

Africans Rising

For Justice, Peace & Dignity

Annual Report 2021



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Our mission is to amplify the struggle of African activists and movements, find out more about our mission on Page 6



Our #ReRightHistory campaign addresses the need to confront the exploitation and subjugation of African people, read more on Page 16



One of our movement pillars is fighting for women's rights and freedoms across society, find out about our other movement pillars on Page 9

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One of our highlights from 2021, is our new contract with MS TCDC, read about our other highlights from the year on Page 45



African Liberation Day (May 25) is our largest annual mobilisation, find out more about our member activities for African Liberation Day on Page 19



Alliance building is one of our approaches to positive change, read more on Page 33



Our Movement Ambassador Boniface Mwangi went on a solidarity mission to Uganda, read more about his findings on Page 35

A Message from the Movement Coordinators



Since its inception, Africans Rising for Justice, Peace, and Dignity has always been a movement of African people and organizations committed to promoting the core values and declarations we made five years ago in our founding document The Kilimanjaro Declaration.

We have honoured these commitments through the hard work of our individual and organizational members and partners. As such, we thank you all because you form the heart of our Pan-African movement of movements. Despite the many challenges across the continent, 2021 was an exceptional year for Africans Rising because our members and partners demonstrated profound solidarity in the effort for justice, peace, and dignity for all Africans everywhere.

In our work to enhance women's rights and freedoms, we partnered with Solidarity 2021 and Beyond to host a solidarity residence for women activists from Uganda and Kenya. In response to political unrest in Senegal, we organised an all-women mission, led by Africans Rising Ambassador HE. Fatoumata Jallow Tambanjan, former Vice President of The Gambia, to leverage the power of women in mediation and set up an emergency response model that we can use to respond more effectively to emerging threats to peace. And, through a series of Invisible Giants celebrations, we continued to honour the outstanding women who are selflessly committed to positive change in their communities.

In our effort to expand space for civic and political action, we have organised virtual solidarity convenings and campaigns with citizens of Guinea Conakry, Mali, Ethiopia, Swaziland, and Sudan. Our Ambassador Boniface Mwangi was sent for a fact-finding mission in Uganda in the aftermath of the country's presidential election to roll out a solidarity campaign with citizen movements in Uganda. We also held regional convenings for North, East, and Southern Africa and convened the largest gathering of our membership through the All Africans Citizens Convening. These convenings provided spaces for Africans Rising to share, learn and engage with each other while strategizing on ways to build the Africa We Want.

To promote our work for democratic and corruption-free governance, we helped sponsor the 2nd West African Summit for Democracy and Good Governance, where Benin's President, Patrice Talon, declared his intentions to honour constitutionally-mandated term limits and urged his fellow African presidents to follow in his steps.

To further our commitment to equity and dignity, our African Liberation Day (May 25) mobilisation was grandly celebrated by our members through webinars, concerts, cultural durbars, community sensitization projects, and public fora in over 50 countries across the globe. And, as we continue to work toward climate and environmental justice, we provided a global platform for artists and activists working around these issues. This year, through our Artistic Activism project, artists in Kinshasa held a creative action about the protection of the environment, and the winner of the 2021 Activist of the Year award was Wilson Atumeyi, the founder and CEO of Water With Development (WaterWide) which works to solve water, sanitation and hygiene-related issues in marginalised communities in Nigeria.

Alongside the growing impact of our member actions, our organisation is growing as well. In 2021, we welcomed new Coordinating Collective members to oversee the strategic oversight of the movement and we welcomed new Core Team members to support our growing communications, engagement and fundraising operations, this also includes the expansion of our individual giving platforms. Supporters of our movement can now make donations through Mpesa, PayPal, Ecobank, Visa and Master Cards, direct deposit to bank accounts in The Gambia and Tanzania, and through our Trust Africa giving platform.



All of the amazing accomplishments and achievements of our movement and our members that you will read about in this report are made possible by the contributions of individuals, organisations and partners like you. We encourage all readers of this report to join our individual giving drive. It is our goal that we will one day become a movement funded by one million African donors who commit to giving \$12 USD each year and with your support we can get there.

In the spirit of Ubuntu, we thank you.

Coumba & Muhammed Lamin

Movement Co-Coordiators, Africans Rising for Justice, Peace & Dignity

Message from the Coordinating Collective

Greetings Comrades! As we reflect on the past year, we would like to bring to your attention a notable quote from the South African physicist and author Neil Turok. Turok once said, “The only people who can fix Africa are talented young Africans. By unlocking and nurturing their creative potential, we can create a significant change in Africa’s future”. This quote resonates with our collective because it brings into sharp focus the power of young minds and the potential of our amazing continent.

Africa has always been a continent bound together by similar history, traditions, and a sense of community. As a people, we are solidarity and solidarity are all of us. It is an innate part of who we are, what we represent and the way we live. The challenge has been how we “effectively organise” our pockets of community and social capital to advance common causes. It has become crystal clear that in these uncertain and volatile times, a strong sense of cohesive solidarity is crucial for advancing our cultural, social, economic, and political agendas.

