IT'S
JUSTICE
PEACE
&DIGNITY
O'Clock
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ON THE COVER
A visual tribute to our people who produced African-made masks and saved millions of lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Imen Haddad
MESSAGE FROM THE MOVEMENT COORDINATORS

This year has challenged us in unprecedented ways. Plans were disrupted and priorities shifted. In addition to the social justice work we are committed to, we took on the challenge of keeping our communities safe and healthy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Africans Rising members, supporters, and allies all have amazed us in this respect, demonstrating their determination and resilience in the movement for justice, peace, and dignity for Africans everywhere. Their efforts have led to incredible and important achievements this year.

More than 2,700 Africans Rising members came together to support COVID-19 relief efforts during our May 25-African Liberation Day mobilization (both online and offline) across 22 countries, and reaching over 250,000 people through social media. While combating the global health pandemic, our members showed up in solidarity with activists in Guinea, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Uganda, Mali, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Kenya, and Ethiopia, among many other countries, to demand justice in times of political instability.

Our artistic activism initiative supported artists using their voices and creative talents to raise awareness of issues of migration, climate change, access to water, COVID-19, and the need for critical consciousness during times of elections and political change.

Our members supported feminist leadership in the planning of the continent’s economic recovery from COVID-19 and joined our #FreeThem campaign, leading to the release of 87,109 people living in detention facilities across Africa. Through the #ReRightHistory campaign, our movement launched an international racial justice mobilization that reached some of the highest powers in the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, the World Bank, and the United Nations.

Most importantly, our members demonstrated their readiness to create a sustainable funding model to continue our movement’s work, by donating $10,000 in individual contributions. These funds will be distributed to African grassroots activists working on the front lines, especially those leading work on COVID-19 responses.

To that, we say, ‘Thank you!’ The time, effort, and contributions you have given to Africans Rising help us realize our wildest dreams in the effort to build the #AfricaWeWant.

Let’s continue to rise together!
MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATING COLLECTIVE

The past year was a very challenging year for us all - the outbreak of the pandemic, the confinement it compelled, and the economic devastation it wrecked have impacted the lives of all Africans. However, we also saw our hope strengthened with the growth of anti-racist movements across the globe and powerful mobilizations against police brutality and dictatorship on the continent. In the midst of these challenges and demonstrations of hope, our movement continued to strive to establish justice, build peace, and advance dignity for every African and for all of humanity.

Our strong faith in our people and our unwavering devotion to the commitment placed before us by our founding charter, the Kilimanjaro Declaration, are the sustaining forces for the individual members of the Coordinating Collective and the entire leadership of the Africans Rising movement. The courageous acts of young Africans, whether in Nigeria, Angola, Senegal, or the United States, are evidence that Africa will not be stopped until she regains the full measure of dignity which her humanity intrinsically confers on her. Their demonstrations emboldened us as we steered the ship of the movement over the troubling waters of these past few months.

Numerous Africans wallow in lack as a consequence of an economic system that allocates excessive wealth in the hands of a parochial few. As we confront these circumstances, it is clear that these times call for greater solidarity!

Overcoming the challenges before us today requires that we come together to learn, organize, and build amongst ourselves as peoples of Africa. In working together, our strength increases. We have no doubt that Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity, as a Pan-African movement of people and organizations, is rightly positioned to serve as that umbrella body under which we – the peoples of Africa – can mobilize to build a more just, more humane, more democratic future for ourselves and those coming after us. And so, we call upon every African and all lovers of justice to join and continue to work to advance this revolutionary train. Together, let's take action in support of the campaigns of our movement!

Phambili Africa!

The Africans Rising Coordinating Collective
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.

**Vision & Mission**

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.

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.
The Kilimanjaro Declaration declares that:

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

**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.

*Activists in Residence II*  
*Guinea Solidarity*

**Demanding good governance as we fight corruption & impunity**

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

*FreeThem Campaign*  
*Artistic Activism*

**Focussing 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.

*#ReRightHistory Campaign*  
*#Rise4OurLives*

**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 an integral part of all movements and movement building across the continent and diaspora.

*Engendering African Social Movements*

**Demanding climate & 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.

*CoP 26 Civil Society and Youth Advisory Council*  
*Alternative Water Forum Support*
MOVEMENT APPROACH

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

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

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.

Leadership Development
We host trainings, residencies, learning exchanges, and gatherings that develop the capacities of grassroots activists and movements in their activism work.

