22%
Zambia: 22%
Rwanda: 16%

34%



5G technology is contributing to the spread of COVID-19

Nigeria: 51%
Gabon: 46%
Mozambique: 44%
Uganda: 40%
DRC: 38%
Zambia: 36%
Angola: 36%
Kenya: 36%
Sudan: 34%
Malawi: 33%
Ghana: 30%
Congo Br.: 30%
South Africa: 29%
Ethiopia: 16%
Rwanda: 15%



Championing the cause for Africa and its global diaspora

Belvin Tawuya is the Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at the Africa Centre in London.

The opportunity to partner with the Ichikowitz Family Foundation could not have come at a better time for The Africa Centre. After many positive conversations with the team over several months and following the success of the seminal report in 2020, it was a no brainer for us to want to be a part of this project in 2022. There is clear alignment and synergy between our respective organisations.

To those unfamiliar, The Africa Centre is a London-based non-profit charity that has been championing the cause for Africa and its global diaspora since 1961. We promote social cohesion, education, thought leadership, and innovation in art, culture, and entrepreneurship. Our organisation is about to enter a new chapter in its illustrious 60-year journey with the launch of a new headquarters this June, in the

cultural heartbeat of London, in Southwark. We reflect with great pride on the impact we have had in shaping narratives and changing perceptions about Africa and its people.

Our mission is to educate, connect, and advocate for Africa and its diaspora as we serve as custodians of its cultural heritage. We recognise the untapped potential of Africa's young people and feel inspired and excited about our role in helping to shape their tomorrow. Through both our physical and virtual programmes, we facilitate dialogue and create spaces for young people in Africa to collaborate and exchange knowledge and ideas with their peers in the diaspora. There is no doubt that the future of our great continent is in the hands of its young people. Part of our organisation's strategic goals for the next decade include placing millennials and Gen-Z at the heart of our mission and purpose. An example of our commitment to supporting and empowering young people in Africa can be seen in the opportunity we created for Johannesburg-based design collective, Mam'gobozi Design Factory to lead the design of our new brand identity. Separately, as part of celebrations for the opening of our new home, we are thrilled to have Tanzania-based visual artist Sungi Mlengeya showing a solo six-week exhibition at The Africa Centre from 20 June to 24 July 2022.



The African Youth Survey of 2020 unpacked the theme of Afro-optimism among the continent's youth and showed that despite the harsh realities of political and socio-economic challenges, Africa's young people have an unshakeable resolve to find solutions to their own problems and become masters of their own destinies. This follow-up report continues to make a strong case for the resilience of African youth who bravely battled the Covid-19 pandemic while dealing with the usual struggles of unemployment, polarised political landscapes, extortionate data costs, and a general lack of opportunities etc. While the idea of Pan-Africanism appears to be getting blurrier, there is absolute clarity about personal ambition and growing confidence about 'making it' at an individual level.

We cannot help but marvel at the meticulous effort that went into the production of both the inaugural research report in 2020 and this African Youth Survey of 2022. It is a great honour for us to partner with the Ichikowitz Family Foundation on the release of this important report. The Foundation's love and passion for the continent is unquestionable and we seize without hesitation, this perfect opportunity to strengthen our ties with the continent and collaborate towards making an even greater impact amongst the youth of Africa. It is our hope that the actionable insights from this report will lead to greater understanding of African youth and more concerted efforts to support and empower them meaningfully.

The late Archbishop Desmond Tutu described The Africa Centre as a home "to all who are Africans, and all those who have a care for the interests of the continent and its people". With our bold and contemporary Afrocentric interiors, an exciting pan-African culinary offering, exhibition and events space, and our learning and research, and entrepreneurship spaces, we look forward to welcoming and working with as many young people from across the continent and all those who love Africa!

Our mission is to educate, connect, and advocate for Africa and its diaspora as we serve as custodians of its cultural heritage. We recognise the untapped potential of Africa's young people and feel inspired and excited about our role in helping to shape their tomorrow.



DEMOCRATIC
AMBITIONS

7%
Don't know

74%

19%

In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable

Democracy is always preferable to any other kind of government, and should be pursued

Appetite for democracy is strong, particularly for African-style democracy rather than emulating Western-democratic systems.

Africa's youth place great value on democracy and see it as the preferred form of government that their countries should be striving towards. When asked whether there are certain situations in which alternative forms of government can work, three-quarters of the continent's youth asserted that democracy is always preferable to any other kind of government and should be pursued. Just one-in-five youth say that in some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable. This fervent appetite for democracy is strong across the continent. The only outlier is Sudan, where just under half (45%) of youth saying that democracy is always the preferred form of government in contrast to a quarter (26%) saying in certain circumstances a non-democratic government is preferable, with a further 29% saying they don't know. The steadfast commitment to democratic governance is strongest in Rwanda, where nine-in-ten youth believe democracy should always be pursued.

Western style democracy is not suitable for the African context, African countries will need to find their own democratic structures and systems to be successful

African countries should seek to emulate the structure and governing systems of Western democracies

39%

53%

7%
Don't know

African-style democracies

Despite the strong appetite for democracy, African youth are not always looking to emulate Western democracies. Rather, they believe that democratic structures and systems will need to be adapted to local contexts in order to be successful. The majority (53%) of youth believe that Western style democracy is not necessarily suitable for the African context, and contend that African countries will need to find their own democratic systems and structures that work for the continent and its people. By contrast, four-in-ten (39%) believe that Western institutions can be directly applied to the African context, and that African countries should seek to emulate the structures and governing systems of Western democracies.

African youth see equality of all citizens under the law as the most important democratic value. The continent's youth also place great importance on freedom of speech and free and fair elections as principles of democratic governance. In Malawi, South Africa, and Uganda, freedom of speech is considered more important than equality under the law, and in Angola and Zambia, youth value free and fair elections above all else. When forced to choose, African youth are less inclined to see the right to a fair trial, freedom of the press, and the right to assemble or demonstrate as the most important.

Youth are split on where power should be concentrated within their country. Nearly half (44%) believe that it would be more beneficial to their country if more power was given to the national government. However, the other half (48%) believe it would be more beneficial to give more power to local and regional governments. There is great variation across the continent depending on political context: Ethiopia (76%), Democratic Republic of Congo (62%), and Congo Brazzaville (58%) are most likely to favour to centralising power with the national government, while Malawi (66%), Rwanda (63%), and Uganda (63%) are keen to distribute more power to local and regional governments.

Africa's youth are clear in their disapproval of political scenarios in which one party or leader is given unchecked power to govern their country. More than two-thirds of African youth say they would disapprove of a scenario in which elections and Parliament are abolished in their country, and the president is given the power to decide everything. This reflects global sentiments among youth around the world – the majority of youth surveyed in the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers survey selected abuse of power and corruption as the issue that frustrates them the most about government leaders.¹ Youth are similarly disapproving of single party rule, where only one political party is allowed to stand for elections and hold office. For each of these two scenarios, approval is extremely low (15% and 16% respectively), suggesting that governments could face significant backlash among youth if either scenario became reality. Similarly, six-in-ten youth would disapprove if the army came in to govern their country.

¹ https://www.es.amnesty.org/fileadmin/noticias/ShapersSurvey2017_Full_Report_24Aug_002_01.pdf

African youth value equality of all citizens under the law, freedom of speech, and free and fair elections as the pillars of democracy

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

18%

have considered running for some political office

MOST LIKELY TO HAVE CONSIDERED RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE:

DRC: 38%
Uganda: 33%
Mozambique: 24%
Zambia: 24%
Angola: 23%
Malawi: 23%

21%

have participated in a demonstration in the past year

MOST LIKELY TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A DEMONSTRATION:

Sudan: 60%
DRC: 38%
Gabon: 24%
Zambia: 23%
Malawi: 22%

Most important pillars of democracy

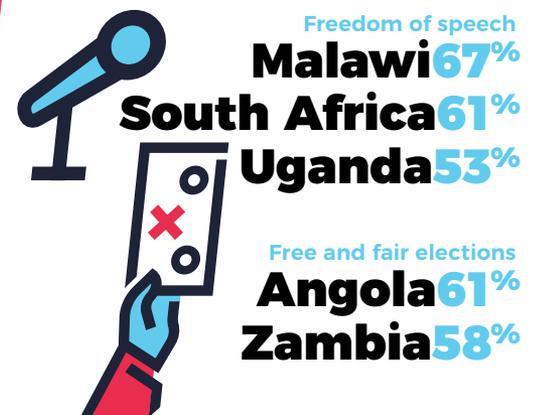


Most African youth disapprove of political scenarios in which one party or leader is given absolute power or the military governs the country

POTENTIAL GOVERNING SCENARIOS



Countries where equality under law is not the most important:



Political engagement among youth is low

Although their political ambitions for their country are strong, fewer African youth have political ambitions for themselves. Just one-in-five have considered running for some form of political office. Youth in Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda are the most likely to want to run for office. In Rwanda (5%), Ethiopia (8%), Kenya (8%), and Nigeria (9%) less than one in ten youth have considered a career in political office. One-in-five African youth have participated in a political demonstration over the past year, and in Sudan this rises to six-in-ten youth, likely due to regular protests over the past few years.



* Missing values = Other and Don't Know

In Africa, young people are heading the call for Environmental Action

Ineza Umuhoza Grace is the CEO of The Green Fighter, a youth lead environmental Non-Governmental Organization operating in Rwanda since 2017. The organization aims to contribute to the sustainable development of the country by ensuring the safety and protection of the environment. The organization activity focuses on Agriculture, Water, Energy, Waste Management and Environmental education sectors.



Africa's future belongs to the youth. We are the change makers - essential to the development of our continent. This iteration of the African Youth Survey (AYS) underscores this message, and amplifies the next generation of voices from across Africa, giving insight into the thoughts and feelings young people have about the future we are inheriting.

This survey was centralized around the biggest issues facing Africans: climate change, COVID-19, economic opportunity, and foreign policy; and also measured key elements in changing the status quo: Afro-optimism, equality, and democratic ambitions. With the youngest population in the world, bearing disproportionate impacts, our generation should be active stakeholders in creating change - and we are primed to do so.

According to the 2022 African Youth Survey, nearly three-quarters of young Africans are concerned about climate change and more than 80% are concerned about the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. This stands to reason, given that 1.2 million Africans were displaced due to floods and storms in 2020; and the pandemic inflamed fears around infectious diseases, with more than half of us identifying pandemic deaths as the most impactful event Africa has faced in the past five years. Yet underneath the fear, our young people are optimistic and more of us are considering running for public office than ever before.

Our appetite for change is here, and this youth survey gives our voices another medium through which to express what we want. After all, we stand to lose the most.

Take climate change – the single greatest threat to modern humanity.

In the last few years, cyclones in Madagascar have forced people to flee their homes; heavier than normal rainfall in Kenya is exacerbating cholera, and causing an epidemic of chikungunya virus. Since 2012 extensive drought in sub-Saharan Africa has devastated agriculture, and led to a 46% increase in undernourished people. What does that mean for the next ten years?

In Rwanda, my home, floods have destroyed at least 64 bridges, 124 roads, numerous health centres, and 13 water supply systems. Losing this kind of infrastructure is personal to me: every week I travelled 12km to get to school because there wasn't a proper local school. Education is not accessible to many of us in developing countries, and inaction on climate change is making the barriers we currently face insurmountable.

Although the climate crisis is felt disproportionately, research shows the global economy will lose \$23 trillion by 2050 if something doesn't change. Yet those driven by the profits of today, continue to operate against their best interests – and ours.

For example, foreign direct investment in Africa is overwhelmingly concentrated in natural resource extraction – from the oil sector in Nigeria to the copper and cobalt mines of the DRC – and these industries do very little to develop social capital. Worse, they produce terrible outputs for the environment like air and water pollution, and destroy ecosystems and wildlife. Over the years, we have continued these parasitic

relationships, in need of better infrastructure and economic development.

But what if there were a different way? One that harnessed the dynamism of our continent, home to the most diverse countries in the world. African youth are 200 million strong, armed with intellectual horsepower, and Afro-optimism – progress, growth, reform, and the vibrancy of over 3,000 tribes, and 2,000 living languages. We need to invest in our largest and most important resource: Africa's youth.

What we don't want is for the status quo to remain. This survey shows there is a growing readiness in our young people to be heard and empowered to construct the lives we deserve.

It is my hope that this will generate a sense of dreaming big and action in young people. That they will see they are not alone, and instead, heard across the continent. We can look to each other for inspiration and support in creating a better Africa – we'll have to if anything is going to change.

Who is with me?

Young people in Africa want economic opportunity and democratic structures that reflect the nuance of African contexts. We want to live in a world where climate change doesn't flood our communities, or increase food insecurity. We want to be free from infectious diseases that have been plaguing our homes for decades. We want connectivity and solutions to the digital divide. We want the Global North to take Africa seriously. We want to be treated as equals.

ENVIRONMENT



-CO₂

CLIMATE HAS NO BORDERS



72%

of youth are concerned about climate change

The environment is a key concern for African youth and while many are taking action themselves, they are looking to their governments to do more.

The environment is a key area of concern among African youth, with nearly three-quarters saying that they are concerned about climate change. In Malawi (88%), Kenya (85%), and Ghana (83%), more than eight-in-ten youth worry about climate change, while youth in Gabon (44%), South Africa (60%), and Sudan (64%) are least likely to be concerned. African youth are taking it upon themselves to live more sustainably, and they want to see the same commitment to the environment from their leaders. Under half of the continent's youth are currently satisfied with the way their government is handling climate change, ranging from 81% satisfaction in Rwanda to just under one-in-three in South Africa.

African youth expect the impact of climate change to be dire, and want to make addressing climate change a priority

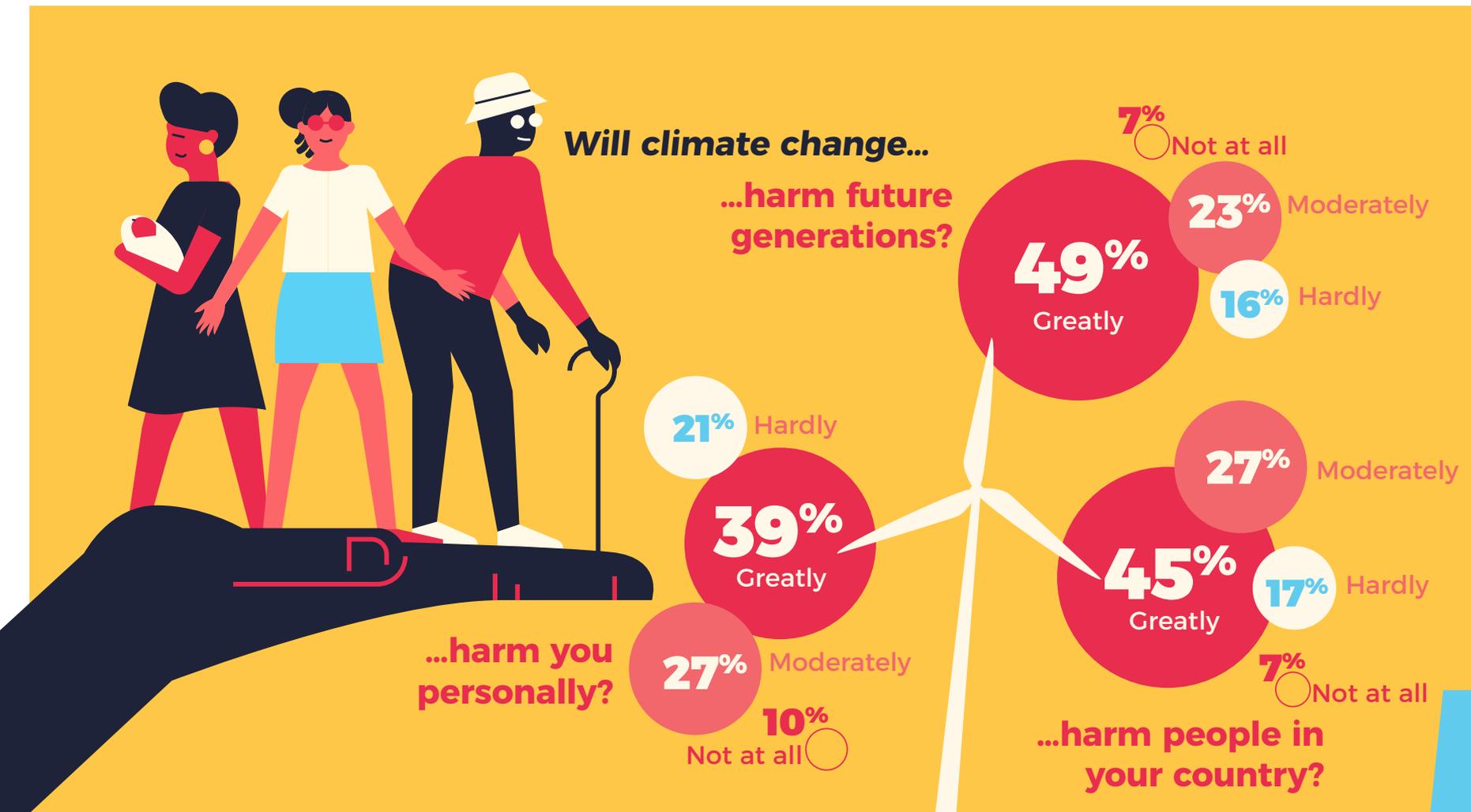
African youth are concerned by the impact that climate change will have on themselves, their communities, and future generations. While Africa's contribution to climate change is negligible, with emissions accounting for around two to three percent of the global total, this concern is well justified as the continent will be impacted disproportionately as it is the most vulnerable region in the world.¹ The impact of climate change on the continent has already been profound, and four-in-ten (39%) think that climate change will harm them personally a great deal, with another quarter (27%) saying it will harm them a moderate amount. Just one-in-ten (10%) say that they expect no harm from climate change. Youth are also concerned about the wider impact of climate change on the people of their country and on future generations. The impact of climate change is expected to increase for future generations, with half (49%) of youth saying climate change will harm future generations a great deal. The recently released report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirms the fears of young Africans, and warns that the impact of human-induced global