For us as Africans, solidarity has always been about cultivating relationships. We have always understood that we cannot be in solidarity alone. That is why we as the Coordinating Collective believe in and support the Africans Rising Movement. We understand that Africans Rising is a continental community that is harnessing the diverse interests and pockets of social capital on the continent to enable young Africans to fulfil their potential.

Solidarity always requires us to be intentional about our commitments and actions. The movement’s focus on expanding space for civic and political action, fighting for women’s rights and freedoms, equity, and dignity across all our societies, ensuring good democratic and corruption-free governance, and promoting climate / environmental justice is a reflection of its resolve to be deliberate and committed to the challenges of our times. This is a movement that seeks to nurture and promote the collective aspirations of all young Africans.



Solidarity also requires actions that change us, actions that may even require sacrifice. It challenges us all to answer the question “What am I willing to do and give up to ensure the well-being of others, whether they are like or unlike me?”

The Africans Rising Movement provides a platform for all of us to share our talents, skills, and time to advance our common causes. You can start by joining the movement either as an individual member or an organisation. You then become part of what we have termed the “Members Collective”. As part of the Members Collective, you have an opportunity to actively participate in the Movement’s programs and receive support to advance causes at sub-national and national levels throughout the continent.

There are also opportunities to engage with the Core Team who run the day-to-day activities of the movement and with us, the Coordinating Collective, who provide oversight, compliance, and policy direction to the movement. These structures have been designed in a nimble, responsive, and representative manner to ensure that the collective voices of youth across the continent are felt, valued and pursued.

It is quite vivid to all of us that our continent faces great challenges, but platforms like Africans Rising offer winds of hope and bright lights as we continue to embark on our journey of transformation. Young Africa is on the move and there are real reasons for optimism. Let us all get involved and continue to work together for a peaceful and prosperous future for all Africans.

*Africans Rising's
Coordinating Collective*





About Africans Rising

Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity is a Pan-African movement of over 30,000 individual members and 800 organisations working across the continent and diaspora to push governments, businesses, and established national and global NGOs to focus on the issues Africans deem critical. The organization provides a space for progressive African civil society leaders and groups engaged in various civic struggles to convene, connect, collaborate, share knowledge, and build solidarity among people and across issues.

Our Vision & Mission

VISION

Our vision, as outlined in The Kilimanjaro Declaration, is a decentralised, citizen-owned future that will build support for local struggles, and immerse activists in the grassroots work of building bottom-up social movements beyond borders.

MISSION

Our mission is to amplify the struggles, efforts, and initiatives of African civil society organisations, local NGOs, International NGOs, trade unions, student unions, youth leaders, faith-based assemblages, feminist activists, intellectuals, historians, scientists, athletes, artists, cultural activists, environmentalist, entrepreneurs, LGBTQ communities, tech innovators, filmmakers and many others, across the continent and in the Diaspora.

THEORY OF CHANGE

By building an inclusive and diverse Pan-African movement that works collaboratively to build solidarity and connect, amplify and respond to the struggles of Africans, the Africans Rising movement will contribute to the achievement of justice, peace and shared prosperity for all Africans everywhere.





Kilimanjaro Declaration

Our members share a common interest which is outlined in our founding document the Kilimanjaro Declaration. The declaration is a formal recognition of the richness of the African continent, its people and its diaspora, and a commitment to overcome the oppressive systems that plague African and people of African descent.

The Kilimanjaro Declaration declares that:

1 Africa is a rich continent. That wealth belongs to all our People, not to a narrow political and economic elite. We need to fight for economic development that is just and embraces social inclusion and environmental care. We have a right to the 'better life' our governments have promised.

2 Africans have a diverse, rich, and powerful heritage that is important to heal ourselves and repair the damage done by neoliberalism to our humanity and environment. Being African, embracing the philosophy of Ubuntu should be a source of our pride.

3 African youth are a critical foundation for building the success of our continent and must play a central role in building Africans Rising.

4 The African Diaspora, whether displaced through slavery and colonialism or part of modern-day migration, are part of Africa's history and future. They are a reservoir of skills, resources, and passion that must be harnessed and integrated into our movement.

5 We are committed to a decentralised, citizen-owned future that will build support and solidarity for local struggles, empower local leadership and immerse our activists in grassroots work of building social movements from below and beyond borders.

6 We are committed to building a citizens' movement that is accountable to the constituencies we represent and enforcing the highest standards of ethical behaviour.

Our Approaches

We provide a solidarity platform to organize continental and global solidarity around key issues and emerging needs. Through fact-finding missions, strategic convenings and advocacy campaigns, we mobilise our communities for tangible positive change led by and for Africans across the globe.

Advocacy



Knowledge Curation & Documentation



We support the documentation of work done by African social movements on the continent and the diaspora, mobilise tools and resources to curate knowledge, and engage African activists and movements to tell and record their own stories.

We host training/capacity-building workshops, residencies, learning exchanges, and gatherings that develop the capacities of grassroots activists and movements in their activism work.

