



**Africans Rising!**  
Stories from the Movement  
**2022**

Africans Rising is a Pan-African movement of people and organisations, working for peace, justice, and dignity.

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**Africans Rising**

For Justice, Peace & Dignity

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# Africans Rising

For Justice, Peace & Dignity



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**Stories from the Movement**

**AUGUST 2022**

[www.africansrising.org](http://www.africansrising.org)

## Introduction

Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity is a Pan-African movement of over 30,000 individual members and 800 organizations 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.

**The Africans Rising Success Story booklet highlights the success stories of our members across the globe. It seeks specifically seeks to:**

- Show our impact to members and stakeholders
- Convey our actions and productivity
- Align our activities with our approaches and pillars
- Prove impact on the ground/at the grassroots
- Promote Africans Rising to a wider audience
- Promote activism and mobilizing as a positive good in Africa the diaspora
- Generate interest from potential funders, donors and members
- Inspire hope among activists

**Share your successes with our global network**

Africans Rising is working to put together a success stories booklet for the first half of 2022. If you or your organization has held an event, or achieved success in your activism work during this time, let us know! We want to showcase all the ways our members are working to improve their communities and bring justice, peace and dignity to the lives of Africans wherever they live.

**If you would like us to feature your or your movement, please send an email to [media@africans-rising.org](mailto:media@africans-rising.org).**

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## Supporting Africans Through the Crisis in Ukraine

### By Macaulay Enebechi

The crisis in Ukraine started at the end of February. At that time, countries like Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and Romania were allowing Africans looking to escape the conflict to enter their borders. With the support of a network of dedicated activists, my team and I began to coordinate efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Africans fleeing the war in Ukraine. We have been providing temporary accommodation, coordinating medical examinations and delivering medications, food and groceries to Africans in need. I have organised immigration sessions with experts, employment advice workshops and assistance with getting into university, among other requested support. We have also organised beauty sessions where more than 130 women were able to braid their hair, and more than 70 men received haircuts.

Many of the people who have reached out to me are African students. In many ways, I can understand their situation. I came to Hungary in 2015 to do a masters in international economic relations. I know about the racial and ethnic discrimination they face as university students and now in this conflict. They are the ones who need support the most.

This support is important because it is apparent that African refugees are treated differently from Ukrainian refugees during this time. While everyone is trying desperately to secure their dignity and safety during this time, it is no secret that Ukrainian refugees are getting more assistance than African refugees.

As I was doing this work, I reached out to Africans Rising and so far they have provided strong support to all I have been doing individually. After one month of the crisis, I also received support from other organisations that have helped in providing housing and temporary accommodations for Africans that fled from Ukraine into places like Hungary, Germany, Romania and the Netherlands.

I now have a WhatsApp network of over 1000 people who have reached out for support, and on Telegram there is a group of 800. There are also countless other individuals who we have supported directly or indirectly.

But there is much more we need to do. I am no longer looking at the short term, but now the long term. I have started a three-month program for African students who have fled Ukraine and over 300 students have already expressed interest. The program helps them develop a skill set which can help them with employment or entrepreneurship. This includes a curriculum of UI/UX design, computer programming languages, web development, graphic design and cloud computing. I am also looking at the possibility of providing some students with laptops, although I have received more requests than I can fulfil without additional support.



I think that God used myself, my team, organisations and my friends to make sure that at least today you can't hear that there is any African refugee from Ukraine that was sleeping on the subway nor under a bridge. Once they reach out to me, I either directly offer help or connect them to someone or an organisation that can provide support. By God's grace we have been managing this way until this moment. In order to continue in this humanitarian effort, I am calling on everyone who can support this intervention to join hands with me and ensure that Africans displaced by the conflict in Ukraine are supported during this difficult time.

*Macaulay Enebechi is a Nigerian activist based in Hungary.*



## The Dakar-Bamako Walk By Souleymane Jules Diallo

In January 2022, ECOWAS heads of state and government imposed several sanctions on Mali on the grounds that the country's transitional authorities had failed to comply with an agreement reached with ECOWAS in September, which maps a return to civilian rule in line with the country's own Transition Charter. Following these sanctions, on February 16, 2022, a group of pan african militants made the historic decision to walk 1,362 kilometres from Dakar to Bamako. We decided on a walk because we saw it as a tool that would trigger African consciences and capture the attention of Africans in the continent and the Diaspora.

