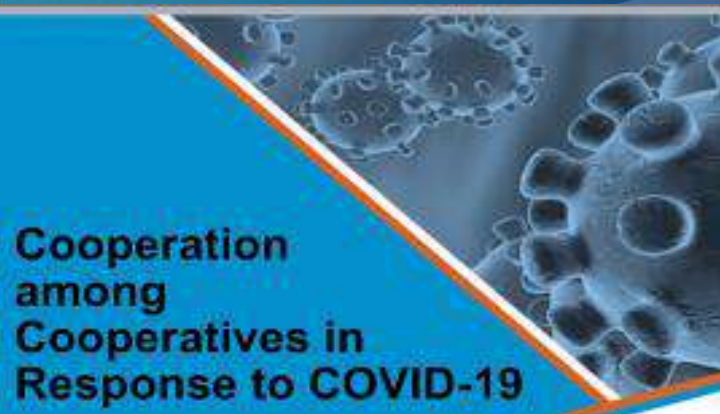




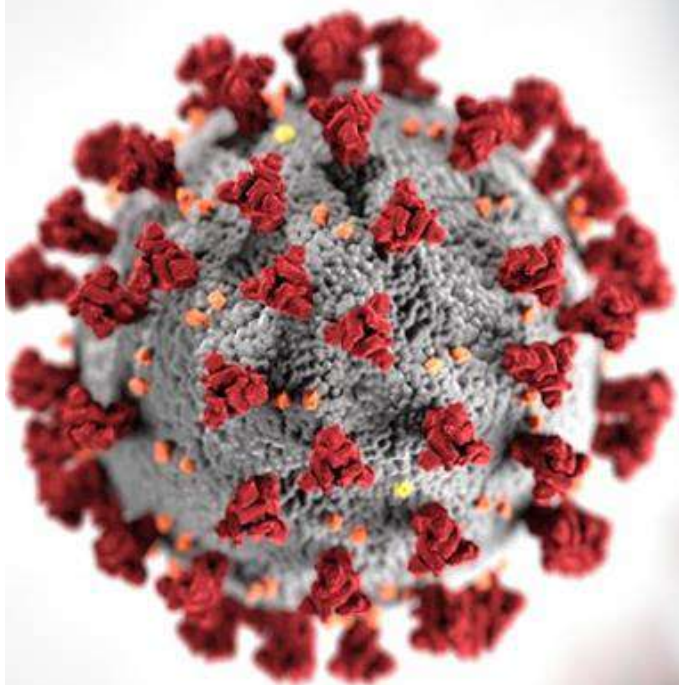
Health Co-op Impact



ICA-AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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



COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019



Following the recent outbreak of the [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#) worldwide, we would like to remind the cooperative movement in Africa of our cooperative values and principles and more so calling out for solidarity during these difficult moments.

As at April 6th 2020, Africa had registered 6,265 confirmed [cases](#) in 45 countries as report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The pandemic has already affected our way of life and work as the cooperative movement in Africa and globally as stated in the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) President's

[message](#). Economically, the COVID-19 has already created an economic and labour crisis from quantity of jobs, quality of work to effects on specific groups who are vulnerable to adverse labour market outcomes. The recent, [assessment](#) by the International Labour Organization on the impact of COVID-19 on the global world of work, states that the economic effects caused calls for an immediate and urgent measures for a decisive, coordinated and immediate response.

As we continue monitoring and following the updates, recommendations and guidelines on essential preparatory and prevention measures in response to the pandemic; let us all continue to follow and observe the [latest](#) advice, [protection tips](#) and recommendations from the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), our governments and local authorities in the countries that we operate in.

Your safety, as well as the safety of our cooperative members, is our highest priority. Let our actions demonstrate a firm commitment and bring us more closely in a united way in deploying appropriate resources to help maintain a healthy environment.

Together we can overcome the pan

ICA-Africa Board Member



Mr. Micah Reketai Duru is the Vice President of ICA-Africa and the President of Zimbabwe National Association of Housing Cooperatives (ZINAHCO), which is an apex organization comprising of 2,235 females and 2,777 males. He is also the Chairperson of the Mutare Secondary Housing Union. He is also the President of Zimbabwe National Cooperative Federation, comprising of different Apex bodies in Zimbabwe. He also sits on several other boards, like The Consumer Council of Zimbabwe at Provincial level, Government Sectorial Committee on Poverty Alleviation, Non Actors Forum as its Chairperson, Zimbabwe Housing Directors/Managers Forum, etc. During his tenure, he has managed to bring visibility to cooperative issues in Zimbabwe as well as advocating for a conducive framework to enable cooperative development to take place. He has been with ICA-Africa

for 7 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sport Management (Research) from ZOU and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Development and Gender Developmental Studies. He also has a Diploma in Education from Marymount Teachers College and several certificates. He is passionate about the poor and he hopes to see a Zimbabwe where everyone is afforded an opportunity to cooperatively develop themselves and their societies.

Mr. Duru takes this opportunity to thank all cooperators in ICA- Africa for supporting the movement and their resilience.

He is also vying for the ICA-Africa President position in the upcoming regional election.



Lawrence Bale the President of SADC Cooperative Federation in the region established the regional body for the purpose of co-ordination and interlink in the trade as business, enterprise and as cooperatives in our region. There is more to share, we play a major role in the continent and region through economic trade and mobilizing the members of cooperatives to work united and collectively. The role that we playing to support our government might not be acknowledged much, but it is major work to be appreciated.

In the continent, we have brought so many members. During my term as President, it was the first for the South African Cooperative to affiliate to ICA since 2011 in Mexico, Cancun (Moon Palace). Mr. Bale's work brought the globe to Africa for the first time since it was created in 1895 but we manage to bring ICA in Africa in this Continent 2013. The BRICS cooperatives leaders was hosted in 2013 and hold Africa America Cooperatives and our role can be summarize as Lobbying and Advocacy.

As a continental board member, many has changed through our influence and engaging. Moreover, it must felt through economic empowerment for cooperatives. We may have created or initiated a structural, coordination, talking and networking amongst cooperatives, but what is left is for us start economic activity in the region, that is how we live the legacy.

As we are going for ICA elections, I will really want to acknowledge the past leader Stanley Mochiri (May his soul rest in peace) he has played his role. Then we past the pattern to Mr Magomere Japhet; the wisdom operate, may God Bless him and give him more there is to live for. To the director of ICA, you have played your role. The programmes and initiatives that you are doing are felt and recognized. Please continue to do that.

To my subcommittee of Human Resource, I would like to appreciate you as we leave, we have worked and successful well together. We may have weaknesses but we played our role and we learnt from them. To the board members at large, although we have been disadvantaged by Covid 19 but today as we speak about

cooperatives and ICA. To all of us as we go for the ICA elections, I still stand and I still believe there is more to achieve with the energy I have.

I also want to acknowledge the SADC board members, in particular indicate the upcoming President Mike Duru and the secretary Motshwari Mashabane. All of us as board members we believe we can do more working more and services our members. We let our members see our relevancy, let them the reason why they should join us. It is our role to create the link and the training for the so they can do the work.

I hope you are still going to vote for Mr. Bale who has god wisdom and speaks his mind never the less. Let have peaceful election. Let us be united. Thank You!



Oriyomi AYEOLA is a Board Member at large of ICA-Africa from Nigeria. He is 52years old with twenty-six (26) years of Cooperative experience. He has had the privilege to preside over all the four tiers of Cooperative Administration in Nigeria (from Primary Societies, to Cooperative Union, to State Cooperative Federation and presently, Cooperative Federation of Nigeria, the umbrella body of all Cooperative organizations in Nigeria) with estimated members of over 40million Cooperators. He is a graduate of Economics Education and currently works with the Lagos State Civil Service as a Deputy Director of Education. He ventured into cooperatives in 1995 as co-founder of Alaro Standing Order Cooperative from a terminable contribution group to a formidable cooperative society. He also co-founded and served as pioneer President of Nigeria Union of Teachers(Epe), Cooperative Multipurpose Society Ltd.

After having served at the Multipurpose Cooperative Union level of the Lagos State Cooperative Movement, He was elected President of Lagos State Cooperative Federation (LASCOFED) in July, 2012 in a keenly contested election and re-elected unopposed in 2016 for another 4-year tenure. As President of LASCOFED, he contributed to the agriculture value chain with establishment of cooperative staple foods. He pioneered the establishment of cooperative insurance scheme to help mitigate the risks of Cooperative societies in Lagos State. His tenure as President of LASCOFED saw the Cooperative Movement witnessed improved communication with establishment of LASCOFED Connect in collaboration with a national mobile communication provider. He contributed to housing in Lagos State with drive for members to build cooperative sponsored houses and estates. This he also replicated with the building and commissioning of a gigantic office complex for the Lagos State Cooperative Federation. He contributed to the health sector in Lagos State with the introduction and execution of free health care for members and non-members.