Leadership Development



Alliance Building



We establish a solidarity framework from grassroots to continental levels in order to push back against repressive laws through collective action.

We respond to movements in need of taking urgent action by connecting them to funders or providing them with strategic guidance and capacity building.

Movement Support



Strategic Convening



We place a premium value on face-to-face and virtual gatherings and small focus groups as a way to build campaigns from the ground up.

Our Pillars

Key Focus

1 Expanding space for civic & political action

Civil society has been increasingly under threat across the continent. Africans Rising is creating visibility and amplifying the response capacities of activists and movements working to defend civic spaces.

2 Fighting for women's rights & freedoms across society

Our movement's work and programmatic approaches are rooted in African feminism, ensuring that feminism and/or the prioritization of women become integral parts of all movements and movement building across the continent and diaspora.

3 Focusing our struggles on the right to equity & dignity

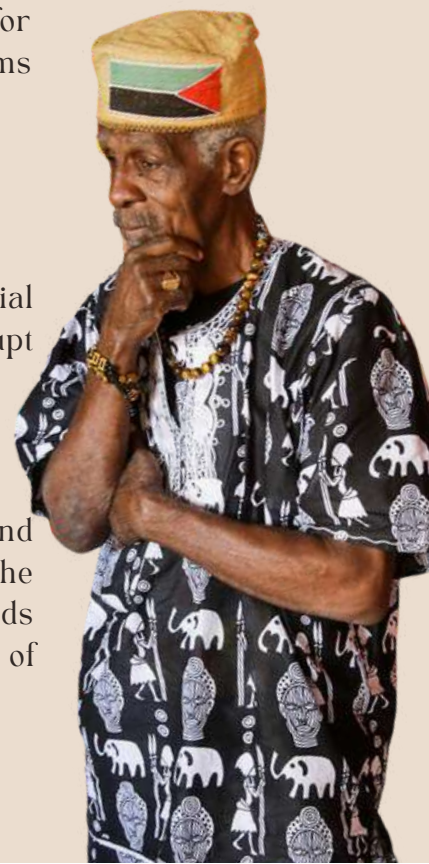
African people have historically been disempowered simply because of their place of birth and/or ancestry. Africans Rising advocates for a more equitable distribution of international wealth and reclaims African cultural dignity on all levels.

4 Demanding good governance as we fight corruption and impunity

For Africans Rising, corruption starts with the financial haemorrhaging of Africa's resources. Our movement fights corrupt governance through civil society campaigns.

5 Demanding climate and environmental justice

The narrative of Africa is based on the fact that it is the richest – and the poorest – continent. Global warming affects us all, however, the poor are disproportionately impacted. Our movement holds governments accountable for the transparent and just protection of the continent's natural resources.



Africans Rising in Action





Advocacy

Engendering African Social Movements

Engendering African Social Movements is a program to educate Africans Rising' membership on women's rights and African Feminist Principles, and encompasses a variety of activities and initiatives to bolster our work to act in solidarity, connect, amplify and respond to the struggles of women and other marginalized communities.

Strategizing Meeting with Hamida Nassimbwa

African Rising Movement Co-Coordinator Muhammed Lamin Saidykhan met with exiled Ugandan activist Hamida Nassimbwa to support solidarity actions the movement can take for Ugandan activists in light of their persecution after the country's elections in January. As a result of the meeting, Africans Rising was able to provide funds for Nassimbwa's safe relocation to Kenya, as well as funding for a solidarity residence for Ugandan women activists in Nairobi in March.



Ugandan Solidarity Residence

Africans Rising, along with Solidarity 2020 and Beyond, organized a one-day solidarity residence in Nairobi for 10 women activists from Uganda and Kenya. The convening gave participants a fundamental understanding of movement building and unity, strategic planning, and tactics for maintaining non-violent discipline.



Women's Solidarity Mission to Senegal

In early 2020, Senegal's economic downturn and the persecution of opposition politician Ousmane Sonko led many of Senegal's youth to protest in the streets. As political and social tensions were high, Africans Rising organized an all-women mission to the country to leverage the power of women in mediation and set up an emergency response model that can respond more quickly and earlier to emerging threats to peace. Led by Africans Rising Ambassador HE Fatoumata Jallow, former Vice President of The Gambia, the mission was an important opportunity to place women in leadership positions and ensure that women's voices and feminist principles are part of the peacemaking process in Senegal.



Women's History Month Celebration

In recognition of Women's History Month, Africans Rising hosted a day-long online event on 31 March 2021 to highlight and commemorate the glorious history of African women and their engagement in liberation movements and social justice

work over the years. The event highlighted the past and present contributions of women in our anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggles, women fighting illicit financial flows and women working to preserve the environment. These discussions additionally explored how we can #ReRightHistory to empower women, promote feminist organizing and ensure a just and dignified existence for all people.

