

The “Covid-19 Reset” Project

Report to McNulty Foundation



**McNULTY
FOUNDATION**

Introduction

Since December 2019, the world has been beset by the global coronavirus pandemic.

Although the global corona virus pandemic has hit Africa last, many countries are still grappling with how to effectively respond to the effects of disease that go beyond its strain on the health care system.

While the economic impact of the Covid19 cannot be overstated—according to a recent McKinsey Africa report, Africa’s GDP growth in 2020 will contract by between three to eight percentage points—the responses by African governments have been more focused on containment: suspension of business activity, public transport, and in some cases total lockdown and curfews.

Through the **“Covid-19 Reset”** project, the Léo Africa Institute sought to push more forward-looking interventions that go beyond containment of the pandemic, to discussions about a post-Covid future and how our communities can best prepare for a fast recovery.

The focus of the project was to galvanize leadership action within and beyond the Institute network, and redirect it to imagine a new, progressive post-covid world for our respective communities and countries.

The Institute’s “Great Reset” response was two-pronged:

Our Response Coverage



1. Build the capacity of our fellows in 8 East African countries to effectively respond

Leveraging the Institute's network of 67 fellows in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Zambia and D.R. Congo (especially frontline health workers), to respond more effectively to the crisis in their respective countries by availing them the necessary knowledge resources and tools within our network that can be utilized to promote public awareness.

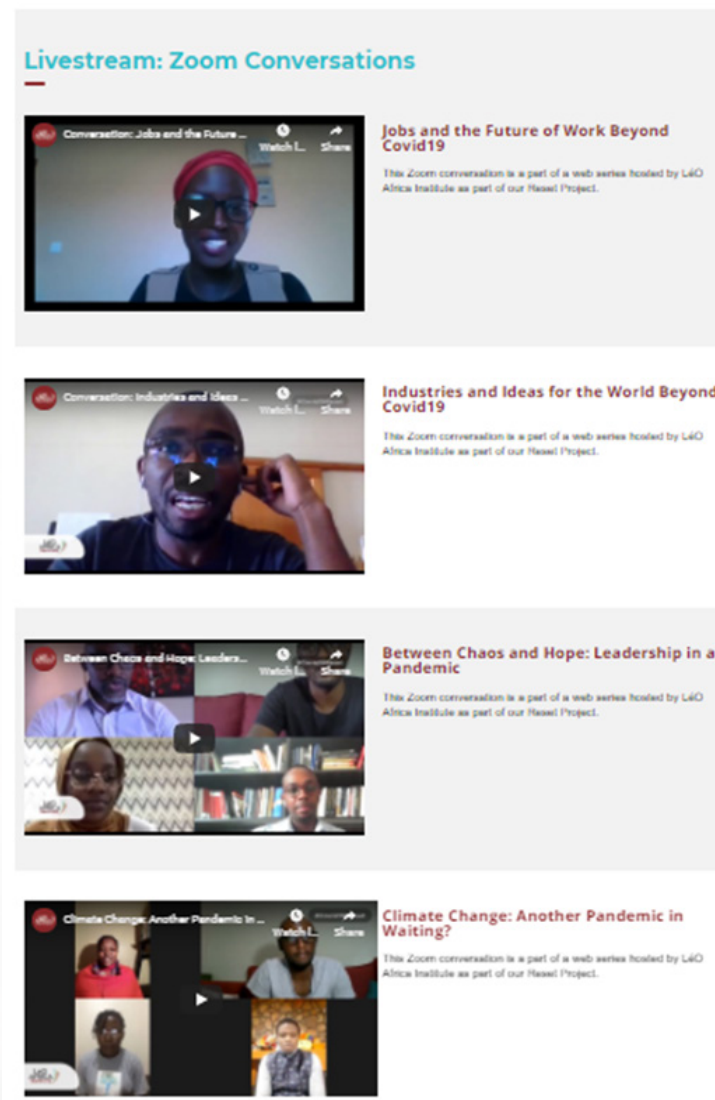
This was done through curated virtual conversations over platforms like Zoom and Facebook that allowed fellows to share information with both the network and wider public.

2. Facilitate conversations around mental health awareness during the pandemic

As more people were forced to stay home, out of work and unsure of their economic prospects beyond the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw increasing stress and other mental health-related illnesses. The Institute curated an online seminar for its fellows to create a safe space for them to share and discuss different experiences accumulated during the covid-19 pandemic.

