

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

*EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR
THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE*



ABOUT US

Africa Alliance of YMCAs

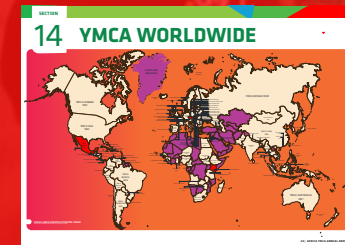
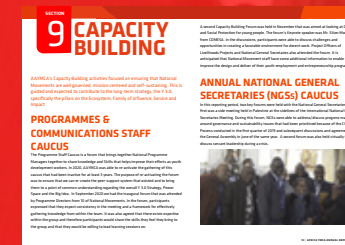
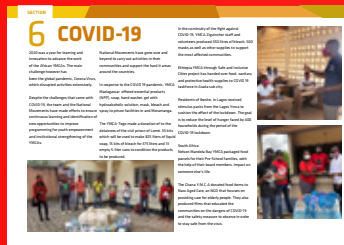
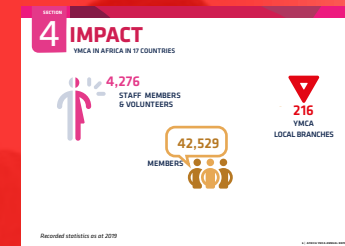
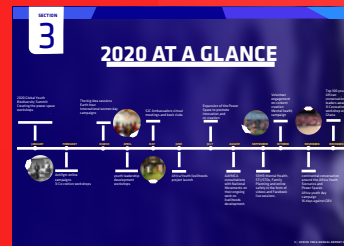
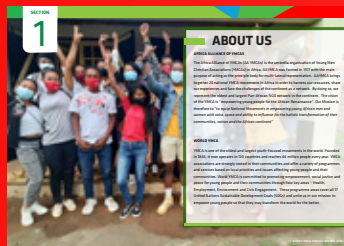
The Africa Alliance of YMCAs (AA YMCAs) is the umbrella organization of Young Mens Christian Associations (YMCAs) in Africa. AAYMCA was formed in 1977 with the main purpose of acting as the principal body for multi-lateral representation. AAYMCA brings together 20 national YMCA movements in Africa in order to harness our resources, share our experiences and face the challenges of the continent as a network. By doing so, we represent the oldest and largest Pan-African NGO network in the continent. The vision of the YMCA is “empowering young people for the African Renaissance”. Our Mission is to “to equip National Movements in empowering young African men and women with voice, space and ability to influence for the holistic transformation of their communities, nation and the African continent”. The secretariat of the Alliance operates as a Technical House, and the AAYMCA is a multi-disciplinary team of experienced professionals offering strategic and technical expertise in all areas of organisational and programme operation. Our member National Movements benefit from this approach through strategic oversight and capacity building. The AAYMCA collaborates with National Movements to conduct research, develop localised and continental programming, monitor and evaluate progress, and communicate our impact.

As a volunteer driven youth organization, the YMCA places strong emphasis on democratic leadership, transparent governance and the inclusive participation of the communities we work with. The YMCA is a world-wide Christian, ecumenical voluntary movement for women and men with special emphasis on the involvement of young people. It seeks to build a human community of justice with love, peace and reconciliation.

The Worldwide YMCA Movement

YMCA is one of the oldest and largest youth-focused movements in the world. Founded in 1844, it now operates in 120 countries and reaches 64 million people every year. YMCA associations are strongly rooted in their communities and offer a variety of programmes and services based on local priorities and issues affecting young people. World YMCA is committed to promoting empowerment, social justice and peace through four key areas – Health, Employment, Environment and Civic Engagement. These programme areas cover all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and unite us in our mission to empower young people so that they may transform the world for the better.

CONTENTS





FOREWORD

COVID19 meant that the year 2020 was one of unprecedented global crisis. At the end of 2020 there were over 3 million cases reported across the African continent, with the Southern Africa region being hardest hit by the pandemic. The lockdowns instituted as a measure to prevent the spread of the virus have limited movement and physical gatherings and therefore affected businesses, education and religious practices.

