

## LIBRARY AFRICA:



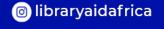
2020-2022 **Programmatic Report** 



2020-2025 **Programmatic Direction** 









#### Welcome Message

Reflecting on our journey at Library Aid Africa, it has been challenging yet rewarding for the organization as we harness digital technology and citizen engagement approaches to make libraries more viable.

The impact of our work across 8 African countries has been made possible through our strategic library interventions in collaboration with our in-country partners and teams—this has positioned us strategically at the forefront of library support in Africa.

Thus, this is a journey we started with the sole aim of solving what breaks our hearts—the dearth of libraries in schools and communities. Our passion for creating solutions to solve what breaks our hearts led us to develop a strategy that seeks to harness a more community–level impact approach to our initiatives. This strategic direction is in three major areas: Innovation–co creation and community engagement, Technology Innovation for Libraries, and Library Advocacy, policy, and research. Of course, covid–19 pandemic shaped the future for us, as it strengthened us to be resilient and plan for post covid–19 library services delivery and support.

An African proverb says, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

We stand because of our dedicated Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, Partners, and Friends of the organization that are committed to our collective goal at Library Aid Africa.

As you read this document, you will learn about our programmatic reports and the impact Library Aid Africa has made from 2020 to 2022. It also gives detailed insight into the future for us until 2025. This will give you the spark of hope for an Africa where libraries thrive, support the needs of the community they serve, and realize that change is possible when we all work together.

We are grateful to you all for playing a vital role in our growth and progress at Library Aid Africa. We are excited and optimistic to continuously work with you to cocreate, build and scale impact together.

Asante Sana!

Damilare Oyedele Co-Founder & Chief Executive, Library Aid Africa.



#### Who We Are



We have an overarching goal of making libraries more viable. Our drive has harvested several hundred young minds across Africa who are now part of our constantly expanding team, doing what we do in the communities where it's needed most.

01

#### What we do – Our overriding Persuasion With access to information being at the center of community development.



With access to information being at the center of community development, our relentless drive is to establish a structure that ensures a sustainable impact in revamping Libraries in Africa for continuous societal impact. This is our mission and all hands are constantly on deck to ensure its fruition, leaving no libraries and no community behind.

02

#### How we do it - Our Approach



Our approach is a hybrid flow with the current tech-driven world and a balance of activities within the less techy african communities. We thus excitedly leverage on digital technology to pioneer most of our activities and embrace citizen engagement approaches to drive projects and policy reforms for libraries across Africa.

03

#### Where we work



Our work spans across over 8 African countries with 2 in-country offices in Abuja Nigeria and Kigali Rwanda.

04

#### **Our Strategic Direction 2020 – 2025**



The covid-19 pandemic shaped the future for us and informed our decision on our 2020– 2025 Strategic Direction. Technology Innovation for libraries, Innovation Co-Creation and Community Engagement, Library Advocacy, Policy and Research.

05

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Programmatic Report

## 2020

2020 brought numerous challenges due to the global pandemic. However, it strengthened us to be resilient and plan for post covid-19 library services delivery and support.

#### Virtual Consultation on Post COVID-19 Library Services Delivery in Africa

#### 4 virtual consultations:





⊕®9⊙ libraryaidafrica



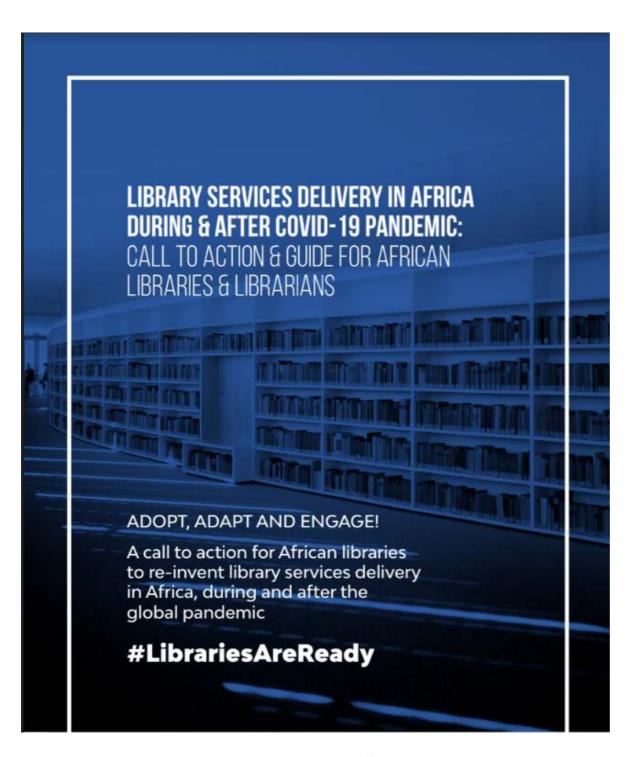






#### **✓** The consultations led to the launch of:

Library Services Delivery in Africa during and after COVID-19
Pandemic: Call to Action & Guide for African Libraries & Librarians: <a href="https://bit.ly/38vAlu2">https://bit.ly/38vAlu2</a>