Format of the activities

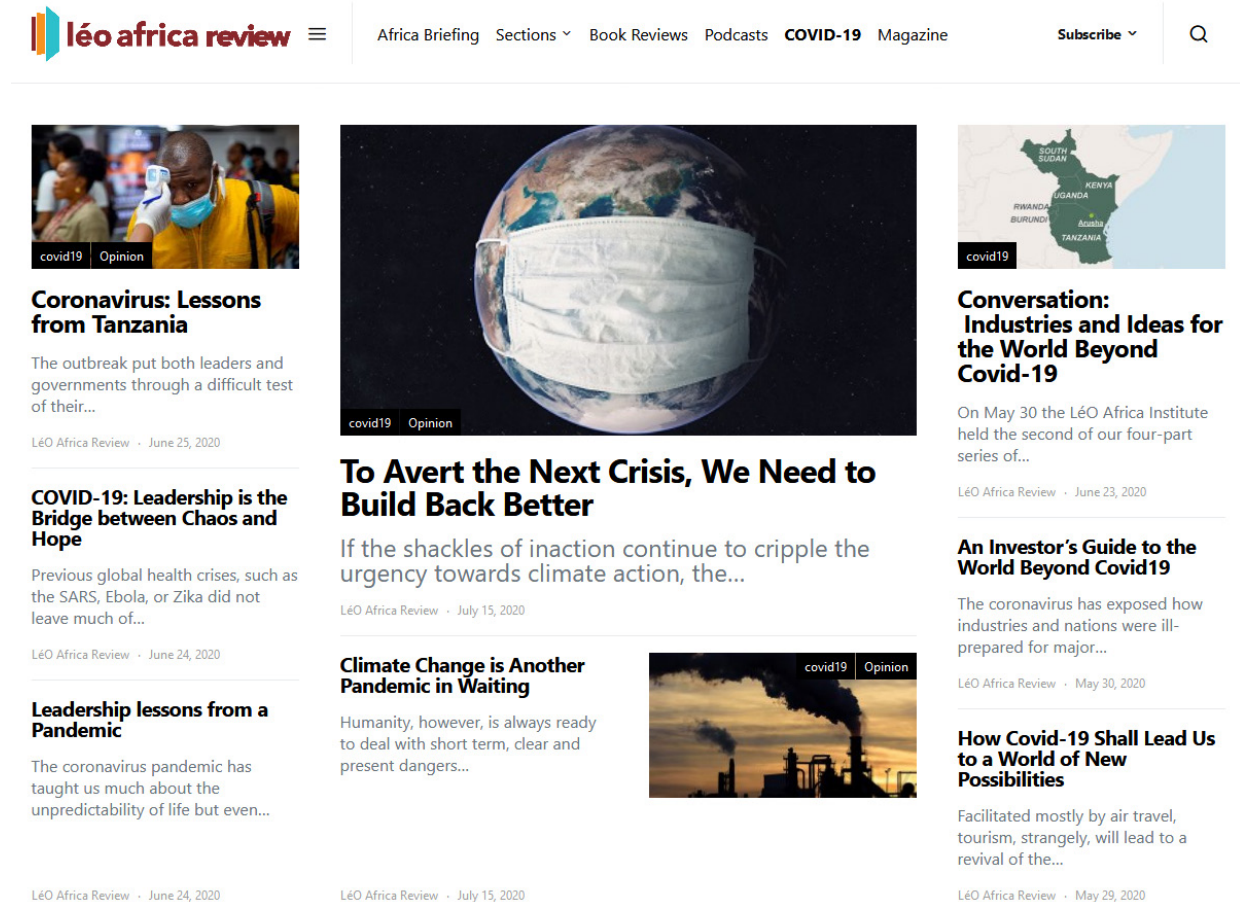
Through a series of webinars hosted by the Léo Africa Institute, facilitated by the Institute's faculty members and our wider network of Fellows across 8 African countries, the project was able to tackle various issues arising out of the pandemic as its impact started becoming visible to communities across the region.



The webinars were held under the following themes:

1. Jobs and The Future of Work Beyond Covid-19
2. Industries and Ideas for The World Beyond Covid-19
3. Between Chaos and Hope: Leadership in a Pandemic
4. YELP Alumni: Vulnerability Circle
5. Climate Change: Another Pandemic in Waiting?

A special covid-19 response portal was created on the Institute website and this complemented the Institute's social media platforms, including the Léo Africa Review publication in providing people reliable covid-19 related updates.



The screenshot displays the Léo Africa Review website interface. The header includes the site logo, navigation links (Africa Briefing, Sections, Book Reviews, Podcasts, COVID-19 Magazine), a subscribe button, and a search icon. The main content area features a grid of article cards, each with a thumbnail image, a title, a subtitle, and a date. The articles are categorized under 'covid19' and 'Opinion'.

Articles shown:


- Coronavirus: Lessons from Tanzania** (June 25, 2020): The outbreak put both leaders and governments through a difficult test of their...
- COVID-19: Leadership is the Bridge between Chaos and Hope** (June 24, 2020): Previous global health crises, such as the SARS, Ebola, or Zika did not leave much of...
- Leadership lessons from a Pandemic** (June 24, 2020): The coronavirus pandemic has taught us much about the unpredictability of life but even...
- To Avert the Next Crisis, We Need to Build Back Better** (July 15, 2020): If the shackles of inaction continue to cripple the urgency towards climate action, the...
- Climate Change is Another Pandemic in Waiting** (July 15, 2020): Humanity, however, is always ready to deal with short term, clear and present dangers...
- Conversation: Industries and Ideas for the World Beyond Covid-19** (June 23, 2020): On May 30 the Léo Africa Institute held the second of our four-part series of...
- An Investor's Guide to the World Beyond Covid19** (May 30, 2020): The coronavirus has exposed how industries and nations were ill-prepared for major...
- How Covid-19 Shall Lead Us to a World of New Possibilities** (May 29, 2020): Facilitated mostly by air travel, tourism, strangely, will lead to a revival of the...

