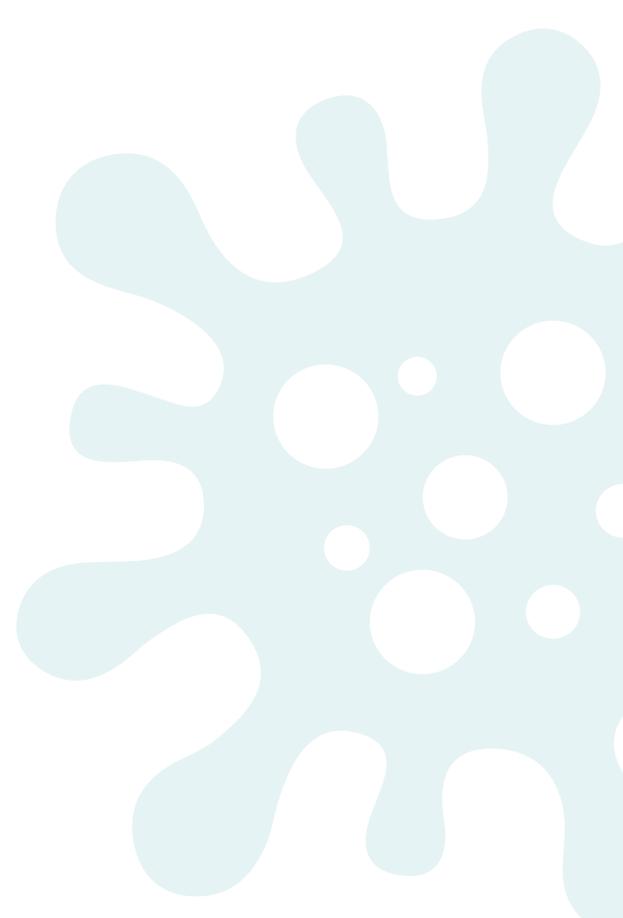


AFRICAN  
COVID-19  
HEROES



AFRICA  
YOUTH  
VAWARDS



## DEDICATION

The book is dedicated to all young people across the world working together to fight the pandemic. Our collective efforts make us stronger and give the world hope that this era will soon become history.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge the team from Africa Youth Awards that made this book possible.

- Prince Akpah - Co-Founder & President, Africa Youth Awards
- Terser Adamu - Co-Founder & COO, Africa Youth Awards
- Emmanuel Asieme Ayine - Co-Founder & Vice President, Africa Youth Awards
- Bahati Mgogwe - Community Manager, Africa Youth Awards
- Setor Ntepe Kortuwor - Graphic Designer



# INTRODUCTION

In the last 2 years, our lives have been impacted greatly by the pandemic, which has stalled the whole world and allowed us to rethink life. Our lives have changed, dreams abolished, plans cancelled and yet the impact is still felt across the world. We will now have to live in a new way, waiting patiently for the announcement of new variants.

Working with young people in the past decade, we identified the tremendous contributions young people have offered to solve pertinent problems and bring solutions. COVID also provided such an opportunity as we saw young people launching various initiatives to support their community and governments to reduce the impact of the pandemic on our livelihoods.

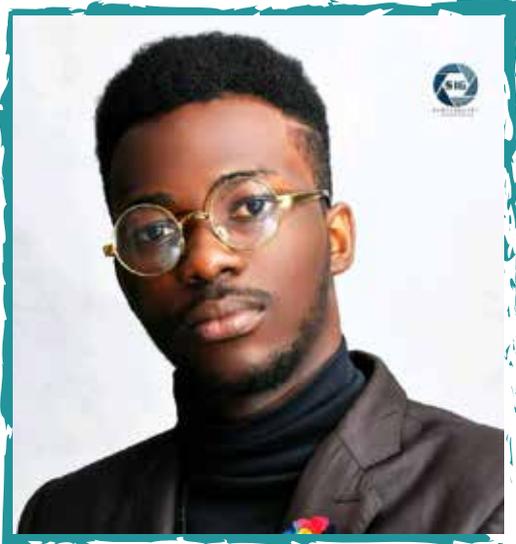
As introduced in this book, we would be reading the amazing stories of the contributions young Africans made through various selfless efforts and collaborations to ensure people and families survived this era. In putting this book together, we carefully selected the stories that would inspire the next generation, and we are hopeful they will learn from this and continue our various commitments to the development and advancement of Africa.

The COVID-19 Heroes book presents a compilation of stories from 20 young Africans from \*\* African countries who were selected to share their stories which we believe have been an influence in managing the pandemic on the continent. Some of these stories might be familiar, but we are celebrating their leadership and passion in this era of history as they used the opportunity to show love and care to the vulnerable. To feature in the second edition of the book, kindly email [prince@africayouthawards.org](mailto:prince@africayouthawards.org) for more information.

Prince Akpah  
Co-Founder & President  
Africa Youth Awards







## AKINGBOLA ADEWUNMI

Akingbola Adewunmi is a medical student of Lagos State University who is enthusiastic about rewriting the narratives of the Nigerian Health-care system with over four years of experience in volunteering and conducting social impact activities.

In 2020, he was recognized by ex-president Bill Clinton through the Clinton Global Initiative University for his works in combating the menace of Hepatitis in Nigeria. He was selected as one of the top 25 changemakers to receive the Africa 25 Under 25 awards in the health category for his works in advocacy against Hepatitis in Nigeria. He was also selected as one of the Top 5 changemakers in Nigeria to receive the Nigeria Young Changemakers award for his efforts in curbing the ridiculous increase in the prevalence of Hepatitis B in Nigeria. He was further selected as one of the 30 recipients of the Africa Safety Award for Excellence (AfriSAFE) '20 awards and won the community Hero category for helping to combat COVID-19.

He and his team emerged second place winner in the Ignite innovation Labs conducted by we Inspire Africa, and he was selected as one of the five student ambassadors of Orange Corners Nigeria, a fellow of UN Teach SDGs and Millennium Campus Fellowship.



## DR. ALI KHATAU

Dr. Ali Khatau is a multiple award-winning tech entrepreneur & health writer who holds a Degree in Medicine (M.D) from Hubert Kairuki Memorial University in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Voted as the 18th Most Influential Young Tanzanian in 2019 by the Africa Youth Awards (AYA) & nominated as 'African Youth of the Year 2020' by AYA,

He currently works as a Medical Doctor and Co-founder & Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Lyft Plus Limited, Tanzania's first Telemedicine company which allows patients to consult doctors remotely via text messaging, voice calls and video calls. Dr. Ali is also Founder & CEO of ElimuTanzania.com, an EdTech platform he founded in 2016 that provides resources and features for Tanzanian secondary school students to help in their examinations including mock tests, past exam papers and study advice.

The platform currently has over 100,000 users, 374,000+ pageviews with extensive media coverage and awards won. With a deep passion to help others using technology and innovation, Dr. Ali ensures he makes the most of current technological advancements to create products that help and support the masses.

