



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

COLUMBIA  
GLOBAL  
CENTERS

NAIROBI

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# MESSAGES

*Lee C. Bollinger*  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, PRESIDENT



The Columbia Global Centers are thriving, with nine centers across four continents and more to come. The mission of our Centers is to serve as the University's physical and intellectual presence around the world—they facilitate and curate faculty work, provide educational opportunities for students, and connect us with people and ideas shaping our global society.

Prof. Lee C. Bollinger  
President of Columbia University

*Dr. Murugi Ndirangu*

DIRECTOR, COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NAIROBI

*The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new.*

## Socrates

If there was one thing the world agreed on in 2021 -2022, it would never be *"business as usual again."*

The year following the pandemic plunged the world into a new reality - the hybrid way of life. With the ease of movement and return to in-person meetings, it was a delight to welcome faculty, students, alums, and partners back to the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi.

As a Center, we decided to embrace this new reality. We acknowledged that with this mindset, the suitable investments and partnerships initiatives that were previously difficult to execute would become easier – thanks to technology and an adaptive mindset.

As a result, the Center held 29 webinars and in-person events attended by over 1500 participants.

In the reporting year, the health program supported research on advancing public health through data science - a partnership with the Department of Biostatistics at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University, and the University of Nairobi. Further, we provided a base for stakeholders to deepen their knowledge and address rising sexual gender-based violence and mental health cases occasioned by the pandemic. Through these initiatives, the Center hopes to spur insight and innovations on tackling health problems and promote dialogue to inform policy to address sexual gender-based violence and mental health, among other health concerns affecting the overall health programs in the region.

Towards addressing the climate change crisis, the Center, in partnership with Columbia World Projects, facilitated the



Dr. Murugi Ndirangu  
Director, Columbia Global Centers Nairobi

investigation of climate risks and impacts on people in Africa. The consultations revealed that different community groups are impacted and interpret the climate crisis differently. The knowledge and evidence generated will inform climate dialogues and the design of programs and courses on environmental issues while tapping into local environmental management expertise, one of the primary objectives of the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi.

Our goal of advancing Columbia's vision of producing 21st-century global citizens continued earnestly. In partnership with Columbia University faculty, US Embassy, and Alums, the Center curated a 3-part webinar series that helped prospective applicants package their applications and introduced them to the Columbia campus life and different ways to survive cultural shocks. The goal is to increase the number of African students making it to Columbia. In addition, our engagement with the Alums has motivated the Center to strengthen the Alum program. As such, we are committed to leveraging the alum experience, expertise, and networks to enhance the quality and career pathways of Columbia African graduates.

In business empowerment, the Center launched the Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in Africa (EC-Africa) program and various programs targeted at entrepreneurs. This year's key highlight was the development of the "Family of Business: Conversations and Circle" exclusive series that caters to renowned family enterprises in Kenya. The series has received much acclaim because of its unique approach

to addressing succession in African businesses diagnosing potential conflict areas through a family dynamics approach.

The Africa Book Talk Series continued this year and has gained much traction and interest. The Center intends to enrich it by organizing it into various themes and inviting more authors. The Book Series will run hand in hand with other events to promote the cross-sharing of African knowledge and products in the US and the world.

Most of the activities undertaken in 2021-2022 have played a critical role in advancing Columbia's mission of extending its academic rigor and excellence in response to global challenges. Most significantly, we are thrilled that the model of the Global Centers Network is now gaining recognition as a viable model for combining strengths of academic rigor and research to promote learning and facilitate dialogue for transformative change.

Last but not least, the activities and milestones achieved in the reporting year would not have been possible without the invaluable support of faculty, students, alums, and all our partners. Each of you was critical in extending Columbia's mission to the region and the world.

Thank you.

Dr. Murugi Ndirangu  
Director - Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi



## LION STATUE OF COLUMBIA



## THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

### MISSION STATEMENT

Columbia University is one of the world's most important centers of research and, at the same time, a distinctive and distinguished learning environment for students in many scholarly and professional fields.

The University recognizes the importance of its location in the City of New York and seeks to link its research and teaching to the vast resources of a great metropolis.

It aims to attract a diverse international faculty and student body, support research, and teaching on global issues, and create academic relationships with many countries and regions.

All faculties' areas of the University advance knowledge and learning at the highest level and convey the products of its efforts to the world.

### THE COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK

The Columbia Global Centers promote and facilitate collaborative and influential engagement of the University's faculty, students, and alums with the world, to enhance understanding, address global challenges, and advance knowledge and its exchange.

As President Lee C. Bollinger envisioned, the Centers connect the local with the global, create opportunities for shared learning, and deepen the nature of international dialogue.

There are ten Global Centers in Amman, Athens, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, and Tunis. This network forms the core

of Columbia's global strategy to expand its ability to contribute positively to the world by advancing research and producing new knowledge on the most critical issues confronting our planet.

The Centers engage regional experts and scholars and encourage teaching and research across disciplinary boundaries. Some of the Center's programs and research initiatives are country-specific, some regional, and an increasing number are multiregional, even global. They are now well immersed in their local regions and in a position to further leverage their networks and expertise on behalf of the Columbia community.

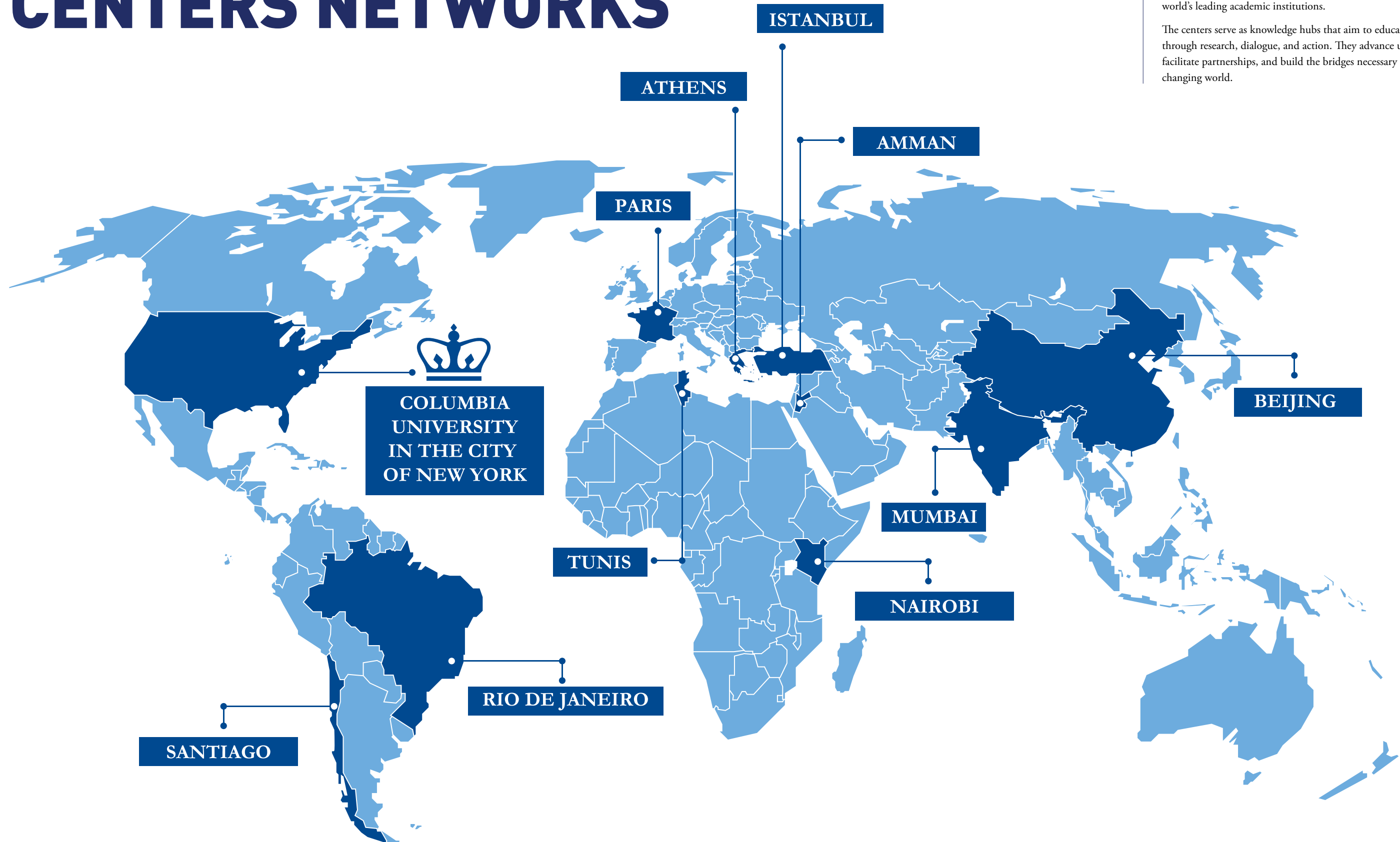
*Columbia's sculpture of the Scholars' Lion by Greg Wyatt stands on a large granite pedestal and faces East. It is Columbia University's official mascot voted by the Columbia Alumni Association in 1910.*



# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORKS

Columbia Global Center | Nairobi is part of a network of ten Global Centers of Columbia University in the City of New York, one of the world's leading academic institutions.

The centers serve as knowledge hubs that aim to educate and inspire through research, dialogue, and action. They advance understanding, facilitate partnerships, and build the bridges necessary to tackle our changing world.





# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI

With their notable pink plumage, flamingos flock in great numbers in Kenya and are a special sight to witness. Tourists come from all over the world to experience this colorful spectacle of shimmering pink birds wading in the shallow waters of Kenya's soda lakes in Lake Bogoria, Lake Elementaita, Lake Nakuru and Lake Turkana.

## WELCOME TO COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is part of Columbia University's global network of Centers, which aim to create opportunities in research, scholarship, and teaching worldwide and expand Columbia's mission as an international university.

Launched in Kenya in May 2011 by the former President of the Republic of Kenya, the late Mwai Kibaki, and Columbia University President, Lee Bollinger, the Center serves as a regional hub for research and collaboration as part of Columbia University's strategy to achieve a global presence. It links the continent to Columbia's scientific rigor, technological innovation, and academic leadership and provides Columbia students and faculty a base from which to conduct research in and for Africa.

At the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi, we aim to:

1. Enable the highest levels of knowledge and learning in and for Africa;
2. Create a hub for global curriculum and scholarly outreach in the region;
3. Link the academic pursuits of the Global Center to Columbia University's main campus and around the world;
4. Advance Columbia University's vision of producing 21st-Century global citizens equipped to meet today's most significant challenges.

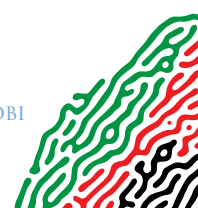
*"The Center works closely with policymakers, governments, and regional and African institutions, providing objective, science-based advice free of bias or self-interest. It creates a platform for high-level policy dialogue and a forum that celebrates free speech, good governance, and fundamental human rights."*

An essential hub in the global network, the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi links Kenya and the African continent to a vast body of knowledge, scholarship, and inquiry and provides an avenue for Africa to influence policy dialogue.

