

# AMJAMBO AFRICA!



*Understanding, Embracing, and Celebrating Diversity in Maine*

**Free**

**WELCOME | BIENVENUE | KARIBU | MURAKAZE | SOO DHOWOOW | BEM VINDO | BOYEYI MALAMU**

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*Mufalo Chitam, Executive Director of Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition, picking up shipment of 10,000 masks at UPS on Marginal Way in Portland*

## Immigrant-led effort to prevent COVID transmission

Maine's total statewide COVID-19 positive case rate of 4,489 remains third lowest among the 50 states, according to the U.S. CDC, however the mostly rural state is definitely not out of the woods yet. Outbreaks continue – with the most recent caused by an indoor wedding in Millinocket, northern Penobscot County – and Maine still has the shameful distinction of leading the nation in terms of the disproportionate impact of the virus on communities of color.

“In Maine, people in communities of color are 5.6 times more likely to test positive, 2.9 times more likely to be hospitalized, and 0.6 times more likely to die because of COVID-19, compared to the general population,” reports the COVID Tracking Project, which places Maine at the top of the charts according to cases and deaths by race. Nationwide, the data shows that people of color are 2.5 times more likely to test positive. In Maine, 23% of total cases and 3% of deaths have been among Black or African American people, who comprise only 1.7% of the total population.



*Papy Bongibo and Pastor Gustave Toko of Kimbanguist Church*

A coalition of immigrant-led community associations and organizations is working in the Greater Portland area, as well as in Lewiston/Auburn, to supply free masks and hand sanitizer to immigrant-owned markets, houses of worship that are frequented by immigrants, and individuals in an effort to reach all New Mainers, and share infection control messaging while providing protective equipment. The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) is spearheading much of the effort in the Greater Portland area, as well as Lewiston/Auburn, with support from donors, including a gift of 10,000 tri-layer polypropylene masks from the Network for Emergencies and Relief (NEAR), a not-for-profit organization based in New York. MIRC's connection to NEAR was through retired cardiologist Dervilla McCann, who used to work in the Lewiston/Auburn area, and who heard about the need among New Mainer communities through a friend. McCann contacted Mufalo Chitam, Executive Direction of MIRC, and on July 17, Chitam picked up the first masks in Portland.

Leaders of immigrant associations are handling distribution of the masks and hand sanitizer. Community associations involved include Angolan Community, Burundi Community, Cambodian Association, Congolese Association, Congolese Brazzaville Community, In Her Presence, Mano en Mano, Presente Maine, Rwandese Community Association, and South Sudanese Community. Also in Lewiston/Auburn, the New Mainers Public Health Initiative, together with other members of the L/A Task Force, organized a week of action between July 20-25 that included the distribution of free masks, hand sanitizer, and COVID testing. The same group will distribute masks again in September before school begins.



*Beatrice Balou gives masks to Ahmed in front of Medina Market*



## Indigo Arts Alliance celebrates Black is Beautiful | Photos | Joseph Shaw



Azeri Menter | Photo Janet Fader



Forming the letters | Photo Georges Budagu Makoko



Aminata Conteh | Photo Janet Fader



The blackbird | Photo Janet Fader



Photo Janet Fader

The pavement outside Indigo Arts Alliance's home base at 60 Cove Street in Portland was transformed on August 8 by a colorful street mural celebrating the legacy of renowned artist Ashley Bryan, who turned 97 on July 13. Ashley Bryan is known for a large body of work that includes publication of over 50 books for children. He has won numerous prestigious literary prizes, and his successful and dynamic career is widely considered to have helped pave the way for other Black and brown artists. He has lived much of the last 40 years in Maine. Beautiful Blackbird, Bryan's book that celebrates Blackness, includes the refrain "Black is Beautiful." The book lent its name to the Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival, which was launched this summer by Indigo Arts as a nine-week virtual festival featuring Black and brown writers and artists who create work for children. Originally intended as an in-person festival, the organizers rapidly pivoted once COVID-19 hit to create a new format designed to reach kids in their homes. Each week, a different artist's book was presented via video, along with read-alouds, crafts projects, performances, and interviews. Research has proven a correlation between literacy and recognizing oneself in books, so all books in the festival have Black and brown children as central characters. The books include Going Down Home with Daddy, with illustrations by Caldecott medalist and Indigo Arts Alliance co-founder Daniel Minter. The festival continued through the end of August. Plans are already underway for an in-person festival in the summer of 2021.

Videos can be found at [www.beautifulblackbird.com](http://www.beautifulblackbird.com).



Portlanders find ways to express continued support for the Black Lives Matter movement

Do you have a photo from your city or town you'd like us to share? Send to: [amjamboafrika@gmail.com](mailto:amjamboafrika@gmail.com)



Above:  
"Counting from Thirteen" by  
Daniel Minter and Ryan  
Adams, 754 Congress Street  
At Left:  
"In Memory of Those Taken,"  
by Ashley Page, Congress  
Square Park.



The First Parish on Congress Street  
in Portland is the oldest church  
building in the city, dating from  
1825.

Photos | Joseph Shaw

MAINE RESEARCHERS JOIN THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S  
ICEBERG PROJECT IN EAST GREENLAND

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## EDITORIAL

by Georges Budagu Makoko,  
Amjambo Africa Publisher



## The education of children is the most important investment we can make

As of press time, with no clear end to the health crisis yet in sight, 844,000 people worldwide have died from the new coronavirus, and over 25.1 million people have contracted COVID-19. We all know that the crisis threatens the economic well-being of individuals and nations. Equally devastating is the disruption to education systems around the world, with consequences likely to be felt for a generation, and possibly beyond.

Nowhere are concerns about education more acute than in the poorer parts of the world, including many countries in Africa, where 710 million children have been cut off from schools, according to Global Partner for Education. In addition, in many African countries, schools cannot afford to provide the materials and technology necessary to keep students at least somewhat on track academically while they are shut down, which means that few children in developing countries are afforded the luxury of studying remotely, as children are able to do in the United States.

Even those countries in Africa that have tried to connect teachers and students through radio or TV programming, or by using phone apps like WhatsApp, have failed to reach many children because the infrastructure for technology is so limited. This renders education completely inaccessible to many. Anticipated consequences down the line include an expected spike in illiteracy rates and a decline in graduation numbers. Dr. Lazare Sebitereko, Director of Eben-Ezer University in DR Congo, shared an additional concern with me: as young people are cut off from the hope an education brings, they will become more attracted to membership in armed groups and may seek prosperity that way, thereby bringing increased destruction down the road to a continent that has already suffered far too much from violence.

Growing up in DR Congo, in a family with uneducated parents, I had many friends who never got an education. Many of these friends now live in critically compromised conditions in my native village. Yet these were smart kids. It was the environment and circumstances in which they grew up that determined their future and what they were able to achieve in life. In my own case, I was motivated by personal curiosity to pursue an education, and circumstances aligned in my favor. As a result of my education, my life changed. My heart aches for the millions of kids around the world who will be seriously impacted by the current pandemic. Generous people, philanthropies, and governments should not forget these children.

Neither should we forget perhaps the greatest lesson of this pandemic – that we are all interconnected. Therefore, the more

resources we allocate to bolster educational systems around the world during this difficult time, the better off and less troubled all of our societies will be in the future. The Global Partnership for Education has been working hard to support developing countries as they strive to mitigate the impact that school closure is having on the world's most vulnerable children. UNESCO has formed a coalition for the same purpose. According to UNESCO, "24 million learners from pre-primary to tertiary education risk not finding their way back to their studies in 2020 following the COVID-19-induced closures. The largest share of learners at risk, 5.9 million, live in South and West Asia. Another 5.3 million students at risk are in sub-Saharan Africa. Both regions faced severe educational challenges even before the pandemic, which is likely to worsen their situation considerably."

Here in the United States, school systems are pouring resources into providing internet hot spots, free meals, laptops, and other materials for the students in their schools, hoping young people can safely pursue their education in the context of the pandemic. Yet even here, with resources far greater than in so many countries, some children will suffer delays in their education that could impact them for years to come. These include children from immigrant families, whose parents don't have the language resources or cultural knowledge to help their children with their schoolwork at a time when teachers are often separated physically from the children they are trying to serve. As superintendents, administrators, and teachers work creatively to try to create policies and procedures that will keep everyone safe and learning, I urge that special care be taken for children of immigrants, and others from families who face obstacles above and beyond those of mainstream American children.

Normally, this time of year in the United States is busy, with families preparing for another school year. But many parents and students are thrown by the uncertainty created by the pandemic. They are still finding out what the new academic year will look like, and what the new protocols will be. Immigrant parents are particularly confused, facing the double whammy of navigating a new culture's educational system – and, on top of that, a system reeling from the effects of the coronavirus. As schools and school boards struggle to serve the students in their care, please reach out to them. Let them know what your children need in order to succeed. In the United States, parent advocacy is always expected and encouraged. And now, more than ever, we must all advocate on behalf of all children and an educational system that works for all.

## How to register and vote in 2020!

Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day in the United States this year. In Maine, voters will have the opportunity to vote for candidates at the municipal, state, and federal levels. The outcomes of all of these election races will impact life for everyone in Maine and the United States for years to come.

To vote, you must be a citizen, at least 18 years of age, have established a primary residence in Maine, and be registered. So, if you have never voted before, but are a citizen, please register to vote! Everyone's voice is important to our democracy.

To register, you can fill out a voter registration card at your town office or city hall, through any Division of Motor Vehicle branch office, and in most state and federal social service agencies. Registering is something you only need to do once; however, if you move, please contact your town office or city hall to let them know.

Many people are choosing to vote by absentee ballot this year rather than in person because of COVID-19. If you want to vote by absentee ballot, please make a request right away. The easiest way to ask for a ballot is to call your town office or city hall. The ballot will be mailed to your home 30 days before the election. If you have not yet registered, you will also be sent a registration card.

When you receive your absentee ballot, you will need to fill it out, seal it, sign the outside of the envelope, and mail it back to your town office or city hall. All ballots must be returned by 8:00 p.m. on November 3 to be counted. Late ballots will not be counted, so it is important to vote early – no one knows if the mail service will be able to efficiently handle the number of ballots expected to be cast absentee this year. Also note that the envelope may require extra postage. Some municipalities also have drop-off boxes near their offices where you can deposit the envelope with your completed ballot, rather than mail it.

Amjambo Africa will run an election issue in October, so stay tuned for information on the candidates and their positions on the issues.





## FRENCH TRANSLATION

### L'ÉDUCATION DES ENFANTS EST L'INVESTISSEMENT LE PLUS IMPORTANT QUE NOUS PUISSIONS FAIRE

#### ÉDITORIAL de Georges Budagu Makoko

Au moment de mettre sous presse, alors que la fin de la crise sanitaire n'est pas encore clairement en vue, 727 357 personnes dans le monde sont mortes du nouveau coronavirus et plus de 19,6 millions de personnes ont contracté le COVID-19. Nous savons tous que la crise menace le bien-être économique des individus et des nations. Tout aussi dévastatrice est la perturbation des systèmes éducatifs dans le monde entier, avec des conséquences qui se feront probablement sentir pendant une génération, et peut-être même au-delà.

Nulle part ailleurs les préoccupations concernant l'éducation ne sont plus aiguës que dans les régions les plus pauvres du monde, notamment dans de nombreux pays d'Afrique, où 710 millions d'enfants ont été privés d'école, selon le Global Partner for Education. De plus, dans de nombreux pays africains, les écoles n'ont pas les moyens de fournir le matériel et la technologie nécessaires afin de maintenir les élèves sur la bonne voie sur le plan scolaire pendant qu'elles restent fermées, ce qui signifie que peu d'enfants dans les pays en développement ont le luxe d'étudier à distance, comme les enfants peuvent le faire aux États-Unis.

Même les pays d'Afrique qui ont essayé de connecter les enseignants et les élèves par le biais de programmes de radio ou de télévision, ou en utilisant des applications téléphoniques comme WhatsApp, n'ont pas réussi à atteindre de nombreux enfants en raison de l'infrastructure technologique limitée. Cela rend l'éducation complètement inaccessible à beaucoup. Parmi les conséquences attendues à terme, on prévoit une hausse des taux d'analphabétisme et une baisse du nombre de diplômés. Le Dr Lazare Sebitereko, Directeur de l'Université Eben-Ezer en République démocratique du Congo, m'a fait part d'une autre préoccupation : alors que les jeunes sont coupés de l'espoir qu'apporte l'éducation, ils seront de plus en plus attirés par l'appartenance à des groupes armés et pourraient chercher la prospérité de cette manière, entraînant ainsi une destruction accrue sur la route d'un continent qui a déjà beaucoup trop souffert de la violence.