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was practicing at the internal medicine ward and admitted a patient called Mohammed. (Patient details such as names may have been changed to maintain patient confidentiality). That was his first experience dealing with a COVID patient. Ali was quite concerned about being infected since he spent around 15 minutes doing an ECG on him but had worn all necessary PPEs. However, he felt it would be wiser to move away from his family home to reduce the risk of exposure to them and moved to a small apartment.

Further Dr Ali worked in ICU and his time in the ICU was also quite an experience, he had dealt with patients who had severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and required up to 60 liters of oxygen per minute. The next few weeks saw a significant rise in the number of suspects and confirmed cases in the hospital. he came to realize that even though COVID is more fatal in the elderly with comorbidities like diabetes and hypertension compared to young, healthy adults, there are still fatalities and severe cases among young, healthy people and there are also quite a few elderlies with comorbidities who survived.



Despite multiple challenges such as moving away from his family so as to protect them from being exposed to the Virus as well as the fear because at the time, the coronavirus was killing a lot of people very fast and was a very new thing for both regular people and doctors as well. But as doctors, he made a commitment and taken oath to save lives of other people so he somehow overcame the fear and pushed on with his work.

Dr. Ali motivates other youth to invest their time in technology as the world is now living a new age of technological advancement and it would be wise to take advantage of the current situation by thinking of tech solutions for local problems. He mentor youth to be confident in themselves and their own abilities and to work very hard with dedication in whatever they do.

Links:

<https://www.empower.co.tz/movement/life-on-the-frontline-5f0d59a52d05a>

<https://hi-in.facebook.com/KhojaNewsOnline/posts/life-on-the-frontline-a-khoja-doctors-firsthand-experience-of-the-covid-19-pande/2724864611105494/>





## ANIL SINGH RANA

Anil has 20 years of experience in the Construction Industry and is the Founder of CPD Ltd, providing CPD Talks for the Industry. Overall, 142 CPD Talks delivered and attended by 15,500 participants and 315 hours of CPD delivered so far, out of which 75 Webinars as part of “Giving Back” during Covid-19 attended by 10,000+ participants with a total webinar registration of 18,500+ participants and 145 hours of CPD delivered since the start of Covid-19. Anil's

YouTube Channel is the no.1 free Educational Construction Channel in Mauritius.

Anil has consistently provided advice and mentored voluntarily more than 2000+ built environment students, practitioners, RICS Candidates globally, circa 5500+ hours of free mentoring and mentored 1 FRICS and 110 Chartered Surveyors (MRICS) in Canada, UK, Australia, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Namibia, Malaysia, Seychelles, Nigeria, Rwanda, Guinea Conakry, India and Mauritius out of whom 80 are in Mauritius. In his previous company Keystone Project Management, Anil has mentored 2 Chartered Project Management Surveyor and a record-breaking 11 Chartered Quantity Surveyors at V d'Unienville & Associates (D&A). Anil is a construction project manager, young people ambassador, international speaker, award-winning building surveyor, award-winning mentor and global ambassador for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Anil is the first Mauritian to become the youngest Fellow of the RICS in Africa in 2014 and is the first Chartered Surveyor in Africa to win the prestigious accolade of the RICS Matrics Young Surveyor of the Year Awards 2016 in the Mentor category. Anil was also the runner up for the JCI Mauritius Outstanding Young Person Award 2018 and the runner up for the University of Westminster Global Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award 2018 and finalist for the British Council Study UK Alumni Entrepreneurial Award Category 2021.

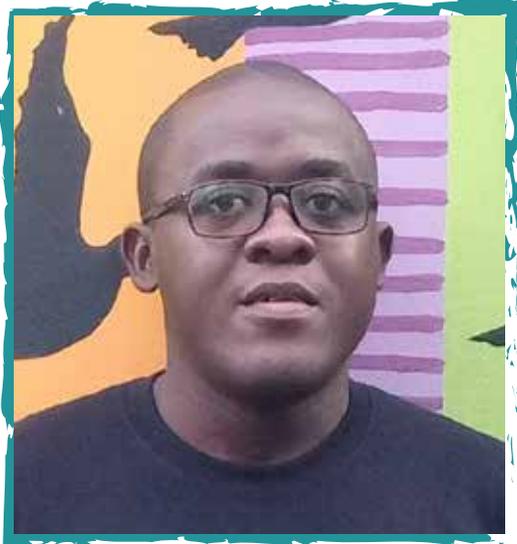
Anil is the initiator of Women in PACES (Planning, Architecture, Construction, Engineering and Surveying) in Mauritius and organised the first Women in PACES Summit for the Construction Industry in August 2018, a first in the history of Mauritius. Anil has delivered construction related CPDs in various countries. Anil has been mentoring construction professionals for over 12 years in various countries & mentored a record-breaking 16 Chartered Surveyors in one session in Nov 2019.

When Mauritius went into complete lockdown in March 2020 due to Covid-19, Anil took the decision to invest personally in Zoom Webinar in April 2020 to continue delivering and maintaining CPD Talks for construction professionals in Mauritius as a way of “Giving Back” in the difficult and extraordinary times that they were in and still are. Little did Anil know that the webinars will be of interest and attended by construction professionals in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. Anil was privileged and equally thrilled to have hosted and delivered 75 webinars CPD Talks with more than 10,000 + participants in to date and reaching out to professionals in countries where it would have been impossible previously due to the costs associated with in-person events.

Anil is an inspirational role model to the youth in Mauritius and other part of Africa and is teaching them that they need to think on their feet, adapt and deviate from traditional thinking where they can to champion professional artistry and to allow scope for digitalization and working together for a truly creative and truly collaborative future for the betterment of the profession worldwide.

Some screenshots of Anil’s “Giving Back” Webinars during Covid-19 and counting:





## ASSOM NEYENG

Assom Neyeng is fervent on technology and devoted his time as a web developer and motion designer. Originally from Cameroon, Assom is passionate about new technology. In 2016 he created the startup Advanced and Suitable Technologies for Africa (ASTA) aimed at helping to manage patient medical records.

In June 2018 collaborating with his team Assom launched OuiCare (Your médical unifers in hand) to solve the problem of the lack of medical information.

OuiCare is an online health platform which allows to improve considerably the follow-up of patients and their access to modern medical services. The platform helps to connects doctors and patients through different modules, namely: booking medical appointments, teleconsultation. Further, the OuiCare allows users to have the most recent or current health-related information. Asson and the team helped to build a platform that has special modules to allow users to have personalized health advice and health articles. Also because of the current global pandemic they have designed a special module to keep users informed about local and international contaminations on the one hand and on the other hand about the different ways to protect oneself against this terrible pandemic.

