The African Youth Survey 2020 is dedicated to the hopes and aspirations of Africa's youth.

ICHIKOWITZ FAMILY
FOUNDATION

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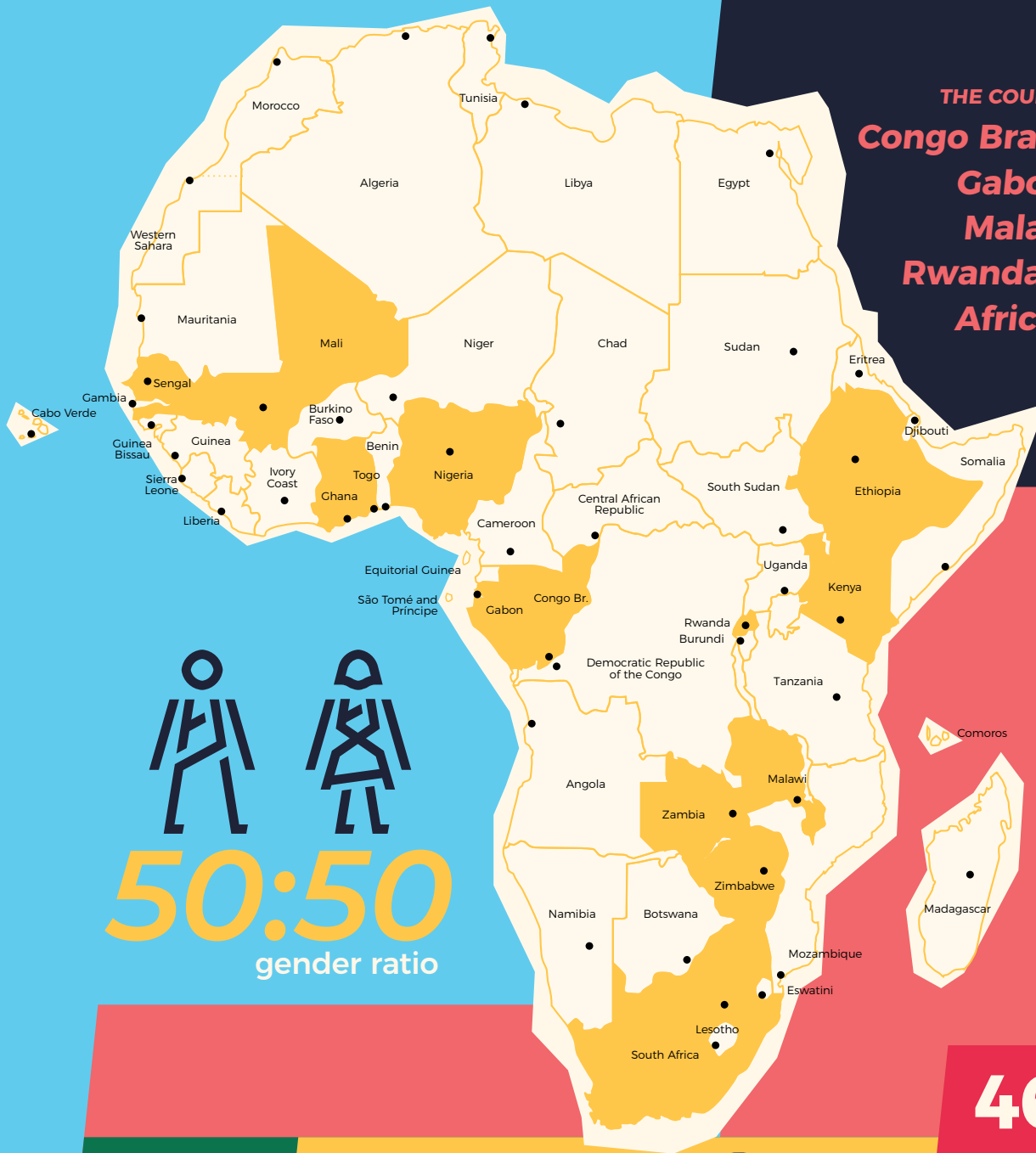
Congo Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

50:50
gender ratio

18-24
years of age

4,200
face-to-face interviews with country nationals

46% responded they were currently students.

The following provides a breakdown of highest education completed across the sample:
• Some secondary school: 16%
• Completed secondary: 37%
• Some university: 25%
• Completed university: 9%
• Some advanced degree: 4%
• Completed advanced: 1%

Morocco
Tunisia
Algeria
Libya
Egypt
Western Sahara
Mauritania
Mali
Niger
Chad
Sudan
Eritrea
Djibouti
Somalia
Senegal
Gambia
Cabo Verde
Burkino Faso
Guinea Bissau
Guinea
Benin
Sierra Leone
Ivory Coast
Togo
Ghana
Nigeria
Liberia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
South Sudan
Ethiopia
Equitorial Guinea
São Tomé and Principe
Gabon
Congo Br.
Uganda
Kenya
Rwanda
Burundi
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Tanzania
Seychelles
Comoros
Angola
Malawi
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Madagascar
Mauritius Reunion
Namibia
Botswana
Mozambique
Eswatini
Lesotho
South Africa

Survey Methodology

The Ichikowitz Family Foundation launched the African Youth Survey in 2020, providing governments, the private sector and civil society with insights into the aspirations, motivations and viewpoints of Africa's youth. The findings should be understood as evidence-based insights into Africa's young adults, providing decision-makers with the data and analysis needed to undertake policy development. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa have some of the youngest populations in the world, with over 70% of the region's population aged below 30.

The inaugural survey captures the feelings and attitudes of the region's largest demographic: youth. Countries represented include those from East, West and Southern Africa, representing both Anglo- and Francophone countries. North African countries were not included due to the ongoing Arab Youth Survey, which covers this region.

PSB Research, an international polling firm, conducted the study with the following parameters: In total 4,200 face-to-face interviews were conducted with African youth between 18-24 years of age during the first half of 2019. Analysis and reporting were carried out in the months that followed, ahead of the February 2020 launch. Only country nationals were allowed to participate. There were 300 respondents for each country represented in the survey, and the geographic location of respondents was also taken into account to ensure representation of both rural and urban areas. The gender split of the sample was 50:50 female to male.

Additionally, 46% report currently being students. The following provides a breakdown of highest education completed across the sample:
· Some secondary school: 16%
· Completed secondary: 37%
· Some university: 25%
· Completed university: 9%
· Some advanced degree: 4%
· Completed advanced: 1%

The sample has a margin of error of +/-2%.

The countries sampled included: Congo Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For some data in the report, not all results will sum to 100. This is because participants could select multiple answers for certain questions.

Foreword to the African Youth Survey

For 35 years I have been travelling the length and breadth of Africa; meeting people and investing in their futures and mine, but recently I had an epiphany. Despite the overwhelming clamour to the contrary and the negative headlines, I was struck by an overwhelming feeling of goodwill and optimism – among young Africans – that kept occurring wherever I went.

I have always believed that the redemption of Africa would only be possible when those who were not born either under the yoke of apartheid or carrying the scars of colonialism, were finally ready to take their rightful place. That time is now – 25 years since the democratic liberation of the last oppressed country in Africa, South Africa. But the more I tried to articulate my incredible optimism about the continent of my birth; in Europe and North America, to political and corporate leaders, the more I struggled, which in turn gave birth to finding a way to actually prove once and for all whether my instinct had been right all along.

The African Youth Survey was a huge undertaking due to the sheer scope of the scientific research, involving in-depth face-to-face interviews across such a vast geographical spread. We didn't want something that would test political sentiment or social issues, the economy or just their aspirations but all of it – because Africa has the youngest and the fastest growing population in the world. These people are literally the leaders of tomorrow and yet no one knows what they feel, think or even hope for – and we need to know what they think now and to chart that evolution afterwards.

We wanted to find out, despite our efforts as Africans to evangelise to the rest of the world that Africa is actually made up of 54 countries, not just a single, homogenous mass suited for a 'one size fits all approach', if there was such a thing as a pan-African identity, an African consciousness, an African psyche.

The survey was a huge risk; it could have shown that my gut instinct was totally off kilter and that the Afro-pessimists were wholly justified in their long-held prejudice, but actually it's proved entirely the opposite. We have found that there is a youth in Africa that is imbued with optimism about the future – and wants to shape their own destiny. We have found a youth that refuses to shy away from the very real challenges of Africa, that is honest about what needs to be done and what their role has to be to achieve this – and they are overwhelmingly keen to make that difference.

This survey was limited to 14 countries initially due to the sheer volume of data that has been collected. We will run the survey on an annual basis and expand it to more countries every year. It is our intention to make the African Youth Survey the pre-eminent source of information on Africa's youth. We will be able to use our initial findings, which you now hold in your hands, as a benchmark to test some of the assumptions we are coming up with already.

The purpose of this study is to empower; to change the stereotypes about Africa, not by shouting it from the rooftops as the loudest voices, but through irrefutable quantitative data that is then subjected to proper academic rigour. We want to help African countries understand their future leaders and have the power to address their own problems; we want to let today's youth know that they are not alone, that their brothers and sisters in other countries share the same hopes and fears. Most of all, we want to replace the assumptions with verifiable data. We want Africans to go out and shape their destinies the way they dream of doing, by getting them to believe in themselves unlike the generations before who had been repeatedly told by foreigners that this was a pipe dream; that they could do nothing without foreign help.

The crises in the north have been a godsend for Africa, because now the continent has to look within for solutions, not hold out its hands in

supplication. When Hillary Clinton arrived here as the Secretary of State of the United States, her message was just that – Africa had to find its own answers and when it did, America would help. Likewise, South Africa's own challenges with state capture and its own isolationism following the Mandela era, have further encouraged this process. This new self-reliance is something that regular travellers to and across the continent will attest to in the shape of the massive infrastructure investment that has taken place in the last decade.

It is telling that when the respondents were asked to name one individual whose life had made the most impact on their own, Nelson Mandela was the out and out favourite for more than half, while former US President Barack Obama was second, but with only 12% of the votes. We are finding that Africans are pulling themselves up by their bootstraps. They have constructed a very different reality for themselves.

There is a new generation of youth who are connected to the world and they are out there doing incredibly innovative things with nothing. They are not just optimistic about the much-vaunted African century, they are determined to shape that century because, unlike their forebears, they have never been downtrodden; they know that their destiny is in their hands and that they can achieve greatness. And because of that, they have every chance of making that their reality – as borne out by this research which we have the privilege of sharing with the world in this report.

IVOR ICHIKOWITZ
Chairman – Ichikowitz
Family Foundation

> **There is a new generation of youth who are connected to the world and they are out there doing incredibly innovative things with nothing. They are not just optimistic about the African century, they are determined to shape it.**

Guest foreword

It is a great pleasure to be asked to write a foreword to the research report of the inaugural Ichikowitz Family Foundation African Youth Survey. We share a great love for this country and this continent; indeed, the Ichikowitz Family Foundation partnered with the Kgalema Motlanthe Foundation last year to host our inaugural Inclusive Growth Forum and will do so again this year.

Ivor Ichikowitz is a man who champions Afro-optimism against the tides of what is often an ocean of Afro-pessimism, the best proof of which would be precisely this survey. Most other people, institutions too, would have been daunted by the sheer scope. Ivor, though, was determined and we are much the richer for his tenacity; for research that underscores and reiterates the gut-feel optimism many of us have for Africa.

The youth are a critically important cohort to be studying in a continent with the youngest population in the world and the fastest developing middle class. As the late great Nelson Mandela himself said, "The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow." It's heart-warming to discover how Madiba remains the continent's source of inspiration, even for these young citizens whose knowledge of him would be limited to him as a pensioner rather than as one of Africa's finest freedom fighters and then one of the world's finest statesmen.

What is even more heart-warming is to read of the youth of Africa's common vision of a pan-African identity; of a love of their fellows that transcends colour, creed, class or nationality; and, of their commitment to fight the corruption that has left barely one country unscathed in the 54 that make up our great continent.

The Kgalema Motlanthe Foundation is committed to youth development too, especially in the education sphere providing schools, learning materials, teacher training and even food, accommodation and transport in under-privileged areas in South Africa. We have a special focus on the blind and championing the teaching of science and mathematics as well as hosting Artificial Intelligence bootcamps to prepare young South Africans to best exploit the coming fourth industrial revolution.

I am immensely heartened by the Afro-optimism among the youth of Africa as this survey reveals, particularly their belief in Afro-capability, even in those countries on our continent where running potable water and uninterrupted power supply cannot be taken for granted as they are in better off African countries. I'm encouraged by their belief that Wi-Fi should be a human right, since they who have never known what others take for granted, realise that knowledge is the ultimate power and – most importantly – the fate of their tomorrows lies in what they do today.

This survey displays a refreshing lack of any sense of entitlement that has bedevilled some African countries or the foreign aid dependency that has blighted others. We have much work to do if we are to stand a very real chance of making the dream of the African Century a reality for our people, but this survey shows that in our youth, we have the very best chance yet, which truly is something to celebrate, to encourage and to look forward to.

KGALEMA MOTLANTHE
Former President of the Republic of South Africa
Johannesburg, South Africa

"I am immensely heartened by the Afro-optimism among the youth of Africa as this survey reveals, particularly their belief in Afro-capability..."

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.

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

We aim to help build a continent where people are encouraged to dream big, to 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.

Inspire

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

Insight

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

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.

Sustain

Conserve the continent and biodiversity.

Executive Summary

The African Youth Survey provides a new understanding of a rising 'Afro-optimism' amongst young people on the African continent. Driving the optimism is a strong sense of individual responsibility, entrepreneurialism and confidence in an African identity. The emergence of this identity is coupled with a greater optimism for the future of the African continent as distinct from African countries. Defining this optimism are two-in-three young Africans who believe we are witnessing the 'African Century' and are hopeful of fighting corruption and achieving peace in the coming years. Individually, young people also record an overwhelming optimism in improving personal living conditions in the next two years.

Our understanding of this burgeoning Afro-optimism is enhanced by the picture of young people who are most likely to live in highly integrated communities across ethnic, economic and religious lines. Three quarters of respondents think their country belongs to all who live there and that their nation should protect refugees. 85% of young Africans see their country as free, while 50% believe there is still inequality before the law. And, although the respondents are evenly split on the importance of stability or democracy (mapping on to a broader, global trend), the survey holds that most young Africans believe in the democratic values of participation, tolerance and freedom.[1] The African Youth Survey also suggests the optimism of young Africans does not rest on hope, but their ability to seize the opportunities provided by the modern world. For the overwhelming majority (81%) of young Africans, the future fortunes of the continent will be shaped by technology for the better. The recognition of the importance of technology is accompanied by a focus on the individualist tendencies of entrepreneurship and responsibility.

African youth view themselves as self-starters. 75% of respondents would like to open their own business in the next five years. If given $100USD, 50% of respondents said they would invest in their own business. The sector most appealing to would-be entrepreneurs was the fixed retail sector, with technology and agriculture tied second. Two-in-three respondents said they already have an idea for a business or social enterprise which will benefit those living in their community. Encouraging entrepreneurship was the top response when participants were asked what they would do as leader for a day. These findings underscore entrepreneurship as the greatest aspiration of African youth, and respondents appear well-placed to pursue this. Young Africans are well connected and media savvy with over two-

[1] *Countries having dealt with conflict and turmoil more recently showed a stronger preference for stability.*

thirds of young people having regular access to the internet and eight-in-ten viewing Wi-Fi as a human right. Most young Africans own a smartphone, with two-in-five spending more than four hours each day on it. However, the overwhelming barrier to entrepreneurship for young people is finding the required start-up capital.

These findings also demonstrate recognition of individual responsibility and a mindset that is post-colonial. On environmental matters, respondents viewed African nations as equally responsible as Western countries for investing in renewable energy and combatting climate change. On politics, one-in-seven has considered running for political office and, although unlikely to be borne out, 70% said they would vote in the next election. However, respondents also view their responsibility as not just political but local, with three-in-four young Africans confident they can personally affect positive change in their family and community through their work.

Optimism amongst youth respondents is also tempered, however, by recognition of the challenges facing the African continent. African youth see infectious disease and terrorism as the most formative developments for Africa in the last five years and list unemployment and corruption as the issues they are most concerned about going forward. Fake news is also viewed as problematic, with two-in-three viewing it as hindering their ability to consume news. Social media is the second most common source of news for African youth, yet Facebook was their least trusted source of news. These issues are not viewed as insurmountable, however. The values epitomised by Nelson Mandela, a common culture and history, are viewed as the foundation for an African identity on which the continent can resolve these issues. Three-quarters agree that young Africans share a common identity and two-thirds believe the continent must unite to fight its challenges, providing the African Union as a unifying vehicle and a vote of confidence in Africa's ability to solve problems on its own.

The African Youth Survey is an insight into a generation which is optimistic about the future of the African continent, but mindful of the challenges it faces. Respondents see Africa writ-large as capable of solving problems and are not interested in shifting responsibility to other countries. An Afro-optimism is flourishing among young Africans, who value entrepreneurship and individual responsibility, and are optimistic about the future of their continent when it works together.

Top 10 findings
What does Africa's youth have to say about the future of their world?

Afro-Optimism: Young Africans are optimistic about the future and look ahead into an African Century.

African Identity: The nation state remains a strong source of collective identity but African youth overwhelmingly agree that a shared African Identity exists, brought forth by common culture and the values epitomised by Nelson Mandela.

African Unity: Many young Africans say the continent is headed in the wrong direction and call for unity to bring Africa forward.

Democratic Values: While African youth are divided on whether democracy or stability is more important for the continent, most believe in the democratic values of participation, tolerance and freedom.

Entrepreneurship: The next African generation are entrepreneurs who are resolute in their goals and ambitions.

Technology and Media: African youth are well connected and technology and media savvy people with a great interest in current affairs – but 'Fake News' is viewed as problematic.

Community Cohesion: Young people in Africa are deeply embedded in their local communities, which many describe as ethnically, religiously and economically multitudinous.

Foreign Relations: African youth are conflicted in regard to foreign influence – on the one hand, many are wary of new forms of colonialism but at the same time, most consider the influence of specific countries to be positive.

Environment: While climate change is not a front of mind concern, most African youth hold their country responsible for contributing to the exploration of renewable energies and providing better recycling infrastructure.

Challenges Ahead: African youth see infectious diseases and terrorism as the most formative developments for Africa in the last five years but now turn their attention to job opportunities and corruption.

An African dream that inspired a world first gaming robot

Silas Adekunle is a Nigerian inventor and technology entrepreneur known for creating the world's first intelligent gaming robot. He was included in The Financial Times' global list of the 'Top 100 minority ethnic leaders in technology' and is a winner of the 2019 One Young World Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

As a young boy from a middle-class family, growing up in a small town in Western Nigeria in the late 1990s, I was already familiar with some of the challenges of Nigerian life: resource constraint, inconsistent electricity, infrastructural challenges and frequent illness (Malaria was my ailment of choice, multiple times a year.) among others. Yet, I did not feel in the least bit disadvantaged. My childhood was filled with a rich culture and happy moments, shared with family and friends. My parents ensured that I had access to good education from passionate teachers and I knew full well the paraphrased saying of the late Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon against poverty."

In the early 2000s my family moved to the United Kingdom, I furthered my education, went to a world leading university, acquired a 1st class degree in robotics, declined multiple job offers and started my own robotics company that achieved some level of success and international recognition over the course of six tough years of hard work.

Now, as an adult in my late 20s, my life straddles the European and African continents. Over the years I've visited many countries and I am yet to find a continent with as much passion, eternal optimism and untapped youth potential as Africa. Looking back now, I realise that I was one of the "lucky" few. If my teenage years and indeed 20s had been spent in Nigeria – given my background and field of profession – I might have discovered just how disadvantaged I would have been compared to other young people around the world, especially those with entrepreneurial tendencies. My parents not only worked hard to give me the right foundation through education but also the right environment with access to opportunities that would build on that foundation. I cannot say the same for many of my childhood friends who have advanced degrees and are highly skilled but find themselves unemployed.

This is not a new story for many African countries. They have long-term economic prospects constrained by severe expertise shortages in many vital sectors, most especially in science and technology. The problem that exists is not the absence of raw talent or skill, rather it's a lack of sufficient and updated STEM curriculum in grassroots education for effective development of expertise. But still, across the continent there are stories of young people using very few resources to make amazing inventions. For example, despite a lack of formal education, yet blessed with an understanding of the principles of engineering, Wisdom, a 16-year-old resident of Port Harcourt Nigeria, was able to teach himself to build mini cranes and Caterpillars from scrap metal and discarded electronics. He runs a makeshift workshop teaching his peers how to make robots.

These young men and women push boundaries to gain access to information then leverage that to create things. One can only imagine what the outcome of a better structured curriculum and the right opportunities would be. Youth in Africa will be the ones to face the challenges of tomorrow and they need access to skills that will either expedite entry into the workforce in fields that are globally scalable or allow them to pursue an entrepreneurial career path.

My African dream is one where an African child does not have to leave the continent to achieve his or her full potential, where African youths are able to build global businesses from their homes and where the continent is full of well-educated citizens and a skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation. We can start working towards that dream today by investing in our youth.

If they are to be adequately prepared for whatever tomorrow holds, we must ensure that we are exposing them to frontier technology to redefine what they think is possible, inspiring them by showing them innovators that look like them and come from similar backgrounds as them and finally, we must educate them and equip them with the skills they needed to tackle tomorrow's challenges and bring their visions to life.

My African dream is one where an African child does not have to leave the continent to achieve his or her full potential, where African youths are able to build global businesses from their homes and where the continent is full of well-educated citizens and a skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation.

1. Afro-Optimism

Young Africans are optimistic about the future and look ahead into an 'African Century'

Despite life's challenges and an increasingly complex world, African youth are optimistic about the future. For instance, 82% of all respondents believe that their standard of living will improve in the next two years. Among those whose standards of living are poor, a strong majority (67%) believes their positions will improve in the future. In part, technology is seen as a promise for future prosperity: over three-quarters of respondents (81%) agree that technology will change the fortunes of Africans for the better.

Overall, 43% of the sample – a plurality – are either optimistic or excited about the future. 22% report being uncertain, while a third (33%) have negative feelings toward the future.

Nelson Mandela's values anchor this shared African identity, with 86% supporting the statement that his values are still relevant to their lives

While only 37% report being currently happy with their standard of living, there is a clear optimistic outlook amongst young Africans. This is Afro-Optimism: confidence in a future made by African youth for the African continent. The extent of respondents' positivism is correlated with region and in-country contexts.
- **Low end:** Mali (23%), Togo (36%) and Congo Br. (32%) represent the low end of the distribution
- **High end:** Nigeria (71%) and Ghana (66%) represent the high end of the distribution

On the other hand, South Africa (42%) and Kenya (38%) represent two countries where most respondents are concerned about the future. This follows global trends in economic and social development, where empiricists have noted a relationship between feelings of optimism and the level of a nation's economic development: on average, developing countries tend to be more optimistic while more developed ones tend to be pessimistic. As two of the most developed nations across the sample and on the continent more generally, South Africa and Kenya seem to exemplify this pattern.

THE 21ST CENTURY WILL BE THE AFRICAN CENTURY

31% Disagree   **65%** Agree   **4%** Don't know

East Africa is the most optimistic about the future (61% optimistic and excited), while Southern Africa was the most pessimistic (66% uncertain or concerned). Those in Zimbabwe were the only respondents to report their standards of living as being worse in two years compared to today. Respondents in West Africa, the middle of the pack, are split: 45% are optimistic or excited, while roughly even proportions report being uncertain or concerned/pessimistic.

African youth are optimistic about the prospects of their continent's future – despite being unhappy with their present-day circumstances. A plurality of African youth (49%) report that the continent is moving in the wrong direction, with 63% saying their own country is on the wrong path. But this is tempered by Afro-Optimism: a strong majority (65%) across all 14 sample countries agree with the statement that the 21st century will be the "African Century".

Furthermore, when asked what adjective youth would use to describe how they feel about the future, a plurality of 43% feel positive about the future compared to 33% who feel negative. 22% are uncertain. Breaking this down by adjective, 31% are optimistic about the future, and 12% are excited. On the negative side, 24% are concerned and 9% pessimistic. Overall, African youth are optimistic about their futures.