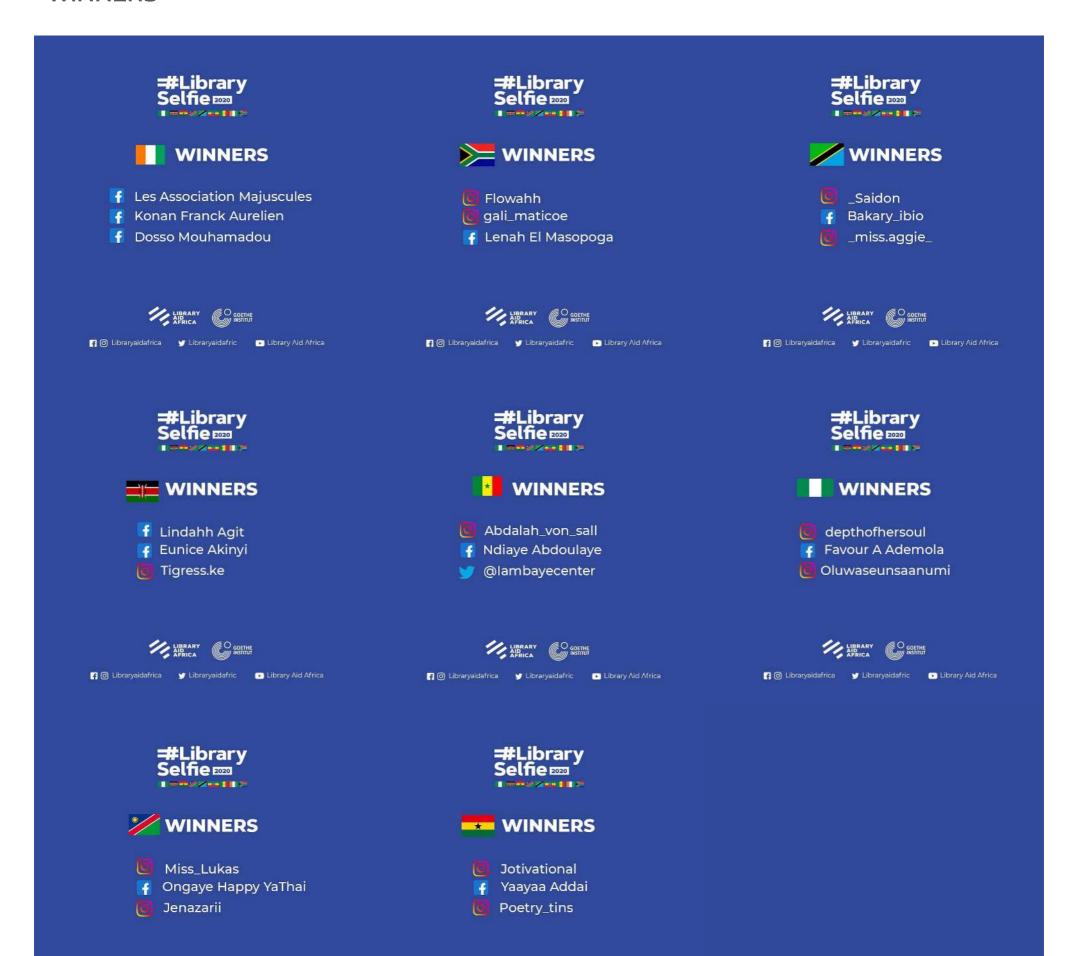


#### #libraryselfie2020

9 Countries

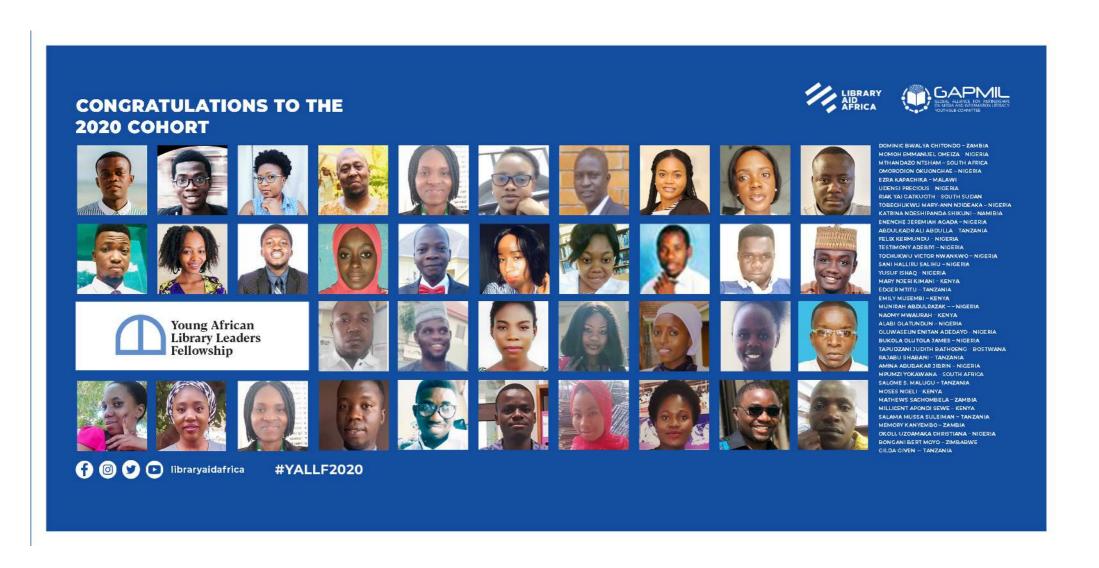
- 66 entries
- 24 winners in 8 countries