Although themselves affected by the impact of the pandemic, the YMCAs in Africa have worked hard to respond to community needs.

The responses have been to complement government efforts in creating awareness of the pandemic and preventative measures, as well as mitigating its impacts especially for the most vulnerable communities. Consequently, the YMCAs in Africa worked to distribute masks, sanitizers, bleach, hand washing stations and food stuffs to - among others - the elderly, children's homes and young people in prisons. The YMCAs have also taken various institutional measures to manage the reduction in income and access to grants. In addition, leaders and staff of the YMCAs participated in the various capacity building measures to enable them lead well in light of the crisis.

The YMCAs in Africa have also exhibited their versatility in the midst of adversity. This was demonstrated by their ability to transition into virtual working and to move their programmes online. National Movements hosted their Annual General Meetings, Youth Conferences and Executive Committee Meetings online, ensuring that Governance and Leadership were minimally impacted. At AAYMCA, several programmes were transitioned online, including the creation of an online platform to support young entrepreneurs develop resilience during this pandemic period. Further, online capacity building forums were held online with National Movements including Power Space co-creation sessions, Staff caucuses and the Executive Committee. This report therefore summarizes the progress made by the AAYMCA secretariat in its key functions to provide programme development and institutional strengthening support to YMCAs in Africa.



DR. ADRIEN COLY,
PRESIDENT



LANTONIRINA
RAKOTOMALALA,
GENERAL SECRETARY

AFRICA ALLIANCE OF YMCA

2020 AT A GLANCE

2020 Global Youth Biodiversity Summit
Creating the Power Space workshops

The Big idea sessions
Earth Hour
International Women Day campaigns

S2C Ambassadors virtual meetings and book clubs

Expansion of the Power Space to promote innovation and co-creation

Volunteer engagement on content creation
Mental health campaign

Top 100 young African conservation leaders award
3i Cocreation workshop with Ghana

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



AntiFGM online campaigns
3i Co-creation workshops

youth leadership development workshops



Africa Youth livelihoods project launch

AAYMCA consultations with National Movements on their ongoing work on livelihoods development.

SRHR: Mental Health, STI/STDs, Family Planning and online safety in the form of videos and Facebook live sessions.

Continental conversation around the Africa Youth Scenarios and Power Spaces
Africa Youth Day campaign
16 days against GBV

IMPACT

YMCA PRESENT IN AFRICA IN 20 COUNTRIES



4,276

STAFF MEMBERS
& VOLUNTEERS



216

YMCA
LOCAL BRANCHES

42,529

MEMBERS



383 STAFF IN 17 NMS
REACHED/SUPPORTED FOR
PROGRAMME AND
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



1.4 Million
ONLINE REACH

PRESENCE



6 COVID-19

2020 was a year for learning and innovation to advance the work of the African YMCAs. The main challenge however has been the global Coronavirus pandemic, which seriously disrupted activities.

Despite the challenges that came with COVID-19, the team and the National Movements have made efforts to ensure continuous learning and identification of new opportunities to improve programming for youth empowerment and institutional strengthening of the YMCAs.

National Movements have done their utmost to carry out activities in their communities and support the hard hit areas around the countries.

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, YMCA Madagascar offered essential products, soap, hand washer, gel with hydroalcoholic solution, mask, bleach and spray to prison facilities in Moramanga.

YMCA Togo made a donation of to the detainees of the civil prison of Lomé. 55 kits were used to make 825 litres of liquid soap, 15 kits of bleach for 375 litres, and 13 empty 5-litre cans to condition the products to be produced.

In the continuity of the fight against COVID-19, YMCA Ziguinchor staff and volunteers produced 350 litres of bleach, 500 masks, as well as other supplies to support the most affected communities.

Ethiopia YMCA through Safe and Inclusive Cities project has handed over food, sanitary and protective health supplies to the COVID 19 taskforce in Arada sub city.