The walk started from Dakar and continued from one city to another and one village to another. We started off as 8 marchers at the Malian Embassy in Senegal and were joined by others between the cities of Mbour, Kaolack, and Tambacounda. We were about 18 marchers when we reached the border and we were joined by 10 Malians for the last 800 km. A total of 28 people arrived in Bamako after 39 days of walking.



Through support from Africans Rising, we were able to better organise the group and to facilitate the travel of the team that came to join us in Bamako.



This support was very important for the success of this walk, which sought to raise African consciousness on the need for an African federal state and to highlight some of the issues that are currently happening on the African continent. We believe that an African federal state will promote the total integration of Africa, create a strong economy with a large market, facilitate the movement of people and their goods, and raise a powerful army capable of managing the security of the continent.

Through this walk, millions of Africans were able to better understand the issues that plague the continent and also participate directly or indirectly in the chain of solidarity. Today, other young people across the continent are repeating the same action such as the Conakry-Bamako march. Media channels such as Afrique Media took up the messages of the walk, and repositioned the need for the establishment of an African Federal State. We have also been able to make Africans aware of the issues at stake in Mali. In the months after the march, we were glad to hear that ECOWAS lifted the sanctions it had imposed on Mali earlier in the year.

*Souleymane Jules Diallo is an anti-imperialist activist committed to the sovereignty and development of Africa.*

# ALL AFRICAN MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY



## All-African Movement Assembly

The All-African Movement Assembly is a convening to bring the Africans Rising movement and our members back to where it all started. From 29 - 31 August, we will be hosting the assembly in Arusha, Tanzania and we encourage all our members to attend. This assembly is a platform to assess the original Africans Rising mandate and its implementation over the years, and to renew our commitment to the mandate for the years to come. The Assembly affords African movements, both at home and in the Diaspora, the opportunity to reconnect, ask deep questions about the African situation, take stock and re-strategise on ways forward.

**REGISTER FOR THE ALL-AFRICAN MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY**

<https://www.africansrising.org/aama/registration>

# ONE DOLLAR FOR ONE MILLION



Africans Rising's \$1 for One Million fundraising campaign is one of the movement's goals to raise funds so that Africans Rising can maintain its momentum, scale up its activities and continue to build solidarity with its members across the African continent and in the Diaspora, while also responding to communities in crisis. Thank you to all the members, both individuals and organisations who responded with a donation.

**JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TODAY AND DONATE US\$1 PER MONTH.**

<https://www.africansrising.org/donate>

# Rural Clothing Project Takes Off in The Gambia

By Haruna Sinyang

I was born in the central river region of the Gambia, and graduated in 2018 from Mingdaw senior secondary school in the west coast region of the Gambia. Upon my graduation I visited my Dad's family in the central river region and realized that the rural community needed support with some of the most significant basic needs, specifically clothing.



I felt bad about the rural conditions that many people face in rural parts of the Gambia and upon my return to the city, I called an immediate meeting with the executives and volunteers of the Jamma Children Foundation. I discussed my observations and experience and acknowledged the fact that although the foundation didn't have the financial muscles to initiate such a project, we still hold great feelings of love and support for rural communities. In the end, Jamma Children Foundation enthusiastically decided to start the "support rural clothing project".

At first, the plan was to limit the project only to the children because the foundation's main purpose of establishment was to advocate for the protection of children. However, after the first clothing consignment was publicized, the items donated were not only for children but for youths, women and men, and this made it possible to cover every gender and age group in the community.

Surprisingly, our goals and aspirations were exceeded. A few weeks after our first consignment publication, the foundation, which is a member of the Africans Rising, received an email from Africans Rising that the African Liberation Day mobilization was approaching. We were invited to register an event with the mobilization. This was a dream come true because it would allow us to carry on with our support for the rural clothing project, and this is exactly what we did.

After our event registration was approved we received some funding from Africans Rising which helped transport the donated items to Basse where our first clothing consignment was donated to the victims of the heavy flooding in the area.



**We're so grateful for the continued support from Africans Rising and we look forward to more successful ventures with the Africans Rising movement.**

However, we didn't stop the project after our first consignment. We started a second consignment. This time it was easy for us to receive more items and we received support of The Gambia Student Association in China which sent items to us after they saw the impact of the project.