While he served as LASCOFED President, he contested and won the position of President of Cooperative Federation of Nigeria in November, 2017. Since his Presidency of Cooperative Federation of Nigeria, the National Cooperative Movement has witnessed more visibility with the Cooperative being utilized for the ongoing National Social Housing programme, an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

He is a Member of Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT); Fellow, Institute of Professional Managers and Administrators of Nigeria; Patron, Association of Nigerian Authors (Lagos Chapter); Honorary Fellow, Institute of Cooperative Professionals of Nigeria (ICOPRON); Board Member, Prolific Microfinance Bank Ltd; Board Member, Cooperative Mortgage Bank Ltd; and

Aside his numerous contributions to the Cooperative Movement, he contributed positively to the lives of his kinsmen and his hometown, Epe. This earned him his Chieftaincy title as a High Chief with conferment on him as the Arobayo of Epe Land. He is widely travelled, an avid reader, an astute Leader and a Cooperator per excellence.

Mr. Chief Ayeola is vying for the ICA-Africa President position in the upcoming regional election.



Mr. George Magutu is a member at large of the ICA-Africa board. He is the Group National Chairman of the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Co-operatives (KUSCCO) and the Treasurer of New Fortis SACCO. He has served the movement for over 20 years in various capacities, where he has contributed to the growth and development of the financial services sector through various financial inclusion programs. Under his watch, KUSCCO has grown its business tenfold to include three (3) Subsidiary Companies, viz: Insurance Company; Housing Co-operative and ICT Cloud Computing Company for SACCOs. He is keen on development and mentorship program for leaders and has immense wealth of experience. He is also trained and certified in Corporate Governance and is a certified International Co-operative Development Educator Program (ICUDE). Moreover,

he has attended various international seminars and conferences on management and leadership in the USA, Canada, Australia, Scotland, Ireland and UK.

He continues to serve in the following Boards: ICA-Africa, WOCCU (World Council of Credit Unions), Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK), NEDAC (Network for Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia and Pacific), KUSCCO Limited, KUSCCO Mutual Assurance and New Fortis SACCO.

Mr. Magutu is vying for the ICA-Africa Vice-President position in the upcoming regional election.



Ms. Hilda Ojall is the President of International Cooperative Alliance – Africa Youth Network (ICA-Africa YN) and Vice-president of International Cooperative Alliance Youth Network (ICA-YN). She developed a great admiration and inspiration in working with youth and youth member owned institutions. Through her work with the youth, she has interacted with young men and women and had an opportunity to mentor youth in different sub regions of Africa. She is currently working with the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO) subsidiary company - Mutual Assurance. Hilda is a certified Credit Union Development Educator (ADE). She has completed the D.E program, and is an educator of Credit Union /Saccos addressing different issues across Africa that affect Cooperatives.

As the first ever elected President of ICA-Africa YN, Hilda has been instrumental in the formation of the Network's regional committee and increased the number of youth engagement and participation to the Network's activities hence increased cooperative visibility. During her tenure, Hilda has organized for a number of national, regional, and global platforms to promote financial literacy, climate action through the "Go green campaign" which brought over 20 African countries advocating and in solidarity with sustainable development goals(sdg) 13. In addition, she has actively championed youth innovation and entrepreneurship programs that is evident through the Global Youth Forum (GYF 20 and 21) that brought over 200 youth across the globe to learn, and share innovative ideas for the cooperative enterprises. Hilda has also spear-headed the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurship (GCE) pilot program as a mentor and has promoted business start-ups in the Africa region with the inclusion of young women and people who are differently abled within our communities. The GCE program has seen the creation of over 38 youth led start-up cooperatives in Uganda and Zimbabwe through the cooperative business model. It is important to note that through the replication fund, 3 youth cooperatives (Cameroon, South Africa and Zimbabwe) were able to win a total grant of 29,000 euros from the ICA youth network. She has also helped the ICA- Africa YN to get the affiliate member status with the African Youth Commission and ensured youth

engagement discussions with different stakeholders such as DGRV, Fairtrade Africa, Aflatoun International and International Trade Centre.

Hilda is vying for the ICA-Africa Women Representative position. She aspires to make gender equality a reality in all cooperatives and create forums for the discussion and exchange of experiences and ideas on issues related to gender equality, focusing on gender balance and mainstreaming. She intends to champion for the creation of women cooperative enterprises that will be scaled up across our region of Africa.



Violet Ntibane currently the Treasurer General of South African National Apex Cooperative (SANACO). She has served as the Provincial Secretary of SANACO and played a pivotal role to support and strengthen cooperative in Gauteng Province. She is a member of a primary cooperative that specialises in arts and craft that promote the African Culture.

Violet Ntibane launched the training centre, and has in the meantime formed a team of craftspeople who have each mastered their own craft. They include Louis Chamane, and Richard Ngojo.

Violet is a dressmaker and business woman, who has an avid interest in making anything and uses her craft skills to promote South African history and culture. She is a founding member of several craft centres in Boksburg and Vosloorus. Today, she is an experienced designer and dressmaker who delights in helping others to design and make their own, unique products.

Her work focuses largely on indigenous traditional products, making use of beads and a variety of textiles, including animal skins. Her work includes traditional Nguni and Sotho clothing, beadwork, African beaded dolls, cooking utensils and handcrafted African traditional cushions. Her versatility has also allowed her to develop a unique range of other products, including baby clothes and handbags.

Violet's knowledge and her desire to pass on her passion for the craft led her to open the training centre. She established NGOs in the Eastern Cape Province before she moved to Gauteng Province. Those NGOs continue to serve communities mainly the empowerment of the vulnerable and the marginalised.

The Regional Director's Review of 2020.



I can say that it was a tough year for both the ICA-Africa Regional Office and its members. Just like other parts of the world, the Covid-19 pandemic brought about the most severe economic downturn the region has experienced in many years. Not forgetting other calamities like the locust invasion in Eastern Africa, climate change that had led to severe floods and droughts.

Secondly, we thank all our members and partners for their responses and resilience during the hard times. We really congratulate our members who walked with us by honoring their obligation of paying their membership fee to the ICA and even went extra miles to support the less fortunate and governments in combating the Covid-19 crisis. These efforts

were in terms of providing care and support to people affected by Covid-19; mobilising resources to support their communities directly or joining hands together with their governments and partners in fighting the enemy. We share our message of love and hope to all our members and cooperators across the region especially the women, youth and children who are the most affected by the pandemic. Surprisingly, the effects of this pandemic are the ones spreading and biting harder than the virus itself. More people in the region have been exposed more to unemployment, limited access to medical services, hunger and the gender-based violence that has been on the rise in the recent days.

Nevertheless, we were able to achieve a number of activities and services to our members amidst the dramatic change to our way of life and more so on how we do businesses. Most of our engagements and activities to our members were shifted to online for business continuity and also keeping our members abreast on matters cooperative development. These engagements have also challenged us in the sense that we need to critically think about the other sectors of cooperatives in our region more so on health, consumer, worker and platform cooperatives.

Lastly, we appreciate your continued support and we remain committed to our mission of serving our members and cooperators in the region during this time and beyond.

"Most of our engagements and activities to our members were shifted to online for business continuity and also keeping our members abreast on matters cooperative development."

Welcoming New Members



The Cooperative Alliance of Kenya (CAK)

strengthens the cooperative Movement in Kenya by lobbying and advocating for favorable legal and policy environment. It forges a united front in enhancing collaboration, networking, representation and the promotion of the growth and development of the cooperative movement.



Kenya Cooperative Coffee Exporters Ltd (KCCE)

is a cooperative society formed to address various challenges that smallholder coffee farmers were experiencing after liberation related to production, quality, marketing and value addition of coffee. They are a licensed coffee marketing agent. Their main objectives are to promote, organise and undertaking marketing and value addition of coffee in the local and export markets.

They consistently establish linkages between smallholder Kenyan coffee producers and the world market through a shorter and transparent supply chain.



The Cooperative Bank of Oromia (Coopbank)

, from Ethiopia, rooted its foundation in communities to provide banking solutions that create a greater customer experience with emphasis to cooperatives and agro-based businesses.

February



Global Youth Forum 2020 on Cooperative Entrepreneurship.

Youth from Africa region joined their counterparts from other regions of the world for the Global Youth Forum 2020 (GYF20) that saw about 150 youth from around 50 different countries participating in the forum. The event took place from 3rd – 6th February, 2019 and brought together young entrepreneurs and professionals from all around the world in to offer quality training sessions to improve their skills and knowledge. Get more on the [GYF20](#) and the GYF20 resolution on "[Youth Agenda for Advocacy](#)".

April



ILO COOP 100 Webinar II - Advancing Gender Equality throw Cooperative.