Residents of Ibeshe, in Lagos received stimulus packs from YMCA Lagos to cushion the effect of the lockdown. The goal is to reduce the level of hunger faced by 400 households during the period of the COVID-19 lockdown

In South Africa, Nelson Mandela Bay YMCA packaged food parcels for their Pre-School families, with the help of their board members.

YMCA Ghana donated food items to Naro Aged Care, an NGO that focuses on providing care for elderly people. They also produced films that educated the communities on the dangers of COVID-19 and the safety measures to be observed in order to stay safe from the virus.→



STORIES

RONALD MENDY, THE GAMBIA YMCA

“

I have derived great value from the YMCA leadership development programmes. My mindset on gender issues has really been transformed through the transformative masculinity programme.

”

SHARNELLE CARDER,
YMCA RAVSMEAD, SOUTH AFRICA

“

I work for an NPO that deals with homeless clients and everyday I am reminded to be thankful for what I have. A home with loved ones, technology to stay connected, a global Y family that reminds me I am not alone and so much more

”

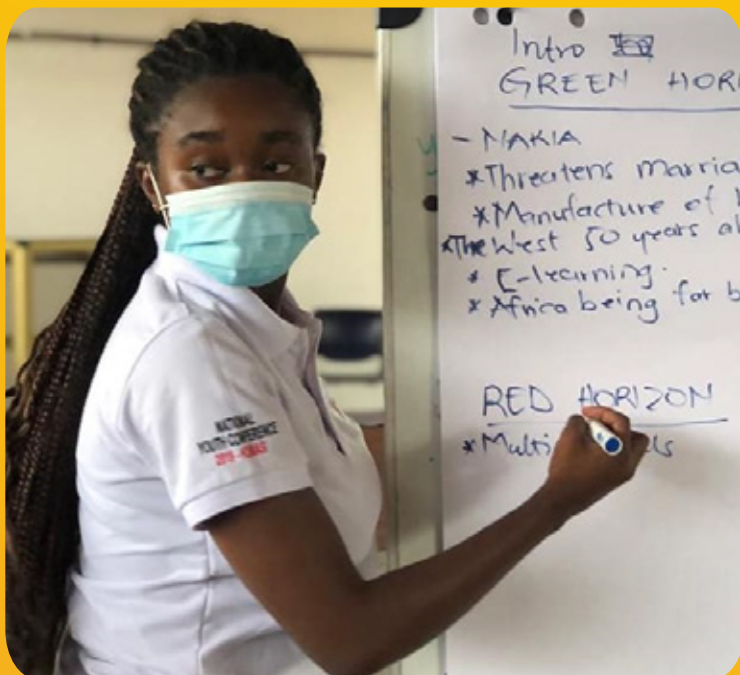


ETHIOPIA YMCA

“

YMCA Ethiopia youth held a COVID-19 prevention campaign to raise public awareness and to promote preventative measures.

”



TATYANA KWABI, GHANA YMCA

“

It has been very interesting to get to know certain things that people go through in the community and their takes on certain issues. .. the scenarios dialogues have given me the opportunity to get to know more about people in my community.

”

ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMMES

The overall goal of youth programming in Africa is to address the situation of young people in Africa and to support them to get into the driver's seat of the Africa Renaissance. AAYMCA continued to implement various youth programmes, as well as to support National Movements' youth programme development. The specific focus was to ensure that Power Space was well understood and integrated in existing and new programmes. The thematic areas in this period included youth leadership development, health, livelihoods and environmental conservation. AAYMCA also continued to connect with the continental agenda and during this period connected with the African Union's Office of the Youth Envoy.