Social Media Stats:

- Facebook Live - 1,400 views | 48 reactions
- Facebook Post Reach - 76,986 accounts
- Twitter Posts - 500
- Twitter Reach - 210,000

Invisible Giants

Solidarity meeting for women in Senegal

The Invisible Giants platform, with the support of Africans Rising, held an online solidarity meeting to bring together women to discuss the crisis in Senegal. Given the coronavirus pandemic and the political situation in Senegal, the idea was to create a secure space for sharing and information on the situation, a space for dialogue between women but also a space for decision-making and action. There were a total of 88 participants from different regions of Senegal (Dakar, Kaolack, Saint Louis and Ziguinchor) but also from the Senegalese diaspora as well as other African countries. Participants included women of all ages and backgrounds, and the conversations were held in French, Wolof and English. The convening resolved to form working groups to promote the participation and visibility of women in health, politics, education and artistic activism for women's rights. The working groups have since met online and proposed recommendations for advocacy in these areas.



Invisible Giants

Invisible Giants Virtual Ceremonies

On May 26, Africans Rising held an Invisible Giants virtual ceremony to recognize women activists working for positive change in their communities. They were: Golda Addo (Ghana), Hallima Nyota (Kenya), Amisa Rashid (Kenya), Pertulla Ezigha (Cameroon), Annick Laurence Koussoube (Burkina Faso), Sylvia Khasoa (Kenya), Grace Omondi (Kenya).

Another recognition ceremony was held during the Kwame Nkrumah Festival in September. Africans Rising members nominated and celebrated four women from the continent and the diaspora: Sibongile Mkhabele, Sibongile Ndashe, Emira Woods and Janet Mawiyoo in recognition of their grassroots work for social change. That online celebration, moderated by Movement Co-Coordinator Coumba Toure, broadcast pre-recorded videos of the nominees delivering their messages of hope and testimonials from their references. In Senegal, 10 women were nominated as Invisible Giants, they are: Diop Clémentine Goudiaby, Ndeye Drame, Marième Faye, Safiétou Ndiaye, Maguette Ndiaye, Mame Bousso Diack, Seynabou Male Ciss, Margot Coly Keny, Denise Bindia, and Aissatou Mbengue.



Diop Clémentine Goudiaby



Marième Faye



Safiétou Ndiaye



Maguette Ndiaye



Seynabou Male Ciss



Aissatou Mbengue



#Rise4OurLives

Under the #Rise4OurLives campaign to champion African leadership, solutions and innovations in global health crises, Africans Rising hosted online conversations throughout the year with our membership to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and access to vaccines and quality healthcare on the continent. As part of the #Rise4OurLives campaign, Africans Rising helped support an interfaith vigil in Washington, D.C, to call on U.S. President Biden to share vaccine patent rights with the world. The campaign also hosted a series of webinars.

In March, “COVID-19 Vaccines for Africa and Her Diaspora” addressed the importance of mass production of vaccines on the continent and the financial resources needed to purchase and produce them locally. On African Liberation Day, the “Building Healthy Communities” webinar was held to discuss COVID-19 and human rights challenges, Pan-Africanism and the lives of African people globally.

In October and November, three webinars provided a space for dialogue among citizens of Africa on their experiences, challenges, coping strategies and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. The first webinar was a conversation between African citizens on the health crisis and responses in their different countries. While the second webinar featured the responses of continental and regional blocs to the crisis in terms of ensuring access to vaccines and quality health care. The last webinar focused on the role of international stakeholders in this crisis with regard to the access and provision of vaccines and quality health care.

These productive discussions developed strategies and recommendations for activists, movements, civil society organisations and individuals to demand accountability in the management of the COVID pandemic, whilst recognising those that are making an impact and the challenges they have faced.



#ReRightHistory

The #ReRightHistory campaign seeks to confront the continued exploitation and subjugation of African people by examining its historical roots and initiating conversations and actions aimed at getting former colonial powers to right the wrongs of the brutal histories and legacies of colonialism, enslavement and systemic racism.

Debt Cancellation Campaign

Africans Rising held webinars to educate and mobilize our members on demands around debt cancellation for African countries, including the "Citizens Demand African Debt Cancellation" webinar held as a part of the Fight Inequality Festival in August. There was also a series of videos and other digital material produced in a virtual campaign by activists across the globe to advocate for the abolition of African debts.



Fighting Racial Discrimination



The #ReRightHistory campaign was also part of various efforts aimed at combating racism across the globe. In March, marking the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the #ReRightHistory campaign collaborated with activist groups fighting racism in the UK, including United for Black Lives, Action for Climate, Truth and Reparations (ACTR), Black Lives Matter Leeds, Garvey Village and other organised community groups in predominantly black neighbourhoods in organising a webinar to share on their work, progress and challenges faced. Apart from sharing their work, the discussions also explored how we can unite toward the elimination of racism and enhance our support for young black activists fighting against racism. The campaign subsequently collaborated with some of these groups and initiatives in various efforts aimed at eliminating racial discrimination over the course of 2021.