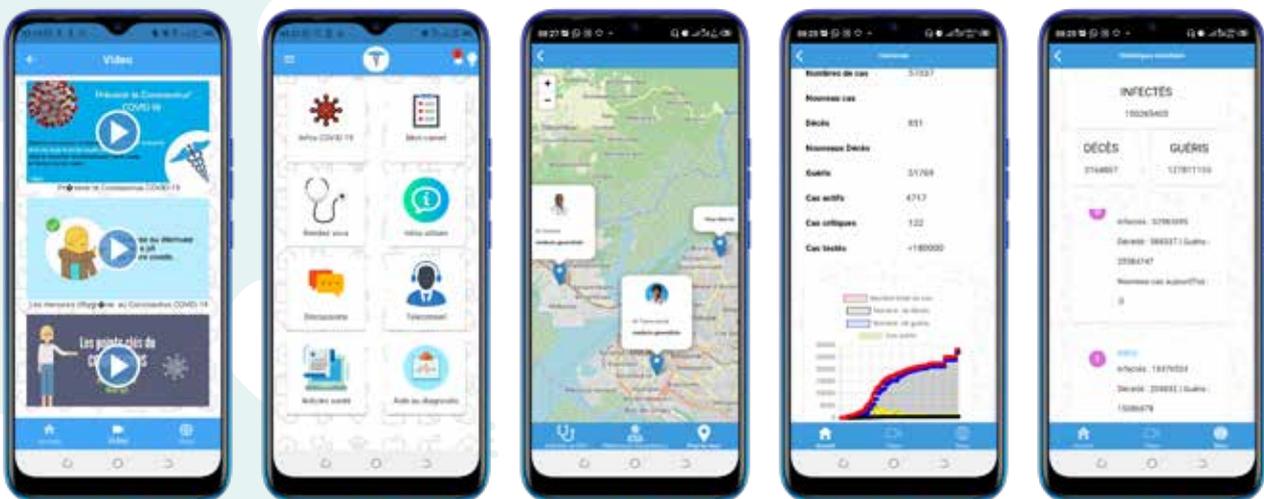
In 2020, well aware of the danger that COVID-19 represents for the world in general and their beautiful country, Cameroon in particular, and to support government action to combat COVID 19, OuiCare team improved their OuiCare e-health platform by adding telemedicine modules, covid 19 info, forum and health articles. This allowed them as a team to reach more than 50,000 people with more than 5,000 remote consultations and at the same time to fight against misinformation. This initiative made Asson and OuiCare team to be awarded by the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) with the CAMERvsCOVID prize.

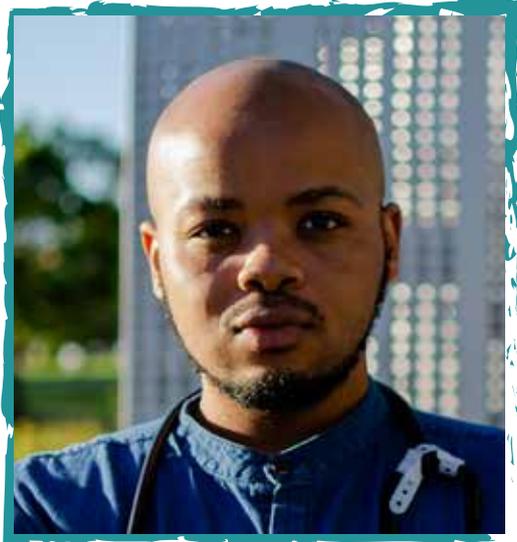
Unlike other youth, Assom was motivated to develop the platform following the death of his father from a chronic pathology. In the Cameroonian context, this meant that his father had to see several doctors and therefore had several health records, which sometimes made it difficult to read them properly when he went to the hospital. Also, during one of these crises, the doctors were not able to take care of him in time because the results of his examinations arrived a little late. This is what prompted him to think about designing a digital health booklet that will allow a fluid reading of the patient's medical history and also put the patient back at the heart of the medical ecosystem. The OuiCare helped to bring all medical services together in one place to include the laboratories, pharmacies and possibly insurance companies.

The platform has managed to reduce the waiting time in medical centers by 67% through the online appointment booking. This is a considerable advantage when considering that it used to take about 40 minutes to be seen by a doctor in a health center. In addition, 83% of users were satisfied with the personalized advice for their health and the health articles to educate them on current health topics. They have also seen an increase in traffic on the platform, especially for online consultations, as users are afraid to go to health centers due to COVID 19 Pandemic.

Despite the financial challenge to support the platform, Assom and the team used their own funds to run the platform, which is still the case today. Besides, they were benefited with grants from AYADA LAB, which is a joint incubation program of the French Institute and the Goethe Institute. The platform also has recently received funding from the local UNDP office as a winner of the Camer VS Covid 2020 award and successfully raised funds on the Fiatope platform.

Assom is an inspirational to other youth in Cameroon and other youth in Africa to divot and invest their time and knowledge in their communities, instead of just claiming help from the government but rather they should use their efforts to assist the government solve community problems including the COVID 19 Pandemic.





## AVUYILE MBANGATHA

Avuyile Mbangatha is a 23-year-old visionary and community-orientated Student Intern Doctor, mentor and international award-winning philanthropist who is passionate about Public Health. For the past 6 years, Avuyile worked tirelessly to advocate for social change, equality and justice, food security and health.

From 2014-2016, he developed a fertilizer and community initiative that aimed to enhance food security in rural areas. It was also discovered that it was a natural pesticide meaning crops could be grown organically, minimizing environmental impacts posed by artificial fertilizers. This initiative earned him a spot among the 2015 Top 30 World Young Innovators in Pittsburgh, USA. In 2019, he served as global ambassador-represented South Africa in Singapore and New York, where he had the honour of working with stakeholders in promoting equality and justice, mental health awareness as well as increasing the need of STEM careers-

He was further being nominated on the MIPAD Global 100 under 40 List and SADC Top 100 Leaders. In 2020, he was recognized as Africa's Leader of the Year -selected to represent Africa at the 2021 Change the World Model UN in NYC, USA and will be graduating as Medical Doctor this year.

Avuyile is the founder of the #BreakingBarriers Campaign- an initiative that aims to address food insecurity, health, and poverty. Understanding that COVID-19 had adverse effects not only on healthcare, but various sectors of the economy he decided to focus on the issue of access to education and food insecurity through the Breaking Barriers Campaign. Avuyile focused on healthcare by volunteering as a COVID 19 contact tracer as well as further fulfilling his duties as a Student Intern Doctor by being the frontline in peripheral hospitals to help fight COVID.

