



**THE EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE**

Annual Convening 2021

SUMMARY REPORT

July 2021



Executive Summary

“ The three-day Convening recorded the highest audience engagement with 309 participants from 120 institutions across 26 countries in Africa and beyond since 2017. ”

The Education Collaborative 2021 Virtual Convening was held from June 14 - 16, 2021, on the theme, 'Building the capacity of institutions to improve African higher-ed outcomes.' Sessions focused on two main tracks throughout the three days: on Employability and Entrepreneurship, with a special feature on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The Convening also featured onstage sessions, pre-and post-events.

The Convening commenced officially with an Opening Ceremony that highlighted the Education Collaborative's agenda for the African continent and ended with a Commitment summit where moderators guided participants to develop action plans from the insights of the Convening. The Education Collaborative announced a grant for attendees to apply for funding to implement these post-convening projects.


The three-day Convening recorded the highest audience engagement with 309 participants from 120 institutions across 26 countries in Africa and beyond since 2017. These included educators, lecturers, administrative staff, university executive teams, educational institutions, government representatives and policymakers. Overall, some forty-one speakers and facilitators led a total of 17 sessions at the Convening.


This Education Collaborative held most of the Convening's sessions on Zoom through the platform, Whova. It was also live streamed on the social pages of Ashesi University, Association of African Universities TV and the campus of African Development University in Niger.


Major Outcomes and Highlights

309  STAKEHOLDERS ATTENDED THE ANNUAL CONVENING. THIS IS THE HIGHEST SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE ANNUAL PROGRAM.

26  COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED BY PARTICIPANTS

83%  OF RESPONDENTS FOR THE ANNUAL CONVENING SURVEY SAID THEY WILL APPLY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT.

65%  OF PARTICIPANTS WERE FROM AFRICA

91%  OF RESPONDENTS WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE CONVENING

THE TOP 5 ATTENDEE AFFILIATION INSTITUTIONS WERE:

UNIVERSITY	REGISTERED ATTENDEES
ASHESI UNIVERSITY	41
UNIVERSITY OF EMBU	16
KEPLER UNIVERSITY	15
VALLEY VIEW UNIVERSITY	10
DAVIS COLLEGE	9



For the first time since 2017, the Education Collaborative has set up an Implementation Grant to help participating institutions implement insights gleaned from the convening into actual projects.



Program Overview

Since 2017, through the Annual Convening, the Education Collaborative at Ashesi has brought together educators and leaders of higher education institutions committed to transforming Africa through high-impact education.

Held online and jointly organized by Ashesi University, Kepler, Centre for Social Innovations Ghana, University of Gondar and Ayenit Alolom Africa, the three-day event featured plenary sessions, workshops and talks focused on entrepreneurship, employability, and diversity and inclusion within African higher educational institutions.

Sessions and Programs

Parallel Track

Entrepreneurship Track

Exploring successful higher-ed models for developing sustainable and efficient entrepreneurship ecosystems

Parallel Track

Employability Track

Redefining career preparation in African higher-ed institutions

Onstage Sessions

Special Feature: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The place of diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education institutional strategy

Commitment Summit

Agenda setting and ways of implementing insights from the Convening



Theme and Track Formation

Plans for the Convening started with developing a work plan and Convening planning concept detailing the broad focus areas as aligned with the Education Collaborative program and strategic plan. A planning committee, made up of 10 members from 5 institutions, was formed to discuss the trends in these areas in African higher education.

The planning committee met three times; February 04, 12 and 25, 2021. The committee concluded on the overall theme for the Convening as “Building the capacity of institutions to improve African higher-ed outcomes”. This theme has been suggested as the running theme of the Convening for the next three years.

Three sub-themes were formed as the focus of the Convening. These included Employability, Entrepreneurship and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). An initial concept was developed to outline the expected outcomes of each sub-theme (track). Then, institutions with proven innovations in the areas were identified as partners to lead the organization of these tracks.

Kepler – Employability

Ashesi University, Center for Social Innovations – Entrepreneurship

University of Gondar – DEI

These institutions selected leads who liaised with the Education Collaborative. The leads developed concept notes that provided the expected outcomes and session structure of the tracks. They also suggested and engaged speakers to lead the sessions and drew up budgets for the tracks.

Conference Evaluation, Metrics and Success Measures

Figure 1: Representation across Continents

As shown in Figure 1, participants represented twenty-six (26 countries) – Two (2) countries from North America, five (5) from Europe, one from Asia, and one from Australia.