Artistic Activism Collaboration



Recognising the cultural and social dimensions of the struggle, the #ReRightHistory campaign came together with artists who are part of Africans Rising's Artistic Activism project to create songs aimed at linking the injustices of the present to legacies of slavery and colonialism. The first song, titled "[Il est temps](#)" by Amadou Ndongo, speaks of the legacies of French colonialism on the African continent.



The second song titled "[ReRight History](#)" by Andiyes Hiroshiboy, speaks to the pain endured by our ancestors during the slave trade, and how neo-colonial patterns of power and economics still prevail over the African continent today. Songs produced were also used for our online one-hour show and discussion during the week of African Liberation Day.

#FreeTheWestminster3 Trial

In 2021, three Africans Rising allies in the UK were taken to court on charges of criminal trespass after hanging a banner in support of the #ReRightHistory campaign from the UK Houses of Parliament in November 2020. The [#FreeTheWestminster3](#) hashtag was used to support their case and to promote the idea that non-violent protests on issues of critical importance should not be criminalized. The verdict issued on November 4, 2021, found the three guilty and sentenced them to 12 months' conditional discharge. There was no order of costs, except a 22-pounds surcharge. The virtual campaign received the support of former UK Labor Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn and activists in the continent and the diaspora.



Uganda Solidarity Mission

From January 8-10, Boniface Mwangi, a journalist, activist and Africans Rising Global Ambassador, visited Uganda. His mission was to examine the political and human rights conditions on the ground ahead of the country's general elections scheduled for January 14. During his visit, Mwangi noted that tensions and lack of understanding between the ruling political party, the Government and other political parties had aggravated in recent years. In particular, the selective securitisation of COVID-19 containment measures provoked negative reactions among voters and political candidates outside of the ruling party.

Moreover, while historically elections are always tension-filled activities, the 2021 general election seemed to have been increasingly polarised as it was perceived to be the last one that will see the incumbent contesting, possibly paving the way for his eldest son to take his place. The polarity had mostly arisen from the increasing repression and reduced space for civic engagement. It is also exacerbated by the presence of a young candidate with a mass appeal on the ballot. Mwangi's report concluded that the level of enjoyment of the right to freedom of political belief in Uganda was not satisfactory.

In addition, he was concerned that the increase in political tensions and state-backed violence may further hamper the enjoyment of this right among the Ugandan population. His findings guided a series of actions that Africans Rising later took in support of the people and the state of democracy in Uganda, including allocating urgent actions funds for the safe relocation of activist Hamida Nassimbwa, a strategizing meeting to outline other solidarity actions the movement could take to support Ugandans and a one-day solidarity residence for a group of Ugandan activists.

On the day prior to the January 14th elections, Africans Rising also hosted a [Virtual Solidarity Convening](#) with Ugandan activists.



#25may



AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY-MAY 25

Our African Liberation Day mobilization was launched with a media press conference in The Gambia on May 24, led by our two Movement Coordinators Lamin Saidykhan and Coumba Toure. The theme of the mobilization was "Pan-Africanism in the 21st Century: Our Health, Our Rights, Our Future". Events held across the globe connect grassroots movements, activists and artists in their efforts to build healthy communities and a healthy respect for the issues of freedom, democracy and social justice.

Over 240 activities and events were held during the week to commemorate African Liberation Day 2021. Activities took place in 32 African countries and 7 countries in the diaspora as part of the annual mobilization of Africans Rising. Africans Rising helped sponsor 57 of the events, which included youth dialogues on issues such as transparent elections, climate change, human rights and the future of Africa; a distribution of feminine hygiene products to schoolgirls in Kenya, a blood drive in Senegal, and a student leadership gathering in Liberia.



#25may



AFRICAN LIBERATION VIRTUAL CONCERT



As part of our collaborative efforts with African artists and our Artistic Activism program, Africans Rising hosted a virtual African Liberation concert featuring the artists: Lass Primo, MD MO (Mauritania); Phatal Ebodé (Cameroon); Magui, Al Dalaal MC, Kals, Safaray, Jah Jah King, Ndongo, Andiyes, Sangotte (Senegal); Gauthier, Lydie (DRC); Nessa, Mwiya Moody (Zambia); Teresa (Mozambique); and Mary Jacob (Nigeria).



#25may



#RISE4OURLIVES SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN



Throughout the month of May, our African Liberation Day events were circulated with the **#Rise4OurLives** hashtag. Through posts, reposts, shares and other interactions, our African Liberation Day content was able to reach over **380,000** people on social media.



#25may



WEBINARS & ONLINE EVENTS

During our week of African Liberation Day events we provided 17.7 hours of content via Zoom and Facebook. We had a total of 245 attendees via Zoom, 5,503 viewers via Facebook, and 40 viewers via YouTube.





Knowledge Curation & Documentation

Fight Inequality Festival

In 2021, Africans Rising took part in the Fight Inequality Festival moderating and hosting sessions on building solidarity for systems change and debt cancellation.



Kwame Nkrumah Festival

Africans Rising Movement Co-Coordinator Coumba Toure took part in the Kwame Nkrumah Festival as a co-moderator in the panel Youth New Initiatives and Follow-ups to discuss youth engagement in socio-political issues.