J'ai grandi en RD Congo, dans une famille dont les parents n'étaient pas instruits, et j'avais beaucoup d'amis qui n'avaient jamais reçu d'éducation. Beaucoup de ces amis vivent aujourd'hui dans mon village natal, dans des conditions extrêmement difficiles. Pourtant, c'étaient des enfants intelligents. C'est l'environnement et les circonstances dans lesquelles ils ont grandi qui ont déterminé leur avenir et ce qu'ils ont pu accomplir dans la vie. Dans mon propre cas, j'étais motivé par la curiosité personnelle de poursuivre des études, et les circonstances étaient favorables. Grâce à mon éducation, ma vie a changé. Mon cœur souffre pour les millions d'enfants du monde entier qui seront gravement touchés par la pandémie actuelle. Les personnes généreuses, les philanthropes et les gouvernements ne devraient pas oublier ces enfants.

Nous ne devons pas non plus oublier la plus grande leçon de cette pandémie, à savoir que nous sommes tous interconnectés. Par conséquent, plus nous allouons de ressources pour soutenir les systèmes éducatifs dans le monde entier pendant cette période difficile, plus nos sociétés seront prospères et moins troublées à l'avenir. Le Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation s'est efforcé de soutenir les pays en développement dans leurs efforts pour atténuer l'impact de la fermeture des écoles sur les enfants les plus vulnérables du monde. L'UNESCO a formé une coalition dans le même but. Selon l'UNESCO, "24 millions d'apprenants de l'enseignement préprimaire à l'enseignement supérieur risquent de ne pas retrouver le chemin de leurs études en 2020 suite aux fermetures dues à la COVID-19. La plus grande partie des apprenants à risque, soit 5,9 millions, vit en Asie du Sud et de l'Ouest. Les 5,3 millions d'autres étudiants à risque se trouvent en Afrique subsaharienne. Ces deux régions étaient déjà confrontées à de graves problèmes d'éducation avant même la pandémie, ce qui risque d'aggraver considérablement leur situation".

Ici, aux États-Unis, les systèmes scolaires consacrent des ressources pour fournir des points d'accès à Internet, des repas gratuits, des ordinateurs portables et d'autres matériels pour les élèves de leurs écoles, en espérant que les jeunes pourront poursuivre leurs études en toute sécurité dans le contexte de la pandémie. Pourtant, même ici, avec des ressources bien plus importantes que dans tant de pays, certains enfants subiront des retards dans leur éducation qui pourraient les affecter pendant des années. Il s'agit notamment des enfants issus de familles d'immigrés, dont les parents ne disposent pas des ressources linguistiques ou des connaissances culturelles nécessaires pour aider leurs enfants dans leurs travaux scolaires, à un moment où les enseignants sont largement séparés physiquement des enfants qu'ils essaient de servir. En tant que directeurs, administrateurs et enseignants travaillant de manière créative pour essayer de créer des méthodes et des

procédures qui assureront la sécurité et l'apprentissage de chacun, je demande instamment qu'une attention particulière soit accordée aux enfants d'immigrants et aux autres enfants issus de familles qui rencontrent des obstacles supérieurs à ceux des enfants américains ordinaires.

Normalement, le mois d'août ici aux États-Unis est très chargé, les familles préparant une nouvelle année scolaire. Mais de nombreux parents et élèves sont déconcertés par l'incertitude créée par la pandémie. Ils ne savent pas à quoi ressemblera la nouvelle année scolaire, ni quels seront les nouveaux protocoles. Les parents immigrés sont particulièrement désorientés, confrontés à la double difficulté de naviguer dans le système éducatif d'une nouvelle culture - et, en plus de cela, un système qui subit les effets du coronavirus. Alors que les écoles et les conseils scolaires s'efforcent de servir les élèves dont ils ont la charge, nous vous invitons à les contacter. Faites-leur savoir ce dont vos enfants ont besoin pour réussir. Aux États-Unis, la défense des intérêts des parents est toujours attendue et encouragée. Et maintenant, plus que jamais, nous devons tous défendre les intérêts de tous les enfants et un système éducatif qui fonctionne pour tous.

## NOUVELLES DE L'AFRIQUE

### On se souvient du héros somalien Dr. Hawa Abdi comme

#### la voix des sans-voix

Par Jean Damascene

Dr Hawa Abdi, affectueusement appelée Mama Hawa, était une gynécologue à laquelle on attribue le mérite d'avoir sauvé la vie de dizaines de milliers de personnes sur une période de plusieurs décennies. Sa carrière s'est déroulée sur les mêmes 30 années que la guerre civile qui a ravagé son pays. Dr Abdi est décédée le 5 août 2020 à Mogadiscio, à l'âge de 73 ans, et son décès a été largement commémoré.

Ayant étudié la médecine grâce à une bourse d'études dans l'ancienne Union Soviétique, Dr Abdi a été l'une des premières femmes somaliennes à le faire. Elle a également obtenu un diplôme de droit à l'Université Nationale de Somalie. Elle a ensuite fondé une petite clinique dans son village natal. Lorsque la guerre civile a éclaté en 1990 et a menacé de déchirer le pays, Dr Hawa est restée en Somalie et a progressivement transformé sa clinique en un hôpital de 400 lits qui a traité des enfants, des femmes et des hommes. Elle a aidé tout le monde, des victimes de la guerre aux mères en couches. Elle a également construit une école pour les femmes et une école d'agriculture.

Dans un pays ravagé par les divisions ethniques, Dr Abdi aurait établi la norme : elle a traité tout le monde de la même manière, quelle que soit son origine ethnique. Elle a été nommée pour le Prix Nobel de la Paix en 2012 et a reçu de nombreuses récompenses au cours de sa vie, dont un Doctorat en Droit de l'Université de Harvard. Deux de ses enfants sont aujourd'hui médecins, et l'un d'eux dirige l'hôpital fondé par Dr Abdi.

Le président de la Somalie, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, a décrit Dr Abdi dans un post sur Facebook comme quelqu'un qui a "une place en or dans l'histoire de la Somalie... On se souviendra de son travail en temps de crise". Glamour Magazine a décrit Dr Abdi et sa fille médecin en 2010 comme "les saints de la Somalie", les comparant à Mère Teresa.

Deqa Dhalac, née en Somalie et aujourd'hui citoyenne américaine, vivant dans le Maine, dit qu'elle apprécie beaucoup les services rendus par Dr Hawa Abdi à la Somalie. "Son courage pour faire face à la guerre et rester dans le pays - mettant sa vie en danger pour aider des milliers de personnes vulnérables - est inestimable. Beaucoup d'entre nous lui doivent une énorme dette de gratitude pour la différence qu'elle a faite pour tant de personnes", a déclaré Dhalac, ajoutant que l'attitude de Dr Abdi l'avait inspirée à s'efforcer également d'être une voix pour les sans-voix.

Le New York Times a rapporté qu'en 2010, son hôpital avait été repris par des militants islamiques. Après avoir pillé l'endroit, ils ont essayé de la faire quitter le centre, mais elle a refusé et a tenu bon. Un post sur Facebook du Musée somalien du Minnesota dit : "Dr. Hawa Abdi est un héros pour des millions de personnes dans le monde, et son héritage ne sera jamais oublié".

## NOUVELLES DE L'AFRIQUE

### Autrefois phare de l'intégration régionale, le bloc de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est lutte

Par Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

Le bloc de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est comprend les six pays suivants : le Burundi, le Kenya, le Rwanda, le Soudan du Sud, la Tanzanie et l'Ouganda. Au cours des deux dernières années, l'Ouganda et le Rwanda ont réduit leurs

relations bilatérales, et le Rwanda a fermé ses frontières en mars 2019. Les pays s'accusent mutuellement d'héberger des éléments visant à déstabiliser la sécurité nationale. Les efforts de médiation ont été interrompus lorsque la pandémie COVID-19 s'est installée. Récemment, l'Ouganda a annoncé qu'il ne permettrait pas aux Ougandais de se rendre au Rwanda, une décision qui a surpris beaucoup de ceux qui avaient anticipé la normalisation des relations dans un avenir proche. Le Rwanda a signalé la défection d'un officier actif à l'armée ougandaise. Entre-temps, selon The Observer, un média ougandais, le 11 août, l'Ouganda a accusé sept de ses officiers de sécurité actifs d'avoir partagé des renseignements secrets avec le Rwanda. Compte tenu des querelles en cours, l'ouverture très attendue de la frontière au commerce devra attendre un peu plus longtemps.

Pour ajouter de l'huile sur le feu, les relations du Burundi avec le Rwanda ont également été tumultueuses, le gouvernement burundais accusant le Rwanda de soutenir les rebelles qui tentent d'organiser un coup d'État pour renverser le défunt président Nkurunziza. Dans le même temps, le gouvernement rwandais accuse le Burundi de protéger la Force Démocratique de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), un groupe terroriste. Le Président rwandais Paul Kagame a récemment déclaré que le Rwanda était prêt à normaliser ses relations avec le nouveau président du Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye. Cependant, Ndayishimiye a décliné l'offre, exigeant que les organisateurs du coup d'Etat soient d'abord livrés à la justice.

Pendant ce temps, le Kenya et la Tanzanie, relativement stables, échangent des pots-de-vin en ouvrant prudemment leurs économies. Al Jazeera a rapporté que le Kenya n'avait pas inscrit les citoyens tanzaniens sur la liste des personnes pouvant se rendre au Kenya, et la Tanzanie a à son tour interdit à la compagnie Kenya Airways de se rendre à Dar es Salaam.

Ces dernières années, le bloc de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est a prôné un marché commun, une monnaie unique, des frontières ouvertes et de grands projets d'infrastructure comme celui du chemin de fer à voies étroites, le Standard Gauge Railway. Mais avec la poursuite des querelles entre le Rwanda, l'Ouganda et le Burundi, l'avenir de l'organisation semble imprévisible.

## LES ENTREPRISES ALIMENTAIRES

### Les entreprises alimentaires des immigrés font face à un chemin difficile

Par Bonnie Rukin

Créer et gérer une entreprise alimentaire dans le Maine n'est facile pour personne, mais les entrepreneurs immigrés des pays africains sont confrontés à des défis particuliers. Nombre d'entre eux ne connaissent pas les contrats américains, les licences, les structures juridiques et les rapports de l'IRS, et ont besoin d'un encadrement permanent pour réussir.

Claude Rwaganje, Directeur Exécutif de ProsperityME, a aidé un certain nombre de magasins africains à démarrer. Ces marchés comprennent Moriah Market LLC, au 360 Cumberland Ave, Portland ; le Glory Store, au 645 Forest Ave, Portland ; et le Helena Store, initialement au 671 Forest Ave, Portland et maintenant à Lewiston. Il a également fourni un soutien technique à plusieurs restaurants qui appartiennent et sont gérés par des immigrants du Congo et du Burundi. En plus de ProsperityME, Rwaganje a noté que Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) et Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE) aident les jeunes immigrants en leur fournissant un soutien financier et une assistance technique.

Rwaganje a déclaré que seule la moitié des entreprises créées par des immigrants au cours des cinq dernières années restent ouvertes. Les raisons de la fermeture sont notamment la dynamique familiale complexe, les loyers élevés, les problèmes de gestion, la démographie de la clientèle, les difficultés de comptabilité et les coûts opérationnels élevés - et cela était vrai même avant que la pandémie n'affecte négativement tant d'établissements alimentaires.

ProsperityME prépare actuellement un rapport sur les défis rencontrés par les entrepreneurs immigrés qui sera partagé dans un prochain numéro d'Amjambo Africa. Rwaganje a noté que dans le sud du Maine, où les prix de l'immobilier sont devenus hors de portée pour beaucoup, un certain nombre d'entreprises alimentaires immigrantes quittent le centre-ville de Portland afin de suivre leur clientèle. Il a évoqué la possibilité d'un marché international dans le Maine et a invité toute personne intéressée à contribuer à la création d'un tel marché à le contacter à l'adresse [crwaganje@prosperityme.org](mailto:crwaganje@prosperityme.org), 207-797-7890.