Rwanda

Rwanda was the most positive of all 14 countries sampled, where 92% report being optimistic or excited about the future. This should be viewed in light of the fact that April 2019 was an important anniversary of the end of the country's genocide and civil conflict. During remarks at an event commemorating a quarter-century since the country's troubles, President Paul Kagame noted of that time period: "There was no hope, only darkness." In a remarkable shift, Rwanda has overcome the uncertainty and trepidation of the 1990s, instead emerging today as the most hopeful country on the continent. Perhaps, the nation offers a playbook for the future on repairing social and civic bonds for its neighbouring countries.

92% report being optimistic or excited about the future

Prospects for the future seem to impact whether African youth bend towards positive or negative outlooks for the future. For instance, while 72% are confident about their financial future, only 36% of African youth believe there are good job opportunities in their communities at present. That said, 82% are confident that their lives will improve in the next two years.

#WeAreStaying

African youth also report feeling strong connections to their home communities, which is seen to underlie their optimism (See: Community Cohesion). For instance, if given a choice, 69% of youth would prefer to stay in their home community rather than move to a different location; roughly a third (30%) would prefer to move. Those preferring to stay are most heavily concentrated in East Africa (75%), followed by West Africa (71%) and Southern Africa (62%).

Those in Zimbabwe were the least likely to prefer staying at home, with 52% saying they would prefer to stay in their locale. This could be tied to the social unrest and lack of stability during and following the death of Robert Mugabe. Senegal, on the other hand, had the highest proportion of youth preferring to stay: 81% of Senegalese youth prefer their home community to the prospects of moving elsewhere.

A Common African Identity

Furthermore, a strong majority (76%) of those sampled agree that there is a common African identity, with "culture" (40%) and "shared history" (24%) as the basis of this identity. This translates to hope for pan-African solutions: 63% of African youth believe that countries on the continent should set aside differences and come together to reach common solutions.

- **Highest:** Togo 72%, Gabon 73%, Mali 75%
- **Lowest:** Nigeria 49%, Zimbabwe 46%, South Africa 46%

Nelson Mandela's values anchor this shared African identity, with 86% supporting the statement that his values are still relevant to their lives. This is with the notable exception of Rwanda, where only 33% agree his values are relevant. However, identity was not rooted in art, sport, music or "my African name". African youth identify primarily with their shared culture and history.

If you could summarise your hopes and dreams for Africa's future in just a few words, what would they be?

UNITED DEVELOPED
IMPROVE BUILD END CRIME UNION CARE
DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
SEE
ECONOMIC REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT FUTURE
CREATION ONE
STABILITY
BETTER PEACE FIGHT
EMPLOYMENT
CORRUPTION
YOUNG HOPE ACCESS
CONTINENT KNOW
JOB GOOD
YOUTH SECURITY
HEALTH CREATE
OPPORTUNITIES
UNITY PEOPLE
POVERTY GROWTH
FREEDOM
TECHNOLOGY
LOVE ECONOMY
FREE

22%

31%
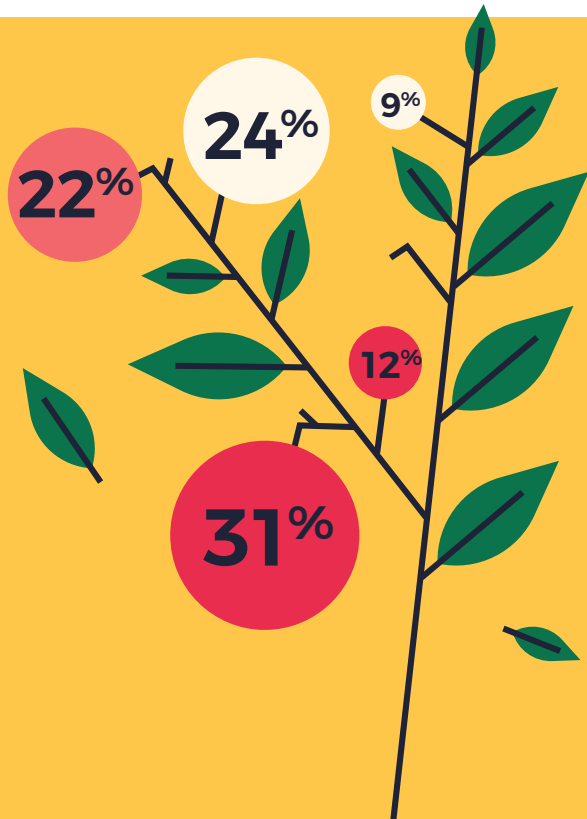
Nearly half of African youth describe their feelings towards the future positively

31% Optimistic

12% Excited

MOST POSITIVE COUNTRIES
Rwanda: 92%
Ghana: 62%
Ethiopia: 58%

22% Uncertain

MOST NEGATIVE COUNTRIES
Malawi: 50%
South Africa: 49%
Kenya: 46%

24% Concerned

9% Pessimistic

Confidence in the African Union to address these key issues was also strong, with an average of 72% saying they have confidence in the institution. While Zimbabwe had lowest confidence across the sample (47% said they were not confident in the AU), Ghana and Rwanda (90% and 93%, respectively) had the highest confidence. Overall, the African Union was the most trusted institution or governing body respondents identified (See: Foreign Relations).

Rising Afro-Capability

Though each state has idiosyncratic issues and solutions, citizens across the sample feel capable of overcoming modern challenges such as fake news and entrenched problems like corruption and foreign geo-political influence – especially when Africans unite. This we term Afro-Capability.

But pan-Africanism has its limits. Respondents said their identity is primarily national (51%), followed by African (17%) and, finally, tribal identities (17%). Following this trend, the most important issues facing the youth sampled were country-specific. In the next five years, 21% across the sample are most concerned with how war and conflict could impact African identity. Highest: Mali (66%), Rwanda (42%) and Congo Br. (34%). African youth see the following as necessary for Africa to progress and move forward: 26% want to reduce government corruption, 24% want to create new, well-paying jobs, and 17% who hope to achieve peace and stability across the continent.

Afro-Responsibility

Young Africans see themselves as moving beyond colonialism, unshackled by the continent's history of foreign influence. The solution is Afro-Responsibility: young Africans feel in charge of their destiny and want home-grown, continent-wide approaches to common issues. While 66% of those surveyed feel that colonialism still affects their community today – and 68% think that foreign government investment is a form of economic colonialism – when confronted with the influence of particular countries, an overwhelming majority of African youth report positive associations with foreign entities.

Will your standards of living improve in the next two years?

Among all

5%   13%   82%
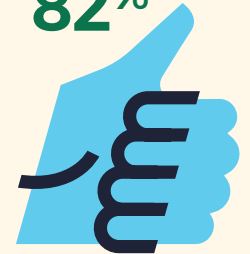
Among those with poor living standards

15%   18%   67%

	Worse	Same	Better
Togo		5	95
Malawi	2	6	92
Senegal		8	92
Rwanda	2	8	90
Congo Br.	5	6	89
Mali	1	12	88
Nigeria	2	11	88
Ghana	1	13	86
Gabon	3	13	84
Zambia	3	12	84
Ethiopia	3	18	80
Kenya	4	23	73
South Africa	10	17	73
Zimbabwe	32	28	40
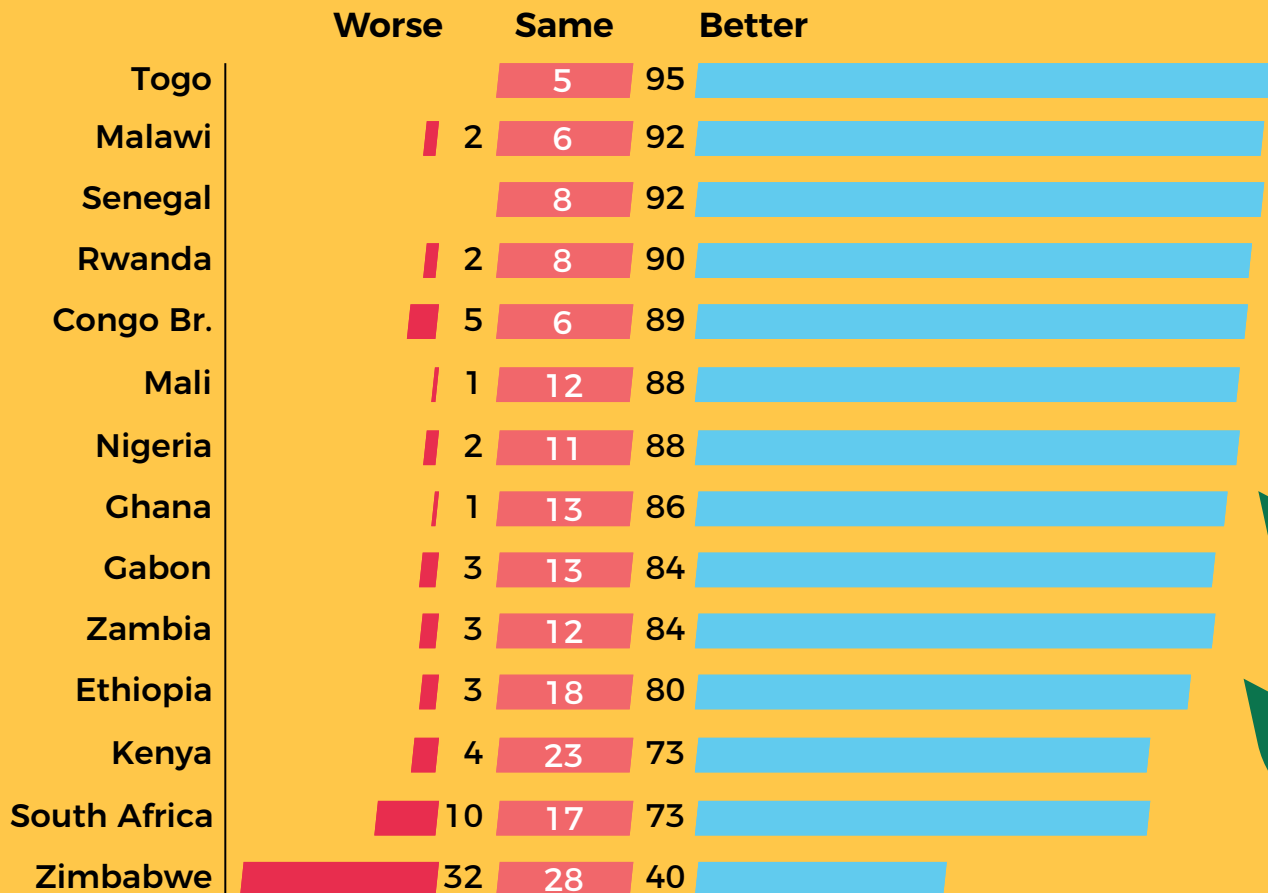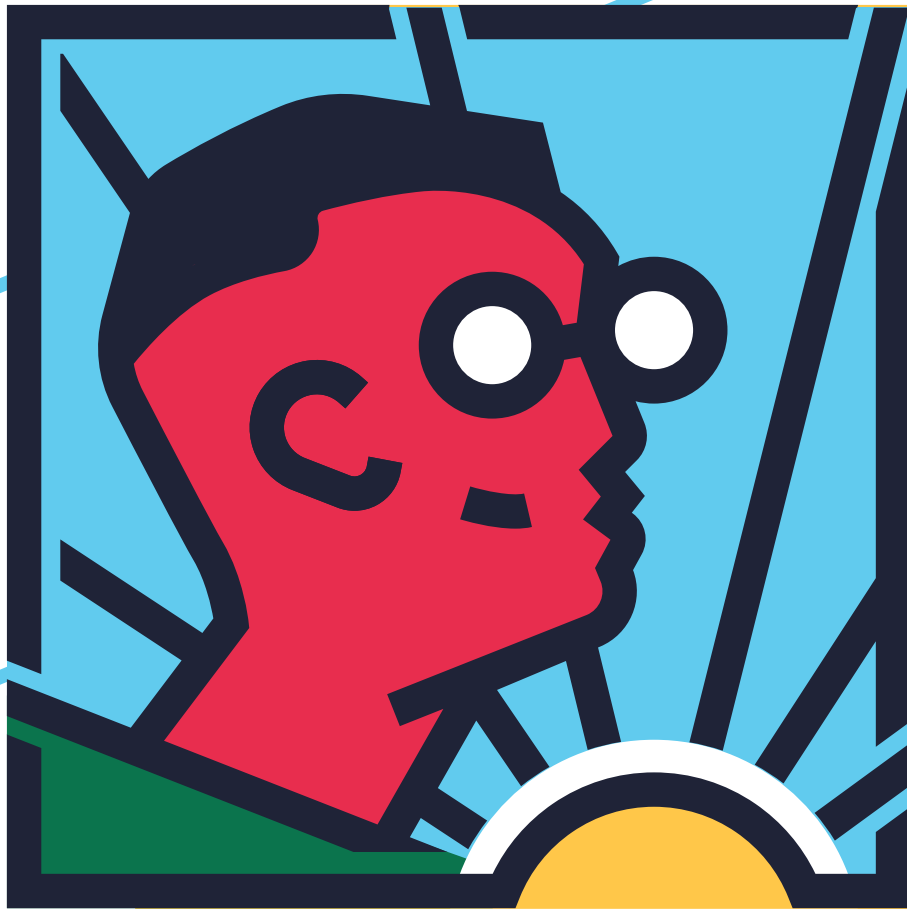
Afro-Optimism 21

72

In Profile:

The Afro-Optimist

The Afro-Optimist is defined by those who agree or strongly agree that 'the 21st Century will be the African Century'. They are more likely to be based in East African countries, to be employed and to be more politically engaged than the average.

- Afro-Optimists are most likely to be based in Ghana and Kenya, with 86% in both countries saying they think the 21st Century will be the African Century.
- Those in employment are more likely to agree that the 21st Century will be the African Century, with 70% agreeing with this statement. This compares to 65% overall.
- Young people with good standards of living are also more likely to be Afro-Optimists, with 70% seeing the 21st Century as the African Century. This represents a 5% uplift from the overall figure.
- However, those who lack internet access do not agree as much as the average that the 21st Century will be the African Century – these young people represent a 7% drop from the base.
- More politically engaged young people are likely to be more Afro-Optimistic by nature. 68% who voted in the last election think the 21st Century will be the African Century, compared to 65% at base.
- Young people who are more confident of the African Union's ability to facilitate unity across the continent are more likely to be Afro-Optimists, with 71% saying they see the 21st Century as the African Century – this is a 6% uptick from the base.

% **are confident about their financial future**

West Africa
45% OPTIMISTIC AND EXCITED

East Africa
61%
OPTIMISTIC AND EXCITED

Southern Africa
66% UNCERTAIN OR CONCERNED

Being the hope of a billion

Akwasi Frimpong made Olympic history by becoming the first skeleton Olympian from Ghana, competing in the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang. He is training for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing and it's his dream to win Africa's first Winter Olympics medal.

I want to be the Hope of a Billion and motivate people to realize their dreams to possibly become the next generation of Hope themselves.

For me, the road to becoming the Hope of a Billion wasn't easy and most people in my situation would have given up. In fact, many just accept their surroundings and live their lives without ever pushing their limits. I am not that type of person.

I was born in Ghana and raised by my grandmother, Minka. I was one of ten children she cared for and we all shared a one-room home that measured no larger than four-by-four metres and had a roof that leaked. My grandmother used to tell me, "What you need for success is already in you. You just need to believe in yourself, work hard, and never give up."

I moved to the Netherlands at age eight and that is where I realized I had athletic abilities. I was recruited to track and field when I was in junior high and quickly excelled. Before I knew it, I was the Dutch Junior Champion in the 200m.

But I didn't stop there. I wanted to be an Olympian. To me, the Olympics are a symbol of Hope. Millions of people say they want to be an Olympian, but only a few of them have the dedication and perseverance it takes to actually make that dream a reality. My road to the Olympics required me to overcome many obstacles and I am not talking about hurdles on a track.

While preparing to qualify for the London 2012 Olympic Games as a member of the Dutch team, I suffered an Achilles injury. To keep my Olympic dreams alive, I approached the Dutch National Team about joining the bobsled team. I wanted to use my sprinting ability to help in a winter sport.

Unfortunately, I fell just short again as I was named as a reserve.

Another setback did not change my dream of becoming an Olympic athlete, it just meant I had to persevere and find another way and, as it turned out, another sport.

I became involved in skeleton in Utah, where I went to Utah Valley University. I live there with my wife and young daughter. Skeleton still requires me to use my sprinting ability, but

My goal now is to share my message with more than a billion people in Africa and beyond as I prepare for the 2022 Olympics in Beijing. I do not want to just compete, I want to become Africa's first Winter Olympics medallist.

rather than share a sled with other teammates, I am heading down the ice, face first, at about 80 miles per hour. All of this is done with my chin about three inches from the ice.

I quickly found a love for the sport and found myself improving enough to try and qualify for the 2018 Olympics.

This time, the hard work, dedication and perseverance earned me a place on Team Ghana and a spot in Olympic history. I became the first skeleton Olympian from Ghana and just the second winter Olympian from Ghana.

I hoped my story would show people how much hard work can pay off. What I did not know then, but realize now, is that my story would become part of the official 2018 Winter Olympics video and has the potential to inspire any underdog that they can be not just an Olympian, but a doctor, a lawyer, or a successful business person, as long as they want to work for it. Like my grandmother Minka told me years ago, "You must believe in yourself, work hard, and never give up."

My goal now is to share the Hope of a Billion message to more than a billion people in Africa and beyond as I prepare for the 2022 Olympics in Beijing. I do not want to go just to compete, I want to go to become Africa's first Winter Olympics medallist.

My message of hope is also one of always working to improve yourself. With the help of my world-class coach, I moved up in the world rankings from 99th to 68th. I still have work to do and have come too far to give up.

That is being the Hope of a Billion. That's what I am.

2. African Identity

African youth overwhelmingly agree that a shared African Identity exists, brought forth by common culture and the values epitomised by Nelson Mandela

The nation-state remains a strong source of collective identity – but African youth overwhelmingly agree that a shared African Identity exists (76%), brought forth by common culture, shared history and the values epitomised by Nelson Mandela.

In only one country did fewer than 50% of respondents agree there was a shared African identity: Ethiopia (57% disagree there is a common identity). In most other countries, over 70% reported believing in a pan-African identity, with 92% of Ghanaian and Kenyan youth supporting this statement.

Regionally, responses to the identity question were mostly consistent. West Africa reported the highest level of support for the identity statement (78% agree), followed by Southern Africa (77%) and East Africa (69%).

Madiba Magic Looms Large
A central aspect of the shared history cited by respondents could be Nelson Mandela's legacy. Just over 100 years after his birth – and nearly seven years after his death – Madiba still looms large over social and civic life. Aside from Rwanda, where only 33% agree his values are relevant, 86% of the total sample firmly believes Mandela's values are still relevant to youth today. Of the multitude of his values, roughly 50% of respondents either chose freedom (30%) or non-racism (19%) as the core value they identified with.

Three-quarters say African youth share a common identity, citing culture and history as the bedrock of this identity

People in Africa share a common identity

22%   76%
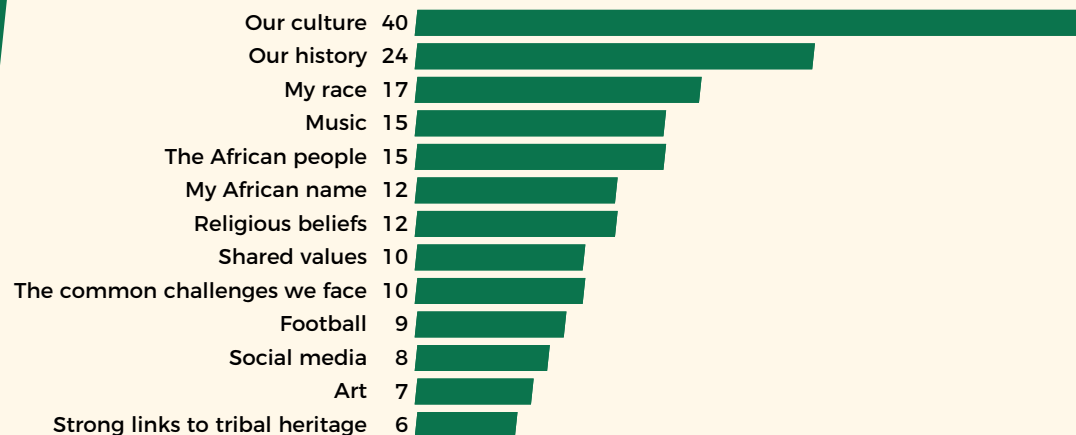
* Missing values = Don't know

63%

say religion plays a major part of their daily life
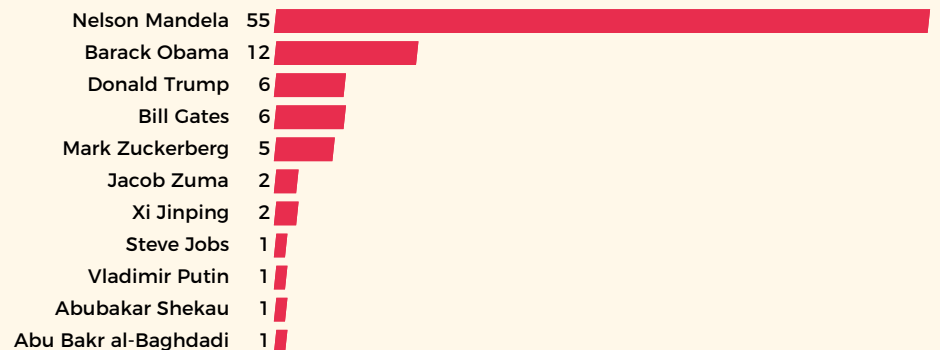
The Reach of Religion

Another aspect of identity shared by African youth is religion. According to the Gordon Theological Seminary, Africa has the highest population of Christians in the world: nearly 630 million. But alongside Christianity are those practising Islam (estimated: 250+ million in Africa) and traditional religions. This triad was termed Africa's "triple heritage" by researcher Dr Ali Mazrui. That is, the legacy of indigenous religion and culture, Western colonial influences of Christianity and social norms and the history of African Islam. Today, these three strands of social life are often interlinked and found alongside one another in modern African states.

Regardless of which religion one practises, this topic is highly relevant to African youth. 63% of African youth report that religion plays a major part in their daily life, with gender showing differing levels of agreement on this question. 59% of males, for instance, report religion playing a major part in daily life, while 67% of females do. Only 5% of the total sample reported that religion is "not important". Region does not show major differences in religiosity, but certain countries do. For instance, in Gabon,

Source of identity?

Our culture	40
Our history	24
My race	17
Music	15
The African people	15
My African name	12
Religious beliefs	12
Shared values	10
The common challenges we face	10
Football	9
Social media	8
Art	7
Strong links to tribal heritage	6

In your opinion, which of the following individuals has had the biggest impact on Africa as far as you remember in your lifetime?

Nelson Mandela	55
Barack Obama	12
Donald Trump	6
Bill Gates	6
Mark Zuckerberg	5
Jacob Zuma	2
Xi Jinping	2
Steve Jobs	1
Vladimir Putin	1
Abubakar Shekau	1
Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi	1

Missing values = Other and Don't Know

only 30% of youth say religion plays a major part while in Ethiopia, 88% say it does. Despite differing levels, religion has been revealed to be central to the young African's identity.

My Country First

However, pan-African identity has its limits. Around half of young Africans identify by country first, while others point to Africa, their tribe and their race as sources of their identity. Respondents overwhelmingly said their identity is primarily national (51%). In addition, 60% of all respondents agreed with the statement that their local language is central to their national identity.

Rwanda (86%), Togo (75%) and Senegal (70%) showed the highest support for this statement. National identity is followed by identity through Africa (17%), tribe (17%), and finally race (13%) and political party (2%). 11 of 14 countries in the sample identify by nation first.

Shape of Tomorrow's Identity?

Looking towards the future, 21% of African youth predict that war and conflict will have the biggest impact on African identity; but two-thirds list positive developments as having the biggest impact on identity. These include: the digital revolution (16%), increased freedoms (15%), rise in prosperity (15%) and increased equality (13%). The rise of nationalism was also found to be a concern, with 12% reporting this would have the largest impact on African identity.

Thinking about Nelson Mandela's values, which of the following do you think has had the most impact on Africa?

FREEDOM **30%**
NON RACISM **19%**
FAIRNESS/JUSTICE **11%**
RECONCILIATION **11%**
EQUALITY **10%**

Showing Top 5 values

Are Nelson Mandela's values still relevant?