- mini library/literacy

#### **WINNERS**



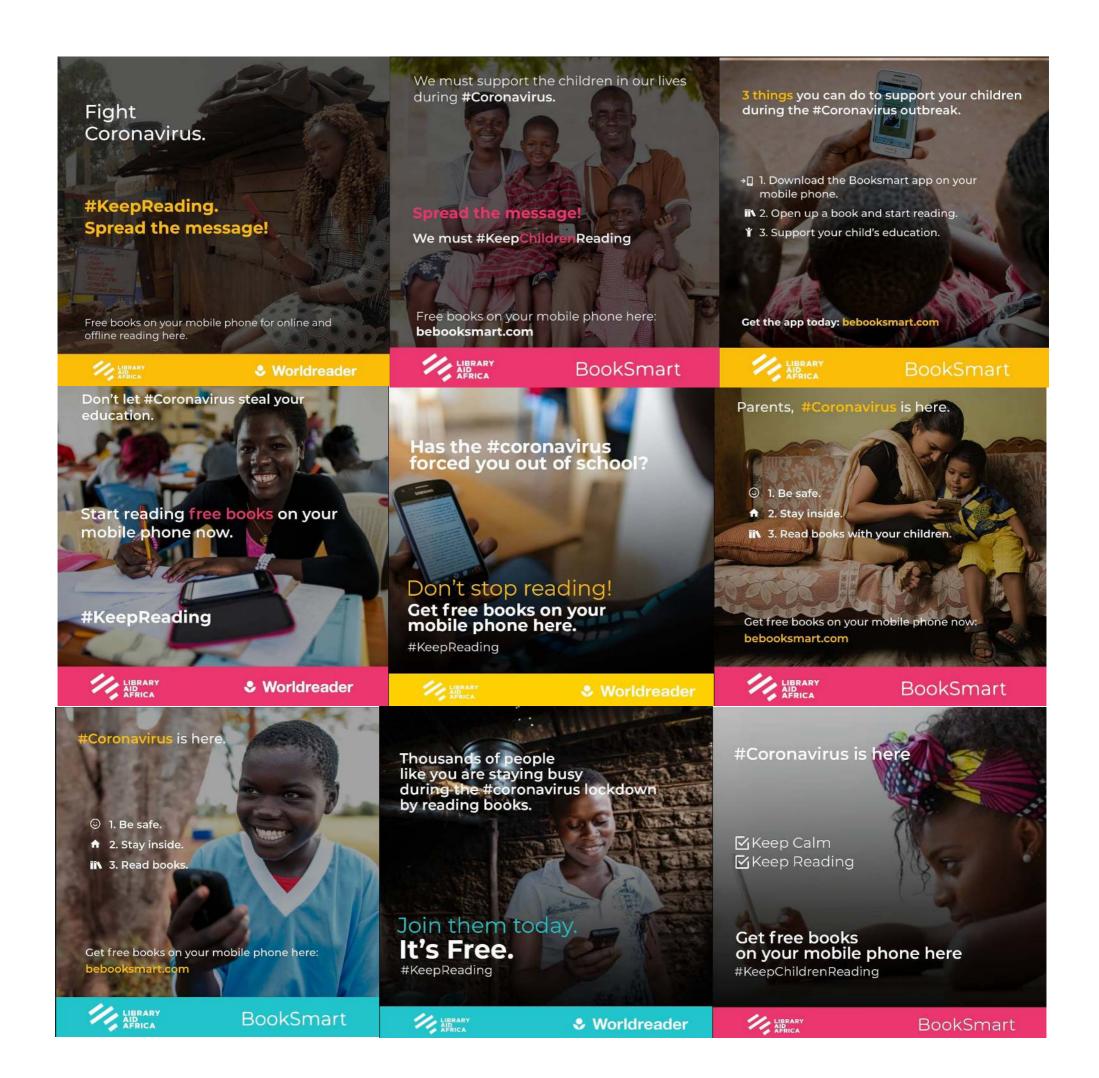
### Young African Library Leaders Fellowship 2020 Cohort #YALLF2020