Four cooperative practitioners reflected on the current situation of gender equality within the cooperative movement, the role cooperatives can play, and the challenges they face in advancing gender equality. Their presentations highlighted the implications of COVID-19 on women in cooperatives and emerging responses.

ICA-Africa Regional Director Dr. Sifa Chiyoge, presented on the current status of gender equality in

Africa in general and activities of women cooperatives and challenges they face in advancing gender equality, in particular. Key challenges she highlighted include women's limited access to land and other resources; gender barriers to leadership positions; and limited participation in the decision-making processes (often worsened by violence at and conditions of meetings). More about the [webinar](#).

CoopAcademy - Cooperative E-learning.



The Coop Academy is a new #coops4dev capacity-building initiative consisting of a series of knowledge-sharing webinars for International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) staff members from all regional offices and ICA members. The aim

was to help them acquire new skills and better promote the cooperative model. [Watch](#) the last training on 'Cooperative Branding and Identity. Let the world know who we are' that was led by Tom Ivey of [DotCoop](#).

May



Mapping the Cooperatives Responses to Covid-19

Here you will find information from International Cooperative Alliance members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and related news on the cooperative movement at large. [See the map.](#)

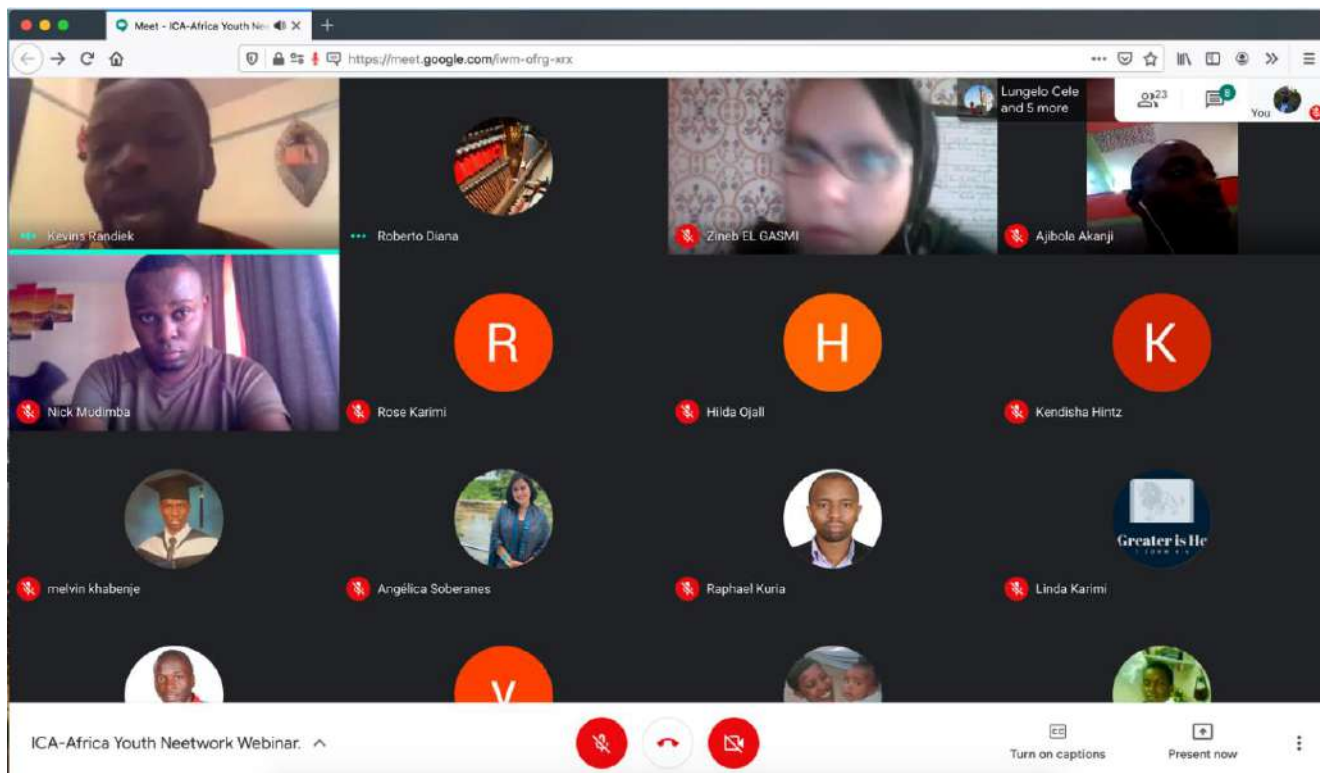
The collage consists of four screenshots from Zoom meetings. The top-left screenshot shows a grid of participants in a Zoom meeting. The top-right screenshot shows a presentation slide titled "Cooperation among Cooperatives: Crafting your Covid-19 Response" by NCCR National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda. The bottom-left screenshot shows a presentation slide titled "Cooperation among Cooperatives" by Julia Baumgartner, CDP Manager, dated May 21, 2020. The bottom-right screenshot shows a presentation slide titled "Cooperation among Cooperatives in Response to COVID-19" by USAID, dated May 21, 2020.

*Cooperation among Cooperatives:
Crafting your Covid-19 Response.*

We appreciate everyone who participated in the Cooperation among Cooperatives: Crafting your Covid-19 Response webinar that was held on 21st May 2020 with participants from ICA-Africa and US Overseas Cooperative Development Council (OCDC) members.

During the webinar, the ICA-Africa Regional Director, Dr. Chiyoge Sifa gave a message of hope to the participants. She highlighted that though the Covid-19 pandemic had shaken the

cooperative movement in Africa, it is still possible to grab the opportunity presented by the new environment so as not to undermine the economic and social fabric of the cooperative movement. Dr. Sifa urged the cooperative members to think of the vulnerable populations as there is need for more inclusion during such times as this. It will be important to refocus the policies and actions towards universal health, food security, decent housing among other priorities. Read more about the [webinar](#).



On 19th May 2020, the ICA-Africa Youth Network held a webinar on 'The Impact of Covid-19: Youth in Coops, African Economies and Post Covid-19'. The webinar saw the participation of participants of the Global Youth Forum 2020 (GYF20), the Global Cooperative Entrepreneurship (GCE) program mentors and ambassadors from the African region together with the ICA-Africa Youth Network.

Having discussions around how existing youth cooperatives are building resilience post covid-19 and their future. The youth also shared their various experiences from their countries from the five sub-regions (North, East, Central, South and

West). The webinar was also joined by youth from the other regions Europe, Asia and Pacific and Americas who saw the need to engage with their counterparts from Africa. From the engagements made, the participants agreed that now technology was going to play a critical role now and post covid-19 in most of their activities. There was also a mention on the cooperative legal frameworks. This was in the sense that covid-19 has created a huge barrier on trans-borders in Africa, with the lockdown and other measures, our cooperatives societies should be well organized so as to remain in businesses or even bid for services.

June

ICA-Africa Regional Webinar: Covid-19 Response and Resilience of Cooperatives in Africa.

Regional Webinar!

Covid-19 Response and Resilience of Cooperatives in Africa.

Monday, 22nd June, 2020
14:00 hrs (EAT)

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

Talk to your Board Members



Dr. Ariel Guarco
President,
International Cooperative Alliance.



Alhaji Oriyomi Ayeola
President,
Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (CFN).



Mr. Mike Duru
President: Zimbabwe National Association of Housing Cooperatives (ZINAHCO).



Mr. Japheth Magomere
President,
International Cooperative Alliance - Africa.



Ms. Hilda Ojall
Youth Representative
to the Regional Board.



Dr. Chiyoge Sifa
Regional Director
International Cooperative Alliance - Africa
Moderator



Ms. Topsy Ntseane
Gender Representative
to the Regional Board.



Mr. Lawrence Bale
President,
South African National Apex Cooperative (SANACO).



Mr. George Magutu
Chairman: Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperative (KUSCCO).

International Cooperative Alliance President Dr. Ariel Guarco joined ICA-Africa Regional board members and other cooperators in Africa to share information on how best cooperatives can continue to adapt and be resilient towards the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects. Here is the webinar [Recording](#).



ICA-Africa Statutory Meeting.

The Endowment Trust Fund trustee board members of ICA-Africa held their statutory virtual meeting on 29th June, 2020 to discuss the updates and welfare of the fund.

July



ICA President's Message for International Day of Cooperatives 2020.

As we all know, today the whole of humanity is in the midst of an awful pandemic, with a very high cost in lives and a historic global economic debacle. But let's look at the context: we are experiencing a health, social and economic crisis of extremely fragile conditions due to the prevailing social inequalities and the profound environmental imbalance that human actions have caused for several decades.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we have been warning that a linear mode of unhindered production and consumption will lead us to a point of no return in a mere decade. Since 1990, global carbon dioxide emissions have increased by 50 percent. Today, 800 million people are vulnerable to severe drought, toxic air pollutants, rising sea levels and frequent and powerful natural disasters.