86%

12%
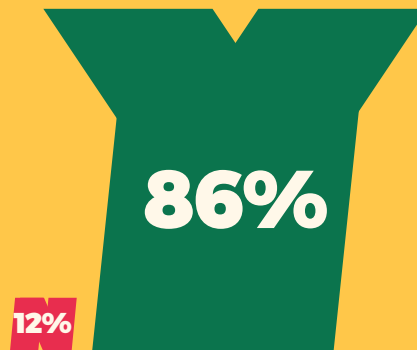
* Missing values = Don't know

Which of the following, if any, will have the biggest impact on African identity in the future?

WAR AND CONFLICT **21%**
THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION CONNECTIVITY, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC. **16%**
INCREASED FREEDOMS **15%**
RISE IN PROSPERITY **15%**
INCREASED EQUALITY **13%**
RISE OF NATIONALISM **12%**

In Profile:

The Pan-Africanist

The Pan-Africanist profile fits those that agree that young people in Africa share a common identity. They are more likely to be educated to elementary level. They believe their country does have a moral obligation to accept refugees and believe the 21st century will be the African Century.

- Those from West Africa are more likely to be Pan-Africanists. Those from East Africa are less likely to be Pan-Africanists, and 7% under the base.
- This latter sentiment is driven largely by those in Ethiopia, with just 43% saying they agree young people in Africa share a common identity. This figure is 33% below the base. Young people in Ghana and Kenya however, are more likely to be Pan-Africanists, 92% in Ghana agree that young people in Africa share a common identity and 92% in Kenya agree that young people in Africa share a common identity.
- Those that agree that this century will be the African Century are more likely to be Pan-Africanists – these young people represent 82% compared to 76% overall.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN IDENTITY, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH MOST?

MY COUNTRY
51%
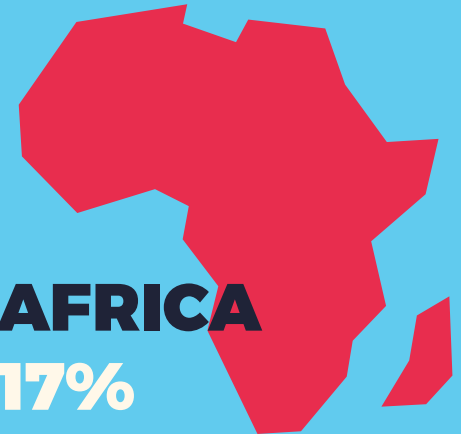
AFRICA
17%

MY TRIBE
17%
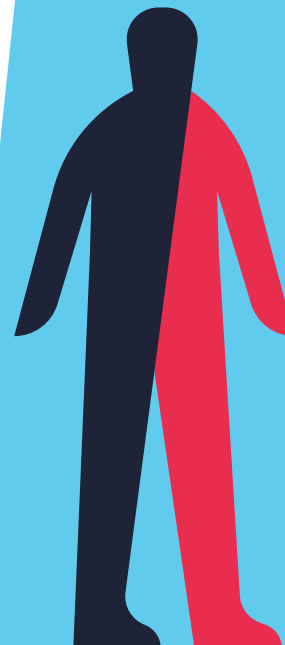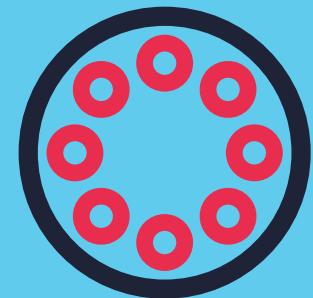
MY RACE
13%

MY POLITICAL PARTY
2%

Top 3 sources of identity in each country illustrated by size variation

Senegal
Mali
Ghana
Togo
Nigeria
Ethiopia
Gabon
Congo Br.
Kenya
Rwanda
Malawi
Zambia
Zimbabwe
South Africa

Country
Africa
Race
Tribe

◯ = At least 20% for secondary source of identification
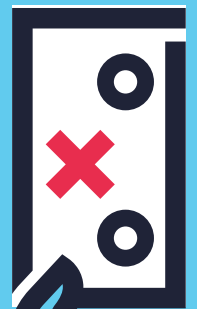
Shattering the glass ceiling on top of the world

Saray Khumalo is the first black African woman to conquer Mount Everest. She succeeded in 2019 after three failed previous attempts. She is planning to conquer what has been deemed the 'Grand Slam', what no African, black or white female, has ever accomplished, to scale the highest peaks on seven continents and reach both the North and South Poles.

There's been much discussion on Africa's next generation; that despite seismic global shifts socio-economically, the 21st century will be ours, offering unbridled opportunity for young men and women alike.

The findings of this African Youth Survey to which I'm pleased to contribute no doubt speak to this first-hand, and it's delightful to see such 'Afro-Optimism' sweep like a wave across the continent.

While we can cite many reasons this Afro-Optimism is taking shape (and the survey does), I'd like to share my story.

The young women and men from the township where I was raised inspired my career. From them, I learnt to take action, do what was necessary to achieve what I needed to achieve and play my part in breaking boundaries if required in the process.

And so, alongside the African youth of today, I could not be more confident that the right conditions are in place for the future to be what we make of it; for our African identity to be reshaped as we define it. However, this will only be the case if we seize the opportunities made available to us, make opportunities of our own and be the superheroes and heroines we know we can be, for the sake of our continent, our country, our community and for ourselves.

My name is Saray Khumalo. You might know me as the first black African woman to summit Mt. Everest.

It's difficult to believe myself. Especially when you look back on a story that began as average as any other in Zambia.

Growing up in my small community within Lusaka, as a young girl, inspiration was hard to come by. Many 'dreamed small' back then, but worked together within our communities to make those dreams a reality. This included learning from my grandparents, who served as missionaries in the DRC and Zambia looking after their congregation and surrounding communities, in the spirit of teaching one to fish rather than just giving one a fish.

We were accountable to each other in our community and this accountability, this passion to build from within in 2014 inspired me to collaborate with the Mandela Library Projects. Indeed, I am quite proud to have played an ongoing role during my climbing career; to have raised funds to the amount of approximately R800 000 for the Mandela Library Projects and to having built four libraries around South Africa.

However, earlier in my career, I faced many challenges, much like the copious challenges that young African women and men face day on day. I failed three times to summit Mt. Everest

and was told time after time that this was to be a lesson learnt and not to try again. This led to self-doubt and disillusionment in who I wanted to be in future.

We see that same disillusionment sadly resonate with many young women, for example, from the longstanding disproportionality of young girls in schools, women in the boardroom and in positions of political authority. Historic adversities hindered the growth of the identity of these potential superheroines of tomorrow.

One can look to the film 'Black Panther' as an example, a symbol, a global phenomenon. Even our super-heroes are finally who many Africans would envision them to be.

And yes, I'd like to think my feats were super-heroic – I'm proud to say I scaled Mt. Everest, and my journey is not complete. Next year, I plan to conquer what has been deemed the 'Grand Slam', what no African, black or white female, has ever accomplished, to scale the highest peaks on seven continents and touch both the North and South Poles.

There is and will always be hope – Ethiopia has a female President and South Africa's Parliament, is now comprised, by half, of women. This evolution is not the end result of the fight for equal rights alone, although we must cherish all those involved with that struggle. It is also due to capitalizing on opportunity, proving women can not only be capable; we can be the best at what we endeavour to accomplish.

Nothing truly fulfilling is ever achieved in an easy way, my story has told; it's tapping in to the superpower that we all have lying idle, figuring out what makes us extraordinary and never giving up that will make Afro-Optimism an African, even a global reality.

Giving up is never an option – Not for me and not for Africa.

I could not be more confident that the right conditions are in place for the future to be what we make of it; for our African identity to be reshaped as we define it.

3. African Unity

African youth report being interested in the future of regional relations and the ability to solve problems collaboratively

63% think the continent should unite to face challenges, showing high confidence in the African Union (AU) to be a unifying vehicle. Youth appear to have faith in the ability of international bodies like the AU to help stabilize the continent. This number is highest in Rwanda, where 93% have confidence in the AU.

On average, African youth feel more optimistic about the future of the continent than their own country's future. While 63% across the sample feel their country is moving in the wrong direction, 49% feel that Africa is. Interestingly, there were five countries with a 15% or greater divergence regarding levels of optimism at the continent and country level. Countries with the biggest mismatch between country-level optimism and continent-level optimism are Kenya, Mali, Togo, Zimbabwe and Nigeria. That is, these five countries are more optimistic about the future of the continent than their own country's future by at least 15%.

63% of African youth think the continent should unite to face challenges

Over 70% of those sampled believe that the AU, in its current form, can facilitate unity across the continent. This is the basis of one of our key findings, the high level of "Afro-Capability".

Many Africans feel that their community matters and 70% report that they are involved in their local communities. In Ethiopia, for instance, communities were seen to be the most well-connected: respondents here report having friends with different ethnic (60%), religious (62%) and economic (53%) backgrounds. Somewhat paradoxically, Ethiopian respondents were also the least likely to agree that young people in Africa share a common identity (43%), perhaps given the geographic distance between this country and others in the sample. Malawi and Togo also reported diverse social interactions.

Nigeria, on the other hand, is highly fractured: when asked whether respondents' friends were of different ethnic, religious or economic backgrounds, only 22%, 20% and 24% reported that they had "many" friends in these groups, respectively. Rwandans had the overall lowest number of respondents answering whether they had friends of another ethnic group (only 3%), but this is in the context of the country's difficult history between competing groups.

Going in the right direction?

35%
Country

40%
Africa

63%
49%
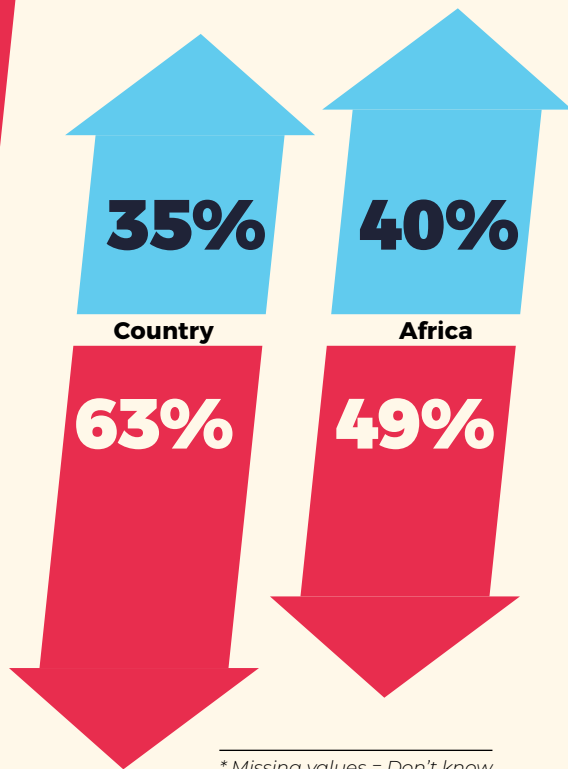
* Missing values = Don't know

Right or wrong direction?

Senegal 48 / 46
Mali 36 / 23
Nigeria 32 / 17
Ethiopia 13 / 12
Ghana 54 / 45
Togo 37 / 18
Gabon 30 / 19
Congo Br. 25 / 19
Kenya 67 / 49
Rwanda 94 / 89
Malawi 41 / 36
Zambia 34 / 28
Zimbabwe 33 / 18
South Africa 47 / 30

More optimistic about the continent than their country
Country (green)
Africa (red)
More optimistic about their country than the continent
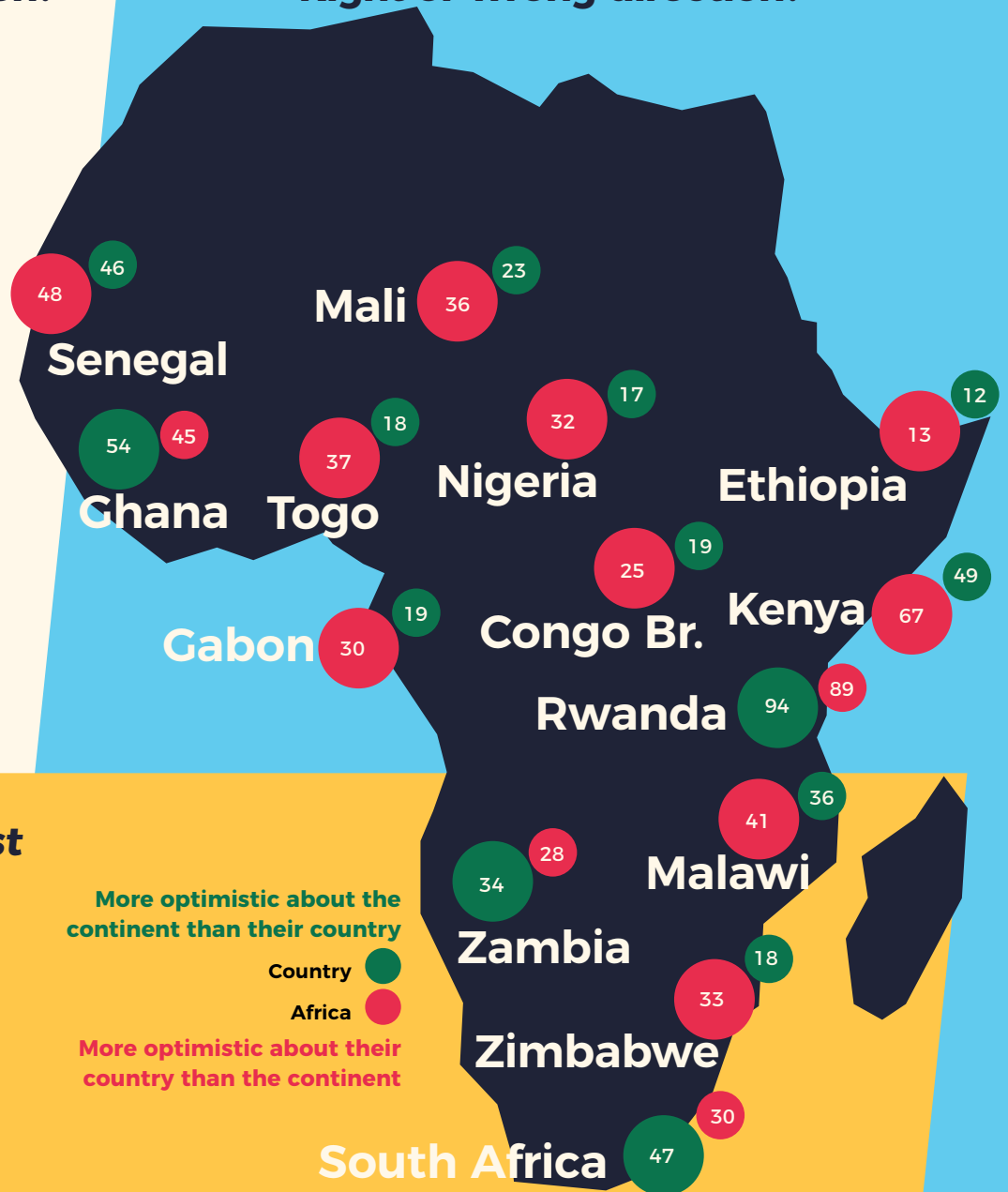
Countries with the biggest mismatch between country optimism and Afro-optimism are Kenya, Mali, Togo, Zimbabwe and Nigeria

Can the African Union unite Africa?

72% SAY YES

AFRO-CAPABILITY

Not confident		Confident
25	All	72
6	Rwanda	93
9	Ghana	90
12	Ethiopia	86
13	Kenya	86
17	Mali	82
18	Nigeria	81
28	Malawi	71
27	Senegal	71
31	Congo Br.	67
32	South Africa	66
29	Togo	60
36	Zambia	56
46	Gabon	53
47	Zimbabwe	45
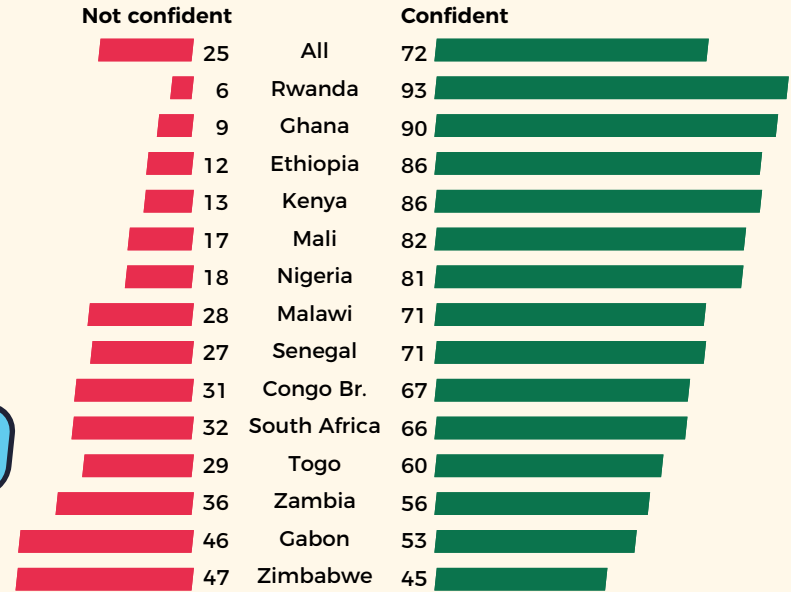
African countries must...

...come together and find common solutions 63%

TOP 3 SAYING 'COMMON SOLUTIONS':
Mali: 75%
Gabon: 73%
Togo: 72%

...look out for their own citizens and find national solutions 35%

TOP 3 SAYING 'NATIONAL SOLUTIONS':
Nigeria: 49%
South Africa: 46%
Zimbabwe: 46%

* Missing values = Don't know

Reflecting the spirit of ubuntu

Nigerian Oyindamola Johnson, G20 Young Global Changer, Tony Elumelu Entrepreneur and African Union Commission African Youth Hero, is passionately raising ethical leaders to drive innovation, entrepreneurship and development.

My identity as a young African, rests in the spirit of "Ubuntu" which in isiZulu means "humanity" and could be further explained to mean "I am because we are". Over the centuries, our closely-knit African communities have ensured the sharing of values from generation to generation resulting in immense pride in our cultures, languages, food, music, art and the other elements that make a vibrant, connected society.

The world's most youthful continent, Africa is a continent of complexities but also of immense diversity, beauty and promise. Indeed, there's no better time to be alive as an African, and our young people are at the forefront of telling our stories, shaping our narratives and the rebirth of our beloved continent. "Community and identity" are synonymous in an African setting due to there often being a story behind every ritual, song, chant, tradition, household, clan and tribe. Cultural symbols, nuances, practices have also largely helped to preserve our heritage and ensure that the youth uphold the legacy bequeathed to them.

However, the question which needs to be asked is whether in a world where there's a gradual increase in mainstreaming practices and narratives seeking to divide rather than unite, could there be key lessons from the foundations on which African societies were built. Can humanity recalibrate and find itself at the centre of that which makes us human – the spirit of "Ubuntu", which is predicated on the knowledge that societies are not built in isolation, and that strength is in numbers and unity, and not in tearing the fabrics of society apart?

A recurring theme in discussions with young Africans who have migrated abroad is the sense of "community" that they seem not to get in foreign lands. Truly, it is possible to feel isolated and alone while being in the midst of many. Putting this in context further, a sense of community is woven into the fabric of life in most cultural settings in Africa. Indeed, it is this sense of community in which we pride ourselves as Africans, that has contributed largely to shaping our values and the traditions that we hold dear.

Taking a look at the outcomes of research undertaken by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation to gauge the level of community cohesion amongst the youth of African communities, 70% of respondents believe that they are involved and committed members of their communities. Taking a deeper look into the report, 75% of respondents confirmed that if they needed help, there were people in the community who would be there for them. What I also found interesting is that 69% of respondents would prefer to stay in their home communities instead of moving to a different location, supporting the argument that young Africans would prefer to stay back home rather than explore opportunities or greener pastures outside the continent. While we have established the fact that young Africans readily identify with their roots and would rather play a role in developing the continent than seeking greener pastures, we must, ask ourselves how we can harness the strength of our youth to build a new sense of community, connectedness and shared purpose which

This new set of connected young Africans is rising to redefine what the term "social and community" means in today's Africa. Indeed, there is hope for Africa, and as young people we have risen and will not stay quiet in our moment of having the power to design our future, tell our stories, shape our narratives.

will power our economy and help to unleash innovation and unprecedented development across the continent.

Most African communities were once connected through town halls and social gatherings. However, the new breed of Africans isn't limited by time and space and has embraced the limitless opportunities which technology and social media have provided in connecting us within and outside the continent. As young Africans, though we may not often gather physically as a group to listen to elders' tales by moonlight, our convergence is simply activated and amplified through the click of a

button. Through it, we have raised our voices, shown our might, rallied others to join our cause for a continent that works not just for a few but for all.

While the continent has been blessed with immense resources -some exploited and some still unexplored – our biggest resource isn't buried in the ground but is our young people. They carry the burden of the past and the promise of tomorrow. While we acknowledge that purposeful leadership has been largely lacking in many of our countries, this new set of connected young Africans is rising to redefine what the term "social and community" means in today's Africa. Indeed, there is hope for Africa, and as young people we have risen and will not stay quiet in our moment of having the power to design our future, tell our stories, shape our narratives and chart the course for a new Africa and world not just for us to live in, but for those coming after us.

DEMOCRACY
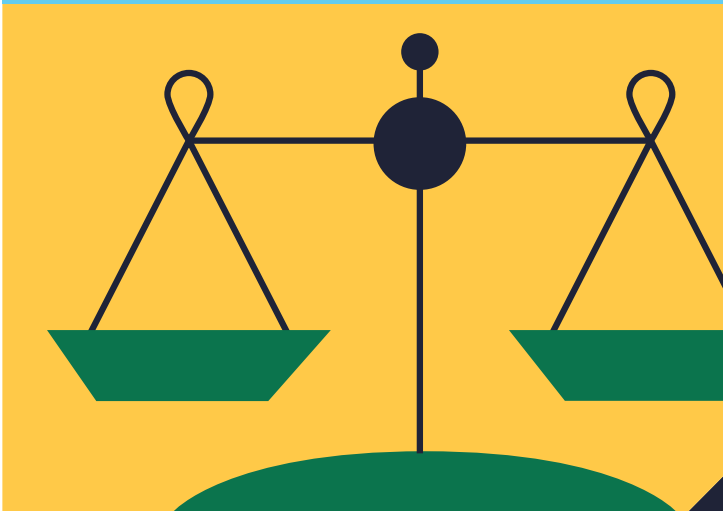
STABILITY
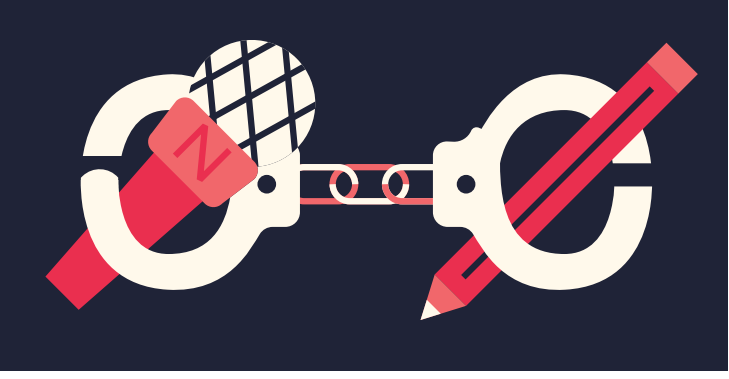
4. Democratic Values

While African youth are divided on whether democracy or stability is more important for the continent, most believe in the democratic values of participation, tolerance and freedom

Political failure makes this generation vulnerable to autocrats. The sample reaches no clear consensus on autocracy versus democracy. In a finding that mirrors trends across the globe's democratic and semi-democratic states, African youth appear ambivalent about the importance of democracy over economically stable, one-party states. The sample is evenly split 48-48% on whether democracy or stable, one-party states are preferable. Based upon in-country samples, there are clear indications of a preference for stability in states recently dealing with turmoil and conflict, while the states preferring democracy tend to be currently stable.

According to Freedom House, democracy is in "backslide", continuing a 13-year trend. Harvard University recently published research titled "Crisis of Democratic Legitimacy" in which youth were found to support statements like fundamental civic rights are not essential or military coups are acceptable; and which showed a limited interest in democratic values and fair elections.

