



**International Co-operative
Alliance – Africa**
A Region of the International
Co-operative Alliance

Loresho Mukabi Road, opposite Coopers Ltd; House No.17, P.O. Box 67595, Nairobi 00200, Kenya, Tel: +254 20 2323489
E-Mail: Info@icaafrica.coop Website: www.icaafrica.coop

ICA-Africa Regional Director's CoopsDay2021 Message.

Dear Cooperators,

Happy International Day of Cooperatives!!!

I take this opportunity to encourage the cooperators, partners and stakeholders that support the development of cooperative in Africa, to observe and join us in celebrating the 99th International Day of Cooperatives on 3rd July, 2021.

In line with this year's theme 'Rebuild better together', cooperatives should endeavor to be champions for a better world for all. We are positive that through cooperation and collaboration for both immediate responses and also for long term recovery, we will be able to achieve it.

For close now to two years, we have seen immensely the detriments of COVID-19. Some of such downfalls are very unpleasant – such as the disruption in the supply chains, logistics difficulties and the hardest of all being financial uncertainties. These effects are still unfolding and their uncertainty remains high. Yet, the impact on our societies, economies and ecosystems will surely be felt for years to come. Most of the African countries have now been hit with a dual challenge that of addressing the new risks posed by the pandemic and fighting the existing vulnerabilities, most of them exacerbated by the pandemic, all these with limited resources.

The cooperative business model has a distinctive link with formal and informal economy hence, the best model to consider when rebuilding back better. Given the challenges presented before us, together we can exploit the power of cooperatives to create change in the peoples' lives.

The pandemic has also presented us with an opportunity to rebuild better together; enabling the cooperative business model to become more resilient. Indeed, this has been a lesson to all of us who are reminded that cooperatives must be quick to adapt more to times of crises as

Our Vision:

Social transformation and sustained economic development.

Our Mission:

To be the African leader in promoting a dynamic and democratic Co-operative movement and to provide effective and efficient services through partnerships and collaboration.

before so as to remain resilient. Disruptive as it is, the crisis is also a chance to build back better together as societies and in a more innovative way so as to remain sustainable.

These existing opportunities to rebuild back should be seen as opportunities rather than weaknesses or threats. The cooperative business model has already proven that it is a form of economic structure that will build community assets and community members' wealth. We have shown our value in the areas of resource mobilization and concern for communities and therefore, we should be able to come up with frameworks that we are able to implement and also interests everyone regardless of their age or gender so that we rebuild better together.

With the level of community involvement and partnerships that we have witnessed in the last few months, it is a clear indication of a growing potential for cooperatives and their contributions as well. We believe that moving forward as a movement, we will be able to bring in greater economic inclusion, higher productivity, strengthen ties and become financially stable.

We applaud the significant contribution and positive impact that cooperatives in Africa region have had. Together, we wish the movement success as it continues to make the world a better place for all beings.

We, the cooperatives have a big role to play in rebuilding better together!

Many Thanks

Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa,
Regional Director

Our Vision:

Social transformation and sustained economic development.

Our Mission:

To be the African leader in promoting a dynamic and democratic Co-operative movement and to provide effective and efficient services through partnerships and collaboration.