*Haruna Sinyang, a Gambian citizen by birth and the founder of the Jamma Children Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 2019.*



## Growing as a Young Leader in the Movement to Liberate Africa

By Michael Leo



At a very young age I had a vision of being someone in the community; this has been knocking my head throughout my life.

When I was in the final year at the university, I started engaging myself in community works, and attending different events, webinars and conferences as a part of my journey toward unlocking my potential. Some of these include; Global Leadership Summit by GLS Tanzania, AIESEC career fair etc. These experiences gave me an opportunity to learn and connect with like-minded people all over the country and the world at large.

As a way of learning to take responsibility, I started volunteering. For me, volunteering is one of the best ways to show a sense of social responsibility and loyalty to the community. I have been working to support various projects in sexual reproductive health and rights, climate actions, peace advocacy, and education.

Recently I decided to do something in the community as we celebrate the African Liberation Week 2022, so I registered an event at the Africans Rising platform to raise awareness on gender-based violence and safe menstruation among adolescent girls.

My proposed event stood out and was chosen to receive financial support from the organization.



This helped me to successfully conduct an event on 25th of May where I collaborated with my colleague Anthony Medsen Migeka, who received support from the Pollination Project, to implement a GBV actions project.

We managed to involve two public secondary schools in Sengerema, Mwanza and had the participation of dozens of boys and girls from the community.

For many years I have been looking for an amazing youth platform where I can amplify my voice to liberate Africans. I found Africans Rising to be a place where all these desires and goals could be possible. I am confident that Africans Rising will grant me an opportunity to learn, connect and grow as a leader in my community.

*Michael Leo is a vibrant individual from Tanzania who is actively advocating for social changes.*



## Utu Coalition Partners with Africans Rising for the Realization of Utu-Ubuntu

By Kerubo Abuya,  
PhD



The Utu Coalition comprises over 35 civil society and human rights organizations and individuals in Kenya and other places who have come together to address the violence and killings that target older persons – especially women – following accusations of practicing witchcraft.

The coalition was formed after I convened leading civil society, human rights organizations and activists at the county and national levels, as well as independent governmental agencies such as the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. We envisioned the purpose of this coalition as one that would give a strong humanitarian, legal, and advocacy response for long term social change after the killings of four women in Marani, Kisii County on October 17, 2022. The women: Jemima Mironga, Agnes Ototo, Sindege Mayaka, and Sigara Onkware were murdered by an angry mob of men, women, and children, who accused them of practicing witchcraft.

Given the rampant lynching of older persons – predominantly women - it was important that this issue be addressed urgently since accusations of witchcraft have long been used as a strategy to eliminate and therefore, disinherit and dispossess vulnerable older persons of their land and other property. While men are also victims in some places such as Kilifi County, vulnerable women such as widows, and those who are living in poverty, are ill, and/or have disabilities including mental health challenges, are prime targets for this violence and murder. Single mothers with children who live in their parents' homes, as well as orphans, are not spared this violence either.



This phenomena, which has colonial origins and is largely perpetuated by some people within the religious community, is not unique to Gusii (aka Kisii) or Kenya. It is prevalent in Kilifi County and some parts of the coastal, eastern, central, and western regions of Kenya as well as other African countries such as Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Nigeria, The Gambia, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Malawi, Uganda, South Africa, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Burundi, and others. Children are also targeted, harmed or even killed after being branded witches in places such as the DRC and Nigeria.

**The Utu Coalition is grateful for the support that Africans Rising continues to offer by highlighting this gross violation of human rights and deep injustice to humanity. Africans Rising once again demonstrated its commitment to upholding human dignity, peace, justice, and human rights by inviting me to speak at the launch of the Africa Liberation Week on May 25, 2022 on behalf of the coalition at Ufungamano House in Nairobi Kenya.**

This helped lay a foundation to connect the struggle for social justice on this issue from a continental and Pan-African perspective. Africans Rising continues to support the Utu Coalition by contributing to our strategic communication, media planning and coverage through amplifying the legal cases, victims' stories, and advocacy for transformative social change in Kenya, continentally, and globally.

As a partner in the Utu Coalition, African Rising stands in solidarity with the victims and survivors of these crimes, is sharing financial and other resources to facilitate advocacy activities that include the national commemoration of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Kilifi County, and has activated its robust membership network at the grassroots, national, regional, and global levels.

grassroots, national, regional, and global levels. The Utu Coalition gratefully, looks forward to collaborative organizing with Africans Rising utilizing Utu-Ubuntu-Ubinadamu-Obomwanyabanto based frameworks for transformative change and leadership on this issue.