While African youth are divided on whether democracy or stability is more important for the continent, most believe in the democratic values of civic participation, tolerance and freedom. For instance, 85% of those sampled agreed that all people have the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.

70% plan to vote in their next election, with the highest levels seen in Rwanda (95%), Senegal (85%) and Kenya (78%).

Many eligible voters across the world often promise to vote in the next election, but don't turn out due to apathy, the feeling their vote will not count, or intimidation – either by competing groups or by the scale and complexity of the political arena.

Perhaps these are some of the reasons that only one-in-seven of those sampled has considered running for office. The top countries with respondents reporting wanting to run for office are Gabon (26%), Nigeria (25%) and Zimbabwe (22%).

While 85% of young Africans see their country as free (evinced by enshrined liberal-democratic values) many feel there is still inequality before the law: the sample was split evenly 50-50 on this question.

There is a preference for stability in states recently dealing with turmoil and conflict, while the states preferring democracy tend to be currently stable
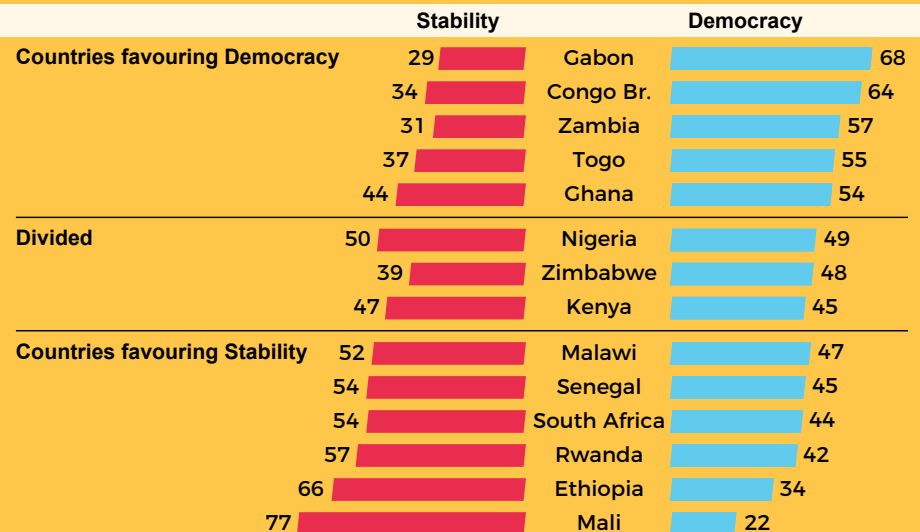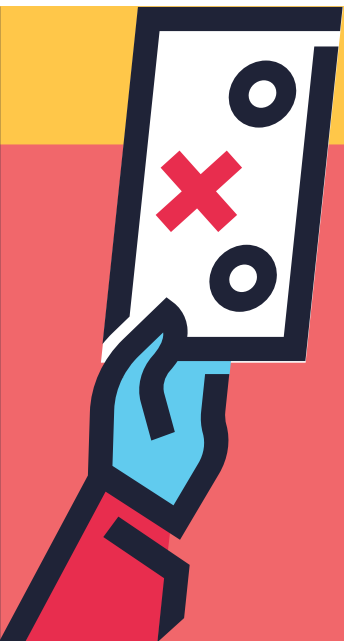
However, while most young Africans want the rights of ethnic minorities protected and their country to address sexual harassment, there is less appetite to strengthen LGBTQ rights. Protection of rights for minority or historically oppressed groups – such as ethnic minorities and women – is seen as essential, with strong majorities in favour for each country sampled. For example, in every country sampled, over 80% agreed that ethnic minorities deserve more protection. Further, 65% accept that sexual harassment is a major problem.

But, LGBTQ rights are not seen as essential or even warranted. 69% disagree that their country should do more to support LGBTQ rights. This could be due to the high level of religiosity across the continent, or the fact that several governments across the sample have outlawed homosexuality. This reveals that LGBTQ rights face a major uphill battle across Africa, but other minorities do not.

In every country, strong majorities of respondents would prefer to stay in their own country as opposed to moving, with the exception of Zimbabwe where only 52% prefer to stay at home. On the flip side, 72% believe their country has a moral obligation to shelter refugees and neighbours. South Africa is an outlier, with 59% responding that refugees have a negative impact on their lives, perhaps due to the high youth unemployment rate in Africa's southern-most state.

DEMOCRACY
48%
4%
DON'T KNOW

48%
STABILITY

	Stability		Democracy
Countries favouring Democracy	29	Gabon	68
	34	Congo Br.	64
	31	Zambia	57
	37	Togo	55
	44	Ghana	54
Divided	50	Nigeria	49
	39	Zimbabwe	48
	47	Kenya	45
Countries favouring Stability	52	Malawi	47
	54	Senegal	45
	54	South Africa	44
	57	Rwanda	42
	66	Ethiopia	34
	77	Mali	22

Missing values = Don't know

DO YOU PLAN TO VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION?

Y 70%

TOP 3 'YES':
Rwanda: 95%
Senegal: 85%
Kenya: 78%

N 26%

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED RUNNING FOR POLITICAL OFFICE?

TOP 3 'YES':
Gabon: 26%
Nigeria: 25%
Zimbabwe: 22%

Y 15%

N 81%

* Missing values = Don't know

"Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion"

85%

15%

"In my country, everyone is equal before the law"

50%

50%

MAJORITY 'AGREE':
Rwanda: 78%   South Africa: 56%
Ghana: 73%   Malawi: 55%
Kenya: 72%   Senegal: 55%
Zambia: 57%   Ethiopia: 52%

MAJORITY 'DISAGREE':
Zimbabwe: 79%   Mali: 61%
Congo Br.: 76%   Nigeria: 61%
Gabon: 71%   Togo: 51%

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

72%

TOP 3 'MORAL OBLIGATION':
Mali: 88%
Senegal: 86%
Rwanda: 82%

Refugees have a negative impact on my country and should be sent back to their home country

24%

TOP 3 'NEGATIVE IMPACT':
South Africa: 59%
Nigeria: 39%
Congo Br.: 32%

* Missing values = Don't know

"My country belongs to all who live in it"

75% Agree
25% Disagree

* Missing values = Don't know

Africans want the rights of ethnic minorities protected and their country to come to grips with sexual harassment

"My country should do more to protect the rights of ethnic minorities"

83%

14%

"Sexual harassment is a problem in my country"

64%

33%

MOSTLY 'DISAGREE':
Rwanda: 64%

"My country should do more to protect the rights of LGBTQ people"

69%

MOSTLY 'AGREE':
South Africa: 64%
Ghana: 56%

28%

* Missing values = Don't know

The Democrat

The African Democrat is defined as believing firmly in democracy over stable, one-party states when presented with this trade-off. They are more likely to be based in West Africa.

• Young people from West Africa are more likely to be African Democrats: youth from this region are 3% more likely than the average to agree that democracy is more important than stability. This is driven particularly by young people in Congo Brazzaville (+16% uptick from the base) and Gabon (+20% uptick from base).

• Young people from East Africa are 8% less likely than the overall population to agree that democracy is more important than stability in a government – making young East Africans less likely to be African Democrats. This is largely driven by Ethiopia and Rwanda, who are respectively 14% and 6% less likely to agree democracy is more important than stability than the average.

· Around a third of young people from Southern Africa (30%) think that refugees have a negative impact on their countries. This makes Southern Africa the most likely region for African Nationalists to be located. This is driven largely by young people in South Africa, where 59% (a 35% uptick from the base) think refugees have a negative impact on their country.
· Young people with the least access to the news are more likely to be African Nationalists. Those with lower news readership are more likely to be classed as African Nationalists – 22% of daily news readers, 25% of weekly news readers, and 32% of monthly news readers agree that refugees should be sent back to their own countries.
· Similarly, young people with no education are more likely to be African Nationalists – they account for 33% against 24% overall.
· Unsurprisingly, those with fewer friends from ethnic backgrounds are more likely to be African Nationalists – 28% of these say they would see refugees sent home, against 24% at base.

The Nationalist
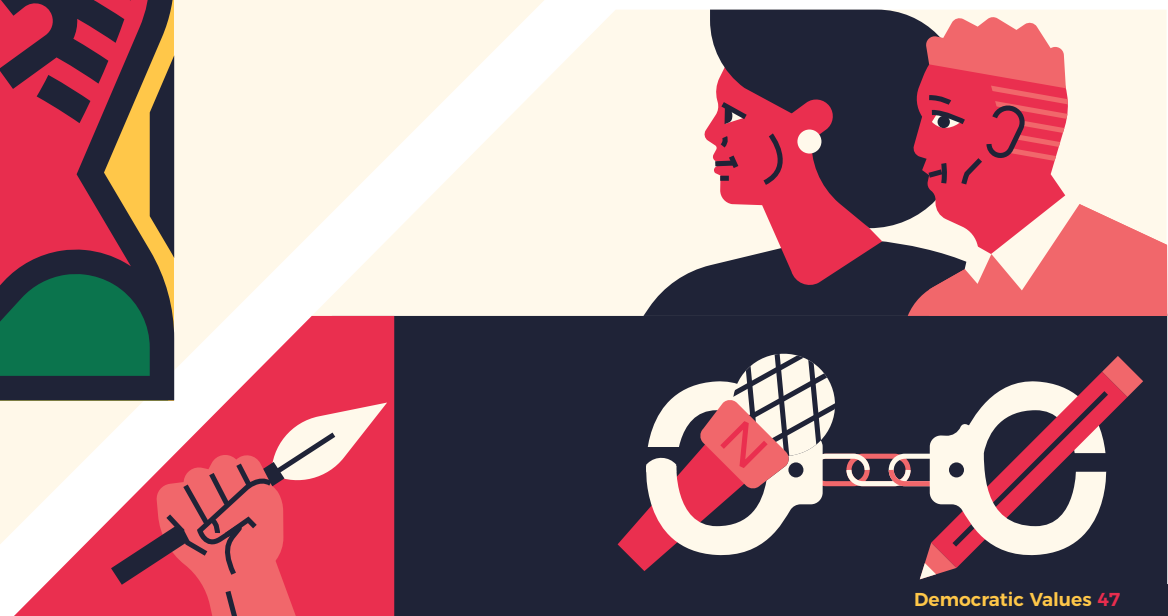
What does citizenship mean to African youth?

Nerima Wako-Ojiwa is a Kenyan political analyst, who serves as the executive director of Siasa Place, an organisation, led by young people that engages young Kenyans, educating them about the constitution, governance and electoral processes, through community engagements and social media.

I run an organisation that educates youth on the constitution of Kenya, electoral processes and public participation. A lot of the work we implement relies heavily on young people understanding governance processes and how they can engage meaningfully with the body politic. Often, how the region identifies itself in economic blocs for example, the East African Community (EAC), is how the youth think of themselves – as belonging to those regions.

Based on the question of citizenship, we shared a poll on our organisational handle to ask our followers what they thought about citizenship. Below are some of the responses that we received.

"In Kenya, it's all about taxes and silent cries."
"Having a right to possess and demand what belongs to you."
"Being a citizen means you get the rights of where you live. Being born within a boundary of a country, paying taxes and expecting nothing."
"Enjoying all the freedoms and getting access to government services fairly without racism, tribalism, nepotism and to obey the rule of law."

"Being a slave to the deep state."
"Understanding my rights and taking responsibility."
"Kuvumilia kuwa mkenya" (persevering to be Kenyan)

Youth are mobile, constantly flexible enough to live in new regions and to start over. Many do not feel accustomed to owning a piece of land. For their parents, it was important to own land and to inherit land. These traditions are becoming less important with young people and it appears to be a worry later on in their lives. Many youth can feel connected, a sense of belonging, to two countries or more at the same time.

African countries have a majority youth population. Unfortunately, most governments do not understand the weight of the demographic dividend. With

Kenya, the economic sector does not employ enough youth. The informal sector carries 80% of employment, yet every year universities channel almost 1 million graduates. Some statistics show that it can take three to five years for a graduate to find employment.

At the moment, the East African Community is working tirelessly to integrate into one economic bloc and they are beginning with our passport. The majority of youth is aware that there is a passport change taking place in the next few months, but they have no idea why. They do not understand the reason for integration. They witness the advantages of easier border-to-border travel, or perhaps employment opportunities in neighbouring countries but the culture or spirit of "oneness" is not instilled. The entire process has been a top down approach, instead of bottom up.

Youth will welcome other nationalities, when there is economic stability. They will also participate in democratic processes when they feel that their voice is heard. This is in line with how we communicate today.

Youth will welcome other nationalities, when there is economic stability. They will also participate in democratic processes when they feel that their voice is heard. This is in line with how we communicate today. Through my work, we are constantly adjusting the way we share information. In this particular sector, it has taught me how the youth are dynamic and every year, they change drastically. We are constantly reinventing our methods of engagement, communicating through a combination of technology and traditional mediums for outreach. Social media platforms, though not accessible to all, have made a significant impact on how we receive information. Decades ago, people relied heavily on getting information from the radio. People would gather around radios during certain hours to get information from government. There were elites who would buy newspapers to get their information and it later transferred to television. These days, with the rise of technology, information happens 24/7. People also have alternatives for sourcing information and many young people today would rather get their information from influencers than from traditional media houses.

The growth of technology has not just only introduced alternatives for information, but it has also brought real time information from around the world. It is easy to receive news from say Uganda, South Africa and Egypt at the same time if you are interested in knowing. Social media has brought in the aspect of two-way communication; youth want to be heard and share their opinions. This brings about alternative thinking; youth now view voting as an option, not necessarily a practice we must all participate in. There is a general frustration amongst youth, and election after election, they are participating less and less.

5 YEAR PLAN
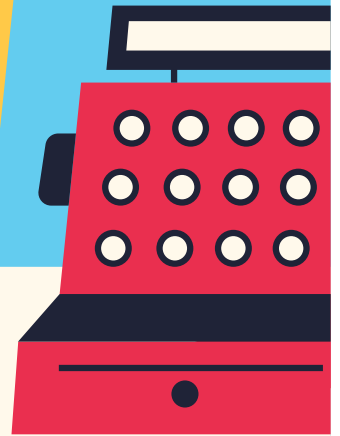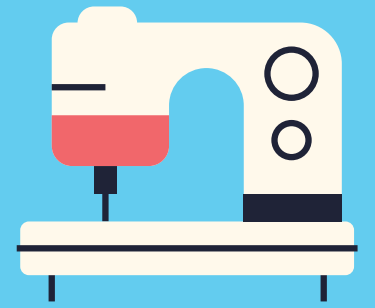
GIVE BACK

OPEN

5. Entrepreneurship

The next African generation is a generation of entrepreneurs who are resolute in their goals and ambitions

The next African generation is a generation of entrepreneurs who are resolute in their goals and ambitions. These young people are self-starters who appear intent on changing their lives for the better.

Two-in-three respondents already have an idea for a business, and encouraging entrepreneurship was the top answer when respondents were asked what they would do as leader for the day. These findings and others signal the spirit and aspirations of African youth.

While 72% are confident about their financial future, only 36% of African youth believe there are good job opportunities in their communities at present.

If given $100, roughly 50% would start a new business, 16% would invest in their education, 13% would save it and fewer would spend this on themselves for goods/leisure (total of 16%).

Overall, 76% said they would like to start a business in the next five years, with most interested in the fixed retail sector (17%). Interestingly, technology and agriculture were tied for the second most sought-after sectors (both 10%).

Regionally, interest in starting an agriculture-based business broke down as follows:
· South: 67%
· East: 63%
· West: 76%

To put this in context, Ghana has been leading the continent in attempting to get millennials to start businesses or work in agriculture. This effort to make "farming sexy again" (New York Times, 2019), is targeting college-educated young people to work in an industry often stigmatized as being related to poverty. This seems to be translating to real impact: 86% of Ghana's sample said they were interested in working in agriculture. Across the sample, this number was 70%, showing that the Ghanaian government's attempt to make farming desirable is on the right track.

Indeed, the sample also placed a strong emphasis on social returns from their business ideas and crafting efficiency gains for business. 75% of those sampled agree that they are confident their work can positively effect change in their community and for their family. This was found to be highest in Togo (91%), Ethiopia (88%) and Senegal (82%). Social entrepreneurship is popular, with 63% saying they have an idea for a business or social enterprise that will benefit those living in their community.

Start your own business within the next five years?

20%

76%

Missing values = Don't know

Additionally, two questions sought to understand how well young Africans could grapple with two aspects that are essential in developing healthy businesses: capacity for learning from failure and introducing efficiency. 77% of all respondents report that when they see a better way to do something, they try to make that a reality, while a slim majority (51%) agree that they find it easy to accept failures as part of learning.

However, there were very real concerns about garnering the required start-up capital to start a business. For 53% of those surveyed, the biggest stumbling block to setting up business is lack of access to capital.

Outside of entrepreneurship, most young Africans appear to have an idea about what they would like to do. For instance, careers in technology (78% interested) and education (78%) and sustainability (60%) are the most popular. The least attractive careers, on the other hand, include the army (38% interested) and government (44%).

Over 3/4

feel that when they see a better way of doing something, they try to make that approach a reality

Top 5

Ethiopia	87
Ghana	85
Rwanda	85
Senegal	85
Togo	85

3/4

feel confident that they can personally affect positive change on their community/family through their work

Top 5

Togo	92
Ethiopia	88
Senegal	82
Ghana	81
Congo Br.	80

Over 3/5

have an idea for a business or social enterprise that will benefit those living in their community

Top 5

Togo	81
Senegal	73
Nigeria	71
Malawi	69
Ethiopia/Ghana/Zimbabwe	68

INVEST

16% Invest in my education

Education:
Togo: 25%
Ghana: 24%
Gabon: 22%

13% Save up

49% Invest in/ start a business

DONATE

GIVE BACK

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

3% Donate to charity

3% Spend it recreationally

4% Spend it on someone else

9% Purchase common household goods

SPEND

50% agree that their country is embracing the fourth industrial revolution

My country is creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship

61% Agree

36% Disagree

Missing values = Don't know

Barriers to starting a business?

Access to capital	Government regulation	Development funding	Corruption	Training and education	Economic uncertainty	Digital technologies
53%	**11%**	**10%**	**10%**	**6%**	**6%**	**2%**
	Congo Br. (22%)	*Mali (34%)*			*Zimbabwe (22%)*	

* Missing values = Don't know

59%
feel that owning land is essential for their financial wellbeing

Mali

Telecoms

Senegal

Healthcare

Manufacturing

Telecoms   Fashion

Ghana   Togo

Nigeria   Ethiopia

Real Estate

Fashion

Gabon

Telecoms

Beauty

Congo Br.   Kenya

Retail
Mobile

Rwanda

Retail Mobile

Real
Estate

Malawi

Healthcare

Zambia

Zimbabwe

South
Africa

In which industry would you like to set up your business?

Industry	Value
Retail, fixed	17
Technology	10
Agriculture	10
Finance	8
Telecommunications	7
Retail, mobile	7
Real estate	7
Healthcare	6
Fashion	6
Beauty	5
Manufacturing	5
Media	3
Construction	3
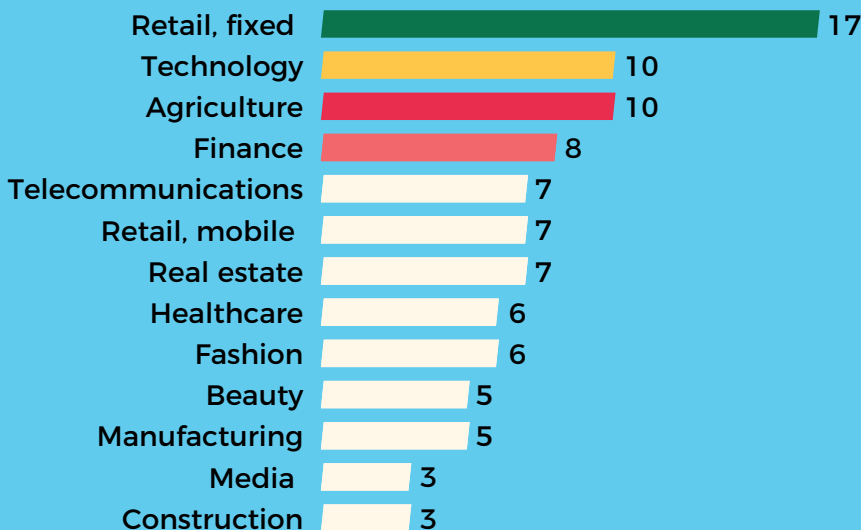
Showing all choices with greater than 1%

In Profile:
The Afropreneur

Afropreneurs are defined as those 'likely' to start a business in the next 5 years. They are more likely to be employed, and more actively involved in their communities. They are also more likely to be confident that the African Union has the power to unite the continent.

- Afropreneurs are more likely to be based in Malawi, Senegal and Togo than anywhere else in Africa. For instance, 90% of young people in Malawi intend to start a business in the next 5 years, 88% in Senegal and 90% in Togo. This compares to 76% overall.
- However, just 47% of young people in South Africa intend to start a business in the next 5 years, making young South Africans the least entrepreneurial among the countries tested.

- Those self-identifying as involved in their communities are more likely to be Afropreneurs, with 80% wanting to start a business in the next 5 years, this compares to 76% on average.
- Young people with a primary education or higher are more likely to be Afropreneurs – with 87% wanting to start a business in the next 5 years. This compares to 76% at the base.
- Those optimistic that the African Union will be able to facilitate unity across the continent are more likely to be Afropreneurs than the average population (79% vs 76%).

Educating a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders for Africa

Patrick Awuah established Ashesi University in Ghana. He is one of the world's most respected educators. Fortune magazine listed him as one of the world's 50 greatest leaders and he was named a MacArthur Fellow, an award given to 24 people who are shedding light to the world, and improving it in imaginative ways. He was also recognized as one of Ghana's top CEOs and named the best social entrepreneur by the Schwab Foundation.

In this book, thousands of young Africans share their aspirations. As the founder and president of an African university, I was encouraged that a majority (70%) are committed members of their communities; their hopes for the future go beyond personal success. When asked what they would like to accomplish if they were a leader for a day, their most frequent answers included, "create jobs", "encourage entrepreneurship", and "fight corruption".

These young people have identified both a lack of opportunity and too much corruption as key obstacles to Africa's long-term progress. They would like to address these needs. As readers, we face a crossroad. Will we dismiss these aspirations as unattainable dreams? Or will we invest in African education, not just expanding the number of schools, but also focusing on innovation and improvements so that our schools can better prepare our youth for an ethical, productive life?

In 2002, Ashesi University in Ghana opened with an audacious mission: to educate a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders for Africa. We believed that the educational model Africa inherited from colonial times, which relies on memorization and study within a single, narrow field, was inadequate. With generous support from several of the world's great universities, we crafted a new approach, designed to foster integrity and outstanding skills within an African context.

Today, the accomplishments of Ashesi's 1 000 graduates have touched many lives and demonstrated the potential of our educational model. When twelve million Ghanaians voted in 2012, they used a secure biometric voter registration system that reduced voter fraud and boosted confidence in the election process. The lead developer was an Ashesi graduate, with another graduate as a contributing team member. This system can also reduce fraud in distributing social benefits and be deployed in other nations. Other graduates have created several technologies that have facilitated millions of secure cash transfers across West Africa. One alumna scaled her family's once-small construction business into other African countries, while another uses the earnings from her successful for-profit business to fund an award-winning mentorship programme for girls. Her programme has prepared women for leadership roles in several African nations.

What distinguishes an Ashesi education is not our subject matter, but our approach. We tell students, "Find a problem you believe is worth solving." Then they learn to analyse, work in teams, research, develop solutions and launch small businesses. In each of our in-depth majors, we emphasize the underlying concepts that will empower students to apply skills in agile ways. Much learning happens beyond each student's chosen major. Our required core curriculum is designed to foster ethics, critical thinking and communication skills.

African businesses tell us they seek graduates who are ethical, who have an entrepreneurial, "let's solve this problem" mindset, who can communicate well, and who are comfortable in situations more complex than the examples in their textbooks.

Old educational models fail our children at every level. Too often, young African children will proudly announce that they can read, only to demonstrate that they have painstakingly memorized a book. What if we taught our children to write their own stories, and in that way master the meaning and shape of words? What if we asked children questions about what they've read; not questions with one single correct answer, but inquiries that help them connect a book to events in their own lives?

