



## THE MOVEMENT OF CHANGE-MAKERS IN AFRICA

A TAGDev Alumni Event

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Time: 15:00-18:00 EAT

Venue: Virtual

Registration Link: (<https://bit.ly/3rJsXDF>)

### Concept Note

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### Background

Africa is the world’s youngest continent with 70% of the population below the age of 30<sup>1</sup>, an average age of 19 years and an estimated fertility rate of 4.66. The 200 million youth population in Africa is projected to double by 2050. There is a mismatch between the number of young Africans entering the labour force and the number of new jobs being created across the continent each year<sup>2</sup>. Yet, the African youths are agile, adept, creative, and innovative. Driven by necessity and for some, confidence in their abilities to take up the entrepreneurial challenge in prevailing circumstances, many young Africans have created their own-small businesses largely in the informal sector.

Goal 2 of the African Agenda 2063 seeks to counter to the foregoing challenges by delivering well-educated citizens and a skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology, and Innovation. Attainment of this goal requires strategic policies, programs, and de-risking interventions to facilitate knowledge generation and transfer, and access opportunities to education, technology, markets, financial services, and institutions. The challenges which limit

<sup>1</sup> M. Azhar Hussain and Atif Awad, “Inactive Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa: Does Inequality of Opportunity Matter?,” *Economies* 10, no. 1 (2022): 1–16, <https://doi.org/10.3390/economies10010027>.

<sup>2</sup> Oluyemi Theophilus Adeosun and Ayodele Ibrahim Shittu, “Learning and Innovation in Youth- Owned Small Businesses,” *Rajagiri Management Journal*, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1108/RMJ-09-2020-0051>.

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youths' opportunities are interconnected, multifaceted, dynamic, and persistent. Consequently, engendering, scaling, and sustaining youth development initiatives necessitates multi-level, multi-disciplinary, multi-actor, and multi-sector interventions. This will help to unlock the production potential of youths through synergistic development outcomes ranging from human capital formation, food and nutrition security, livelihood diversification, and women empowerment and transformation including accumulation of productive assets.

Over the years, Mastercard Foundation has committed to democratizing opportunities for African youths to learn, grow and prosper. The foundation has made strategic investments for generating, scaling, and sustaining solutions to youth development challenges in Africa. For instance, through the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the foundation is funding the *“Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa’s growth and development (TAGDev)”* project. The project implemented by Gulu University and Egerton University aims at transforming African agricultural universities and their graduates to better respond to the developmental challenges through enhanced application of science, technology, business, and innovation for rural agricultural transformation.

The TAGDev has enabled the incorporation of practical entrepreneurship approaches in the delivery of training, developed entrepreneurial capacities of young people, facilitated university-industry collaboration, and the interaction of university students with the private sector and farming communities. The young people trained by the project have created start-ups and are actively involved in rural transformation through research and the delivery of complementary extension and advisory services. Thus, these young women and men represent the movement of transformative change makers offering meaningful contributions to the African economy.

### Objective

The objective of this webinar is to provide a platform for TAGDev beneficiaries (students and alumni) to share their experiences and the impact of the program on their lives, institutions, and communities with Mastercard Foundation and a global audience.

### Themes

The webinar will convey the impact of the TAGDev program on the following:

1. Nurturing youths for agribusiness innovations, enterprise development, and employability through sharing success stories by those who own businesses, are employed, and/or have transformed their research into business
2. Harnessing agricultural research for rural transformation through sharing success stories by those who are employed/involved in research, have developed community solutions from their research and/or are pursuing their PhDs

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3. Evidence of empowering communities through sustainable farm-based micro-enterprises, charity and advisory services on food and nutrition security using the experience from refugee communities
4. Strengthening university capacities for entrepreneurial training through university administrators and program leaders sharing experiences of implementing a unique program at Gulu University and Egerton University

### Session format

The one-day event is designed as moderated and interactive online session with a keynote speech and panel discussions involving break-up sessions. Participants will include mainly TAGDev students and alumni, Mastercard Foundation, RUFORUM, Gulu University, and Egerton University staff and students, farmers and stakeholders involved in the students' training, and the general public.