Webinar on Jobs and The Future of Work Beyond Covid-19




The "COVID-19 Reset" Project


Webinar: Jobs and the Future of Work Beyond Covid-19




RAYMOND MUJUNI
Host



ANGELO IZAMA
Kwa Wote



BRENDA KATWESIGYE
Wazi Vision

leoafricainstitute.org Thu . May . 14 @4:30pm In partnership with  McNULTY
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On May 14, 2020, the Léo Africa Institute hosted two leading voices in its network: Angelo Izama, a Ugandan journalist and Institute Head of Faculty, and Brenda Katwesigye, the founder of Wazivision and other futuristic initiatives aimed at reducing the environmental impact of plastic use, to reflect on the nature of jobs and work in a post-covid19 world.

The conversation was hosted on Zoom by Raymond Mujuni, a Ugandan journalist and 2017 fellow of the Léo Africa Institute's

Young and Emerging Leaders' Project.

Raymond Mujuni kicked the conversation off with a United Nations report saying that 1.6 billion people are going to be out of work because of COVID-19, most of them are in the informal sector, and [that] in Africa, about 430 million people would lose their jobs.

He highlighted the fact that people had lost their jobs, some of them even on that very Zoom call. The pandemic had already forced some people into taking pay cuts showing how real the anxieties were and they were not imagined; they were not something to talk about in the future.

Angelo Izama pointed out the rise of toxic nationalism as a result of the pandemic. "Looking around the globe you see news every day that many governments, especially those that have resources, are reserving those resources for their nationals; there is a tendency to keep out others, what you would call 'othering'".

He went ahead to predict the luxury industry as one of the biggest casualties of Covid. Angelo also made a call for the return of cottage industries to support local entrepreneurs to bridge the world financial disparities especially during a time of crisis. Angelo also encouraged LÉO Africa Institute fellows to embrace the active program of taking ideas from the cities and bringing them to the villages so as to develop their local communities.



"And this evacuation of the idea of luxury from the stage and the welcoming of basic but high-quality goods produced locally, I think, will improve the quality of life and the quality of what [a post-COVID world] is going to be like."

- Angelo Izama, Head of Faculty at Léo Africa Institute



Brenda Katwesigye equated the “new normal” that came along with Covid19 to life after 9/11. “Before 9/11, people would walk [into airports] and not go through security checks, it would take thirty minutes to board a plane and take off. After that 9/11 all this inconvenience of security checks [and] all these other things that come because of what happened following 9/11, people have had to adapt,” she said.

She insisted not all investment in Africa, let alone investment in Uganda, is gone. However, she felt it had become extremely difficult to invest in tourism and airline sectors; “You see investors pulling out of that but make no mistake, investors are putting their money elsewhere because no one wants money to sit for extended periods because there are opportunities for investors to invest”.

“So, it is not all doom, capital is still coming in, it is less than it was before because now the areas are more narrowed down than they were before, so it is specific areas that are getting investment and I think even innovators and entrepreneurs that are thinking should be thinking within those kinds of areas; if you want investment for tech, align. That’s what I think is happening and it is going to continue to happen for a couple of more years.”



- Brenda Katwesigye, Founder, Wazi Vision

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Webinar on Industries and Ideas for The World Beyond Covid-19



The "COVID-19 Reset" Project

Webinar: Industries and Ideas for the World Beyond Covid-19



KWIZERA ARNOLD
CNBC Africa



DANIEL BWAMBALE
Advocate



LIZ MUANGE
SUED

leoafricainstitute.org/reset-project Sat . May . 30 @5:00pm In partnership with  McNULTY
FOUNDATION

On May 30, the Léo Africa Institute held the second virtual conversation on the region's response to the coronavirus pandemic. The webinar featured Arnold Kwizera, a Rwandan journalist with CNBC. Liz Muange, a Kenyan fellow of the Institute from the YELP Class of 2017 also joined panel. Liz is currently the Investment and Value Chain Lead at Sustainable Urban Economic Development Programme which is a UKAid funded 5-year 70 million pound programme.

The third panelist was Daniel Bwambale an enrolled Advocate, and practicing Magistrate with over 6 years' experience. The panel discussed the investment climate in the East African region in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Arnold Kwizera started off the conversation by expressing his worry towards what COVID-19 is and what kind of economic impact it will have on the world. He talked about experts predicting the world falling into some form of recession and wondering if the lessons picked from as far back as 2008, when the first global recession occurred were enough.

Daniel Bwambale presented his views on the impact of covid-19 on the digital the digital space with emphasis on the need to synthesize the information we already have, bring it together, and make it make sense to those who need it.

In addition, he hinted on the need to plan for Africa's increasing population more so now at a time when smarter ways of doing work that require less humans are proving to be the most efficient alternative. Daniel highlighted the need for re-tooling the African labour force to have it highly skilled and ready to take on the new available opportunities. He called on African countries to carry out trade amongst themselves to foster continental economic growth.