The Nairobi Center facilitates academic institutions, governments, the private sector, NGOs, multinationals, and other Eastern and Southern African institutions collaborating with Columbia University students and faculty to address critical global issues as equal partners.

It collaborates with these institutions to conduct a host of research and education initiatives, enhance understanding and participate in advancing and exchanging knowledge.

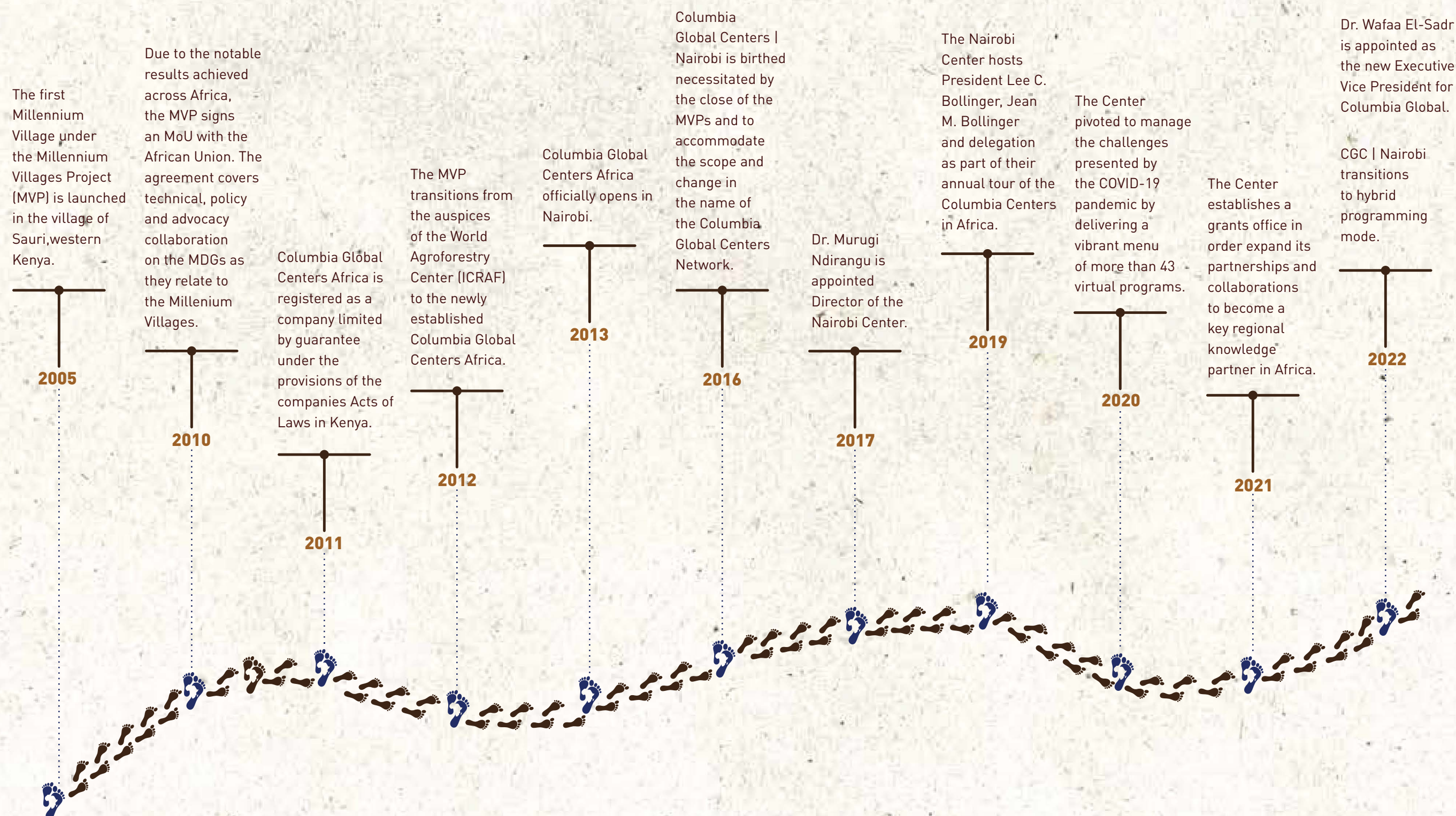
The Center hosts diverse projects under the [President's Global Innovation Fund](#), facilitating collaborations with different Columbia University schools and colleges. The Center remains an essential and dynamic hub in Columbia's global center network.





# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI

## - OUR MILESTONES





# CGC | NAIROBI - FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## RICHARD DECKELBAUM

Physicians & Surgeons

**TITLE:** Robert R. Williams Professor of Nutrition (in Pediatrics) and Professor of Epidemiology; Director, Institute of Human Nutrition.

## WAFAA EL-SADR, *Chair*

Public Health

**TITLE:** University Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Matilde Krim-amfAR Professor of Global Health; Director, ICAP, EVP - Columbia Global

## JULIE KORNFELD

Public Health

**TITLE:** Associate Professor of Epidemiology; Vice Dean for Education.

## MARINA CORDS

Arts & Sciences, Social Sciences

**TITLE:** Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

## SHANNON MARQUEZ

Columbia College

**TITLE:** Dean of Undergraduate Global Engagement.

## DUSTIN RUBENSTIEN

Arts & Sciences, Natural Sciences

**TITLE:** Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

## MATTHEW ENGELKE

Arts & Sciences, Humanities

**TITLE:** Professor of Religion.

## PORTIA WILLIAMS

Teachers College

**TITLE:** Executive Director, Office of International Affairs, Teachers College.

## FARAH GRIFFIN

Arts & Sciences, Social Sciences

**TITLE:** Chair, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies.

## VIJAY MODI

Arts & Sciences, Natural Sciences

**TITLE:** Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Director, Infrastructure Programs, Millennium Villages Project.

## MABEL O. WILSON

GSAPP

**TITLE:** Nancy and George Rupp Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies.

## SAMANTHA WINTER

Social Work

**TITLE:** Assistant Professor at the Columbia School of Social Work.

# CGC | NAIROBI - ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



## DHIREN CHANDARIA

CEO - Insta Products Ltd



## CATHERINE MUSAKALIA

LL. B, LL.M, FCPSK, ACIrb

Advocate of the High Court, Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya, Founding Partner - Dorion and Associates LLP



## Hon. JUSTICE SMOKIN C. '86

Justice of the Supreme Court of Kenya



## JAMES LEITER

President, Falcon Group



## CIIRU WAWERU WAITHAKA

Managing Director - Funkidz Limited & FunHomes, Associate Professor of Dental Medicine



## HEMNABH KHATAU, CBS

Director & C.E.O - Mehta Group



## DR. JOSEPH BARRAGE WANJUI '64



# THE CENTER STAFF



**Dr. Murugi Ndirangu**  
Director



**Jane Wambugu**  
Finance and Administration Manager



**Pauline Muthoni**  
Programs Manager



**Sandra Mikal Masira**  
Communications Assistant



**Barbara Muliro**  
Clinical Research Nutritionist



**Lilan Anyango Olick**  
Grants Officer



**Joel T. Mwangi**  
Finance & Administration Assistant



**Dennis Kyalo Mwanthi**  
Finance and Project Coordinator

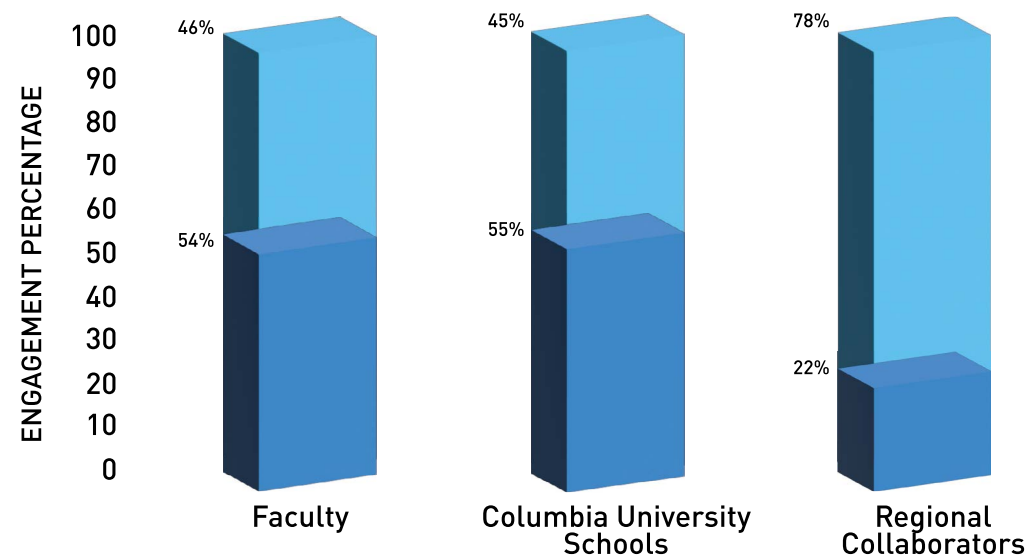
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# IMPACT: A GLANCE INTO 2021 – 2022

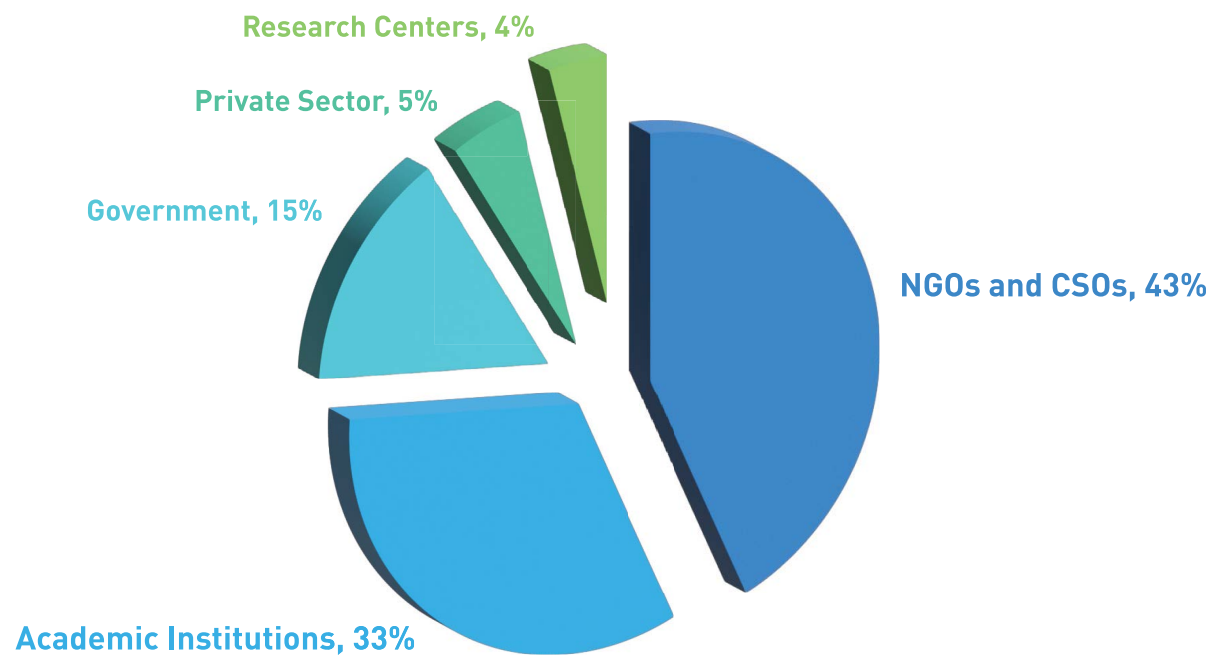
## ENGAGEMENT: OVERVIEW OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS, FACULTY AND REGIONAL COLLABORATORS