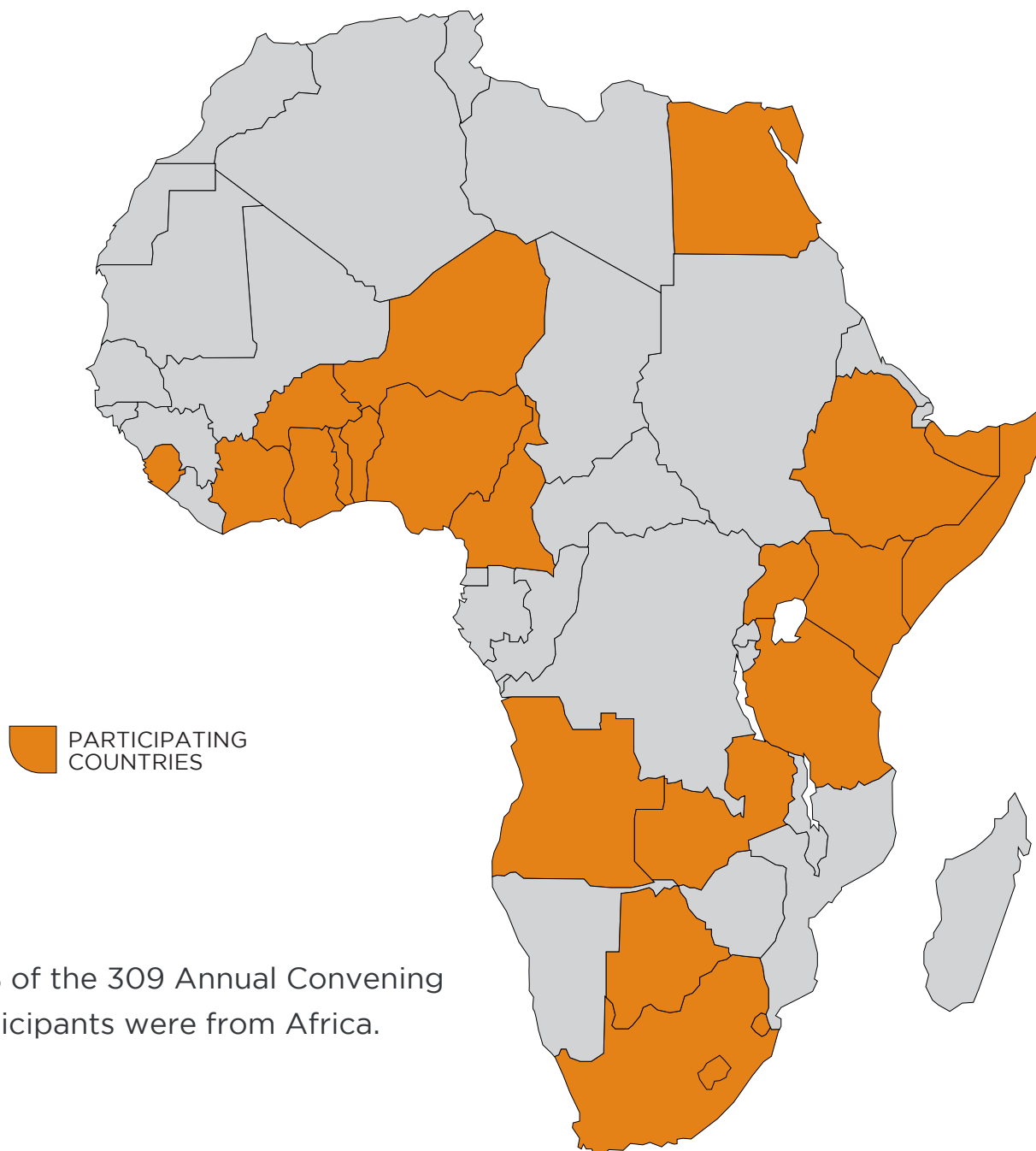


Conference Evaluation, Metrics and Success Measures

Figure 2 also highlights 17 African countries that participated in the 2021 convening.

Figure 2: Representation from Africa

Figure 2 also highlights 17 African countries that participated in the 2021 convening.



65% of the 309 Annual Convening participants were from Africa.

Comments from Participants

I think holding the convening online opens up for much greater engagement across the continent and beyond. This format should be continued even post-Covid.

Thank you for being future-forward. We need to collaborate as African HEIs.

It is time for African institutions to create solutions together so that we can enhance the quality and effectiveness of higher education.