*Dr. Kerubo Abuya, is an educator, change leadership scholar-practitioner and activist based in Kenya.*



## Creating a Platform for Youth Leadership in Environmental Issues

### By John Kakandelwa

In 2022 February, support from Africans Rising helped Powering Young Initiatives facilitate the Local Youth Environment Assembly in Livingstone, Zambia. The activity was the first Local Youth Environment Assembly event to be implemented and supported by UNEP Major Group of Children and Youth, Global Youth for Environment and Africans Rising in Livingstone.

The event was held on the 25th February 2022 at Dacanton from 14:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs, starting with a radio program which was hosted at Power FM Radio Station. Among the topics discussed were: Youth Inclusion in Climate Change National Planning; Youth Involvement in National Planning and Issues Affecting the Environment; Youth Environmental Management; and Youth and Climate Action.

The Powering Young Initiatives steering committee, with active participation of other general membership and volunteers, was able to mobilise 30 youth from the local community and organisations, to participate in the assembly, as well as some government officials from the Local Government Ministry and Ministry of Tourism and Arts.



### During the presentations at the assembly, youth presented their local demands on youth inclusion in climate change and national planning.

Some youths lamented that the government does not include or consult them when it comes to planning despite their interest in contributing ideas. They noted that funding for climate change is only allocated to bigger organisations and youth organisations are often sidelined due to lack of connection and representations at that level.

The Guest Speaker who represented the Local Government in his speech, recognized the issues presented by the youths as critical issues for the government to address if the welfare of youth is to be improved in Livingstone and in Zambia as a whole. He also indicated that the government was ready to engage Powering Young Initiatives on the youth demands as well as collaborate with other youth organisations that call on the government to be effective in its service delivery, especially on issues that affect the Youths across all sectors.

Africans Rising is the first organisation to fund or support Powering Young Initiatives which started with our first funded activity on the 25th of May, 2020, under the theme "Active Citizenship in the Fight Against Covid-19." Over 100 people were reached and participated in the African Liberation day event. The assembly this year is a continuation of the successful partnership between Africans Rising and Powering Youth Initiatives.

So far, through African Liberation Day events, Powering Young Initiatives has managed to reach out to over 2000 people between May 2020 and May 2022 with messages and information on Climate Justice, Youth Involvement in Governance and Accountability and the Importance of African Liberation Day. We were also invited to participate and present at the 11th Session of the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland under the Urban Youth Assembly in June 2022.

*John Kakandelwa is the founder and CEO of Powering Young Initiatives in Zambia.*

## FAME 2022 – Access to Water and Sanitation is a Matter of Public Health and a Barometer of Democracy

By Leonard Shang-Quartey

Since 2003, the Alternative World Water Forum has been one of the international progressive spaces created by ordinary people and activist organisations to directly challenge the usurped powers and privileges of transnational water companies. The Alternative World Water Forum (Forum Alternatif Mondial de l'Eau (FAME) in French) creates platforms to provide a peoples' alternative to the meetings of the World Water Forum to challenge their false claim of heading world water governance.

FAME depicts agency expressed by water justice activists from all over the world to challenge efforts by an unelected global elite who insist on appropriating water resources of the world as their bona fide possession. Without the assembly of civil society and activists in Dakar in March of 2022, the so-called official World Water Forum would have gone unchallenged. The Dakar meeting demonstrated to the public that the label of a world water governance platform that the World Water Council and Forum ascribes to itself is contested and not a real legitimate representation of the "world".

For several years, diverse civil society movements have fought side by side for water conservation and democratic control and management of water as direct alternatives to the privatization and profit agenda of the World Water Forum. Activists have created platforms, propositions and campaigns at each alternative forum from the 2003 Alternative forum in Florence right down to spaces created within the international Social Forums in Porto Alegre, Caracas, Nairobi, and Belem. The alternative forums help to solidify the movement to reappropriate water as a communal resource which belongs to all of humanity.



© Africans Rising/FAME2022

This year, Africans Rising was one of the partners in the Alternative World Water Forum, which hosted a convening of over one thousand participants from thirty countries in Dakar, along with online participants joining from different corners of the world. The theme was "Access to water and sanitation is a matter of public health and a barometer of democracy", and the forum provided a platform for 35 events, including 8 plenary sessions, 19 hybrid (online and in-person) workshops and 18 online workshops.