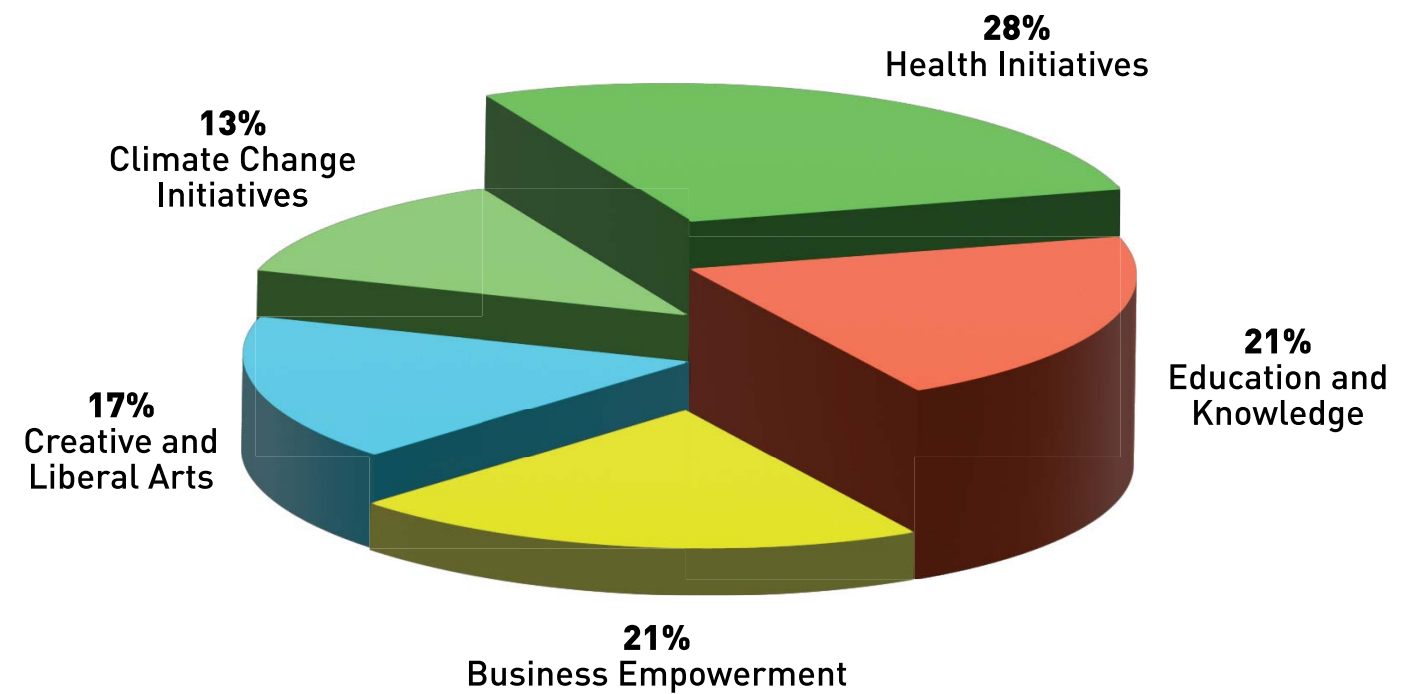
More than 81 faculties have been engaged from 43 Columbia University Schools and Centers. 54% of these engagements have been in the faculty led President's Global Innovation Fund (PGIFs) and 46% in other donor proposals. In addition, 239 other external collaborators have been engaged.

● Percentage of Engagement per category in PGIFS ● Percentage of Engagement per category in other donor proposals

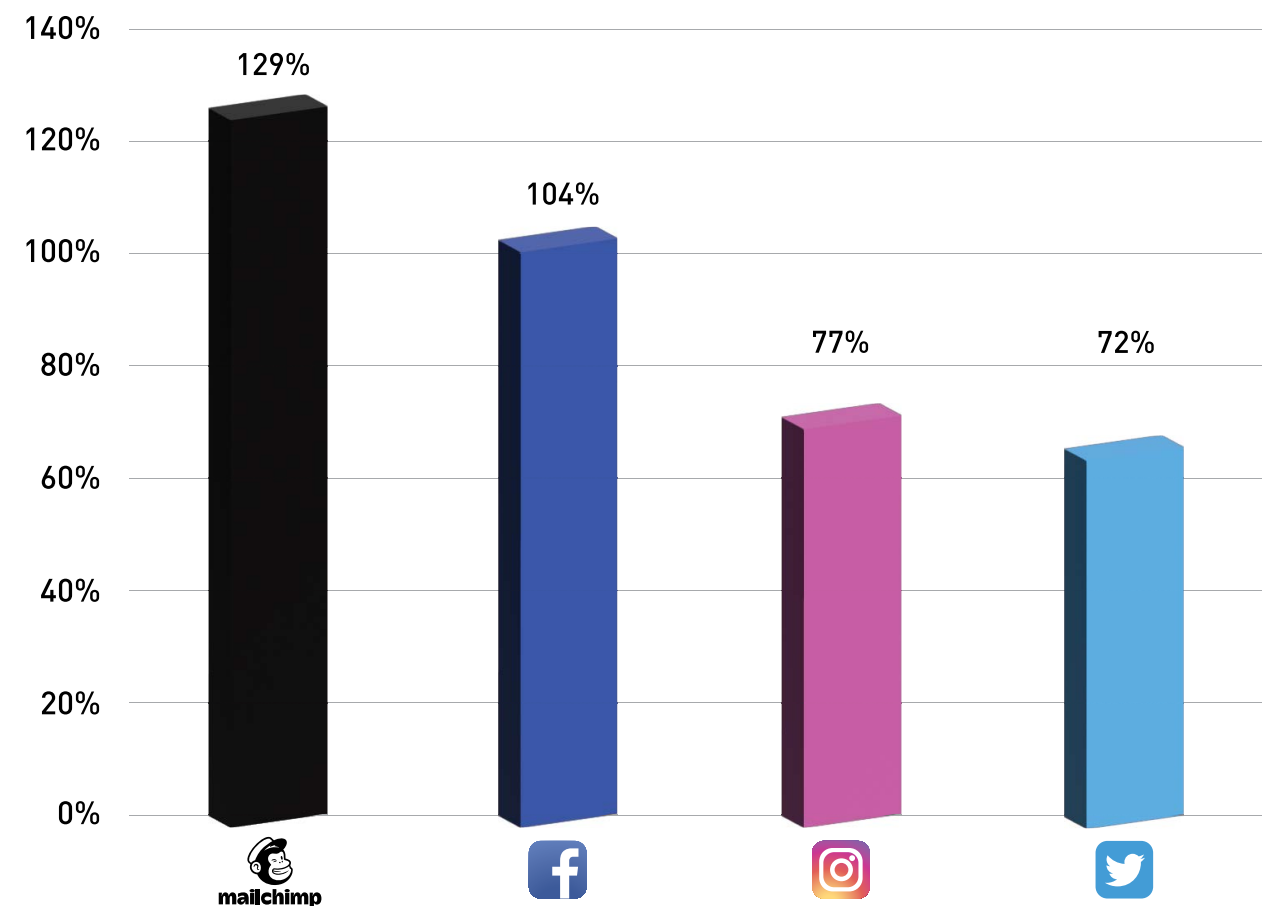
## REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT GROWTH



## INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS HOSTED



## TOTAL PERCENTAGE AUDIENCE GROWTH





# DARING BOLDLY



This simple yet powerful statement reflects the tenacity, effort, and courage the world continued to show in the fight against COVID-19. It became clear that a bird does not change its feathers because the weather is terrible. As a result, global activities and events shifted toward answering one key question: how does the world live with COVID-19 and its adverse effects and thrive?

Against this backdrop, the Center responded with courage, creativity, and agility. It tailored its programming toward reframing the catastrophic results of the pandemic through evidenced-based research, strategic collaborations, and learning activities covering health, climate change, education, business empowerment, and liberal arts.

This report highlights the activities undertaken by the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi from June 2021 to July 2022. Aligned to its mandate, the Nairobi Center promoted cutting-edge research generating evidence to address pertinent challenges in the region. A key highlight this reporting year was maximizing the resources of the Columbia Climate School. Through its linkages with the Center, the school will significantly strengthen the Center's contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change in Africa.

Further, in partnership with the Columbia World Projects, the Center supported faculty and students to undertake research and a platform for sharing their findings to inform policy. Some of the studies highlighted in this report include Prof. Vijay Modi's investigations on how increasing household access to electricity can improve agro-processing quality and quantity in Uganda. Another one is Simone Fobi's work with

remote sensing to forecast how much-unconnected electricity households would use upon electrification. The results of this study will help the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) design and predict electricity access investments and begin investing in clean, inexpensive, and exceptional methods of electricity generation.

On the learning agenda, the Center hosted various virtual events. All these conversations aimed at positioning the Center as an educational and policy dialogue hub for advancing human welfare. Some of the conversations hosted included:

- COVID-19 and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- Enhancing Wellness with Emotional Intelligence
- Entrepreneurial Reality: Hardship and Conquering Adversity

Launching the Global Nursing Practicum program in Kenya significantly boosted the learning and knowledge exchange agenda. The apprenticeship program provided real-world experiences and scenarios for Columbia nursing students stationed at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). Most of the testimonials from the students are evidence that the immersive experience was highly beneficial for their professional development, and most will be transferring those skills to their future workstations in the US.