Arnold Kwizera, the session moderator raised a question to Liz Muange on how the region hopes to revive the informal sector where 70% of the region's employed population lie. Liz's response focused on how East African governments should focus on getting data about informal traders which has really been a challenge in the past.



"Getting data about informal trade, about cross border traders has really been a challenge, it's not something that has been discussed now, it's actually something that we've been trying to look into; how do we formalize cross border trade, how do we formalize the informal sector? I think it's becoming pretty clear now during this COVID environment that we need to be able to understand these businesses; can we can formally register these businesses, know where these people are located?"

- Liz Muange, Investment Analyst and 2017 YELP Fellow



She talked about the Kenyan government trying to cope with the pandemic, "Even just being able to track the victims of COVID; trying to track and trace the people who have been around them; even when we live with this technology, it's still a challenge for them to be able to do," she observed.

Webinar on Leadership in a Pandemic



The "COVID-19 Reset" Project

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Webinar: Between Chaos and Hope: Leadership in a Pandemic



HASHIM MULANGWA
Host



FIONA KAMIKAZI
I&M Bank Rwanda



FATMA KAUGA
Shule Direct



MOHAMED OKASH
IITE Institute

leoafricainstitute.org Thu . June . 25 @3:00pm

In this webinar, Léo Africa Institute asked three of its fellows, Fiona Kamikazi from Rwanda (class of 2018), Fatma Kauga from Tanzania (class of 2019), and Okash Mohamed from Somalia (class of 2019), the leadership lessons learned since the world was upended by the coronavirus pandemic beginning early this year.

Held on June 25, the webinar explored the possibility of leadership bridging the gap between chaos and hope in our world today and was moderated by Hashim Mulangwa, a Senior Faculty member at the Léo Africa Institute.

Okash explored the pandemic's ability to accelerate the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies, which could lead to a healthier and prosperous world, and gave the example of Rwanda where Robots were deployed to carry out temperature checks, check for vitals, and keep medical records of COVID-19 patients.

"We need more collaborative and inclusive leadership both at the national and the global level. The pandemic taught us how we can either resist or reset the world through inclusivity and collaboration rather than isolation."

- Mohamed Okash, 2019 YELP Fellow



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Fatma talked about how hard it has been to find a unified response to the virus. Because of the diverse nature of economies, politics, and lifestyles, "it is nearly impossible to find a common solution to any challenge. For instance, in Tanzania, the government took a different path of response as compared to other neighboring countries in the region."

Instead of imposing lockdown in the country, the government allowed all the economic activities to carry on but closed schools from pre-primary to universities.

Fatma went on to talk about how this pandemic has certainly taught the young generation that even the concept of "normal" is dynamic.



"We are now responsible for defining a new normal. As young leaders, we ought to shift our mindsets to a 'future-ready' mode."

- Fatma Kauga, 2019 YELP Fellow

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Fiona Kamikazi agreed with Fatma, "As a continent after this pandemic, we have a vast mass of young people who are soon to join many others in the world of unemployment. Right now, this is a huge challenge that is at crisis levels."



"As emerging African leaders, we should embrace the importance of being groomed into high discipline people, with the agility and ability to learn new technologies to solve emerging problems that our societies have to grapple with."

- Fiona Kamikazi, 2018 YELP Fellow

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Virtual Mental Health Seminar



The "COVID-19 Reset" Project



Mental Health Seminar with Liz Kakooza YELP Alumni: Vulnerability Circle



Host

Liz Kakooza

Founder - Tumaini Foundation

leoafricainstitute.org

Thur . July . 2 @7pm EAT

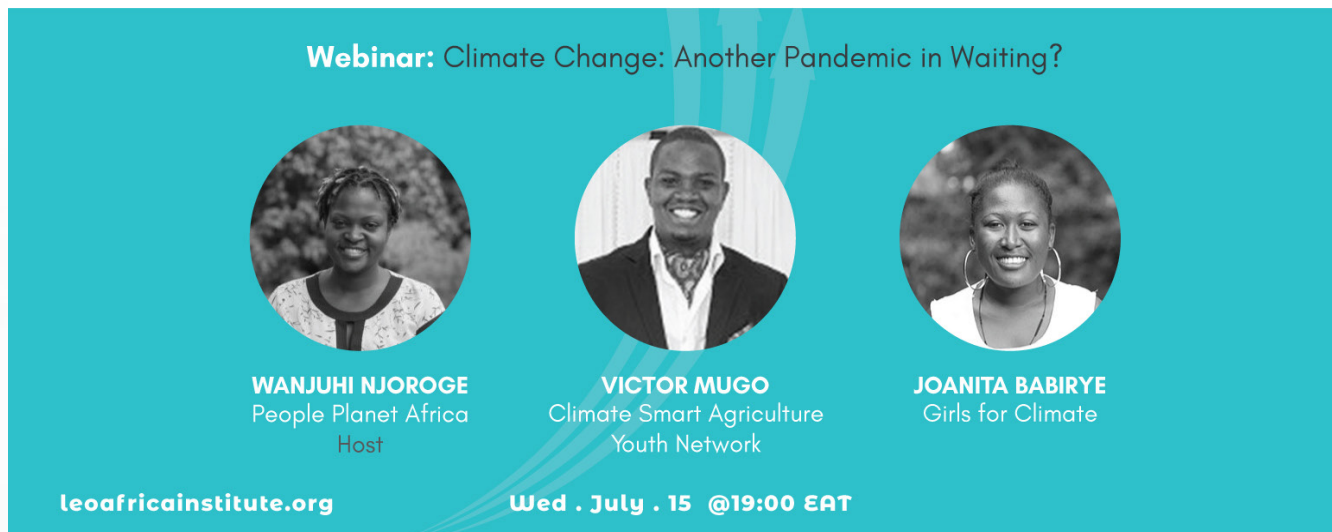
The Institute ran a virtual mental health seminar exclusive to its Young and Emerging Leadership Project (YELP) fellows on July 2.