37 Young Library Leaders across 12 African countries



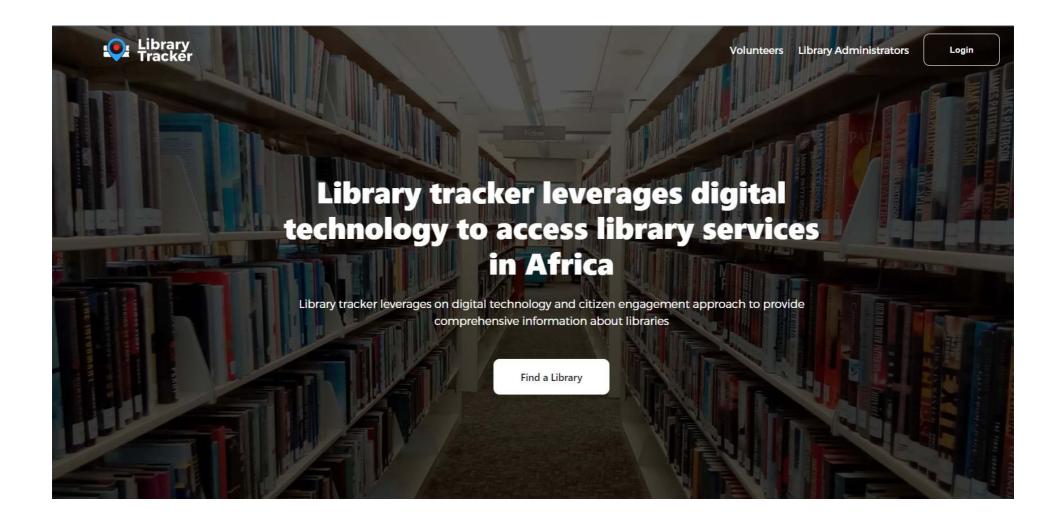
#### **Keep Children Reading**

✓ We supported Worldreader to expand the reach of the #KeepChildrenReading during the Covid-19 lockdown.