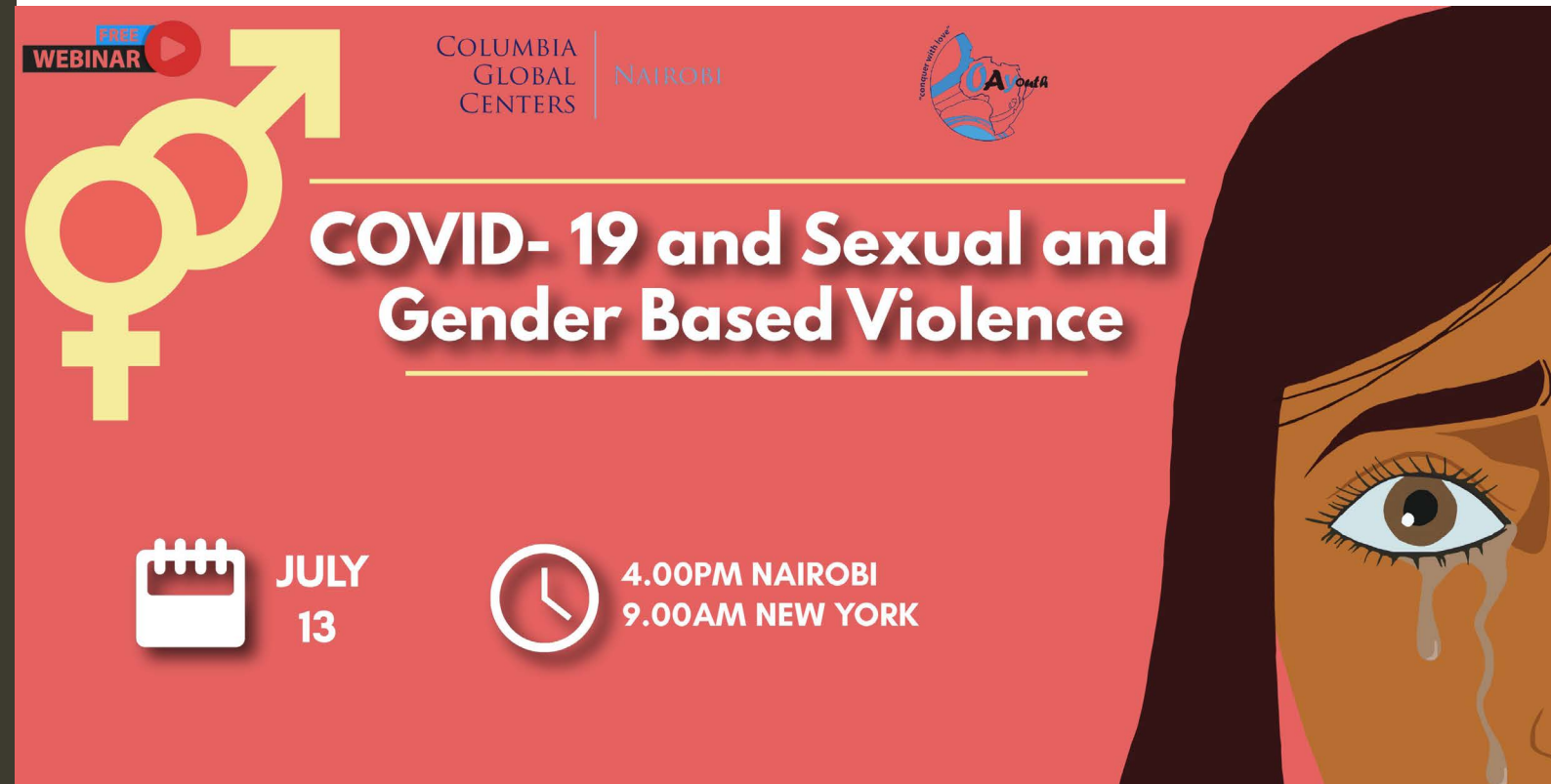
The Nairobi Center is proud of the strides made in 2021-2022, and the Center will continue to scale up its activities to advance research, knowledge, and exchange to address global challenges.





# PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

## HEALTH PROGRAMS



**FREE WEBINAR**

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI

**COVID-19 and Sexual and Gender Based Violence**

**JULY 13**

**4.00PM NAIROBI  
9.00AM NEW YORK**

### A. COVID-19 AND SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

#### PRESENTER:

**Sarah Oganda** – *Organization of African Youth (OAY)*

#### PANELISTS:

**Daniel Wathome** - *Gender Specialist International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC)*

**Prof. Samantha Winters** - *Columbia University, School of Social Work*

*"This man has destroyed both our lives. I knew that my child would be born out of rape, and I was careful not to get my child discriminated against by society. I became suicidal; I was too toxic for those around me. I become a shadow of myself, barely eating, always blaming myself for wearing a short skirt; this might have triggered him. I have never shared this story with anyone."*

This excerpt from a case study on Sexual Harassment in the Public Transport Sector - Nairobi County set the tone for the COVID-19 and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence learning event. The study commissioned by OAY was motivated by the low awareness of SGBV within the informal transport

sector and sparked concern about the rising SGBV cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this session, Daniel Wathome shared that the pandemic had exacerbated SGBV cases as, according to a policy paper published by the African Union Commission - Women, Gender and Development Directorate (AUC-WGDD) in 2020, in the Sahel region, physical and sexual violence had increased by 12%, 37% in South Africa, and 69% in the Central African Republic region. In Kenya, SGBV cases increased by 35% among women and men.

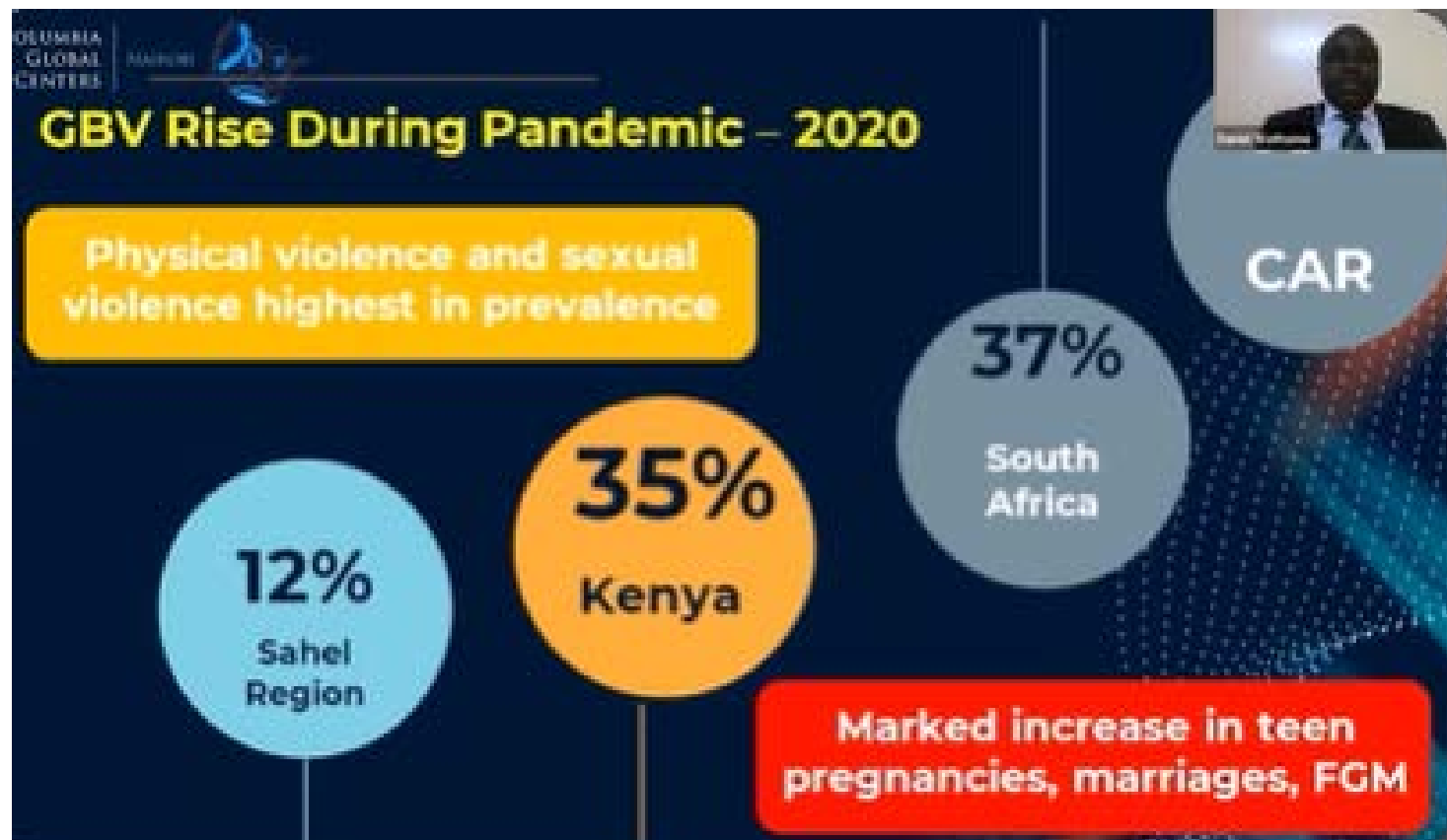
The discussions during this event pointed to the need to design interventions based on the SGBV risks, optimize technological-based solutions such as toll-free lines, expand shelters, and increase safe spaces for survivors. Professor Samantha Winters advised that working in a holistic and coordinated method would ensure that programs and actions being implemented are harmonized hence beginning to address the challenges faced in the fight against SGBV. This approach necessitates all actors to work in partnerships that



would allow them to foster a common philosophy, standards, and principles.

The session highlighted the devastating psychosocial effects of SGBV, which proved that more still needs to be done.

Following consultative meetings between CGC | Nairobi and Session Panelists, the Nairobi Center formulated a series on Enhancing Wellness with Emotional Intelligence.



Next Steps: *The Center followed up with Sarah Oganda to discuss more on 'Julia' and the findings of her study on the boda boda sector:*

Julia - not her real, has undergone 15 sessions of the Prolonged Exposure Therapy program. Through therapy, she began to come to terms with the trauma, grief, and pain she suffered. Although her son was born out of rape, she is grateful for him and can care for him without judgment. Sarah also reported having heard of more cases similar to Julia's in the transport sector.

As a result of the evidence from this case, the research consortium developed a policy brief regarding SGBV in the public transport sector. In addition, it also convened stakeholders' meetings to enhance their understanding of Kenya's commitment to GBV. The research Consortium

has also drafted MoUs with transport self-help groups to assist them in developing codes of conduct for their members to promote zero tolerance of SGBV.

The research Consortium has sensitized the community through social media campaigns on SGBV in the public transport sector. Some of the information shared includes reporting and referral pathways for victims to enable them to report incidents and seek care and treatment. The Consortium also convened workshops to strengthen the SGBV Technical Working Group (TWG), which comprises stakeholders in the transport sector.

Sexual harassment in public transport leaves those exposed feeling sad and disempowered. Therefore, reporting channels should be enhanced.

## B. ENHANCING WELLNESS WITH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE



Albert Migowa facilitating a 'Boys Empowerment Program' in Kenya

### FACILITATOR:

*Albert Migowa – Wellness Coach*

The Nairobi Center collaborated with Albert Migowa, who describes himself as an all-encompassing wellness creator practicing counseling psychology, emotional intelligence coaching, and mentorship, to facilitate the Enhancing Wellness with Emotional Intelligence (EQ) series. These sessions employ relaxation techniques, involve the audience by asking them questions, use real-life scenarios, propose various self-assessment tests, and maximize demonstration techniques such as pictorials.