A highlight in this period was the completion of the Big Idea series, a co-creative process to envision youth empowerment in the light of needs identified in the Africa Youth Scenarios, the Charter Assessment and the emerging needs for youth in light of the COVID 19 pandemic.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Youth Leadership Development work was centered on the S2C Ambassadors. ADD These youth leaders completed their engagement at the World level as Change Agents, with 22 of them graduating at the end of 2020

These ambassadors were also actively engaged at continental level specifically in the implementation of the Africa Youth Day campaign in November and December 2020. The Africa Youth Day activities reached over 11,000 people across the continent with initiatives ranging from socially distanced and COVID-safe forums for young people, online discussions, film showings and discussions as well as government engaging conversations. Further, the S2C Ambassadors initiated an online initiative, the Book Club, where they studied amongst others *The Secret* by Rhonde Bryne, *As a Man Thinketh* by James Allen and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. In addition, the S2C Ambassadors were supported in conducting consultations on the Africa Youth Scenarios. Many of these forums were held online, demonstrating the versatility of the youth and the YMCA for online interactions.

Further, AAYMCA launched a process of engaging young volunteers in the design and implementation of interventions that AAYMCA has been leading. A total of 42 young people from 9 National Movements were recruited as volunteers, and led and participated in campaigns on youth livelihoods, ending Gender Based Violence and traditional harmful practices, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Mental Health. These campaigns reached at least 59,000 people online.



In addition, AAYMCA continued to provide leadership development support to the Africa Youth for Nature Network as part of a partnership with the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). The youth network conducted online campaigns and virtual learning sessions to promote their work and advance their messaging. The network was supported as it became formally be registered in Kenya and in December, it held its inaugural Annual General Meeting.

POWER SPACE

AAYMCA continued to support the expansion of the Power Space that promotes innovation and co-creation. It led five co-creation sessions using the 3 'I's (Inspiration, Ideation and Implementation) that were dubbed 'the Big Idea'. During the sessions, participants discussed in great length the challenges and opportunities that YMCAs in Africa face. Participants included Programme directors from the Gambia, Togo and Madagascar, as well as two current S2C Ambassadors (Kenya, Zimbabwe), the AAYMCA Executive Committee Youth Representative, the Youth President at the Abeokuta YMCA in Nigeria, a participant from the Africa Youth Scenarios, and staff from AAYMCA.



The outcome of the Big Idea is the proposal for an Incubation YMCA - a new, unbridled, co-created model whose intention will be to incubate new ideas in governance, youth programming, fundraising, community engagement and all other necessities.

AAYMCA further established an online Power Space for building youth livelihoods and resilience with information resources for young entrepreneurs. The online platform was a result of COVID 19 Pandemic prevention measures, particularly restrictions on in person interactions. Many young people, especially entrepreneurs, did not have opportunities to work virtually or transition their businesses online. In addition, AAYMCA conducted an online survey to establish the needs of young people and specifically young entrepreneurs. The survey received responses from 92 young people from 10 countries in Africa. The platform now hosts a network of 25 youth and hosts at least 10 information resources from the six month pilot period. The content was created collaboratively with youth volunteers and staff from Madagascar, Nigeria and Cameroon.

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Exchange programme continued to be a means for creating an online Power Space considering the physical meeting restrictions presented by COVID 19 Prevention.



The Exchange participant this year established a Facebook group that has participation of youth from across Africa. Content has included topics on Mental Health, STI/STDs, Family Planning and online safety in the form of videos and Facebook live sessions. Prior to the outbreak of COVID 19 in Kenya, the SRHR Exchange Participant had hosted two in-person forums: the first was dubbed Men's Conference on Valentine's Day, and aimed to engage young men in dialogue on countering violence against women. The second was on International Women's Day, and focused on Endometriosis and other menstrual disorders. It was held in collaboration with Endo Sisters East Africa and Miss Koch Kenya. The participant also identified potential partnerships with organisations such as Zana Africa, Organisation of African Youth and Family Health Option Kenya.

CAPACITY BUILDING

AAYMCA's Capacity Building activities focused on ensuring that National Movements are well governed, mission centered and self-sustaining. This is guided by - and expected to contribute to - the long-term strategy, the Y 3.0, and specifically the pillars on the Ecosystem, Family of influence, Service and Impact.