Breaking Barriers Campaign in 2019 - he worked with local orphanages in Cape Town, collects food and clothes for homeless individuals and ensuring that the less fortunate receive a meal 3 times a week as a way of addressing food insecurity and poverty. After the announcement of the lockdown in march 2020 he took the initiative to mentor and tutor eight Medical Students

and assisted them with their studies by creating summaries for second- and third-year medical students, tutoring virtually and creating study tips/guidelines on how to approach various modules that were challenging to complete at home as on-campus enrichment opportunities were not available in completing the various outcomes

Through the campaign, he took the initiative to donate study guides and tutor Life Sciences (biology), Mathematics and Physical Sciences to three Grade 12 learners as they were severely affected by the pandemic and their university and career prospects were at stake as many schools were not privileged enough to complete the syllabus. Furthermore, he collaborated with his father and used produce from their garden to donate to surrounding families in need of food as COVID-19 incurred many financial losses-further donating clothes to nearby orphanages.

As the lockdown restrictions were eased, he had to resume his studies and embarked on his final year in Medicine whereby he was in the frontline- screening COVID patients, managing patients with HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis as well as Diabetes. Overall, eleven students (8 medical students and 3 high school students) as well as 1 orphanage and 3 families in our neighborhood were reached by the campaign. The campaign has made a tremendous impact as the students he tutored were able to complete their academic year despite the challenges encountered in COVID 19.

Children in the various orphanages were able to get winter clothes from the donations. Avuyile will now be representing Africa in New York at the 2021 Change the World Model United Nations whereby he will engage with key stakeholders from all over the World on how to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that communities in global environment benefit from this initiative.

Links:

[https://www.tyi.co.za/your-life/news/tyi-](https://www.tyi.co.za/your-life/news/tyi-is-sadc-top-100-of-2019-avuyile-mbangatha-healers)

[is-sadc-top-100-of-2019-avuyile-mbangatha-healers](https://www.tyi.co.za/your-life/news/tyi-is-sadc-top-100-of-2019-avuyile-mbangatha-healers)

<https://mandela100.news24.com/avuyile-mbangatha/index.html>





## DOUGLAS MWANGI

Douglas Mwangi is a young innovator who runs the TextSchool campaign, an innovation that helped students with limited internet and hardware accessibility to continue learning and accessing content for free using USSD and SMS by dialing \*250\*11#. The innovation also helped in doing covid19 sensitization where anyone would gauge their level of information about

Corona virus through participating in covid19 quizzes.

The text school program through its covid 19 quizzes, Douglas managed the community to gauge their level of information about covid19 by participating in corona quizzes and take necessary measures and protect themselves and their families. All these were done via SMS and USSD

Prior to the schools to be opened, Douglas and the team used to get an average of 350 unique users daily. TextSchool was instrumental in helping students continue learning at home during lockdown. So far, we have managed to reach out to over 12,000 community participants through school quizzes or Covid19 quizzes.

They initially targeted community participants from Mathare but due to ridding on existing technological infrastructure -Safaricom - our services can be accessed by any user who has Safaricom sim card. So far, the initiative managed to reach 12,051 people.

As innovators, Douglas and the team were faced with challenges such as developing quality content to be uploaded, but they overcame this by partnering with educators and trained teachers who are developing content and checking quality assurance of any content before its uploaded into the system to be accessed by users.

The project has helped Douglas to appreciate the value of partnership. It's through partnering with different stake holders that has made their project a success.

They developed Text School with post covid in mind. The innovation is still running and helping students access learning materials for free at home. They also included Mental Health content to help students cop up with the new normal.



Douglas and his team believe that they will come out stronger if they put their hands together in fighting Covid19 by embrace technology and adhere to measures that have been put in place by their respective Ministry of Health.





## DR. FLORENCE KORYO AKUMIAH

Dr Florence Koryo Akumiah (MBCChB, MSc Preventive Cardiovascular Medicine) is a Medical Doctor affiliated to the National Cardiothoracic Centre, currently an Internal Medicine Specialist trainee at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital with interest in Cardiology and Preventive Medicine. I recently got accepted as a NYU-UG Fogarty Research Integrity Fellow and Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Research Trainee.

She is General Secretary of Ghana Association of Doctors (GADOR) in Residency. Prior to this, she served as the Vice President of the Junior Doctors Association – Ghana. The welfare of medical doctors has always been a passion of mine and she seeks out ways to be of service to my colleagues and safeguard their wellbeing. As a young doctor coming up on about 10 years of clinical practice experience, she would describe her exposure to the various levels of health care delivery facilities serving the public as significant enough to appreciate the pulse of the systems under which she generally works – so to speak.

Dr. Florence had already worked in District Hospitals and Tertiary Healthcare facilities across 4 regions of the country before the outbreak of the COVID 19 Pandemic. This perspective granted her a realistic idea of the state of preparedness of the Ghanaian Health System to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The existential anguish and trepidation among most healthcare personnel about being heralded as front-liners – Despite the obvious lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention Care (IPC) tools, limited human resources, lack of psychosocial support systems to support health personnel despite the attendant risks of a host of potential implications of their preparedness and the complications that would ensue safety of health care providers – Dr. Florence took her time and personal cautions and continues to offer medical services in various places of the country.

During the COVID 19 Pandemic Dr. Florence made an assessment to identify areas that needed an urgent support and identified the lack of PPEs/IPC tools and of psychosocial support. These were personal priority areas because it was clear to her, and other likeminded health workers, that as the de facto fighting force against the pandemic they would therefore need to be protected by all means necessary if Ghana was to have any hope of weathering the storm.

As a direct consequence of these conclusions, a group of concerned medical doctors in the Ghana Association of Doctors in Residency (GADOR) group – herself inclusive – decided to take the initiative to remedy these challenges by the establishment of the GADOR COVID-19 Response Initiative. This was to serve as an ad-hoc committee of the Residents Association, comprising a steering group of 10 persons in partnership with Occupy Ghana, PricewaterhouseCoopers, IT Consortium, and the Ghana Medical Association.

Their overriding objective was to mobilize PPEs/IPC tools through solicitation of funds and donations for distribution to various facilities across the nation which submitted requests for fund to support the initiative.

Further Dr. Florence served as a Board of Trustee Member and also played an active role in fund management (soliciting, collection/receiving and disbursement). The fund at the time of closing office in November 2020, since its inception in March, is valued to have generated about GHC 500,000 in cash and kind and donated to 52 health facilities (both public and private) across the 16 regions of Ghana.

The GADOR COVID-19 Relief Initiative which Dr Florence played a major role also had an advocacy and education arm which aimed to increase awareness, She also participated in a number of interviews and talk shows on TV and radio. In a bid to appeal to the younger, vibrant, music-inclined population, she also collaborated with famed Dr-Musician, Dr Laylow, to produce a COVID-19 educational/advocacy music video titled “Stay Home”. Being in the cast of this video was exhilarating as it involved harnessing an unconventional means of health education.

Dr Florence conviction is that the African Youth must employ the attitude of partnering and collaboration for more effective impact in all our endeavours, irrespective of the challenges they may face. Together, they shall rebuild!