46%

are satisfied with how their country is handling climate change

BY COUNTRY:
Rwanda: 81%
Mozambique: 63%
Ethiopia: 59%
Kenya: 54%
Ghana: 53%
DRC: 52%
Gabon: 52%
Congo Bra: 45%
Zambia: 39%
Uganda: 37%
Malawi: 35%
Nigeria: 34%
Sudan: 32%
Angola: 31%
South Africa: 31%

¹ <https://www.unep.org/regions/africa/regional-initiatives/responding-climate-change>



warming has been and will continue to be more severe on the African continent.² Furthermore, the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) State of the Climate in Africa 2020 report outlines the startling current and future climate trends that are increasing threats for human health and development, food and water security, and socio-economic progress in the region, with the most vulnerable being impacted the hardest.³

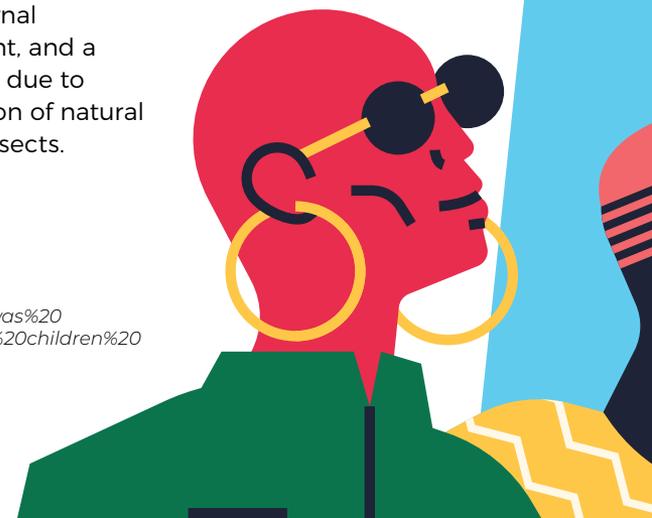
Young Africans are concerned about a range of environmental issues, including extreme weather events, pollution, and environmental damage. Three-quarters of African youth are concerned by increasing pollution in the air, water, and land, and increased frequency and severity of extreme environmental events such as flooding, drought, and heatwaves. The Lancet medical journal estimated that 1.1 million deaths were caused by air pollution across the African continent, and a 2020 WHO report approximated that 1.2 million African's were forced to flee their homes due to floods and storms.⁴ Similarly, three-in-four youth also express concern over the destruction of natural habitats for farming or living and the increase of crop infestation and destruction from insects.

2 https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/factsheets/IPCC_AR6_WGL_Regional_Fact_Sheet_Africa.pdf

3 Climate Change Is an Increasing Threat to Africa | UNFCCC

4 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(21\)00201-1/fulltext#:~:text=Air%20pollution%20was%20responsible%20for,air%20pollution%20for%2039%200000.&text=PM2%20B75%20pollution%20was,in%20African%20children%20in%202019.](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00201-1/fulltext#:~:text=Air%20pollution%20was%20responsible%20for,air%20pollution%20for%2039%200000.&text=PM2%20B75%20pollution%20was,in%20African%20children%20in%202019.)

5 https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21973#.YbeFatDP02y



Governments need to do more to address climate change

Stemming from high levels of concern, young Africans want their governments to take further steps to address environmental issues and climate change, including reducing carbon emissions and adopting green energy sources. Five-in-six youth across the continent think their government needs to do more to address climate change. The sentiment is strongest in Rwanda, where 99% of youth agree that their government needs to do more, and in Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia, where more than two-thirds of youth strongly agree that the government needs to do more on environmental concerns.

Concern for extreme environmental events, pollution, and environmental destruction

Increasing pollution in air, fresh water, the ocean, and on land

78%

Increased frequency or severity of extreme environmental events (e.g. flooding, drought, bush fires, etc.)

77%

Increased infestation or crop destruction from insects (e.g. locust, etc.)

77%

Destruction of natural habitats for wildlife for farming or living

74%

Abnormally long or extreme heat waves or cold spells

72%



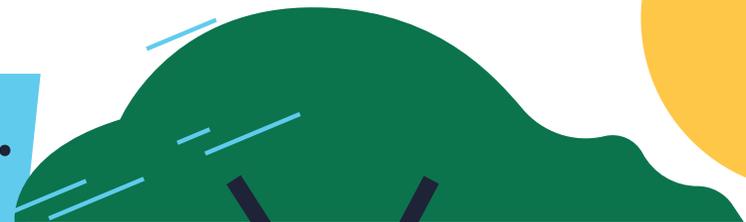
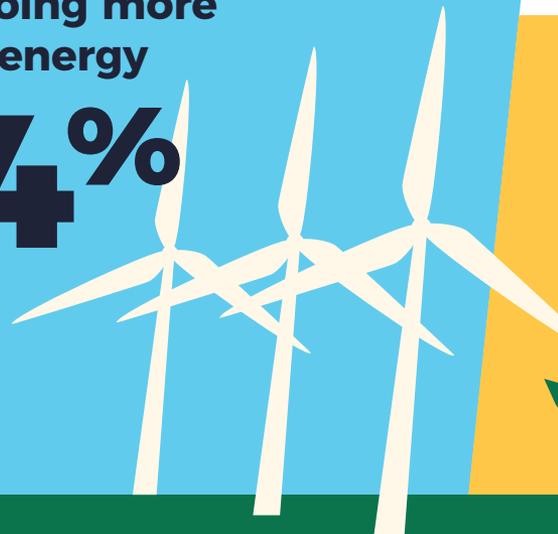
My government...

...needs to be doing more to address climate change. **85%**

TOP 3 COUNTRIES:
Rwanda: 99%
Ethiopia: 95%
Malawi: 95%

...needs to be doing more to adopt green energy sources. **84%**

TOP 3 COUNTRIES:
Rwanda: 98%
Malawi: 95%
Ethiopia: 94%
Kenya: 94%



...needs to be doing more to reduce its carbon emissions. **81%**

TOP 3 COUNTRIES:
Rwanda: 97%
Ethiopia: 94%
Malawi: 93%



One way that youth want to see their governments addressing climate change is by reducing carbon emission levels. Eight-in-ten (81%) young Africans agree that their government needs to do more in this space and in Rwanda (97%), Ethiopia (94%), and Malawi (93%) more than nine in-ten agree. Alongside reducing carbon emissions, African youth want to see their governments making shifts towards green and renewable sources of energy. More than eight-in-ten (84%) say that their government needs to be doing more to adopt greener energy sources. Once again, Rwandan (98%), Malawian (95%), and Ethiopian (94%) youth are more likely to agree that their national governments need to adopt green energy sources. The African continent

is home to the world's richest solar resources, but today accounts for just under 1% of global solar energy power.⁶ With the continent's energy demand expected to double by 2040, indigenous renewable energy has the potential to supply a quarter of the continent's energy needs by 2030, generating millions of new jobs and economic growth, according to the International Renewable Agency (IRENA).⁷

6 <https://www.iea.org/reports/africa-energy-outlook-2019>

7 https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Regional-Group/Africa/IRENA_Africa_impact_2019.pdf?la=en&hash=EECD0F6E8195698842965E63841284997097D9AA

Youth...

...are actively working to reduce their carbon footprints.

TOP 3 COUNTRIES:

Kenya: 85%
Ghana: 84%
Rwanda: 82%

64%

...support, participate in, or donate to environmental causes.

TOP 3 COUNTRIES:

Kenya: 86%
Ghana: 86%
Rwanda: 81%

67%



Water

Taking Personal Action

Young Africans are taking proactive responsibility for the environment and being part of the change they want to see in addressing climate change. Two-thirds of youth say that they actively support, participate in, or donate to environmental causes. Youth in Kenya, Ghana, and Rwanda are the most likely to have taken action in support of the environment. On the other hand, South African (54%) and Angolan (53%) youth are least likely to have supported, participated in, or donated to environmental causes. Similarly, two-thirds of young people across the continent are making an active effort to reduce their own carbon footprint. Kenyan, Ghanaian and Rwandan youth are once again most likely to be working to reduce their carbon footprint while in Angola just under half (45%) of youth are doing the same.

Accessing clean water is a daily challenge for many

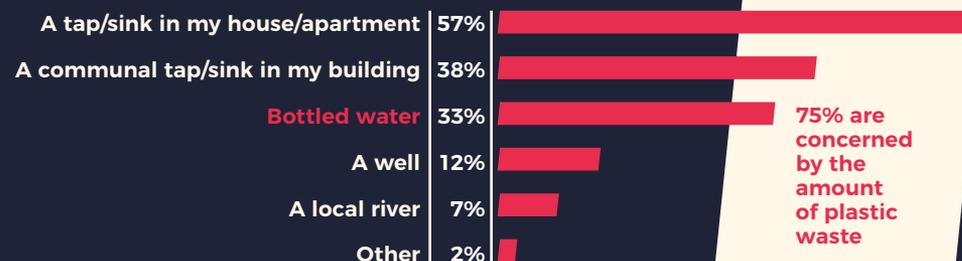
A third of African youth find it difficult to access clean water on a daily basis, and in Congo Brazzaville seven-in-ten struggle while in DRC and Sudan more than half of youth have difficulty accessing clean water. Clean water is also a financial burden for many African youth, and more than a third spend more than a quarter of their income on clean water while one-in-six (15%) spend more than half their income on it. In Mozambique and Angola, two-thirds of youth say that at least a quarter of their income goes to clean water. By comparison, the UK charity WaterAid estimates the cost of the recommended 50 litres of water per day in the United Kingdom is just 0.1% of the average low salary.⁸

Most youth regularly use a tap or sink in their home to access clean water, and many also rely on a communal tap or sink. A third of youth across the continent regularly rely on bottled water for drinking, and in Nigeria

⁸ <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxooof256/files/Water%20At%20What%20Cost%20The%20State%20of%20the%20Worlds%20Water%202016.pdf>

34%
find it difficult to
access clean water

TOP 3:
Congo Br.: 71%
DRC: 58%
Sudan: 55%



35% spend more
than a quarter of their
income on clean water

TOP 3:
Mozambique: 68%
Angola: 64%
Sudan: 56%

Poaching

this rises to six-in-ten (59%). Despite the high reliance on bottled water, three-quarters (75%) of African youth say that they are concerned by the amount of plastic waste. However, according to a report by the United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) there are over 398 million people on the African continent without access to reliable sources of drinking water, and over 900 million youth lacking access to adequate hygiene services.⁹

Poaching is a growing problem, and youth are concerned about the environmental impact

In recent years, more than half of young Africans believe that there has been an increase in the amount of poaching of wild animals taking place in their country. This varies greatly across the continent, with three-quarters of Malawian and Mozambican youth believing there has been an increase in poaching compared to just one-in-five Rwandan youth. African youth see poaching as having certain benefits, with four-in-ten saying that poaching can be beneficial in protecting communities, crops, and livestock. This is particularly felt in Ghana, where two-thirds of youth see some benefits to poaching. Across the continent, a quarter of African youth say that their community relies on money or food from poaching to supplement their income, and among Gabonese and Ghanaian youth this rises to more than half.

Still, the rise in poaching has caused concern among youth, and more than two-thirds say they are concerned that the poaching of wild animals leads to their extinction. To address the rise in poaching, two-thirds of young people in Africa believe that products derived from poached animals should be banned. However, there is disagreement about this across the continent. While in Ethiopia and Kenya, more than eight-in-ten want to ban poaching products, in Nigeria and Sudan just one-third feel the same.

⁹ Africa's future is at Hand – Safe access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene is needed more than ever - Africa.com (www.africa.com)

Half of African youth have witnessed an increase in poaching of wild animals in recent years

While four-in-ten say poaching has certain benefits and a quarter say their community relies on poaching for income, two-thirds are concerned that poaching leads to their extinction and say that products derived from poaching should be banned

69%

The poaching of wild animals leads to their extinction

Rwanda: 86%
Ethiopia: 85%
Kenya: 83%
Mozambique: 82%
Malawi: 76%
Zambia: 74%
Uganda: 73%
Angola: 72%
Sudan: 69%
South Africa: 69%
Ghana: 67%
Congo Br.: 60%
Gabon: 53%
Nigeria: 50%
DRC: 49%

Poaching has certain benefits, such as protecting communities, crops, and livestock

42%

Ghana: 64%
Gabon: 57%
Ethiopia: 49%
Mozambique: 48%
Angola: 46%
Nigeria: 46%
Sudan: 44%
Kenya: 42%
Uganda: 37%
DRC: 36%
South Africa: 36%
Congo Br.: 35%
Zambia: 33%
Malawi: 32%
Rwanda: 24%

64%

Products derived from poached animals should be banned

Ethiopia: 84%
Kenya: 83%
Rwanda: 79%
Malawi: 76%
Mozambique: 71%
Ghana: 70%
Angola: 69%
Zambia: 66%
South Africa: 65%
Congo Br.: 61%
Gabon: 56%
Uganda: 54%
DRC: 48%
Nigeria: 36%
Sudan: 36%

52%

Recent years have seen an increase in the amount of poaching of wild animals in my country

Malawi: 75%
Mozambique: 72%
Angola: 65%
Gabon: 64%
Zambia: 63%
Kenya: 61%
Ghana: 57%
Ethiopia: 56%
South Africa: 54%
DRC: 40%
Uganda: 40%
Nigeria: 39%
Congo Br.: 37%
Sudan: 35%
Rwanda: 19%

27%

My community relies on money or food from poaching to supplement our income

Gabon: 59%
Ghana: 53%
South Africa: 30%
Mozambique: 30%
Angola: 28%
Kenya: 27%
Congo Br.: 25%
Nigeria: 24%
DRC: 23%
Sudan: 23%
Uganda: 20%
Zambia: 19%
Malawi: 17%
Ethiopia: 14%
Rwanda: 12%

African youth have what it takes to make addressing climate change a force multiplier for sustainable development

Dr. Richard Munang is the Africa Regional Climate Change Coordinator at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Africa is a global leader in matters of climate change, especially from a policy dimension. The continent is at the forefront in ratifying its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with up to 98% of African countries having ratified their respective NDCs, and 39 of those countries having submitted updated NDC commitments.