He gave an overview of EQ, its components, and some benefits of possessing EQ skills. He defined EQ as a smartness skill that people continuously master by working on four key elements:

1. Self-awareness
2. Self-regulation
3. Social Awareness
4. Social skills.

Migowa emphasized that mastering EQ builds one's confidence and keeps one conscious of others' feelings. One also tends to become more empathetic, they lead by example, solve problems effectively, and work better in teams.

Migowa also differentiated EQ from Intelligence Quotient (IQ), defining IQ as a score that reveals one's intellectual capability generated from various tests. Finally, he shared the different techniques and real-life examples that one may utilize to manage emotions and adapt to situations or surroundings. Subsequent sessions have expounded on the four components.



Conducting a motivational talk in a primary school in Kenya



### About Albert Migowa – Wellness Counsellor

Albert's inspiration to be a counselor stemmed from his strong intuition and ability to relate well with people. He has been in counseling practice for the past four years.

His skills and patience have been put to the test several times. For instance, there was a time when he went to conduct a group therapy session in Viwandani - one of the six Mukuru slum sites within Nairobi County. To his surprise, the community requested him to speak on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) instead. "I was completely thrown for a loop as community members surrounded me to hear what I had to say. It was very intimidating, as I did not have much content on the subject and had to use slang and Kiswahili, which was not my forte." He says.

Despite this, he tapped into his knowledge of WASH and delivered the talk in Kiswahili. This experience taught him to be adaptable, flexible, knowledgeable, and communicate strategically, especially in community counseling. "Such scenarios are why I choose to delve into EQ, as it enables me to manage my emotions and relate well with people."



#### PRO TIPS:

##### How to enhance EQ:

- Identify feelings triggered by an associated event
- Acknowledge emotions at any given time
- Learn how to manage various emotions, and attune to other people's feelings by listening keenly and communicating assertively
- Seek professional help and counsel to boost your confidence

### C. ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH IN EASTERN AFRICA THROUGH DATA SCIENCE TRAINING



Launch of the APHREA project at the University of Nairobi, Kenya

The Department of Biostatistics at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health has been examining how data science training can strengthen public health research.

With funding from the National Institutes of Health, the department has partnered with collaborators from Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia) and the University of Nairobi (Kenya), specializing in data science, public health, and biostatistics to accelerate public health research and its impact,

by establishing new multi-tiered training programs in public health data science in the region.

The Center hosted a 2-day high-level meeting launching of the program that was led by Dr. Kiros Berhane, a professor of biostatistics at Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. The meeting was attended by health practitioners, biostatisticians, mathematicians, and social scientists.



Stephen Kiama Gitahi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, with Dr. Kiros Berhane at the APHREA launch.



Columbia University lead team APHREA Project - from right to left Dr. Tiffany Sanchez, Dr. Jeff Goldsmith and Prof. Kiros Berhane.



# CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES

## A. USING DATA TO ACCELERATE ENERGY INVESTMENTS



Vijay Modi – Professor Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University presenting assessment results from 14 districts in Uganda.



Professor Modi (Left) joined by Benson Ileri - Africa Lead, Energy Access, World Resources Institute and Joan Chahenza, Director, Energy Access Financial Advisory, - AMDA, for the panel session.

### PRESENTER:

**Professor Vijay Modi** – Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Earth and Environmental Engineering; Director of the Laboratory for Sustainable Energy Solution

The Nairobi Center held its first hybrid event on May 10, 2022, in collaboration with [Columbia World Projects \(CWP\)](#) and [Quadracci Sustainable Engineering \(qSEL\) Lab](#), School of Engineering, Columbia University.

At this event, Prof. Modi used a combination of physics and machine-learning approaches to show why household-level access to electricity, especially in rural areas, is essential.

He presented the results of an assessment conducted in 14 districts in Uganda - in partnership with the Government of Uganda.

The evaluation generated data that showed where higher value crops are being grown, crop irrigation is occurring, and the corresponding effects on production, quantity, and quality when agro-processing is not powered by electricity. This model could assist African governments, private sector bodies, and interested parties in detecting where energy investments could lead to potential income generation and sustainable development.



In-person audience following the discussions on “How Data Can Help Energize the World and Improve Livelihoods”



## B. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY OPENS COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL



*Conducting a consultative workshop on climate change with pastoralists women in Kajiado County, Kenya*

Columbia established the Climate School in July 2020, its first new School in 25 years and the first of its kind in the world. The School aims to develop and inspire knowledge-based solutions that address climate change for future leaders for a healthy planet.

In the reporting year, the School investigated climate risks and impacts that people in Africa, Asia, and South and North America are concerned about and the assets and challenges they perceive in addressing climate change. CWP led the investigation that covered more than ten countries (including Kenya) where Columbia already has its presence through the Global Centers and ICAP Offices.

The Nairobi Center conducted workshops with vulnerable groups in Kenya, comprising youth, farmers, pastoralists, and people living in informal settlements.

The results revealed that besides flooding, droughts, famines, food shortages, and water contamination, Kenyans are also concerned about other transactional effects such as mental health degeneration, increased sexual activities among the youth, and increased prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases. These results will form the basis for further research and projects, including training programs.



*Consultative Workshop with the women pastoralists group.*



*Consultative Workshop with the men pastoralists group in Kajiado county.*

## C. USING REMOTE SENSING TO INFLUENCE ENERGY INVESTMENTS - COLUMBIA ENGINEERING STUDENT'S RESEARCH



**Simone Nsutezo Fobi**  
Ph.D, School of Mechanical  
Engineering, Columbia University

Simone Nsutezo Fobi, a Ph.D. student at the School of Mechanical Engineering, Columbia, has conducted a study using remote sensing to determine household electricity consumption. The results have been used to forecast how much-unconnected electricity households would use upon electrification.

Fobi has been working with **Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC)** to determine an electricity-access planning and investment design. Her work matches existing data, i.e., stable electricity consumption, through centralized options and mini-grids verified using satellite images that observed regular electricity consumption among newly connected households.

This model can enable governments to begin investing in the cleanest, most inexpensive and most exceptional methods of electricity generation, given that the results infer household electricity consumption predictions at scale. It can also help governments phase out archaic energy methods, such as using coal, fossils, and liquid effluents, considered the highest environmental pollutants, thereby preserving our planet. Her study received financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation.





# EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE



## A. INCREASING COLLEGE ADMISSIONS IN THE U.S.A.

Seeking admission into Universities abroad such as Columbia can be daunting, and potential applicants frequently seek advice from the Nairobi Center.

Therefore, the Center conducted a 3-part webinar titled 'College Admissions in the U.S.A.' to address prospective applicants' queries. This series was done in partnership with Columbia's International Students and Scholars Office – Columbia ISSO, the Office of the Director of Recruitment - Columbia, a representative from the US Embassy in Kenya, and a U.S.A Graduate Studies Consultant.

The first webinar focused on how to prepare an application, encouraging the audience to keep a checklist and be attentive

to timelines. The second session provided insights on preparing for Master's studies and transitioning to a skilled worker in the USA. In the final session, current African students and alums of Columbia gave real-life examples of how they experienced culture shock, loneliness, and language barriers in the US and suggested ways of coping.

In addition, a counselor emphasized the importance of having a hobby, allowing students to connect better with people in the new setting and share their culture. The series received overwhelming feedback and more questions that the Nairobi Center hopes to address in future forums.





# BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT



## A. THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COMPETITIVENESS IN AFRICA PROGRAM










In July 2021, the Center partnered with Columbia Business School and launched the Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in Africa (EC-Africa) program. The EC-Africa program is based on Columbia's Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness program in Latin America, which has run since 2010 and has graduated more than 200 entrepreneurs from 96 companies in 12 different countries and across 40+ industries.

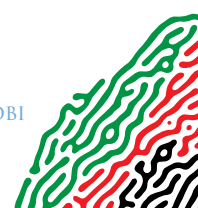
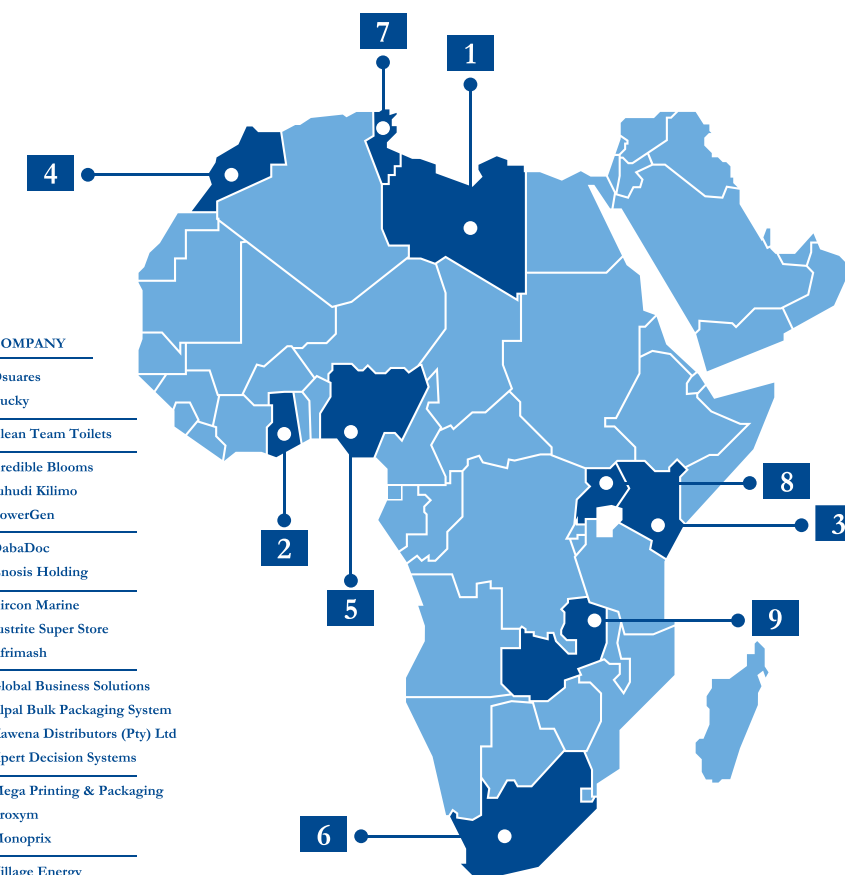
EC-Africa endeavors to assist mid-sized African companies in attaining the necessary skills, tools, and networks that professionalize and grow their businesses in today's global environment. In the reporting year, the program recruited 20 companies from 9 African countries (Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia), representing 15 industries with a total enrollment of 58 senior leaders.

The immediate results and long-lasting benefits of this 10-month program include:

- Acquire tools and skills to grow your business and lead change within your organization.