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

Movement Support
We respond to movements in need of taking urgent action through connecting them to funders or providing them with strategic guidance and capacity building.
ADVOGACY
ENGENDERING AFRICAN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

At the start of 2020, Africans Rising embarked on promoting women’s rights and inclusion after an intense staff training on feminism and feminist leadership principles that guided our work throughout the year. We are aware that gender rights struggles are not always at the forefront of movement shifts, and it is based on this understanding and approach that we made an appeal and consulted our membership for an assessment in the context of gender equality in their operations.

We sent an appeal to 400 identified movements and organizations through the form of a questionnaire and consulted 20 organizations through the form of working groups. The responses from these consultations and questionnaires formulated AR’s rationale to embark on our program Engendering African Social Movements.

This program is helping to build the capacity of grassroots movement leaders to be gender-sensitive and inclusive of equal participation of all genders in movement building. This is being implemented through trainings, convenings, policy engagement, media outreach (both online and offline), and activist exchanges, and includes our work through our Invisible Giants celebrations and support of feminist leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#RERIGHTHISTORY CAMPAIGN

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. Recognizing a shared history of exploitation, domination and struggles for emancipation among Africans and peoples of African descent, the campaign wants to see England, France, Belgium and many other countries begin to right the wrongs of their violent and brutal histories of colonialism and enslavement and initiate sincere discussions on reparations.

These European countries and settler-colonial states in the Americas have never taken responsibility for, acknowledged nor redressed the impact of centuries of colonialism, exploitation of human and natural resources, enslavement, native genocide, and systemic racism on world affairs and the lives of Africans and people of African descent. In 2020, our members signed and circulated petitions to world leaders like Queen Elizabeth II and the King and Queen of Belgium. Our campaign supporters and allies in the UK hung a giant banner of our demand letter to the Queen and the people of the UK from the Houses of Parliament building in London. This action captured news headlines and increased support for calls for reparation and debt repudiation.
#FREETHEM CAMPAIGN

The Africans Rising movement believes that imprisonment during the COVID-19 pandemic is a potential death sentence. The living conditions of detention facilities across Africa are often unsanitary and the people living and working in them are at high risk for contracting the disease.

Our #FreeThem campaign calls on African governments and heads of state to release journalists, political prisoners and people accused of non-violent crimes from detention. These actions help decongest detention facilities and reduce the spread of COVID-19. The campaign consisted of a #FreeThem social media mobilization, a series of webinars with prominent African activists, and the issuance of letters to African leaders outlining this demand for the release of people living in prison.

By November 2020, 87,109 prisoners from 32 African countries were released due to the call from Africans Rising and various organizations, activists and campaigners demanding the release of imprisoned people.

MAY 25
#RISE4OURLIVES

Every year we celebrate May 25 - African Liberation day through collective events, activities, and campaigns to recognize the work of the grassroots activists and organizations that make up our movement. In 2020, the mobilization was focused on solidarity against the spread of COVID-19 in Africa and the diaspora with the theme “Active Citizenship in the fight against COVID-19, #Rise4OurLives”.

This mobilization addressed health rights as fundamental human rights and facilitated local COVID-19 relief efforts to assist vulnerable communities. Our members hosted discussions, educational campaigns, food and supply distributions, and other sensitization efforts on the coronavirus and disease. The 2020 May 25 mobilization reached over 250,000 people through our social media posts and webinars. Events were organized in 22 countries with more than 2,700 participants.
INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Inspired by the efforts of our membership during our May 25 mobilization, Africans Rising launched a new individual giving campaign: the Africans Rising COVID-19 Solidarity Fund. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the lives of Africans on the continent and in the diaspora, but it has also given rise to a new generation of leaders and activists bringing their innovations and ideas for disease prevention to the forefront.

Donations of USD $10,000 were collected through our Individual Giving fundraising and will be distributed among our members who are developing and leading their own COVID-19 relief efforts. This campaign encourages our members to make their own financial contributions to the work that we support so that our movement can develop a sustainable funding model.

GUINEA SOLIDARITY

In 2020, Africans Rising hosted two webinars in both English and French, totalling 80 attendees from different countries who participated in a conversation about the political situation in Guinea. The conversations helped to create cohesion between grassroots movements in Guinea and build Pan-African solidarity from other activists and movements across Africa in amplifying the voice of front line activists and citizens.

ZIMBABWE SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

Africans Rising worked alongside ActionAid Zimbabwe, CIVICUS, Trust Africa, ActionAid International, and other partners to host an online training called “Zimbabwe Solidarity Conference on Shrinking Civic and Political Space – A Call to Heads of State.”

