



Africa Social Work Network (ASWNet)

Habari

RESEARCH ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

Invitation

We respectfully invite you to participate in a research on social problems, issues and challenges in Africa. Details of the project are provided below.

Thank you for your interest in this research

Kanimambo | Zikomo kwambili | Murakoze | Maita basa | Asante sana | Urakoze cyane | Twa totela | Twa tota | Twa lumba | Wafwako | Twa sakidila Aksanti | Merci | Mwebale nyo | Jerejef | Abarrka | Au jarama | Osoko | Ese gan | Nagode | Da alu | Likpakpanl | Konkomba | Anilituln | Aw ni tchié | Baarka | Takuta | Mwapicita | Mwaita basa | Tatenda | Obrigado | Choukran | Thank you | شكرا

Aim

We are researching social problems and challenges in Africa to provide evidence for teaching, learning and practice in social work and development. The starting point before social work intervention is to define and understand the issues, problems and challenges. An understanding of them then leads to informed decision making and planning. In this research, we are giving social workers and development workers an opportunity to share their views on social issues, problems and challenges.

Benefits of participating

The major benefit of participating in this research is improvement of the understanding of social issues, problems and challenges in Africa. This will benefit training institutions, writers and practitioners in knowing whwre they are doing right, where gaps are and what needs to be prioritised. For the researchers themselves, completing the research itself is a learning opportunity since we have structured the statements and questions in such a way

that you will be learning about social issues, problems and challenges. The other outcome is that the research will be published as a report, book chapter (potentially book) and journal article to enable more people to read. The longer terms outcome is that knowledge gained will shape training and interventions, and ultimately benefits everyone.

Researchers

- Dr Rugare Mugumbate, School of Health and Society, University of Wollongong, Australia; Convenor ASWNet; Department of Social Work & Community Development, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Associate Professor Magnus Mfofo-M'Carthy, Associate Professor at the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada.
- Dr Admire Chereni, Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- Alemayehu Gebru, Jimma University, School of Social Work, Ethiopia.
- Dr William Abur, Lecturer in Social Work, Department of Social Work, The University of Melbourne, Australia.
- Mrs Bawani Mutshewa, Coordinator for Health and Wellness Centre at University of Botswana.
- Ashely Ropafadzo Tome, Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe.
- Abdulkerime Mohammed, Lecturer, Wollo University, Dessie, Ethiopia.
- Dr Nokukhanya Khanya Ndhlovu, Department of Philosophy, University of Fort Hare, East London, South Africa.
- Bernad Mayaka Kenya, University of Applied Science HAN, Netherlands
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All researchers are members of Kuumba Mentoring Group (KMG), a mentoring program facilitated by the African Social work Network (ASWDNet).

Ethics

This study has been reviewed by the African Independent Ethics Committee (AIEC) (Ethics Advice Reference Number EA0234). For concerns or advice, please email ethics@africasocialwork.net or visit <https://africasocialwork.net/african-independent-ethics-committee/>. We will adhere to the ethics guidelines set by the AIEC, in particular:

- We will ask questions through a decolonial lens.
- We will share results with participating institutions before they are published.

- The questionnaire we have used is open access, and can be used for teaching or research. You can access it here: www.africasocialwork.net/free-research-tools
- Participation in the survey is voluntary.
- The survey is anonymous, meaning, we will not know who responded.
- The data will be available on request for use in non-commercial research.

What we are asking you to do?

You are being asked to complete an online survey that takes about 20-40 minutes on your smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktop. You will need to be connected to the internet to complete and submit the survey. There is no risk in taking part in this study. There are no rewards or incentives for participating.

Instructions

- Each question has information about what you are being asked to do.
- You can be asked to select a number or name of country, rate using a slider, tick boxes or write text.
- Almost all questions are compulsory.
- Some questions are long, but you will be given a warning to let you know. We thank you in advance for your time in answering all the questions.
- Because this research has not been done before, we really need the voices of African social workers and development, so we have made all questions compulsory but made sure that answering the questions is easy and can be done quickly.
- PLEASE TAKE TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION AND PROVIDE THE MOST APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR ALL QUESTIONS.
- Click the arrow at the end of each page to go to the next page or to go back.
- To start the survey, click the **Go to Questions** button at the bottom right of this page.