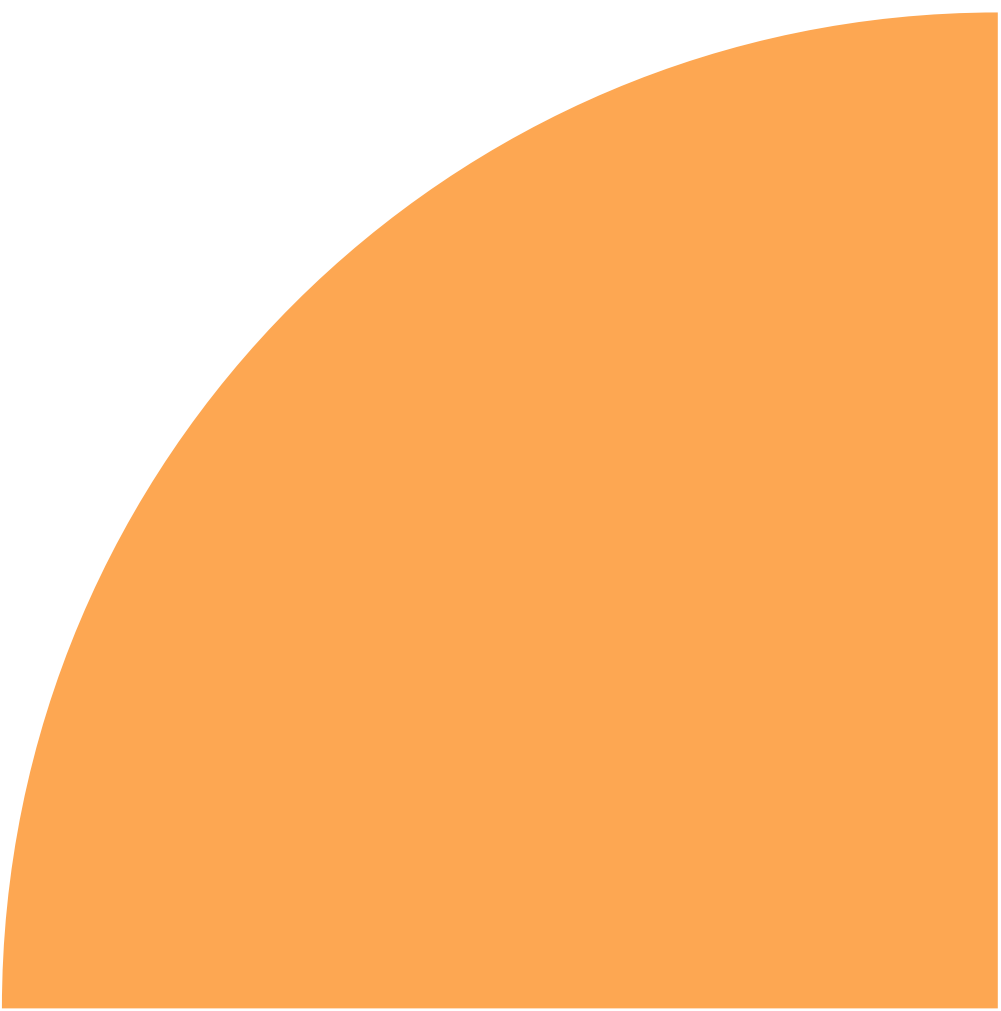
The information shared by presenters was very well put together and was very relevant to our context. The Whova platform allowed for great interactions and collaborations, and the planning team was very hands-on with support, reminders, information sharing, etc. Well done

In Africa, we face a lot of challenges. It is common to see people giving up because they say 'it can not be done.' When you find a group of people who have the boldness to say, 'We will question the norm and we want to do this through collaboration on the continent', it is inspiring. I have found that in the Education Collaborative.



Adapting for Continuous Improvement

The 2021 Annual Convening has provided meaningful insight and feedback for future engagements. This feedback will only be helpful when utilized and incorporated in the planning and roll-out of the 2022 convening and beyond. Integrating the feedback for future programming is also crucial to ensure that the Annual Convening responds to the changing needs of key stakeholders in Africa's higher education sphere.



Planning Team

The planning team for the Convening consisted of the Education Collaborative staff and two executive signatories. Additionally, the Collaborative engaged institutional partners to help in organizing the tracks for the Convening. Below are the details of the planning team.

Education Collaborative Staff



Rose A. Dodd
Director



Nana Kwabena Owusu
M&E and Learning Coordinator



Lydia Adobea Dampare Addo
Communications and PR



Ophesmur Naa Adjeley Adjei
Communications and PR Coordinator



Vanessa Aba Sam
Operations Coordinator



Stephen Gyan
Programs Coordinator

Planning Team

Two Executive Signatories



Prof. Angela Owusu- Ansah
Provost and Executive Committee Member,
Ashesi University



Araba Botchway
Araba Botchway, Director, Admissions
and Financial Aid, Ashesi University

The Education Collaborative Consulting Committee



Andrew Akoto
Senior Project Consultant, Injaro
Investment Advisors Ltd.



Angela Owusu-Ansah
Provost, Ashesi University



Frederick Biga
Vice President at Goldman Sachs.
Product Manager & Lead for Americas
Real-Time Communication,
Workplace Engineering



Rose Akudugu
Assistant Director of Finance,
Ashesi University



Rukayatu Sanusi
Executive Director,
Ghana Climate Innovation Centre



Sena Agbodjah Agyepong
Senior Lecturer & Head of BA Department,
Ashesi University

Institutional Partners





Relevant Links

Opening Plenary - [View highlights of the speeches, here.](#)

Please click on this link to find out more about the outcomes of the sessions on the Entrepreneurship Track

Please click on this link to find out more about the outcomes of the sessions on the Employability Track.

Please click on this link to find out more about the outcomes of the sessions on the Special Feature.

[Read more about the Education Collaborative Mentorship Program here](#)

Industry-oriented learning and digital tools for enhancing student career outcomes (in African higher education). [Read more about the session's outcomes here.](#)

Using evidence to improve employability for young people in sub-Saharan Africa - [Read more about the session's outcomes here.](#)

Roundtable discussion: Improving teaching, learning and research collaborations in African Business Schools. - [Read more about the session's outcomes here.](#)

Speaker Session - [Read more about the session's outcomes here.](#)

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