- Collaborate with faculty and other expert advisors to work on a project to build your business with measurable results.
- Join a strong network of entrepreneurs, industry coaches, and business leaders from around the world.
- Gain international exposure to other regions of Africa with different business and entrepreneurial cultures.
- Experience the ideal environment to exchange insights with peer entrepreneurs and benefit from professors' expertise.
- Take the opportunity to step back as a team and take an overall view of your company's present and future.
- Join the Columbia Business School alumni network of more than 42,000 executives across dozens of industries in over 120 countries.
- Audit Columbia Business School classes at any time — a lifelong alumni privilege.

KEY:		
COUNTRY CODE	NO. OF COMPANIES	COMPANY
 1. Egypt	2	Dsuares Lucky
 2. Ghana	1	Clean Team Toilets
 3. Kenya	3	Credible Blooms Juhudi Kilimo PowerGen
 4. Morocco	2	DabaDoc Enosis Holding
 5. Nigeria	3	Zircon Marine Justrite Super Store Afrimash
 6. South Africa	4	Global Business Solutions Alpal Bulk Packaging System Kawena Distributors (Pty) Ltd Xpert Decision Systems
 7. Tunisia	3	Mega Printing & Packaging Proxym Monoprix
 8. Uganda	1	Village Energy
 9. Zambia	1	Unified Chemicals







The Family Business team planning and strategy meeting session led by Wanjia Michuki, far left

## MATTERS OF FAMILY BUSINESS MATTER

### Facilitators:

**Wanjia Michuki** - Kenyan Businesswoman, Executive Coach, Financial Analyst, and Consultant, Columbia Business School Alum

### Professor Patricia Marie Angus

Founder and C.E.O of Angus Advisory Group L.L.C, an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University, and Managing Director Global Family Enterprise Program.

The Nairobi Center organized a virtual session on family businesses to contribute to discussions on this seldom-discussed topic in Africa. In her contribution, Dr. Angus underscored the importance of family businesses to the economy, noting that although they face grave challenges such as succession, leadership, and financial constraints, they are distinct and grounded on socio-emotional aspects enabling them to cultivate a culture that views success in a business by far more than just money.

Wanjia Michuki led a discussion with established family business owners in Kenya that covered how they deal with generational challenges, such as lack of a clear financial plan, including leadership wrangles. The discussion highlighted the need for additional investment to equip business owners with the knowledge and skills to address these common challenges.

As a result, in consultation with Prof. Angus and Wanjia, the Nairobi Center curated the “Family of Business: Conversations and Circle” exclusive programs including a podcast, that caters to renowned family enterprises in Kenya. These conversations provide family-owned businesses a platform to discuss their issues and find ways of resolving the challenges they face. The Circle Conversations Series is a partnership with the Center, Be Bold Consulting & Advisory Ltd, Columbia Business School, and ICEA Lion Asset Management.



Family Business lead team enjoying light moments at the Nairobi Center from left to right Vincent Oloo, Wanjia Michuki, Carolyn Gaithuma and Stella Maina.



Dr. Murugi Ndirangu and Wanjia Michuki at the Family Business Conversation and Circles Meeting Launch

## TOWARDS A SAFE, SECURE, SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY, AND INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR COUNTIES (SHIFTS) PROGRAM

Launched in July 2022, “Towards a Safe, Secure, Sustainable, Healthy, and Inclusive Food Systems” for Counties (SHIFtS) Programme is a Climate SMART and Resilient intervention in Kenya, implemented in partnership with [World Food Programme](#), [Chancery Wright Insurance](#), [APA Insurance](#), [Fairways Green Markets Limited](#), and Partnership for Community Empowerment and Development with the main goal of improving the input supply and production of crops, livestock, fish, and other agricultural commodities and enhancing the transportation, processing, retailing, wholesaling, and preparation of foods for consumption and disposal. The project also creates an enabling policy environment and cultural norms around food. In the long run, we expect that the food systems at the County level would be nutritious, healthy, safe, affordable, productive and efficient, environmentally sustainable and climate-smart, and inclusive.

The project utilizes a participatory, integrated, multi-actor, social enterprise approach to attain seven (7) specific objectives:

- Increase agricultural productivity by reducing risks and ensuring increased investment returns for farmers. Among others, this will include increasing input supply and agricultural commodity production.
- Improve the food value chain, including transportation, processing, retailing, wholesaling, and preparation of foods for consumption and disposal
- Improve access to agri-insurance and other risk management products and services
- Enhance adoption of climate-SMART agricultural approaches and improve nutritional outcomes for targeted beneficiaries

- Improve entrepreneurial, business, market, and trade orientations, including carbon trading.
- Ensure sustainable partnerships and coordinated multi-stakeholder collaborations
- Create and promote enabling policy structures and environments and build adaptive institutional capacities

Layering on existing work and the great successes of the [Farm to Market Alliance \(FTMA\)](#) project, the project began with a pilot in Migori, Kenya, delivering innovative agricultural insurance and digital products to help smallholder farmers endure yield risks, improve their farming practices, bolster their incomes over time, and encourage the transition from Tobacco to other value chains, such as beans. Working with Chancery Wright Insurance Brokers, the Center supported farmers in Migori to access unbundled agri-insurance covers for the beans value chain. Supporting 2 stakeholder forums targeting 10 County and 14 Sub-County Officials to gain political goodwill, buy-in, and commitment, we held a planning meeting and several training sessions with 50 Farm Service Centers (FSCs) representing approximately 100 farmers per FSC, thus a total of 5,000 farmers, on agri-insurance between July and August. Following, 50 Farm Service Centers delivered agri-insurance awareness and training sessions to their registered farmers and subscribed them to the products.

In the August - December 2022 planting season, 50 (100%) Farm Service Centers subscribed 500 farmers representing 1,000 acres of the land, surpassing 200 farmers and 250 acres target. On average, an FSC subscribed to approximately 10% of its registered members. The performance was impressive compared to previous insurance interventions implemented in previous years.



Farmers training session on agri-insurance in Migori County.



CGC | Nairobi's Grants Officer Lilian Olick, conducting farmer's training on agri-insurance in Migori County



## EQUIPPING ENTREPRENEURS TO CONQUER ADVERSITY

*“Entrepreneurship is one of the harshest and loneliest roads an individual can travel on. The journey’s mental, physical and emotional toll is real.” - Conor Mack, Rosc Global Partner, Columbia University Strategic Communications Masters Student.*

### Moderator:

*Conor J. Mack* - Partner at Rosc Global

### Panelists:

*Mike Baka* - Kinematics’ Chief Operating Officer;

*Susan Mueni* - Founder and C.E.O of SUED Kenya;

*Christopher Davis* - C.E.O Jars of Goodness;

*Hamish Dave* - Founder & C.E.O of Boda Coffee.

Research has shown that African businesses face many economic, social, and political challenges that prevent their advancement. Empowering African companies is at the core of the Nairobi Center programming through training,

virtual and in-person workshops, and seminars. In September 2021, the Center convened entrepreneurs from the US and Kenya to share their experiences in a conversation titled: *“Entrepreneurial Reality: Hardship and Conquering Adversity.”*

Guided by a panel of experienced and versatile entrepreneurs, the audience learned about challenges entrepreneurs face that are often unspoken about but can undermine business. These include time management, relationships, hurdles in conducting consumer education, limited support, and lack of mentors in entrepreneurship. Some entrepreneurs also have unrealistic expectations of their business, influenced by social media. The panelists agreed that entrepreneurs must build up mental fortitude by constantly celebrating small wins, undertaking self-care activities to avoid burnout, and networking with like-minded entrepreneurs.

*“Within their first year, five of seven businesses tend to fail.”*



# CREATIVE AND LIBERAL ARTS

## THE AFRICAN BOOK TALK SERIES



### Wendy Njoroge - CGC | Nairobi Virtual Book Series Partner

*"I am a book lover, Book Stan at Somanami, and Books & Wine events, Organizer. Reading, for me, is companionship."*

*I have had the pleasure of moderating some exciting conversations, such as the conversation with Irungu Houghton, Nadifa Mohamed, and Nanjala Nyabola. Specifically, the conversation with Nanjala shed light on the inherent power imbalance between developed and developing nations and the impact of unfair travel, migration, and mobility policies on individuals and communities.*

*With the containment of the COVID-19 pandemic and the slow return to safe gatherings, I am keen to see how this virtual platform could transition to an in-person or hybrid event and the kind of transformation it would catalyze."*

#### Moderator:

Wendy Njoroge - CGC | Nairobi Virtual Book Series Partner

#### Panelists:

Irungu Houghton - Executive Director – Amnesty International, Columnist, and Author, *Dialogue and Dissent: A Constitution in Search of a Country Kenya*;

Nadifa Mohamed - Author, *The Fortune Men*;

Nairobi has a very dynamic and vibrant art scene, especially in books and literature. An increase in the diversity of bookstores in the city and literary events such as book launches and

book festivals formed the backdrop for the Center's African Virtual Book Talk Series featuring African authors. On this platform, African writers engage a global audience, offering not just their work but exciting perspectives on how personal, political, and cultural experiences drive their storytelling. The chats' questions, comments, and commendations indicated how essential these conversations are. Some of the authors featured in the year's series included: Irungu Houghton, Nanjala Nyabola, Sunny Bindra, Nadifa Mohammed, and Sarika Bansal.



### Irungu Houghton - Author

#### "Dialogue and Dissent"

*A Constitution in Search of a Country Kenya by Irungu Houghton*

#### Irungu Houghton

*Dialogue and Dissent: A Constitution in Search of a Country Kenya* by Irungu Houghton highlights the power of activism, constitutionalism, and people's passion for changing society. While on his authorship journey, Irungu stated that he wondered whether activism was about opposing or creating something. The former Secretary General of Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentist Union (KMPDU), who is also profiled in his book, Dr. Ouma Oluga's statement - *"Dissent when the doors are closed to you, but when they are open, walk in and start making*

*your propositions; speak truth to power,"* inspired Irungu's choice for the title of the book.

Irungu has been in rights-based advocacy for over 30 years. During his feature in the African Book Talk Series, Irungu mentioned that his book profiles 9 advocates and defenders of the Constitution that Kenyans can look to for inspiration, including his work with Wangari Maathai. He revealed that he wrote the book's second chapter while visiting Columbia Law School.

*"Think of a society with inclusive cities, so our children grow up with the children of the people we buy our vegetables from. A society with universal primary education and universal public healthcare. This is a society that is safe from crime and social evils."*





Irungu Houghton at a Book Talk event on “Dialogue and Dissent.”



Irungu Houghton at a book signing event in Nairobi, Kenya.

#### A CONVERSATION WITH IRUNGU HOUGHTON

What inspired him to get involved in advocacy: “As a teenager, I watched a woman being attacked in broad daylight while no one, including myself, took action to protect her. I felt and still feel a sense of shame that we did nothing. I resolved that I would never stand aside while others’ rights were being violated. I have been relatively consistent with this commitment.”