PROGRAMMES & COMMUNICATIONS STAFF CAUCUS

The Programme Staff Caucus is a forum that brings together National Programme Managers to share knowledge and skills to help improve their efforts as youth development workers. In 2020, AAYMCA was able to re-activate the gathering of this caucus, which had been inactive for at least 3 years. The purpose of re-activating the forum was to ensure that we can re-create the peer-support system that existed before, and to bring them to a point of common understanding regarding the overall Y 3.0 Strategy, Power Space and the Big Idea. In September 2020, the inaugural forum was attended by Programme Directors from 10 of National Movements. Participants said that they expect consistency in the meeting and a framework for effectively gathering knowledge from within the team. It was also agreed that there exists expertise within the group and therefore participants would share the skills they feel they bring to the group, and that they would be willing to lead learning sessions.

A second Capacity Building Forum was held in November that was aimed at looking at Decent Social Protection for Young People. The forum's Keynote speaker was Mr. Silver Mwesigwe from COMESA. Project Officers of Livelihoods Projects and National General Secretaries also attended the forum. It is anticipated that National Movement staff have some additional information to enable them improve the design and delivery of their youth employment and entrepreneurship programmes.

ANNUAL NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARIES (NGSS) CAUCUS

In this reporting period, two key forums were held with the National General Secretaries. The first was a side meeting held in Palestine at the sidelines of the International National General Secretaries Meeting. During this forum, NGS were able to address and discuss progress made around governance and sustainability issues that had been prioritized because of the Charter Process conducted in the first quarter of 2019 and subsequent discussions and agreement at the General Assembly in June of the same year.



A second forum was also held virtually to discuss servant leadership during a crisis. This was in response to the challenges emerging from the COVID 19 Pandemic. The purpose of this forum was to enable NGS to reflect and identify new resources for them to lead well in the midst of the Pandemic. The sessions were facilitated by the Impact Hub of Lusaka, and used as a case study the leadership style of Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and renowned leader in Africa and the world. Since these forums, the AAYMCA secretariat has worked to fashion the capacity building and support to National Movements. The support will help the NGSs to address specific challenges in their Movements specifically arising from the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.



SUSTAINABILITY OF THE YMCA

AAYMCA continued in its efforts to ensure that the African YMCAs are a self-sustaining ecosystem in keeping with the Y 3.0 Strategy. This is provided in the form of sustainability assessments, on-going support for the development and implementation of business plans. Although not all planned activities could be accomplished because of the pandemic, adjustments were made including holding virtual meetings to provide support and establish the progress made. Among the National Movements receiving support and capacity building this year were Zambia, Nigeria and Senegal.

Zambia YMCA's efforts towards leadership and financial recovery have had great results. The success has largely been attributed to a dedicated local leadership led by Mr. Anthony Ranjan. The YMCA has succeeded in developing and implementing a financial recovery plan. This has included issuing a long-term lease for one of its main assets, Norfred House, to ensure an increased income for the YMCA, upgrading its financial management system, and setting up

social enterprises in its local associations (Lundazi, Lusaka and Livingstone), and developing some existing properties (Kitwe, Ndola and Lusaka).

Nigeria YMCA developed a business plan for an agricultural project in Eruwa in Oyo State. The YMCA is in the process of raising USD 15,000 for this project which will be implemented with technical support from a local agricultural institute to grow cashews and bananas on the 50-acre piece of land.

In Senegal, a sustainability assessment was conducted in February. The assessment explored various opportunities, among them the finalization of a property development agreement at the Bourguiba Property, the preparations for a loan for the expansion of the Christiane Barboza School, and a farming project at the Bardine Farm.



ADVOCACY



The AAYMCA continued to engage in Advocacy work specifically through the lens of the Africa Youth Scenarios document (named "Horizons") and for this purpose hosted several leading continental and global personalities, specifically from the Common Market for East and Southern States (COMESA) and the United Nations.

AAYMCA hosted online discussions between September and December 2020 in which issues on regional youth policies and continental initiatives on youth employment (regional) and peace and conflict (global) were discussed and information disseminated. AAYMCA also provided support to 10 National Movements (Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Liberia, Togo, Cameroon and Niger) to begin substantive discussions with their National governments regarding the future status of young people on the continent.