SWAHILI TRANSLATION

ELIMU YA WATOTO NDIO UWEKEZAJI MUHIMU ZAIDI  
TUNAWEZA KUFANYA

Mchapishaji Hariri Georges Budagu Makoko

Kama ilivyo wakati wa uandishi wa habari, bila kujuwa lini mwisho kabisa wa shida hii ya kiafya, watu 727,357 ulimwenguni wamekufa kutokana na ugonjwa coronavirusi mpya , na zaidi ya watu milioni 19.6 wamepatwa na ugonjwa wa COVID-19. Tunajua sote kuwa mgogoro huu unatishia ustawi wa kiuchumi wa watu binafsi na wa mataifa. Ikiwa pamoja na kuumiza na kuvuruga kwa mifumo ya elimu kokote ulimwenguni, na matokeo ambayo yanaweza kuhisi kwa kizazi, na labda zaidi.

Hakuna mahali pengine palipo wasiwasi kuhusu elimu kuwa kali zaidi kama ilivyo kwenye sehemu zilizo masikini sana ulimwenguni, zikiwemo nchi nyingi barani Afrika, ambapo watoto milioni 710 wamekatishwa shule, kulingana na Washirika wa Ulimwengu dhidi ya Elimu. Kwa dhiada, katika nchi nyingi za KiAfrika, shule haziwezi kumudu vifaa na teknolojia muhimu ili kuweka wanafunzi angalau kwa njia fulani kwenye shughuli za masomo wakati wamefungwa, na ambayo inamaanisha kuwa watoto wachache tu katika nchi zinazoendelea wanapewa anasa ya kusoma kwa mitambo ya mbali, kama vile watoto wanavyoweza kufanya nchini Marekani.

Hata nchi hilizomo barani Afrika ambazo zimejaribu kunganisha waalimu na wanafunzi kupitia programu ya redio au Televisheni, au kwa kutumia programu za simu kama WhatsApp, zimeshindwa kufikia watoto wengi kwa sababu udogo wa miundombinu ya teknolojia. Hii imefanya elimu isiweze kufikiwa na walio wengi. Matokeo yaliyotarajiwa chini ya mstari ni pamoja na matarajio ya mripuko katika viwango vya kutojua kusoma na kuandika na kupungua kwa idadi ya wahitimu. Daktari Lazare Sebitereko, Mkurugenzi wa Chuo Kikuu cha Eben-Ezer nchini DR Congo, alinishirikisha wasiwasi mwingine: Kadiri vijana wanapokataliwa mbali kwa tumaini ambalo elimu inaleta, watawutiwa zaidi na kushiriki katika vikundi vyenye kushika silaha na wanaweza kutafuta ustawi wao kwa njia hiyo, na hivyo kuzidisha uharibifu chini barabarani kwa bara ambalo tayari limeathirika sana kutokana na vurugu.

Kua kukua nchini DR Congo, katika jamaa ya wazazi wasiojaliwa kupata elimu, nilikuwa na marafiki wengi ambao hawakuwahi kupata elimu. Wengi kati ya marafiki hawa wanaishi kwa sasa katika mazingira yenye kuathiriwa vibaya katika kijiji change cha kuzaliwa. Ijapo kuwa hawa walikuwa watoto wa akili sana. Ni mazingira na hali walio kua amo ndiyo imesababisha maisha yao ya baadaye na nini wange weza kutimiza maishani. Kwa upande wangu binafsi, nilichochea na udadisi wa kipekee wa kutafuta elimu, na hali zilizo jipanga kwa faida yangu. Na kama matokeo ya elimu yangu, maisha yangu yalibadilika. Moyo wangu unau Mizwa kwa ajili ya mamilioni ya watoto ulimwenguni kote ambao wataathiriwa sana na janga hili la sasa. Watu wenye moyo wa huruma, fadhili, na serikali wasinge paswa kuwasahau watoto hawa.

Labda hatupaswi kusahau somo kubwa zaidi kutokana na janga hili - kwamba sote tumeunganishwa. Kwa hivyo, kadiri ya rasilimali zaidi tunazoweka kando ili kusaidia mifumo ya elimu ulimwenguni kote wakati huu mgumu, kadiri hali nzuri zitakuwa pasipo wasiwasi kwa jamii zetu katika siku zijazo. Ushirikiano wa Kimataifa kwa ajili ya Elimu umekuwa ukifanya kazi kwa bidii sana ili kusaidia nchi zinazoendelea kwa vile zinajitahidi kupunguza athari ya inayo tokana na kufungwa kwa shule kwa watoto walio hatarini zaidi duniani. UNESCO imeunda muungano kwa sababu hiyo hiyo. Kulingana na UNESCO, "wanafunzi milioni 24 kutoka elimu ya msingi hadi elimu ya juu wapo hatarini ya kutorudia kwa mafunzo mwaka wa 2020 kufuatana na kufungwa kuliko tokana na COVID-19. Sehemu kubwa ya wanafunzi wako hatarini, milioni 5.9, wanaishi Kusini na Magharibi mwa Asia. Wanafunzi wengine milioni 5.3 walio hatarini wako katika Afrika Kusini mwa Jangwa la Sahara. Mikoa yote miwili hii ilikabiliwa na changamoto kali za kielimu hata kabla ya janga hilo, ambalo linaweza kuzidisha kufanya hali yao kuwa mbaya zaidi. ”

Hapa Marekani, mifumo ya shule iko inamwagia rasilimali katika kutoa habari moto moto kwa wavuti, milo ya bure, computer ya mkononi, na vifaa vingine kwa wanafunzi katika shule zao, wakiwa na matumaini kwamba vijana wanaweza kufuata elimu yao kwa usalama katika muktadha wa janga. Hata hivyo hapa pia, palipo na rasilimali kubwa zaidi kuliko katika nchi nyingi, watoto wamoja watapata shida ya ucheleweshaji katika elimu yao ambayo inaweza kuwaathiri kwa miaka ijayo. Hii ni pamoja na watoto kutoka katika familia za wahamiaji, ambao wazazi wao hawana rasilimali ya lugha au ujuzi wa utamaduni kusudi kusaidia watoto wao na kazi za shule kwa wakati ambao walimu

AMJAMBO AFRICA!

wametengwa kuwa mbali sana na watoto wanaojaribu kuwahudumia. Kama wakiritimba, wasimamizi, na waalimu wanafanya kazi kwa ubunifu kujaribu kuunda sera na michakato ambayo itamfanya kila mtu salama na kujifunza, nawasihi uangalifu maalum uchukuliwe kwa watoto wa wahamiaji, na wengine kutoka familia ambao wanakabiliwa na vizuizi hapo juu na zaidi ya wale watoto wa waMarekani wa kawaida.

Kwa kawaida, mwezi wa nnane hapa Marekani huwa wenye shughuli nyingi, pamoja na jamii kutayarisha mwaka ungene wa shule. Ila wazazi wengi hutupwa katika ukosefu wa uhakika ulio tokana na janga hili. Hawajuzi namna gani mwaka wa shule utafanana, na miundo gani itakuwepo, Wazazi wahamiazi kwa upekee wamechanganyikiwa, wakikabiliana na ujoto wa kuogelea katika tamaduni mpya ya mwendo wa shule- na juu ya hiyo mwendo wa kukabiliana na matokeo ya Coronavirus. Wakati ambapo shule na bodi za shule zinajitahidi kuhudumia wanafunzi katika matunzo, tafadhali kutana nao. Wajulisheni watoto wenu wanahitaji nini ili kufanikiwa. Katika Marekani, utetezi wa wazazi unatazamia na pia unadhaminiwa.Na kwa sasa, zaidi ya hapo ilivokuwa, tunahitajika kutetea kwa faida ya watoto wote nw muundo wa majifunzo unao fanya kazi kwa ajili ya wote.

HABARI KUTOKA AFRIKA

Shujaa wa kisomali Daktari Hawa Abdi hukumbukwa  
kama sauti ya wasio na sauti

By Jean Damascene

Daktari Hawa Abdi, anayejulikana kwa wampendao kama Mama Hawa, alikuwa mtalaam wa mambo ya uzazi aliye sifiwa kuyaokoa maisha ya makumi elfu ya watu kwa mda wa miaka mingi. Kazi iliongezeka 30 thelathini sawa muda wa vita ya wenyewe kwa wenyewe vilivyo angamiza nchi. Daktari Abdi alifariki tarehe Agosti 5, 2020, hapa Mogadishu, akiwa na umri wa miaka 73, na kifo chake kime kumbukwa sana tena sana. Baada ya kusoma elimu ya utabibu kwa katika umoja wa Kisovieti, Dktari Abdi alikuwa mmoja wa wanawake wa kwanza wa kisomali kufanya hivyo. Alihitimu pia digrii ya sheria Kutoka Chuo kikuu cha Kitaifa cha Somali. Baadaye alianzisha Kliniki ndogo katika kijiji chake. Wakati vita vya wenyewe kwa wenyewe vilipoibuka mnamo mwaka wa 1990 na kutishia kugabula nchi, Daktari Hawa alibaki ndani ya Somali na polepole akaenda anabadilisha kliniki yake kuwa hospitali ya vitanda 400 iliyo watibu watoto, wanawake na wanaume. Alisaidia kila aliye kuwa ameafiriwa na vita kwenda kwa wamama waliojifungua uzazi. Alijenga pia shule la wanawake na shule la kilimo.

Katika nchi iliyo vamiwa na mgawanyiko wa kikabila, Daktari Abdi anasemekana kuweka kiwango: alitunza kila mtu kwa usawa, bila kuangalia kabila lake. Aliteuliwa tunzo la Amani la Nobel mnamo mwaka wa 2012, pia alipokea tunzo nyingine nyingi katika maisha yake, ikiwemo digrii ya Daktari wa sheria kutoka Chuo kikuu cha Harvard. Watoto wake wawili ambao sasa ni ma daktari, mmoja anaongoza hospitali aliyoiunda Dktari Abdi. Rais Mohamed Abdulahi Mohamed wa Somalia alizungumzia juu ya Daktari Abdi kwa chapisho lake la facebook, kama alikuwa “mutu aliye na nafasi nzuri kama ya dhahabu katika historia ya Somalia ...Atakumbukwa kwa kazi alizozifanya wakati wa shida. Jarida la “Glamour” lilimueleza Daktari Abdi na binti yake daktari pia katika toleo la 2010 kama watakatifu wa Somalia, ikiwalinganisha na Mama Theresa

Mzaliwa wa kiSomali aishie Maine, Deqa Dhalac, ambaye sasa ni raia wa Marekani, amesema kwamba amefurahishwa na kazi Daktari Hawa Abdi ameifanyia Somalia. Kwa ujasiri wake wa ku kabiliana na vita, na kubaki nchini- akihatarisha maisha yake ili kuwasaidia maelfu ya wasiojiweza-ni ya beyi ghali sana. Walio wengi kati yetu wanadaiwa kumushukuru kwa mabadiliko alioyo fanya kwa watu wengi, amesema Dalaq, na kuongeza kuwa mtazamo wa Daktari Abdi umemchochea pia kujitahidi kuwa sauti kwa wasio na sauti.

The New York Time ili ripoti kwamba mwakani 2010 hospitali yake ime chukuliwa na wanamgambo wa kiislam. Baada ya kupora mahali hapo, wamepima kumushurutisha aondoke na kuacha kituo hicho cha afya, lakini alikataa na akashikilia ardhi yake. Kwa barua ya Facebook ya jumba la makumbusho la Somalia la Minesota inasomeka: “Daktari Abdi ni shujaa kwa mamilioni ulimwenguni, na urithi wake hautasahaulika”

HABARI KUTOKA AFRIKA

Mara tu uzuri wa ushirikiano wa kikanda, Jumuiya ya  
Afrika Mashariki inapambana

Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

Blogi ya Afrika Mashariki inajumuisha nchi sita: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudani Kusini, Tanzania, na Uganda. Katika miaka miwili iliyopita, Uganda na Rwanda zimekata uhusiano wao, na Rwanda ikafunga mipaka yake Machi 2019. Nchi hizo zinashtakiana kwa kuvichunga vikundi vinavyokusudia kuleta usalama mdogo wa kitaifa. Jaribio la upatanishi lilisitishwa wakati janga la COVID-19 lilipoanza. Hivi majuzi, Uganda ilitangaza kuwa haitaruhusu Waganda kusafiri kwenda Rwanda, hatua iliyoshangaza wengi ambao walitarajia kuhalalishwa kwa uhusiano katika siku za hapo usoni. Rwanda imeripoti kutoroka kwa ma afisa wa jeshi lake ambao wanafanya kazi kwa jeshi la Uganda. Wakati huo huo, kulingana na The Observer, kituo cha habari cha Uganda, mnamo Agosti 11 Uganda iliwashutumu maafisa wake saba wa usalama kushirikiana kwa ujasushi na Rwanda. Kulingana na ugomvi unaoendelea, ufunguzi uliotarajiwa wa mpaka wa biashara utahitajika kusubiri kwa muda usio mdogo.