Imibuzo

. SECTION 1 BIOGRAPHICAL QUESTIONS

Q1. What is your age? Click one.

15-20

21-30

31-40

41-50

51-60

61-70

71-80

80+

Q2. What is your gender? Click one.

Female

Male

Q3. What are you? Select all that apply.

Student

Lecturer/Tutor

Practitioner

Researcher

Community member

Other

Q4. What is your highest level of education? Select one.

Certificate

Diploma

Bachelor
degree

Master
degree

Graduate
diploma or
certificate

Doctoral

Q5. What is the full name of your institution? We need this information to share the outcomes of this research. Please type your response. You can skip this question.

Q6. Your institution's email address. You can skip this question.

Q7. What is your email address? We need this to share with you the outcomes of this research. You can skip this question.

Q8. What country are you from? Select the most appropriate.

Select country

Q8. What is your identity, in your own words?

. SECTION 2 RANKING SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

Q9. Name five (5) major social problems for Africa?

Q10. Below is a list of different social issues from around the world. How much should each be a priority for social workers and development practitioners in Africa? 0 means it should not be a priority, 100 means it should have the highest priority?

Broad social issues such as poverty, development and natural disasters have not been included as one but have been broken down.

Slide and stop at the correct number. Do the same for all issues. THIS QUESTION IS LONG AND IS REQUIRED TO INFORM PRIORITISATION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN AFRICA. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

To select 0, push the button and return it. Please acton all the buttons.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | |
| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | |

Migration (energy-drain, talent-drain or brain-drain)

Effects of aid (e.g. donor dependence)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Welfare grants (grants dependence) | <input type="text"/> |
| Corruption (addressing/stopping it) | <input type="text"/> |
| Mismanagement | <input type="text"/> |
| Homeless (street children) | <input type="text"/> |
| Homeless (street adults and families) | <input type="text"/> |
| Effects of globalisation | <input type="text"/> |
| Economic development | <input type="text"/> |
| Health and disease | <input type="text"/> |
| Mental health and well-being | <input type="text"/> |
| War | <input type="text"/> |
| Conflict | <input type="text"/> |
| Low agricultural productivity | <input type="text"/> |
| HIV/AIDS | <input type="text"/> |
| COVID-19 | <input type="text"/> |
| Spiritual needs | <input type="text"/> |
| Effects of neo-colonisation | <input type="text"/> |
| Chinese businesses | <input type="text"/> |
| Disability | <input type="text"/> |
| Crime | <input type="text"/> |
| Lawlessness | <input type="text"/> |
| Gender inequality | <input type="text"/> |
| Tribalism | <input type="text"/> |
| Racism | <input type="text"/> |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Environmental degradation | <input type="text"/> |
| Effects of land stolen during colonisation | <input type="text"/> |
| Landlessness (ensuring everyone has land they call their on) | <input type="text"/> |
| Inappropriate education | <input type="text"/> |
| Colonial education | <input type="text"/> |
| Prostitution | <input type="text"/> |
| Neglected communities e.g. the Khoi, Masarwa (San), Hadza or Sandawe | <input type="text"/> |
| Improper development plans for marginalised communities e.g. the Khoi, Masarwa (San), Hadza or Sandawe | <input type="text"/> |
| Identity | <input type="text"/> |
| Lesbianism and gayism (increase support for) | <input type="text"/> |
| Income for individuals and families | <input type="text"/> |
| Income for the state | <input type="text"/> |
| Markets (creating or improving) | <input type="text"/> |
| Bad politics | <input type="text"/> |
| Bad governance | <input type="text"/> |
| Safety and security | <input type="text"/> |
| Droughts | <input type="text"/> |
| Floods | <input type="text"/> |
| Cost of food | <input type="text"/> |
| Malnutrition | <input type="text"/> |
| Justice | <input type="text"/> |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | <input type="text"/> |
| Female genital rites (FGR) | <input type="text"/> |
| Shelter | <input type="text"/> |
| Clothing | <input type="text"/> |
| Child protection | <input type="text"/> |
| Technology inaccess | <input type="text"/> |
| Rape (eradicate) | <input type="text"/> |
| Technology - negative effects of | <input type="text"/> |
| Substance abuse | <input type="text"/> |
| Unemployment | <input type="text"/> |
| Low social welfare assistance | <input type="text"/> |
| Ageing | <input type="text"/> |
| Refugee and displacement problem | <input type="text"/> |
| Ethics | <input type="text"/> |
| Divorce (reducing it) | <input type="text"/> |
| Individualism (reversing it) | <input type="text"/> |
| Nepotism | <input type="text"/> |
| Dementia | <input type="text"/> |
| Terror attacks | <input type="text"/> |
| Other | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | |
| Other | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | |

Q11. What are Africa's future social problems or challenges? Type as much as you can.

Q12. How should social work and development respond to Africa's social problems now and in the future? Type as much as you can.

. SECTION 3 SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FROM THE AFRICAN UNION PERSPECTIVE

Q13. The seven (7) aspirations for Africa's people in African Union's Agenda 2063 (<https://au.int/en/agenda2063/aspirations>) are:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth & sustainable development
2. An integrated continent politically united & based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism & the vision of African Renaissance
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice & the rule of law
4. A peaceful & secure Africa
5. Africa with a strong cultural identity common heritage, values and ethics
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by the African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
7. An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

Comment on these aspirations focusing on their strengths and advantages, weaknesses, shortcomings or missing problems. Type as much as you can.



Q14. How relevant is each of the seven (7) aspirations in Agenda 2063 OR how does each aspiration match aspirations of Africa's people? Use the slider to rate each aspiration.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

- 1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth & sustainable development

- 2. An integrated continent politically united & based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism & the vision of African Renaissance

- 3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice & the rule of law

- 4. A peaceful & secure Africa

- 5. Africa with a strong cultural identity common heritage, values and ethics

- 6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by the African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children

7. An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

. SECTION 4 FACTORS THAT IMPACT HOW WE VIEW SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

These factors include age, region, country, philosophy, religion, education, type of practitioner and field of practice. Some have already been asked.

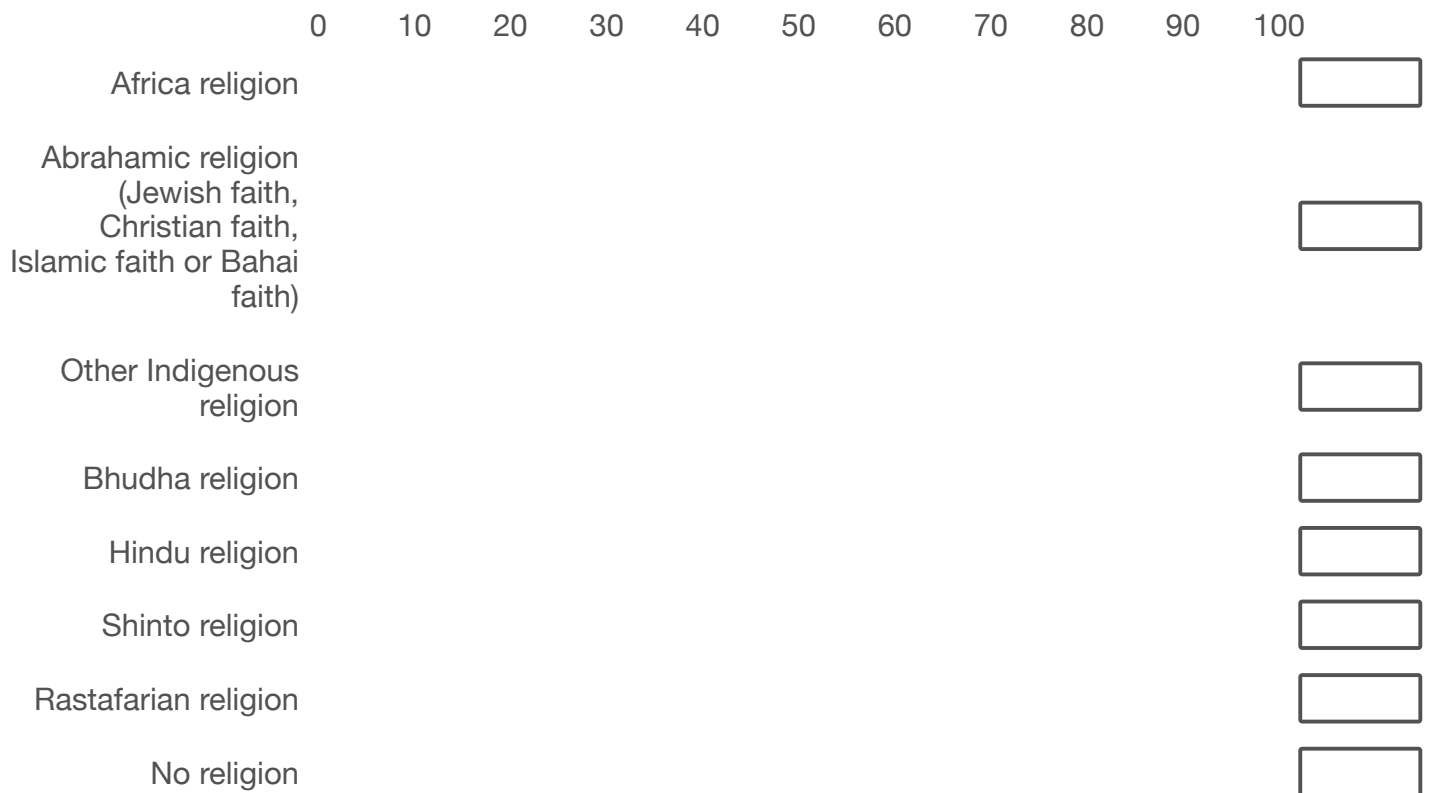
Q15. What type of a practitioner are you? Select all that apply.