Innovation in education may sound expensive, but frankly, we can't afford to not fund improvements. By 2035, the majority of the working age people on earth will be Africans. To create jobs for them, our businesses must grow, and we'll need many more entrepreneurs. By 2050, Africa's population is forecast to double. To accommodate this growth, we need ethical citizens to stand against corruption as well as homegrown innovators with agile skills in many fields.

African youth represent enormous human potential. To unlock their potential, we must offer our youth an education that prepares them for success in Africa today, and to help shape a better future for the Africa of tomorrow.

African businesses tell us they seek graduates who are ethical, who have an entrepreneurial, "let's solve this problem" mindset, who can communicate well, and who are comfortable in situations more complex than the examples in their textbooks.

6. Technology and Media

African youth are well-connected and technology and media savvy with a great interest in current affairs – but 'Fake News' is viewed as problematic

Over three-quarters of respondents (81%) agree that technology will change the fortunes of Africans for the better. This is most starkly seen in Ghana, South Africa and Kenya (98%, 92% and 90%, respectively). However, in Togo, only 53% agree.

As one might expect from the Digital Generation, 79% say that WiFi is a fundamental human right – yet only 1% of respondents view lack of access to technology as the most concerning issue facing their country. While there is widespread satisfaction in technology and connectivity in East and West Africa (78% and 62%, respectively), only 57% of those in Southern Africa are satisfied.

68% have some form of regular, private (non-workplace) internet connection, which could indicate why only 1% of respondents
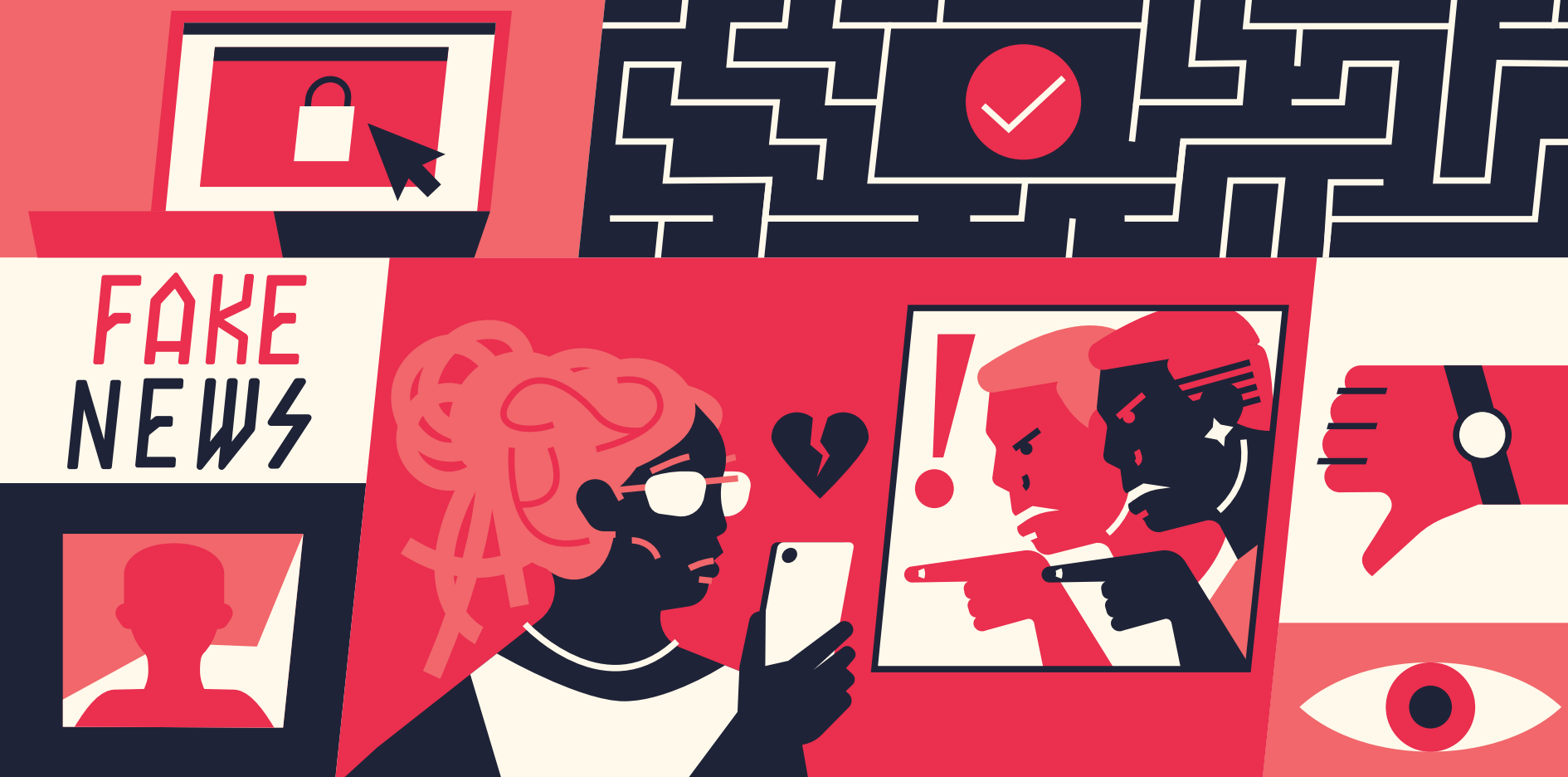
had concerns about the provision of telecommunications and data. Future surveys should assess why present concern about access to technology is so low, while the need and use of it is so high.

86% of respondents report owning a smartphone. Of these, a majority (51%) of respondents report using their smartphones for three or more hours every day, with social media being the "most important" app-type for 89% of respondents.

With multiple responses permitted:
- 89% use social media apps the most
- 31% use commuting or navigation apps the most
- 43% use multimedia (music and video) streaming services the most
- 34% use the camera as the primary app

63% of youth agree that their country is creating access to the digital economy
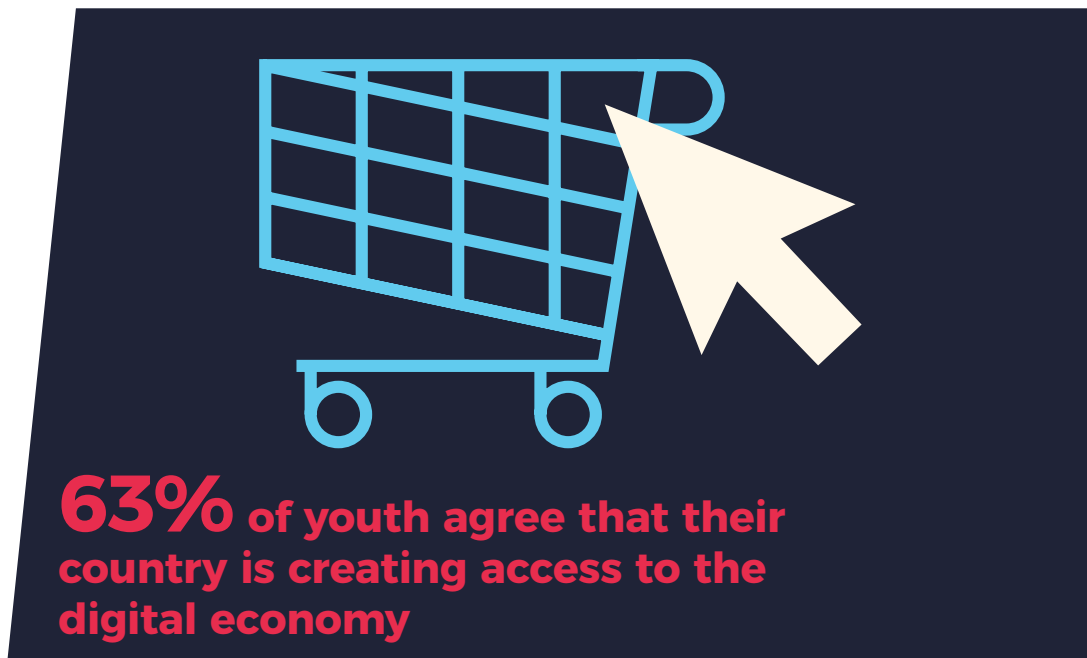
Nearly 80% of those surveyed check the news once per week (51% at least once a day). With multiple responses permitted, 72% watch television news, 54% report using social media to read and share news articles and 52% listen to radio. Gabon and Senegal were the only two countries where smartphone use was the most popular method of news consumption (79% and 73%, respectively).

On the international news front, BBC is by far the most trusted international broadcaster with 76% saying it is trustworthy. For context, 65% said CNN was trustworthy and 58% said Al Jazeera was trustworthy. Sky News had 51% trust. With the exception of Zimbabwe (28% trust) and Gabon (30% trust), strong majorities in every country trust their national broadcaster. But young Africans are most likely to trust their local news channel: 81% find these channels trustworthy.

53% report that they use social media to read and share news. But this type of news consumption is far less trustworthy to African youth. While Google has high levels of trust among the sample (73%), other tech giants and platforms do not enjoy the same trust. 42% said they found content on WhatsApp trustworthy, while 41% found the content on Facebook to be trustworthy.

As with the rest of the world, fake news is a concern for young Africans: 67% say it affects their ability to stay informed, with 37% saying it affects them a "great deal".

Religious leaders, surprisingly, are not a major source of news dissemination across the survey countries: only 7% report getting news from their pastor, rabbi or imam.

Most respondents read news in their national language (33% English, 30% French), however 20% read in both their national language and their local language. Generally, respondents prefer news from their own country (84%), but there is considerable interest in regional news sources (50%) and high interest in international outlets (70%).

In an age of personal branding and idealized imagery roughly a third (38%) agree that their online persona matches their real-life identity, indicating that most young people feel distraught by tensions between their social media and real-life personality. A quarter (25%), know someone or have personally been victims of online bullying. As social media and connectivity become more widespread across the 14 sample countries, this number could rise – especially if public awareness campaigns are leveraged as they have been in the West. When asked, 22% of respondents thought the world would be better off without social media entirely.

Technology will change the fortunes of Africa

81%

17%

25% know someone or have personally been victims of online bullying

Missing values = Don't know

8 in 10 believe Wi-Fi is a fundamental human right

Is Wi-Fi and the ability to connect to the internet a fundamental human right?

79%

WI FI

29%

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

WWW...

No		Yes
32	All	68
12	Senegal	87
16	Kenya	83
19	Mali	81
19	Nigeria	81
19	South Africa	80
21	Gabon	79
22	Ghana	77
26	Zambia	71
36	Malawi	64
43	Zimbabwe	56
44	Rwanda	56
51	Congo Br.	49
52	Togo	47
56	Ethiopia	43
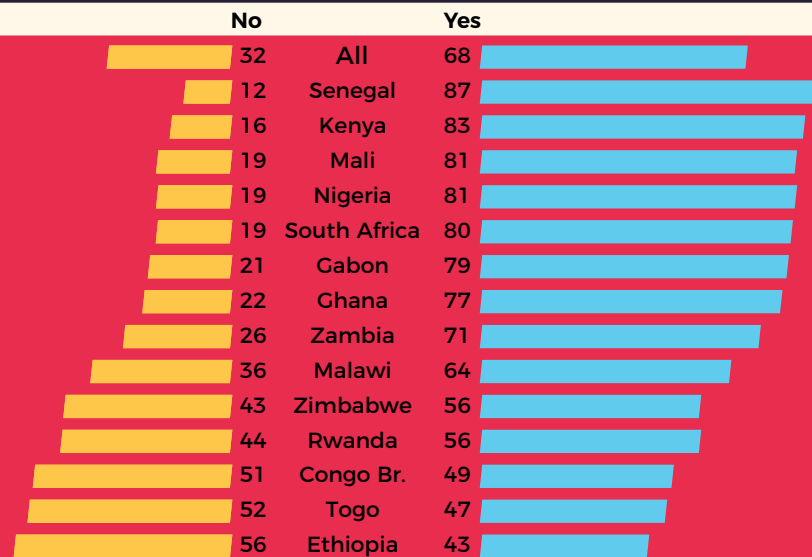
Missing values = Don't know

Most young Africans already own a smartphone with 2 in 5 spending more than four hours each day on it

Do you own a smartphone?

86%

14%

Among those who own a smartphone*, how long each day do you spend on your smartphone?
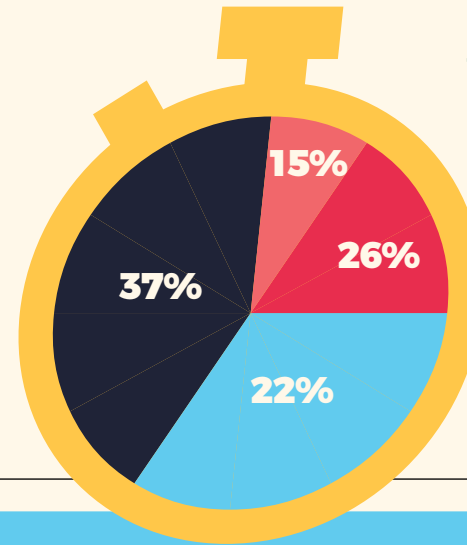
TOP 3 COUNTRIES '4+ HOURS':
Gabon: 53%
Malawi: 49%
Senegal: 49%
Zimbabwe: 49%

15%
26%
37%
22%

>1 hour
1-2 hours
3-4 hours
4< hours

*n=3,597

The most common use of smartphones is social media, followed by multimedia and photo apps

Among those who own a smartphone*

Social Media	89
Multimedia	43
Photo	34
Commuting	31
Productivity	30
News	21
Banking	17
Sports and workout	16
Apps for my business	14
Shopping	11
Weather	10
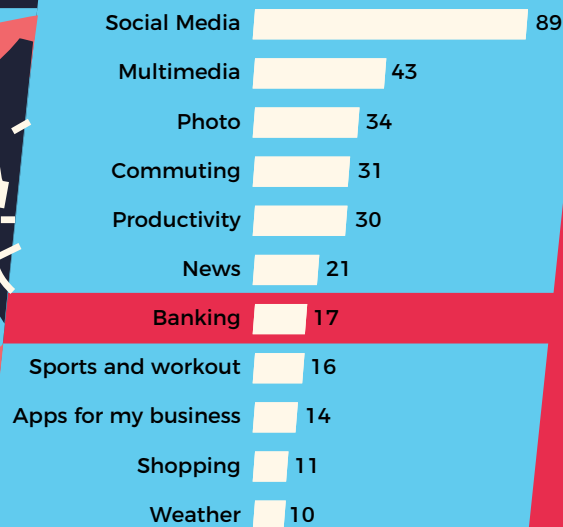
*n=3,597

Those who identified banking as the most important app come from the most economically-developed countries

"Banking"* app

Nigeria	43%
South Africa	40%
Kenya	32%
Rwanda	19%
Zimbabwe	19%
Zambia	16%
Senegal	13%
Ghana	12%
Ethiopia	11%
Togo	8%
Malawi	6%
Congo Br.	5%
Gabon	2%
Mali	1%
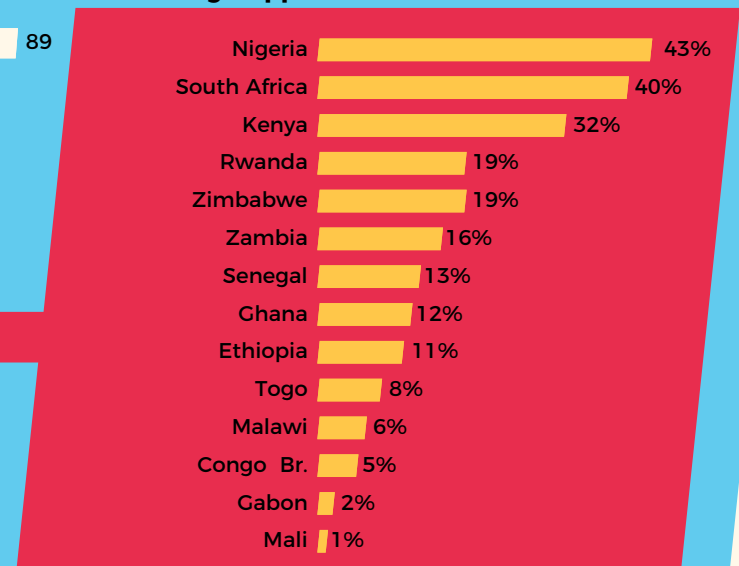
One-third of African youth read news in their local language, with half consuming news on a daily basis

Do you consume your news in...?

English 33%

30% **French**

Both primary and local language 20%

16% **Other local language**
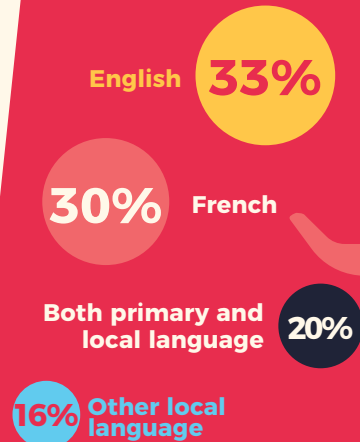
How often do you update yourself on news and current affairs?

5%
Never

12%
Once a week or less

27%
More than once a week

51%
Daily

TOP 3 'DAILY':
Senegal: 69%
Mali: 65%
Zimbabwe: 64%
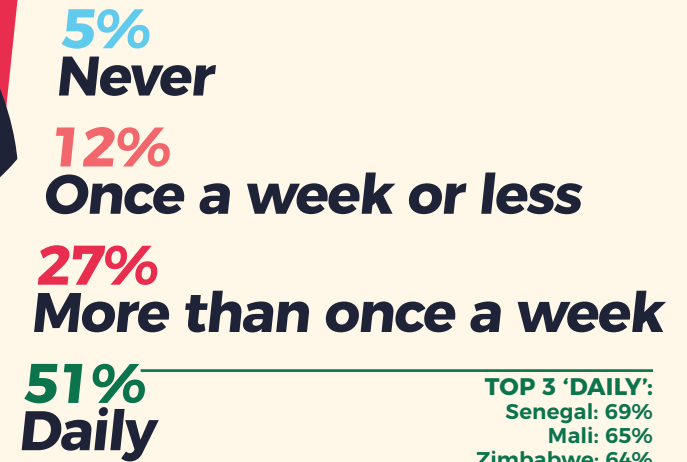
* Missing values = Don't know

Confidence in the trustworthiness of their national TV news is weakest in Zimbabwe and Gabon and strongest in Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa and Nigeria

Trust in national TV?

Not trustworthy		Trustworthy	
1	Rwanda (RTV)	98	**Strong trust**
3	Kenya (Citizen TV)	97	
4	Ghana (TV3)	95	
5	South Africa (SABC)	95	
7	Nigeria (Channels TV)	93	
15	Mali (ORTM)	85	**Fairly strong trust**
19	Ethiopia (EBC)	81	
25	Senegal (RTS)	73	
28	Zambia (ZNBC)	71	
35	Malawi (MBC)	65	**Modest trust**
33	Congo Br. (RTNC)	60	
36	Togo (TT)	58	
70	Gabon (GTV)	30	**Weak trust**
70	Zimbabwe (ZBC)	28	
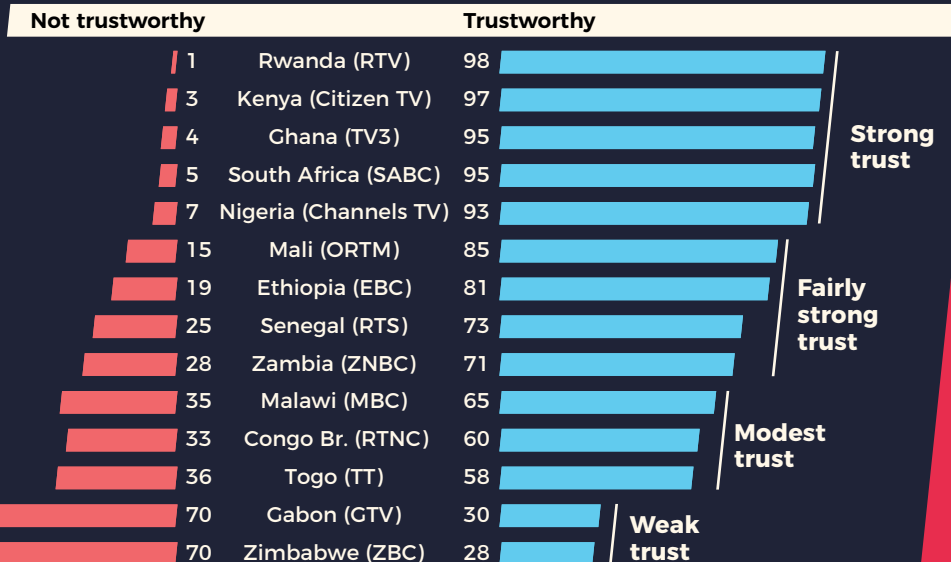
* Missing values = Don't know

Young Africans find local news channels most trustworthy and are least trusting of Facebook

How trustworthy do you think is each of the following sources of news?

	Don't trust	Don't know	Trust
Local news channel	19	0	81
BBC	9	14	76
Google	19	8	73
CNN	11	24	65
Al Jazeera	13	29	58
Sky News	15	34	51
WhatsApp	50	8	42
Facebook	53	6	41

A third say 'Fake News' impacts their ability to stay informed to a great deal

To what extent does 'Fake News' impact your ability to stay informed about world events and news?

37% A great deal

29% Not impacted

30% Somewhat

TOP 3 'A GREAT DEAL':
Ethiopia: 77%
Zimbabwe: 52%
Nigeria: 48%

TOP 3 'NOT IMPACTED':
Togo: 66%
Gabon: 43%
Rwanda: 42%
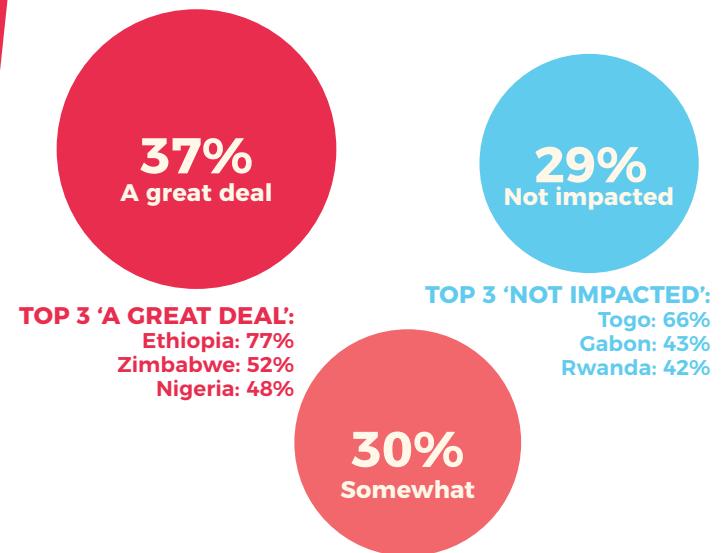
22% of respondents thought the world would be better off without social media entirely

Main news sources?

Television	72
Social media	54
Radio	52
Friends and family	36
Online news sources	29
Newspapers/Magazines	26
Religious leaders	7
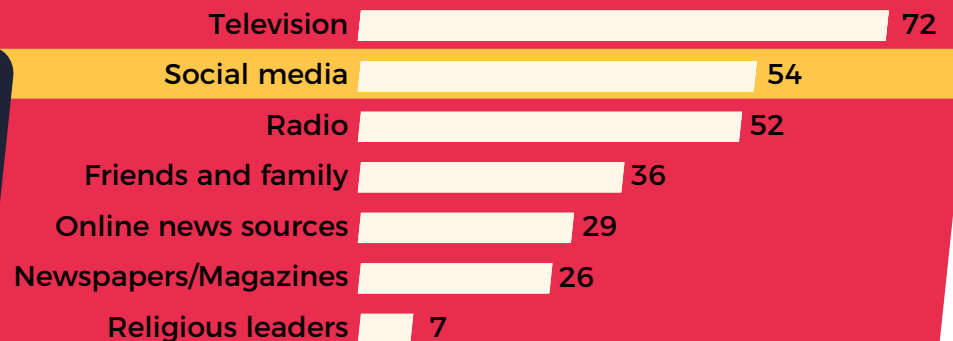
In Gabon (79%) and Senegal (73%) Social Media is the top source of news
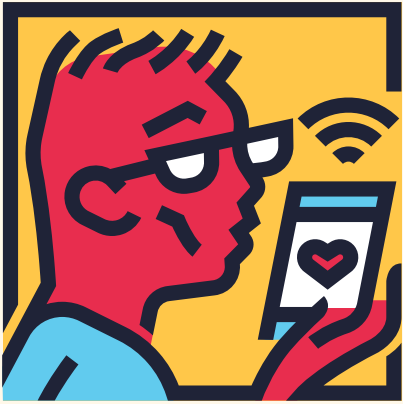
In Profile:
The Afro-Avatar

Afro-Avatars are defined as individuals with regular, private access to the internet (exclusive of workplace). These African youth are social media gurus, and tend to be more digitally connected than their peers. They are generally more male, urban and educated. They consume more news and social media than the average.