#### **Library Tracker**

- Consultations with library stakeholders
- ✓ UI/UX Design



## 

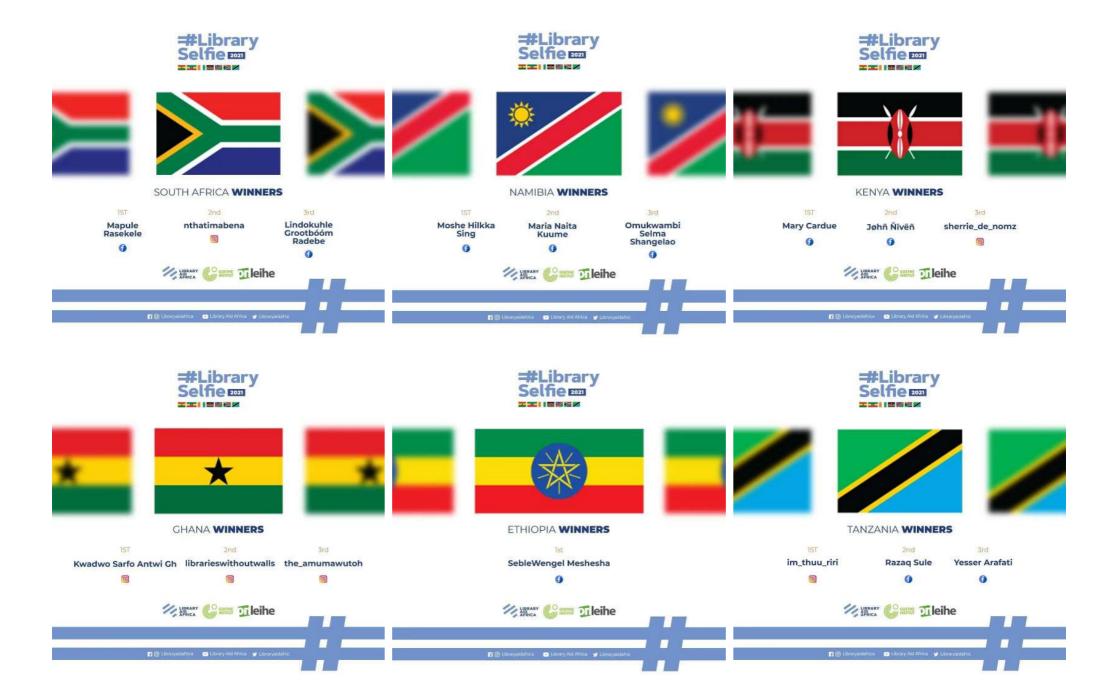
#### #libraryselfie2021

7 Countries

124 entries

17 Winners

#### **WINNERS**



#### **5 Mini library project**



**Project Name:** Mamelodi Reads

#### **Project Overview**

The COVID-19 pandemic has completely destroyed extra curricular activities of school pupils at Vukani Mawethu Secondary school; the children are idle after school and have no reason to be at school other than for class and exams. Due to this, the libraryselfie winner from South Africa set-up a mini library at Vukani Mawethu Secondary school through a bookshelf stacked with books thereby revamping the library for usage by the school pupils and teachers.



**Project Name**: The Ayikuma Mobile Library & Arts Explosion

#### **Project Overview:**

We love to see children turn letters into words and words into sentences. The Ayikuma Reading & Arts project seeks to make reading an enjoyable hobby for 210 children in communities in Ayikuma by creating warm and welcoming reading spots where children can come and be guided to read age appropriate books.

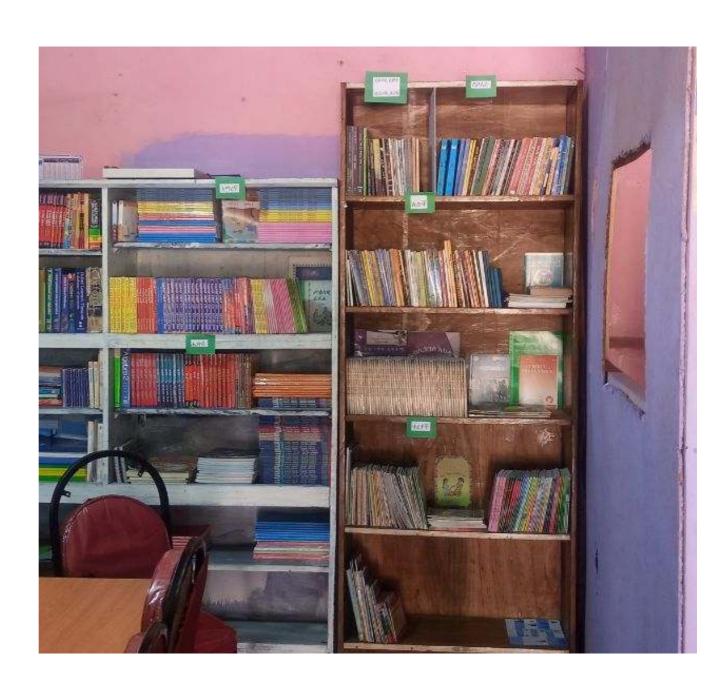


#### Project Name: School library set-up



#### **Project Overview**

The winner from Ethiopia supported school pupils with educational, supplementary, and nonacademic children's books at a small school named Siblings Academy located in the outskirts of Addis. This support led to access to books and educational resources for 300 school pupils through the school library, thereby providing support to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of the pupils.





#### **Project Overview**

The winner from Namibia trained adults and kids on art and design as a means to document, share information and knowledge. Most schools don't have Libraries and there are no attractive/concrete materials to teach reading apart from books.

Therefore the winner decided to focus on ART AND DESIGN FOR KIDS AND ADULTS.