Kuongeza mafuta kwenye moto huu wa kikanda, uhusiano wa Burundi na Rwanda pia umejaa wasiwasi mwingi, na serikali ya Burundi ikishutumu Rwanda kuwaunga mkono waasi waliojaribu kuandaa mapinduzi yalio lenga kuondoa madarakani hayati rais wa Nkurunziza. Na kwa wakati huo huo, serikali ya Rwanda inaishtaki Burundi kulinda Kikosi cha kigaidi cha Democratic de Liberation du Rwanda, au FDLR. Rais Paul Kagame wa Rwanda alisema hivi karibuni kwamba Rwanda iko tayari kurekebisha uhusiano wake na Rais mpya, Evariste Ndayishimiye. Walakini, Ndayishimiye alikataa toleo hilo, na kuwataka waandaaji wa mapinduzi hayo watolewe kwanza ili kukabiliana na sheria.

Wakati huo huo, Kenya na Tanzania ambazo zinafanya biashara ya kuuza bidhaa zao kwa uangalifu wakati zinafungua uchumi wao, na Al Jazeera, ikiripoti kwamba Kenya haikuorodhesha raia wa Tanzania miongoni mwa wale walioweza kuikimbia Kenya, na Tanzania kwa kupika marufuku Kenya Airways kuruka ndani ya Dar es salaam. Kwa miaka ya hivi karibuni, kambi ya Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki imepatana kuwa na soko la umoja, sarafu moja, kufungua mipaka wazi, na miradi mikubwa ya miundombinu kama kiwango cha reli cha Gauge. Lakini kwa ajili ya uhasama unaoendelea kati ya Rwanda, Uganda, na Burundi, mustakabali wa shirika unaonekana vigumu kutabirika.

BIASHARA ZA WAHAMIAJI HUWA KATIKA MUELEKEO  
MGUMU

by Bonnie Rukin

Kuanzisha na kuendesha biashara ya chakula hapa Maine sio rahisi kwa mtu yeyote ule, lakini wajasiriamali wahamiaji kutoka nchi za KiAfrika wanakabiliwa na changamoto ya kipekee. Wengi hawana zoezi na mikataba ya Marekani, leseni, muundo wa kisheria, na ripoti ya Kituo cha kulipisha Ushuru (IRS), pia wanahitaji kupata ushauri wa jinsi ya kuendelea ili kufanikiwa.

Claude Rwaganje, Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa ProsperityME, amesaidia duka kadhaa za Kiafrika kuanza kazi. Masoko haya ni pamoja na Moriah Market LLC, kunako 360 Cumberland Ave., Portland; Glory Store, kunako 645 Forest Ave., Portland; na Duka la Helena, lilio anzia kunako 671 Forest Ave., Portland na sasa linakuwa huko Lewiston. Ametoa pia msaada wa kiutalamu kwa mikahawa kadhaa ambayo inamilikiwa na kuendeshwa na wahamiaji kutoka Congo na Burundi. Zaidi ya ProsperityME, Rwaganje alibaini kuwa Enterprise Coastal, Inc. (CEI), na Huduma ya Wahudumu Wastaafu wastaafu (SCORE) husaidia wahamiaji mwanzoni kwa kutoa msaada wa kifedha na msaada wa kiutalaamu.

Rwaganje alisema kuwa ni nusu tu ya biashara iliyoanzishwa na wahamiaji ndani ya miaka mitano iliyopita inayobaki wazi. Sababu za kufungwa ni pamoja na mienendo tata ya familia, malipo ya juu ya kodi, maswala ya uongozi, idadi ya watu, changamoto za uhasibu, na gharama kubwa za kuendesha kazi - na hii ilikuwa kweli hata kabla ya janga hili kuathiri vibaya uanzishwaji wa chakula.

ProsperityME hivi sasa inaandaa ripoti ya changamoto zinazowakabili wafanyabiashara wahamiaji ambayo itashirikiwa katika suala linalokuja la Amjambo Afrika. Rwaganje alibaini kuwa huko Maine ya Kusini, ambapo bei ya ma nyumba imekuwa haiwezi kupatikana kwa watu wengi, biashara kadhaa za chakula zinahama kutoka Portland katikati mwa jiji ili kufuatana na wateja wao wa mwanzoni. Alitaja uwezekano wa soko la kimataifa huko Maine, na akamwalika mtu yeyote anayevutiwa kusaidia kuunda soko la aina hiyo ili kuwasiliana naye kwa crwaganje@prosperityme.org, 207-797-7890.



## SOMALI TRANSLATION

### WAXBARASHADA CARUURTU WAA MAALGASHIGA UGU MUHIIM-SAN EE AAN SAMAYN KARNO

Tafatiraha Daabacaha : George Budagu Makoko

Wagtiga lagu jiro saxaafadda, iyada oo aan si cad loo ogeyn dhibaataada caafimaad ee wali muuqata, 727,357 qof oo adduunka ah ayaa u dhintey cudurka loo yaqaan 'coronavirus', iyo in ka badan 19.6 milyan oo qof ayaa ku dhacay COVID-19. Dhamaanteen waan ognahay in dhibaataadu ay khatar ku tahay ladnaanta dhaqaale ee shakhsiyaadka iyo quruumaha. Si la mid ah burburka ayaa ah carqaladeynta nidaamyada waxbarasho ee adduunka oo dhan, iyada oo cawaaqibkeeda ay u badan tahay in laga dareemo jiil, iyo suurtagal ka sii dambeysa.

Ma jiraan wax walaac ah oo ku saabsan waxbarashada oo ka daran marka loo eego meelaha ugu saboolsan adduunka, oo ay ku jiraan dalal badan oo Afrika ah, oo 710 milyan oo carruur ah laga joojiyey dugsiyada, sida uu sheegay Global Partner for Education. Intaa waxaa dheer, dalal badan oo Afrikaan ah, iskuuladu ma awoodi karaan inay bixiyaan agabyada iyo tikniyoolajiyadda lagama maarmaanka u ah inay ardayda ugu yaraan xoogaa xoogaa ah ku hayaan wadada tacliimeed inta la xirayo, taas oo macnaheedu yahay in carruur yar oo ku nool waddamada soo koraya ay helaan fursad qaali ah oo ay wax ku bartaan meel fog, maadaama carruurta waxay awoodaan inay ku sameeyaan Mareykanka.

Itaa wadamadaas ku yaal Afrika ee isku dayay inay ku xiraan macallimiinta iyo ardayda barnaamijyada raadiyaha ama TV-ga, ama iyagoo adeegsanaya barnaamijyada taleefanka sida WhatsApp, waxay ku guuldarreysteen inay gaaraan carruur badan maxaa yeelay kaabayaasha tiknolojiyadda ayaa aad u xaddidan. Tani waxay ka dhigeysaa waxbarasha gabi ahaanba mid aan dad badan u heli karin. Cawaaqibta la filayo ee xariiqda hoose waxaa ka mid ah kororka laga filayo heerarka qoris la'aanta iyo hoos u dhaca tirada qali -jabita!

Dr. Lazare Sebitereko, oo ah maamulaha jaamacada Eben-Ezer ee DR Kongo ayaa walaac dheeri ah ila wadaagey madaama dhalinyarada ay ka go'een rajadii ay waxbarashadu soo saartay, waxay noqon doonaan kuwa soo jiidasho kaqeybgalida kooxaha hubaysan oo sidaasna ku raadsan kara barwaaqo. , taas oo keenaysa burburin sii kordheysa wadada loo maro qaarad ay horey dhibaato badan uga soo gaartay rabshadaha.

Markii aan ku soo barbaaray DR Congo, qoys aan waalidkood aqoon lahayn, waxaan lahaa saaxiibo badan oo aan waligood waxbarasho helin. Qaar badan oo ka mid ah asxaabtan ayaa hadda ku nool xaalado aad u xun oo ku habsaday tuuladaydii hooyo. Haddana kuwani waxay ahaayeen carruur caqli badan. Waxay ahayd deegaanka iyo duruufaha ay ku soo koreen ee go'aamiyay mustaqbalkooda iyo waxa ay u suuragashay inay nolosha ka gaaraan. Markii aan ku soo barbaaray DR Congo, qoys aan waalidkood aqoon lahayn, waxaan lahaa saaxiibo badan oo aan waligood waxbarasho helin.

Qaar badan oo ka mid ah asxaabtan ayaa hadda ku nool xaalado aad u xun oo ku habsaday tuuladaydii hooyo. Haddana kuwani waxay ahaayeen carruur caqli badan. Waxay ahayd deegaanka iyo duruufaha ay ku soo koreen ee go'aamiyay mustaqbalkooda iyo waxa ay u suuragashay inay nolosha ka gaaraan.

Iskaashiga Caalamiga ah ee Waxbarashada ayaa si adag uga shaqeynayay sidii loo taageeri lahaa dalalka soo koraya iyagoo isku dayaya inay yareeyaan saameynta xirnaanshaha iskuulku ku leeyahay carruurta adduunka ugu nugul. UN-ESCO waxay sameysay isbahaysi isla ujeeddadaas ah. Sida laga soo xigtay UNESCO, “24 milyan oo arday ah oo ka socda dugsiiga hoose ilaa waxbarashada sare ayaa halis ugu jira in aysan helin jidkii ay ugu laaban lahaayeen waxbarashadooda sannadka 2020-ka ka dib markii la xiray COVID-19. Qaybta ugu badan ee bartayaasha halista ku jirta, 5.9 milyan, waxay ku nool yihiin Koonfurta iyo Galbeedka Aasiya. 5.3 milyan oo arday kale oo khatar ugu jira ayaa ku sugan Saxaraha ka hooseeya Afrika. Labada gobolba waxay la kulmayeen culeysyo waxbarasho oo culus xitaa kahor masiibada, taas oo u badan inay si ka sii darto xaaladdooda.”

Halkan Maraykanka, nidaamyada iskuulladu waxay ku shubayaan ilaha bixinta internetka meelaha kulul, cuntada bilaashka ah, laptop-yada, iyo agabyo kale oo loogu talagalay ardayda dhigata iskuulladooda, iyagoo rajeynaya in dhallinyartu ay si nabadgelyo leh u sii wataan

waxbarashadooda iyadoo la tixraacayo masiibada faafa. Hase yeeshe xitaa halkan, iyada oo leh ilo aad uga ballaaran dalal badan, carruurta qaarkood waxay la kulmi doonaan daahitaan xagga waxbarashadooda ah oo saameyn ku yeelan kara sannadaha soo socda. Kuwaas waxaa ka mid ah carruurta ka soo jeeda qoysaska soogalootiga ah, oo waalidkood aan lahayn awood luqadeed ama aqoon dhaqameed si ay uga caawiyaan carruurtooda hawshooda dugsi waqti ay macallimiintu si weyn uga soocnaadaan carruurta ay isku dayayaan inay u adeegaan.

Maaddaama kormeerayaasha, maamulayaasha, iyo macallimiintu ay si hal abuur leh ugu shaqeeyaan si ay isugu dayaan inay abuuraan siyaasado iyo nidaamyo ilaalinaya qof walba nabad qabkiisa iyo waxbarashadiisa, waxaan ku boorinayaa in taxaddar gaar ah loo yeesho carruurta soo galootiga ah, iyo kuwa kale ee ka soo jeeda qoysaska la kulma caqabadaha ka sarreeya iyo kuwa ka baxsan kuwa caadiga ah ee Mareykanka carruurta.