On who inspires him and why: “Kenyan photographer Boniface Mwangi for his creativity and courage; Wildlife warrior Paula Kahumbu for her ability to enroll and inspire millions to take wildlife conservation; Javan the Poet for his activism and call for citizens to stand and act up; Dr. Oluga Ouma, Nairobi Metropolitan Services Health Director and former health union trade unionist, for rapidly building an infrastructure of health facilities during a pandemic; Aileen Wanjiku, for turning a loose coalition of human rights organizations into the Missing Voices Consortium, and colleagues at Amnesty International Kenya.”

The most significant challenge he has faced as the Executive Director of Amnesty International Kenya: “The unlawful use of state force, impunity, extreme inequalities, and corruption are Kenya’s greatest challenges. Our ability to be effective and transformative has also suffered from the perception that human rights organizations must instinctively be anti-state and that policy dialogue with state officers is a betrayal.”

On advocacy in Kenya: “The Kenyan Constitution protects and even requires citizens and state officers to uphold the

rule of law, actively protect the vulnerable and expand the democratic space for all Kenyans to express themselves and actively participate in public affairs freely. I am alive to the power of citizens. Civic groups and state officers have defended Kenyans from the cruelty of forced evictions, secured prosecutions of police officers, expanded funding for COVID-19 vaccines, stopped harmful amendments to the Constitution, and introduced progressive laws like the Data Protection Act (2019). I hope these leaders continue to pull for a country that Kenyans can be proud of and feel safe in.”

What motivated him to write Dialogue and Dissent: A Constitution in Search of a Country Kenya: “Back in 2016, when I started writing, activists and activism were either derogatory or controversial words for most Kenyans. I sought to explore the hypothesis that all progressive laws and societies are the consequences of courageous and active citizens. The book is a historical account of how Kenya ended up with one of the most progressive constitutions in the world and what happened next. Further, the lives and choices of nine Kenyan men and women also dominate the book and inspire most readers.”

On his experience at Columbia University’s School of Law: “I loved the month I spent at Columbia School of Law in 2015. It had been 25 years since I had been in a university library, and while I still had some skills in the way of index cards, Lexus Nexus took a couple of days before I mastered it. This and long walks in Morningside Park, working through the book in my head are my fondest memories”.



#### Nadifa Mohamed - Author

“The Fortune Men” by Nadifa Mohamed

Nadifa Mohamed, a Somali-British author, joined the ongoing Africa Book Talk Series in the reporting annual year of 2021 - 2022. Her work appears regularly in The Guardian and the BBC. She is the celebrated author of “Black Mamba Boy” and “The Orchard of Lost Souls” as well as the Booker Prize-shortlisted novel, “The Fortune Men.”

For her debut session, Nadifa discussed her non-fiction book, The Fortune Men based on the life events of Mahmood Mattan - a young Somali sailor wrongfully accused of the brutal murder of Violet Volacki, a shopkeeper from Tiger Bay in Cardiff. Mahmood Mattan believed he could ignore the accusing fingers though he realized his hope of freedom was dwindling as his trial drew near. The shoddy investigation, racism, and inhumane legal system marred his trial. **He was a gambler and petty thief but not a murderer. Nevertheless, he was convicted and executed in 1952.**

Nadifa worked on the book for about 17 years. When she saw the story in the British press, it drew her interest after

discovering that her father knew Mahmood. In this book, Nadifa does not sugarcoat Mahmood’s character and is honest. She does not paint him with too much tragedy or innocence but respects his character as a flawed human, as she shows his life before his marriage and how he unraveled after it ended. There are terrific moments in Cardiff prison and some not so.

The book shows how Mahmood pushed the boundaries of what he could be by marrying a Welsh woman and living outside the Somali community. He also left his sailing career to do other jobs in Cardiff. Essentially, he did not want to be shut in by racism.

During the conversation, Nadifa confessed she felt the same way as Mahmood. She added that it is a fruitful and fertile place to be as a writer as it allows her to look from the outside in and see things correctly, which would not be the case if she was ‘confined’ and failed to push her boundaries. She dwelled on the trauma that follows families of such victims’ generations as it has Mahmood’s family.



# ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ALUMNI



## COLUMBIA'S STUDENT FOOTPRINT ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

The African Development Group - Columbia (ADG) is a student-led initiative based at Columbia University whose goal is to reverse the brain drain from Africa by promoting a deeper engagement with the African Diaspora through research and forums. This group of students works with students in Columbia to foster and build relationships with African institutions and professionals to address the continent's challenges. The Nairobi Center sought to enhance these students' preparedness by connecting them with like-minded Columbia Alumni pursuing similar goals.

In a virtual series of topical discussions researched and identified by ADG students, the Nairobi Center helped curate the Columbia on the Continent: Alums in Action series. The first session had a panel comprising Lamia Bazir - from Morocco - a Columbia SIPA alum, Wanja Michuki - from Kenya - a Columbia Business School alum, and Yem Edozie - from Nigeria - Columbia GSAPP alum. The ADG students got insights into what influenced these past students' choices of study, how they built their support systems at Columbia, the challenges they faced in the workforce upon returning home, and how they navigated these challenges.



Highlights of the discussion revealed that for the three Alumni, the continent's poor state highly influenced their course choices. Getting the opportunity to study at Columbia instilled confidence and helped prepare them to initiate and affect positive change. The alums have also had their fair share of challenges. Lamia shared that Africa's value systems and ways of thinking invite great resistance and risks; Wanja informed the audience of avenues with the highest potential to instill change, such as governments, 'are pretty intense to work for'; Yem stated that doing business in Africa is hard mainly because policymakers' interests vary from the development interests of the African people. Nevertheless, these challenges have not deterred them from pursuing positive change. Each overcame them and created companies and projects, demonstrating that Columbia's skill set, training, experience, and exposure can bring change to Africa.

While such platforms offer students the richest firsthand experiences, the desire for a connection back home is vital, as studying abroad requires temporarily being separated from their family, friends, and culture. It is for such moments that the Global Centers were created.

The Nairobi Center organized the Reconnecting: Music, Art, and Trends in Africa Series, enabling the students to unwind and feel at home as they get a chance to engage with various African artists. Anto Neo Soul, a Kenyan artiste, commenced the series and performed the students' favorite song, Closer. He let the students and parents in attendance understand the ripple effect of investing in music, which begins when society lets go of rooted negative perspectives of music and purposefully chooses to create the right ecosystem. Investment in music raises sound engineers, photographers, publishers, managers, and accountants for the industry. Anto believes that people, especially those in power, must ask the right questions, be intentional, and be dedicated to researching music and art.





## ALUM EXPERIENCES

## WANJA MICHUKI

Columbia Business School, Class of 2002



*"My fondest memory about going to Columbia is of the friends I made at the Business School in my year and the strong bonds we formed. I loved it when we converged in the library to do our assignments and case studies. We had lots of fun and learned much from each other. As a result, I birthed the business plan for my company, Highland Tea Company LLC, at CBS and came third place in the Global Social Ventures Competition in 2003.*

*That experience is something I will never forget."*

*"All my courses were valuable. For example, in Operations Management, I got to understand production processes. Development Finance taught me how to analyze events of economic and financial significance at the national level, while Corporate Finance taught me how to value firms and the importance of cash flow. I remember taking a leadership course based on Shakespearean literature. It was fantastic! I also really liked Sheena Iyengar's Decision-Making class."*

On the advice she would give to African students leaving to study in the U.S., she reminded them that living abroad "requires a different set of skills to living in Nairobi. The culture is different, and there is much exposure. So, when one returns home after working abroad, they see things differently, and that is a great perspective to have to effect change."

She said connecting prospective, current, and past students online is helpful for

African students. It allows them to reach out to people at home and see what programs the Center supports, some of which might be valuable opportunities," she added.

She also spoke about her experience running a family enterprise. She noted that the sector is unique and complex, nurturing both interpersonal family dynamics on the one hand and business growth on the other. Her company - Be Bold Consulting & Advisory Ltd., supports such family businesses. The company offers coaching, healing, systemic constellation, family business, wealth advisory, and other services to help co-create succession plans and governance structures for multi-generational legacy development.

*"I am passionate about this because my family and many others in Kenya have not had smooth succession transitions. I want to help other families avoid the potential tragedy of losing family unity and capital."*

was another highlight of her time in Columbia. Held every spring, it was a fantastic experience. The forum was eye-opening to all opportunities available to drive meaningful and sustainable change in Africa. It was also an excellent opportunity to network and forge strong connections with like-minded changemakers.

*"Upon graduation, most African graduates prefer to stay in the US due to the lure of good jobs and pay. However, a Columbia education is a great*

*investment. There are many strategic ways alums can contribute to the growth and prosperity of the continent. They include; building strategic partnerships between the companies they work for in the US or organizations within their home countries, negotiating for jobs while in the US that pays them in dollars before moving back home,"* she adds. As a health champion, she is alive to the grave challenges of delivering quality healthcare in Africa because of rampant corruption and

resistance to change. Nonetheless, she says, *"being a part of success stories around empowering nurses to provide better patient-centered care or breaking down the hierarchy between doctors and nurses to improve service delivery has been very fulfilling."*

Anuli believes leadership and governance will be critical to attaining global health standards and improving African mortality rates. *"Leadership underpins*

*every aspect of healthcare yet is often ignored. African healthcare providers and leaders must be equipped with the tools required to address some of the system's most pressing problems, including the brain drain, scarce and mismanaged economic resources, and demoralized staff, to name a few. While the challenges are many, we can certainly overcome them with the right leadership."* She concludes.

*"My fondest memory at Columbia was when I served as President of SPAN (SIPA Pan African Network). The role gave me an opportunity to showcase the best of African culture by connecting those in the diaspora with our counterparts on the continent."*

## BENJAMIN MUMASI

Senior, Columbia Business School, Class of 2022



For Benjamin, the most exciting feature of Columbia has to be "its core curriculum, where students at the college get to read and discuss masterpieces of western and global literature, philosophy, art, and music." I believe this made me a well-rounded student able to engage in conversation with almost anyone." In addition, Columbia's location in the heart of New York City "puts the city on our palms, and New York has a lot to offer."

He has fond memories of his time as a first-year student and being part of the African Students Association (ASA), where he participated in different activities with fellow Africans, such as the African Thanksgiving.

"I was able to grow out of my shell and host those events. As a second-year student, I helped organize and host a political roundtable with two notable journalists, Larry Madowo and Eromo Egbejule."

On his membership to ADG, where he currently serves as the Treasurer, Benjamin says he connects with various African alums, doing great work and helping organize some ADG events. However, his most significant takeaway from the webinar hosted by the Center was the importance of being authentic and embracing his African roots – including his Rastas, cultures, and music was that he should always be proud of his heritage and embrace it.

On how he copes with being away from home while studying in the U.S., he says that being a member of ASA and ADG has been very helpful since he is with like-minded people. "I have made many friends through them." In addition, he tries to schedule regular calls with friends and family back home to keep connections going. "I also love to explore New York as Columbia provides us access to the best the city has to offer, including a wide array of museums."