The "Vulnerability Circle" was hosted by 2017 fellow Liz Kakooza, a mental health advocate and founder of Tumaini Foundation. The session created a safe space for institute fellows to discuss and share their experiences, strength and hope in these unprecedented times.

Webinar on Climate Change



The "COVID-19 Reset" Project



Webinar: Climate Change: Another Pandemic in Waiting?

WANJUHI NJOROGÉ
People Planet Africa
Host

VICTOR MUGO
Climate Smart Agriculture
Youth Network

JOANITA BABIRYE
Girls for Climate

leoafricainstitute.org Wed . July . 15 @19:00 EAT

The webinar "Climate Change: Another Pandemic in Waiting?" took place on Wednesday, July 15.

The conversation hosted by 2018 YELP valedictorian and climate activist Wanjuhi Njoroge, explored the role of young leaders in averting a climate change pandemic, how climate action can create employment and available support to such initiatives. It also shed light on the Paris Agreement and the role of young people in holding their governments accountable for their commitments.

Joining the panel was Victor Mugo a climate activist mobilizing the youth for climate action through climate resilient agriculture. He is the Regional Coordinator for CSAYN, and a lead author for UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook for Youth-Africa.

The final panelist was Joanita Babirye, a 2017 YELP fellow of the Institute who is also the Programs Director at Girls For Climate, a movement that is putting women and girls at the forefront of climate action.

Victor Mugo talked about how at the height of the lockdowns, daily global carbon emissions reduced by 17% compared to the mean emission levels in 2019.



"The threat of COVID-19 has been met with the appropriate force, scale and urgency that the crisis deserves. There wasn't much politicking, no disputing of facts from science and better still, the smallest personal actions collectively done by individuals such as wearing a mask or social distancing are going a long way in making a difference."

- Victor Mugo, Climate change activist



He noted that, on the other hand, the subject of climate change has been greeted with low ambition targets, empty speeches and very little corresponding action. "It is only imperative that we felt the same sense of emergency about the climate crisis as we do about the coronavirus," he said.

Joanita Babirye expressed concern that while countries across the globe have chosen nationalistic approaches to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, unfortunately, this approach will not work when it comes to the worst pandemic of our generation—climate change.

"The answer to the climate change pandemic is not to quarantine everyone in their homes, the coronavirus has made many countries aware of the things they can do to lower emissions and not to go back to the old way of doing things."

- Joanita Babirye, 2017 YELP Fellow



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Joanita concluded by saying that if the climate crisis is handled the same way the coronavirus is being handled, the future of the planet will be brighter, and we will be on our way to a zero-carbon future.

Wanjuhi Njoroge the moderator of the session called for the need for women to be included in decision making especially in matters of climate action.

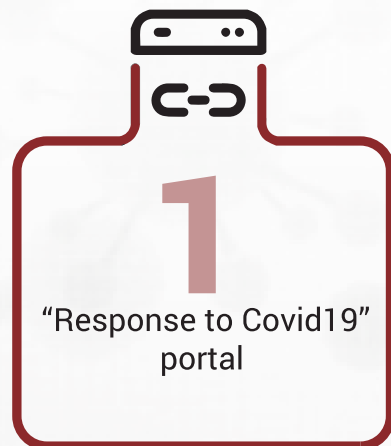
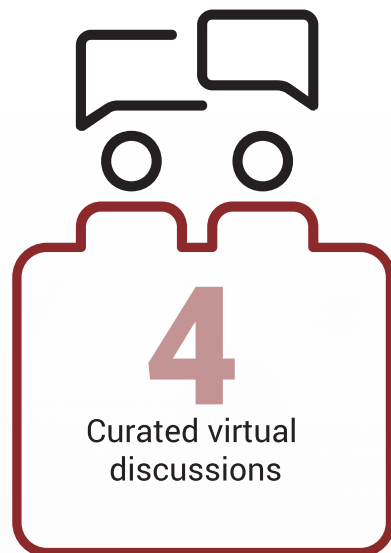
Significance of the conversations within overall project context

The aim of the Covid-19 Reset project webinars was to engage Léo Africa Institute fellows, the Institute's wider network and the public in conversations on our communities' response to the covid-19 pandemic and forge a way forward towards recovery.

The partnership between McNulty Foundation and Léo Africa Institute provided an opportunity for young and emerging leaders in communities including but not limited to the East African region to exchange ideas, leverage the lessons learnt from the pandemic and share their own experience with peers.