I want to take advantage of this International Day of Cooperatives to emphasise Climate Action, an objective that calls on us to mobilise our communities to build a healthier, fairer and more united economy. On this planet, thousands

of examples show us that there are ways to develop sustainably.

On a global scale, the cooperative economy integrates more than one billion members and generates employment for 10% of the world's employed population. The turnover of the 300 largest cooperatives is equivalent to the Gross Domestic Product of the world's sixth economy.

Today, even under the most difficult circumstances, the cooperative movement is doing everything in its power to protect communities and help them overcome climate change. The defence of our planet goes hand in hand with our collective effort so that no one is left behind. The cooperatives are leading the way called to meet these urgent challenges.

Despite the uncertainty we are experiencing, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the work that cooperatives are doing all over the planet. Every effort counts. I ask you not to stop, to continue to work together with your community and to raise your voice loudly on this day. Tell the world that we can reverse the adverse effects of climate change if we build another economy together, based on cooperative values and principles.

There's still time! Let's act together now for the climate!

Sending you all my warmest regards and wishing you a Happy International Day of Cooperatives.

Ariel Guarco

President, International Cooperative Alliance

"But let's look at the context: we are experiencing a health, social and economic crisis of extremely fragile conditions due to the prevailing social inequalities and the profound environmental imbalance that human actions have caused for several decades."



ICA-Africa President's Message for International Day of Cooperatives 2020.

It is indeed grateful to see us again joining hands as cooperatives and other stakeholders in our region and globally in celebrating this year's International Cooperatives Day, focusing on '*Cooperatives for Climate Action*'. The theme was derived from Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 13-Climate Action, thus cooperatives contribution in combating climate change.

Let me assert that this year is very challenging, and it is probable that most of us are not congregating to mark this great occasion. Equally, in my home country, it will be a bit hard for us to do the usual either than to adhere to the government directives on Covid-19. However, this does not mean we should stop caring for our environment but later heighten our efforts as cooperatives to the call of protecting the planet.

We have all seen and witnessed what global warming has done to our mother Earth, with significant negative effects to human beings, animals and the plants. Sadly, as we move forward the situation is becoming worse and climate change now is a priority topic in global tables than before. The gradual heating of the Earth for instance, does not just lead to destruction of habitats but it has severe consequences that will continue to impact the rising levels of pollution, the increasing number of infectious diseases and loss of wildlife as well as plants.

According to a study done by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in their report of 2017- The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security; indicates that one of

the most direct ways in which natural disasters affect the sector is through reduced production. This results in direct economic loss to farmers, which can cascade along the entire value chain, affecting agricultural growth and rural livelihoods. On a global level, the economic loss associated with such disasters now averages between USD 250 billion to USD 300 billion every year. In developing countries, an average of 260 natural disasters occurred per year between 2005 and 2016, taking the lives of 54,000 people on average each year, affecting over 97 million others and costing an average of USD 27 billion in economic loss annually (EM-DAT CRED).

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about the most severe economic and social downturn. The spread of this virus is creating interdependence of people, livestock and wildlife, exposing the ecosystem clearer more than ever seen before. This challenge, compounded with the effects of climate change has rendered most countries exposed to even dire consequences of food insecurity. In addition, we cannot forget to mention the most recent floods in Eastern Africa and Southern Africa as well as the incident of the locusts' invasion in the Eastern Africa. The caller now is taller to us all as we reflect on this day.

As stated by the former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, while stressing on the importance of cooperation in tackling global warming, he highlighted that every coordinated effort, no matter how small, can contribute to and form a larger, more powerful response. Cooperatives are one of the most exciting and powerful vehicles through which our societies can confront such crises. We have long promoted inclusion and sustainable approaches to our social-economic development at all levels. This has seen cooperatives expanding their developmental efforts innovatively into areas like environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality as a way of adapting to climate change and also strengthening their resilience against its impacts. These are great efforts that have seen human beings live in harmony with nature as they carry on with their livelihood activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen: During this year's Desertification and Drought Day, ILO Cooperative Unit recognized cooperatives as an emerging critical economic actor in climate change adaption and mitigation from mutual insurance and renewable energy to forestry and waste management. This has been backed-up by a brief report on Transforming our world: A cooperative 2030 that was produced by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC). In the brief, COPAC hopes to raise awareness about the significant contributions of cooperative enterprises towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in a sustainable, inclusive and responsible way.

Fellow Cooperators: In our region of Africa, we have seen a number of efforts by cooperatives towards tackling climate change. As shared by our members; these are some of the initiative that we thought it is good to share with you; the **Kenya Savings and Credit Cooperatives Union (KUSCCO)**, through the Central Finance Fund partnered with the Nature Conservancy to increase tree planting and sustainable wood supply in Kenya through small holder forestry initiatives. In South Africa, **Food-Energy-Water Tertiary Cooperative** has been championing recycling of plastic, coffee grounds and water. The **Cooperative Federation of Nigeria** reported some cases of smart farming from its members, synchronization of fish pond and poultry, eco-friendly fish smoking machine; all these contributing to reduction of human activities on the environment destruction thus equally contributing to food security.

The **Central Association of Cooperative Union in Zimbabwe** introduced forest conservation practices, agroforestry and forest-based enterprises for diversification of rural incomes. In Uganda, the **Uganda Cooperative Alliance** has partnered with the National Forestry Authority for cooperatives to conserve the environment and also make forestry a business, partnered with VI

Agroforestry to help cooperatives, more so small-scale farmers to practice agroforestry, adopt soil and water conservation technologies and support them to adopt energy saving technologies. While in Ghana, the **Ghana Cooperative Agricultural Producers and Marketing Association (AGRIC COOP-GHANA)** are implementing a regional program (West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program - WAAPP) that aims at increasing farmer productivity level with different activities of mitigating the effects of climate change. Whereas, in Cameroon, **Coop-Cameroon** reported that they are using recycle organic fertilizer to boost the agricultural production and also promoting sustainable forest management with the fight against desertification and currently working on a project with an aim of planting 10, 000 trees per municipality.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I understand that there are so many other efforts by cooperatives in fighting climate change- and we would desire to have them all documented and share the same with our secretariat at Nairobi for recording and publicity. I also take this opportunity to invite you to participate in the ICA-Africa Youth Network Go Green Campaign initiative that is scheduled to take place from 8th – 14th July, 2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Lastly, as quoted during the Cooperative Conference in Rwanda in 2019, Dr Vandana Shiva boldly stated that 'this world is for all beings.' As an individual as a Cooperative organization, what action are you taking today that is positively contributing to keeping the environment safe?

Cooperatives for Climate Action! Together, let us create a more resilient future.

God bless you and stay safe!!!

Mr. Japheth A. Magomere
President, ICA-Africa

INTERACTIVE MAP: A JOURNEY TO ACTION

#Coops4ClimateAction



CoopsDay Interactive Map.

International Cooperative Alliance together with DotCoop have designed this year's campaign to engage and inspire cooperatives to take action against climate change. Many of you in the cooperative movement are already very active in this arena, and we applaud you. But as you are also aware, there is still much more to do. We invite you to visit our [website](#) to learn more about #Coops4ClimateAction.

Why add health cooperative benefits to your existing cooperative?

Advantages of building on an existing cooperative:

- Existing leadership structure
- Trust
- Existing communication network
- Existing financial processes
- Institutional knowledge of cooperatives

Benefits to members:

- Affordable, quality health care access
 - Members typically pay 8x less per year than non-members for health care (2814 KSH vs 340 KSH)
 - Reduced concern about catastrophic health care costs
- Health education
- Improved relationship with provider

Unmute Start Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Polling Pause/Stop Recording

Kenya: Health Cooperatives Stakeholders Meeting.

As a follow up to the 2019 conference that was held in Zimbabwe on 'Promotion of Good Health and Well Being in Africa through Cooperatives', ICA-Africa in partnership with its members and stakeholders embarked on stakeholders' meetings to explore the potential of health cooperatives in member countries in Africa.

The first stakeholder meeting was held for Kenyan cooperative movement. This was seen to be the best time in Kenya as the government is prioritizing health as a strategic sector in its national development agenda. Here please watch the meeting's [recording](#). ICA-Africa will extend the same activities to all the other sub-regions and member countries.



Live Webinar

Go Green Campaign 3.0

Youth Coops & Climate action.