Caadi ahaan, bisha Ogosto halkan Mareykanka waa mashquul, iyadoo qoysaska ay isku diyaarinayaan sanad dugsiyeed kale. Laakiin waalidiin iyo arday badan ayaa ku tuuray shaki la'aanta ay abuurtay masiibada. Ma garanayaan waxay u ekaan doonaan sanadka cusub ee waxbarashadu, iyo sida borotokoolka cusub uu noqon doono. Waalidiinta soo galootiga ah waxay si gaar ah u jahwareersan yihiin, iyagoo wajahaya labo waji oo ah marin haynta nidaamka waxbarasho ee dhaqanka cusub - iyo, taa waxaa u dheer, nidaam dib uga cabanaaya saameynta coronavirus. Maaddaama iskuulada iyo guddiyada iskuulku ay halgan ugu jiraan inay ugu adeegaan ardayda ay xanaaneeyaan, fadlan la xiriir iyaga. Ogeysii waxay carruurtaadu u baahan yihiin si loogu guuleysto. Waddanka Mareykanka, u-qareemeynta waalidiinta ayaa had iyo jeer la filayaa oo lagu dhiirrigeliyaa. Hadana, in ka badan sidii hore, waa inaan dhammaanteen u doodnaa annagoo ku hadlaya magaca carruurta oo dhan iyo nidaam waxbarasho oo u wada shaqeeya dhammaan.

#### WARARKA KA IMANAYA AFRIKA

##### hero hero Geesiga

**Soomaaliyeed Dr. Xaawo Cabdi waxaa lagu xasuustaa inay ahayd codkii kuwa aan codka lahayn**

Dr. Xaawo Cabdi, oo si kalgacal leh loogu yaqaanay Mama Xaawa, waxay ahayd khabiir ku taqasusay cudurada haweenka oo lagu amaano inay badbaadisay nolosha to-banaan kun oo qof muddo dhowr iyo toban sano ah. Xirfadeeddeedii waxay qaadatay isla 30 sano oo dagaal sokeeye uu dalkeeda ku burburiyey. Dr. Cabdi wuxuu ku dhintey Ogosto 5, 2020, isagoo ku dhintey Muqdisho, isagoo jira 73 sano, dhimashadiisuna si weyn ayaa loo xasuustaa. Markii uu cilmiga caafimaadka ku bartay Midowgii Soofiyeeti ee hore, Dr. Xaawo Cabdi, oo si kalgacal leh loogu yaqaanay Mama Xaawa, waxay ahayd khabiir ku taqasusay cudurada haweenka oo lagu amaano inay badbaadisay nolosha to-banaan kun oo qof muddo dhowr iyo toban sano ah. Xirfadeeddeedii waxay qaadatay isla 30 sano oo dagaal sokeeye uu dalkeeda ku burburiyey. Dr. Cabdi wuxuu ku dhintey Ogosto 5, 2020, isagoo ku dhintey Muqdisho, isagoo jira 73 sano, dhimashadiisuna si weyn ayaa loo xasuustaa. Markii uu cilmiga caafimaadka ku bartay Midowgii Soofiyeeti ee hore, Xaawa Cabdi wuxuu ka mid ahaa haweenkii ugu horeeyay ee Soomaaliyeed ee sidaas sameeya. Waxay sidoo kale shahaadada sharciga ka qaadatay Jaamacadda Qaranka Soomaaliyeed. Waxay markii dambe aasaasay xarun caafimaad oo yar oo ku taal tuuladeeda. Markii dagaalkii sokeeye qarxay 1990kii oo ku hanjabay inuu dalka kala jeexan yahay, Dr. Xaawa waxay sii joogtay Soomaaliya waxayna si tartiib tartiib ah u bedeshay xarunteedii cusbitaal 400 sariirood ah oo lagu daweeyo carruurta, haweenka iyo ragga. Waxay caawisay qof kasta oo dhibanayaal dagaal ilaa hooyooyinka dhashay. Waxay sidoo kale dhistay iskuul loogu tala galay haweenka iyo iskuul wax lagu barto.

Waddan ay ku dhacday kala qaybsanaanta qowmiyadeed, Dr. Cabdi waxaa la sheegay inuu dejiyey heerka ay kuula dhaqmayso qof kasta si isku mid ah, iyadoo aan loo eegin jinsiyadooda. Waxaa loo magacaabay abaalmarinta Nobel Peace Prize sanadkii 2012, waxayna heshay abaalmarino badan noloshooda oo ay kujirto Doctor of Law degree oo ay ka qaadatay jaamacada Harvard. Laba ka mid ah carruurteeda ayaa hadda ah dhakhaatiir, midna wuxuu maamulaa isbitaalka ay aasaasatay Dr. xaawa Abdi

Madaxweynaha Soomaaliya Maxamed C / Ilaahi Maxamed ayaa ku tilmaamay Dr. xaawa Cabdi qoraal uu soo dhigay bartiisa Facebook qof leh “meel dahab kaga jira taariikhda Soomaaliya. Magasinka Glamour ayaa ku tilmaamtay Dr. Cabdi iyo gabadheeda dhakhtarka ah 2010 inay yihiin \"quduusiinta Soomaaliya,\" iyaga oo isbarbardhigaya Hooyo Teresa.

Mainer Deqa Dhalac oo asalkeedu yahay Soomaali, hadana haysata dhalashada Mareykanka, waxay sheegaysaa inay aad ugu qanacsan tahay howlaha ay Dr Xaawo Cabdi u qabatay

Soomaaliya. Geesinimadeeda geesinimada dagaalka, iyo joogitaanka wadanka - oo nolosheeda qatar gelineysa si ay u caawiso kumanaanka qof ee nugul - waa qaali.

In badan oo naga mid ah ayaa abaal weyn ugu hayaa mahadcelinta farqiga ay u sameysay dad badan, ayuu yiri Dhalac, wuxuuna intaa ku daray in dabeecadda Dr. Habdhaqanka Cabdi ayaa ku dhiirrigeliyay inay sidoo kale ku dadaasho inay noqoto cod loogu talagalay codka bilaa codka ah.

New The New York Times waxay qortay in 2010 isbitaalkeeda ay la wareegeen dagaalyahano Islaami ah. Markii ay boobeen booska, waxay isku dayeen inay iyada ka kaxeeyaan xarunta iyaga, laakiin way diidey oo dhulkeedii ayey haysatay. Qoraal Facebook uu soo dhigay Matxafka Soomaalida ee Minnesota ayaa lagu yiri, “Dr. Xaawo Cabdi waxay halyeey u tahay malaayiin qof oo adduunka ku nool, dhaxalkeedana lama iloobi doono.”

#### WARARKA KA IMANAYA AFRIKA

##### Mar haddii ay tahay isha is-dhexgalka gobolka, Beesha Bariga

##### Afrika ee Bloc ayaa la halgamaya Damas

##### Jean Damascene Hakuzimana.

Urukka Bariga Afrika waxaa ku jira lixda dal ee Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, iyo Uganda. Labadii sano ee la soo dhaafay, Uganda iyo Rwanda waxay jareen xiriirkii labada dhinac, waxayna Rwanda xirtay xuduudaheeda bishii Maarso 2019. Wadamadu waxay isku eedeeyaan midba midka kale inuu gabbaad ka dhigto oo damacsan inuu qalqal galiyo amniga qaranka.

Dadaallada dhexdhexaadinta waa la joojiyey markii CVID-19 uu dhacay. Dhawaan, Uganda waxay ku dhawaaqday inaysan u oggolaan doonin dadka reer Uganda inay u safaan Rwanda, tallaabadaas oo ka yaabisay dad badan oo filayay in xiriirku caadi noqdo mustaqbalka dhow. Ruwanda waxay ka warbixisay goosashada sarkaal militari oo firfircoon ciidamada Uganda. Ruwanda waxay ka warbixisay goosashada sarkaal militari oo firfircoon ciidamada Uganda. Dhanka kale, sida laga soo xigtay The Observer, oo ah warbaahin u dhalatay Uganda, 11-kii Ogosto Uganda waxay ku eedeysay 7 ka mid ah saraakiisheeda amniga ee firfircoon inay la wadaageen sirta sirta ah Rwanda. Marka la eego murannada socda, furitaanka inta badan la filayo ee xudduudaha ganacsiga waxaa loo baahan yahay in yar in yar.

Si shidaal loogu daro dabka gobolka, xiriirka Burundi iyo Rwanda ayaa sidoo kale qasan, iyadoo dowladda Burundi ay ku eedeysay Rwanda inay taageerto mucaaradka oo isku dayaya inay abaabulaan afgambi xukunka looga tuurayo madaxweynihii geeriyooday ee Nkurunziza. Isla mar ahaantaana, dawladda Rwanda waxay ku eedeynayaan Burundi inay ilaaliso argagixisada Xoogga Argagixisada ee 'Democratic de Freedom du Rwanda', ama 'FDLR'. Madaxweynaha Paul Kagame ee Rwanda ayaa dhawaan sheegay in Rwanda ay diyaar u tahay inay caadi ka dhigto xiriirka kala dhexeeya madaxweynaha cusub ee Burundi, Evariste. Si kastaba ha noqotee, Ndayishimiye wuu diiday dalabka, wuxuu dalbaday in qabanqaabiyayaasha afgambiga marka hore loo soo wareejiyo si ay caddaaladda u wajahaan.

Dhinaca kale, xasiloonida Kenya iyo Tansaaniya ayaa ka ganacsata cinwaanno mataano ah iyada oo taxaddar ku jirta dhaqaalahooda u furay, iyadoo Al Jazeera ay soo warinayso in Kenya aan liisaska muwaadiniinta Tansaaniya ka mid ahayn kuwa u duuli kara Kenya, Tansaaniyana ay mamnuucday Kenya Airways. duulimaadka Daarusalaam.

Sanadihii la soo dhaafay, ururka bulshada Bariga Afrika wuxuu soo koobay suuq guud, hal lacag, xuduudo furan, iyo mashaariic waaweyn oo kaabayaasha ah sida Standard Gauge Railway. Laakiin iyadoo ay sii socdaan khilaafaadka u dhexeeya Rwanda, Uganda, iyo Burundi, mustaqbalka ururka wuxuu umuuqdaa mid aan la saadaalin karin.

#### GANACSIYADA CUNTADA

##### BUSINESSES GANACSATADA SHISHEEYAHA SOOGALOOTIGA AH WAXAY KU HELAAN WADDO ADAG

by Bonnie Rukin

Bilaabida iyo socodsiinta ganacsi cunto Maine uma sahlana qofkasta, laakiin ganacsatada soogalootiga ah ee ka yimid waddamada Afrika ayaa wajahaya caqabado gaar ah. Kuwo badan ayaan aqoon u lahayn qandaraasyada Mareykanka, shatiyeynta, qaab dhismeedka sharciga, iyo warbixinta IRS, waxayna u baahan yihiin latalin joogto ah si ay u guuleystaan.

Claude Rwaganje, Agaasimaha Fulinta ee ProsperityME, wuxuu ka caawiyay dhowr dukaan oo Afrikaan ah inay bilaabaan bilowgooda. Suuqyadan waxaa ka mid ah Moriah Market LLC, oo ku yaal 360 Cumberland Ave., Portland; Dukaanka ammaanta, ee 645 Forest Ave., Portland; iyo Dukaanka Helena, asal ahaan 671 Forest Ave., Portland oo hadda ku yaal Lewiston. Wuxuu sidoo kale taageero farsamo siiyay dhowr maqaaxiyo oo ay leeyihiin oo ay leeyihiin muhaajiriin ka yimid Congo iyo Burundi.



## Do police officers belong in schools?

By Kathreen Harrison

The national conversation about police violence that was ignited by the murder of George Floyd has sparked discussions in school districts nationwide about whether the presence of school resource officers (SROs) – career law enforcement officers who work in the schools – should be discontinued. In Maine, at its June meeting, the Portland



s c h o o l board voted 7-2, after a lengthy discussion, to remove the district's two SROs, who had been stationed at Portland High School and Deering High School. Sanford and Kennebunk

have also seen efforts to remove SROs from the schools, both unsuccessful. Bangor recently voted to keep their SRO officer, who works primarily at Bangor High School.

On Monday, August 31, (after press time), the Lewiston School Committee will discuss a school policing reform proposal first brought by School Committee Member Kiernan I. Majerus-Collins of Ward 3 in June. The proposal originally was set for discussion on July 13, however that meeting was postponed. Megan Parks, who has been chair of the committee for less than two months following the sudden resignation of the previous chair, Monique Roy, said that the meeting was postponed to allow for remote participation by the public. A new Zoom platform will be inaugurated at the August 31 meeting that will allow a raised hands feature, allowing those not comfortable writing English – or attending the meeting in person – to voice their thoughts. Parks had hoped the new platform would be first tried out during planned workshops ahead of the August 31 meeting to look into the arguments on both sides of the SRO issue, however those workshops were nixed by the committee. The discussion in Lewiston over the summer about SROs in the school has been heated, with people lining up on both sides of the issue, and reports of threats against individuals on social media.