Beyond NDCs, the African Union (AU) has a **climate change strategy** for countries across the continent to domesticate into local policy and legislations. In addition, **a number of African countries** have **set up** multiple dedicated climate change laws and policies.

However, this is but a drop in the ocean; the most significant challenge remains in turning these policies into reality through the optimal implementation that will unlock the promise of climate action for the continent.

Therefore, achieving optimal implementation of these policy provisions is the leading priority of the region and hence the prism through which all actions in the global climate regime need to be considered – be it finance, technology transfer, and even capacity building.

In the lead up to COP26, the latest science was unequivocal on the urgent need to increase climate action ambition. The UN Environment Program released its 2021 Emissions Gap Report,

which showed that while the globe needed to reduce emissions by 55%, current levels of ambition only managed to achieve a 7.5% reduction, thus putting the globe on an unsafe pathway of 2.7 °C warming.

Even though Africa's emissions (between 2-3%) are negligible on a global scale, the efforts by the continent should be a source of inspiration for the major emitters the world over to ratchet up their ambitions and set forth elaborate emission reduction targets that will curtail future emissions and climate change risk. They should as well provide support for minimal emitters in Africa and other developing regions, those that bear the brunt of current climate change effects.

From now on in the meantime, for Africa to bridge its implementation divide, the continent's powerhouse, that is, its youth, needs to come into focus as drivers of implementation urgently.

First of all, most of these youth form the majority of Africa's unemployed at 60%. Twelve million

enter the labour market each year to compete for far fewer jobs. That number is estimated to reach 350 million in the next 20 years. These young people need to be structurally inspired and guided to become implementers of climate action from an enterprise dimension that creates opportunities for themselves while bridging the policy implementation divide.

For example, Kenya, in their 2021 Finance Act, scrapped the VAT on briquettes and biogas. This means that if young people learned how to turn agricultural waste into fuel briquettes, they would be exempt from paying taxes. Reduced tax expense means an increased chance at profitability in an enterprise that simultaneously implements policy.

Over time, this climate action enterprise generates data that can further create more targeted incentives to enhance the growth of such proven enterprise actions. It is thus high time that our youth graduate themselves into enterprise solutions providers leveraging whatever enabling policy is in place and grow from there.

Africa's youth must step forward knowing that action is the most significant antidote to frustration, hopelessness, or despair. They must step forward knowing that action inspires hope. They must step forward knowing that they can be providers of climate action solutions that can create opportunities for themselves and many others. Be it clean cooking solutions that avert indoor pollution while lowering land-based emissions from forest degradation to creating sustainable incomes by substituting the \$20billion charcoal industry by using simple

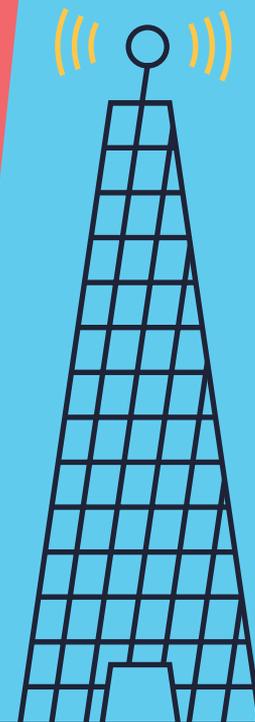
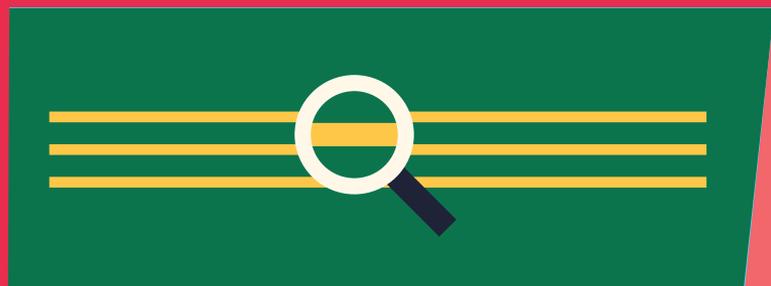


solar dryers that can cut postharvest losses without piling emissions, these are but example measures that will justly transition the continent into low emissions development pathways.

Therefore, the ball of climate change implementation action in Africa is in the court of young people. If they embrace it, they have what it takes, be it their vibrancy or tech-savviness, to make the entire continent proud by turning the climate change challenge into an opportunity.

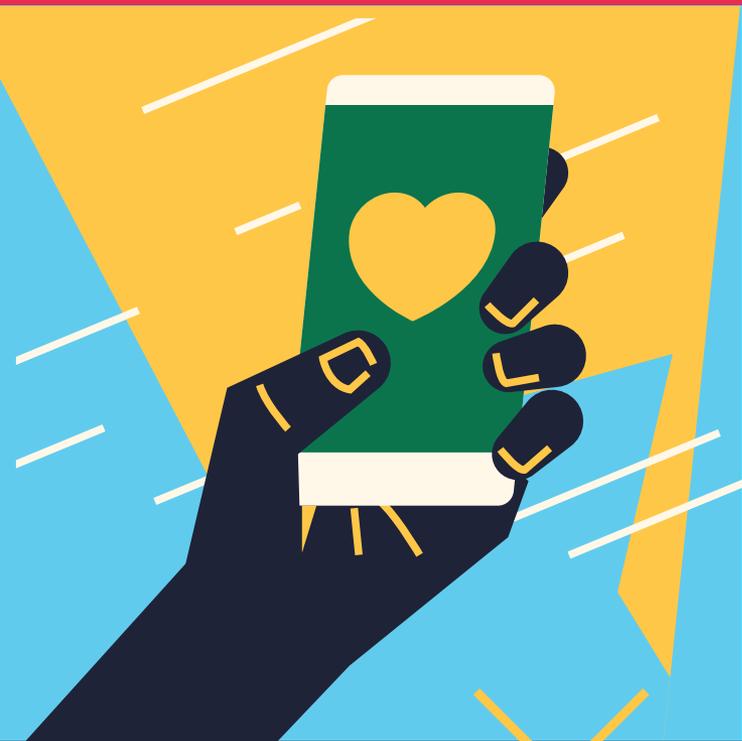
They have what it takes to create pathways of climate solutions that create opportunities for many to live more dignified and sustainable lives.

The environment is no longer a footnote but a headnote, and Africa's young people urgently need to self-appoint themselves to be solutions generators and create opportunities for themselves and current and future generations.



CONNECTIVITY È MEDIA





71%



African youth consider universal WiFi to be a fundamental human right and their smartphone use is high, but that is not yet translating to widespread and affordable internet access.



African youth are highly connected on technology and media savvy. They believe in universal access to the internet, and seven-in-ten youth consider WiFi access to be a fundamental human right that should be available to all. Currently, most (64%) of the continent's youth have access to regular private internet access outside of their workplace, but one-third (33%) still say that they do not have regular private internet connection. In Rwanda (54%), Ethiopia (52%) and Congo Brazzaville (49%), around half of youth lack access to private internet. This is something that the African Union, with the help of the World Bank, has set out to change, with an ambitious goal of achieving universal connectivity for the continent by 2030¹.

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/10/17/achieving-broadband-access-for-all-in-africa-comes-with-a-100-billion-price-tag>

High costs of mobile data

According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), more than 80% of people currently living on the African continent have a mobile phone subscription, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimate that the digital economy accounts for more than 5% of GDP in several African countries.² However, the price of mobile data coverage is a significant barrier to connectivity for many of Africa's youth. Despite being well-connected and spending lots of time using their smartphones, African youth still often struggle to secure data coverage. In fact, six-in-ten young people say that the amount they pay for mobile data coverage is high, a quarter (28%) of which say it is difficult to afford. Nearly a quarter of the continent's youth cannot afford mobile data coverage at all, while another quarter can only afford mobile data coverage for less than ten days every month. Just 13% of youth say they can afford data at all times. Data is particularly difficult to afford for Rwandan and Congolese youth, with nearly half (44% in Rwanda and 48% in Congo Brazzaville) saying they cannot afford it at all. Affordable data is most accessible in Sudan (34%), Ethiopia (33%), and Ghana (31%), where a third of youth can afford data at all times. Sub-Saharan Africa has the most expensive mobile data prices in the world, with the average cost of 1GB a staggering USD\$6.44. By comparison, the same amount costs USD\$1.53 in North Africa and USD\$2.47 in Western Europe.³

² *The Role of Digitalization in the Decade of Action for Africa* | UNCTAD

³ *Worldwide Mobile Data Pricing 2021 | 1GB Cost in 230 Countries* (cable.co.uk)

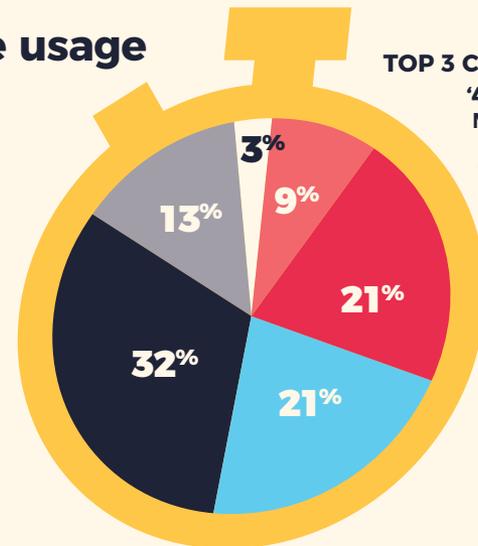
64%

have regular, private access to the internet (workplace excluded)

A third of African youth spend more than four hours everyday on their phone, and three-quarters spend at least one hour a day

Daily smartphone usage

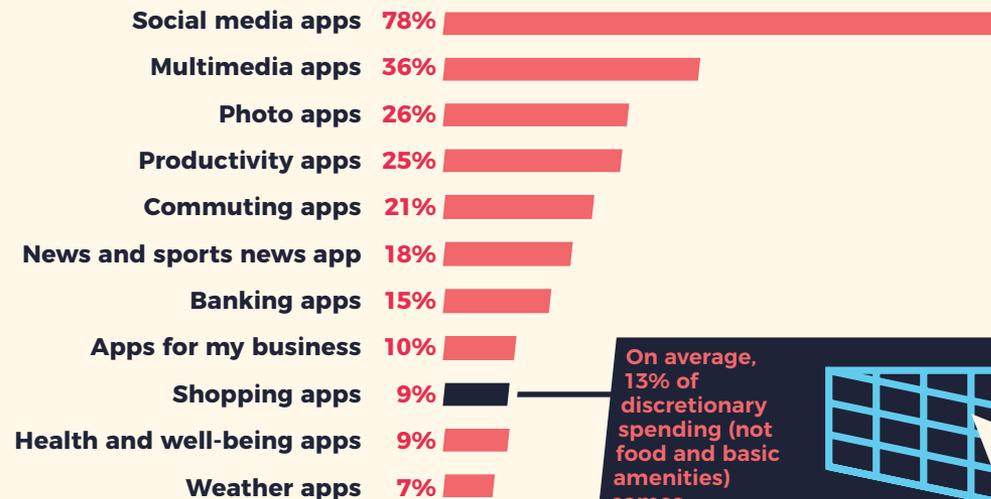
<1 hour
1-2 hours
3-4 hours
>4 hours
No smartphone
Don't know



TOP 3 COUNTRIES

'4+ HOURS':
Malawi: 51%
Kenya: 49%
Sudan: 44%

Most important apps



On average, 13% of discretionary spending (not food and basic amenities) comes from online shopping





African youth believe that social media is a force for good, using it to stay connected to friends and to read and share news articles

66% -7% SINCE 2019

I use social media to stay connected to my friends

57% +2% SINCE 2019

I use social media to read and share news articles

21% -4% SINCE 2019

I think the world would be better off without social media

TOP 3 COUNTRIES

Sudan : 76%

Malawi: 75%

Angola: 72%

62%

of African youth find the price of mobile data coverage to be high, and just one in eight can afford data coverage at all times

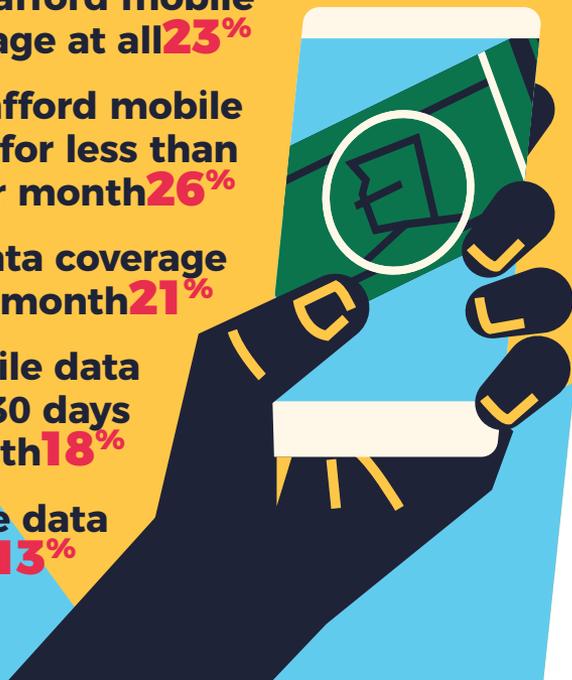
I cannot afford mobile data coverage at all **23%**

I can afford mobile data coverage for less than 10 days per month **26%**

I can afford mobile data coverage for 10-19 days per month **21%**

I can afford mobile data coverage for 20-30 days per month **18%**

I can afford mobile data coverage at all times **13%**



How do young people spend their time online?

Despite the high prices of data, African youth spend a significant portion of their daily lives online. A third of Africa's young people say they spend more than four hours every day on their phone, and three-quarters spend at least one hour a day. Just one-in-eight youth across the continent do not own a smartphone. Of all the apps on their smartphones, youth say that social media apps are by far the most important. Multimedia apps, such as music and video streaming apps, come in as the second most important apps on youths' smartphones. While shopping apps aren't considered to be one of the most important, more than half (52%) of African youth shop online and, on average, 13% of all discretionary purchases made by African youth in a given month come from online shopping. Analysis by the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank predicts that Africa's digital economy has the capacity to reach \$180 billion or 5% of the continent's GDP by 2025 and \$712 billion or 8.5% of GDP by 2050.⁴

Impact of Social media

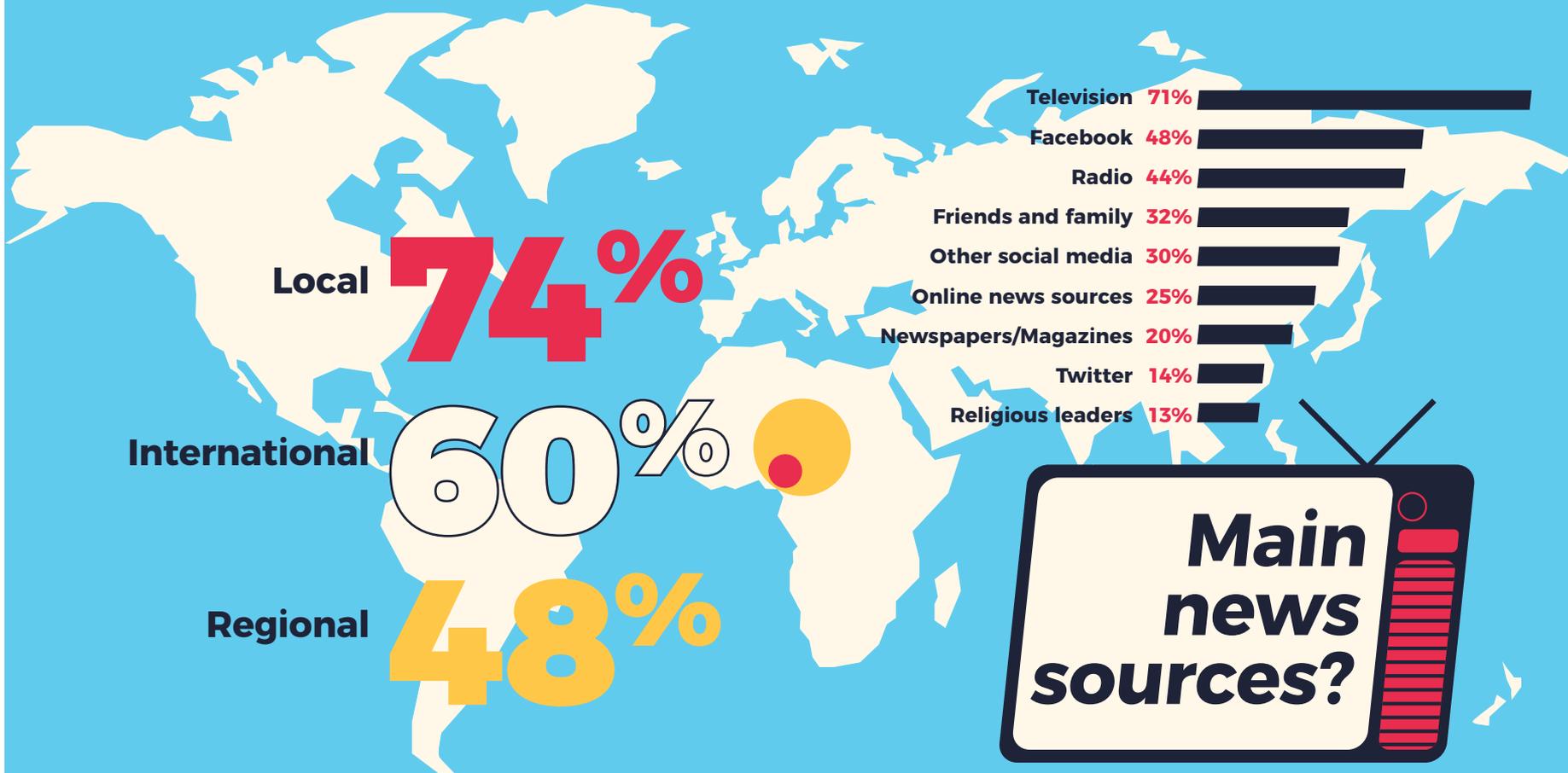
African youth believe that social media is overwhelmingly a force for good in society and use it for a variety of purposes. Two-thirds of youth use social media to stay connected with their friends. More than half also say that they use social media to read and share news articles, and social media is one of the most common sources of news. Just one-in-five of youth think that the world would be a better place without social media.