PARTNERSHIPS

Africa Alliance of YMCAs partnerships – 2020

The year 2020 was a universally difficult one, and the AAYMCA was not exempt. However, the year was productive by way of the partnerships that we built and advanced.

In delivery of our key programmatic targets, we invested in building upon the PowerSpace, and made sure that the methodology was effective during the global COVID pandemic. To successfully do this, we invested in research and design, and were funded in part by the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), whose support enabled us to conduct a research project in Zambia and Kenya. Additionally, we continued to lean on the technical expertise of ThinkPlace Kenya, a Human Centered Design studio based in Nairobi but headquartered in Australia.

ThinkPlace Kenya is a key partner in the delivery of the research project, as well as in furthering the success of the PowerSpace.

Another important partner is the Longview Foundation, an organization established by Dr. Katindi Sivi-Njonjo, one of Africa's few futurists. Dr. Katindi's Longview Foundation trained 12 YMCA youth as part of the partnership, enabling and skilling them with the skill of building futures scenarios. In 2021 we will continue to engage our partners in building foundations for the Renaissance of Africa.

Africa Alliance of YMCAs partnered with WWF Regional Office for Africa and the Africa Wildlife Fund (AWF) to successfully launch and incubate Africa's first ever Biodiversity Network of African Youth leaders and organizations christened the Africa Youth for Nature Network (AY4N). The AY4N was a key part of the Youth Led Solutions Summit as was the WWF Regional Office for Africa.



12 CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNT



Lessons were learned from the experiences of 2020.

1. In-person activities had to be postponed due to the risks of the spread of Coronavirus. Consequently, the Executive Committee meeting had to be postponed and not held in Ethiopia as planned in March. In addition, our SRHR Exchange Participant from Norway had to return back home and our research activities for the IDRC funded project had to be halted. This greatly impacted on progress on our annual work plan.
2. With limited in-person meetings, the dependence on virtual meetings exposed the organisations to cyber security challenges. For instance, one of the S2C Ambassador forums was hacked, causing the forum to be abruptly ended.
3. There have been major financial challenges, with many of the core-support YMCAs being unable to fulfill their commitments for this year, and the building tenants requesting to terminate their leases due to their inability to meet their rent obligations. This has impacted significantly on total AAYMCA income, leading to a drop of slightly more than 50% of the initial approved budget. With these, drastic cost cutting measures had to be initiated such as staff taking 50% salary cuts and staff working from home to reduce office running costs
4. There is now a greater need to make more investment in good internet connections in the YMCAs. This is because of the new reliance on virtual meetings across the continent, with many countries having limited international travel. Further to this, many youth development solutions will need to be provided virtually and therefore the YMCA needs to explore ways in which to ensure that youth have access to internet or other similar solutions for access to skills building and other support resources.
5. A focus on sustainability is even more evident now, with the negative impact of COVID on the availability of funds from grant-making organisations.



GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Adrien Coly - President

Ms Queen Ndlovu - Vice President

Mr Du Prince Tchakoté Noumbissi - Treasurer

Mr Reynolds Kissiedu - Western Zone Representative

Mr Mathang Ruby Fransisco - Southern Zone Representative

Ms Norris Loleyah Hawa - Womens Representative

Mr Yirga Gebregziabher Assefa- World Alliance/Eastern Zone Representative

Mr Kevin Kodjo Dodji Fiashinou - World Alliance Representative

Dr. Nompumelelo Thabethe - World Alliance Representative

Ms Irene Ayimba - World Alliance Representative

Mr Ronald Senghore - World Alliance Representative

Ms Francess Boi-Kadé Reffell - Youth Representative

PAST PRESIDENTS

Mr James Ekow Rhule - IPP (Immediate Past President)