 **SDG#13** **#coopyouth**

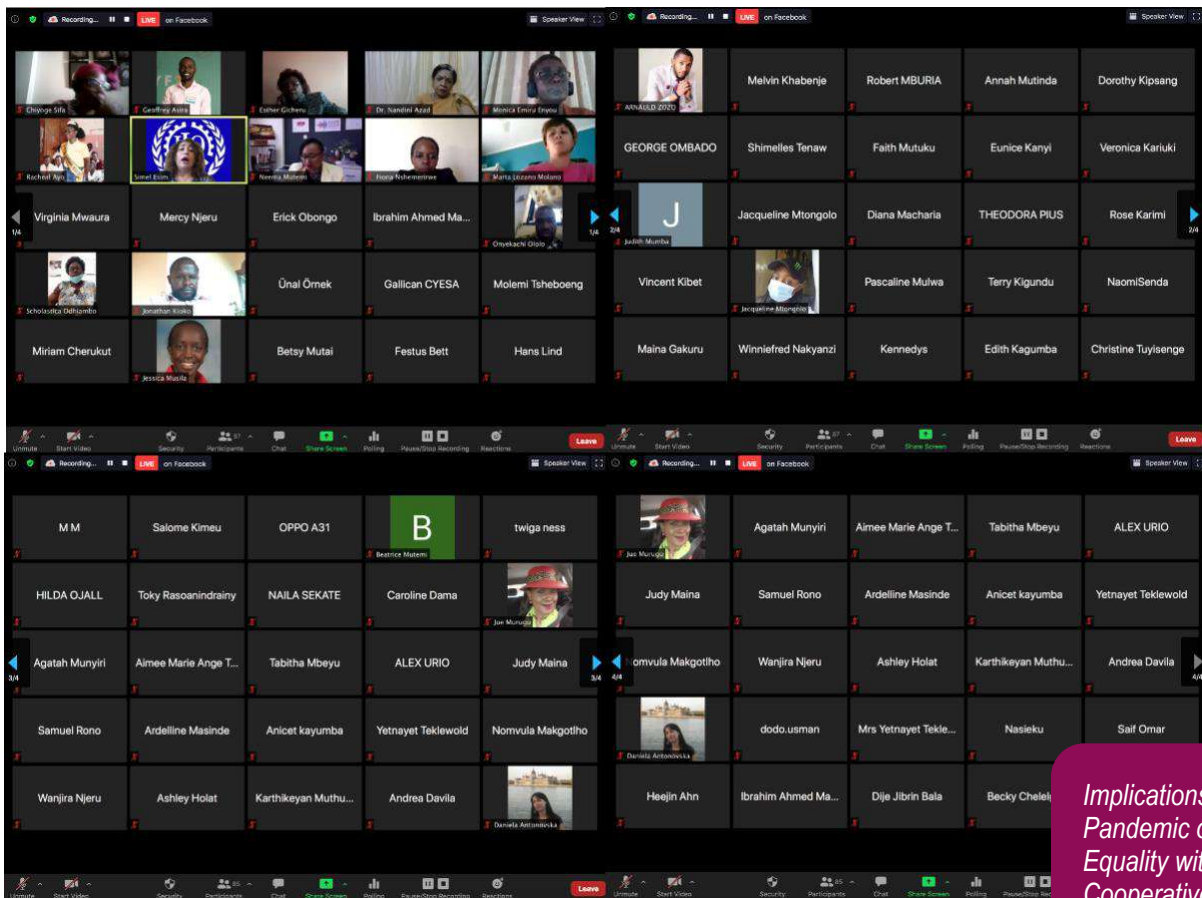
 International Co-operative Alliance – Africa
A Region of the International Co-operative Alliance
Youth Network

 International Co-operative Alliance
Asia and Pacific
Committee on Youth Co-operation

@14:00 hrs (EAT)
Wednesday 8 July, 2020

ICA-Africa Youth Network participated in the [Go Green Campaign 3.0](#), the “World Goes Green with Africa, America, Asia and Pacific”. This year's campaign brought on board the ICA-Africa Youth Network, ICA- Asia and Pacific Committee on Youth Cooperation (ICYC), Americas Youth Network (CRJ) and ICA Sectoral organization Cooperative Housing International (CHI). The Campaign was planned into three Regional Youth Weeks: the first from July 1 to 7, will be celebrated in the Asia-Pacific; the second from July 8 to 14, in Africa; and third from July 15 to 21, in the Americas.

The ICA-Africa Youth Network held a webinar ([Watch the recording](#)) so as to take through the participants on how to participate in the campaign. The campaign displayed the role of youth and cooperatives in portraying self-help and solidarity. [Watch here](#) how some youth took part. This campaign strives to promote the cooperative identity, involving youth in the ICA- Africa Youth Network activities, take environmental action and work on how to mitigate climate change - SDG13.



*Implications of Covid-19
Pandemic on Gender
Equality within the
Cooperative Movement.*

ICA-Africa co-organized for a gender webinar with We Effect East Africa. The webinar brought together government officials, cooperative leaders and other stakeholders to a forum to deliberate on how best cooperatives can mitigate the impact of Covid-19 pandemic through gender equality.

The webinar also highlighted different regional perspectives by the ICA-Africa gender committee and the We-effect on key cooperative sectors and practical cases. Find the [recording](#).



AAACO
Alliance Africa Agricultural
Co-operative Organisation
A Sector of the Alliance Africa

Live Webinar











Identified agricultural best practices to sustain livelihoods through Agricultural Cooperatives in Africa: Cases and lessons learnt during the Covid-19



31st July, 2020



14:00 hrs (EAT)





International Co-operative
Movement Africa
A Sector of the International
Co-operative Alliance

ICA-Africa through its agriculture sectoral organization Alliance Africa Agriculture Cooperative Organization 'AAACO' organized for a webinar to engage with its members and different actors around agriculture cooperatives, farmers, agriculture experts, inputs suppliers, technology suppliers and agricultural policy makers on the current identified practices and potential practices to look into in the future.

The participants were taken through some identified agricultural cooperatives best practices that have sustained livelihoods during the Covid-19 so as to share knowledge and encourage participants to leverage the positive change on Africa's agriculture. Here is the webinar [recordings](#).

August

Webinar

14 August, 2020
11:00 hrs (EAT)

Theme:
Youth Innovations For Sustainable Livelihoods In Africa: During & Post Covid-19.

Speakers:

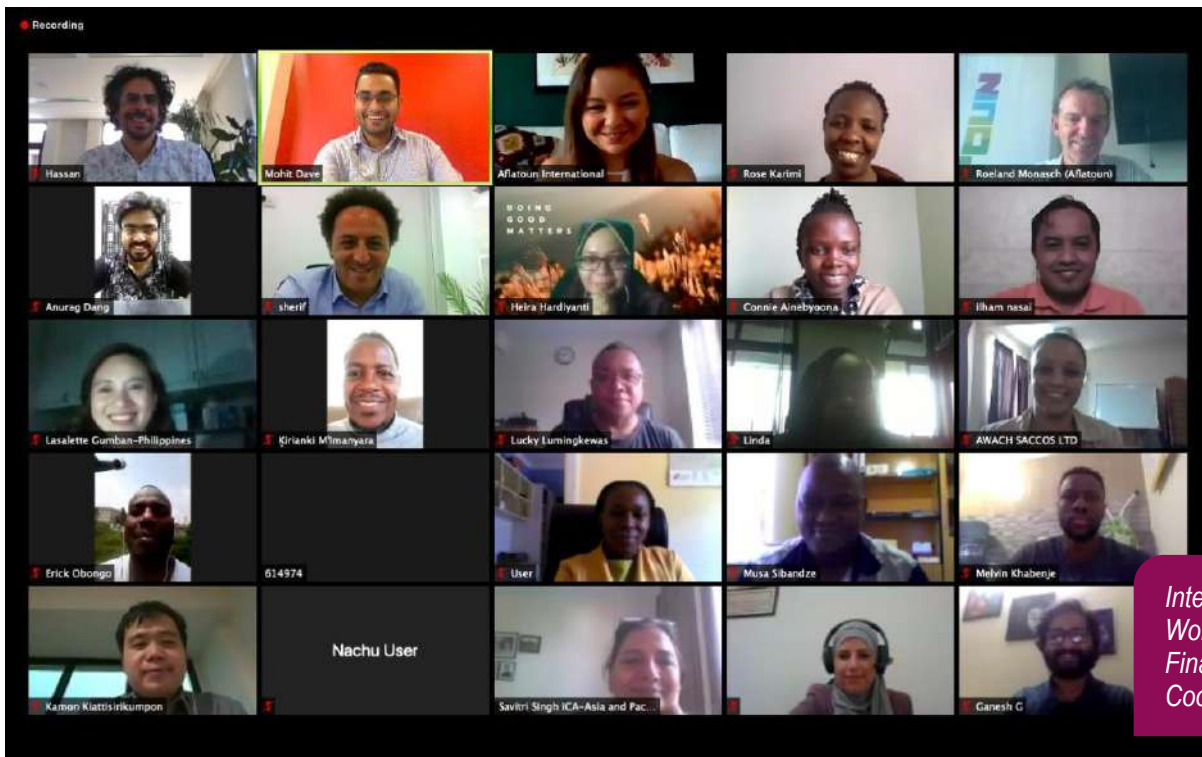
- Natalie Mukundane**
Executive Chairperson;
African Youth Commission
- Hilda Ojail**
President;
ICA-Africa Youth Network
- Brian Ntswinduka**
Managing Director;
Robran Holding Limited
- Abbas Ali Thabur**
Chairperson;
ICYC
- Alphaxard Gitau**
Partnerships Facilitator;
2SCALE
Moderator
- Judy Masiga**
Youth Program;
Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- Peter Elusa**
Community Facilitator;
WETPA
- Celina Butali**
Regional Gender, Children & Youth Advisor;
Vi Agroforestry
- Abisai Nandi**
Founder/CEO;
Chicken Basket Limited

Register here:
<https://bit.ly/3fFsWrP>

Logos: WE EFFECT, #coops4dev, coop, European Union, KUSCCO LTD., Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Vi Agroforestry, EAFF.