⁴ https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/publications_ext_content/ifc_external_publication_site/publications_listing_page/google-e-economy

Key sources of News

African youth consume many different news sources, and engage with local, regional, and international issues. While local news is followed the most, youth are also engaging with international and regional news. The most popular source of news by far is television, followed by Facebook and the radio. However, despite its widespread use as a source of news, Facebook is considered the least trustworthy international source, with just one-in-eight African youth saying they find it very trustworthy. Exacerbated by the global pandemic, concern for misinformation is rising across the world. According to the Digital News Report 2021 from the Reuters Institute at Oxford University, Africa shows the highest levels of concern of all regions, with more than three quarters (78%) expressing concern over misinformation.⁵

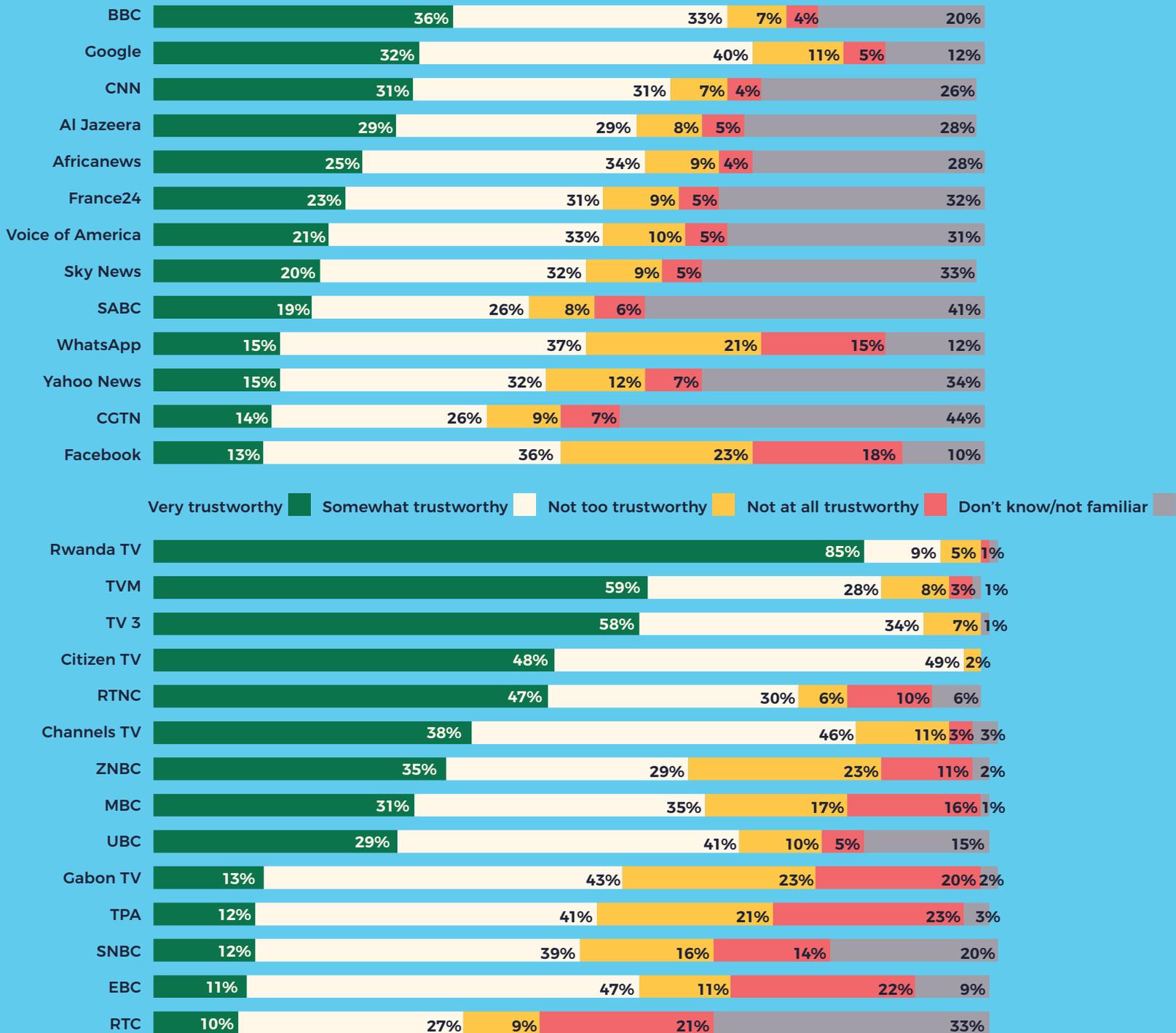
BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera are seen as the most trustworthy international news outlets, and Google is also considered trustworthy. A significant portion of African youth are unsure with how trustworthy different news sources are, indicating a healthy level of scepticism in news consumption. African youth are significantly more trusting of national news sources than they are of international sources and social media. Among local public broadcasters, Rwandan youth are most trustworthy of Rwanda TV (85% very trustworthy), followed by TVM in Mozambique (59%) and TV3 in Ghana (58%).



⁵ https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-06/Digital_News_Report_2021_FINAL.pdf

BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera as seen as the most trustworthy news outlets, with Google also considered trustworthy

HOW TRUSTWORTHY DO YOU THINK IS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCE OF NEWS IS?





Anver Versi is the Editor of New African and African Banker magazines. Born in Kenya, he has worked for more than 30 years with IC Publications, as the founding editor of African Banker magazine, and in 1994 became editor of African Business and in 2018 editor-in-chief of New African magazine, making him one of the most influential voices on the African continent.

The second edition of the African Youth Survey commissioned by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation again comes at a turning point in the modern history of Africa. In another eight years' time, by 2030, 42% of the world's youth will be African and 20 year after that, by 2050, some 80% of the world's young people will be African.

This demographic phenomenon is unique in the history of the world yet, by and large we are stumbling into this future almost blind given the paucity of research and analysis in this area. The implications, - for better or worse - for Africa as well as the rest of the now solidly interconnected world, will be as profound as they will be wide ranging.

In this context the 2022 African Youth Survey, which solicits the thoughts, opinions and world-views of the youth themselves, is a rare diamond shining in the gloom.

Now, as it has always been, knowledge, and information that coalesces into knowledge and therefore action, is the all important element of the mix that goes into the furnace from which the shape of the future is moulded.

Navigating Knowledge and Information in the Digital Age

But what do we know of the nature of this element among today's young Africans? How robust are the channels through which information flows back and forth? How widely and effectively are these channels distributed in the social body of the continent? How is the raw data consumed and processed?

These are vital questions for all – parents, teachers, the generators of information, governments, global agencies, policy framers, the manufacturers of hardware and software, the commercial and official data gatekeepers and the youth of Africa itself.

Fortunately, the 2022 African Youth Survey once again comes up with the answers in its section on 'Connectivity and Media'. There is a wealth of information, a lot of it surprising even to professionals like myself and it is presented in the Survey's characteristic easy-on-the-eye combination of excellent graphics and rigorous analysis.

Of course the whole system of communication has changed completely in the digital age and never have so many people had access to so much information from so many sources as today. In fact, the major issue now is 'information overload' where consumers struggle to make sense of the constant bombardment of news, opinion, gossip, chats, graphics and videos that they are exposed to on a 24 hour cycle.

Even more worrying is the now established presence of 'fake news' and deliberate

disinformation that is often skilfully disguised to look and sound like bona fide data but designed to mislead consumers into dark pathways that suit the aims and ambitions of unscrupulous individuals in politics, business or social manipulation.

The digital world is like the Wild West of yore, uncontrolled and perhaps uncontrollable. Traditional, mainstream media is licenced by national authorities and has to adhere to several sets of rules on credibility of information and distinguishing between opinion and fact.

The challenge has been how to incorporate the best of traditional media with its checks and balances with the digital delivery and consumption system. There is little doubt that unless this happy medium can be reached, the future will be characterised by chaos and an unchecked and sometimes violent clash of ideas all beamed at the young world of tomorrow.

This issue is also examined in the relevant section of the 2022 African Youth Survey and it was relief that I found that the majority of African youth consider international news outlets as the most trustworthy and although they very often consult Facebook for news content, they find it least trustworthy. Interestingly, over three-in-five African youth are confident in their ability to identify a fake news story. It means that it is not easy to fool an African!

The survey is chock-full of intriguing statistics on, for example, how well young Africa is connected to the outside world through their devices (very well indeed) or how much shopping they do online (fairly substantial), how much time they spend on their mobiles (too much?) and so on.

The way the Survey is structured and presented makes it fun to dig up various statistics and read the accompanying analysis so I will not spoil anyone pleasure by repeating any of the statistics here. Suffice it to say that I and my colleagues are in full agreement with the youth that access to the internet should now be a basic human right and that the cost of connectivity, which is obscenely high in Africa, must come down steeply and soon.

Nothing, in my opinion as an international journalist for over 40 years, is more critical on how this young cohort, and therefore the countries they inhabit will fare over the coming quarter century than in the quantity, quality and flow of the information they have access to.



EMPLOYMENT

Job opportunities are a top concern and African youth are looking to the government to do more.

Africa's youth are concerned that good career opportunities are lacking and want to see their governments prioritising job creation. Six-in-seven (86%) young people say that they are concerned about the lack of opportunities currently available for young people like them in their country, with near universal concern in Zambia (94%), Kenya (94%), and Ghana (93%). The outlier is Gabon, where just half (54%) are worried. Youth unemployment is a concern across the continent. According to the World Bank, more than 12% of youth aged 15-24 in Sub-Saharan Africa were unemployed but seeking work in 2019, and much higher in some countries such as South Africa (58%).

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.ZS?locations=ZG>



Future financial stability

In response to increasingly difficult job markets across the continent, over a quarter (28%) of youth say that creating new, well-paying jobs should be the top priority for Africa to move forward and progress. Kenyan (41%) and Mozambican (41%) youth are particularly focused on creating new, well-paying jobs, while youth in Gabon (17%), Ethiopia (10%) and Sudan (10%) place less of an emphasis on job creation. Still, a significant gap exists between youth's prioritisation of job creation and current satisfaction levels with the state of job creation in their country. More than two-thirds (69%) say they are dissatisfied with how their national government is performing

on creating new employment opportunities for people like them. Youth in Nigeria (87%), Zambia (84%) and Malawi (82%) are particularly dissatisfied with job creation efforts in their country. The African Development Bank estimates that about 10-12 million youth enter the job market each year in Africa, and yet only 3.1 million jobs are created, leaving many youth vulnerable to unemployment².

² https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Images/high_5s/Job_youth_Africa_Job_youth_Africa.pdf

African youth say that creating new, well-paying jobs is the top priority for the continent to move forward



69%
Dissatisfied
with job creation

28%
say prioritise
creating
new, well-
paying jobs

Dissatisfied with job creation 
Prioritise creating new, well-paying jobs 

Youth believe in the power of labour unions and see them as positive force in their country. They agree that they...

- ...are a positive force in my country **64%**
- ...can influence and change local communities **63%**
- ...represent the interests of people like me **58%**
- ...can influence and change national policies in my country **58%**
- ...result in wage inflation **52%**
- ...encourage workers to strike / cause more widespread instability **46%**
- ...decrease worker productivity **44%**

Three-in-ten youth across the continent have intentions to join a labour union in the future

LABOUR UNIONS
MEMBERSHIP

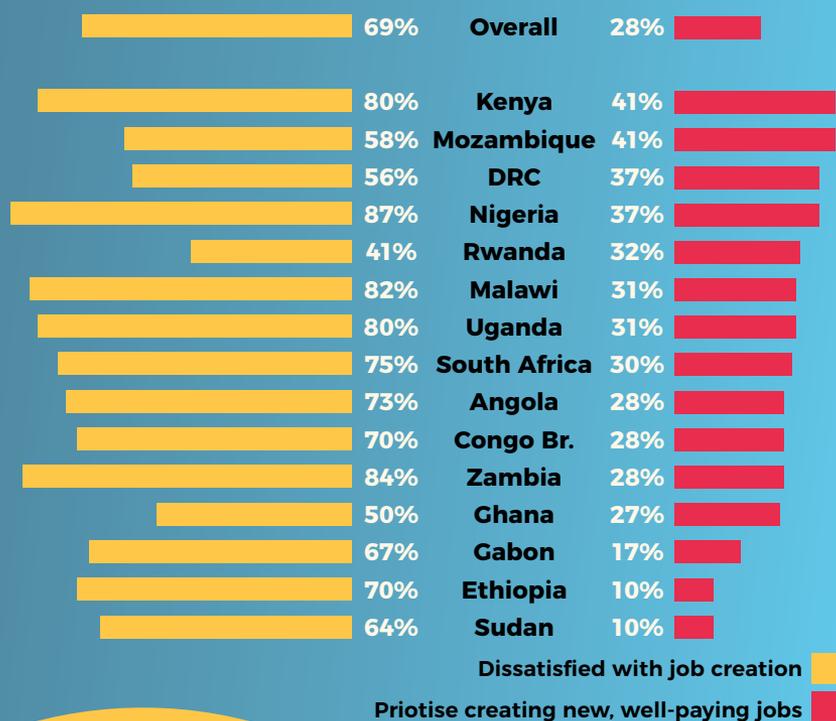


No, but I intend to become a member of one in the future

29%

HIGHEST INTENTION TO JOIN:
Rwanda: 54% / Ethiopia: 43% / Ghana: 39%

DISSATISFACTION AND IMPORTANCE WITH JOB CREATION



Affordable Housing

Stemming from employment concerns, youth are also concerned that they will not be able to afford basic amenities, with three-quarters (77%) concerned about the availability of affordable housing. Youth in Kenya (88%), Ethiopia (86%), and Ghana (86%) are the top three most concerned about finding affordable housing. According to the Institute for Security Studies, Africa is the fastest urbanising continent and by 2050 its overall population is estimated to double, with two-thirds of this increase taking place in cities. However, the majority of Africa's current city dwellers live in poverty and this will likely increase with increased urbanisation.³

Land Ownership

Looking into the future, youth also place great importance on property ownership as a key component of economic stability. Three-quarters of Africa's youth say that owning land is essential for their financial wellbeing. Owning land is particularly important for youth in Rwanda and Malawi, where nine-in-ten consider it vital to financial wellbeing. Even in Sudan, the lowest ranking country, almost two-thirds (63%) say owning property is key.