· Men are more likely to be Afro-Avatars than women (men: 71% and women: 66%)
· Young people in West Africa are more likely to be Afro-Avatars (72% say they have access compared to 68% overall). This is driven largely by young people in Senegal, with 87% saying they have regular internet access.
· Those living in rural habitats are less likely to be Afro-Avatars, and fall short of the base by 7%.
· Those in employment, or in education, are more likely to be Afro-Avatars (71% and 69% have access respectively). Those who identify as homemakers are least likely to be Afro-Avatars (51% have access compared to 68% overall).
· English language speakers are the most likely to be Afro-Avatars (82%), representing a 14% uptick from the base.

Technology and innovation enable inclusivity among Mauritian youth

Avinash Meetoo is a Senior Adviser in the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mauritius.

Today Mauritius is no longer known as the land of the Dodo but rather for being a modern, multicultural country striving to be a high-income and inclusive country in line with government's Vision 2030. Good infrastructure, good education, good governance, the economic integration of the vulnerable and innovation at all levels are among the enablers identified in the strategic plan.

Of the population of approximately 1.3 million in 2019, 40% are young people below 30. This contrasts with other African countries which tend to have a larger share of young people, but is a consequence of Mauritius having comparatively good health facilities for the elderly and the population having somewhat adopted a European lifestyle and, thus, marrying late and having fewer babies.
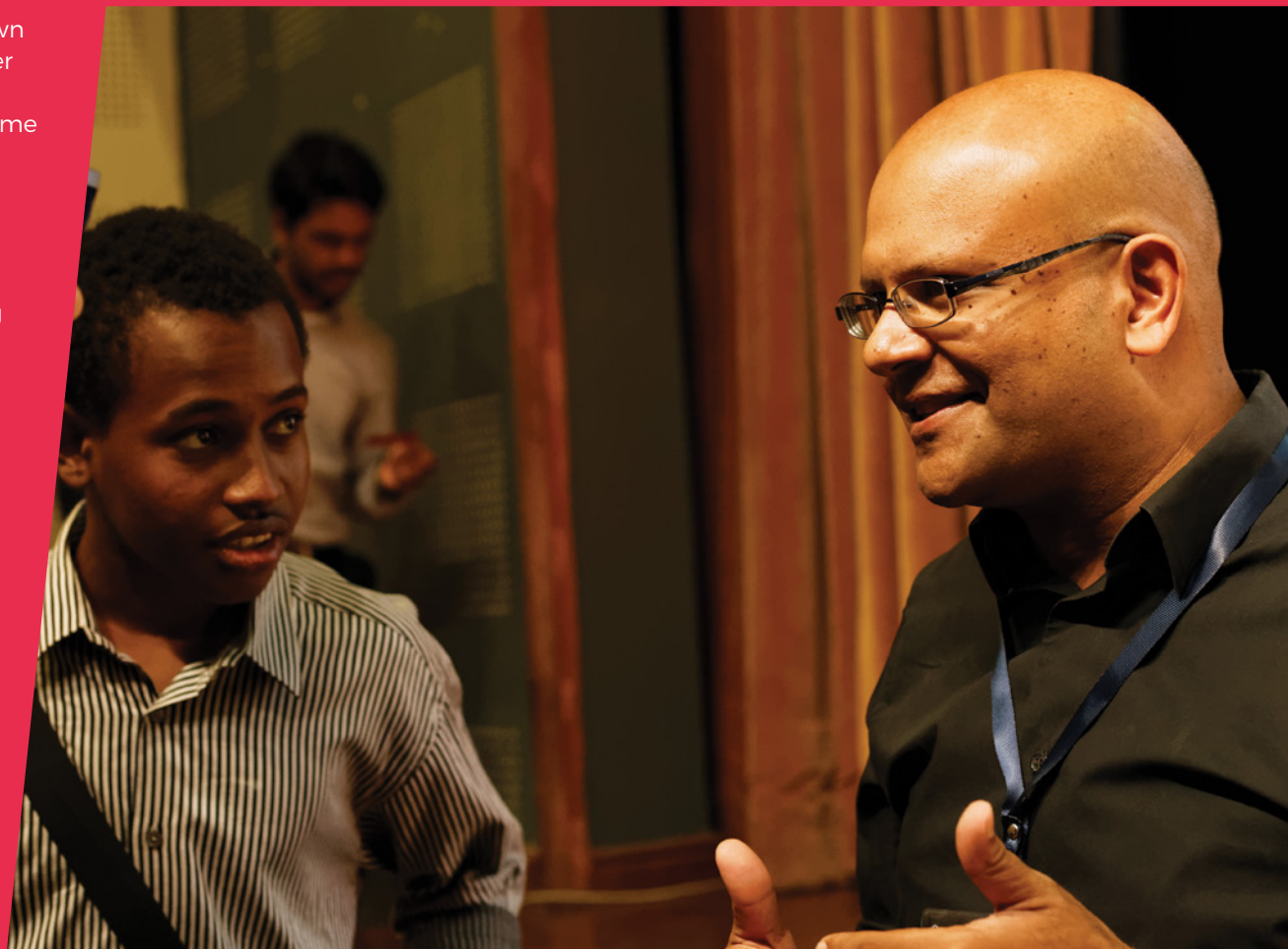
Such Wi-Fi infrastructure has allowed for numerous technology-related start-ups and the proliferation of incubators and co-working spaces where young entrepreneurs are experimenting with new business ideas.

Today, most people own at least one mobile device with 4G capabilities and more than 85% of the population have Internet subscriptions. Since 2018, Mauritius has been one of the few countries in the world with 100% coverage with Fibre-to-the-home (FTTH).

Such Wi-Fi infrastructure has allowed for numerous technology-related start-ups and the proliferation of incubators and co-working spaces where young entrepreneurs are experimenting with new business ideas. It is clear that the younger generation is less risk-averse than their elders and more willing to take up challenges which augurs well for the country's future.

With its state-of-the-art connectivity, Mauritius has become a regional ICT hub. There are more than 750 ICT-BPO based enterprises on the island which employ over 23 000 professionals, most of them young Mauritians with undergraduate degrees in computer science or in software engineering, obtained at one of the four free, public universities. Consequently, the ICT sector has become the third pillar of the Mauritian economy contributing 5.7% to GDP.

In 2017, the primary energy requirement for Mauritius was approximately 1.6 mega tonnes of oil equivalent met by imported fossil fuels (57% of petroleum products and 30% of coal) and by renewable local sources (13%). Today, all Mauritian households have access to electricity 24/7 and the average monthly cost per household is approximately USD 38. Concerning water, in 2017, Mauritius received 4 million cubic metres of rainfall. Unfortunately, only 10% of the precipitation could be collected. As a consequence, in some places, water is not supplied 24/7 and households are encouraged to invest in water tanks. The government provides grants to low income families for their purchase. The Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency was created in 2015 to oversee the development of renewable energy in Mauritius and increasing its share to 35% in the national energy mix by 2025. As Mauritius receives intensive sunlight almost year-round, solar energy is an attractive option. Mauritius plans to commission six solar farms with a combined production capacity of 80MW. In parallel, solar photovoltaic systems are being installed free-of-charge on the rooftops of 10 000 low income households at a rate of 2 000 per year.

Similar to what is happening in other African countries, the young people of Mauritius are playing an active role in mitigating the effects of climate change. They have changed their lifestyles and influenced those of their parents, and this is having a positive impact on the environment.

Mauritius has a dense road network with main and secondary roads covering practically every part of the island. At the end of 2017, there were more than 500 000 registered vehicles and this number increases every year. Given the comparatively large number of vehicles on Mauritian roads, traffic congestion has become an issue. The growing population will place greater demand on the existing transport networks and Mauritians will need more efficient modes of commuting.

In October 2019, Mauritius inaugurated the first phase of its light rail transit system, called Metro Express. In total, the light rail transit system will have a 26 km route and will be fed by four major bus interchanges which will enable a multimodal urban transit solution. This will allow people to live away from busy commercial centres, and to commute to work relatively easily.

Over the years, Mauritius has earned an enviable reputation as a well-managed and fully democratic African country. But the future belongs to the young people of Mauritius. Their elders have worked hard since independence to create a dynamic welfare state. Now, it is the turn of these young people to make Mauritius a high-income and inclusive society by leveraging technology and innovation.
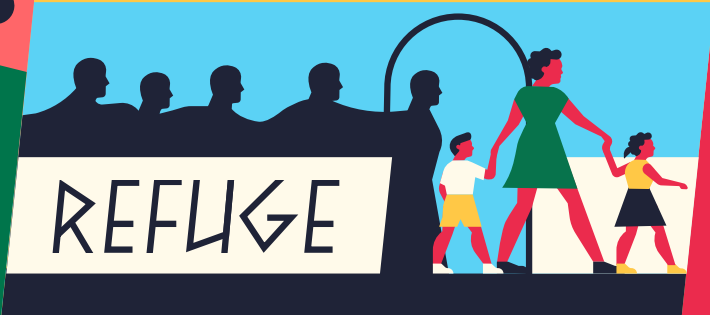
7. Community Cohesion

Young people in Africa are deeply embedded in their local communities, which many describe as ethnically, religiously and economically multitudinous

Many young Africans feel that their community matters and that they can effectively contribute to their family, friends and neighbours. Roughly 75% of all respondents feel they can rely on members of their community (except for Togo: 48%), while 70% report that they are involved and committed members of their local communities.

African youth are inclusive. Across the sample, 75% believe that their country belongs "to all that live in it", and roughly the same percentage think that their nation has a moral obligation to protect refugees. Contrary to other regions of the globe, young Africans welcome refugees – regardless of economic impact to their country. Those with the highest moral support for refugees were Mali (88%), Senegal (86%) and Togo (80%).

Those countries which do not think there is a moral obligation to support refugees were: South Africa (59%), Nigeria (39%) and Congo Br. (32%). This could be due to economic issues in these countries.

When asked what key issues they would focus on if leader of their village, or their country for one day, respondents specified some key areas to address. From increasing quality education and equalising access for girls, to ensuring potable water for their fellow citizens, African youth have an understanding of the complex systems that govern their lives and where such systems need dire improvement.

Overall, 75% report confidence in their ability to positively effect change in their local community.

Youth were also asked whether they had an idea for a business that offered social returns. A strong majority of respondents, 63%, agreed. In particular, Togo emerged as the most social entrepreneurial country in the sample, with 81% of respondents responding affirmatively. Senegal (73%) and Nigeria (71%) also reported high levels of support for this statement. Gabon, on the other hand, reported the lowest interest in social entrepreneurship, with only 34% saying that the statement described them well.

75%
confident in their ability to positively effect change in their local community

"I have an idea for a business or social enterprise that will benefit those living in my community"

Overall	**63%**
Togo	81%
Senegal	73%
Nigeria	71%
Malawi	69%
Ethiopia	68%
Ghana	68%
Zimbabwe	68%
Kenya	64%
Zambia	64%
Congo Br.	62%
South Africa	54%
Rwanda	53%
Mali	51%
Gabon	34%

Half are studying – most see it as a meaningful route to employment

Quality of education does not appear top-of-mind to African youth in the context of other issues, like economic vitality and government corruption. For instance, if given $100 to invest, 16% report that they would spend it on education. This could be influenced by the fact that most are already studying: 46% responded they were currently students.

Regarding which developments of the last five years had the biggest impact on Africa, only 5% of those surveyed identified the increase of girls' primary education. Looking to the next five years, roughly 15% of African youth believed that modernizing education was the most important issue to consider.

A strong majority (61%) report feeling that their country's schools are doing a good job at preparing children for the future. This is highest in East Africa (78%), followed by Southern Africa (65%) and West Africa (52%).

African youth feel deeply rooted within and connected to their communities

I am a committed member of my community — 70% 30%

If I needed help, there are people in my community who would be there for me — 75% 25%

I prefer to stay in my home community instead of moving — 69% 30%

And around two-thirds have friends or family from diverse ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds – especially in Ethiopia

Different Ethnic Background
MANY 39%
SOME 27%
FEW 20%
NONE 10%

TOP 3 'MANY':
Ethiopia: 60%
Mali: 58%
Gabon: 54%

Different Religious Background
MANY 39%
SOME 30%
FEW 24%
NONE 7%

TOP 3 'MANY':
Ethiopia: 62%
Malawi: 60%
Congo Br./Togo: 51%

Different Economic Background'
MANY 35%
SOME 34%
FEW 25%
NONE 5%

TOP 3 'MANY':
Ethiopia: 53%
Malawi: 51%
Senegal: 44%

* Missing values = Don't know

LEADER FOR A DAY

IF YOU WERE THE LEADER OF YOUR VILLAGE OR COMMUNITY FOR ONE DAY, WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU WOULD DO THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY?

PRESIDENT FOR A DAY

IMPROVE
JOBS SURE YOUNG CHANGE
DEVELOPMENT
INCREASE
BUSINESS
HELP GIVE CREATE
UNITY
FIGHT TRADE BUILD PEACE
GOVERNMENT
STOP
CORRUPTION WORK RATE
LIVING CARE
ENSURE
EDUCATION
REDUCE STABILITY
SYSTEM
UNEMPLOYMENT
ENCOURAGE EMPLOYMENT
HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES
PEOPLE
SECURITY YOUTH
PROMOTE
PROVIDE TERRORISM
END
FREE
MAKE
GOOD

Common responses:

CREATE JOBS FOR THE COMMUNITY
ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
INCREASE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION
IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE
FIGHT CORRUPTION

"**Create jobs for the youth of the community**"
— Ghana, 21

"**I would fight for freedom and unity, and fight against corruption**"
— Ethiopia, 24

"**Provide clean water to each household, because we lack water in the community**"
— Zambia, 20

"**Stopping early marriages and making sure that the rate of drop outs from school is minimal**"
— Malawi, 24

"**I would encourage political decision-makers to implement vocational training policies for young people in my community, to train future entrepreneurs who will enhance the economy**"
— Gabon, 22

76% of those in employment say they are community focused

In Profile:

The Community Activist

The Community Activist is deeply rooted within their home community, and they are defined as "involved" and "committed" members of their locale. Community Activists are more likely to be from East Africa, and are more engaged in employment and politics than the average.

- Those from East Africa are more likely to be Community Activists compared to the total sample. While 70% overall said they are deeply rooted within their home community, 86% of young people in East Africa said they are an involved and committed members of their community.
- Young people in employment are more likely to be Community Activists. 76% of those in employment say they are community focused, compared to 70% at base.
- Those that voted in the last election, and intend to vote in the next election, are more likely to be Community Activists. 75% of those that voted in the last election say they are community focused, representing a 5% uptick from the base.
- Those that are more confident in the African Union are more likely to be Community Activists, with 75% saying they are involved in their community – a 5% increase from the overall population.

Strengthening community cohesion to end the world's deadliest infectious disease

John Paul Dongo is the Country Director, Uganda, of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union).

For a quarter of Africa's young people deaths from infectious disease have had the biggest impact on Africa in the last five years. For youth across the continent, deaths from infectious disease were seen as more significant than terrorism, the digital revolution or challenges to the environment.

This perception seems to be driven by the deadly Ebola outbreaks in West Africa in 2014 and, more recently, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Even for those of us not living in areas directly affected by the outbreaks, a disease like Ebola grips our attention. It exposes our vulnerabilities to the broader threats posed by infectious diseases. Across Africa, the top six causes of death include five from infectious disease: respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria and tuberculosis.

Every day I see how infectious disease harms communities, robbing our youth of life and opportunity. I also see how bringing communities together is key to preventing unnecessary deaths caused by infectious disease.

In Uganda, The Union works with communities, the government and international public health agencies to develop solutions for urgent public health challenges including models for preventing children and young people from dying from tuberculosis.

Lack of access to TB prevention and care has led TB to become the number-one cause of death from infectious disease worldwide. TB claims around 4,400 lives a day. This includes an estimated 665,000 deaths among Africans annually, the highest rate of deaths caused by TB among the world's regions—a reflection of existing health inequities that impact the continent unfairly.

Our youth's health is critical to the future of Africa, the only region where youth are a growing proportion of the total population. Unfortunately, TB has been neglected as a health issue that affects young people, including children and adolescents. While it's common knowledge that youth face the risk of acquiring HIV, many don't realize that people also face a greater risk of contracting tuberculosis during adolescence.

That's why in Uganda one of The Union's goals is developing new solutions for preventing and treating TB among young people within the community. We're hoping that the work we do here is followed by other countries —and that it becomes a core part of the effort to end the world's leading cause of death from an infectious disease.

The key is working within the local community, bringing people together to help prevent TB from spreading. Usually, children and adolescents acquire TB from an adult living in the same household. This means that a large part of the solution is ensuring that whenever an adult is diagnosed, a trusted health

worker from the community is allowed to see who else is living in the household, and to ensure that they receive proper screening, diagnosis and treatment if needed. Treatment for TB usually takes six months, so being able to access care within the local community, and to draw on the support of community health workers who make home visits, makes a big difference.

One of the major challenges we still face, however, is the stigma associated with TB. It's not uncommon to see young wives divorced, or to see young people refuse to be tested for TB, because of fears of being stigmatized by the community. Just as we've seen in the response to Ebola, having trust in the health system, and finding support from the community, is essential to facing the TB challenge.

With the help of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, The Union is currently establishing a Center of Excellence for child and adolescent TB in Uganda. This will provide technical leadership, capacity building, and new

scientific evidence that countries across Africa can tap into in order to help children and youth living in communities affected by this disease. The Center of Excellence is an important step towards mobilizing the resources that are urgently needed to respond to TB among Africa's children and adolescents.

African heads of state have committed to increasing TB prevention and treatment among young people by 2023. UNICEF, the World Health Organization, The Union and other leading health organizations have produced and endorsed a roadmap for ending TB in children and adolescents. The commitments exist. The solutions exist. Now action is needed.

We have seen the difference that youth activism in Africa has made in the fight against HIV. My hope is to see a growing movement of youth who are passionate about ending TB. Their influence can help hold governments accountable for protecting our rights to attain the highest standard of health. Young people especially can help to dispel the terrible stigma attached to TB that is currently holding us back from ending this epidemic for good.

My hope is to see a growing movement of youth who are passionate about ending TB and other infectious-disease epidemics. Their influence can help hold governments accountable for protecting our rights to attain the highest standard of health.

8. Foreign Relations

African youth are conflicted in regard to foreign influence – on the one hand, many are wary of new forms of colonialism but at the same time most consider the influence of specific countries to be positive

When it comes to international powers, China and the United States have the greatest influence across Africa, followed by the African Union and the European Union.

African youth feel wary about global influence, revealing a tension between development and neo-colonialism. Therefore, this "modern" colonialism appears top of mind for many young Africans. 68% believe that foreign investment in their country – like China's Belt and Road Initiative – is a form of modern colonialism, while 66% believe that colonialism's legacy still impacts their lives. Consensus is less clear on whether global influence is a good or bad thing generally. 57% say foreign influence is bad, while 38% say it is good. Roughly 5% did not know.

When confronted with the influence of particular countries, however, an overwhelming majority of African youth are positive – with the exception of French influence, which nearly half deem negative. For non-African states, the USA (83%) and UK (82%) are viewed most favourably, while France has the highest percentage of unfavourability among respondents (42%). Francophone countries are most likely to hold negative views towards French influence on their country, with sizeable proportions stating that France's influence is very negative. For instance, 51% of respondents from Senegal deemed French influence very negative.

Internationally, China and the USA have the most influence in Africa according to respondents (79% and 74% respectively). But the USA is seen as having more positive influence (83% positive) compared to China (79% positive). This is despite the recent investments made by the Chinese government's Belt and Road Initiative, which targets infrastructure and economic potential across the continent.

Most supra-national organisations are viewed favourably by African youth – especially the Africa Union, which 86% of respondents feel positively impacts their country. The European Union also has high favourability, with nearly three-in-four agreeing the EU has positive impact on their country.

FOREIGN INFLUENCES

China and the US have the greatest influence, followed by the African Union and the European Union

83%

74% US

How much influence, if any at all, do you think the following countries/ organisations have on your country AND IS IT POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE?

INFLUENCE **+** **POSITIVE**

82%
54%
UK

FRANCE
57%
62%

73%
70%
EUROPEAN UNION

68%
37%
RUSSIA

TOP 'POSITIVE INFLUENCE':
Ethiopia: 88%
Ghana: 87%
Mali: 86%

70%
32%
SAUDI ARABIA

79%
79%
CHINA

TOP 'POSITIVE INFLUENCE':
Togo: 95%
Ethiopia: 92%
Malawi: 91%
Nigeria: 91%

73%
33%
INDIA

NIGERIA
68%
31%

86%
73%
AFRICAN UNION

84%
44%
SOUTH AFRICA

TOP 'POSITIVE INFLUENCE':
Zimbabwe: 97%
Kenya: 93%
Ghana: 91%
Ethiopia: 91%
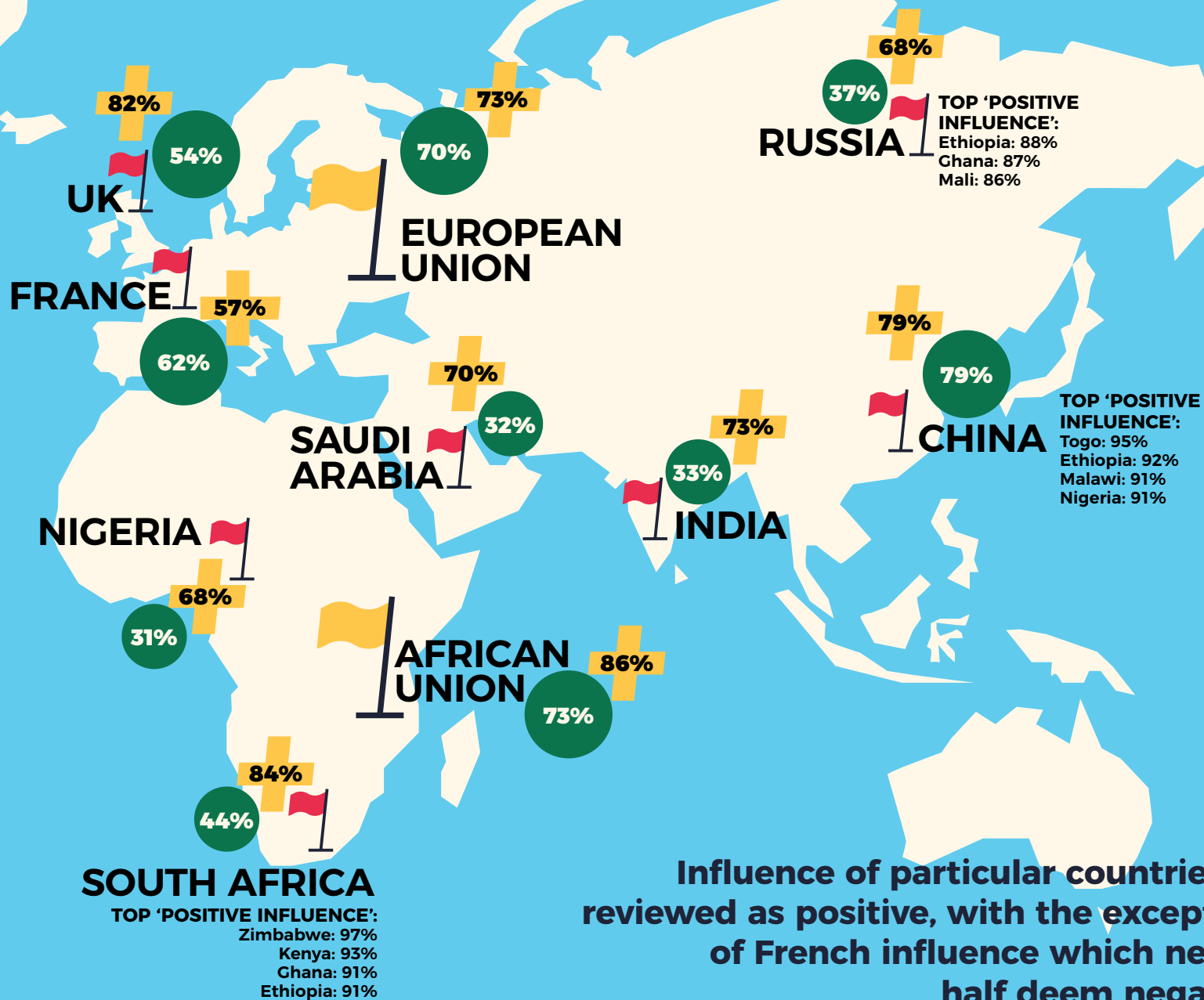
Influence of particular countries, is reviewed as positive, with the exception of French influence which nearly half deem negative

"Modern" colonialism appears top of mind for many young Africans.