The "Covid-19 Reset" Project set pace for trailblazing fellows to find creative ways to overcome the adversities of the crisis and inspired some to modify existing solutions to carry affected communities through these unprecedented times.

Outcomes



Assessment

At the end of the project, an online survey was conducted by Léo Africa Institute to find out the impact of the "Covid-19 Reset" project.



53%

53% of participants responded to the survey



60%

60% found the conversation impactful

Conclusion

The "Covid-19 Reset project was overall a great success, over the three months (April-July), over 200 unique users attended the live webinar sessions, hundreds more watched the sessions on Institute social media channels and interacted with our monthly newsletters.

The project also helped the Institute to focus its network of fellows beyond their respective communities and countries to the wider regional and global implications of the coronavirus pandemic, and why only through concerted leadership efforts across the world can humanity survive this and other future pandemics.

In the three months of the project, our Institute's reach also grew beyond the 67 fellows across 8 countries, to hundreds more young people across the region who expressed interest in Institute programmes and subscribed to our newsletter.

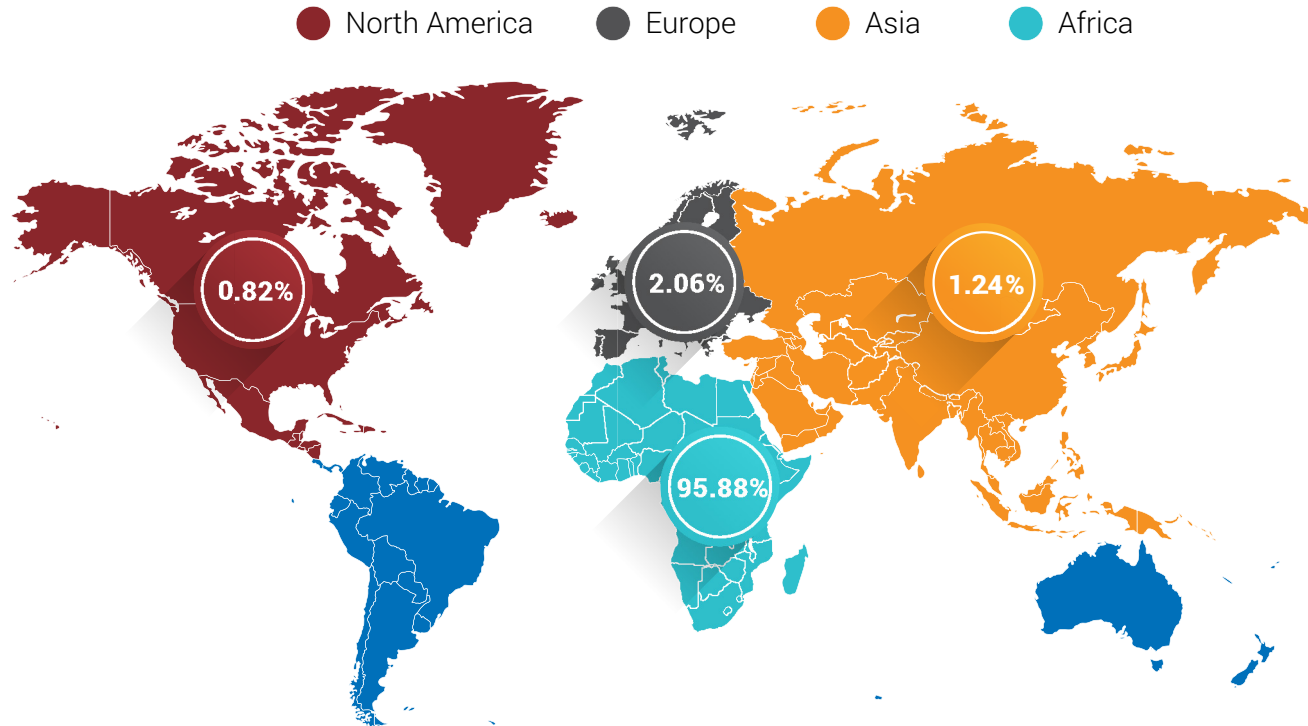


"As the world continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, the Institute's hope is that our fellows and young leaders across the region have a better understanding of the pandemic and are able to lead their communities' response efforts, helped by the experience and solidarity they acquired over the length of the project"

- Kwezi Tabaro, Deputy Director, Léo Africa Institute



Participants



Country	Number of participants
Cameroon	1
Canada	1
Egypt	v1
Germany	2
Indonesia	1
Kenya	33
Malaysia	1
Nigeria	5
Rwanda	12
Seychelles	2
Somalia	19
South Africa	3
Tanzania	13
Togo	3
Uganda	139
United Arab Emirates	1
United Kingdom	3
United States of America	1
Zambia	1
Zimbabwe	1

Publicity

In order to maximize media exposure of the "covid-19 reset" project, the Léo Africa Institute engaged concerned stakeholders through social media using the hashtag #Covid19Reset

Twitter



The screenshot shows the Twitter profile of the Léo Africa Institute. The profile picture is a red circle with the Léo Africa Institute logo. The name is "Léo Africa Institute" and the handle is "@LeoAfricaInst". The bio states: "We are committed to empowering Young and Emerging Thought Leaders to succeed, live high Impact and fulfilled lives." The website link is "leoafricainstitute.org" and it was joined in December 2012. It has 411 following and 3,247 followers. The tabs "Tweets", "Tweets & replies", "Media", and "Likes" are visible. A pinned tweet is shown at the bottom, dated 14/07/2020, inviting to a webinar titled "Climate Change: Another Pandemic in Waiting?".