The declaration issued at the end of the forum by participants called for:

1. A convergence of initiatives and actions to fight for the respect of the rights to water and sanitation, land and the environment, starting with the launch of an international campaign to raise awareness, capacity building of communities and advocacy for the effective integration of the right to water and sanitation in international law and in the constitutions of all countries.
2. Denouncing the World Water Forum, led by the World Water Council, which we feel is an exclusive place for corporates, governments, NGOs with vested interests, who consider water as a tradable commodity for profit, which is counter-productive for human right to water and sanitation for all.
3. Replacing the current WWF structure with an inter-governmental platform led by the UN, where all stakeholders of water get a seat at the table and that it would be free of charge for all to attend and participate in decision making bodies to make water for all a reality.

4. Regular meetings of the network to work towards this goal, to expand global resistance to the corporate water agenda and to realize water justice for all as we look towards Alternative World Water Forum 2024 in Bali, Indonesia. Although, beyond an alternative Forum, we are the People world water Forum.

A significant output of the forum was the formation and launch of the African Water Justice Network by activist organisations defending the human right to water on the continent to more regularly bring together struggles on the continent and to merge with movements around the globe. An important acknowledgement goes to Africans Rising and Blue Planet Project for coordinating preparatory efforts towards the forum and continuing after the forum to support the Africa Water Justice Network. The major funding support from the Wallace Global Fund made the physical event and post forum efforts in Africa possible.

*Leonard Shang-Quartey served as the Communications Director of the 2022 Alternative World Water Forum.*



# Using Hip Hop As a Tool For Change and Justice

By Safaray



My name is Safaray and I am a rapper. I live in Northern Senegal, Orkadiere village in the Matam region, which is very far from Dakar.

Because of this distance, we are often abandoned by the government, which mostly focuses its support in the capital city. Growing up, we didn't have a hospital in the village, we would only receive nurses from time to time. This meant that for people who needed medical care, like pregnant women, they often had to travel the 700 km to the city to see a doctor. This trip could take one to two days because the roads between our village and the city were so poor, and during the rainy season this trip was impossible.

It is in this environment that I grew as a rapper and artist. I used hip hop as an art form to raise awareness about the need for better infrastructure and a doctor in our village. More artistic activists were doing this as well and in a few months our village received a doctor.

The government is also building bridges. These changes have meant better connection between our village and the rest of the country, and more economic growth in our area.



**In 2019, I first spoke with Marie H el ene Ndiaye, who coordinates the African Creative Action Network with Africans Rising. She explained to me about activism and I started to see how I was an activist, how my music was bringing positive change in my community.**

So I decided to join the network. Through ACAN, I participated in training about artistic activism and learned more about how I can use artistic expression to defend the rights of people. I started to see that the people were interested in that kind of action, and so I decided to not only be an artist, but also to be an activist.

In March 2022, I participated in the Alternative World Water Forum in Dakar, with other artists and activists from around the world. One of our creative actions was to visit a community of women in Toubab Dialaw, where they struggled with access to water. Sometimes they had to wake up at 3 or 4 in the morning to try to find water. Sometimes they didn't find water and other times they had to drink water that was dirty.

Our collective, we were about 15 artists, listened to them and made two songs - Wall'Eau (Help!) and Dokh (Water) - to talk about their challenges. We presented them at the water forum. My mission and our mission as a collective, is to take a stand and use creative expression whenever we see an injustice. This action helps bring visibility and media attention to these issues. And through the support of Africans Rising and the ACAN project. We continue the creative work that we do and amplify our calls for justice.

*Safaray is an artist and rapper from Orkadiere village in Northern Senegal. He has participated in the African Creative Action Network since 2019.*

# Stories From our Movement Podcast Series

Our movement most recently started a podcast series to feature the stories and successes of our individual and organizational members. In Episode 1 of this podcast series, we talk with [Haruna Sinyang, Founder of the Jamma Children's Foundation in The Gambia](#). He tells us about the organization and the activities carried out, especially with regards to the clothing drive they carried out in local communities.



You can listen to the podcast on



[soundcloud.com/africans\\_rising](https://soundcloud.com/africans_rising)



[anchor.fm/africans-rising](https://anchor.fm/africans-rising)



Apple Podcasts

[podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stories-from-our-movement](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stories-from-our-movement)

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