

Acknowledgement

The Africa Policy Journal team would like to extend its gratitude to those who have given us the support to make this publication a reality.

We would like to thank the Harvard University Center for African Studies (CAS) for their financial and technical support throughout this year in the development and execution of the Africa Policy Journal Fireside Chat series, our digital presence and designs, and for support in printing this publication. Thank you so much. Your support helped us thrive.

We would also like to thank Martha Foley, Assistant Director of Student Services at the John F. Kennedy School of Government (HKS). Your guidance, direction and wisdom has been invaluable in the production of this year's publication.

To Nancy Gibbs and Maja Niksic of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy team, thank you for giving us a broad canvas on which to paint. Your excitement for what is possible helped us think and dream big.

We want to thank the 12 other journals at the Harvard Kennedy School for creating a safe space where we could discuss ideas and insights. Special thanks to the Anti-Racism Policy Journal for aligning so strongly with us throughout this year, for supporting and encouraging us. Thank you Thomas Bishop and Kacey Short.

We would like to thank our incredible APJ publication and interview editors and designers for their work throughout the year, for helping bring this edition and all APJ's activities to life. Thank you. We could not do this without you.

To our layout designer, Liliana Ballesteros, thank you for your commitment to excellence and for the incredible ease with which you worked with us to design this publication.

And to our contributors, we are indebted to your eagerness to share your work with us, to your patience throughout the process of selection and editing, and to your willingness to work on your pieces after our feedback. We appreciate you, and hope you are as proud of this work as we are to showcase your thoughts and insights.

From the Editor-in-Chief

It is truly a privilege to present the 16th edition of the *Africa Policy Journal (APJ)*. The 2021-2022 *Africa Policy Journal* Publication has come out of a year of incredible transitions. In the last two years the new normal of COVID-19 has had everyone feeling their way through mandatory lockdowns and mask mandates. Harvard and other institutions navigated back to in-person classes after a year of strictly remote learning.

Transition. It's that blurry place of uncertainty that leaves you both excited and cautious. We've all felt it these last two years. It is both exhilarating to imagine what could be possible in this new normal and exhausting because all you want to do is get back to a place that is familiar, where you are, or think you are, in control.

This year the *Africa Policy Journal* has found itself navigating transition; working to maintain the incredibly important role of an annual print publication while also ramping up online activities and re-introducing in-person events. It's been amazing, and it's been a lot to take in. This year has allowed us to leverage our existing partnership with the Harvard University Center for African Studies, and build new partnerships, notably with Collateral Benefits and the Africa Soft Power Project. We have been excited to build on existing ideas and try out new initiatives, such as the *Africa Policy Journal* Fireside Chat, and the APJChat podcast, to continue to tell important stories for the African community.

In this publication we explore how Africa has transitioned out of the pandemic and what that has meant for African institutions, culture, politics, and people. The pieces this year reflect responses to critical issues facing Africa's economy, health, politics, and education. In this edition, our authors have made salient recommendations for health policy reform, have reminded us of the power of language to create or break barriers, and advocated for peace education policy as a way to mitigate conflict. Interspersed between the heavy-hitting policy pieces are glimpses of poetic narratives and overviews of the activities the APJ team worked on during the year.

When I came in as Editor-In-Chief, one question was uppermost in my mind; How do we continue to engage a community that had been strictly online for the last year due to COVID? Thankfully I had so much help; from the previous editorial leadership, Danielle and Jameel, incredible support, tips, and insights. From the APJ leadership team that signed up to run the journal, Lead Interview Editor Noah Asfaw, Online Editor Shambhavi Singh, and Lead Publication Editor Aaryan Morrison, I got a fantastic work ethic, readiness to lead and ideate, and seamless delivery. Thank you for doing this with me. I am truly grateful. From the APJ team, the publication editors and interview editors, I got willing responses whenever there was a task to be done, despite busy student schedules. Thank you so much Winston, Monique, Jeffah, Aishat, Clark, Michelle, Sirak, Kwamboka, and Abosede. Finally, from the Harvard Kennedy School student services and Shorenstein Media Center, Martha Foley, Maja Niksic, and Nancy Gibbs, we got the encouragement to dream big, be creative, and think outside the box.