Links:

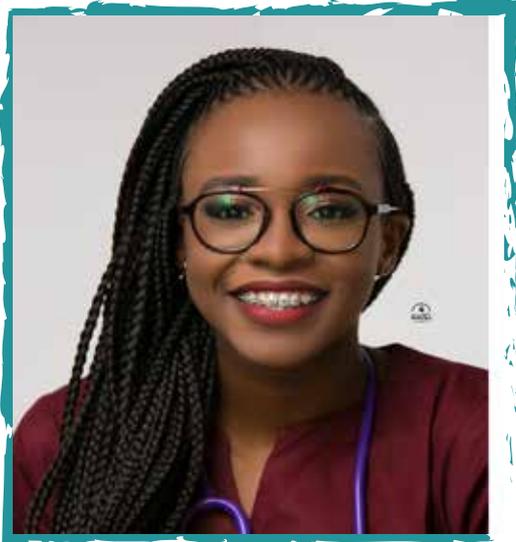
<https://youtu.be/9oK80RZ-Vno>

<https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/rotary-club-support-health-practitioners-with-ppes/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BernardAvle/videos/240483687000488/>

<https://www.ppeforghanahealthcareworkers.com/>





## DR. HANNA-LISA A. TETTEH

Dr Hannah-Lisa A. Tetteh is a medical doctor with interest in health advocacy and education mostly through media. She is an award-winning medical doctor and a medical Media Personality. She was formerly the in-house doctor for health-check on GhOne news, Healthzone on home affairs on Joyprime and health consultant on sports health on Sportsworld on yfm

with continuous health advocacy on various platforms.

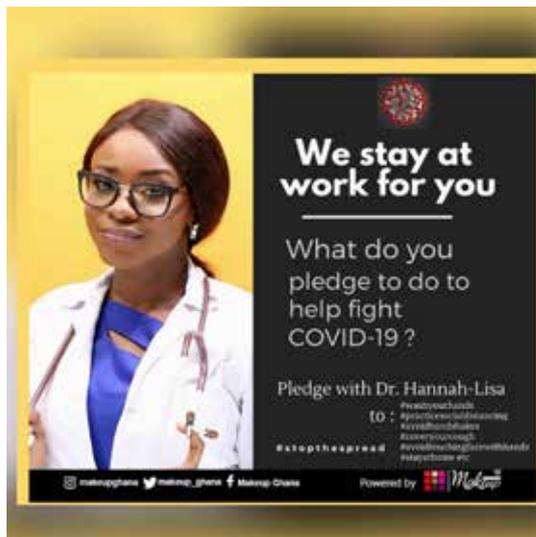
She is currently the host of health and Vitality, a show which aims to give daily health tips to its viewers showing on joynews and joy prime, an Event's Compere, hosting corporate and social events. Currently in private practice and also the Healthcare Executive of health AVAIL, an award-winning medical service offering health talks/ education and consultations to mostly corporate bodies and individuals.

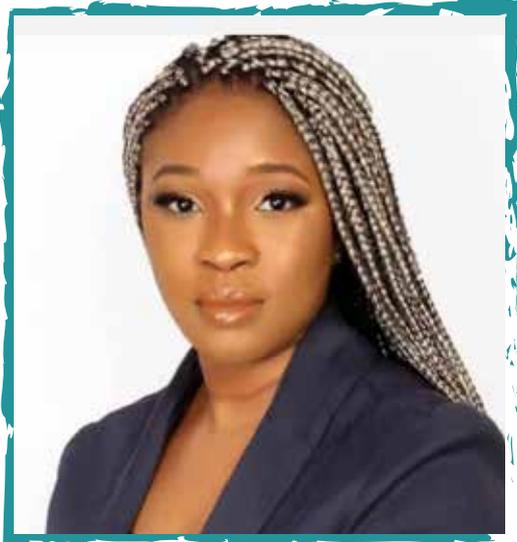
Hanna committed herself to address the misinformation relating to Covid 19 with the aim of educating people and updating them on covid19. Noting the existence of misinformation regarding Covid19, she decided to embark on a educational journey through radio, TV, social media and personal visits to educate people about the virus and to clear the myths they had about it, whilst reassuring them to allay their fears. The educational project made a lot of impact because it helped people believe the right things and focus on the right information thereby helping in the fight against the virus. During the educational sessions, people asked questions and had their concerns addressed. Misinformation was dealt with and people were generally appreciative of the lessons learnt. Hanna also led the practical sessions for people to know the right way to practice the safety precautions.

Dispite the initiative reaching many people Hanna used her social media handles, together with those of her medical service, health Avail, in which she had many people from different countries, joining in to have their concerns addressed. She also visited radio and TV stations in Ghana, had a covid19 campaign which was telecasted often, visited schools, corporate bodies and institutions to educate them on the virus. One of such was the osu children's home, where through health Avail, she visited to educate the children and their teachers on the safety precautions, teaching them specifically the right hand washing techniques whilst making a donation with Veronica buckets, soap, toiletries etc.

Despite the Financial constraints to cover as many areas as possible, to educate those who have no access to social media, radio and television, such as those in the rural areas and language barrier, Hanna through health Avail recruited temporary health workers who helped in addressing concerns in the different local dialect and educated people in their preferred languages.

Hanna is an inspirational to fellow african youth to keep practicing the safety precautions. Remain hopeful and educate everyone you meet whilst encouraging others to practice the precautions so that together we can fight the virus.





## ELMER CHUKWUNOYENIM

Elmer Chukwunoyenim Aluge is a management and public health professional with demonstrated technical and programmatic management skills in designing and implementing integrated healthcare, advocacy and management programs to address prevailing health challenges in low and middle income countries.

Through public and private sector engagements she has worked to ensure marginalized and high-risk groups have access to health care through disability inclusive programs.

She has a Bachelor's degree in General Biology and a Strategic Management MBA which she has used to develop targeted programs for Sickle Cell Disease advocacy and Health education development in Nigeria. She is the President of the Sickle Cell Aid Foundation and a Global shaper with the Abuja hub of the World Economic Forum chairing the "Abuja Dialogue Series" a forum aimed at policy development from stakeholder engagement.

She is a 2020 recipient of the prestigious Access bank My Covid -19 hero award and Avance Media's 100 most influential young persons in Nigeria for her work in first response for high-risk groups during the COVID - 19 pandemics. Through various efforts, she is championing inclusive practices for individuals living with disability and underserved groups in the post Covid-era for accessible employment, education and health care.

Addressing COVID 19 Pandemic in Nigeria, Elmer led and designed SCAF's flagship "Warrior Fund Initiative" (WFI), a support program that leverages a tech-based data management strategy, a national network of 200 volunteers, and 19 delivery partners at the state and grassroots levels to provide multi-disciplinary solutions for individuals living with sickle cell disease during the Covid-19 pandemic. Using a technology software and a strong publicity campaign, the initiative established a first-of-its-kind registry of 7,267 SCD warriors and a tracking tool for COVID-19/SCD cases which they used as a reference to deliver essential monthly routine drugs and care packages (food stuff, sanitation products, covid-19 safety tips) to SCD warriors and provided wider mental and medical health support reaching warriors and their caregivers.