**Project Name**: Toto Smart Book club

#### **Project Overview**

In partnership with Kenya National Library and Archives Services, the winner set up a Health information unit( Toto Smart Book club) at Bondeni Maternity, Nakuru. This is a project that targets pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. The goal is to encourage them to read storybooks to unborn children, provide health information to mother's( safe delivery, nutrition for mom & baby, mental wellness etc)



#### **Young African Library Leaders** Fellowship 2021 Cohort #YALLF2021

**15 Young Library Leaders across 9 African** countries.





Uba, Ebubechukwu Ezinwa | Nigeria





Joel Tchoropa





Namakau Mayungo Clarisse Uwamahoro





Iryuwambaje Florence | Rwanda



David Koech



Rajabu Shabani I Tanzania







Miryam Amunime Abdulqawiyyu Mustaph Martina Maluleka | Namibia | Nigeria | South Africa







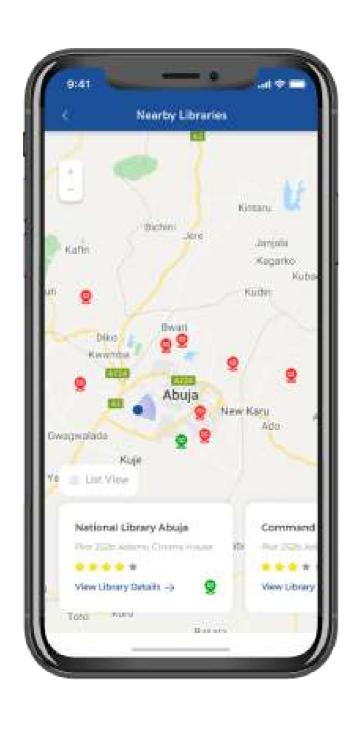








#### **Library Tracker**



- Design and launch
- On-Boarding session
- Data collation

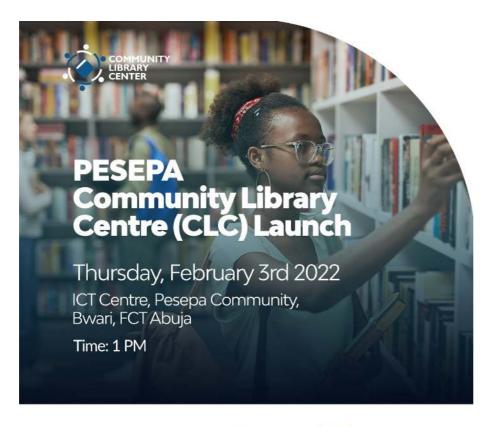
## 



### **Equitable access to information in African communities by**



strategically citing both physical, e-libraries and ICT centers to aid and support numeracy and literacy development as well as digital literacy.









#### #libraryselfie2022

- 7 Countries
- 7 Winners

- 96 entries
- 7 Mini library project

#### **WINNERS**



Ghana Winner

Kniscy

### Pre-Conference Workshop at the African Youth SDGs Summit

Design-thinking, SDGs and the Voluntary National Review Process.

The two-day workshop trained 27 emerging library leaders across

Ethiopia on Advocacy – 11 from regional government universities and 16 from libraries in the capital, and focused on advocating for libraries,

Sustainable Development Plans & Voluntary National Reviews: Roles of libraries & librarians, and Design Thinking.

▼ ECA Library, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Library Aid Africa













## Young African Library Leaders Fellowship 2022 Cohort #YALLF2022

23 young library leaders across 9 African countries.



#### **Library Tracker**





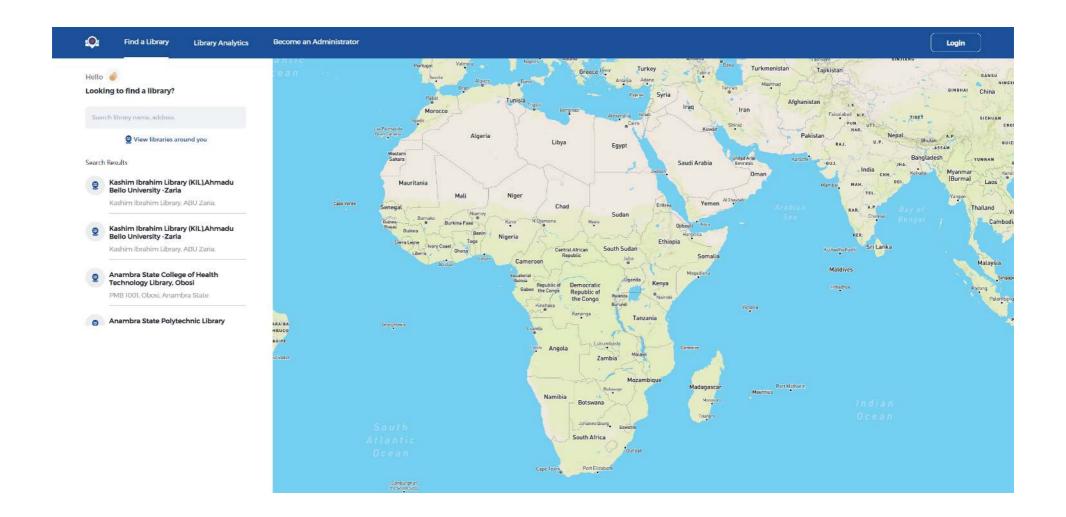
**Partnerships** 



**Library Administrator Sign Up** 



**Data collation** 



## Programmatic Focus:

Our programmatic focus aligns with our Strategic Direction 2020– 2025.