ICA-Africa in collaboration with We Effect East Africa, Vi Agroforestry, Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (KUSCCO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized a youth webinar on 14th August, 2020 to commemorate the International Youth day 2020.

The aim of the webinar was to emphasize the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship to enable the engagement of youth by making local, national and global institutions more inclusive, for the purpose of strengthening their capacity (and relevance) to achieve global action. In particular, the event sought to highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is developing sense for creativity, innovation and risk taking, the readiness to seize opportunities at work and daily life, and the ability to plan and manage projects. Find the [webinar's Recording](#).

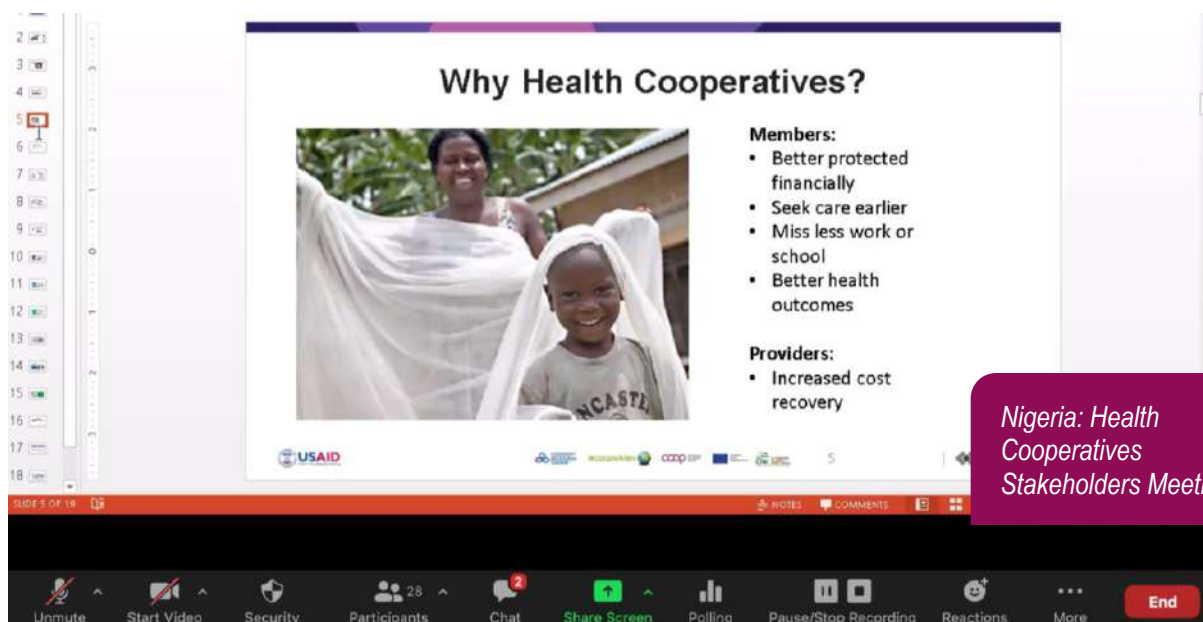


ICA-Africa, Aflatoun International and ICA Asia-Pacific (ICA-AP) in collaboration with the ICA-EU Partnership conducted an Inter-Regional online workshop on capacity building focusing on 'social and Financial Education for Cooperatives'.

This was a first activity undertaken jointly after ICA-Africa and ICA Asia-Pacific signed a

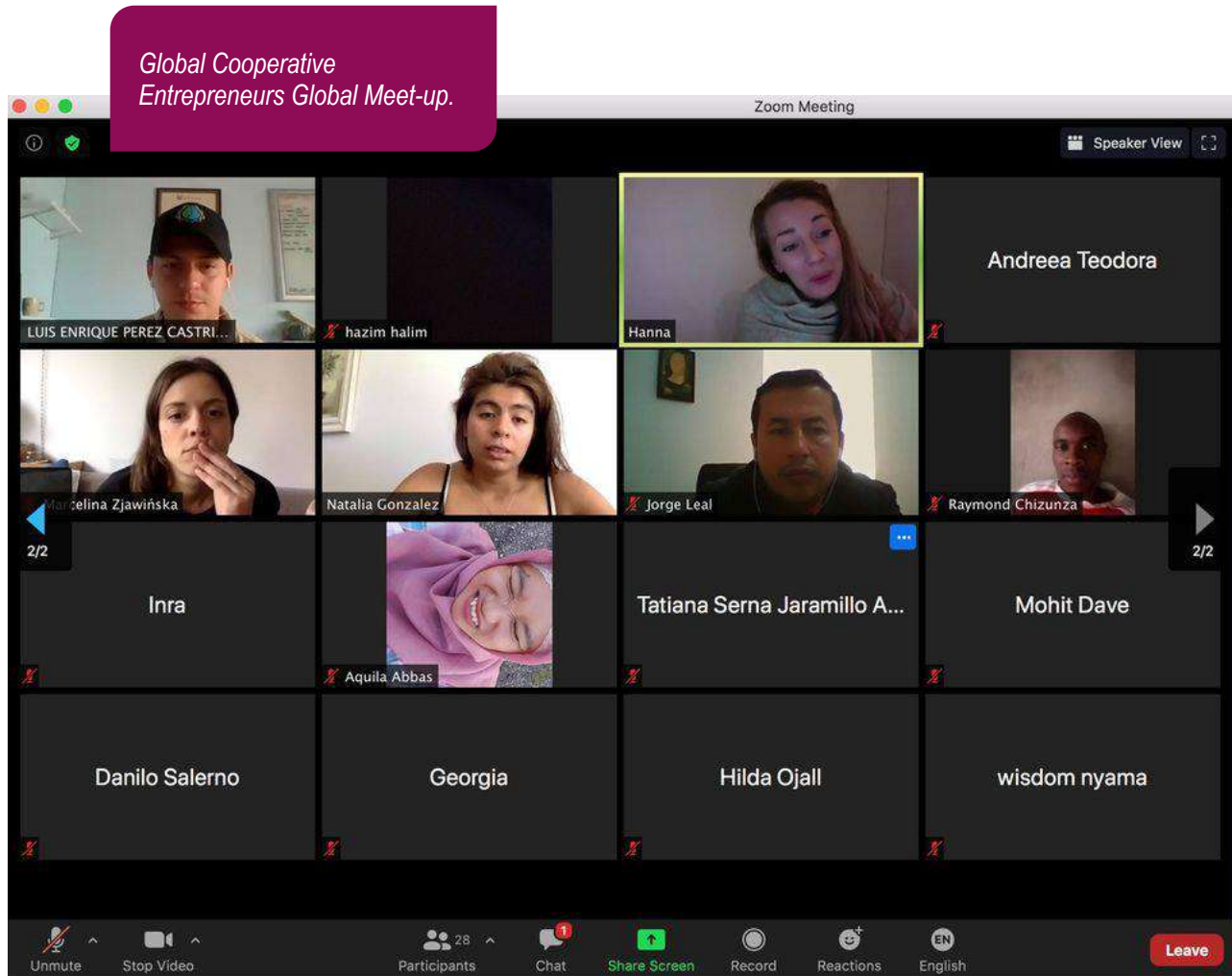
Memorandum of understanding with Aflatoun International to work together in empowering children and young people with social, financial, and entrepreneurial skills. Working towards the same values and principles, the organizations believe that the collaboration will increase the capacity of youth in cooperatives and promote social and financial education for young people. Workshop [Recordings here](#).

September



As a follow up to the 2019 conference that was held in Zimbabwe on 'Promotion of Good Health and Well Being in Africa through Cooperatives', ICA-Africa in partnership with its members and stakeholders embarked on stakeholders' meetings to explore the potential of health cooperatives in member countries in Africa.

This is the second stakeholder meeting that was held for Nigerian cooperative movement. This was seen to be the best time in Nigeria as the government is prioritizing health as a strategic sector in its national development agenda. Here please watch the meeting's [recording](#). ICA-Africa will extend the same activities to all the other sub-regions and member countries.



The Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE) Programme - ambassadors and mentors, participated in a global meet-up to exchange on their experiences and how they can carryout their activities as they adapt to the new normal presented by Covid-19.



Coopedia Knowledge Base launch.

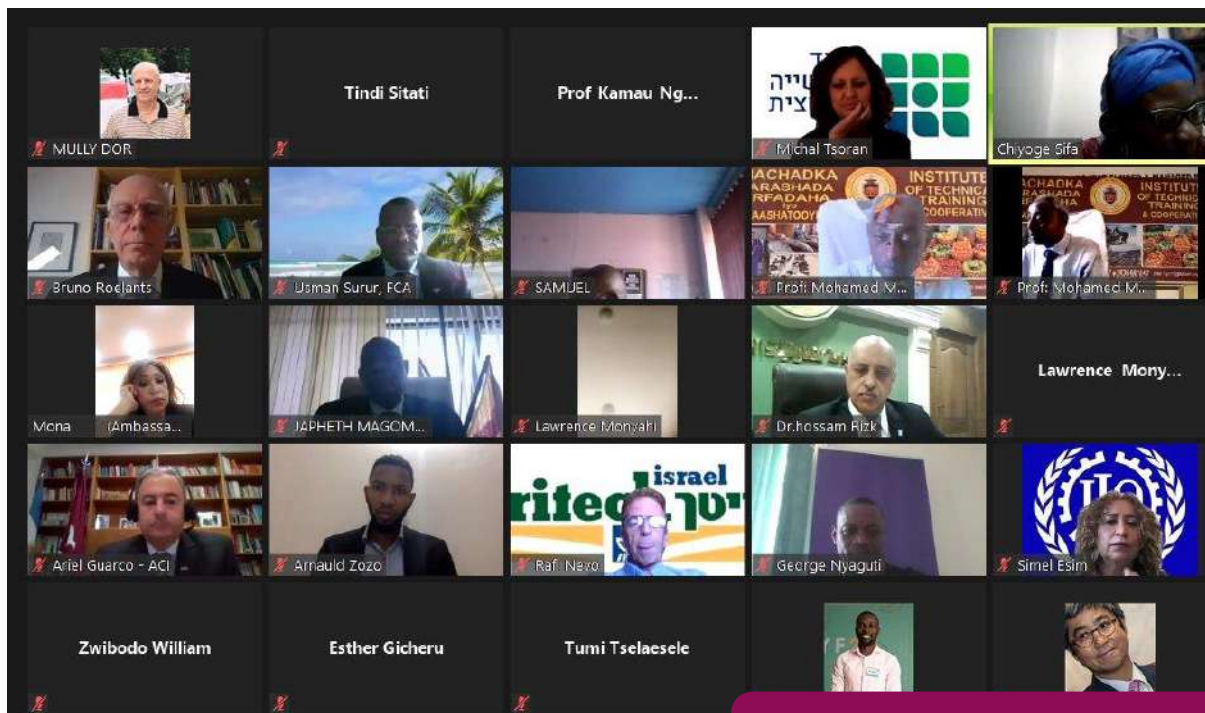
Coopedia Knowledge Base is a collaborative search engine listing resources (guides, videos, books, and much more) on cooperative entrepreneurship. It aims to give young entrepreneurs worldwide the support and tools they need to set up cooperative businesses, and to provide learning and introduction to students and actors interested in the cooperative



business model. It allows them to find various types of materials, in a variety of languages, based on their topics of interest.

Coopedia Knowledge Base is the first software of its kind specifically built by cooperators, for cooperators, worldwide. [Read more.](#)

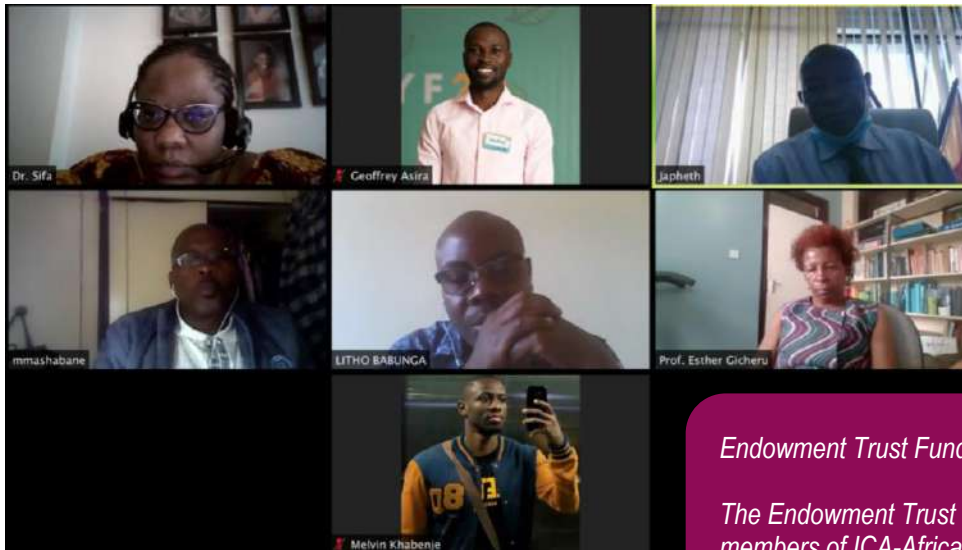
October



Fostering Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through Cooperatives.

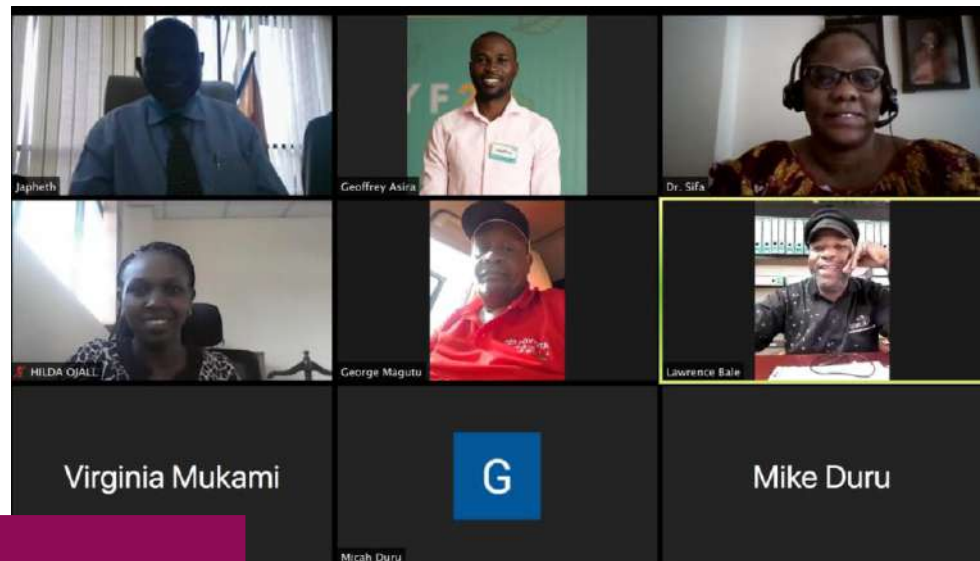
ICA-Africa held a Regional Conference webinar on 'Fostering Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through Cooperatives' on the 15th October, 2020.

The conference brought together government officials, cooperative leaders, partners and other stakeholders to deliberate on how best cooperatives could foster the implementation of the African Continental Free trade Area. Here is the [recording](#) of the conference.



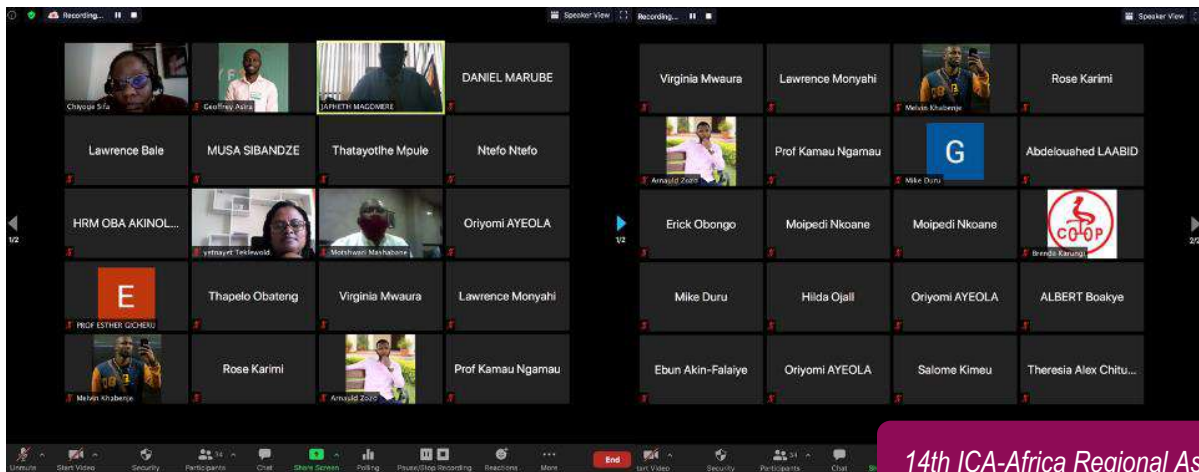
Endowment Trust Fund Trustee Board Meeting.