African Union Influence

Most supra-national organisations are viewed favourably by African Youth – especially the Africa Union

| 👎		👍
3%	Ethiopia	97%
3%	Ghana	96%
6%	Zambia	89%
8%	Kenya	92%
8%	Nigeria	91%
10%	Malawi	90%
12%	Mali	88%
13%	Congo Br.	86%
14%	Senegal	84%
19%	Rwanda	81%
19%	Zimbabwe	79%
22%	Togo	75%
28%	South Africa	71%
30%	Gabon	68%

European Union Influence

Some African Countries were much more critical of European Union, with almost half of youth in Zimbabwe, Mali, Senegal, and Gabon saying their influence was negative

👎		👍
3%	Ghana	96%
5%	Ethiopia	93%
8%	Malawi	92%
7%	Nigeria	91%
6%	Zambia	91%
13%	Kenya	87%
20%	South Africa	80%
26%	Congo Br.	72%
29%	Rwanda	70%
39%	Togo	55%
43%	Zimbabwe	55%
46%	Mali	53%
49%	Senegal	48%
52%	Gabon	47%
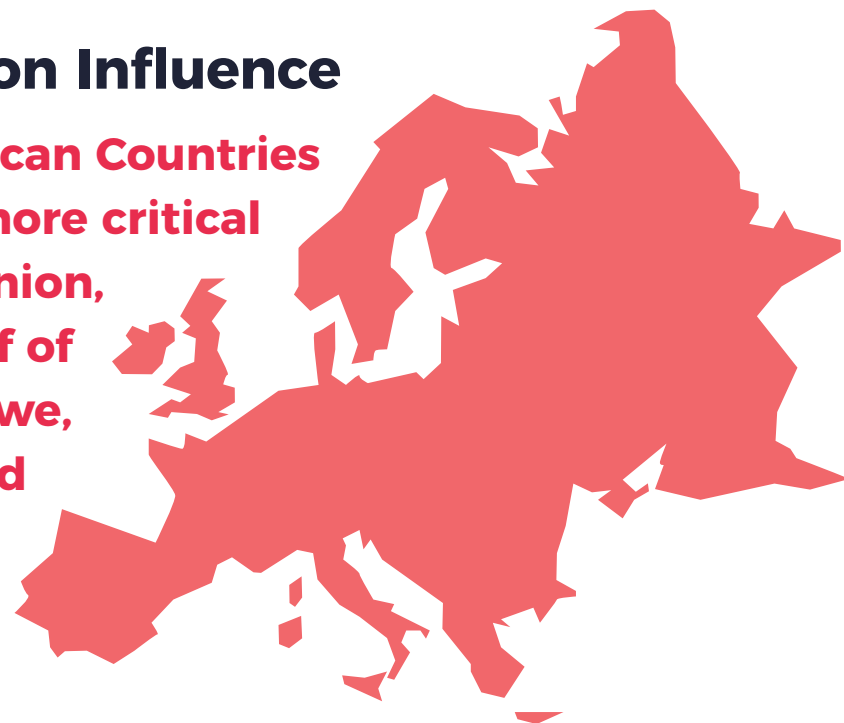
Missing values = Don't know

68% believe that foreign investment in their country – like China's Belt and Road Initiative – is a form of modern colonialism, while 66% believe that colonialism's legacy still impacts their lives

French Influence

Francophone countries are most likely to hold negative views towards French influence

👎		👍
71%	Gabon	28%
68%	Senegal	31%
60%	Mali	40%
58%	Togo	40%
57%	Rwanda	42%
40%	Congo Br.	60%
34%	Zimbabwe	53%
25%	Zambia	72%
22%	Malawi	74%
13%	South Africa	86%
12%	Kenya	86%
10%	Nigeria	87%
5%	Ethiopia	93%
2%	Ghana	97%

African youth feel wary about global influence which many see as a form of modern colonialism

Foreign governments' investments into my country are forms of economic colonialism

AGREE 68%
DISAGREE 27%

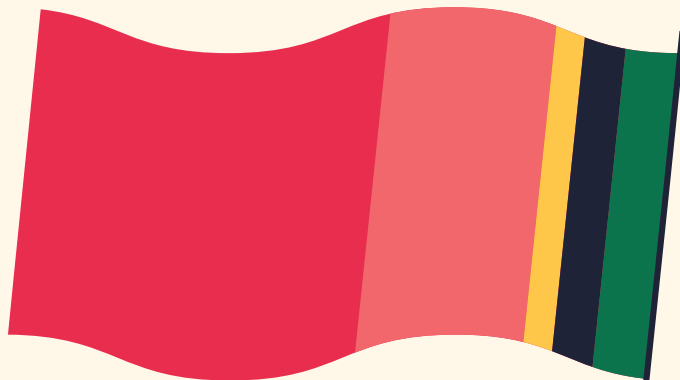**Global influence in Africa is generally a bad thing**

AGREE 57%
DISAGREE 38%

Colonialism still affects my community today

AGREE 66%
DISAGREE 29%

THREAT OF TERRORISM

Thinking about terrorist groups and their recruitment, which of the following apply to you. Please select all that apply.
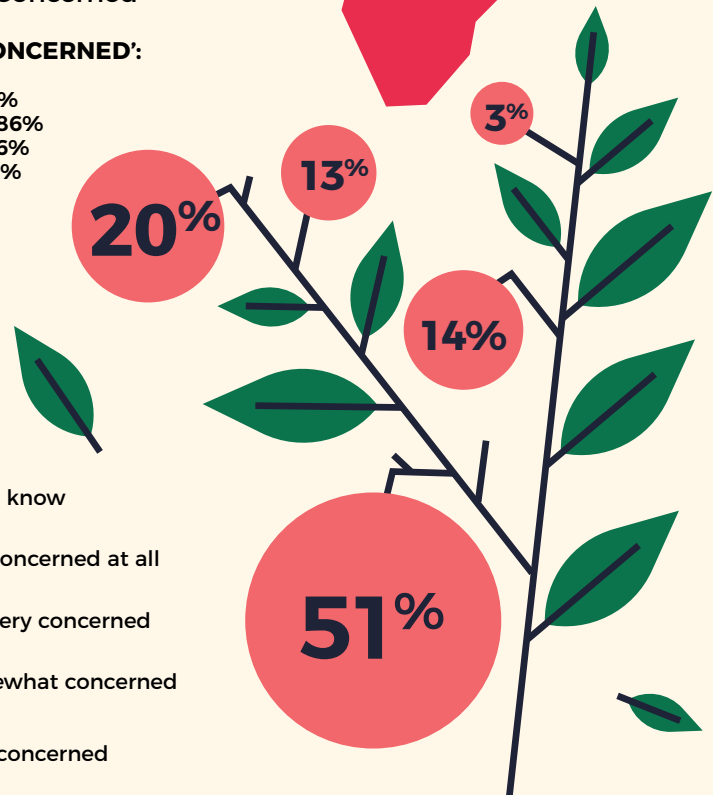
3% I know someone who has been approached by a terror group recruiter

3% I know someone who supports a terror group or radical insurgency

2% I have been approached by a terror group recruiter or radical

14% Don't know/Prefer not to say

80% None of the above

27% Not concerned

71% Concerned

TOP 5 CONCERNED':
Mali: 99%
Kenya: 89%
Ethiopia: 86%
Nigeria: 86%
Ghana: 85%

3% Don't know

13% Not concerned at all

14% Not very concerned

20% Somewhat concerned

51% Very concerned

3%

13%

20%

14%

51%

In Nigeria: How confident are you in the government's ability to deal with Boko Haram?
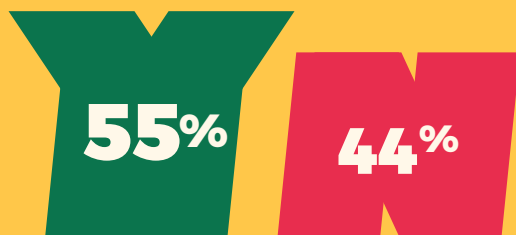
55% Confident

44% Not Confident

Very confident 20%
Somewhat confident 35%
Not very confident 24%
Not confident at all 20%
Don't know 1%

In Nigeria: To what extent does Boko Haram impact your daily life?

69% Impacts

30% Does not impact

A great deal 33%
Somewhat 36%
Not too much 11%
Not at all 19%

* Missing values = Don't know

Looking to the next 5 years

22%
Donald Trump

9%
Xi Jinping

13%
Bill Gates

10%
Mark Zuckerberg

Leadership

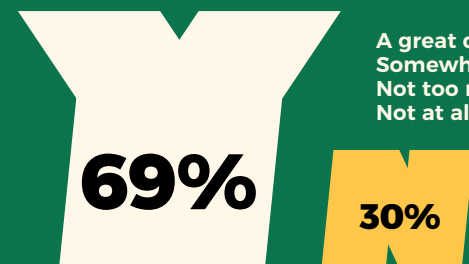Young Africans have a clear preference on leadership quality: when considering those international leaders who have had the most impact during their lifetime and who are projected to have the most impact over the next five years, a strong majority in both questions chose democratic leaders with track records of espousing liberal values like tolerance and freedom.

Regardless of the positive or negative association with leaders, African youth were clear-eyed about which individual had the biggest impact on Africa during their lifetime. Out-performing all other individuals, Nelson Mandela was seen as the most influential during the lifetime of 55% of those sampled. Former US president Barack Obama received the second-highest number of responses (12%), followed by a tie between Bill Gates and current US President Donald Trump (6%).

Looking to the next five years, the balance changes. The future of African youth, it seems, will be primarily driven by Donald Trump (22%), followed by Bill Gates (13%) and Mark Zuckerberg (10%). It should be noted that a sizeable proportion of 16% responded with "don't know". Surprisingly, no current-day African leaders reached beyond Uhuru Kenyatta's 5%, who garnered the fourth highest share of expected impact at 9%.

Africa's response to conflict will define the future of its youth

Betty Bigombe, Director on Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank, Washington, is the former Minister of State of Uganda for the Pacification of Northern Uganda where she served as the government's chief liaison to the Lord's Resistance Army.

To speak of Africa in broad, sweeping terms is to speak of Africa dishonestly. After all, the continent is home to more than one billion people, whose hundreds of languages, cultures and customs are spread across more than fifty nations, each with its own unique history, rendering futile any attempt to generalize. Nevertheless, there appears to be at least one point about Africa upon which everyone can agree and one clearly resonant as we bear witness to the findings of the African Youth Survey to which I'm pleased to contribute: the 21st century is the African century.

While growing populations and expanding economies typically augur well for developing nations, in the African context, these circumstances present risks as well as opportunity. For all their progress in recent years, African nations, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, remain dangerously exposed to issues of poverty, inequality, unemployment and other downside risks associated with rampant population development and runaway economic growth.

What's more, Africa's economies, similar to many other developing economies, are disproportionately vulnerable to external economic pressures than are more developed economies. Factors such as international trade tensions, weakening performance of non-African heavyweights like China, tightening global financial conditions and even climate change, exacerbate Africa's rapid but unsteady rise.

No matter, while each of these issues remains a threat in its own right, the likelihood that any of them may dim the continent's bright horizons pales in comparison to one of the most significant and enduring obstacles to African prosperity: violent conflict.

Though today's violent conflicts in Africa are not as deadly and disruptive as those that occurred during the 1990s, the IMF and countless other global observers contend that the recent resurgence of armed conflicts in the region is perhaps the greatest immediate threat to African societies and economies.

The harm caused by armed conflicts is felt in every conceivable sector of the African states they affect. In addition to the tragic loss of human life they inflict, armed conflicts are potential catalysts for a chain reaction of events that undermines any and all socio-economic progress. Generally speaking, conflicts typically cause considerable damage to public

> **These African Youth Survey findings are real and are felt across the continent. They are a barometer which, if not properly addressed, will perpetuate the conflict trap and stifle hopes for lasting change.**

infrastructure, private property, human capital, investor confidence and economic activity. As a result, conflicts understandably preoccupy the region's governments. This, in turn, instils political instability among governing officials, and polarizes national electorates, creating a whirlwind of self-reinforcing circumstances that effectively guarantee the conflict's persistence, a scenario otherwise known as the conflict trap.

Should this chain of events be permitted to continue, the risks posed by Africa's rapid population and economic growth to its youth, to its future potential, such as poverty and unemployment, will only be exacerbated. I've witnessed this first-hand while acting first Minister of State for Pacification of Northern Uganda, where I served as the Ugandan government's liaison to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), an armed guerrilla group, during the early 1990s. It was here I learned the extent to which armed conflicts not only paralyze local societies and economies, as I saw in my own Uganda, but also wreak extraordinary intergenerational trauma upon post-conflict states.

To be sure, should the prophetic African century become a reality, the region's governments must prioritize internal securitization and conflict mitigation. This will require a proactive approach, one that emphasizes addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, unemployment and other elements that stir the civil unrest that precipitates violence.

These African Youth Survey findings are real and are felt across the continent. They are a barometer which, if not properly addressed, will perpetuate the conflict trap for which I speak and stifle hopes for lasting change.

To address these issues efficiently, African governments would do well to capitalize on the intra-continental cooperation that made such feats as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) possible, and treat resurgent violence as a mutual issue, one that warrants a collective response and, ideally in doing so, will unlock the prosperity potential of our brightest and best in what should be their undeniable future on the continent.

9. The Environment

While climate change is not a front of mind concern, most of African youth hold their country responsible for contributing to the exploration of renewable energies and providing a better recycling infrastructure

When asked specifically about climate change, 81% of respondents reveal climate anxieties

Social issues like climate change and environmental degradation are not major concerns for African youth when viewed in the context of issues like the economy and government corruption. Economic and political/stability issues trump the environment for young Africans.

For instance, only 7% saw climate change and other environmental challenges as the biggest impact on Africa in the last five years, with Malawi (14%), Zambia (15%) and Zimbabwe (14%) showing the highest levels of concern on the issue.

Returning to the present day, climate change is ranked as the most important issue facing the continent by 2% of respondents. Addressing the climate crisis registered as a future priority for just 4% of the sample, followed by increasing trans-national mobility of Africans (3%), and adopting the fourth industrial revolution (3%). Young Africans deem the past impacts of the climate crisis as more impactful on their lives than either the present day or future effect.

However, when respondents were pressed on individual environmental concerns, a majority reveal strong concerns. For instance, respondents reveal strong support for increased action on a range of environmental issues – from illegal wildlife poaching to reducing carbon. Findings suggest that certain countries have a heightened environmental awareness, especially Senegal, Ghana and Ethiopia.

The ivory and horn trade receives considerable media coverage across the world, and is perhaps one of the most publicised environmental issues outside of the climate crisis. Across the sample, 69% are reportedly concerned about the poaching of wild animals and the illicit wildlife trade.

This is highest in Kenya (83%) and Malawi (82%), perhaps due to the countries' tourism industries and the vitality of national parks.

When asked specifically about climate change (without competing against other policy areas), 81% of respondents reveal climate anxieties, with Ethiopia (93%), Senegal (92%) and Zambia (90%) showing the most concern. Only 18% report no concern regarding the climate crisis.
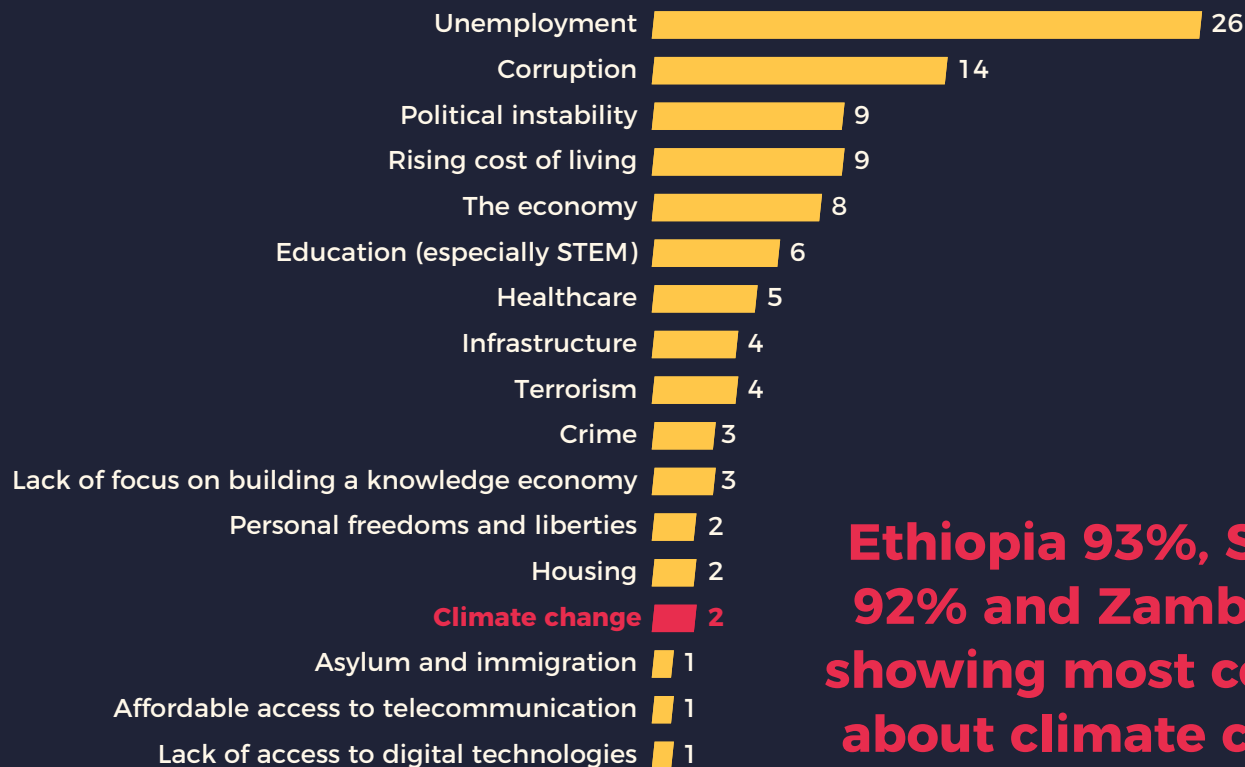
Another area in which African youth show strong interest in environmental considerations – and connected to the plastic waste finding – is the desire for improved recycling services. Currently, this public service receives a majority of support in only three countries: South Africa (71% approve of current standard of service), Rwanda (65%) and Kenya (52%). All other countries have a majority that is not satisfied with the provision of this service. 58% are not satisfied with this service. Those in Zimbabwe (80%), Zambia (79%) and Gabon (77%) are the least satisfied.

Surprisingly, most African youth hold their country equally responsible for exploring renewable energies and reducing climate issues as Western, developed nations. This is contrary to what many UN negotiators have argued for decades at the UN Climate Change Conference meetings. Since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted, progress hinged on whether the West would subsidize investments in renewables and clean technology for countries currently in development.

Amid other social pressures, climate change is not a top concern

Concern	Value
Unemployment	26
Corruption	14
Political instability	9
Rising cost of living	9
The economy	8
Education (especially STEM)	6
Healthcare	5
Infrastructure	4
Terrorism	4
Crime	3
Lack of focus on building a knowledge economy	3
Personal freedoms and liberties	2
Housing	2
Climate change	2
Asylum and immigration	1
Affordable access to telecommunication	1
Lack of access to digital technologies	1

Ethiopia 93%, Senegal 92% and Zambia 90% showing most concern about climate change

This natural resource has the potential to influence future geo-political issues, should conflict arise around water shortages. For instance, tensions are currently rising between Egypt and Ethiopia on the latter's Blue Nile Dam project
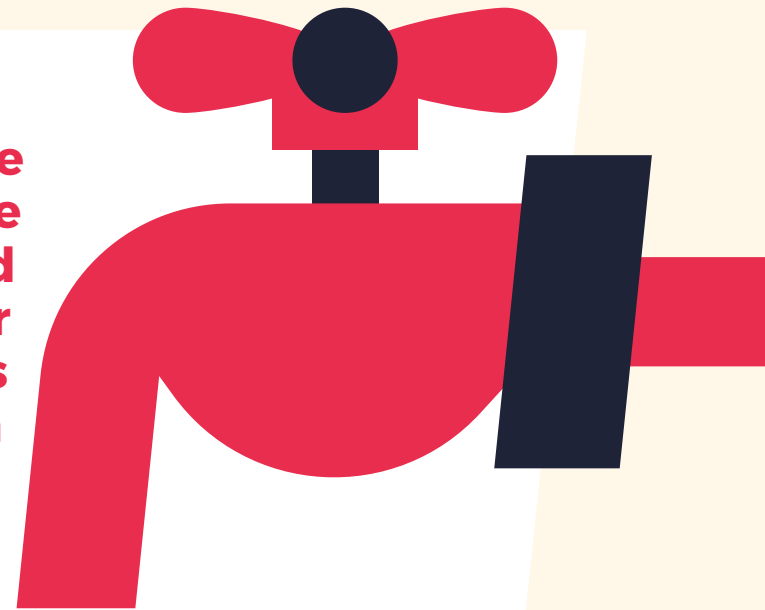
86%

across the sample cite concerns on potential water shortages

Most concerned
Ethiopia: 96%
Zimbabwe: 92%
Zambia: 91%
Nigeria: 91%
Ghana: 90%
South Africa: 90%

WATER SCARCITY

Are you satisfied with recycling in your country?

58% N

35% Y

Not satisfied	Country	Satisfied
27	South Africa	71
28	Rwanda	65
47	Kenya	52
52	Mali	41
55	Ghana	39
62	Malawi	37
67	Congo Br.	31
64	Nigeria	31
67	Senegal	31
57	Ethiopia	26
57	Togo	26
77	Gabon	20
79	Zambia	15
80	Zimbabwe	11
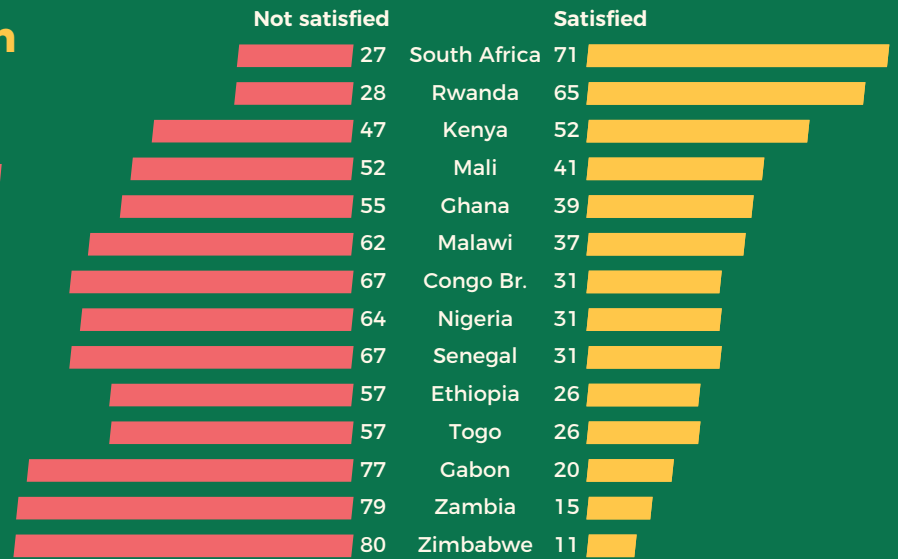
* Missing values = Don't know

THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC WASTE

Most concerned
Senegal: 92%
Ghana: 90%
Zambia: 90%

79%

69%

are reportedly concerned about the poaching of wild animals and the illicit wildlife trade

Levels of concern
Kenya: 83%
Malawi: 82%
Ethiopia: 79%
Ghana: 75%
Congo Br.: 74%
Senegal: 74%
South Africa: 73%
Gabon: 70%
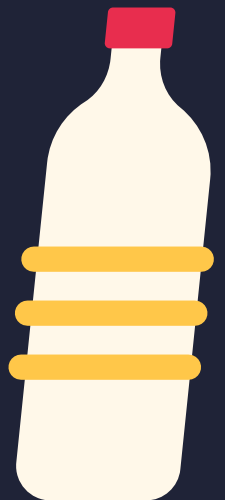Rwanda: 69%
Zimbabwe: 69%
Togo: 61%
Nigeria: 59%
Zambia: 57%
Mali: 34%

POACHING
OF WILD ANIMALS

Nearly two thirds of African youth believe that developing countries have equal responsibility to address climate change – **their Afro-optimism is grounded in a belief in Afro-capability**

40%

feel **DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD PLAY THE BIGGEST ROLE** in investing in and implementing renewable energy and clean technology.