01

TECHNOLOGY
INNOVATION FOR
LIBRARY



LIBRARY
ADVOCACY, POLICY
& RESEARCH





- Library Tracker
- Library Volunteer Corps



- Young African Library Leaders Fellowship
- #libraryselfie series
- Community LibraryCenter Project
- Connected Libraries,
   Connecting Communities
- The School Library
   Intervention Project



- The Library Policy Fellowship
- Community LibraryImpact Study
- Specific library research and publications

### Partners we have worked with:

Our work and impact has been able to reach a more diverse audience through collaboration and partnerships







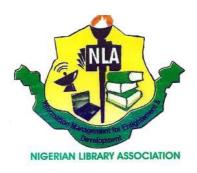




















- Library Tracker
- Library Volunteer Corps



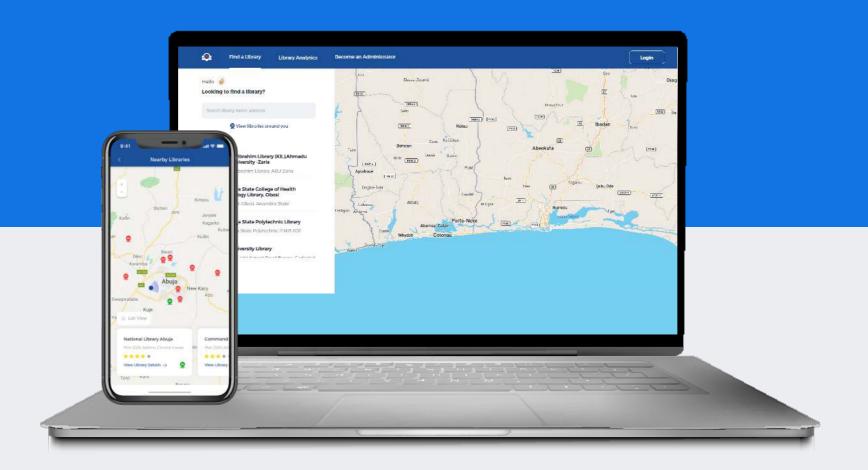
Enhancing public's access to information by geolocating libraries and their services via an online application.



Library Tracker is a Web Application that collates and provides data about library functionality and efficiency in schools, communities, and institutions. The application facilitates easy access to libraries and their services through library directory, mapping, and geo-location. Library Tracker web Application is accessible through <a href="http://librarytracker.org/">http://librarytracker.org/</a>, compatible with mobile (android & ios) and desktop versions.

Library Tracker exists to connect libraries with existing and potential users. It bridges the gap between libraries and their communities through digital technology.

The project aims to make the Library Tracker app the one-stop open-source library data and information platform in Africa by the end of 2025.



#### What impact does Library Tracker seek to



#### Libraries

An online platform to make libraries visible to engage existing and potential users thereby facilitating easy access to libraries and library services across African communities

.



#### **General Public/Library users**

An online platform to contact libraries, access library services, geo-locate libraries, provide reviews and comments for improvement, and share library experiences



### Development Partners and other agencies

An online platform to get information and data about the state of libraries in African communities. This data and information will aid advocacy and programmatic efforts for improved library development, capacity, funding, and policy reforms for libraries in Africa.



Remotely connecting libraries with volunteers



#### Library Volunteer Corps (LVC) http://libraryvolunteercorps.org/ leverages digital technology and citizen engagement approaches to remotely connect libraries with volunteers to exchange values and other services that will improve library visibility, service delivery, user experience and make libraries more viable.

## What impact does the Library Volunteer Corps seek to make?



Virtual and in-person volunteers for libraries supporting improvement library service delivery



Community interaction and integration with libraries through volunteering



Community participation in promoting volunteerism in Libraries



Strengthen community centered library development plans



Funded project for libraries through Library Volunteer Corps platform.



## Innovation Co-Creation and Community Engagement

- Young African Library Leaders Fellowship
- #libraryselfie series
- The School Library
  Intervention Project

- Community Library
  Center Project
- Connected Libraries,
  Connecting Communities





Raising the next generation of Library leaders where it's needed most.

Young African Library Leaders Fellowship is designed to equip and nurture proactive young library leaders annually, with the skills and knowledge to adequately meet the information needs of their communities and contribute meaningfully to achieving sustainable development plans in Africa.