Youth find labour unions appealing

Young people across the continent have belief in the power of labour unions to influence policy and create change in their countries. Two-thirds believe that labour unions are a positive force in their country, and 58% believe that labour unions represent the interests of people like themselves. Youth also believe that labour unions can be influential, with six-in-ten believing that they can influence and change policies in local communities and that they can change national policies in their country. However, youth also have concerns about the potential impact of labour unions on productivity and wages. Half of youth say that labour unions can create wage inflation. Nearly half also say that labour unions can cause instability by encouraging workers to strike and that they may decrease worker productivity overall.

Despite feeling that labour unions represent people like them, the majority of the continent's youth are not currently members of a labour union and have no intentions of joining one in the future. Although many young people have not yet entered the professional world, one-in-ten of young people currently belong to a labour union, and another three-in-ten intend to become a member in the future. In Rwanda, over half of youth want to join a labour union.

TOP 5 BY COUNTRY:

Rwanda: 93%
Malawi: 90%
Kenya: 87%
Zambia: 82%
Ghana: 80%

77%

Say owning land is essential for their financial wellbeing

TOP 5 BY COUNTRY:

Rwanda: 80%
Malawi: 78%
DRC: 64%
Zambia: 64%
Gabon: 63%

60%

Say everyone can buy or own land in their country

³ Climate change will strain Africa's already congested cities - ISS Africa

Breaking the STEM glass ceiling for women around the world

Stephanie Travers is the first Black women in the world to have stood on a Formula 1 Podium, and next to Lewis Hamilton. Zimbabwe-born, Travers is the fluid engineer on Team Mercedes-Petronas Formula 1.



If ever there were a sport thought to be male dominated, it would be motor racing. But as a Mercedes-Petronas trackside fluid engineer, I broke through the “glass ceiling” and established myself as a critical player on a world-class, Formula 1 team. I have found that achieving equality requires the willingness to shake-up the stereotypes of the past.

Nearly half (47%) of young Africans have experienced discrimination, according to the 2022 African Youth Survey. An overwhelming 79% of respondents are concerned about the lack of protection for women’s rights, and just over half (52%) say equality exists in their own country. In my chosen field, I have found that it is competence that matters most and from the pit crews to the drivers, there is zero tolerance for error. How you perform is more important than who you are.

But finding employment is not easy. In a parallel finding, only three-in-ten youth are satisfied with their government’s work on creating jobs and fighting unemployment. There are many reasons for this. While some may think it is someone else’s responsibility to expand the universe of opportunities, others believe we must make the best of what we have today. I count myself in this category.

As a student, I focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), a set of disciplines once thought to be the domain of boys and men. Fortunately, neither my parents nor my teachers bought into such thinking, and both encouraged me to reach for the very best I could achieve. Efforts to engage more young women in STEM education will be key to leveling the playing field for jobs like my own.

It is my hope that other young women across Africa see examples such as mine as proof that limits and barriers exist chiefly in the minds of others. The last two years have been hard on everyone, but we are an optimistic generation and we will come out stronger. Getting there – just like on the track – is a team effort.

Getting ready for a big race is a team effort, and it is my job to make sure the vehicle is in top condition. That means rigorously testing its fluids before and after its performance on the track. It is not so different than the testing doctors do on our blood to measure our health. Precision is everything when it comes to diagnostics and that is why I apply a laser-like focus to my work



FOREIGN RELATIONS





There is widespread agreement of the positive influence of foreign powers, but youth are concerned about ownership of natural resources.

Of all the foreign actors seen to have an influence on the continent, youth see China as having by far the biggest impact, with more than half (54%) of African youth saying that China has a lot of influence on their country and almost a further quarter (23%) saying it has some influence. The United States is seen as the second most influential foreign power, with four-in-ten (41%) youth saying it has a lot of influence on their country and another quarter (26%) saying it has some influence. Since the 2020 African Youth Survey, the influence of the United States on countries across the continent is declining, with the proportion of African

youth who say the United States has a lot or some influence on their country dropping from 78% in the 2020 African Youth Survey to 69% in the 2022 African Youth Survey.

- **Most likely** to say China has a lot of influence on their country: Malawi (77%), Zambia (74%), and Angola (71%)
- **Most likely** to say the United States has a lot of influence on their country: Malawi (67%), Ethiopia (61%), and Ghana (59%)

In its former colonies, Portugal is seen to be extremely influential, with 85% of Angolan youth and 73% of Mozambican youth saying that Portugal continues to have a lot or some influence on their country. The majority of African youth also say that the African Union (64%), the European Union (62%), the World Trade Organisation (60%), and the United Kingdom (55%) have a lot or some influence on their countries.

FOREIGN INFLUENCES

Of all the foreign actors seen to have an influence on the continent, youth see China as having by far the biggest impact



How much influence, if any at all, do you think the following countries/organisations have on your country and is the influence positive or negative?



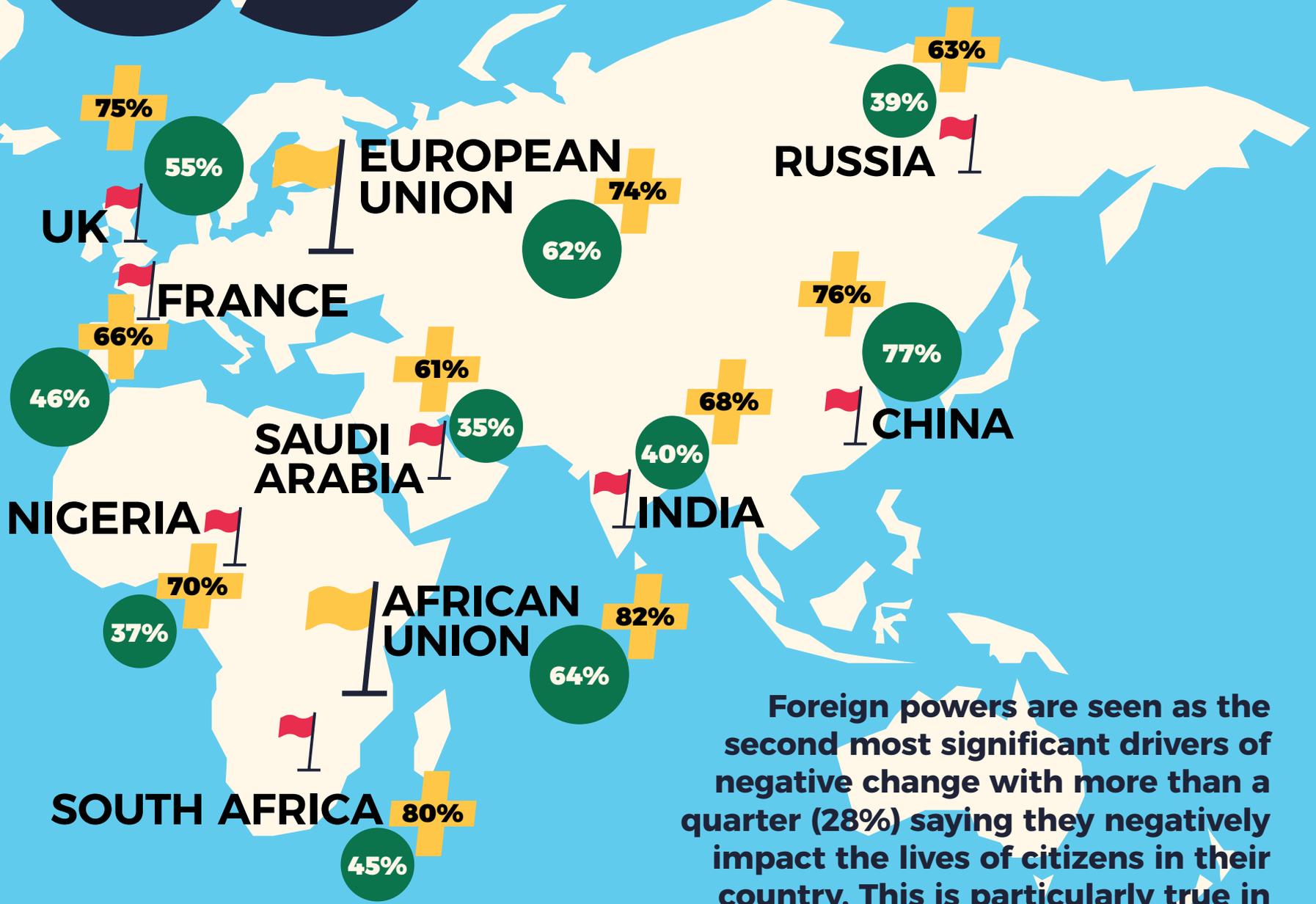
INFLUENCE



POSITIVE

69%

overall are concerned about the influence from foreign powers



Foreign powers are seen as the second most significant drivers of negative change with more than a quarter (28%) saying they negatively impact the lives of citizens in their country. This is particularly true in Uganda (46%), Ethiopia (40%), and South Africa (40%).

The rise of China in Africa

African youth see the African Union as the international actor with the most positive influence on their countries with eight-in-ten (82%) saying that it has a positive influence on their country, a third of which (36%) say the influence is very positive. China is also seen positively, with one-third (35%) saying it has a very positive influence on their country and another four-in-ten (41%) saying China's influence is somewhat positive. In Rwanda (97%), Malawi (95%) and Nigeria (90%), almost all youth see China as a positive influence. The rise of China in Africa has been years in the making, as foreign direct investment from China flows into the continent. According to the China Africa Research Initiative, Chinese FDI in Africa has increased from USD 75 million in 2003 to USD 2.7 billion in 2019.¹

¹ <http://www.sais-cari.org/chinese-investment-in-africa>

Those who say China's influence is positive point to the affordability of Chinese products, and contributions to infrastructure and employment



Why is Chinese influence positive?



Those who see China's influence as positive, point to the affordability of Chinese products, and Chinese investments and assistance for infrastructure development. These youth also believe that China is creating employment opportunities for people in their country, a top concern for youth overall. However, youth who say the influence of China is negative are most likely to look at Chinese companies as taking natural resources without any benefit to local communities or fair compensation, reflecting a larger concern that foreign powers take advantage of natural resources. Youth are also concerned that Chinese workers are taking job opportunities away from locals and that Chinese investments are a form of economic colonialism.

Why is Chinese influence negative?



* Missing values = Other and Don't Know

Relationship between your country and USA under Trump

Turning the page on US-Africa relations

The United States is seen to have a considerably weaker positive impact on African countries than China, with just one-in-four (26%) saying the US' influence is very positive and another 46% describing it as somewhat positive. This is a decline from the 2020 African Youth Survey, with the proportion of African youth who see the United States as positive dropping 12%. American influence is viewed most positively in Rwanda (95%), Kenya (92%), and Ghana (87%).

US-Africa relations suffered under the Trump administration, with just four-in-ten (39%) African youth saying that during the Trump administration their country had a positive relationship with the United States. This varied greatly by country:

- **Most likely** to say their country had a positive relationship with the US under the Trump administration: Ghana (73%), Kenya (60%), and Nigeria (50%)
- **Most likely** to say their country had a negative relationship with the US under the Trump administration: Ethiopia (85%), Mozambique (63%), and Sudan (61%)

10%

Don't know

TOP 3 BY COUNTRY

Ethiopia: 85%
Mozambique: 63%
Sudan: 61%

51%

Negative relationship



TOP 3 BY COUNTRY

Ghana: 73%
Kenya: 60%
Nigeria: 50%

39%

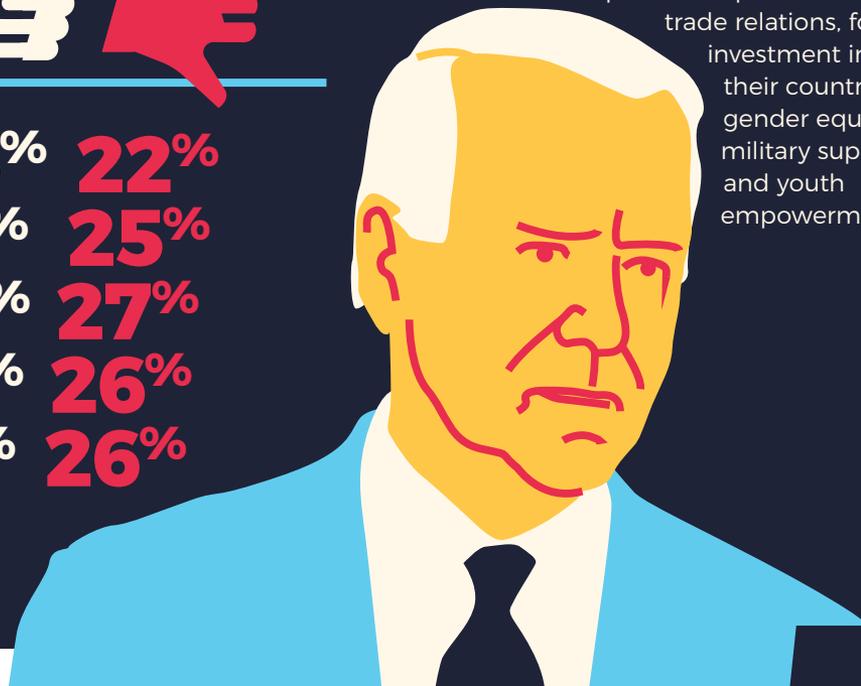
Positive relationship

Expected Biden administration impact



US-Africa trade relations	63%	22%
Foreign investment	61%	25%
Promoting gender equality	58%	27%
Military support	57%	26%
Youth empowerment	57%	26%

It is likely that the Biden administration will be able to recover US-Africa relations in key areas, with the majority of African youth predicting that President Biden will have a positive impact on US-Africa trade relations, foreign investment in their country, gender equality, military support, and youth empowerment.



African relations with the European Union and the United Kingdom

In comparison to the inaugural African Youth Survey, the European Union remains the fourth most influential foreign power on the African continent, behind China, the United States, and the African Union.



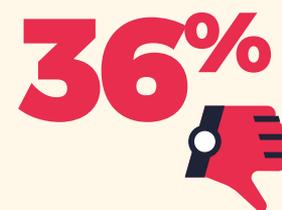
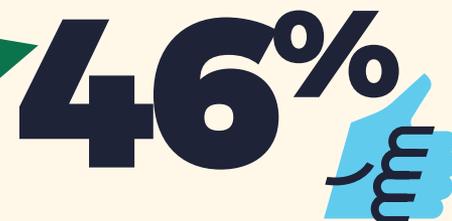
The impact that former colonial powers have on their country's...

...politics and leadership



...education and training	59%	25%
...trade and trade relations	57%	27%
...foreign direct investment	54%	29%
...military support	49%	29%
...culture and identity	47%	32%

...access to and use of natural resources



My country's resources can benefit my country most if owned by...

72% Local companies

24% Foreign companies

Don't know **11%**

Strong negative impact **5%**

Somewhat negative impact **10%**

No impact **18%**

Somewhat positive impact **37%**

IMPACT OF AfCFTA*

Strong positive impact **18%**

Foreign powers and resources

Despite the stated positive influence of all major foreign actors, African youth still express worry over the influence of foreign powers. More than two-thirds (69%) of young people say that they are concerned by the influence of foreign powers on the continent and their country. Concern is highest in Ghana (84%), Malawi (84%), and Ethiopia (81%). This is reflected in how youth view foreign powers as the second biggest drivers of negative change in countries (28%), after national leaders (32%).

Grievances and concerns over foreign influence concentrate on issues about natural resources and their extraction and use. Tensions are heightened when it comes to countries' relationships with their former colonial powers. While the majority think that former colonial powers have a positive influence on education, trade relations, and foreign direct investment in their country, a sizable minority are cynical of the influence former colonial powers continue to have. In the question of access to and use of the natural resources in their country, more than a third of youth say the influence of former colonial powers is negative. Youth are similarly unhappy with the influence of former colonial powers on politics and leadership in their country.