In order to ensure this high-risk group had a fighting chance of surviving the pandemic, Elmer brainstormed with her team to identify threats to their survival on all levels. The identification of the areas such as minimal access to resources from limited mobility, poor access to medication from poorly stocked health facilities during lockdown etc. birthed the solution “warrior fund initiative”.

Through the initiative Elmer and the Team managed monthly deliveries were made across 19 states reaching 2200 warriors with support packages and 5,000 warriors with virtual medical consultations and mental health counselling. They got testimonials from warriors about the improved state of hope they felt from experiencing care in remote areas in a time when people were shying away and keeping their distance. The services provided in the WFI have not only enabled continuous access to critical information and advice for the SCD community in the pandemic era, they are also serving as a data repository for future research, and evidence-based policy and programmatic solutions (e.g., mobile clinics and temporary blood donation centers)

Despite the hesitation from the government due to the lockdown, Elmer made to see the difference their initiative will make in the lives of people already disadvantaged trying to outlive the pandemic, and secured their buy-in. through the initiative they managed to get several awards in recognition of the work that they did however the impact made in SCD community and the appreciation from them has been the most gratifying.

The “Warrior Fund Initiative” was an emergency response project so in reality, the introduction of vaccines and other measures has brought the project to an end, their focus now is on ensuring low-income families are supported to stabilize and return to normalcy of the impact of COVID 19.





## DR. LANDRY NDRIKO MAYIGANE

Dr. Landry Ndriko is an award-winning humanitarian (medal) with over 22 years of cumulative field experience working with youth, communities, governments and different international organizations in more than 20 countries across the world, including working in a humanitarian context.

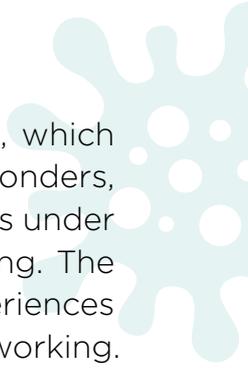
From 2014-2016, Landry was at the frontline in the fight against the Ebola virus disease in West Africa, where he led a team of more than 100 international health workers deployed by the African Union Commission. As operations coordinator for the mission and under his supervision, his team provided relief to over 1000 Ebola survivors across Guinea.

He was awarded a Medal of Service to Humanity by the African Union Commission in recognition of his leadership, bravery and exemplary work during the Ebola outbreak response in West Africa. Landry was also named as one of the most influential young Africans for 2016 by the African Youth Awards for his contribution to public health in Africa.

After working on Ebola for 2 years, Landry moved to Mali where he joined the World Health Organization (WHO) and worked with the government of Mali to build sustainable capacities for preparedness and response to health emergencies.

Dr. Landry Ndriko is now based at the WHO HQ in Geneva as the global technical lead for health emergency reviews (intra and after-action reviews) and support country across the world in strengthening sustainable global health security.

Following COVID 19 Pandemic, countries needed to consider doing regular periodic reviews during the event. These reviews could help countries to continually reflect on their response and revise current national and subnational COVID-19 response strategies, as needed, to change the trajectory of the epidemic and minimize morbidity, mortality, and the direct and indirect effects on livelihoods. With his team at WHO headquarters in Geneva, they developed a methodology and accompanying tools that countries are using globally to reflect on ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic for course correction and continuous learning and improvement.



They proposed a methodology called COVID-19 Intra-Action Reviews (IAR), which facilitated discussion bringing together a small group of COVID-19 responders, including decision makers with knowledge of the public health response pillars under review, such as multisectoral coordination, surveillance, and diagnostic testing. The objective of the IAR is collective learning, in which responders can share experiences and identify current challenges and bottlenecks, as well as what actions are working.

Their methodology has been embraced by many countries and are using it as a national system learning and improvement practice for the ongoing COVID-19 response and for global health security. This methodology received a high-level endorsement in WHO with the WHO Director General who organized a high-level global press conference dedicated to promoting the IAR methodology.

As of 05 April 2021, 25 countries in Africa have already conducted their IARs using their methodology. Those countries include: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DR Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania (Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Dr. Landry is an inspirational to many youths to Keep on their hopes and stay resilient, he shows them that there is light at the end of the tunnel. New and exciting opportunities are waiting for them.





## NKOSINATHI NDLOVU

Nkosinathi Ndlovu is a young leader with a disability, he is deaf. He has had experience in corporate leadership governance at International, Regional, National and provincial level.

He is at present serving as a member of the Presidential Working Group on Disability,

representing Youth With Disabilities in South Africa. Over the past 10 years developed opportunities for youth with disabilities through and by means of various projects and programmes of a social and economic empowerment nature, which were implemented through partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

Ndlovu has a lot of experience in the disability and youth development sector. He founded the South African Deaf Youth Development Project (SADYDP) in 2013, a national youth development NGO with 9 provincial footprints and international collaboration, focused on building young people with disabilities particularly deaf youth through partnership with community based organisations. He has also served on various youth structures as a board member. More information for him can be downloaded here on the link <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/national-orders/recipient/mr-nkosinathi-freddy-ndlovu>

On MARCH 2020 Ndlovu established the COVID 19 Disability Young Leaders Intervention Program for disability young leaders around South Africa, which are directly battling frontline results. He produces and distributes face masks and provides hand sanitizers, to the disability community and their families. He also provide sign language training to the community health workers which are referred as the frontline health workers to ensuring that our beneficiaries receive the benefit they want and can access government health advice. The initiative help a group that suffer systematic discrimination and a group with a 50% living in poverty.

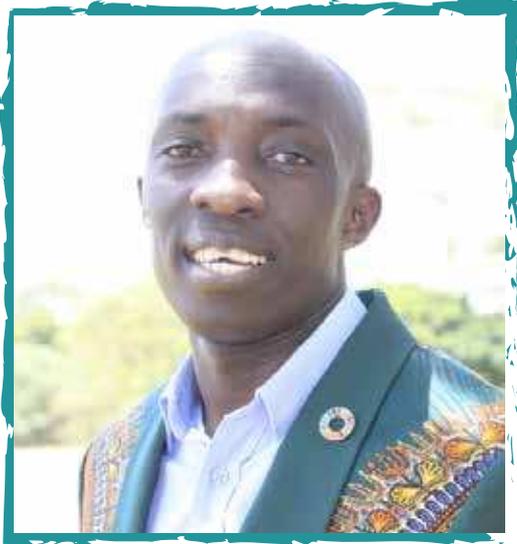
Ndlovu plan to engage with the government and others stakeholders, including the community, to unit and work together to fight Covid - 19. I strongly believe that peoples with disabilities must be included in the first and second priority groups to receive vaccines

Nkosinathi Ndlovu ,work has benefited a lot of people with disabilities and communities through his foundation. He has worked with a lot of implementing partners institutions such as the National Department of basic education, by creating a khari Gude mass literacy project, aimed at reducing the high rate of illiteracy. He was appointed as a volunteer coordinator to coordinate the campaign in Mpumalanga, the campaign taught illiterate youth and adults to read and write in mother tongue; etc, through this project he created thousands sustainable work for extremely poor households in an effort to break their poverty cycles.