The aim of the overall conference was to rally support from CSOs across the continent to coordinate and harmonize actions in support of vulnerable groups and individuals living in Zimbabwe.
KNOWLEDGE CURATION & DOCUMENTATION
AIR II POST-RESIDENCY
Between May and June 2020, seven African activists that participated in the Africans Rising Activists in Residence II residency held digital security trainings in Uganda, the DRC, Madagascar, Ghana, and Zimbabwe, transferring the knowledge they acquired during the residency to their home communities. With virtual spaces growing more vital to the work that activists do, these activists were able to share new skills for safe and secure use of technologies like social media, email, and other digital tools with organizers and activists in their networks who are working for positive change.

ARTISTIC ACTIVISM
In January, the African Creative Actions Network Senegal, ACAN (formerly the West Africa Creative Actions Team, WACAT) participated in a strategizing meeting for the Alternative Water Forum and composed a song to create awareness around issues of water accessibility and sanitation faced by many Africans. The song was released on Facebook (August 5) and has garnered more than 11,000 views. The artists were also interviewed by Banlieue TV about the song and about the work that they do as a creative collective.

Between April and May, Africans Rising and our partner ActionAid launched a call for applications for mini grants to fund digital creative actions on climate change, water accessibility, and COVID-19 relief. Selected artists and activists received funds to implement their artistic actions and released them on social media and on the ACAN YouTube channel.

ACAN artists also participated in our May 25 - African Liberation Day mobilization by hosting the webinar “The role of artists and activists in the face of COVID-19” and in our Black August mobilization by organizing a virtual concert in honor of Black liberation leaders.

In October, we conducted an online training in Artistic Activism with 15 artistic activists after the conversion of the curriculum into a digital format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of the training, the artists composed a powerful song to raise awareness about the purchasing of consciousness during election time.
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVISM AWARDS

In its second year, the Africans Rising Activist of the Year award initiative was expanded into the Africans Rising Activism Awards, through which the movement recognized both individual African activists as well as organizations working at the grassroots level to bring positive change to their communities.

The award initiative attracted over 180 nominations in the competition, and 10 young emerging leaders and 10 organizations were selected by the nominations committee as finalists for the awards. We used our platform to bring light to the work that these up-and-coming changemakers are engaged in.

After a public voting exercise, Asha Jaffar, a Kenyan journalist and founder of Kibra Food Drive was voted the Activist of the Year and Tournons La Page, an international citizen-led pro-democracy movement, was voted the movement of the year.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MOVEMENTS: ORGANIZING AT TIMES OF COVID-19 ONLINE COURSES

To provide support to activists and community organizers as they redefine their strategies and tactics amidst the coronavirus pandemic, Africans Rising hosted two webinars called "Organizing in Times of COVID-19" and "Digital Security Under COVID-19." These courses were held online from May 11th-30th. The courses provided support to activists in Ghana who have been under government surveillance because of their work.

GUINEA DIGITAL SECURITY TRAINING

In a very hostile environment, digital security training is a prerequisite to build solidarity. Fourteen activists from civil society organisations in Guinea participated in a training on how to engage in secure.

Africans Rising partnered with Nothing2Hide to provide this digital security training.
ALLIANCE BUILDING
AFRICA’S POST-COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY: A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

Africans Rising supported African feminists in the dissemination of a statement on post-COVID economic recovery for Africa that centered women and feminist perspectives. The statement received over 500 signatures, and we held two webinars featuring notable guests like the African stateswoman Graça Machel and UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima.

The endorsement of this statement and webinars has helped our movement and partners mobilize international support to address the pandemic in Africa and to help build a broader understanding of why feminism is important to African development.

#IFNOTNOWWHEN

Africans Rising circulated a petition for civil society organizations and professors across the world to join us in calling for the United Nations to end the domination of "developed countries" at global governance organizations like the UN, World Bank, IMF and WTO. The petition received 120 signatories. The campaign and petition was then sent to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.
MOVEMENT SUPPORT
GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT SUPPORT

Africans Rising, ActionAid, and Beautiful Trouble put together a rapid support fund to help movements and activists take direct action on issues of social change. Through this fund we supported the efforts of grassroot movements in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and many more countries across Africa and the Diaspora.

Africans Rising, along with Malian activists and organizations like ActionAid, TrustAfrica, WACSI, organized a convening to support the people of Mali and another convening for women in Mali to strategize on ways to bring peace and stability to the country after a military takeover in August.
STRATEGIC CONVENING
CONVENING

ALTERNATIVE WORLD WATER FORUM SUPPORT

On January 19 and 20, representatives from water justice groups around the world met with Senegalese organizations and activists in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal to plan a response to the World Water Forum that is scheduled to take place in Dakar in March 2021.