Six-in-ten believe that foreign companies have been allowed to take advantage of their country's resources without sufficiently benefitting or contributing to the local populations. Instead, youth in Africa would like to take back control of their country's natural resources. When asked how natural resources could benefit their country most, nearly three-quarters said that it would be most beneficial if resources are owned, extracted and processed by local companies, compared to just one-in-four who favour foreign companies.

AfCFTA awareness is low, but there is an appetite for African economic cooperation

When asked about their level of familiarity with the recently inaugurated African Continental Free Trade Area, just over one-in-five (22%) say they are very or somewhat familiar with the agreement. Nearly half of African youth had never even heard of AfCFTA before, while another 17% only knew of it by name. In Sudan (62%) and South Africa (61%), six-in-ten youth have never heard of AfCFTA. Awareness of the trade agreement is highest in Gabon, where half (51%) say they are very or somewhat familiar with it.

Among the continent's youth who have heard of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the majority (55%) believe that it will have a positive effect on the economic situation in their country. One-in-five do not expect it to have any impact on their country's economic situation while 15% expect a negative impact.

- **Most likely** to say AfCFTA will have a positive effect on the economic situation in their country: Rwanda (84%), Ghana (72%), and Malawi (70%)
- **Most likely** to say AfCFTA will have a negative effect: Sudan (24%), DRC (23%), Congo Brazzaville (21%), and Zambia (21%)

46% had never heard of AfCFTA before today

*Among those familiar with AfCFTA

Foreign leaders are seen to have the biggest influence and while many say their voice is heard by national leaders, religious leaders are more trusted.

Drivers of positive change in country



Africa's youth have confidence in their national leaders and feel heard by their representatives. When asked which actor was the primary drivers of positive change improving the lives of ordinary citizens in their country, African youth rank national leaders as the top drivers, followed by international organisations and NGOs. Nonetheless, national leaders are also seen by youth to be the biggest drivers of negative change in their country (32%), with foreign powers (28%) and local community leaders (21%) rounding out the top three negative drivers. This speaks to the significant amount of influence national leaders are seen to have in shaping national outcomes, whether positive or negative.

Two-thirds of Africa's youth believe that their voice matters to their country's leadership. Youth in Kenya, Rwanda, and Sudan are most likely to feel valued by their leadership while youth in South Africa, Angola, and Congo Brazzaville are least likely to feel this way. While youth believe their voice matters, there is division around if their concerns are being adequately addressed with 49% saying they are not and 45% saying they are.

- **Most likely** to agree that their country has the right policies to address the issues most important to young people: Rwanda (84%), Malawi (73%), and Kenya (66%)
- **Most likely** to disagree: Gabon (78%), Angola (73%), and Congo Brazzaville (68%)

Does your country have the right policies to address issues important to young people?

TOP 5:
 Gabon: 78%
 Angola: 73%
 Congo Br.: 68%
 Sudan: 59%
 Mozambique: 58%

49%

45%

TOP 5:
 Rwanda: 84%
 Malawi: 73%
 Kenya: 66%
 Ghana: 61%
 DRC: 54%

66% agree their voice matters to their country's leaders

TOP 3:
 Kenya: 85% / Rwanda: 83% / Sudan: 77%

BOTTOM 3:
 South Africa: 54% / Angola: 52% / Congo Br.: 48%

37%

Joe Biden



Looking to the next 5 years

Leadership

While national leaders are seen as being influential in driving both positive and negative change in their country, . President Biden of the United States is predicted to have the most significant impact on the continent in the next five years followed by Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, making the top three all

American political and business leaders. Interestingly, the expected influence of American figures could be due to the rise in optimism surrounding relations with the USA. More than half of the continent's youth view relations with the USA under former US President Donald Trump as negative, while around three-in-five expect the impact of the Biden administration to be positive. Youth are particularly optimistic towards political and business factors such as trade relations (63%) and foreign direct investment (61%). Alongside this, business leaders such as Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg are expected to have a significant impact on the continent going forwards—likely a reflection of their impact through both corporate functions as well as their foundations.

China's President Xi Jinping is also predicted to have an impact as is former US President Donald Trump. Among African leaders, Uhuru Kenyatta, Cyril Ramaphosa and Muhammadu Buhari are expected to have the biggest impact on the continent. When asked who they look up to outside of their family and community, African youth across the continent continue to overwhelmingly look to Nelson Mandela as a role model, with current and former political leaders such as Paul Kagame, Goodluck Jonathan, and Felix Tshisekedi featuring as prominent African role models within their respective countries.

13%

Xi Jinping



30%

Bill Gates



18%

Mark Zuckerberg



Donald Trump	12%
Uhuru Kenyatta	11%
Vladimir Putin	9%
Cyril Ramaphosa	9%
Muhammadu Buhari	8%
Emmanuel Macron	8%

National leaders struggle on trustworthiness

Despite their influence, national leaders are not trusted by Africa's youth. In fact, national leaders and elected officials representing localities in national politics are seen as the least trustworthy of all leaders, with just 43% of youth having faith in them to do the right thing. More than half of the continent's youth say they do not trust elected officials representing them or national leaders to do the right thing. Religious leaders are seen as by far the most trustworthy, with two-thirds of youth trusting them to carry out the correct actions.

The lack of trust that young people have in national leaders is in part caused by a perception that national leaders are deliberately misleading the public using fake news and misinformation. Three-quarters of African youth agree that politicians deliberately share fake news in order to push their own agenda. This is higher than the proportion who say the same about terrorist organisations and much higher than religious organisations.

National leaders and elected officials are seen as the least trustworthy

TRUST TO DO THE RIGHT THING



75%

say that politicians are deliberately sharing fake news

FAKE NEWS

* Missing values = Other and Don't Know

Fake news impact on society

DO YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT FAKE NEWS?

Politicians deliberately share fake news to push their agenda **75%**

Fake news is a serious problem in my community today **75%**

Fake news has led to greater divide within my society **75%**

Terrorist and criminal organisations deliberately share fake news to push their agenda **70%**

Fake news impacts my ability to stay informed about issues that matter to me **69%**

Religious organisations deliberately share fake news to push their agenda **52%**

Youth come across fake news frequently, with more than a third saying they come across it several times a week



At least once a day **15%**
 2-3 times a week **19%**
 Once a week or less **21%**
 Once a month or less **24%**
 Never **11%**
 Don't know **10%**

Youth across the continent are concerned by the impact of fake news on their societies and lives. Three-quarters acknowledge that fake news is a serious problem in their community today and say that fake news has led to greater division within their society. In Rwanda (94%), Ethiopia (90%), and Malawi (87%), youth are particularly concerned that fake news has led to greater division within their society. A recent study of eleven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa found that laws and regulations on fake news and misinformation, enacted between 2016 and 2020, failed to reduce the harm created by fake news and failed to address the causes of the misinformation in an effective manner.¹

Fake news is rampant and youth come across it frequently, with more than a third saying they are confronted with a fake news story several times a week or more. Just one-in-ten say they never come across fake news. While six-in-ten are confident in their ability to identify a fake news story, a third of African youth say they are not confident they could identify a fake news story. In Nigeria, more than half of youth are not sure they could spot a fake news story. Even among those who are confident, fake news remains a problem and seven-in-ten African youth say that fake news impacts their ability to stay informed about the issues that matter to them.



¹ University of Westminster Press (uwestminsterpress.co.uk)

Young Africans are tempered by new realities, but see long-term engagement with U.S. in their interests

Dr. Vaughn is vice president for public discourse and engagement at the Africa Center for Strategic Progress. Based in Washington DC, The Africa Center for Strategy & Policy is the first policy think tank to adopt a genuinely African-solution centered and data-driven approach to African foreign and regional policy research analysis.

Africa's rising generation continue to show striking parallels with our American counterparts, but the impact of COVID-19 on the continent has taken a toll on optimism overall and caused many to look inwards, new survey research shows.

One of the casualties of these last couple years has been the sense of American influence being dominant, according to the 2022 African Youth Survey, which sampled thousands of respondents between the ages of 18-24 years across 15 African countries.

While the United States and China rivaled one another in the benchmark poll commissioned by the Johannesburg-based Ichikowitz Family Foundation in 2019, the latest results show China now leading the U.S. in terms of perceived influence in Africa by 10 points (77% see China as having influence on their country compared to 67% who say the same for the United States).

Three underlying trends in this first-of-its kind research points to strong alignment between Africa and the United States well into the future. Two of these are centered on key concerns, while the third is a characteristic.

When asked about the most impactful event of the last five years, 60 percent of African youth said it was either infectious disease or conflict and political instability. Both have larger-than-life footprints within Africa, and both are key areas of long-term engagement between African states and the U.S.

Importantly, support for democracy remains strong across Africa, with nearly three-quarters of respondents saying some form of government is better than the alternative. But the most recent survey, conducted last year, shows an interesting new trend: 53 percent now say Africa must pursue a system that is best suited to our realities instead of simply importing Western models.

So long as the desire for democratic governance remains strong, the United States is likely to be seen as a preferable partner as opposed to autocratic China.

Also, there is a key, common characteristic which African youth share with U.S. counterparts in the main: the entrepreneurial spirit. A remarkable 78 percent of those surveyed said they plan to start a business in the next five years. While the comparison in methodologies may not be exact, this is eighteen points higher than the percentage of US youth similarly inclined, based on a 2022 Junior Achievement survey conducted in the U.S.

Expectations are high for greater engagement with the Biden administration, the poll also showed. While only 39 percent saw the administration of former President Donald Trump as having a positive relationship with their country, between 57% and 63% of young Africans see the current Biden administration as poised to have a positive effect on issues ranging from trade and development to defense cooperation and social advancement.

Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on public priorities, and the 2022 African Youth Survey registered a nine point drop in what the inaugural benchmark identified as “Afro-optimism,” which fell from 40 percent of respondents to 31 percent, those who indeed forecast Africa on the whole as going in the right direction. But arguably it had less of a depressive impact in Africa as elsewhere – after all, we are more accustomed to pandemics than most.

Now the question is how the fastest-growing continent on earth will align itself in future years, as the respondents of research like this grow in terms of responsibility and influence in their own countries.



If the United States continues to focus on areas of engagement with Africa that matter most to us – economic development, cooperation in health care and defense, and combatting global climate change to whose effects Africa is most vulnerable – it is likely to regain its “most favored nation” status.

In the meantime, young Africans and young Americans may face different challenges, but still seem very much to see eye-to-eye on the kind of future to which they aspire.



EQUALITY



Equality under the law is considered the most important democratic value by Africa's youth, but many say that their countries still have a way to go to ensure everyone is treated equally. When asked, 52% agree that in their country everyone is equal before the law while 46% disagree with this statement. Youth across the continent have very different views about how much equality they enjoy in their country, with eight-in-ten Rwandan youth saying everyone is equal under the law compared to just one-in-three (32%) Ugandan youth saying the same.

- **Most likely** to agree that everyone is equal before the law in their country: Rwanda (80%), Malawi (69%), and Ghana (67%)
- **Most likely** to disagree: Uganda (67%), Congo Brazzaville (62%), and Angola (58%)

While youth value equality under the law, many have experienced and are concerned about discrimination, particularly towards women and ethnic minorities.

The progress needed in terms of equality under the law is reflected in the lived experiences of African youth. Nearly half (47%) of the continent's youth report that they have experienced discrimination on the basis of their identity or the characteristics that define them. Youth in Gabon (75%), Nigeria (71%), and Angola (64%) are most likely to say they have experienced discrimination. The most frequent sources of discrimination are race or ethnicity (13%) and language (13%), while one-in-ten youth also say they have been discriminated against for their age (11%), social standing (11%), gender or sex (10%), or religious beliefs (10%). Young women are more likely to have experienced gender-based discrimination (11%) than men (8%).

In your country, is everyone equal before the law?

TOP DISAGREE:
Uganda: 67%
Congo Br.: 62%
Angola: 58%

46%

TOP AGREE:
Rwanda: 80%
Malawi: 69%
Ghana: 67%

52%

Only half feel that their country treats everyone equally under the law

Concern around gender-based and ethnic discrimination is high, while LGBTQ+ rights are less of a priority

Gender-based discrimination is a top concern for African youth, with both men and women expressing high concern over the issue. Eight-in-ten young people say that they are concerned about the lack of protection for women's rights and a similar proportion express concern about gender-based violence. For both issues, young women express only slightly higher levels of concern than young men (83% for women vs 76% for men and 83% for women vs 79% for men, respectively), indicating that both genders agree that addressing women's rights and gender-based discrimination should be priorities.

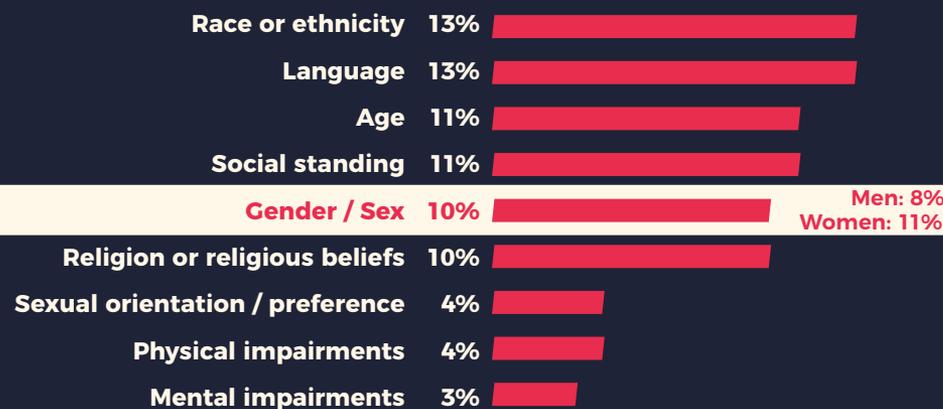
47% have experienced discrimination

MOST LIKELY TO HAVE EXPERIENCED

DISCRIMINATION: Gabon: 75%
Nigeria: 71%
Angola: 64%



Discrimination Experienced



African youth also express concern over the rights of ethnic minorities

83% say their country must do more to protect ethnic minorities

28% Refugees have a negative impact on my country and should not be allowed to enter my country

8% Don't know

64%

My country has a moral obligation to help refugees from neighbouring countries regardless of their impact





Around four-in-five express concern about gender-based violence and lack of protection for women's rights.

79%

BY GENDER:
Men: 76%
Women: 83%

are concerned

about lack of protection for women's rights

81%

BY GENDER:
Men: 79%
Women: 83%

are concerned about gender-based violence

Youth across the continent have significantly different opinions on LGBTQ+ rights, with support ranging from more than eight-in-ten in South Africa to just under one-in-ten in Malawi.

38%

TOP 3:
South Africa: 83%
Mozambique: 67%
Gabon: 62%

BOTTOM 3:
Uganda: 21%
Sudan: 16%
Malawi: 9%

say their country must do more to protect LGBTQ+ people

Youth also express high levels of concern for ethnicity-based discrimination, with more than eight-in-ten saying their country must do more to protect the rights of ethnic minorities. Two-thirds of African youth also say that their country has a moral obligation to help refugees from neighbouring countries, regardless of the impact this will have. However, more than a quarter say that refugees have a negative impact on their country and should not be allowed to enter. Rwandan youth are most likely to say that they have a moral obligation to help refugees (91%), followed by Ethiopian youth (75%) and Kenyan youth (74%). On the other hand, youth in South Africa (44%), DRC (40%), and Nigeria (39%) are most strongly opposed to helping refugees from neighbouring countries. Currently, Sub-Saharan Africa houses more than a quarter (26%) of the world's refugee population, equating to around 18 million people that are of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This number has soared in recent years and is expected to continue increasing due to ongoing conflicts and political instability across the continent.¹

In contrast to the widespread concern for women's rights and ethnic minority rights, African youth express less support for LGBTQ+ rights. Just four-in-ten youth say that their country must do more to protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination. Support ranges from more than eight-in-ten of South African youth saying more should be done to protect LGBTQ+ communities to just under one-in-ten Malawian youth saying the same. However, the proportion of youth who say more needs to be done to protect LGBTQ+ rights has increased by 7% since the 2020 African Youth Survey, indicating a trend of increasing support.