BIGGEST ROLE FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
Nigeria – 55%
Gabon – 47%
Senegal – 46%

57%

feel **ALL COUNTRIES HAVE EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY** to explore and use renewable energy and clean technology, no matter how wealthy they are.

African youth seem less interested in who caused climate change and care more about addressing it

Missing values = Don't know

53%

report that preserving wildlife to boost tourism revenue is more important than giving humans space to farm

Ecological Preservation

HIGHEST SUPPORT
Rwanda: 80%
South Africa: 69%
Congo Br.: 62%
Senegal: 62%

LOWEST SUPPORT:
Mali: 76%
Gabon: 52%
Nigeria: 50%

West Africa
50%

East Africa
60%

Southern Africa
52%

Inspiring youth to fight corruption that threatens Africa's environment

Wanjira Mathai is a Kenyan environmentalist and activist who was recognised as one of Africa's 100 most influential people in 2018. The daughter of the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, she chairs the Wangari Maathai Foundation (WMF) leading the development of innovative youth training programmes for the youth that nurtures courage, leadership and integrity.

Thanks to the Ichikowitz Family Foundation's first African Youth Survey, we now have some new insights into the attitudes and aspirations of young men and women between the ages of 18 and 24 across 14 sub-Saharan countries.

As we at the Wangari Maathai Foundation engage in the movement across the continent to inspire character and personal leadership among these young people, I am inspired by the results of this survey. While on the surface it seems like climate change and environmental degradation are not major concerns for African youth, a more critical analysis tells a different story. When asked which of the list of issues they are most concerned about, youth ranked corruption second and climate change down the list at #14 of a possible 17. Further exploration of their environmental concerns brought even more issues to the surface.

One of my favourite quotes puts these findings in perspective. US Environmentalist and Founder of the World Resources Institute, Gus Speth, once said, "I thought the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today were ecosystem collapse, climate change, biodiversity loss. I was wrong! The biggest environmental challenges facing us today are greed, selfishness and apathy." Indeed, that at the core of environmental degradation is a culture of corruption that facilitates the destruction of the natural world.

In Africa, our understanding of climate change and the drivers of climate change can therefore not be delinked from corruption. Corruption is devastating to any economy, democracy and the natural environment in which citizens live and thrive. And the climate change agenda is therefore greatly undermined when corruption persists.

The Wangari Maathai Foundation's (WMF) unique approach is based on the fact that a major root cause of corruption in Kenya is the erosion of character. WMF partners with schools across Kenya to incorporate lessons, and implement experiential youth programmes, that build character, integrate emotional intelligence and nurture leadership qualities in today's children and youth.

We all recognize that because young people will play a profound role in shaping our continent's future, a moulding of character and personal leadership is necessary and critical to remedy youth apathy, the courage deficit and the perceived legitimacy of corruption.

There has never been a time so critical in our history to inspire courageous leadership and build the character of our youth.

One good example of courageous leadership is the story of the life and work of Africa's first woman Nobel Peace Laureate, Wangari Maathai. She was one of the boldest activists, who went on to win the most coveted prize in the world, the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. In giving her this prize, the Nobel Peace Committee noted that they were giving her the prize "for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace". Because the environment was not only about forests and climate, it was also about peace. And without the sustainable management of the environment, peace cannot prevail. Professor Wangari Maathai transformed our understanding of our inextricable relationship to nature.

Another of my favourite quotes is by the late Senegalese Forestry Engineer, Baba Dioum, who in 1968, during the triennial meeting of the General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) said: "In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."

A character building and personal leadership programme, based on values and that targets youth and children in early education programmes would, therefore, be the beginning of uprooting a culture of corruption. We need to begin to introduce environmental stewardship as a core part of early education. So that children and youth grow up understanding and loving the natural world.

We need to begin to introduce environmental stewardship as a core part of early education. So that children and youth grow up understanding and loving the natural world.

10. Challenges Ahead

African youth see infectious diseases and terrorism as the most formative developments for Africa in the last five years but now turn their attention to job opportunities and corruption

The Last Five Years

In the past five years, socio-political instability has been driving narratives across the continent, with 24% of respondents reporting that deaths from infectious disease had the biggest impact on the continent over the last five years. Terrorism (15%) and civil war (11%) together captured a further 26% of the sample. The remaining 50% of youth chose other issues that have impacted them over the past five years – from globalization (9%), to the increased foreign direct investment into Africa (8%) and issues like the digital revolution (12%).

Which of the following events that took place IN THE LAST 5 YEARS has had the biggest impact on Africa?

24% Deaths from infectious disease

15% Rise of terrorism

12% The Digital Revolution

11% Civil Wars

9% Globalization

8% Increased foreign direct investment

7% Environmental challenges

5% Increase in girls in primary school

5% Rise of e-commerce

2% Don't know

1% Other

IMPACT

'Deaths from infectious diseases'
(showing Top 5)

This is particularly true in Western and Southern African countries – whereas terrorism and civil war are more pressing issues elsewhere

Congo Br.
43%

Ghana
40%

South Africa
32%

Zambia
33%

Gabon
33%
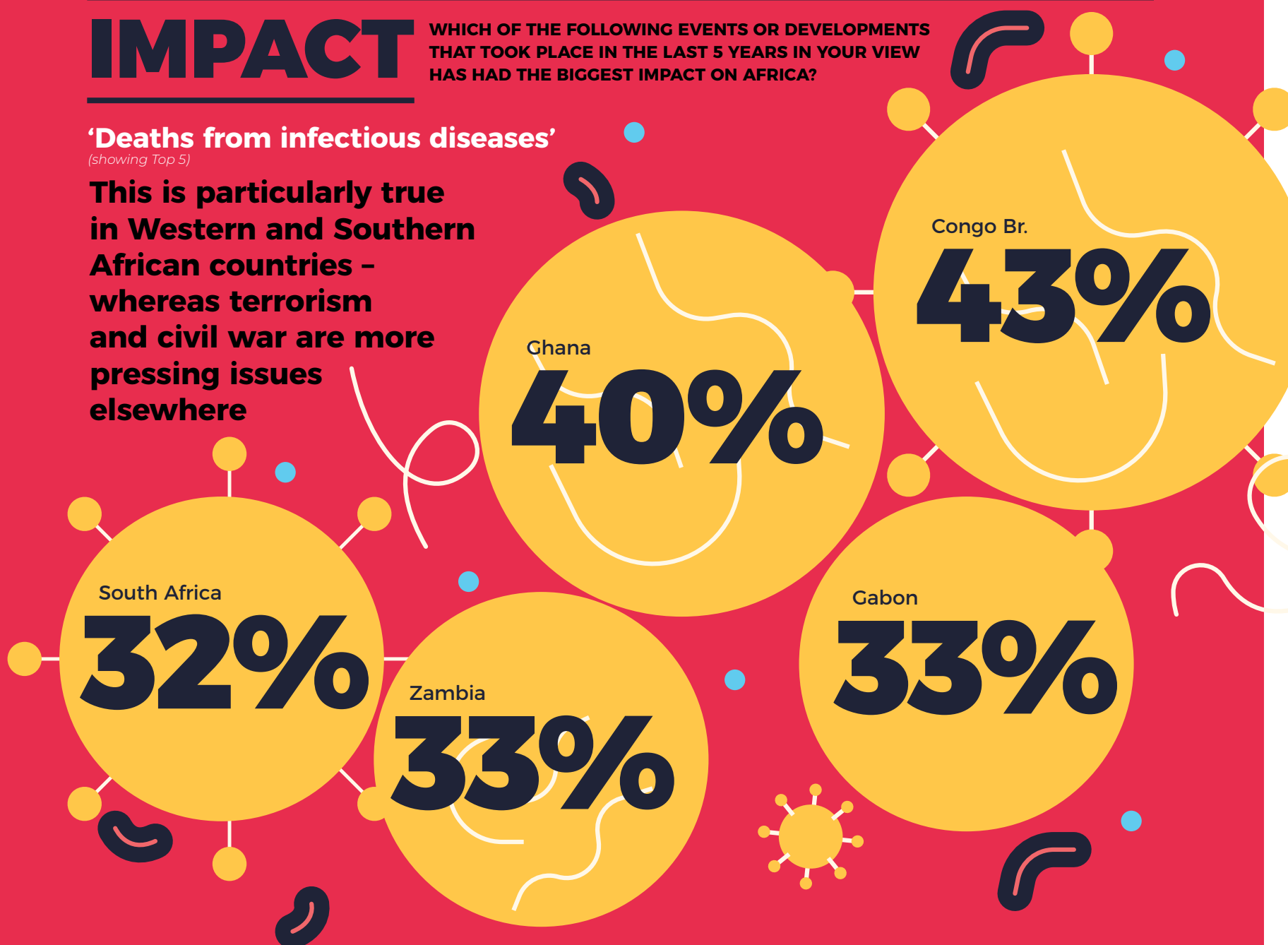
	Country	Biggest impact
Countries whose biggest impact is not 'Deaths from infectious diseases'	Mali	Rise of terrorism
	Ethiopia	Civil wars
	Nigeria	Rise of terrorism
	Kenya	Rise of terrorism
	Rwanda	The technological revolution
	Senegal	Increased FDI into Africa

Thinking about the NEXT 5 YEARS, which of the following, are the most important things necessary for the AFRICAN CONTINENT to progress and move forward?

Issue	Value
Reducing government corruption	26
Creating new jobs	24
Achieving peace and stability in Africa	17
Increasing access to basic services	16
Modernizing the education system	15
Fighting terrorism	12
Innovation and entrepreneurship	12
Making it easier to start a business	11
Limiting the influence of foreign powers	7
Improving women's rights	7

26%
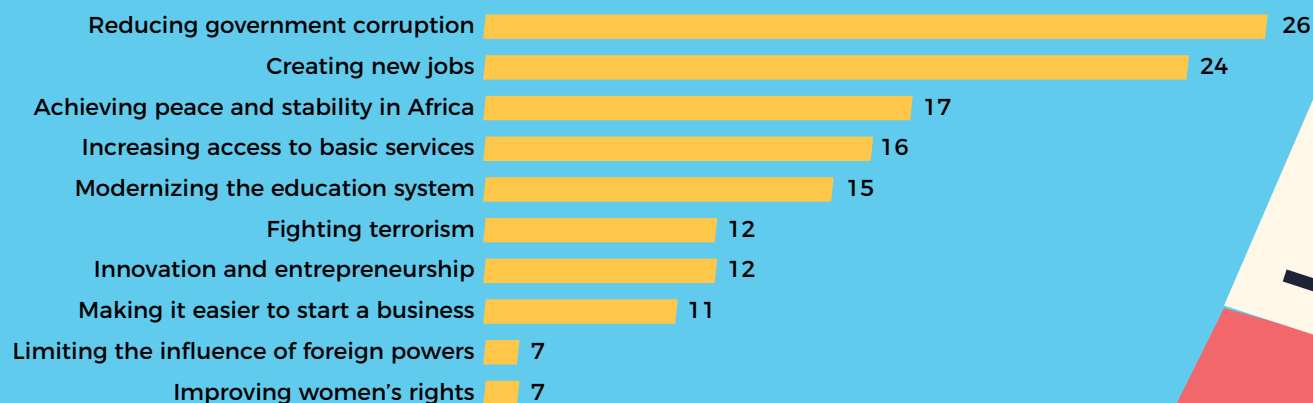
Most important issues to focus on in the in the next five years:

WELL-PAYING JOBS 24%
South Africa: 31%   Ghana: 31%   Togo: 30%

GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION 26%
Nigeria: 38%   Ghana: 34%

PEACE AND STABILITY 17%
Ethiopia: 45%

INCREASING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES 16%
South Africa: 30%

POLITICAL INSTABILITY IS TOP OF MIND IN:
Ethiopia: 37%   Gabon: 22%   Zimbabwe: 22%

If you were leader of your country for one day, what is the one thing you would do that would benefit the whole of Africa?

(Open ended question)

"Create better jobs for young people."
- South Africa, 21

"I would ensure that water is running always in my community, since water is life."
- Ghana, 22

"Create a lot more jobs for young people."
- Senegal, 24

"I would try to fight increased corruption that undermines African society and restore peace and security in Africa."
- Gabon, 20

"Bring electricity to every part of the country – when everyone has electricity the economy is boosted. People will open barbers, saloons, shops etc."
- Zambia, 21

"I will reduce the unemployment rate in my country and build hospitals and schools so that young people can study in good conditions."
- Congo Br., 20

"I would give more rights to women and enable their pathway into politics, to improve security policies and to empower young women."
- Gabon, 21

PROVIDE
REDUCE
UNEMPLOYMENT
BUILD
WORK
YOUNG
TRY
TOGETHER
CREATE
DEVELOP
FREE
LIVING
BASIC
ROADS
GIVE
FIGHT
ACCESS
CLEAN
SECURITY
DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY
YOUNG PEOPLE
EDUCATION
INFRASTRUCTURE
PROMOTE
CREATION
SCHOOL
PEACE
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES
SURE
PROJECTS
EVERYONE
ENSURE
VILLAGE
MAKE
IMPROVE
HELP
WATER
JOBS
CORRUPTION
SCHOOLS
HEALTH
START

Satisfaction levels with public infrastructure varies widely across countries with young Rwandans and Kenyans most satisfied and youth in Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Gabon among the least satisfied

Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the following public services and infrastructure in your country?

Telecommunications and data networks

TOP 3		TOP 3
Zimbabwe: 57% Togo: 52% Malawi/Senegal: 41%	**34%** **64%**	Rwanda: 90% Kenya: 78% Mali: 77%

Energy availability / electricity

TOP 3		TOP 3
Nigeria: 68% Malawi: 67% Congo Br.: 64%	**46%** **53%**	Rwanda: 90% Kenya: 78% Mali: 65%

Mass transit / public transport

TOP 3		TOP 3
Gabon: 76% Nigeria: 71% Zimbabwe: 69%	**47%** **52%**	Rwanda: 88% Kenya: 75% Mali: 67%

Water and sanitation

TOP 3		TOP 3
Zimbabwe: 76% Gabon: 72% Congo Br./Nigeria: 67%	**51%** **49%**	Rwanda: 89% Kenya: 66% Mali: 63%

Roads

TOP 3		TOP 3
Zimbabwe: 92% Gabon: 75% Togo: 68%	**52%** **47%**	Rwanda: 87% Kenya: 68% South Africa: 60%

Not satisfied   Satisfied

Which of these issues are you most concerned about in your COUNTRY TODAY
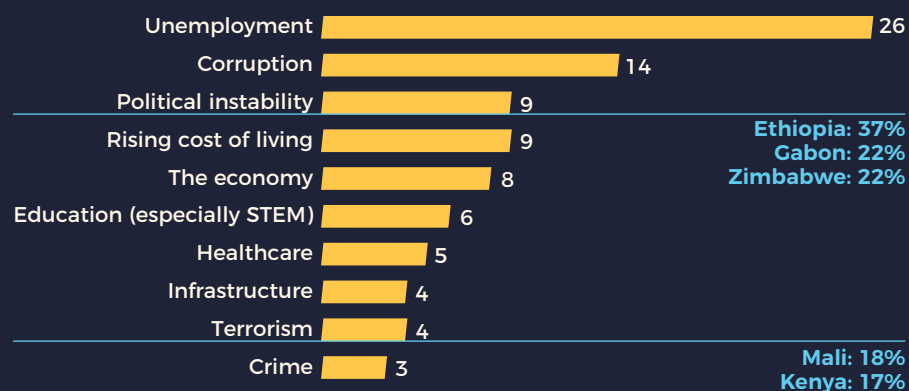
Issue	Value
Unemployment	26
Corruption	14
Political instability	9
Rising cost of living	9
The economy	8
Education (especially STEM)	6
Healthcare	5
Infrastructure	4
Terrorism	4
Crime	3

Ethiopia: 37%
Gabon: 22%
Zimbabwe: 22%

Mali: 18%
Kenya: 17%

When asked which issues African youth are most concerned about today, two-in-five reported being most concerned with either unemployment (26%) or government corruption (14%)

Infectious Diseases

African youth who cite deaths from infectious disease as the most formative developments of the past five years tend to be concentrated in Southern Africa. The countries with the highest level of concern regarding infectious disease were Congo Br. (43%), Ghana (40%), Zambia (33%) and South Africa (32%), perhaps due to the 2014 Ebola outbreak and the continued tensions surrounding the disease's presence in the region. Further, tuberculosis – one of the oldest human diseases and the single deadliest infectious disease in the world – has long ravaged the continent.

Terrorism Concerns

When asked about how generally concerned African youth were about terrorism, 71% of the sample reported concern. A slim majority, 51%, reported being "very concerned", while 27% were either "not very concerned" or "not at all concerned". The greatest concern was concentrated in East and West African countries, with 78% and 76% of youth reporting concern in these regions, respectively. Southern Africa showed a small majority, 66%, concerned with the threat of terrorism. The extent of concern is highly country-specific, however. For example, while only 39% of those in Zambia are concerned about terrorism, 99% in Mali report being currently concerned.

Assessing the impact of terrorism in the last five years shows a similar trend: the perceived threat of terror is highest in a handful of countries. Looking back, a quarter (25%) of Kenyan youth report being concerned about the rise of terrorism in the past five years, perhaps due to attacks perpetrated by Al Shabaab. Next, just over one-in-three Nigerian youth (34%) reported terror as the main issue of the past five years which could have been influenced by Boko Haram's spate of high-profile attacks and kidnappings. Nigerian youth were asked separately about Boko Haram's impacts on their life during the survey, revealing that 69% of young Nigerians are impacted on a daily basis by the terror organisation. That said, a majority (55%) are confident that the government can overcome the challenges presented by the terror network.

Mali has experienced Al-Qaeda-linked terror attacks since 2012. In May 2019, the United Nations released a report detailing the increasingly worrying security situation in the country. Concern about the rise of terrorism in the last five years amongst youth in Mali was 44%.

Concerns of Today and Tomorrow

When asked which issues African youth are most concerned about today, two-in-five reported being most concerned with either unemployment (26%) or government corruption (14%). The rest of the sample split, citing political instability (9%), the rising cost of living (9%) and to a lesser extent, issues like healthcare (5%) education (6%), or crime (3%). The least concerning themes were: asylum and immigration (1%), affordable access to telecommunication services (1%), climate change (2%), and personal freedoms and liberties (2%).

Achieving peace and stability was the highest in Ethiopia (45%), while increasing access to basic services like water was also high in South

Africa (30%). Finally, given recent transitions of power, political events and social conditions, political instability is top of mind in Ethiopia, Gabon and Zimbabwe (37% 22%, and 22%, respectively).

When asked what would most impact African identity in the future, 21% were concerned about war and conflict; respondents in Mali (66%), Rwanda (42%) and Congo Br. (34%) chose this issue with the most frequency. In South Africa, increased equality is of primary concern (35%). Following this, 16% chose the digital revolution, 15% selected the increase of freedom and 15% identified rising prosperity.

Trust in Government

Respondents were asked whether or not they trust their government to have their best interest in mind when making decisions. Across the sample, 50% agree while 48% disagree – within the margin of error. Regionally, however, we see that again East Africa is the most trusting of government, with 72% trusting their government to have their best interest in mind. In West Africa, 45% reported trust in government, while in Southern Africa the number was 54%.

These outlooks reveal the gloomy state of politics in many countries, a finding bolstered by comparable patterns elsewhere in the world. Given that the economy and corruption appear top-of-mind in two time periods – both in the present and looking ahead to the next five years – these appear to be underlying causes of the pessimism within political systems throughout Africa – and, indeed, globally. For instance, only 2% of all respondents identify with their political party, despite 51% identifying first by their country. Fewer young people voted in the last election (45%) than plan to vote in the next one (70%). These findings reveal that quite a few sub-Saharan African political systems are ill-equipped to meet the needs and desires of citizens in a rapidly changing world.

Public Service Delivery

Infrastructure is the key to economic development and stable livelihoods – and it is one of the fundamental services of governments. On average, 50% of African youth are satisfied with the delivery of public services, especially for telecoms and data, which had the highest share of satisfaction across the sample.
· East Africa: 78%
· West Africa: 62%
· Southern Africa: 57%

Recycling received the lowest overall average satisfaction (35%), while telecommunications and data hold highest overall satisfaction (64%), followed by energy availability/electricity (53%) and education and mass transit (52%)

The shape of the future?

Dr Nick Westcott is the Director of the Royal African Society. He served as British High Commissioner to Ghana and Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo and Niger.

This survey, the first to take such a wide and scientific assessment of the views of Africa's youth today, is a remarkable insight into the frame of mind of those who will shape Africa's future – its young people.

Four things stand out loud and clear from the survey's results. Firstly, young Africans are optimistic about their own futures and confident of their own potential. They are perhaps less confident of their countries' future, with only half believing they are going in the right direction, and recognise a wide range of challenges, from terrorism and conflict to corruption and unemployment. But for the continent as a whole and themselves as individuals, they are confident things will get better, and that the 21st century will be the African one.

Secondly, young people, male and female alike, are entrepreneurial. Three-quarters (76%) say they want to start a business in the next five years and half, if given $100, would use it immediately to start a business. The lack of capital is cited by almost all as the main constraint on their ability to do so, whereas their familiarity with smart phones, IT and the internet provide great opportunities for enterprise. It is unlocking this entrepreneurial potential that is the key to overcoming what they see as the greatest threat to their future – the lack of jobs.

Thirdly, politics and identity are tricky areas. Young Africans are committed to the principles of freedom of belief, religion and opinion, and overwhelmingly identify with their country before their tribe, race or continent. They also feel strongly embedded in their community, but in an inclusive, not exclusive way, with 72% committed to supporting and looking after refugees if they arrive from other countries. But they are equivocal about the benefits of democracy over stability, and hesitant about their own government's capability and honesty. The level varies from country to country, but everywhere corruption and the need to eliminate it are major preoccupations.

Finally, while young Africans are well-informed and well-aware of the outside world (over 50% follow the news on a daily basis), they are wary of its influence in Africa. Around two-thirds think Africa is still affected by colonialism, either as a legacy or in its neo-colonial, economic form. They like the African Union, see the European Union positively, and even consider most other individual countries

Nick WESTCOTT

(except France) as having a positive influence on the continent. But they want Africa to be independent and respected. Of outside countries and institutions, China is considered the most influential (78%), followed by the US (74%), the EU (70%), France (63%) and then the United Kingdom (54%).

Overall, this gives an encouraging picture for those investing in Africa's future. Its young people are active, engaged, keen to learn and enthusiastic to start their own businesses.

But it is also a warning to African governments lest they feel complacent about their popularity among young people if they fail to deliver the jobs that are so in demand. What this means though is not necessarily setting up industries and grabbing foreign investment, but helping young people to build their own enterprises, building up from the informal sector to become businessmen and businesswomen in their own right.

And that is where Africa's foreign partners should be looking too. They need to know that they are noticed but their engagement is regarded critically and judged on how helpful it really is.

Listening to African voices is the key to success for both African and foreign governments. It's time to start now.

Overall, this gives an encouraging picture for those investing in Africa's future. Its young people are active, engaged, keen to learn and enthusiastic to start their own businesses.

We have found that there is a youth in Africa that is imbued with optimism about the future – and wants to shape their own destiny. We have found a youth that refuses to shy away from the very real challenges of Africa, that is honest about what needs to be done and what their role has to be to achieve this – and they are overwhelmingly keen to make that difference.

– Ivor Ichikowitz

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