Rwanda Engagement

Africans Rising partnered in a series of virtual events to discuss the significance of the contributions of Rwandan citizens in movements for justice. "Speaking Truth To Power | A Look At Rwanda" was a forum to reflect on the contributions of Paul Rusesabagina and other Rwandese nationals who have taken a stand for fundamental human rights in the country. "Notes from Africa: Rwanda Unveiled" was an online conversation to contextualize the human rights abuses and political environment of present-day Rwanda. Africans Rising also supported the press conference "Increased Repression in Rwanda" to champion the call for the release of all political prisoners.



Artistic Activism

Artistic Activism is a project between Africans Rising and the ActionAid Global Platform that engages young Africans in activism who use art and creativity to educate and mobilize other young Africans around issues of justice. In the past year, the project expanded from West Africa to include East and Central Africa.

Through Artistic Activism, we engaged artist-activists in a panel discussion on cultural decolonization, released the [African Liberation Virtual Concert](#), and held two virtual training-of-trainers seminars on digital artistic activism for marginalized groups and movements in East, West, and Central Africa. At the end of the workshops, activists from the DRC, Chad, Senegal and Cameroon collaborated in creative action, *Stop Choko* (Stop Corruption), to raise awareness of how corruption destroys the economical health of many African countries.

Other creative works produced by artists in the Artistic Activism project throughout the year include [Toluka Solution](#) by the Collectif TNT(DRC), and [La Marche](#) by Solea Damas and Beral Ray'skim (Chad). Collaborations were held between Artistic Activism and other activities like our [#ReRightHistory campaign](#), the All African Citizens Convening and the Kwame Nkrumah Festival. Check out other creative actions on the YouTube channel [ACAN Senegal](#).

More creative actions endured by our ancestors during the slave trade, and how neo-colonial patterns of power and economics still prevail over the African continent today. Songs produced were also used for our online one-hour show and discussion during the week of African Liberation Day.







Leadership Development

Africans Rising Activism Awards

The Africans Rising Activism Awards is an awards initiative to recognize the young African activists who are working for positive change in their communities. The 2021 awards ceremony included the presentation of three awards: Africans Rising Activist of the Year, Africans Rising Movement of the Year, and Africans Rising Artistic Activist of the Year.



15,604 Votes

2021 Activist of the Year

Wilson Atumeyi

Founder & CEO

Water With Development (Nigeria)



@WilsonAtumeyi



@wilsonatumeyi



2021 Movement of the Year

Youth4Parliament

Grassroots Youth Empowerment
Organization (Zambia)



@Youth4Parliament



2021 Artistic Activist of the Year

Joice Zau

Writer & Poet (Angola)



@joiceisabelzau



Good Governance Conference

Africans Rising helped sponsor and participated in the 2nd West African Summit for Democracy and Good Governance organized by UST Togo, Tournons La Page, and Centre de Recherche Sur l'État en Afrique - CREA. The summit hosted participants from nine African countries and had various researchers and activists in attendance. The summit was also a launching point for a special campaign to end African presidents' service after their second term in office. The final day of the summit was attended by the President of Benin, Patrice Talon, who declared his intentions of not going beyond the constitutionally mandated two terms and urged his fellow African presidents to heed to this campaign and act within the limits of their constitutions.



Digital Security Training

On November 27, Africans Rising in collaboration with the NGO Nothing2Hide, organised a free training on digital security for activists and journalists in Dakar. Twenty-three people participated in the training. The specific objectives of the training were to train participants on the basics of digital security so they would be able to configure and check the basic settings of their devices (computer or smartphone), detect an attempted phishing email attack, and protect their activities on the web and Internet.



Movement Support





Alliance Building

AfricTivistes Civic Action Prize

Africans Rising partnered with AfricTivistes to support the AfricTivistes Civic Action Prize. Africans Rising representatives served on the selection committee for the award, which honours outstanding citizen champions on the continent for initiating innovative civic projects or actions and builds a network of young African activists on the continent working for civic change in their communities.



YouLead Africa Summit

Africans Rising provided financial support to the 5th East Africa Youth Summit and Movement Co-Coordinator Muhammed Lamin Saïdykhan participated in the forum as a panellist in the “Under 40 Political Leaders Forum” to encourage youth engagement in politics. Key outcomes of the summit include the establishment of an Africa leadership and development program and the expansion of spaces for youth participation and inclusion in policymaking.





Movement Support

GURU Fund for Movements

The Get Up Rise Up Direct Action Fund (GURU) is an open call to provide just-in-time support for direct actions anywhere in the world, launched by Beautiful Trouble in partnership with Africans Rising. In the pilot phase between 2020 - 2021, GURU supported 24 groups across Africa and Asia, as well as international solidarity actions in the UK. With the help of our funding and mentoring, these groups have: prevented discriminatory laws from passing, amplified the voices of victims of police brutality and extrajudicial killings, blocked and apprehended shipments of illegally extracted natural resources, exposed human rights abuses committed by fashion brands, and used civil disobedience to fight dictatorships. We also make sure that activists across the world can learn from these experiences. The reports sent to us by the funded groups were analyzed and transformed into learnings that were pulled back into the Beautiful Trouble online toolbox.