¹ UNHCR - Africa

What does African unity look like and why should we embrace migration?

Masa Mara (Eli Gold), is a Rwandan-born Fashion Designer and Visual Artist making waves across the continent and 'beyond borders' with his creative flair



The notion of 'African unity' is somewhat paradoxical. What has been called "the Ubuntu spirit" is alive and well in Africa today, despite the challenges of colonialism, war, and disease – and most recently the depressive effect of the COVID-19 virus. We see our well being in a collective sense, with the success of one depending on others, and this makes our societies inter-linked perhaps like no other place on earth.

The 2022 African Youth Survey spotlights, in my view, a period of rebirth and a rejuvenated sense of African self; a receptiveness to each of us trying to rediscover who we are and

importantly, who Africans can be as a people. The findings show a diversity of views on how we are doing, but a shared sense that our best days lay ahead of us.

My own story illustrates the inter-connectedness of the African today. I personally had to flee my home in Rwanda at the age of three during the genocide in my homeland. I was separated from everything I knew and forced by circumstances beyond my control to grow up and start over among many different peoples. This journey has taken me to Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and, finally, to South Africa. While struggling to find my place as an outsider in each of those countries, I nonetheless had the sense that I belonged to a wider universe – which you might call pan-Africanism.

In the past, each tribe in Africa would dress, paint their faces, and style their hair in a certain way to indicate their tribal distinction to others. In doing so, the tribes knew however that they needed each other to coexist. But our collective experience over the last century has taught us that, Africa's next generation will rediscover unity while learning to embrace and value differences among us. More than four-in-five (82%) of youth say that the African Union has a positive influence on their country.

In my fashion design work, I strive to showcase the commonality that makes us all Africans. When I'm designing my fabrics, I use different elements from different African countries; I look into the different cultures, the tribal ways of styling and dressing. I interweave materials many would think would clash however are inspired by myriad African designs as a way of showing togetherness and harmony, combining different colors, symbols, and fabrics informed by all parts of Africa.

If these colors and symbols can come together and showcase 'harmony' on the catwalks of Cape Town, Paris, New York and Milan, then I'm doing my part in bridging the divides in African culture and telling a beautiful new African story on a global stage.

But first we strengthen and grow in Africa, by elevating the links between us. Remember, migration – which countries elsewhere see as a problem – has long been the African way. We all migrated from somewhere. We have to educate ourselves and understand that migration is a positive; it is key to our development as a united people. Over half of youth say they would consider moving abroad in the next three years. However, among those considering emigrating, two-thirds say that it would be a temporary move with the intention of returning home with the skills and experiences gained abroad.

I came from a nation that was once broken but now is reuniting to form a nation that is greater than in any time in its history. We need to realize that one of the reasons that we have been so afraid of each other is because we haven't seen the addition of knowledge and skills that comes from migrating across the continent. Together, we are unbeatable!

We see our well being in a collective sense, with the success of one depending on others, and this makes our societies inter-linked perhaps like no other place on earth.

SECURITY È STABILITÀ



Concern for terrorism and extremism is high, and impacts daily lives.

are confident in the government's ability to deal with terrorism

55%

TOP 3 BY COUNTRY:
Rwanda: 98%
Ghana: 91%
DRC: 66%

Around half of youth say that terrorism, insurgency, and conflict have had an impact on their daily lives in a range of ways, such as moving around freely without harm, securing a good job, and attending school or university. Just half (55%) of African youth are confident in their government's ability to deal with terrorism. However, this sentiment ranges from near universal confidence in Rwanda to only a quarter (25%) saying the same in Nigeria. Two-thirds (68%) are concerned about the threat of terrorism, with this concern rising to around nine-in-ten youth in Kenya (91%) and Mozambique (89%). The increase in concern among Kenyan youth may be caused by the continual terrorist attacks carried out by the Somalia-based Islamist insurgent group Al Shabab,¹ while increased concern in Mozambique may be driven by the rising threat of instability, insecurity and conflict posed by Islamic State (ISIS) militant fighters in the country.² In addition, terrorist/radical insurgent recruiter activity is highest in Mozambique, where a quarter (24%) of youth say they have been approached, know someone who has been approached, or know someone who supports a terrorist organization. Seven-in-ten African youth believe that terrorist organizations deliberately share fake news to advance their agenda, with two-in-five (40%) strongly agreeing with this statement. This sentiment is most strongly felt in Ethiopia (90%), Kenya (85%), and Rwanda (84%).

¹ <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/al-shabab>

² <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/southern-africa/mozambique/303-stemming-insurrection-mozambiques-cabo-delgado>

Which of the following events that took place in the last 5 years has had the biggest impact on Africa?

- 45% Deaths from infectious disease
- 15% Political instability
- 9% The technological/digital revolution
- 9% Democratic changes
- 7% Increased access to essential services and resources
- 6% International involvement in Africa
- 5% Environmental challenges

POLITICAL INSTABILITY
TOP 3 BY COUNTRY:
Ethiopia: 41%
Nigeria: 27%
Sudan: 22%

75%
are concerned about political instability

Maintaining peace and stability are key for future progress

African youth see political instability as the second most impactful event (15%) for the continent over the last five years, beaten only by deaths from infectious disease (45%). Two-in-five (41%) Ethiopian youth say that political instability has had the most significant impact on Africa in the past five years and over one-in-five youth in Nigeria (27%) and Sudan (22%) say the same. Correspondingly, concern for political instability impacting the continent is deep, with three-quarters (75%) of African youth expressing concern and over half (53%) saying they are very concerned. Ethiopian youth show the highest concern for political instability (90%), followed by Kenya (84%), Ghana (83%), Zambia (82%), and Nigeria (82%). Unsurprisingly, achieving peace and stability on the African continent is one of the top five priorities for future progress, particularly in conflict-stricken countries such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Sudan.

Youth are dissatisfied with government efforts to maintain political stability

However, when asked about their government's maintenance of stability and security, only two-in-five (41%) are satisfied with their government's actions to maintain political stability. While satisfaction is highest in Rwanda (95%), less than half of youth are satisfied in most countries.

The lowest satisfaction can be identified in Ethiopia (20%) and Nigeria (16%), where at most one-in-five are satisfied with how the national government maintains national security. This could be attributed to ongoing tensions within these countries, such as the fighting between the Tigray Defence Force and the Ethiopian National Defence Force in Ethiopia.

Despite the common dissatisfaction with government maintenance of stability and security, there is limited participation in protests across African youth and little support for military rule. Only one-in-five (21%) African youth participated in a political demonstration in the past year, rising to three-in-five (60%) youth in Sudan. Alongside this, three-in-five (61%) youth disapprove of the army coming in to rule their country. Disapproval is highest in Zambia (76%) and Malawi (75%) and lowest in Sudan (49%) and Gabon (48%).

12% of youth know someone who supports or has been approached by a terror group, or have been approached themselves

I know someone who has been approached by a terror group recruiter **6%**

I know someone who supports a terror group or radical insurgent **5%**

I have been approached by a terror group recruiter or radical insurgent **4%**

None of the above **71%**

Don't know/Prefer not to say **18%**

Half of youth say that terrorism, insurgency, and conflict has an impact on their day-to-day lives

56% Ability to move around freely and without fear of harm

53% Ability to secure a good job

52% Ability to attend school or university

52% Ability to see my family, friends, and relatives

52% Access to essential items such as food, house supplies, etc.





ACHIEVING PEACE AND STABILITY IN AFRICA IS A PRIORITY

Youth in countries where political instability is the greatest concern are also the most likely to seek achieving peace and stability as a priority.

TOP 3 BY COUNTRY:
 Ethiopia: 22%
 Nigeria: 21%
 Sudan: 21%

Three-in-five African youth say they are dissatisfied with the police and security services in their country

SATISFACTION WITH POLICE AND SECURITY SERVICES

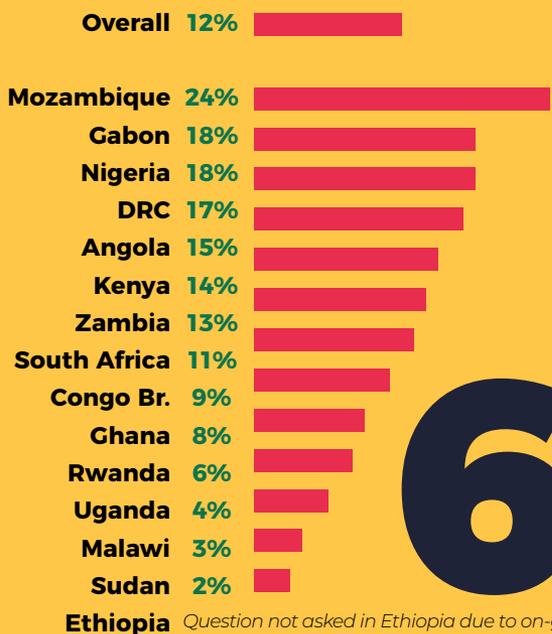


Very satisfied ■ Somewhat satisfied ■ Not very satisfied ■ Not satisfied at all ■ Don't know ■

Military support from foreign powers is seen to have a positive impact

Nearly half (49%) of African youth say that military support from former colonial powers plays a positive role in their country, and this rises to over two-thirds in Kenya (71%), Malawi (69%), and Ghana (66%). At the same time, a quarter of youth in Sudan (29%), Rwanda (27%), and Zambia (26%) say that former colonial powers have no influence over their country in terms of military support. Just under three-in-ten (29%) youth say military support from former colonial powers has a negative influence, with youth in DRC being the most negative (45%). In terms of US influence, nearly three-in-five (57%) expect the Biden administration to have a positive role in providing military support to their country. This sentiment is predominated held by youth in Kenya (86%), Rwanda (82%), and Ghana (75%). In contrast, Gabon is the only country where US influence in the form of military support is seen more negatively (48%) than positively (42%).

TERRORIST / RADICAL INSURGENT RECRUITER ACTIVITY



70% Terrorists and criminal organisations deliberately share fake news to advance their agendas

BY COUNTRY:
 Ethiopia: 90%
 Kenya: 85%
 Rwanda: 84%

68% are concerned about the threat of terrorism

BY COUNTRY:
 Kenya: 91%
 Mozambique: 89%
 DRC: 86%
 Ethiopia: 86%



ENTREPRENEURSHIP È PERSONAL AMBITIONS



Personal and entrepreneurial ambitions are not dampened by broader concerns as youth say they know what they want to do and plan on starting families and getting married later than their parents.

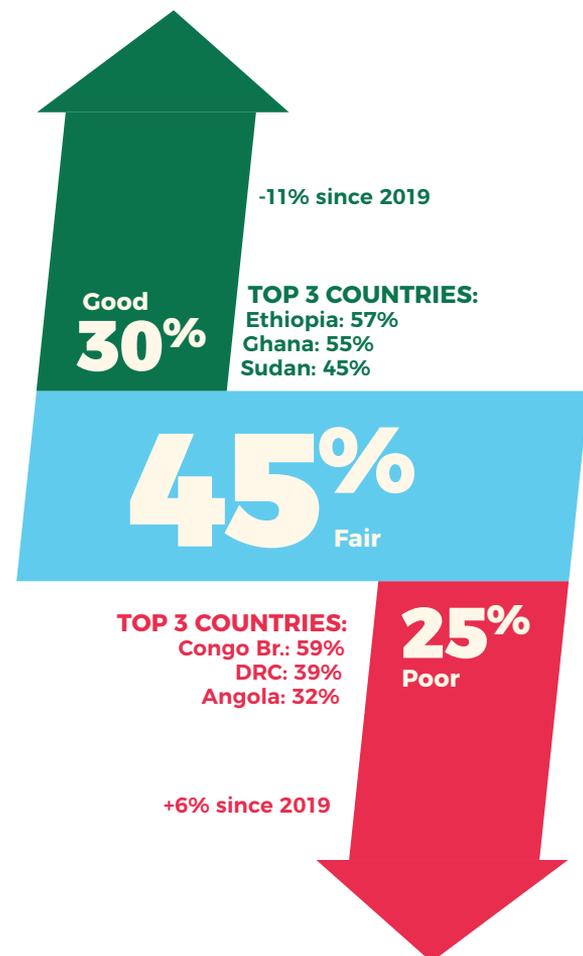
Even in the face of concerns about the future of their country and continent, African youth remain optimistic about their personal futures and have high ambitions for their home and professional lives. Currently, just under one-in-three youth across the continent describe their standard of living as good, and nearly half describe their standard of living as fair. However, one-in-four say that their living standard is poor. As compared to the 2020 African Youth Survey, the number of youth describing their living standard as good has decreased by 11%, while the number describing it as poor has increased by 6%, suggesting a declining standard of living. Standards of living fluctuate across the continent, with Ethiopian (57%), Ghanaian (55%), and Sudanese (45%) youth being the most likely to say they live a good life while youth in Congo Brazzaville (59%), Democratic Republic of Congo (39%), and Angola (32%) are most likely to be feel that they are living in poor conditions. While most African countries have seen some increases in their UNDP Human Development Index score, the overwhelming majority remain in the Low Development bracket.¹

Nonetheless, youth are optimistic that their quality of life will improve in the future. Three-quarters (77%) say that they expect their standard of living to get better over the next two years, while just 5% expect it to get worse. In the long term, youth also show optimism with two-thirds (67%) expecting that they will have a better life than their parents. However, 17% expect to have a worse life than their parents. The discrepancies between those expecting improvements in the immediate future and those expecting to have a better life than their parents indicates that some young people are optimistic in the short term but have some doubts about the long term.

African youth feel confident in the plans they have for the future, with three-quarters (77%) already assured that they know what they will do with their lives. While most youth plan on having a family, the vast majority say they plan on getting married at an older age than their parents (68%) and are also planning on starting their family and having children later than their parents did (69%). Seven-in-ten (72%) are also planning on having fewer children than their parents did.

¹ [hdr2020.pdf \(undp.org\)](#)

Less than one third describe their current living standard as good, while a quarter describe their standard of living as poor



The discrepancies between those expecting improvements in the immediate future and those expecting to have a better life than their parents indicates that some youth are optimistic in the short term but have some doubts about the long term.

EXPECTATIONS FOR FUTURE STANDARD OF LIVING

Do you expect your standard of living over the next two years to get...



Compared to your parents, do you expect your life to be...



Better ■ Same ■ Worse ■ Don't know ■

Three-quarters are assured that they know what they will do with their lives.

I feel like I already know what I will do with my life

77%

I plan on having fewer children than my parents did

72%

I plan on starting a family/having children later than my parents did

69%

I plan on getting married later than my parents did

68%

The Afro-entrepreneurial spirit

More than three-quarters of young African's have plans to start their own business within the next five years. The only exception is Gabon, where less than half (47%) have entrepreneurial dreams. The African continent boasts the world's highest rates of entrepreneurship, with more than one-in-five (22%) working-age Africans engaged in starting a new business, and African women are twice as likely to be entrepreneurs compared to women elsewhere².

Unsurprisingly, if given \$100, half of youth (50%) would invest in or start a business using the money, while saving the money (17%) and investing in their education (12%) are the other top options. But three-in-five youth say that the biggest obstacle they face when starting a business is a lack of access to capital. Beyond the access to financing, youth also cite corruption, uncertain economic environment, and too much government regulation as barriers to entrepreneurship in their country.

Among the three-quarters of African youth planning on starting a business, the vast majority say they will rely on technology to do so. Four-in-ten (43%) say that they will rely on technology to set up, promote, and run their business a great deal, with another third (35%) saying they will be somewhat reliant on technology. Less

than one-in-ten (7%) predict that they will not need technology at all in their entrepreneurial journey.