The Endowment Trust Fund trustee board members of ICA-Africa held a statutory virtual meeting on 14th October, 2020.



35th ICA-Africa Regional Board Meeting.

The ICA-Africa 35th Regional Board Meeting was held virtually on 14th October, 2020.



14th ICA-Africa Regional Assembly.

ICA-Africa held its 14th Regional Assembly virtually on the 16th October, 2020. ICA-Africa Regional Assembly is the highest decisional organ of ICA-Africa. It promotes collaboration among ICA full Members and Associate Members at the regional level once every two

years. This provides a forum for the members to deliberate on the presented agenda, share, exchange and build consensus on measures to be taken in the Africa region in regards to cooperative development.

Health Co-op Impact



Members:

- Better protected financially
- Adopt preventive behaviors
- Seek care earlier
- No selling of assets

Providers:

- Increased cost recovery

Health Cooperative Stakeholders Meeting – Zimbabwe.

As a follow up to the 2019 conference that was held in Zimbabwe on ‘Promotion of Good Health and Well Being in Africa through Cooperatives’, ICA-Africa in partnership with its members and stakeholders embarked on stakeholders’ meetings to explore the potential of health cooperatives in member countries in Africa.

This is the third stakeholder meeting that was held for Zimbabwe cooperatives. Watch the meeting’s recording [here](#). ICA-Africa will hold the next health stakeholders meeting in the North and Central Africa sub-regions.

November



The Legal Framework Analysis seeks to enhance the knowledge and evaluation of cooperative legislations in some African countries, with the aim to ensure that regulations acknowledge the specificities of the cooperative model and ensure a level playing field with other businesses.

This activity was important to enable us acquire general knowledge of the national legislation on cooperatives, including but not limited to the legislation in force in ICA member states, as well as of supranational cooperation legislation if existent; evaluate the national jurisdictions covered by the LFA according to their enabling environment for cooperatives, in order to compare national cooperative laws with the indicators found in the questionnaire, based on a scale of “cooperative friendliness” of the national legislation and provide

recommendations for improvement of the legal frameworks in place.

Cooperatives benefit from regulations acknowledging their specificities and ensuring a level playing field with other types of business organizations. The absence of a specific legal framework for cooperatives or a weak legal framework may damage cooperatives, while in contrast a supportive regulation may allow their development. This is the reason why knowledge and evaluation of cooperative legislation is a necessary tool for ICA offices and members to support their advocacy and recommendations on the creation or improvement of legal frameworks, to document the implementation of cooperative legislation and policies, and to monitor their evolution. You can access all the [LFA reports](#) from the 13 countries.



ENOFOCC
Enhancing Organic
Food Cropping
Cooperative

ICA Youth Network: #Coopyouth
Replication Project.

Cameroon · Camerún · Cameroun · Cameroon · Camerún · Cameroun

#coopyouth Replication Project

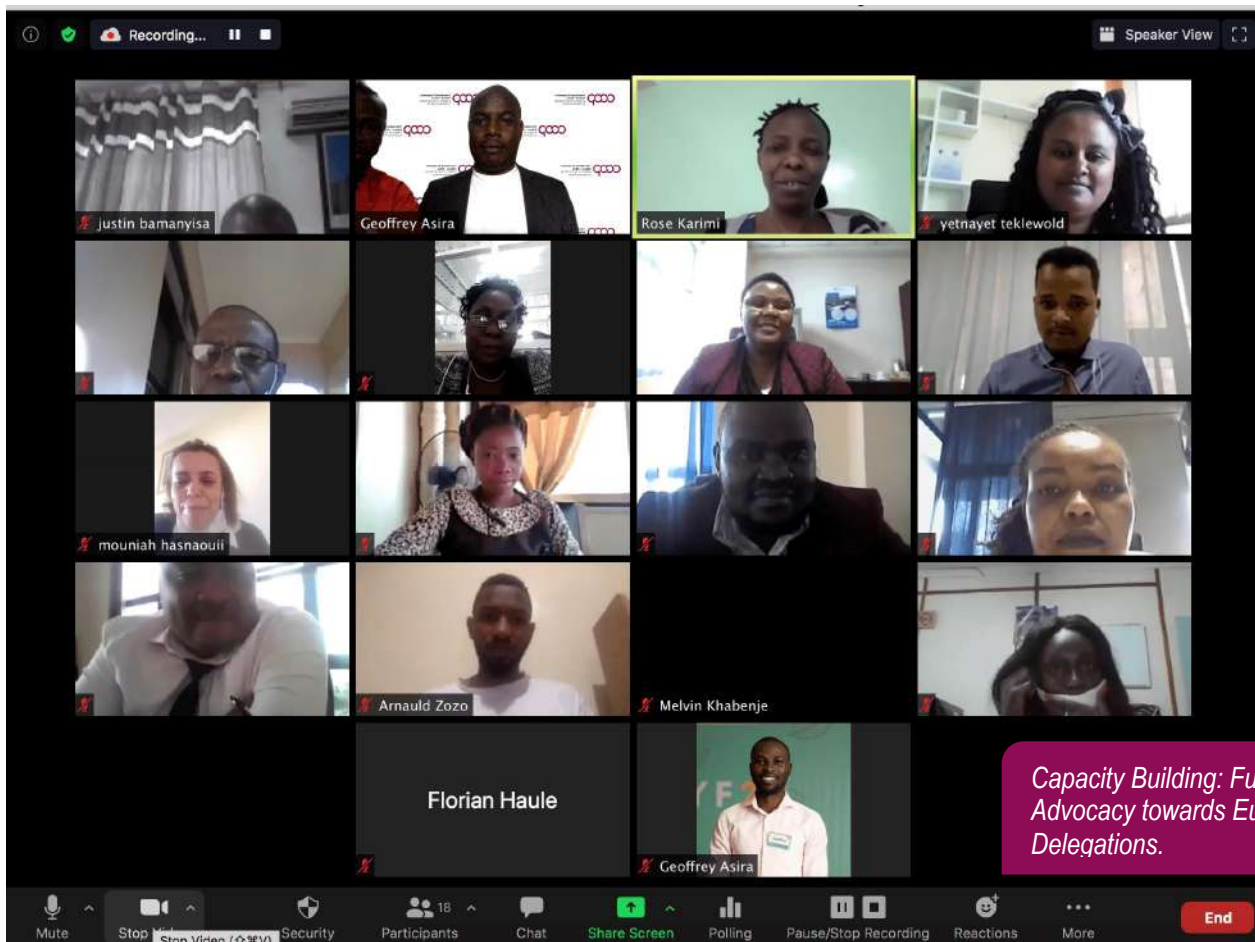
coop

The Youth Replication Project is an initiative of the ICA Youth Network lead and managed by its Executive Committee. It was launched in February 2020 to help both existing youth cooperatives and groups of young people who wish to create a youth cooperative. The project was funded by a donation from the International Summit of Cooperatives.

From the African region, we received 62 inspiring applications who were competing for the two slots of the best ideas that were to be funded with a maximum of EUR 10,000. In November, the ICA through its Youth Network announced that nine applications had been chosen globally to receive the funding listing Enhancing Organic Food Cropping

Cooperative from Cameroun and Young People's Multi-purpose Cooperative Society from Zimbabwe as the winners from Africa. This project will help the youth groups and cooperatives in realizing their ideas and help other youth who would like to replicate the same in their various communities.

Nevertheless, these youth need mentorship, training and in some cases, additional funds. The needs for each project are listed on our website. We are now calling on the cooperative community to help support the building of strong foundations and structures for these projects. If you have some additional time and skills to help youth cooperatives develop - contact us.



ICA-Africa organized for a member capacity building session that was held online on the functioning and advocacy towards European Union Delegations (EUDs). This training specifically focused on reinforcing the relationship with the respective EU Delegations in the members' countries and on improving the understanding of the EuropeAid financial instruments.

This is to further support the training efforts and strengthen the capacity of ICA members to advocate for an enabling environment towards cooperatives, within the country action plans and EUD Roadmaps for Civil Society. In addition, the trainings equipped the members with the necessary skills to respond to open calls for proposals from the European Commission and the specific in-country programmes from the EU delegations.



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Our mailing address is:

E: info@icaafrica.coop || T: +254 20 2323 489