The meeting addressed threats presented by the World Water Forum taking place in Dakar in 2021. The meeting enabled dialogue and sharing of experiences between international water justice groups that had previously organized against the World Water Forum.

INVISIBLE GIANTS

Invisible Giants is a series of events that Africans Rising organizes in partnership with the Heinrich Boll Foundation in order to celebrate African women on the continent and in the Diaspora working tirelessly in their communities for social change.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Invisible Giants celebrations were held virtually throughout the year and included an online photo exhibit, social media campaign, and three webinars on the role of women in peace- building, gender-based violence, and the importance of education for women and young girls. These online engagements gathered over 4,000 views.

BLACK AUGUST

During the month of August, activists, movements, human rights defenders, and social justice organizations celebrated Black freedom fighters, many of whom were killed or imprisoned for defending Black lives. The month-long commemoration started in the U.S. and is now a moment to reflect on the legacies of Black revolutionaries, while we reeducate ourselves on the protracted struggles against white supremacy, colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism. To engage members in the diaspora and on the content in #BlackAugust reflections, Africans Rising supported a social media campaign and virtual concert that reached over 9,600 viewers online.
“It is not possible to build a nation on only half our resources”

— Amina Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

In 2020, we received generous support from donors and partners from around the world. We continued our commitment of raising funds from Africans through our Individual Giving campaigns (the African Solidarity Fund, the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund). We were also fortunate to gather support from foundations from across the world, including new support from Wellspring Foundation, Foundation for Just Society and Open Society Foundation. We cannot say enough thanks for everyone embarking on this journey with us to achieve our vision and mission of Pan-African solidarity.
HELP US RAISE FUNDS

MPESA PAYBILL
914465

BANK TRANSFER DONATION
Account Number: 6240023046
SWIFT: ECOGMGGM
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DONATE ONLINE

CONTACT US
media@africans-rising.org


Africans Rising Actionaid Complex
P.O. Box 1576 Serekunda, The Gambia
MIPAD
Africans Rising’s Movement Coordinator Muhammed Lamin Saidykhana was recognized as one of the Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) 100 Under 40 Worldwide in support of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

MARTIN LUTHER & CORETTA SCOTT KING UNITY BREAKFAST
Africans Rising’s Movement Coordinator Coumba Toure was awarded the International Unity Award at the Martin and Coretta King Unity Breakfast in Selma, Alabama, the United States of America in March. She was recognized for her work in promoting social change in West Africa and the diaspora.

NATIONAL GIRLS MENTORSHIP
Coordinating Collective Member Abigail Stevens was recognized by Peace for Development in Africa for her work to build the capacity of young African activists engaged in peace and development initiatives. She was also awarded a National Girls Mentorship award by the Youth and Children’s Advocacy Panel in Sierra Leone.

iKapture: 25 Under 25 Leaders Changing the Game
Coordinating Collective Member David Shamala was recognized by iKapture Centre for Development among the 25 Under 25 Leaders Changing the Game for championing change in his communities in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He was also awarded the COVID-19 Volunteer of the Year award by the Volunteer Involving Organizations Society, UNDP, and the Government of Kenya for his support to communities in Nairobi during the coronavirus pandemic.

ONLY WOMAN AWARDS
Core team member Marie Hélène Ndiaye was recognized for her work in urban cultures through Artistic Activism as a nominee for the Best Self Made Woman category in the #OnlyWomanAwards. The awards ceremony was organized by the Senegalese organization Suňu Hip Hop to promote Senegalese women artists.

COP26 PLANNING TEAM
Muhammed Lamin Saidykhana, one of our movement coordinators, was selected to give strategic and policy advice to the COP26 planning team led by the UK government. In his role, he amplified grassroots voices and proposed ideas on how to advance climate and environmental justice.
Partners
WELLSPRING FOUNDATION
FOUNDATION FOR JUST SOCIETY
OSF-HEALTH
WASCI
WASCOF
SADC-NGO
AFRICAN COACHING NETWORK-ACN
NOTHING2HIDE
AFRICTIVISTES
MOVEMENT TECHNOLOGY
CRISIS RESPONSE
ECONOMIC FLIGHT LEAGUE
HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION

Thank you to our partners, supporters, and donors on behalf of our members, staff and Coordinating Collective members. We appreciate you all for accompanying us in the journey to build a Pan-African movement of the people.

MUHAMMED LAMIN
@MovementCoordinator

“
Africans Rising members, supporters, and allies all have amazed us...demonstrating their determination and resilience in the movement for justice, peace, and dignity for Africans everywhere."

— Julie Payette
Together We Rise!

WWW.AFRICANSRISING.ORG