African youth are optimistic about the entrepreneurial environment in their countries, with two-thirds agreeing that their country is creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship (66%) and facilitating access to the digital economy (67%). This is particularly true in Rwanda, Ghana, and Kenya—countries that are seen as being at the forefront of Africa's digital transformation. However, significant proportions of youth disagree that their countries are creating cultures of innovation and entrepreneurship, and that their countries are facilitating access to the digital economy (29% and 27% respectively), indicating that there is still room for improvement. Youth in Angola and Nigeria are least satisfied with the government's work in these areas.

² https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AEO_2017_Report_Full_English.pdf



African youth have a strong entrepreneurial spirit, with more than three-quarters saying they plan to start their own business within five years

TOP 3:
Malawi: 92%
Uganda: 89%
Rwanda: 89%

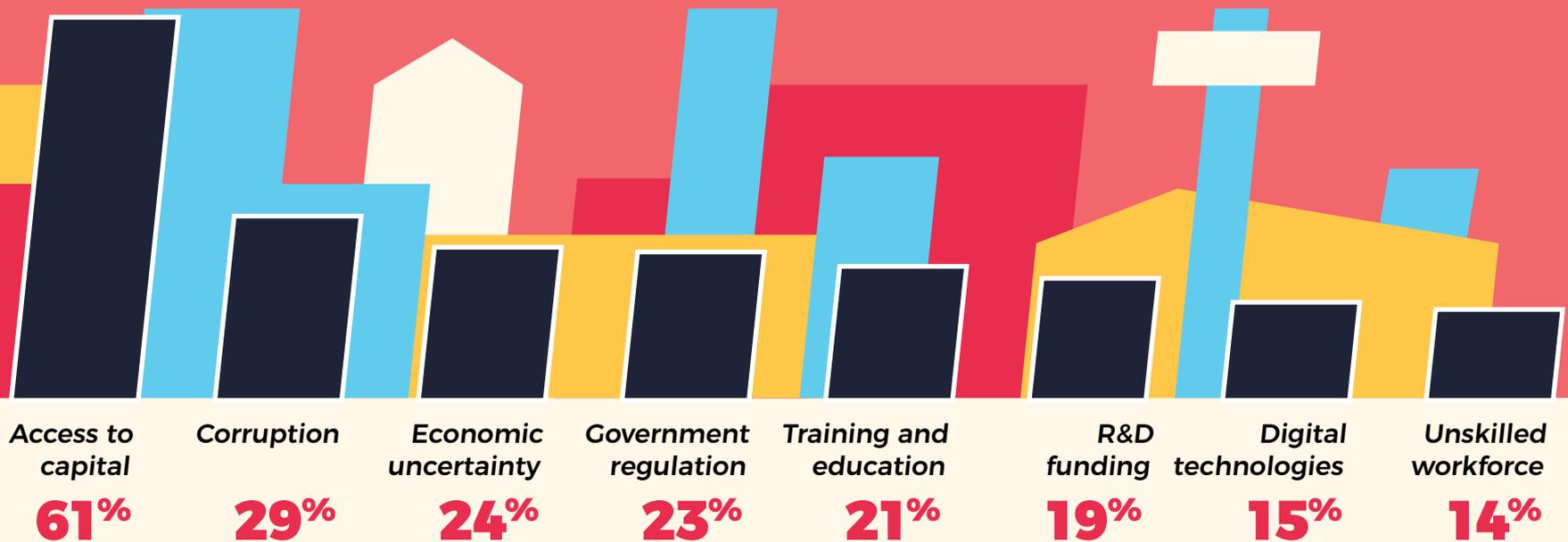
78%

+2% since 2019

Plan to start a business in the next five years

BOTTOM 3:
Cabo Verde: 47%
South Africa: 63%
Sudan: 68%

Barriers to starting a business



12% Invest in my education

INVEST

17% Save up

50% Invest in/start a business

DONATE

If you were given **\$100 USD**, what would you do with it?

GIVE

BACK

3% Donate to charity



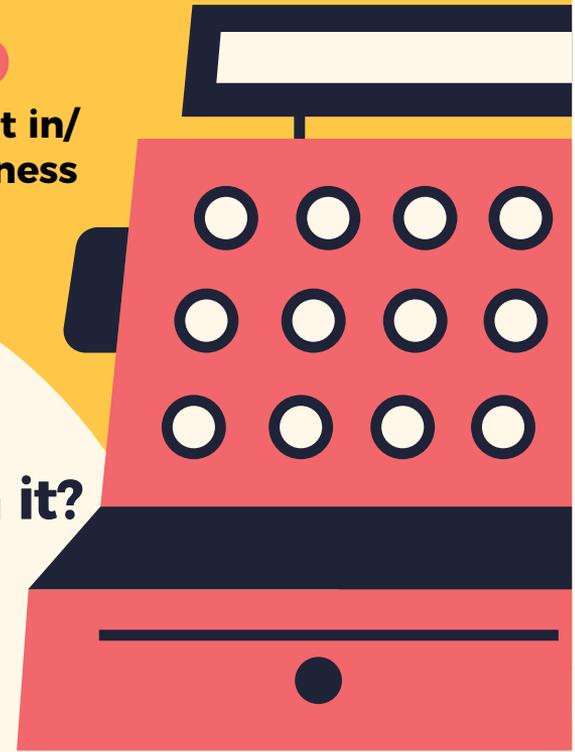
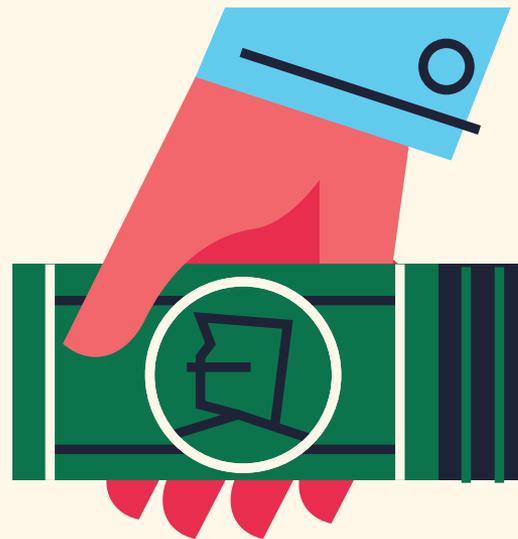
7% Purchase common household goods

SPEND

3% Spend it on someone else

1% Buy lottery tickets/gamble

5% Spend it recreationally

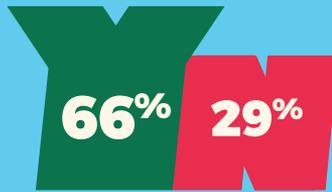


Two-thirds believe their country is creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, and creating access to the digital economy



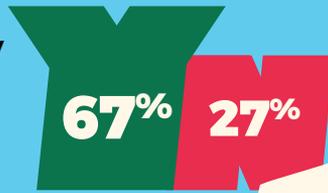
My country is creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship

TOP COUNTRIES
Rwanda: 97%
Ghana: 78%
Kenya: 75%
Malawi: 75%



My country is creating access to the digital economy

TOP COUNTRIES
Rwanda: 94%
Ghana: 86%
Kenya: 82%



Youth are considering emigrating within Africa and beyond

Emigration is top of mind for many African youth, and more than half say they are likely to at least consider moving to another country in the next three years. In Nigeria and Sudan this rises to nearly three-quarters, while in Angola and Malawi two-thirds of youth are considering emigrating out of their home country in the near future.

Among those who are considering emigrating, youth cite economic reasons (44%), such as pursuing a job opportunity, and educational opportunities (41%), such as going to university, as the two main reasons they would emigrate. A quarter (25%) are also eager to experience something new and different by going abroad. When asked if they would be emigrating for some time or permanently, more than two-thirds



are likely to consider emigrating in the next three years

MOST LIKELY TO EMIGRATE:
Nigeria: 73%
Sudan: 72%
Angola: 65%
Malawi: 65%

Of those who might consider emigrating, more than two thirds would do so temporarily, while just one in four plan on emigrating permanently without plans to return.

69% Temporarily for some time

Permanently without plans to return

27%

Main reasons for emigrating

- Economic reasons **44%**
- Education opportunities **41%**
- Want to experience something new and different **25%**
- Corruption in my country **18%**
- Political reasons **12%**
- Security reasons **9%**
- Reuniting with family members living abroad **9%**
- Lack of personal freedoms in my country **9%**
- Religious reasons **7%**



(69%) said that they would only be emigrating temporarily for some time, and plan to return to their home country with the skills and experiences gained abroad. Still, one-in-four (27%) youth who are considering emigrating plan to do so permanently, without plans to go back to their home country.

Within the African continent, South Africa stands out as by far the most appealing destination for youth across the continent looking to emigrate. Kenya, Ghana, and Nigeria are also popular emigration destinations. Outside of Africa, Europe is the most appealing region for African youth, followed by North America.

Europe is the most appealing destination when migrating outside of Africa.

South Africa is the most appealing destination when migrating within Africa.



When it comes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it is incredibly important that we give African youth a strong voice by raising awareness of their views, hopes, and aspirations. As the largest generation the world has ever seen, young people today – both across Africa and around the world – have the opportunity to be a major driving force to create meaningful change and to help achieve a more equal and sustainable future for all.

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Photo: Global Climate Action Summit, Nikki Ritcher Photography



ICHIKOWITZ FAMILY FOUNDATION

From a challenging past of adversity and hardship, it's the people of Africa that make this continent special; they tell a story of triumph of the human spirit and the power of human beings to forge new beginnings from the ashes of injustice and build a future based on equality and democracy. When you are on this continent you will be awed by our infrastructure, bedazzled by our beauty and humbled by our people and you will know what it means to say: "anything is possible".

At the heart of our common humanity, is our instinct to forge an environment in which we can thrive and flourish.

Democracy provides the environment for this. But, democracy is not simply elections – our power to vote for the people who make decisions is important; but that is not where our responsibility ends. We must work tirelessly, every day to craft our society in a way that is just, equitable and dignified.

And we commit to this. We pledge to building citizens for action through inspiration, insight and sustainability.

This is our promise.

**The Ichikowitz Family
Foundation**

Citizen Action through inspiration, insight and sustainability

The Ichikowitz Family Foundation (IFF) has committed itself to the kind of active citizenship that promotes the preservation of our heritage, the conservation of our environment, and the education of our people.

We use various channels, such as film, music, research, publications and art to foster dialogue between people, to be a torchbearer for innovation, and to conserve Africa's biodiversity and heritage for future generations.

**We aim to help build a continent
where people are encouraged to dream
big, challenge the inconceivable, and
achieve the impossible**



Key Programmes

#IamConstitution

#IamConstitution encouraged South Africans to read, embrace and live the Constitution, to celebrate the achievements of South Africa and constructively confront challenges and offer solutions. The result – a campaign that has touched the lives of millions of South Africans.

The African Oral History Archive

Our African Oral History Archive charts the untold stories of Africa's vivid history, magnificent heritage and collective memory. Over 160 interviews in the African Oral History Archive have been recorded to date. To celebrate 20 years of South Africa's Democracy, the Foundation produced a series of films, books and artworks to celebrate our most acclaimed and unknown history makers. The award-winning documentary series, *The Rainbow Makers*, is in distribution across broadcast, educational and multi-media platforms. Currently, lesson plans are being developed for distribution to high schools.

Conservation

The Ichikowitz Family Foundation has a strong track record of conservation leadership within Africa having financed and initiated innovative anti-poaching and environmental programmes for ten years.

The Foundation's anti-poaching initiatives include the donation of surveillance aircraft and other critical equipment to national parks, training programmes to strengthen the capabilities of park rangers and counter-poaching units, the implementation of award-winning global and national campaigns to raise awareness of the plight of endangered species, and the creation of one of the largest Anti-Poaching and K9 Training Academy's in Africa.

Inspire

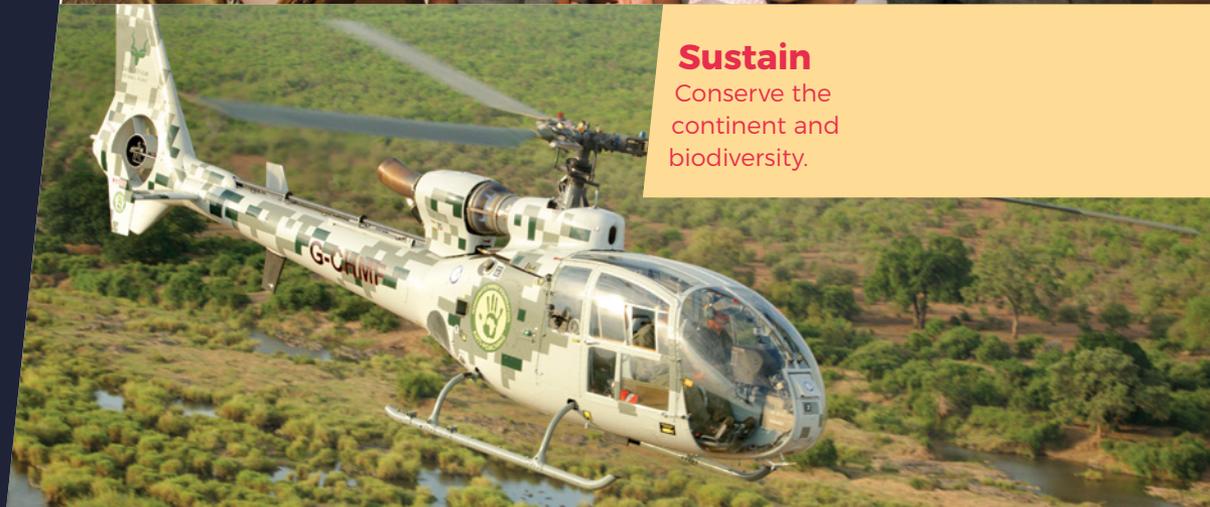
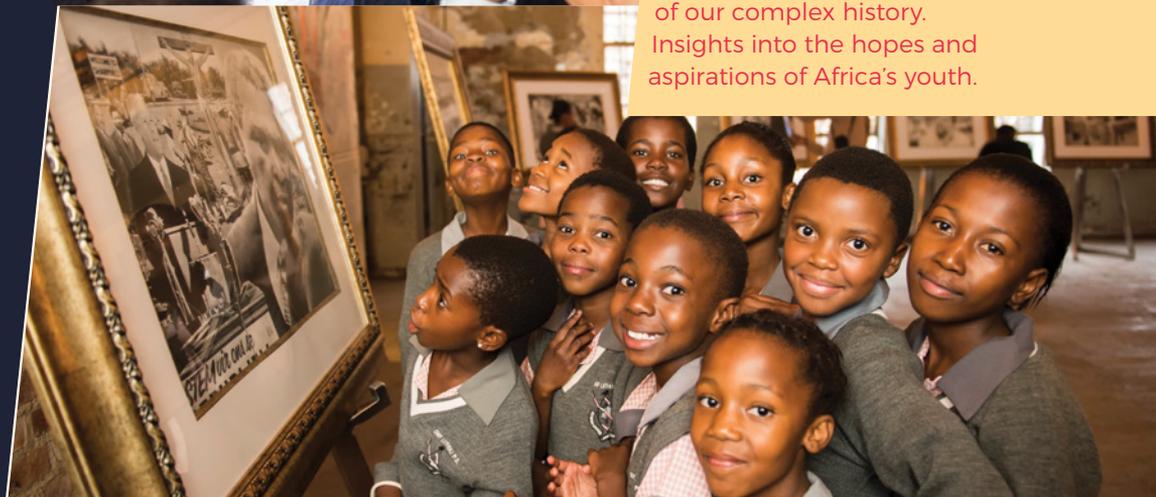
Torchbearer for innovation. Building self-belief and confidence among Africans.

Insight

Promote an understanding of our complex history. Insights into the hopes and aspirations of Africa's youth.

Sustain

Conserve the continent and biodiversity.



The African Youth Survey is about giving African countries the tools to understand their future leaders. I hope this survey proves to Africa's youth that someone is listening to their concerns and by sharing their dreams publicly, give them hope. It's about telling them that the dreams they dare to dream for themselves aren't unique, because so many others across Africa share the same hopes and the same fears. I hope this survey will give them the confidence to continue on the journeys that so many have begun, to unlock their own promise.

– Ivor Ichikowitz



www.ichikowitzfoundation.com



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