PAST SECRETARY GENERALS

Mr Carlos Madjri Sanvee

STAFF AT 31/12/2020

Ms. Lantonirina Rakotomalala - Secretary General

Ms. Purity Kiguatha - Operations Director

Mr Lloyd Wamai - Programmes Executive

Ms Anne Kotut - Administrator/P.A to the General Secretary

Mr Francis Indangasi - Accounts Officer

Ms. Elizabeth Nanjala - Finance and Human Resource Manager

Mr Osborne Wanyama - Programmes Executive

Mr Christian Kamara - Zonal Facilitator, West Africa

Ms Lavine Imali - Communications Officer

Mr Jared Musima - Eastern Zonal Coordinator

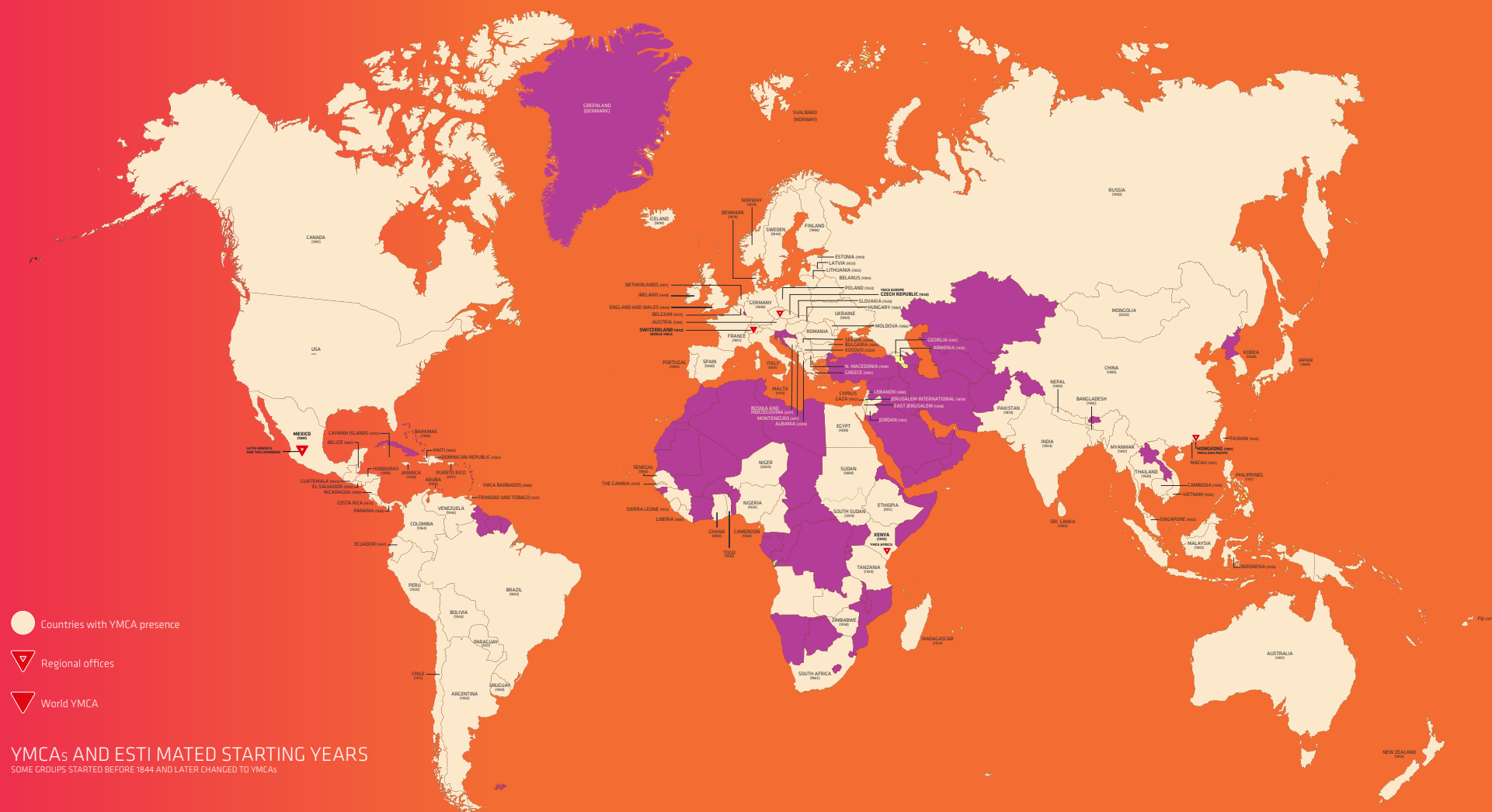
Ms Julliana Ndavi - Grants Accountant

Mr Benard Oguna - Office Assistant

14 FUNDING PARTNERS



15 YMCA WORLDWIDE



WORLD YMCA IN 2020

COVID

World YMCA shared in the global journey of the worldwide YMCA Movement in 2020. In March, it developed a three-part response to COVID-19 in 2020: building 'Resilience', launching 'Recovery', and initiating a process of 'Reimagination'.

RESILIENCE

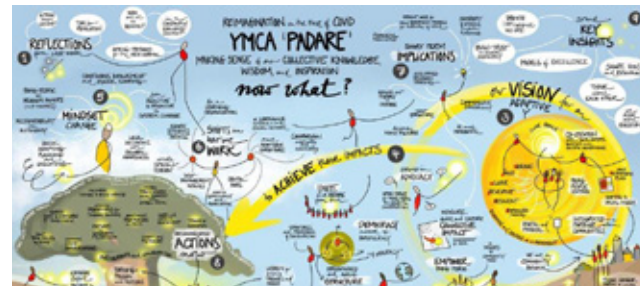
A series of Leaders Talks in April and May – designed to source wisdom to cope with crisis – assembled 1000 people online, addressed by 20 global leaders. A Resilience Playbook was issued. Two 'Youth Voices' online fora were run in May and June: *'The future we want'*, and *'A future without racism'*. Online ecumenical thanksgiving services were organised in May, June and July, and the World Week of Prayer in November.

RECOVERY

World YMCA set up the YMCA COVID Solidarity Fund, and approved grants of almost CHF 380,000 to support 27 National Movements struggling in the face of the pandemic.

REIMAGINATION

World YMCA organised a series of 'Padare' online sessions in July and August, bringing together 190 people in 55 countries to debate the challenges facing YMCAs. The resulting handbook *'Becoming an 'Adaptive YMCA' for the 21st Century'* was issued in December. Building on the Padare debates, in November a 'Reimagine Lab' was launched in Australia, to revolutionise YMCA responses to mental health.



ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIP

In April, May and December, World YMCA and the rest of the 'Big 6' youth organisations highlighted the role of young people helping their communities in the time of COVID-19 and the massive challenges they faced. They called on governments and policymakers to put young people at the heart of the solutions in post-pandemic recovery efforts. In December, World YMCA and the rest of the Big 6 joined WHO in launching the *'Global Youth Mobilization for Generation Disrupted'* to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on young people.

PROGRAMMES

YOUTH LED SOLUTIONS

World YMCA launched the Youth Led Solutions Initiative, empowering young people to lead change. Its first summit was held online with Y USA in October, on the topic of climate action. 'Solution Teams' from nearly 50 countries submitted ideas for combating climate change, and are now being seed-funded.



CHANGE AGENTS

The fourth Cohort of Change Agents concluded in October, with 135 Agents from 50 countries receiving diplomas. Despite lockdown, the cohort completed its curriculum. 750 Change Agents have graduated since 2012.

COMMUNITIES OF IMPACT

YMCA worldwide Communities of Impact on Refugees & Migrants (led by YMCA Canada) and Employment & Entrepreneurship (Y Care International, USA) involved 15 National Movements throughout 2020. Communities are tasked to scan, share and scale the very best of what the global Movement is doing all around the world. At year-end, World YMCA launched three new Communities of Impact, on Mental Health (YMCA Australia), Climate Action (Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs), and Policy & Advocacy (YMCA England & Wales).



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Africa YMCA financial figures for the year 2020 will be published at the earliest opportunity.

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