Uganda JusticeNow

Africans Rising provided financial support to the JusticeNow campaign in Uganda. The funding was used to support the rehabilitation of victims of brutality, and to build strategic relationships and promote grassroots organising and visibility through print media.



Kisumu Tutaikayao Festival

Africans Rising provided financial and technical support to the Kisumu Tuitakayo Festival (August 12-14) held in Kisumu, Kenya. The theme of the festival was "Unifying the Struggles of Young Kenyans". The festival brought together young Kenyans drawn from different formations and movements across the country for a three-day event featuring thematic conversations, a film screening, a research tour and an activism festival. The festival provided an opportunity for young progressive Kenyans to collectively assess the state of their nation and take note of advances and setbacks in peoples' struggles, whilst connecting and consolidating their own struggles.

PiGuard VPN Project

The PiGuard project, a collaboration between Africans Rising and Nothing2Hide, is a project about securing the internet connections of media and human rights activist groups through the installation of virtual private network hardware. The project was launched in East and West Africa.

The goal of the project is to distribute 50 VPN hardware devices to a total of at least six countries across East and West Africa. At the end of 2021, 10 hardware devices were received by nine organizations in five countries. The project is still ongoing.

Haiti Solidarity Webinar

In the past year, thousands of Haitians were displaced from their homes because of surging paramilitary right-wing death squad violence. On top of that, the country suffered under waves of COVID-19 outbreaks as hospitals struggled to deal with the surging cases. Africans Rising hosted the webinar [“Haiti: The Continuing Struggle for Liberation”](#) to reflect on the country’s anti-colonial movements and present-day realities and to bring together a network of activists and concerned citizens working for change in the country.



Jammeh2Justice Gambia

Africans Rising, along with TrustAfrica, hosted a meeting with the Victim Center of The Gambia to develop support, partnership and collaboration opportunities for victims of the Former Gambian President Yahya Jammeh who led 22 years of dictatorship in The Gambia.



Movement Support





Strategic Convening

Regional Convenings for North, West & East Africa

Regional convenings are important opportunities for our members to engage in intergenerational dialogues and create space for learning and innovation to bring social change faster. In 2021, Africans Rising held regional convenings for North, South and East Africa drawing participation from across the regions, the continent and the diaspora. The theme for the convenings was “Enhancing Solidarity towards Building the Africa We Want.”

In the course of the convenings, delegates spent time discussing the major themes which defined the focus of Africans Rising, which included examining the approaches and actions taken so far by the Africans Rising movement in fulfilling the commitments contained in the Kilimanjaro Declaration; exchanging ideas on how to improve the state of civic space in African countries; enhancing solidarity among movements across the sub-regions; and strategizing on ways forward and key areas of action in the coming years. Over 300 participants and 5,000 viewers took part in the convenings.

All African Citizens Convening

Africans Rising held the first All African Citizens Convening in October 2021 to bring together Africans in a three-day conference to share knowledge and skills, learn, and inspire each other in the effort to bring positive social change to their communities. The convening brought together 1,753 participants from across the continent and diaspora in peer-to-peer conversations that helped them define their own agendas for African development and grow their networks of support among other activists.



Black August

Black August is a month-long dedication to the Black revolutionaries, incarcerated freedom fighters, and Black resistance leaders of the present and the past. As part of the recognition of Black August, the Pan African Work Group of the Advocacy for Africa Network (AdNA) and Africans Rising held a webinar to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Durban conference and UN resolution for a Permanent Forum with People of African Descent.

Strategic Convening



Strategic Convening



2021 Highlights

- Africans Rising signed a three-year contract with MS TCDC. The partnership ensures the continuation of our Pan-African movement-building efforts and support of African activists and movements across Africa and the diaspora.
- Africans Rising signed a five-year contract with African Coaching Network. The partnership builds on a common concern for empowering African social movements.
- The Coordinating Collective of Africans Rising appoints Kumi Naidoo as Global Ambassador, Ezra Mbogori, Emira Woods and Opal Tometi as new additional ambassadors to the movement.
- At the Good Governance Summit in Cotonou, Benin, President Patrice Talon accepted the resolution of the summit to not exceed more than two terms in office.
- CC Member Wangui Wa Goro won the 2021 Flora Nwapa Society Award for her work as a writer, translator, feminist and human rights defender.



After a successful meeting in Arusha, Tanzania in mid-February, Africans Rising for Justice, Peace & Dignity signed a three-year partnership agreement with MS TCDC.



On the final day of the Good Governance summit, the President of Benin, Patrice Talon, was presented with a symbol which he used to declare his intentions of not going beyond the constitutionally mandated two terms as president



Wangui Wa Goro - Photo Credit, Victor Odhiambo



Our Members

32,861

Total Members

1,167

Organizational Members

31,694

Individual Members



African Rising member Gideon Adeyeni moderated a conversation for environmental activists at the Green Hangout in Osun State, Nigeria.