Nkosinathi Ndlovu is really leading others to a better and hopefully future. As founder of the Nkosinathi Ndlovu Foundation, he has focused more recently on advocating for disability inclusion and poverty through various projects and has launched a lot of groundbreaking initiatives. He is also the President of the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for the Global Forum on Youth With Disabilities and the Impact of COVID 19 Related Protection Measure that will be hosted in South Africa virtually and physically in Johannesburg. He currently serves on international organisations boards to mention a few, he is Board Member of the Global Youth Parliament based in Nepal, and Board of directors of the Council of African Youth Advocates based in Ghana. He was selected as a representative for South Africa at the Resolution for Young Leader's Global Change in 2020 by the United Nations.

Ndlovu's accomplishments are many. He contributed to the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Youth Summit in Brazil, 2019 representing South Africa, where he delivered a speech and presentation on the Fourth Industrial revolution and the importance of skills development.





## RAPHAEL OBONYO

Raphael Obonyo (a holder a Master's in Public Policy from Duke University in the United States) is a public policy analyst and multi award winning youth advocate at the national, regional and international levels. Mr Obonyo has extensive knowledge and experience in public policy, international development, political economy,

gender, youth, governance and human rights, and serves on the board of World Bank's Global Youth Network, Global Diplomatic Forum and Africa Leadership Institute. He's an alumnus of the UN-Habitat's Youth Advisory Board, Les Aspin Institute of Governance and Leadership and the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Program.

Mr Obonyo is TEDx fellow, and has authored and coauthored numerous books, including the Conversations about the Youth in Kenya.

During the COVID-19 lockdown Raphael Obonyo, supported poor communities with handwash machines, masks and sanitizers. Raphael collected data/information from key populations to identify the issues to further plan for supporting key populations in the communities. Equally important, Raphael, through his writings, media interviews including his historic appearance on the BBC World Prime Time News challenged policy makers to take measures to address socio-economic impact of COVID 19, especially unemployment among the youth.

In Korogocho slum in Nairobi, where he was raised, COVID-19 has increased youth unemployment - young people are desperately in need. When he went there to distribute hand washing equipment and soap, young people told him that they have been washing their hands, (ready to eat) but what they lack is something to eat”  
Raphael Obonyo

Also, Obonyo developed communities' action and services guideline a guideline for peer educators and self-help group leaders to use to support people fight COVID 19, access health and other forms of services. Additionally, Raphael collected, and disseminated information on how and youth in different parts of Africa were stepping up and taking action to support communities to fight COVID-19. As a result, there was great appreciation and inspiration from youth engagement in the fight against COVID 19.

A website link where your work has been published  
Links to articles and media interviews and advocacy

Youth key in fight against coronavirus:

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/youth-transforming-africa/youth-key-fight-against-coronavirus>

Interview with BBC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjXWAUJXrgs&fbclid=IwAR17pGXb-WnHg2SRZd8kiB-OBdyYxgRPjLJ1ByRVnQ3brF4gtTRX3Oy9ZpDQ&app=desktop>

Youth vital in the fight against pandemic:

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/opinion-analysis/letters/youth-vital-in-the-fight-against-pandemic-2287806>



## OKELLO WILBERFORCE ODEMBO

Okello Wilberforce Odembo, a Ugandan born 27th/July/1994, a father, an entrepreneur, philanthropist, Founder & CEO of Odembo Group & Sage Workspace. Ambassador in African Innovation Week, a member (Glod Rank) in the Global Citizen Movement, a member in the Future Leaders Model United Nations,

Ambassador in the International Global Network, and Award winner in the FOYA AWARDS as the Most Promising Founder of The Year 2020 in Uganda.

During the COVID 19 outbreak Okello initiated the Odembo Legacy Project, a project that started under Global Citizen Movement a platform during the COVID-19 crisis to reach out to different people, leaders through signing petitions. Okello used media and social media through his twitter handle @okellowilberfo1, and sending them emails how we can come to spread of corona virus and how the poor countries can be helped out.

Okello is a leader who like living in a happy community, so during that time it was very difficult for him to remain silent when his people were dying due to the outbreak of COVID 19. As a global leader, he had to find a way out he can reach to everyone globally, and the option he had was to reach out to those different leaders in government, in WHO, and many more. His target was to make sure everyone is safe, can access the right information on how to fight and stop the spread of corona virus. And also, to make sure all the institutions that were in charge of producing the vaccine to access finances.

His efforts managed to reach the office of president USA, Australia Ministry of Internal Affairs, and all the emails he sent, the petitions he initiated for the signature, managed to put in place and ensured that all the people were to access the right information on how they stop the spread of corona virus, all the institutions that were in charge of producing the vaccine got finances, and poor countries were able to get funds to help them during the crisis.

Through the initiative Okello was recognized in the FOYA AWARDS as the Most Promising Founder of The Year in Uganda, and East Africa. And his project through Global Citizen Movement has helped him to get a Gold Membership rank in the Global Citizen Movement, and also to be among the member in the International Global Network, an Ambassador in African Innovation Week, and An Ambassador in the Future Leaders Model United Nations.

As global leader, Okello love to see everyone happy, and this opened his eyes that he still has a lot to do, also to believe in himself that he can achieve anything if he fails not to give up. he has been managed to recognized in his country and also to inspire his generation that "Nothing for the youth without the youth - youth have to get involved to make it happen."



## SHIRLENE ESTHER NAFULA

Shirlene Nafula is a 28-year-old multiple awards winning Business Woman. She is Currently pursuing her MBA at Quantic school of Business and Technology. She holds professional certificates from United Nations Centre for Trade and Development (UNCTAD- Empretec) and International Trade Centre (ITC) among others.

Bsc. Microbiology and Biotechnology from University of Nairobi.

She is the Founder and CEO of Crystal River Products Ltd; a Manufacturing company for bio-based beauty and hygiene products. Crystal River Products Ltd is in communication with a number of interested distributors from different countries. It is a member of China Africa Business council, US based corporate council on Africa and is considered a key stakeholder in India- Kenya and US-Africa trade relations. She is often invited to key policy making forums such as Russia- Africa, France- Africa, UK-Africa etc.