According to “School-Based Policing in Maine,” a report out of the Cutler Institute of the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service, the presence of SROs in schools dates from the 1950s, when the first officers were placed in schools in Flint, Michigan. The Clinton Administration oversaw a huge expansion of police officers in schools, and gun violence in the years since the 1999 Columbine school shooting continued to fuel public support for SROs. By school year 2015-2016, 42% of public schools in American employed at least one full- or part-time police officer. Generally, funding for these officers is shared between school districts and police departments. In Maine, according to the report, the number of schools employing SROs jumped from 67 to 82 between spring and fall of 2018.

Those in favor of SROs believe that officers in schools help keep students safe. Others praise the relationships many SROs build with students, which they say can help keep kids from misbehaving and getting in trouble with the law. However Police in Schools, a 2019 book by the Canadian team of Linda Duxbury and Craig Bennell, indicates there is little systematic research on the topic. Their study acknowledges that SRO programs can provide real value for students, but SRO benefits rely on having well-designed programs, standards, and outstanding personnel. Those against SROs point to data indicating that Black students get referred by SROs to law enforcement at a higher rate than white students. According to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, during the 2015–16 school year, Black students represented 15% of the total student enrollment, but 31% of students who were referred to law enforcement or arrested – a 16-percentage-point disparity. In Lewiston in 2015, Black students accounted for 31.4% of the district's school population, but 69.2% of referrals to law enforcement.

Kiernan Majerus-Collins, the Lewiston School Committee member whose proposal is on the August 31 agenda, said he expected “a well attended evening, and a spirited discussion. We expect to hear from a lot of people. Over the summer we have received 100s of emails, many phone calls, petitions for and against the proposal. The reality is that folks in Lewiston have widely different perspectives on this. Everything from people arguing that this does not go far enough to folks arguing that we need an SRO in every school.” Majerus-Collins said that due to barriers to certain voices being heard, such as those who have language barriers, economic challenges, or child care barriers, he expects to hear from “a public that is more privileged, whiter, more favorable toward SROs on Monday than is fully representative of the City.”

Key findings from the Cutler report are that SROs operate with little oversight, and there are no standardized SRO training requirements from the federal government. In addition, there is no state oversight of officers, and only minimal local oversight. As a result, the “skills and preferences of individual officers” determine how helpful – or not – SROs are to students in preventing misbehavior and potential involvement with the police system. Some states have created statutory requirements for SROs, legislating what behaviors on a student's part warrant arrest and what don't. Maine, however, has no such rules in place. Lewiston has had SROs in the school for decades without a memorandum of understanding in place between the school system and the police department, which has resulted in no tracking of data. The police chief requested the creation of an MOU last year, however Lewiston's previous superintendent pushed the request aside, and nothing was done. The adoption of an MOU is on the school committee agenda for August 31.

Miriam, a mother and a former teacher in Maine (who prefers not to use her full

name for fear of retaliation) emphasizes the lack of adequate training for SROs – and for teachers – in child development, neurodivergence, and trauma. “We have a school system of predominantly white educators who don't have the training or resources to get the students what they need. When behaviors arise, they involve school police. It's a reflection of what's happening in the greater community. There is inherent bias and low training. And students with involvement with SROs have 12 times the likelihood of failing to graduate. It's a vicious cycle. Kids with unmet needs getting in trouble with teachers, and then SROs getting involved.”

The Cutler Institute's report notes that Maine does not meet national professional standards for support professionals who are trained to serve children suffering from trauma. According to the data, schools in Maine employ an average of one counselor per 303 students, while the national standards recommend one counselor per 250 students; one social worker per 617 students, against a recommended one per 250 students; one psychologist per 1,830 students, instead of one per 500-700 students.

Fowsia Muse, Executive Director of Maine Community Integration in Lewiston, emphasizes that some SROs, such as the officer at Connors Elementary School, are “loved by everyone...a lot of the kids call him ‘Grandpa.’” However, “middle and high school is where they start the school-to-prison pipeline. There are a lot of cases of Black Somali kids who have ‘terrorizing’ on their school records.”

Follow Amjambo Africa for continued coverage of the movement to reallocate funding from SROs to other support personnel.

## ASYLUM SEEKERS CONTINUE TO BE TURNED AWAY FROM CANADIAN BORDER

Misinformation about Border Conditions are Putting Migrants at Risk

Growing numbers of people are traveling to the US-Canada border with the hopes of crossing into Canada to claim refugee status. However, most people are not permitted to enter Canada and are directed back to the US. Restrictions on who can enter Canada are in place both at official ports of entry and at unofficial crossings such as the one at Roxham Road, New York.

There is a significant risk that people directed back will be detained in the US Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) and placed in removal proceedings.



Due to the COVID-19 border closure, unofficial refugee crossings into Canada, such as the one at Roxham Road, New York, are closed. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) continue to be stationed at Roxham Road. People caught attempting to cross into Canada at unofficial crossings such as Roxham Road will be directed back to the US, where they may be detained.

Under the Safe Third Country Agreement, many people are not permitted to apply for refugee status in Canada at official ports of entry. Despite the Federal Court of Canada ruling on July 22, 2020, that the Safe Third Country Agreement is unconstitutional, the Agreement remains in effect. There are some specific exceptions to the Safe Third Country Agreement. Certain people can claim refugee status an official Port of Entry at the Canadian border. These exceptions include:

- People who have specific types of family members in Canada;
- Unaccompanied children under the age of 18 who do not have a parent or guardian in Canada or the US;
- Refugee claimants who are U.S. citizens or stateless persons habitually living in the US; or
- People who have visas or travel documents allowing travel to Canada, or people from countries that do not require a visa for Canada, but do require a visa for the US (e.g. Mexico, Hong Kong SAR).

Anyone who wants to make a refugee claim in Canada should talk to someone with expertise in Canadian immigration and refugee law before traveling to the US-Canada border. Non-profit organizations who work with refugees may be able to provide referrals to a lawyer who is qualified to practice immigration and refugee law in Canada. A qualified lawyer can provide advice about who is permitted to apply for refugee status in Canada under the Safe Third Country Agreement and COVID-19 border closures.



**Cloth Face Covering Do's and Don'ts**

DO:	DON'T:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wear a cloth face covering in public places where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.</li><li>• Make sure your mouth and nose are fully covered.</li><li>• Make sure the mask fits snugly against the sides of your face.</li><li>• Wash your hands after touching your mask.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wear a cloth face covering if you have trouble breathing or are otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.</li><li>• Put a cloth face covering on children under age 2.</li><li>• Use surgical masks or other PPE intended for healthcare workers.</li></ul>





# NEWS FROM AFRICA

by Jean Damascène Hakuzimana

## Somali hero Dr. Hawa Abdi remembered as voice for the voiceless

Dr. Hawa Abdi, affectionately known as Mama Hawa, was a gynecologist who is credited with having saved the lives of tens of thousands of people over a period of several decades. Her career spanned the same 30 years that civil war has ravaged her country. Dr. Abdi died August 5, 2020, in Mogadishu, at the age of 73, and her passing has been widely memorialized.

Having studied medicine on scholarship in the former Soviet Union, Dr. Abdi was one of the first Somali women ever to do so. She also earned a law degree from Somali National University. She later founded a small clinic in her home village. When the civil war erupted in 1990 and threatened to tear the country apart, Dr. Hawa stayed in Somalia and gradually transformed her clinic into a 400-bed hospital that treated children, women, and men. She helped everyone from war victims to birthing mothers. She also built a school for women and a school of agriculture.

In a country ravaged by ethnic divisiveness, Dr. Abdi is said to have set the standard: she treated everyone equally, regardless of their ethnicity. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012, and received many awards in her lifetime, including a Doctor of Law degree from Harvard University. Two of her children are now doctors, and one runs the hospital founded by Dr. Abdi.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed of Somalia described Dr. Abdi in a Facebook post as someone who has “a golden place in the history of Somalia.... She will be remembered for her work during crisis times.” Glamour Magazine described Dr. Abdi and her physician daughter in 2010 as “the saints of Somalia,” comparing them to Mother Teresa.

Somali-born Mainer Deqa Dhalac, now a citizen of the United States, says that she is very appreciative of the service Dr. Hawa Abdi rendered to Somalia. “Her courage to brave the war, and stay in the country – putting her life in danger to help thousands of vulnerable people – is priceless. Many of us owe her a huge debt of gratitude for the difference she made to so many,” said Dhalac, and added that Dr. Abdi’s attitude inspired her to also strive to be a voice for the voiceless. appreciation for such a woman of courage?

The New York Times reported that in 2010 her hospital was taken over by Islamic militants. After looting the place, they tried to get her to leave the center to them, but she refused and held her ground. A Facebook post of the Somali Museum of Minnesota reads, “Dr. Hawa Abdi is a hero to millions around the world, and her legacy will never be forgotten.”

## Once a beacon of regional integration, the East African Community Bloc is struggling

The East African bloc includes the six countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Over the past two years, Uganda and Rwanda have cut bilateral relations, and Rwanda closed its borders in March 2019. The countries accuse each other of harboring elements intending to destabilize national security. Mediation efforts were called off when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. Recently, Uganda announced it would not allow Ugandans to travel to Rwanda, a move that surprised many who had anticipated the normalization of relations in the near future. Rwanda has reported the defection of an active military officer to the Ugandan army. Meanwhile, according to The Observer, a Ugandan media outlet, on August 11 Uganda accused seven of its active security officers of sharing secret intelligence with Rwanda. Given the ongoing quarrels, the much-anticipated opening of the border for trade will need to wait a little longer.

To add fuel to the regional fire, Burundi’s relations with Rwanda have also been tumultuous, with the Burundi government accusing Rwanda of supporting rebels trying to organize a coup to topple the late president Nkurunziza. At the same time, the Rwandan government is accusing Burundi of protecting the terrorist Force Democratic de Liberation du Rwanda, or FDLR. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda recently said that Rwanda is ready to normalize relations with Burundi’s new president, Evariste Ndayishimiye. However, Ndayishimiye has declined the offer, demanding that organizers of the coup first be turned over to face justice.

Meanwhile, the relatively stable Kenya and Tanzania are trading tit-for-tats as they cautiously open their economies, with Al Jazeera reporting that Kenya had not listed Tanzanian citizens among those able to fly into Kenya, and Tanzania in turn banning Kenyan Airways from flying into Dar es Salaam.

In recent years, the East African Community bloc has touted a common market, a single currency, open borders, and big infrastructure projects like the Standard Gauge Railway. But with feuds continuing between Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi, the future of the organization appears unpredictable. In 2019, Tanzania recorded growth of 7%, making the country among the fastest-growing economies in Africa. By jumping up to the lower-middle income ranking, Tanzania joins Kenya as one of only two East African countries to have achieved lower-middle income ranking.

Tanzania aims to achieve middle-income ranking by 2025, which would indicate a competitive economy capable of sustainable growth; high-quality jobs; peace, stability, unity, and good governance; and a well-educated society.

Hassan Abbasi also stressed that the reinforcement of ethics in government, the implementation of flagship projects, and investment in human development helped the country earn the upgraded status.

## Sahel countries experiencing deadly rainy season and floods

On August 15, heavy, torrential rains killed 65 people in Sudan and destroyed homes and livestock in a nation already hard hit by drought, rampant poverty, war, and civil uprising. The country’s rainy season continues until October, and the Nile River, which crosses Sudan, is heavily swollen.

The losses inflicted by the rains are devastating.

The Interior Minister announced that more than thirty thousand homes were destroyed, and seven hundred cattle killed as a result of flooding. Two thousand gold miners are believed to have been trapped underground. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan reported contaminated water sources. Schools have been damaged and closed in many areas.

Agence France Presse reported that 80,000 people were affected by August 15’s torrential rain in the Sahel Zone, a region that stretches from Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Sudan to Eritrea. It is the rainy season in the Sahel, and meteorologists warn of a dangerous September and October ahead.



## Nobel Co-Laureate Congolese Dr. Denis Mukwege facing intimidation

A 2018 Nobel laureate, Dr. Denis Mukwege, faces a wave of threats because of his work in a hospital center that he established in the middle of DR Congo’s conflict-torn Kivu Province, according to Physicians for Human Rights. The organization has asked for immediate protection for Mukwege, his family, and the renowned Panzi Hospital.

Outspoken in his condemnation of the ongoing wars in Eastern Congo, Dr. Mukwege works there to save the lives of victims of war. He recently has been receiving death threats via social media and the telephone. Some are speculating that the surgeon may be a target of violence after his call for justice that followed the release of a previously buried United Nations report documenting war crimes in Eastern Congo between 1993 and 2003.