In the past 3 years, we have had #YALLF2020, #YALLF2021 and #YALLF2022 Cohorts spanning 56 young library leaders across 14 African countries: Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda, Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Burundi and Benin.







Young African
Library Leaders
Fellowship Cohorts

Young AfricanLibrary LeadersNetwork



Young African Library Leaders Webinar Series

Young AfricanLibrary LeadersRegional Programs









Using social media for good/ Connecting social media library influencers.





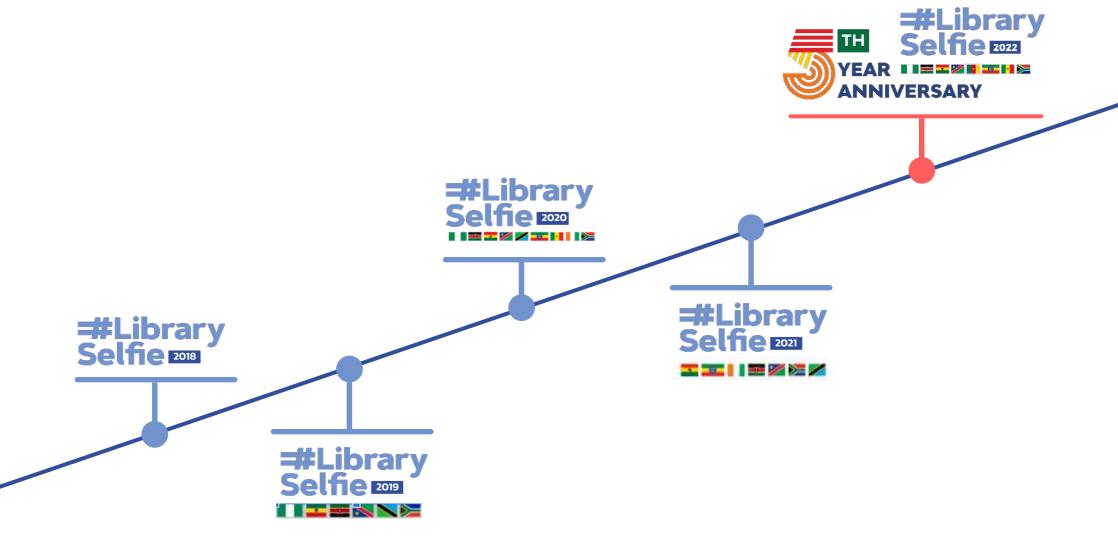




One of our major approaches as an organization is to leverage digital technology and citizen engagement approaches to make libraries more viable.

In achieving this mandate through the #libraryselfie series in partnership with Goethe-Institut, an online initiative that uses social media to create awareness about the importance of libraries as spaces for reading and learning— and also driving community led library initiatives through the winners.

### In the past 5 years, we have had



## **Spanning across 9 African countries:**

Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, and South Africa.

Winners win amazing prizes and mini-grant to implement a mini library project.

List of mini projects by winners





#### **Equitable access to information in African communities by**



strategically citing both physical, e-libraries and ICT centers to aid and support numeracy and literacy development as well as digital literacy.





Connected Libraries connecting communities seeks to leverage digital technology and citizen engagement approaches to make libraries further realize their potential through digital connectivity, digital skills, digital infrastructure, and digital innovation across public, community and school libraries in African countries.

#### (\*) Strategy

- Research Intervention/Initiatives
- Advocacy

   Capacity Development



Advancing stakeholders and young library leaders involvement in state of library and policy issues affecting different countries in Africa and engendering strong library policy making culture, network and structure for far-reaching future societal impact.



The Library Policy Fellowship is an advocacy project that seeks to leverage digital technology to nurture library leaders with the practical skills and knowledge to influence and change library policy & legislation ecosystems. Trained fellows will research existing legislation and policies that guide libraries in their countries with a view to review and or introduce policy recommendations that will improve the state of libraries in their country.

- Fellowship Program
- ✓ In-Country Advocacy
- The Library Policy Forum
- The Library Policy Virtual Dashboard

## **Community Library Impact Study**

This Community Library Impact Study (CLIS) is a collaborative research initiative implemented by Library Aid Africa that aims to learn about the community level impact of libraries in African communities. This initiative seeks to research to identify the best medium that connects libraries and their services with the communities they serve. In doing so, CLIS hopes to inform continued learning on how community libraries can support the communities they are located in and drive positive social change.



# Virtual Town Hall: Why Libraries?





# LIBRARY AID AFRICA:

Harnessing digital technology and citizen engagement approaches to make libraries more viable