Shirlene is a 2020 Founder of the year award under 30- finalist and Manufacturing founder of the year under 30- finalist in the same year. Further in 2019, she is Forbes Africa 30 under 30-Business Category nominee, Leading Ladies Africa, Most Promising Founder of the Year- Finalist, 100 Most Influential Young Africans, 10 Most influential in business and Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognitions: Shirlene is also a leader as in 2018 she was among the 100 most influential young Kenyans and recognized by H.E Uhuru Kenyatta thro State House Kenya for creativity and innovation in line with Kenya's big four agenda. She was also one of two entrepreneurs awarded complimentary ticket on KQs inaugural flight to the US, she was also recognized on Top 40 under 40 Women Kenya as well as being Recognized by British High Commission among women leading Kenyan and British Businesses in Kenya and across the Commonwealth.

In 2017, she was awarded the Personal Achievement Award and Business Creation Exercise Award by United Nations Centre for Trade and Development (UNCTAD-Empretec), and being recognized for her Dedication and Excellence by Women in Business, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In 2016 she was awarded the Successful under 30 by Mkazi, SME champion Award, Entrepreneurship for impact finalist

Shirlene has served as the Convener of Youth in Business, Kenya National Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Is also a co-founder of Centre for economic empowerment and development- (CEED). She has been a speaker on platforms such as Forbes Woman Regional Summit, Africa youth Entrepreneur's summit among others on matters Youth, Business, Development and Trade

During the COVID 19 pandemic Shirlene through the Crystal River Products Ltd, have been actively involved in the production and distribution of hygiene products across East Africa. they have been champions of 'great hygiene equals great health' campaigns even before the Covid. They produce and distribute products such as: Hand Sanitizers, Hand wash, House hold bleaches, anti-microbial washes among many others. During Covid season, they have actively distributed these to Hospitals, Institutions, Organizations, Chemists, Public access areas, Offices, Parastatals, homes among many other areas.

The initiative has distributed cleaning products across all 47 counties of Kenya and small quantities to some parts of East Africa such as Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. By encouraging people to observe good hygiene practices, they have been able to prevent hundreds if not thousands of communicable diseases, Covid 19 being one of them. The initiative has also created employment directly to at least thirty young people mainly from the slums of Kenya and over three hundred people indirectly across the region.

Despite shortage of essential chemicals involved in the production of certain products such as hand sanitizer. They had to make arrangements for local manufacturing of essential chemicals and imports of the same. Shirlene and the team had to sacrifice reporting to work when people were in the house when the virus was at peak. They took it upon themselves.

Shirlene motivate other Kenyan and east African youth to stay positive and commit to whatever they do no matter what challenge they may face. She is the icon to youth who real wish to engage in entrepreneurship in Africa.





## LUYANDO MUCHIMBA

He is currently The President of The YANA Foundation and is passionate about the work that they do. He is surrounded by great team of hard-working people, none more than his partner April Sylvester who assists him with the administrative work necessary to facilitate smooth operations at the Foundation as well as day-to-day tasks.

In his free time, Luyando enjoys watching football, spending time with his friends and appreciating good music.

The Y.A.N.A. Foundation has done multiple presentations at schools and churches to raise awareness on mental health. The Foundation has also held trainings to equip people with the knowledge that they need to help someone who is going through depression and anxiety. In addition to this, the Foundation has sponsored more than 35 people to go for 12 weeks of therapy and counselling with licensed and experienced therapists and counsellors.

Luyando strongly feels that this is only the beginning for the Foundation and is hopeful for its bright future.

Luyando was motivated by own attempt to commit suicide which wasn't successful and he invested time and resources in preventing others from going through the same road following the losing their loved once due to COVID. COVID has led to an increase in cases of depression and anxiety. People have lost loved ones; people have lost jobs and some people have been affected by lockdown.

Being aware of the COVID-19 and how it was negatively affecting the youths' mental health, whether it was increased isolation, or the loss of jobs and loved ones, Luyando and the team decided to open a fund to be able to help others get the help that they needed. This project covers 100% of the cost of anyone who we refer to see a therapist or counsellor. These therapists and counsellors are people who they have built relationships with and who they trust to give the people the utmost care. Through their COVID Relief Referral Fund they have helped provide more than 35 youth with 12 weeks of free therapy thus far.





## KAGISHO MASAE

He is co-founder and director of Matriclive, a learning application for Grades 10-12 learners. It has study material, learning videos, self-assessment quizzes, community resources, past question papers and answers. It is a self-paced dynamic learning application on mobile devices. Kagisho has 10 years of experience in the insurance & investment banking industry working in customer service, partner relations, loyalty & rewards programs, project management & digital marketing. He refers to himself as a Client experience enthusiast.

He is a Young World Ambassador who is passionate about giving back & empowerment the previously disadvantaged. Kagisho has always been passionate about education. Initially, alongside his co-founder they started exploring solutions for learners in 2014 when he was reflecting on his own journey, in 2017 he started the project dedicated to linking like-minded “nerds” in townships which launched on Google Play. From his experience growing up, it was not always easy to connect with other kids as the “clever” one, you almost feel bad for being academically strong. As time went on in 2020, he met a young genius called Lesego Finger who had a solution that had the academic content (Matriclive). Together they noted that the ideal solution is a platform that makes learning both social & fun so I then transferred my IP over and joined Lesego as the Co-Founder because he is a self-taught developer and more technical than I am, the chemistry just made sense. Their goal is to decentralize access to quality education, every child regardless of background or “social-economic” class deserves at the very least a shot at having access to quality education.

Just before Covid-19 related lockdown started in South Africa, He had just under 10 000 paying users on the platform. When schools were forced to close, the first thing he thought of was the township and rural kids who for example share textbooks and the schools they go to are not technologically advanced, He then decided to forego income and made the platform free for the whole of 2020. By the end of the year, They had over 630 000 learners using the app to stay up to date and study.

Currently, the platform has grown at an average of 20 000 new downloads weekly, the response has been a pleasantly surprising & humbling experience. They won the Breakthrough Solution of the Year awards at the 2020 MTN App of the year awards, featured on some publications, He did some interviews and are now starting to partner up with the Government as a digital distribution partner for the 2021 Woza Matric program.

His plan is to continue doing the project even well beyond the heat of the pandemic. South Africa, or rather the continent as a whole needs more solutions of this nature. They have recently expanded our reach by being available on ios and the Huawei App gallery as well. He intends on extending the grades we cater for and soon focus on other parts of Africa. The closest one to home is the rest of the sub-Saharan Africa region. Strategic partnerships are critical to our plans. Government endorsement will also enable us to zero-rate the platform on different telecommunication network platforms which addresses the data cost challenges we still face.

“This has been and continues to be a life-altering project in a number of ways. I have had to mature and develop at an accelerated rate because we now have employees. It has also intensified the gratitude, we have access to a national database of learners and you get sight of challenges they face, it gets emotionally daunting but you also see you now have a responsibility as well. It has introduced me to great people and leaders but most important of all, my business partner. He is 11 years my junior but I can safely say he inspires me, one would say he is the little brother I never really had but generally yearned for. It is also just satisfactory seeing that your work is changing/improving lives.” Kagisho



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