Dr. Mukwege has been attacked many times, including in 2012, when his family was held at gunpoint while his guard, who was his friend, was murdered. Physicians for Human Rights is urging the United Nations Mission in Congo to protect Dr. Mukwege and his hospital.

## A milestone retracted: Ivory Coast’s Ouattara seeks a protested 3rd term

Overstaying term limits has been normalized in many countries on the African continent, and President Alassane Ouattara of Ivory Coast – who was on track to be a notable exception – reversed course on August 6 and instead is seeking re-election to a third term in October.

Previously, President Ouattara had said that he would not seek re-election after two five-year terms, and endorsed Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibary to succeed him. However, the prime minister died tragically in July, which led to the change of course. Protests have erupted across the country in reaction to the news, and more than six people have died.

Opposition parties accuse Ouattara of defying the term limits in the constitution. However, he insists that because the constitution was recently amended, the term limit count for him now begins again. Ouattara was elected in 2011, in an election that sparked violence across the nation. His rival Laurent Gbagbo refused to concede until he was forcefully ousted and transferred to the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The 2010-2011 election cycle left 3,000 people dead.

The prior decision of Ouattara to step down had earned him praise, including from President Emmanuel Macron of France. Youth rallied on social media to thank him for breaking the tradition of so many presidents on the continent who defy national constitutions and seek extra terms. To justify his retraction, Ouattara has said he is responding to the call of his fellow Ivorians, while the Ivorian Popular Front of Laurent Gbagbo calls his decision despicable. Among other candidates, he will face one-time Prime Minister Pascal Affi N’Guessan, from the Ivorian Popular Front.

Ouattara joins a club of old and new-school presidents in Africa who ignore term limits. The Conversation reports that President Alpha Condé of neighboring Guinea is maneuvering to bypass the constitution and potentially rule until 2032. Paul Biya has been president of Cameroon since 1982. Theodore Obiang Nguema has ruled Equatorial Guinea since 1979.

## President Ibrahim Keita and Prime Minister Boubou Cissé of Mali Arrested

On August 18 soldiers arrested President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of Mali, along with his prime minister, during violent clashes in the Malian capital of Bamako. The rebellion began with gunfire from a military camp near Bamako, along with the torching of a building, according to the BBC. The arrest of the president and prime minister follows protests across Mali calling on the government to resign. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita won a second term in 2018 but recently has been criticized for failing to fight corruption, and allowing jihadists to continue to gain ground, thereby endangering national security. Late in the day on August 18, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita proffered his resignation.

The ousting of Keita is the latest in a long string of military coups. In 1968, Lieutenant Moussa Traore ousted the Father of Independence, Modibo Keita. Traore ruled Mali until 1991, when he was removed from power by a military coup. Colonel Touré led the transition government, eventually handing power over to Alpha Oumar Konaré. Then Touré, who had retired from the Army, returned to politics and won election in 2002. He ruled until 2012, when a military uprising led by Captain Sanogo ousted him. In 2013, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita ascended to power and imprisoned Captain Sanogo.

Mali is considered to have been one of Africa’s greatest civilizations during the middle ages. During King Moussa Mansa’s reign, Mali was known as the wealthiest country in Africa.



# Business, Economics & Financial Literacy

## BUYING A HOME



by Gene Ardito

When a potential homeowner is ready to buy a home, visiting a financial institution is a good first step. A loan officer can help the client figure out how much money a client can afford to spend, and eventually can help the client to borrow the money needed to buy a home. A mortgage is a contract with a financial institution of a promise to pay back the loan, with the house or property used as collateral.

Before applying for a mortgage, a client needs to get preapproved. At this step, having a specific house in mind is not necessary. This process evaluates a potential borrower's credit and employment history to be sure they are qualified to borrow enough money to purchase a house. The preapproval will let the borrower know the maximum amount they can afford to spend. Once approved, the borrower receives a preapproval letter to use when working with a realtor. A realtor can guide home buyers through the process of searching for a house, negotiating a price, and making an offer to buy.

Next, the prospective home owner needs to apply for a loan in the amount they hope to borrow. The credit union or bank evaluates the client's credit and employment history, and determines the maximum loan they believe the client can afford. They will ask how much money is available for a down payment. Down payments can range from 0% to 20% of the value of the house. The larger the down payment, the lower the monthly payments will be, and the less interest the borrower will pay over the life of the loan.

The loan officer will evaluate the client's employment history. A good rule of thumb is showing two years of consistent employment at the same company or in the same line of work. This reflects reliable and ongoing employment, with hopes for ongoing employment throughout the duration of the mortgage – usually two or three decades.

The client's credit history will also be reviewed. A client's credit history does not have to be perfect, however it is important to have a few years of credit history with multiple types of credit (car loan, credit card) that report on-time payments. A mortgage loan may be the biggest loan a borrower ever obtains, and the lender needs to feel confident they'll be repaid that large sum. Looking at how well a client has repaid loans and credit cards in the past will give them a sense of how the client will meet the mortgage payments in the future.

When the client has found a house, and obtained a mortgage, they can sign a contract on a home!



For many immigrants, purchasing a home is a major goal, and a sign that one has "made it" in a new country. But the process of preparing for homeownership, and eventually buying a home, can feel overwhelming. Placido Mowa, an immigrant and asylum-seeker from Central Africa, quickly found this out when he felt he was ready to buy a home. However, Mowa – who now is a homeowner – reached out for support and strongly encourages others to do the same.

"I am a pastor," said Mowa, "and I met Clement Yombe, program director of ProsperityME, at my church." Yombe encouraged Mowa to sign up for a five-session course in Basic Money Management at ProsperityME, which he did. The course helped him understand how to budget, save, and work with a bank to meet financial goals – all necessary steps to help prepare for homeownership. Then Mowa took a First-Time HomeBuyers course through Avesta Housing. Finally, he was able to take advantage of the Individual Development Account Program (IDA), which was created by Coastal Enterprises Inc. (CEI), ProsperityME, and cPort Credit Union, and grant-funded by the federal government. While funding for the IDA program unfortunately was not renewed in 2019, much of the assistance it offered is still available.

Mowa worked with Jill Lorom of CEI throughout the entire home buying process. "Jill helped me understand how to work with a mortgage company, and how to pay all the bills for the house," Mowa said. He attended four 1:1 Financial Counseling sessions with Lorom and worked on reducing his debt and improving his credit score. Lorom also helped Mowa with the mortgage lender. Although the IDA program no longer exists, CEI and ProsperityME still offer one-to-one financial counseling. Staff is working from home, but continues to assist clients virtually. CEI offers a virtual First Time Homebuyer course, as well as one-to-one pre-purchase and foreclosure prevention counseling. Avesta Housing also offers virtual First-Time Homebuyer training.

"Everything went smoothly on closing day," said Mowa, who is happy to have a home of his own. Since his purchase, his wife and children have joined him in Maine, and his parish has grown. Mowa recommends that anyone looking to buy a house reach out to Clement Yombe at ProsperityME or Jill Lorom at CEI for assistance. Mowa is also happy to talk about this experience and offer advice to people in a similar situation. He can be reached at 207-317-7107. Other opportunities to learn about the homebuying process are described in the Portland of Opportunity column.



While homeownership is a big part of the American dream and one of the proudest achievements of any newcomer, it takes time and work to achieve. Whether you are years away or are currently beginning to seriously consider buying a home, there are many opportunities to learn more about the details and steps involved.

Here are some educational opportunities to learn more about homeownership, especially for first-time home buyers. In addition, the Office of Economic Opportunity can help you connect the dots to the resources and opportunities you seek, so reach out!

### Maine Homeworks

This 8-hour class for first-time homebuyers is also a HUD-approved housing counseling class. Online and in-person classes are offered regularly. Cost: \$30/person, \$50/couple. They do not provide interpreters, however you may bring one along. [www.maine-homeworks.org](http://www.maine-homeworks.org)

### Maine State Housing Authority

Do you prefer to learn by doing your own research? This site offers a detailed, step-by-step guide to home buying.

<https://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/homebuyer/steps-to-homeownership#S1>

### Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:

Don't miss this FREE online toolkit. <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/owning-a-home/>

### Adult Education:

Adult education centers often offer classes on homeownership. Check with your local adult education program to see what they have available.

### Section 8 Homeownership Program:

Those who have a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) can explore the Section 8 Homeownership program. This allows the housing subsidy to be applied towards purchasing a home. <https://www.hud.gov/states/maine/homeownership>

Of course, "a sense of home" is more than homeownership. Feeling at home is when you feel valued, comfortable, safe, and when you feel and know you belong. Welcoming Week, led by Welcoming America, is an annual, week-long celebration when organizations and communities across the country bring together immigrants, refugees, and long-time residents to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity. This year's Welcoming Week will take place from September 12-20.



Buying a home is often one of the biggest financial decisions anyone ever makes. The process of becoming a homeowner takes a great deal of patience and fiscal commitment, but in the end, it's an incredibly rewarding milestone to achieve. However, it's important to remember that the total cost of buying a home includes more than just a down payment and monthly mortgage. Below are the often overlooked and unexpected costs of buying a home:

### Utilities

Typical utilities include electricity, water, internet, heating and cooling, and waste management if the municipality does not offer this service. Anyone who has rented an apartment is likely familiar with having to pay for utilities each month. However, after purchasing a home, the owner might see an increase in utility costs. A landlord may have previously covered the bill for some utility expenses, or sometimes tenants split the overall utility cost with other tenants. Recent nationwide reports suggest the typical U.S. family spends an average of \$2,060 per year on home utility bills. Prospective homeowners need to factor in utility costs when determining whether or not they can afford to purchase a home. To get a better idea of what the costs will be for a particular home, request a copy of previous bills from the real estate agent or former resident.

### Homeowners Insurance

A home is far more than a roof to sleep under. In many cases, a home is one's most valuable asset – an asset that most can't afford to replace with out-of-pocket funds, in the event of a total loss or disaster. Homeowners insurance provides protection, and most lenders require that a buyer have insurance on a home, as it safeguards them (as well as the buyer) against financial loss. Buyers need to be sure to add in the cost of insurance when putting together a monthly budget, and also need to know exactly what is and isn't covered by an insurance policy. For example, would the insurer pay out what it would really cost to repair or rebuild a home today – or would they pay what the home is worth, minus depreciation? The average nationwide homeowners insurance premium in the U.S. is \$1,211 per year.

### Property Taxes

Beyond the mortgage, down payment, and insurance, it's important to also remember to factor in property taxes. The cost of taxes will vary depending on where the house is located and the value of the home. Taxes are usually paid directly to the mortgage lender or local tax office. If paying through the lender, most likely a monthly payment will be required. If paying at the local tax office, there are usually two payments per year. A typical Maine resident will spend \$2,435 per year on property taxes. Be sure to budget for this ongoing, recurring cost, as property taxes must be paid each year.

### Maintenance and Repair

Landlords are usually responsible for regular maintenance and repairs, but homeowners have to fund their own maintenance and repairs. If the furnace stops working, for example, renters can call their landlord, who must coordinate and pay for the repair at no extra cost to the tenant. According to the one-percent rule, a homeowner should set aside one percent of the home's value each year for home maintenance. Let's say the home is valued at \$200,000 – the tenant should be setting aside \$2,000 per year to cover any repair costs.





## Are we aware of our self-awareness?

By Jeanne Mariella Uwimana

Having conscious knowledge of one's own character and feelings is something that I began paying attention to back in 2015. Almost five years later, I am ready to say that I am glad I came to know and understand what role self-awareness can play in helping me understand my past life, as well as how I live my current life and deal with my feelings.

Self-awareness is the ability to focus on yourself, and how your actions, thoughts, or emotions align – or don't – with your internal standards. If you're highly self-aware, you can objectively evaluate yourself, manage your emotions, align your behavior with your values, and understand correctly how others perceive you. Tasha Eurich, a researcher and organizational psychologist, described two categories of self-awareness in a 2018 Harvard Business Review article – internal and external self-awareness.

Internal self-awareness is the ability to see your values, passions, and aspirations, and how well those standards fit with your environment and your reactions (which include thoughts, feelings, behaviors, strengths, and weaknesses). Essentially, internal self-awareness could mean recognizing, for example, that your current job doesn't match your true passion for marketing, or that you are feeling dissatisfied with a heated conversation you had with your colleague, which conflicts with your belief that kindness is important. External self-awareness, on the other hand, is the ability to clearly see how other people view you. People who know how others see them are typically more empathetic. Leaders who can see how their employees view them are usually more effective and have stronger relationships with their employees.