Léo Africa Institute
@LeoAfricaInst

We are committed to empowering Young and Emerging Thought Leaders to succeed, live high Impact and fulfilled lives.

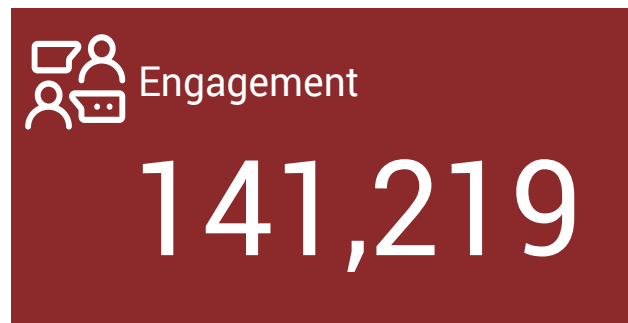
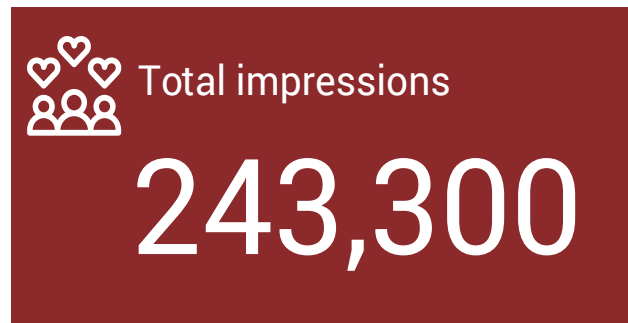
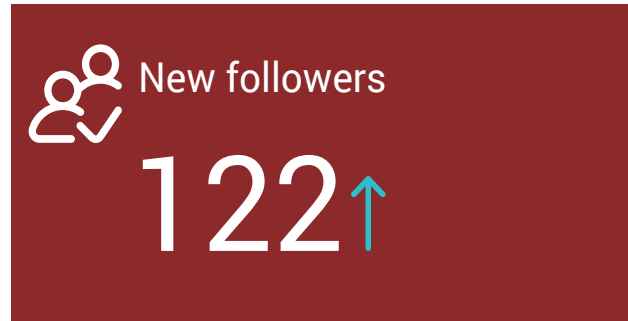
leoafricainstitute.org Joined December 2012

411 Following 3,247 Followers

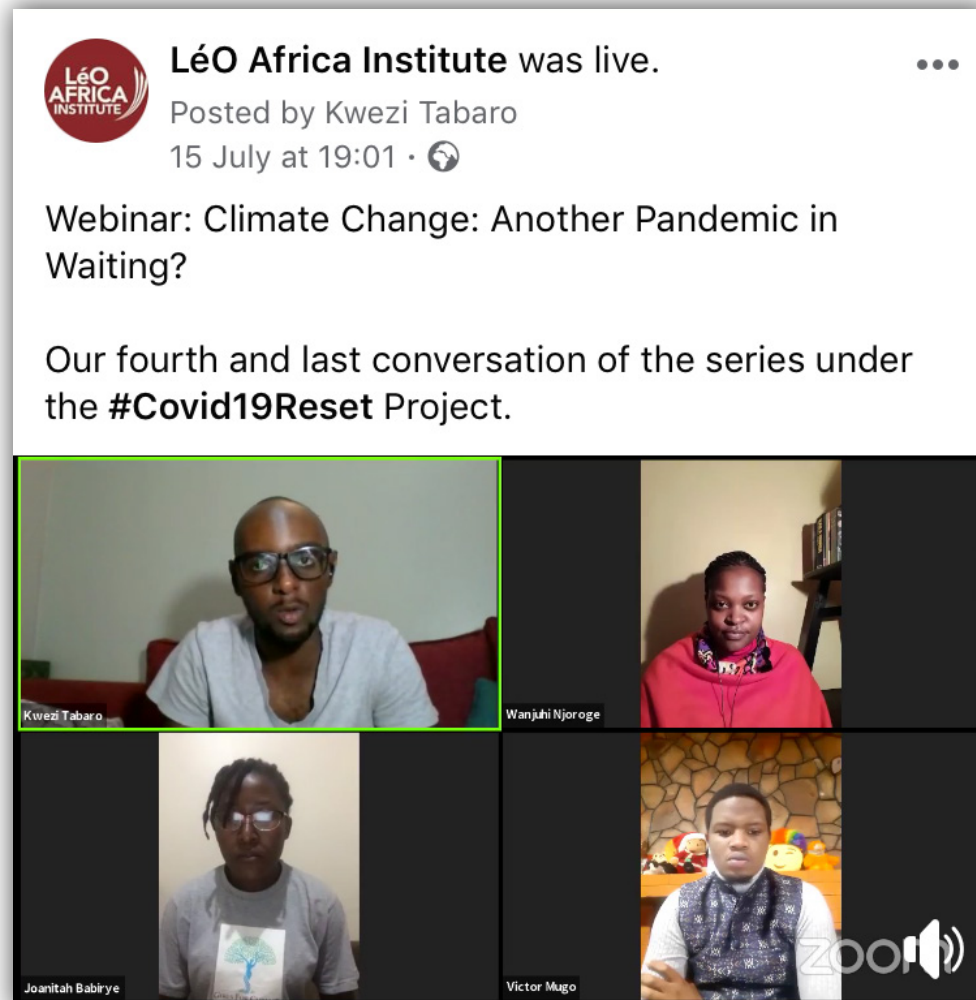
Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet

Léo Africa Institute @Leo... · 14/07/2020
Léo Africa Institute and @McNultyFound are pleased to invite you to the webinar "Climate Change: Another Pandemic in Waiting?"



Facebook



Léo Africa Institute was live. ...

Posted by Kwezi Tabaro
15 July at 19:01 • 🌐


Webinar: Climate Change: Another Pandemic in Waiting?

Our fourth and last conversation of the series under the **#Covid19Reset** Project.

Video call participants:


- Kwezi Tabaro
- Wanjuki Njoroge
- Joanilah Babirye
- Victor Mugo

Zoom logo and audio icon visible in the bottom right corner of the video call grid.




New followers

109↑



Total impressions

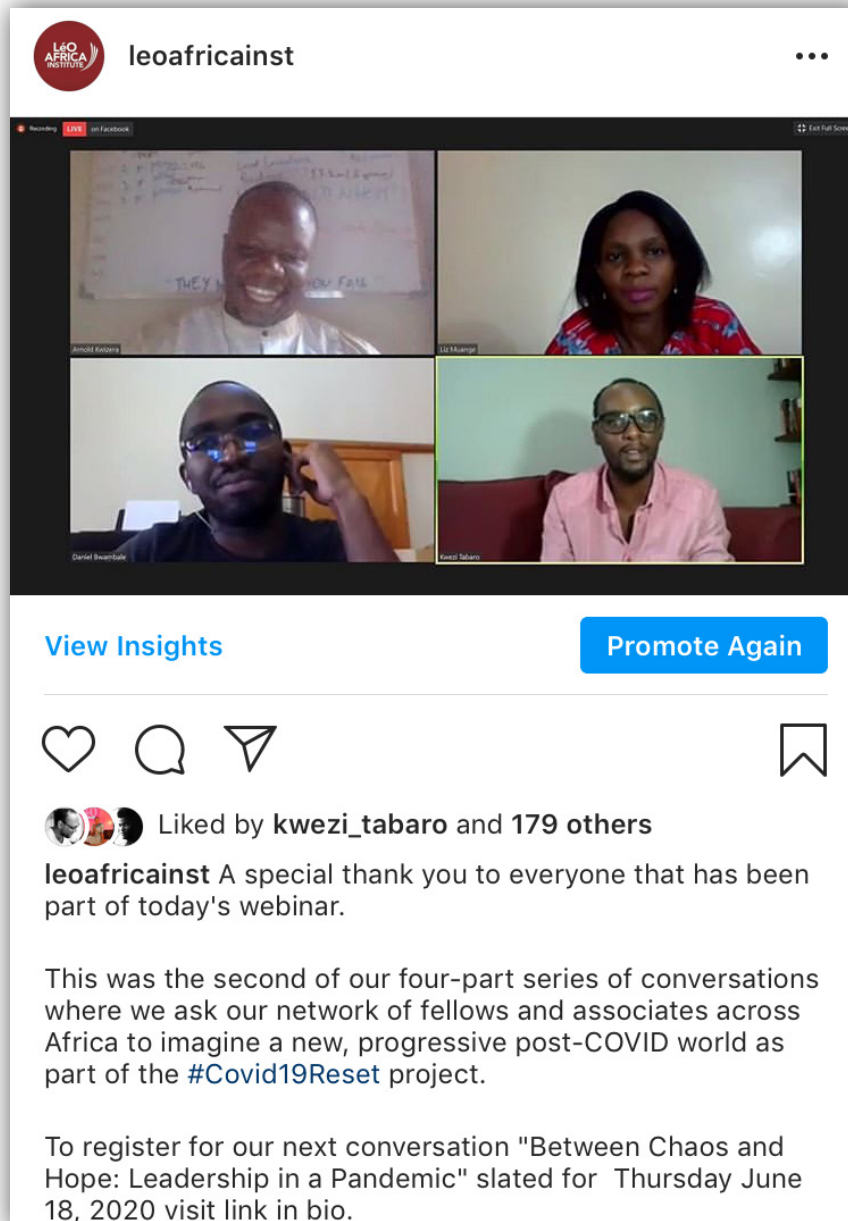
143,409





Engagement

12,144

Instagram




 New followers
135↑


 Total impressions
222,669




Contributing to the Africa **We want.**

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