- Academics, trainers and trainees
- Administrator
- Service provider
- Community organiser
- Researchers and evaluator
- Policy worker, politician, trade unionist or advocate
- International practitioner
- Creative practitioner
- Other

Q16. What is your field of practice? Select all that apply.

- Development
- Community
- Policy
- Academia
- Research and evaluation
- Welfare
- International practice
- Health
- Other

Q17. Which religions have influenced your life the most? Slide for all religions that have influenced you.



Q18. What is your main philosophy? Select one.

- Ubuntu (African philosophy)
- Western philosophy (European philosophy)
- Eastern philosophy (Asian philosophy)
- Middle-Eastern philosophy (Arabia philosophy)
- Pacifica philosophy (Pacific philosophy)
- Latino philosophy (South America philosophy)

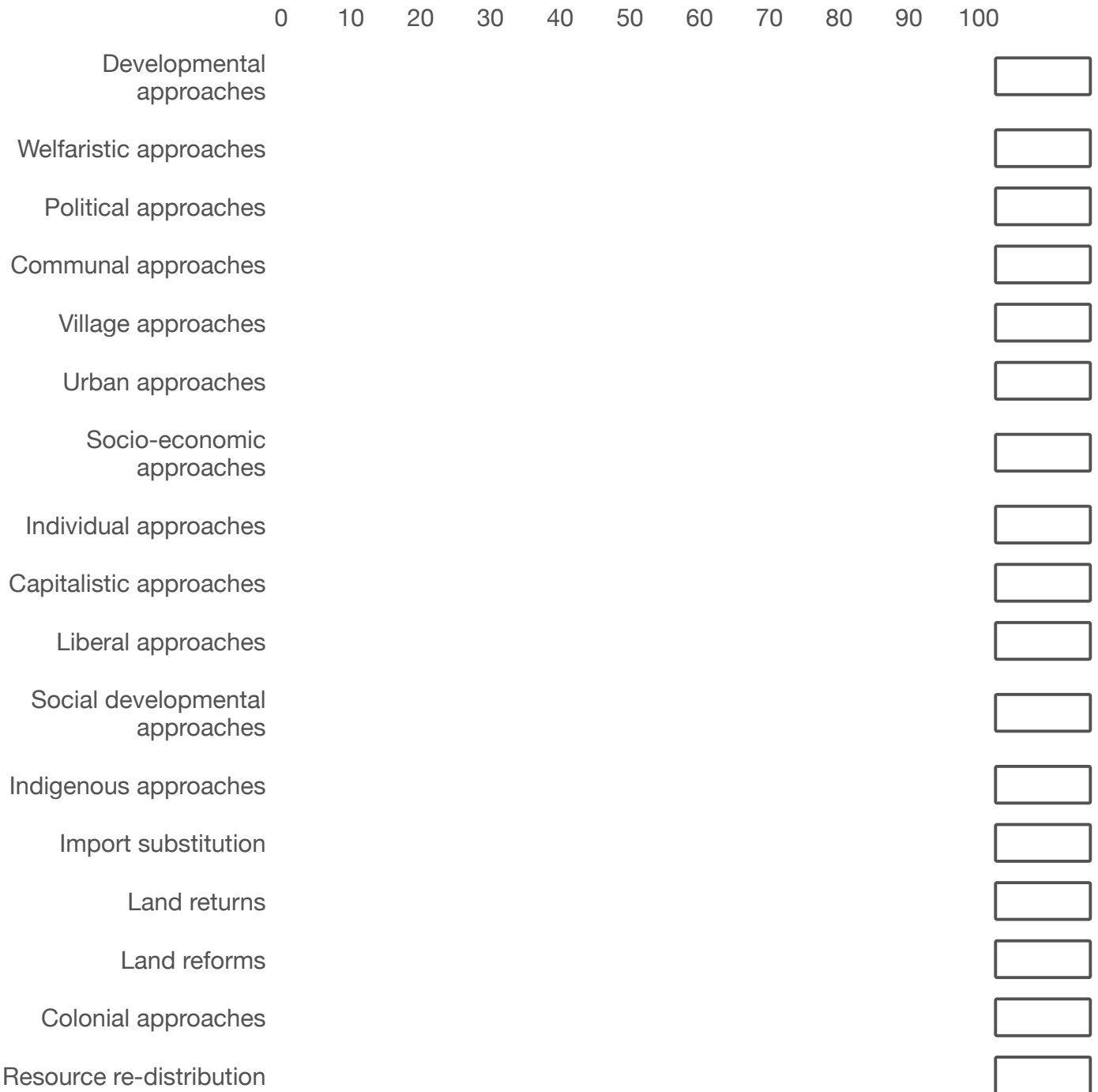
. SECTION 5 SOLUTIONS TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

* . Abbreviations: Arab Maghreb Union (AMU); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); East African Community (EAC); Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Economic

Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

ANOTHER LONG QUESTION BUT WE ARE ALMOST AT THE END, ASANTE SANA.

Q19. What approaches would best address social challenges and problems in Africa for the majority of the people? Slide for all that apply.



| | |
|--|----------------------|
| 'Modernisation' (westernising, living in urban areas, focusing on industries) | <input type="text"/> |
| Global approaches | <input type="text"/> |
| Decolonial approaches | <input type="text"/> |
| Intersectional approaches | <input type="text"/> |
| Rights-based approaches | <input type="text"/> |
| Responsibility-focused approaches | <input type="text"/> |
| Environmental approaches | <input type="text"/> |
| Rural development approach | <input type="text"/> |
| Urban development approach | <input type="text"/> |
| Industrial approach | <input type="text"/> |
| Household approaches | <input type="text"/> |
| Other <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Other <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Q20. The African renaissance is a time in future when Africa overcomes all its current challenges. At that point Africans will take pride in their culture, brain drain and labour drain will be reversed. Africa will be peaceful, united and just to all. The concept is credited to Senegalese historian, anthropologist, physicist and politician Cheikh Anta Diop but has been promoted by luminaries like Thabo Mbeki.

After how many years do you think the renaissance will be realised?

Q20b. List key strategies for Africa to realise the renaissance

Asante

. FINAL QUESTION AND SUBMISSION

. To share this survey with other participants, share the link <https://africasocialwork.net/social-problems-survey/> or QR code below. Use the same link to get a blank copy of the questionnaire for use in your research, work or teaching.



Q21. If you have any comments, put in the box below. Type as much as you like or put None, then press the Submit Responses button below to the right.

If you have not answered some questions, it will not submit, please go back and answer remaining questions. Thank you.

After submitting, a list of your responses will be shown on the screen and you can also download it.

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