He says that the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi can support students studying away from home "through the regular events in partnership with African student groups on campus and providing us with space as was done during the pandemic so that we feel part of the Center as well."

*"From the webinar my biggest takeaway was the need to be authentic and also to embrace my African roots – including my Rastas, different African cultures and music. I learned that I should always be proud of my heritage and embrace it."*

## ANULI ISICHEI

School of International and Public Affairs, Class of 2016



*"When I got into Columbia, it was a fish out of water experience. Coming from a clinical background, I had to learn fast. However, immersed in a multicultural environment and listening to debates with classmates, I soon found my place in the SIPA ecosystem. My fondest memory was serving as President of SPAN (SIPA Pan African Network). The role allowed me to showcase the best of African culture by connecting those in the diaspora with our counterparts on the continent,"* she says.

Anuli says the African Economic Forum



**BIENVENU DIDACE IRAFASHA**

Columbia School of International Public Affairs – Class of 2022



For Bienvenu, the experiences both inside and outside campus have been rewarding. Given his interest in global affairs and development policy, Columbia provided him with a direct line to the work of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations through faculty members, campus events, and various opportunities in New York City. “I have also learned a lot from interacting with my peers who are themselves experts in the making in their respective fields.”

Many of his precious moments are of the interactions with other African students in the ADG and other spaces on campus, where they would engage in critical

conversations about the African continent or talk about life and share a laugh. “I also must mention the late-night meals with friends at dining halls, fun activities in downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn, and lazy weekends with my roommates watching sports or playing video games.”

On the value of ADG membership to students, he says that the ADG offers a community to make friends and build a support system here on campus. “This platform helped contextualize my education and experiences at Columbia and kindle my passion for making a difference back home.” Having served in various leadership positions at the ADG, including as President, he says he came to embrace ADG’s pillars of research, initiative, and service as values in his academic and personal life. Being part of ADG “instilled in me the hunger to know more, the courage to strive to make a difference, and the heart to serve the community around me.”

On the Alumni in Action webinar series, he says he found it extremely helpful to hear from Alumni who had made successful transitions back to the African continent. “My biggest takeaway is that it is crucial to prepare to return home.” This realization motivates him to stay abreast

with what is happening in his field, network, and meet various people who could help him back home”. In addition, he notes that it is inspiring to witness how alums who faced similar hurdles, such as cultural and systematic shocks, overcame them and set themselves up for success.

He intends to return home after his studies and become one of Africa’s leading economic and development policy voices. “I believe there is a revolution on the continent in international trade and development strategies, and I want to be part of it.”

He says Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi can be of value to students transitioning back to Africa by collaborating closely with the African student organizations on campus. The collaboration will help students connect with the resources on the continent and allow them to contribute. “I would like to see the Center continuing to be a bridge between students on campus and other young people on the continent to open channels for more discourses and partnerships,” he concludes.

“ADG helped contextualize my education and experiences at Columbia and kindle my passion for making a difference back home.”

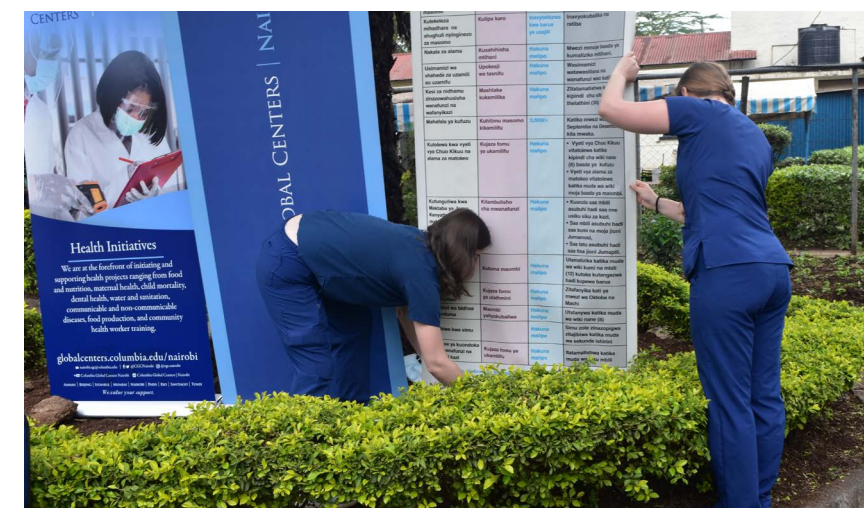




# COLUMBIA NURSING FIRST GLOBAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



Columbia Nursing Students with the University of Nairobi lead team and Dr. Natalie Voight - third from right at UoN - School of Nursing



country's oldest and second-largest hospital in East Africa - Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH).

Dr. Natalie Voigt accompanied four Columbia Master's students in the program whom Dr. Lucy Kivuti - Bitok from the School of Nursing - Nairobi supervised.

The Center caught up with Dr. Natalie Voigt, Dr. Bitok, and the students to learn more about why Columbia Nursing chose Nairobi, the students' experiences, the lessons learned, and the program's plans.

Columbia Nursing School launched the Global Practicum Program in Nairobi, Kenya, to expand the clinical nursing apprenticeship to other regions around the globe. The practicum enables Columbia nursing students to learn more about real-world experiences and scenarios that prepare them to provide an accurate and independent diagnosis.

The school partnered with the Center and the University of Nairobi's School of Nursing to conduct the practicum at the



Columbia Nursing partnership meeting (Representatives Yu-Hui Ferng (Standing), Jennifer Dorhn (far left), Natalie Voight (first from right) with UoN School of Nursing team in Nairobi Kenya





**DR. NATALIE VOIGHT, Ph.D., MPhil, MSN, RN**  
Assistant Professor of Nursing Columbia University



“Nairobi is an extraordinary place, which is why Columbia Nursing chose the University of Nairobi as one of its new clinical sites.”

She added that the students undertaking the Global Practicum Program are graduate students in a 15-month accelerated program and get the opportunity to travel abroad for their final year.

“They have had a profound immersive experience, and most importantly, they have garnered lessons they are taking back to the U.S. to infuse into their future practice.”

## STUDENT EXPERIENCES

### TEFERI TADESSE



“I enrolled for the Global Practicum in Nairobi because it was the first time Columbia worked with the University of Nairobi. I chose this global site because I wanted to be in an urban African city. As a child of African descent, I am interested in seeing the trajectory of the development of African cities. Nairobi is

one of the cities that has given me this experience.

At KNH, I have been mainly working in the emergency unit. My best memory was when I calmed a 13-year-old boy, with severe burns from grabbing an electric fence, while giving him the utmost care.”

**DR. LUCY BITOK, Ph.D. MPH BSc**  
Nursing Senior Lecturer School of Nursing Sciences Kenyatta National Hospital



“The time the Columbia Nursing Students have spent here has been spectacular.”

It has allowed us to interact with them and to wonder: how are they trained? Do we measure up in terms of the quality of training? What can we learn from them?

All in all, these experiences have been invaluable.”

### HINDIA OMAR-MILLER



“I have several good moments here in Nairobi, including eating at a Mexican restaurant - I did not expect that. I have appreciated that the Nairobi metropolis has a bustling population and an excellent national hospital. I came to gain experience in how different communities communicate health issues, and given that Nairobi has a large indigenous population, that enabled me to gain that experience.

At KNH, my most significant experience was caring for a child abandoned on the pediatric surgical floor. The level of compassion I also witnessed of the mothers on that floor was sensational - as they came together to care for the child and took over the child's medical and bath schedule. That is the kind of experience I needed. In addition, I am also a child of an African immigrant, which influenced my decision to come to Kenya.”

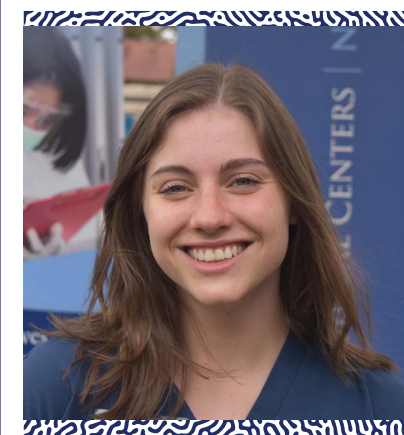
### KELLY GARBER



“I think it is vital for nurses to see how other cultures practice nursing and integrate the lessons learned into their home culture. This multicultural experience is why I came to Nairobi. I have enjoyed building rapport with my patients and their parents and seeing their transformation from arriving at the hospital to leaving.

One thing I will take back to New York from KNH is the nurses' creativity at the hospital, which is very admirable. It is something I would encourage the nurses in the U.S to do - whether it is using ingenious ways to create and use one's IV fluid to get the correct fluid mix or using a glove as a tourniquet to start an I.V. - there are so many different things I will be taking home.”

### JULIA KLEIN



“I first came to Kenya with my family when I was 13 years old, and this is when my long-life relationship with this country and its people began. So, I came back to experience it all again. However, this time it was completely different.

I worked at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and my most fulfilling moments were attending to every child and mother in that unit and knowing each case and those that needed to go to the theatre. I have also enjoyed shadowing the nurses. I am looking forward to taking back the skills I have developed in Kenya to New York, including the optimism, hope, perseverance, and camaraderie that I felt in the hospital.”



## SCALING UP INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY IN MARSABIT



*Dr. Richard Deckelbaum (5th from left) Professor of Nutrition, professor of Pediatrics, professor of Epidemiology - Columbia, Dr. Murugi Ndirang'u (6th from left) CGC | Nairobi Director and Acacia Leakey, Technical Initiatives Manager - TBI with farmers practicing hydroponic farming at Ileret, Marsabit.*

In collaboration with the Turkana Basin Institute (TBI), Ben Gurion University, and Columbia University's Institute of Human Nutrition, the Nairobi Center participated in a grant mapping exercise in the Ileret area, Marsabit County, in Northern Kenya. We visited this region intending to make a difference in human development, as the situation in Ileret is deplorable due to various geographical, economic, conflict, insecurity, and environmental factors that hinder progress.

TBI has been operational in the region for decades. Since 2018, the institution has experimented with utilizing hydroponic gardening techniques to supply the area with fresh, locally-produced fruits and vegetables. Other projects include an outreach program, which aims to give back to local communities by leveraging TBI's resources to provide education, health, and general outreach support. A vital component of this is support for the local health facility and a mobile clinic that allows health workers from the government and other agencies to access the most challenging and hard-to-reach parts of this remote area.

Leveraging on the presence of TBI in the area, the Nairobi Center, in collaboration with other partners, plans to expand the existing programs and introduce other innovative, evidence-based interventions that will address the current food security and nutritional gaps, among other challenges.





# LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022 – 2023 with the growth of partnerships, the Center intends to expand each of its programs for greater impact.

Some planned activities include expanding the Global Nursing Practicum, family business, and health programs. The Center will also launch new programs addressing food security program that aims to increase access to agri-insurance and urban development.

These activities will augment other initiatives under the President's Global Innovative Fund.





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