Women gather for an event in Parcelles, Senegal, to recognize African Liberation Day.



Young students gather for an African Liberation Day event in Kinshasa, DRC, organized by the Centre Culturel Andrée Blouin.

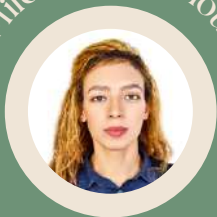
Coordinating

Africans Rising members voted to elect seven new leaders of the Coordinating Collective to guide the movement during the 2021 - 2023 term. They are:

Tandungang Laura Njiru



Milouda Bouichou



Deji Adeyanju



Nalucha Bernadette Nganga-Ziba



Wangui wa Goro



Edwin Mutemi wa Kiama



Nashwa Elsaqqa



Collective

Our 11-member Coordinating Collective also includes:

Catherine Rodgers



Charles Kojo Vandyck



Cidia Chissungu



Rokhaya Dieye





Core Team



**Muhammed Lamin
Saidykhani**
Movement
Coordinator



**Coumba
Toure**
Movement
Coordinator



**Dorothy
Adebajo**
Resource
Mobilization Lead



**Ousman
Sarr**
Finance &
Admin Lead



**Hardi
Yakubu**
Collaboration &
Engagement Lead



**Aleesa
Mann**
Communication
& Media Officer



**Marie H      
Ndiaye**
Artistic Activism
Project Coordinator



**Sungu
Ooyo**
Engagement
Consultant



**Maurice
Samba**
Technical
Assistant



**Prince
Akpah**
Collaboration &
Engagement Officer





✦✦
**Tobias
 Wanyoike**
 Social Media
 Associate



**Patricia
 Servant**
 Collaboration
 & Engagement
 Assistant



**Fatou
 Gillen Nijie**
 Finance & Admin
 Officer



**Fatou
 Jammeh**
 Fundraising
 Consultant



**Harrison
 Owusu**
 Resource
 Mobilization
 Officer



Ambassadors ✦✦



**Kumi
 Naidoo**



**Boniface
 Mwangi**



**Ezra
 Mbogori**



**Fatoumata
 Jallow
 Tambajang**



**Opal
 Tometi**



**Jay
 Naidoo**



**Nunu
 Kidane**



**Emira
 Woods**



COUMBA TOURE



It is our goal that we will one day become a movement funded by one million African donors who commit to giving \$12 USD each year and with your support we can get there. In the spirit of Ubuntu, we thank you.

Donate

click the links below



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MUHAMMED LAMIN
SAIDYKHAN



All of the amazing accomplishments and achievements of our movement are made possible by the contributions of individuals, organisations and partners like you. We encourage all readers of this report to join our individual giving drive.

www.africansrising.org/donate/

Partners

Our partners are a core part of our organization, making our activities and achievements possible. We thank you for all that you do.

ActionAid

AdNa

African Coaching Network

Nothing2Hide

Concerned Nigerians

MSTCDC

Wallace Global Fund

Foundation for Justice Society

Well Spring Foundation

YouLead Africa

Black Lives Matter Global Foundation

Hewlett Foundation

African Council of Religious Leaders

Trust Africa Foundation

Building Bridges in USA

WACSI

WACSO

SADC NGO

Activista Networks

Extinction Rebellion

Action for Climate Truth and Reparations

Heinrich Böll

Our Membership of Grassroots Organizations
& Movements across Africa and the Diaspora



MS TCDC
actionaid denmark



act:ionaid

African Council of Religious Leaders
Religions for Peace

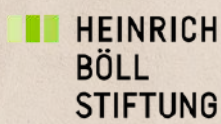


OXFAM

**CONCERNED
NIGERIANS**

**extinction
rebellion**

**NOTHING
2HIDE**



Thank You to Our Funders

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Africans Rising found new and innovative strategies to continue our critical work and increase our funding base. We want to thank our funding partners and foundations who continue to believe in and support the unique space that the Africans Rising movement has created. As our individual and regular giving supporters' numbers grow, we want to thank each of you for your contribution to standing with us so that we in turn could impact lives on the continent and the diaspora.

A special thank you goes out to our stalwart donors who give us support annually; Wellspring, Wallace Global Fund, Foundation for a Just Society (FJS), OSF Health, Urgent Fund Africa, ActionAid Denmark, CISU, USA for Africa, and Black Lives Matter. A special thank you goes out to our stalwart donors who give us support annually.

Open Society Foundation Health
Wallace Global Fund
Foundation For Just Society
Wellspring
Hewlett Foundation
USA For Africa
Urgent Action Fund
ActionAid Denmark
Black Lives Matter Foundation
Individual Givers

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**

WALLACE
GLOBAL FUND



**MELLEMFOLKELIGT
SAMVIRKE** **actionaid**

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



**URGENT
ACTION
FUND +
AFRICA**

FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



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