It has been a year of learning and rebuilding the in-person community. We continue to grow the digital presence of the APJ, and have seen incredible engagement from Africans and those who love the continent online, as our social media platforms continue to flourish. This too, is exciting.

We hope this publication gives you a glimpse into the fantastic work that the team and our contributors have put in this year, a year filled with uncertainties and unknowns, yet with so much promise. We are coming out of this transition stronger and full of stubborn optimism for the continent that we all love, one in which we continually strive to live out Ubuntu; I am because we are. We remain #StrongerTogether.

In light and love,
Adaobi N. Ezeokoli
Editor-In-Chief

From the Lead Publication Editor

For two years now, I have had the honour of working to publish the 15th and 16th editions of the *Africa Policy Journal*. Each publication cycle brought with it its own set of challenges and opportunities. Last year, many authors from the Continent and the Diaspora contemplated the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic for the Continent- for both its people and its policies.

This year, authors took a variety of approaches. Some chose to explicitly focus on the state of Africa and the pandemic, analyzing the ways in which inequitable vaccine access has affected, and will undoubtedly continue to affect, lives and policies on the Continent. In a gesture to the ways in which many of us have slowly taught ourselves to adapt to life with the virus, others chose to shift their central focus away from COVID-19. Economic development policy in South Africa and maternal healthcare in Nigeria, as two of our authors convincingly suggest, need to account for the pandemic's impacts in these spheres. Still others turned their focus to policy challenges that persist through and beyond the ravages of the virus—the politics of reforms to secondary education in Sierra Leone, the problematic use of the French language in Senegalese courts, the complexity of the “orphan tourism” industry in Kenya.

Creating the 16th edition of the *APJ* challenged both authors and editors to begin to confront the lasting impacts of the pandemic. Through hundreds of emails and dozens of video calls, we collapsed the geographic and social distance between us to craft ideas of national, regional, and global significance. I invite you, our readers, to take up this same challenge. It is an opportunity to read beyond the confines of your specific time and place; to engage with our authors as your interlocutors, consider their contexts, and evaluate their ideas with a critical, but hopeful, eye towards the future of Africa.

Wishing all health and hope,
Aaryan Morrison
Lead Publication Editor



WHERE HARVARD AND AFRICA MEET

The Harvard University Center for African Studies is a globally recognized, interdisciplinary body at Harvard University committed to broadening knowledge about Africa and African perspectives. Their vision is to deepen knowledge and understanding of Africa through global connections and communities of learning.



Collateral Benefits is a platform that through a series of Perspective Papers aims to lift up the voices of African and Afro-descendant people from all walks of life, so that African and Afro-descendant intellect, wisdom and experiences can contribute to and shape the global conversations on the critical issues of our time.

We centre **AFRICAN VOICES** and reflections about the Africa we want, now and for the future.



The Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy is a **Harvard Kennedy School** research center dedicated to increasing understanding of how people access, create, and process information, particularly as it relates to news and societal issues, and describing potential solutions to the problems facing our information ecosystem.

The Center advances its mission of protecting the information ecosystem and supporting healthy democracy by addressing the twin crises of trust and truth that face communities around the world. It pursues this work through academic research, teaching, a program of visiting fellows, conferences, and other initiatives.



The Africa Soft Power Project is an Africa led movement focused on how Africa can optimize its creative industries, knowledge economy, and harness its soft power effectively to propel itself forward, while championing the inclusion of African voices, and the voices of the diaspora community, in global discourse.

Africa Caucus

The Africa Caucus is the Kennedy School student organization focusing on Africa. Our community brings together students, policy makers, academics and supporting members interested in re-invigorating the reflection on the continent's future prospects. Our goal is to inform the debate on Africa at Harvard and beyond. In an effort to renew the perspective on the continent, the overarching theme driving all our activities is Taking Africa to the next level! We instill a spirit of reform to encourage our community to think outside the box and re-invent a vision for the African continent.



The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs is the hub of Harvard Kennedy School's research, teaching, and training in international security and diplomacy, environmental and resource issues, and science and technology policy. In 2021, the Belfer Center was named a "Center of Excellence" by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, in recognition of the Center's six consecutive years as the world's #1 university-affiliated think tank.