### Draft Program

TIME (Nairobi) 15:00 -18:00	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
<b>Moderator: Ms. Elizabeth Nderitu</b> , Student Life and Induction, Coordinator, MCF scholars Program, EARTH University, Costa Rica		
15:00 –15:10	Opening Session	Introduction by <b>Assoc. Prof. Anthony Egeru</b> , - Welcome remarks by <b>Prof. Adipala Ekwamu</b> , Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
15:10 – 15:20	Key Note	Keynote presentation on <i>“The movement of change-makers in Africa”</i> – by <b>Assoc. Prof. Michael Hauser</b> , the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, and Principal Scientist, ICRISAT
15:20 – 15:50	Panel Discussion	<b>Nurturing youths for agribusiness innovations, enterprise development and employability</b>  Moderated by <b>Mr. John Mugonya</b> , Program Manager (Uganda), Agripreneurship Alliance Panelists: - <b>Mr. Samuel Mwangi</b> , Principal & Chief Executive Officer, Plotus Technology: Innovation and enterprise - <b>Ms. Milcah Wambua</b> , Desktop Lunches: Innovation and enterprise - <b>Ms. Redemptor M. Mutinda</b> , Research Consultant ICRISAT: Employability

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15:50 – 16:20	Panel Discussion	<p><b>Empowering communities through sustainable farm-based micro-enterprises, charity and advisory services on agriculture, food and nutrition security</b></p> <p>Moderated by <b>Mr. Erelu Samuel</b>, TAGDev Program Administrator, Gulu University</p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Geoffrey Ngenoh</b>, Manager, Kaplomboi ROTU Farmers' Cooperative Society, Kenya</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Akejo G. Victor</b>, Founder/Managing Director, GAO-UG Limited</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Marvin Nafula</b>, Andre Foods International, Uganda</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Docus Alowo</b>, PhD Student, Gulu University</li> </ul>
<b>Break-up sessions</b>		
16:20 – 16:50 Session 1	Panel discussion	<p><b>Harnessing agricultural research for rural transformation</b></p> <p><i>Moderated by Dr Sylvanus Mensah</i>, Technical Specialist Recruitment and Training Officer, RUFORUM</p> <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Irene Akite</b>, PhD Student, Gulu University</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Daniel M. Okello</b>, Assistant lecturer, Gulu University</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Marius Affonfere</b>, National University of Agriculture, Benin</li> </ul>
16:50 – 17:20 Session 2	Videos	<p><b>Family and community impact of the TAGDev scholarship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Mahoussi Simone</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Benin AgroTrans</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Aipa Grace Bekah</b>, Community Advisory Services, Turkana, Kenya</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Lucy Aciro</b>, Assistant Lecturer, University of the Sacred Heart, Gulu, Uganda</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Kenneth Kidega</b>, Gulu University, Uganda</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Nobert Okellokoko</b>, Agricultural Officer Pader District, Uganda</li> </ul>
17:20 – 17:40	Round Table Dialogue	<p><b>What policies and investments are needed to <i>strengthen university capacities for entrepreneurial training?</i> (<i>Holistic, well-coordinated, context-specific, multi-sectoral, science and evidence-based and inclusive policies</i>)</b></p> <p>Moderated by <b>Mr Emmanuel Okalany</b>, Technical Specialist – Development and Partnership, RUFORUM</p>

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		Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Prof Patience Mshenga</b>, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University</li> <li>- <b>Dr Walter Odongo</b>, Senior Lecturer, Gulu University, Uganda</li> </ul>
17:40 – 18:00	Reflection and closing remarks	<b>Mr Emmanuel Okalany</b> , Technical Specialist – Development and Partnership, RUFORUM

### John Mugonya

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