I have fallen in love with self-awareness and consciousness, and I don't want to separate myself from this way of understanding the world for the rest of my life. Self-awareness and self-consciousness make me feel fulfilled because when we have a better understanding of ourselves, we are able to experience ourselves as unique and separate individuals who are empowered to make changes and to build on our areas of strength, as well as identify areas where we would like to make improvements. This has a huge impact on our lives, both on the people around us in our immediate families and everyone else we interact with.

I have had time to think more about self-care and self-control during the COVID-19 lockdown. Like everyone else, I was not prepared to stay home – especially with three kids I care for by myself. I admit I felt out of control often, and had to deal with the fear that uncertainty brought. Where would I be now, if I hadn't already begun the journey of learning and understanding myself? This is the central question I have been asking myself recently, when the future stretches on in uncertainty. I have decided to focus on the values that will last in my life, and to be responsible to my life – to be aware and to have ownership of my choices. This means not blaming anyone else, but instead responding to life consciously and using my freedom to choose who I want to be – to feel and have balance.

In this lockdown, I have had the time to talk to my little boys (who actually told me that they are not little kids anymore)! I am fortunate to acknowledge that, in my sons, I have best friends with whom I can sit and discuss serious issues. For example, once we came across a mention of "cabin fever." We became very interested in this idea, since it was new to us. As we learned more, we found out that the distress caused by cabin fever is very real, even though it is not recognized as a psychological disorder. That does not mean that the feelings are not real; symptoms connected to cabin fever are like those of living during the COVID-19 lockdown. I became aware of the symptoms and adopted techniques to cope with that.

Having routines in the house during the pandemic has helped me as a mom, as well as my boys. I have made sure we have weekday wake-up times, and breakfast, morning prayers, and reflections. I have made sure to have my quiet time before the kids wake up. This one hour (minimum) morning time for myself has been priceless to me. By the time my sons wake up, I am usually prepared to handle the duties that need my attention. Another technique we use is getting out daily, although this was very hard to coordinate at the beginning of the pandemic. Whenever I observed signs of irritability, a lack of concentration, or the boys fighting while homeschooling, I knew we needed a change, or fresh air. That would be when we would go outside for a hike, a bike ride, or just a walk around the neighborhood. A feeling of gratefulness for and appreciation of nature developed as we fell in love with where we live and discovered so many places and trails over the course of these months.

Luckily, self-awareness can be practiced and cultivated; it's not a fixed trait. I am glad I have allowed myself to practice self-awareness, which has helped me learn and grow. As a study conducted by Tasha Eurich estimates, only 10-15% of people are truly self-aware. Thinking about the challenging times we are living through, my wish is that more people would learn to become self-aware. This is a valuable tool that can help you align your current life with your passions, and lead to a happier self, and more productivity. Are you aware of self-awareness?



Silence has allowed hate, injustice, institutional violence, and centuries of racism to continue. This is why it's vital that we speak now. Through charitable giving, community engagement, and environmental sustainability, we've dedicated ourselves as a brewery, and as people, to using beer as a force for good. The Black community can't solve the issue of racial injustice alone. It's up to all of us to work harder to transform and heal our community, together. We are here to learn, listen, and act.

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

Thank You! Thank You!

At this time of great upheaval, we are grateful to these foundations for helping us get through this unprecedented crisis.



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Cooking small fish with Marie Immaculée | Frétin | Cocorico | Kathreen Harrison

Marie Immaculée was born in DR Congo, and arrived in Maine in 2014. She is the eldest of eight children, and the only girl in her family. She learned to cook when young, and in fact became the primary cook in her family as a young girl, as her mother was unwell quite a bit. Marie Immaculée’s recipe for Frétin – small fried fish popular in Burundi and Rwanda, as well as in Congo – was a favorite in her family, above all with her father, who loved it. She enjoys cooking and considers it a hobby. She also loves to sing. A tailor by profession, during the pandemic she is making masks for the community. She is also searching for more regular employment. Marie Immaculée is grateful to In Her Presence, which she credits with having helped her find community in Maine. She enjoys meeting new people and exchanging recipes with others from different cultures. She thinks American food tastes good, but criticizes the use of too much sugar, which she says causes people to gain weight. Congolese food, she says, is both delicious and healthy. The recipes below all use a kind of small fish found near her childhood home in the waters at the lower end of Lake Tanganyika. The fish is known as sambaza by some and ndagala by others. In Portland, Marie Immaculée buys the fish at Save-a-Lot, Moriah Store, or from a merchant based at 10 Congress Square. These three recipes are all variations on a theme.

Frétin

A short 15 minute prep time means this is a good recipe for a busy day, such as a work day. Some enjoy this dish as a starter, while others eat it with fufu and boiled plantain.

Ingredients:

- Demi kilo (or 1 lb.) fish
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 large tomatoes, diced
- Chili, to taste
- ½ cup olive oil
- Salt



Clean the fish well in several rinses of water, drain, and set aside.  
Heat the oil and add the fish, stirring while the color changes.  
Add salt, chili, garlic, and onion, and mix for another 3 minutes.  
Add the tomatoes and a tiny bit of water.  
Add a little more chili to taste.

Cocorico

This recipe is slightly more involved, good for a quieter day. Serve with either fufu and plantain, or potato. Rice is not a good accompaniment.

Ingredients:

- Same as above, with the addition of ½ cup dried, crushed sunflower seeds, and no chili
- Mix the crushed seeds with water, form into small balls (the cocorico), and set aside.
- Chop onion, garlic, and tomatoes and cook in heated oil, adding salt to taste (some people omit the tomato).
- Add the washed, drained fish and a little water, and stir.
- Drop in the small sunflower seed balls (or you can serve the dish plain without these).
- Add more water, cover, and continue to simmer another 10-15 minutes.
- The cocorico should float.

Variation: This is delicious with rice.  
**Ingredients:**  
Same as above, with the addition of amaranth leaves (a spinach-like green vegetable also called lenga lenga), eggplant, and peanut butter (optional).  
Wash and dice the eggplant, onions, garlic, and tomato.  
Wash and drain the fish.  
Boil the amaranth leaves until cooked, then drain.  
Heat ¼ cup oil and saute the onions, garlic, and tomato.  
Add fish, amaranth, and eggplant.  
Stir a few times, adding salt and other spices such as bay leaf, to taste.  
Add water to cover ingredients, cook until ready.  
Note: Some people like to peel the eggplant, but I don’t because the skin is healthy. Some people add peanut butter at the end, which should float.

Immigrant food businesses face challenges | Bonnie Rukin

Starting and running a food business in Maine is not easy for anyone, but immigrant entrepreneurs from African countries face particular challenges. Many are unfamiliar with American contracts, licensing, legal structures, and IRS reporting, and need ongoing mentoring in order to succeed.  
Claude Rwaganje, Executive Director of ProsperityME, has helped a number of African stores get their start. These markets include Moriah Market LLC, at 360 Cumberland Ave., Portland; the Glory Store, at 645 Forest Ave., Portland; and the Helena Store, originally at 671 Forest Ave., Portland and now in Lewiston. He has also provided technical support to several restaurants that are owned and run by immigrants from the Congo and Burundi. In addition to ProsperityME, Rwaganje noted that Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), and Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE) help immigrant start-ups by providing funding support and technical assistance.  
Rwaganje said that only half of the businesses started by immigrants within the past five years remain open. Reasons for closing include complex family dynamics, high rent, management issues, customer demographics, accounting challenges, and high operational costs – and this was true even before the pandemic negatively impacted so many food establishments.  
ProsperityME is currently preparing a report on challenges faced by immigrant entrepreneurs that will be shared in a forthcoming issue of *Amjambo Africa*. Rwaganje noted that in Southern Maine, where real estate prices have become out of reach for many, a number of immigrant food businesses are moving away from downtown Portland in order to follow their customer base. He mentioned the possibility of an international marketplace in Maine, and invited anyone interested in helping to create such a marketplace to contact him at [crwaganje@prosperityme.org](mailto:crwaganje@prosperityme.org), 207-797-7890.

Photos | Joseph Shaw





Farmland acquisition dream becomes a reality | Ashley Bahlkow

The long-standing dream of owning secure farmland is becoming a reality for the Somali Bantu Community Association (SBCA). In May, the SBCA and Agrarian Trust formed the Little Jubba Central Maine Agrarian Commons (AC), a new model for community-centered land tenure. After launching an ambitious fundraiser in mid-June intended to raise enough money to secure a 100-acre farm in Wales, Maine, the partners have met their goal of raising \$367,000 for the land purchase.

“We are heartened by the outpouring of support from so many, including farmers and small businesses and so many people,” said Muhidin Libah, Executive Director of the Somali Bantu Community Association and President of the Little Jubba Central Maine Agrarian Commons.

The plan is for the SBCA to lease the farmland from the Little Jubba Central Maine AC with a 99-year, rolling equitable lease. Secure farmland will allow the Somali Bantu farmers to pass on their agricultural skills, knowledge, and traditions to future generations.

“This land means long-standing food security for over 200 people who will farm there, and it also will improve economic security for those who sell their crops. It means having a place where we can hold full, vibrant, community celebrations. It means healing for us as people who have been displaced from our land. It means we can take care of one piece of land for the long term, and preserve our culture as agriculturalists, and be assured we have land to pass down through generations,” said Libah.

On behalf of the SBCA, Libah expressed gratitude to the hundreds of people who have donated funds and asked for continued support as the partners enter the next stretch of their fundraiser, to raise money for staffing of the facility. Those able to help are encouraged to donate directly, share information about the fundraiser as widely as possible, and follow progress at: <https://agrariantrust.org/agrarian-commons/little-jubba/>.



Farmland in Wales

The SBCA acknowledged that the farmland in Wales was stolen from indigenous people of the Wabanaki Confederacy, who continue to struggle for land sovereignty to this day. The Somali Bantu community relates to struggles resulting from colonialism, neocolonialism, and imperialism that have forced people from their ancestral homes. SBCA shares with the Wabanaki the need to articulate and uplift these struggles, and the history in which they are rooted.



Hassan Barjin transplanting onions



Halima Mohamed harvesting fennel

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How long has it been since your last health screening?

For many, it's been too long due to COVID-19 concerns. And that's a concern because delaying care when it's needed can lead to additional health problems.

Northern Light Mercy Health Centers, with locations across the greater Portland region, are home to a dedicated staff of medical professionals, including Dr. Su-Anne Hammond, who is the medical director for primary care at Northern Light Mercy Hospital. Hammond and her primary care teams are currently accepting new patients for in-person and virtual visits while following strict safety guidelines.

At each health center, social distancing is being practiced. The amount of people in reception areas has been limited. All high-touch surfaces are sanitized regularly. Meanwhile, all visitors, patients, and employees are required to wear masks or face coverings. Finally, anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must stay home and call ahead so that they can be directed to the most appropriate location to receive care.

"We want to keep our patients coming in to get treated, but their safety is also our biggest priority," Hammond says.

Before COVID-19, most patients used in-person appointments and walk-in services for necessary health screenings, routine wellness exams, and sick visits. Now, it's a good mixture of in-person services along with virtual visits made possible through telehealth options.

Due to the pandemic, many Mainers have not had a health screening since March. That's why it's important to the Mercy primary care team that patients feel comfortable coming back in to get crucial care, including bloodwork or x-rays that are available onsite.

As Hammond explains, part of good primary care is about making people more aware



of their health and preventing issues before they happen.

At the Northern Light Mercy Health Centers across the region, key services include blood tests, pediatric screenings, women's health screenings, vaccinations, immunizations, same-day sick visits, Medicare wellness visits, minor wound treatment procedures, and even chronic disease education and management. The centers also use care consultants that can help patients deal with substance use disorder, stress, anxiety, depression, and other health issues.

This is all part of what Hammond calls their "holistic" approach to medicine that puts preventative healthcare at the forefront. Now, patients can rely on their local doctor's office to achieve better wellness overall.

"When patients come here, we focus on anything and everything they might be dealing with," Hammond says. "It's all about comprehensive care for us."

The Northern Light Mercy Primary Care teams are able to do so much because they are a part of an integrated healthcare system. With one visit to a Northern Light Mercy Health Center, patients are able to connect with a network of specialists, who are all practicing the latest safety best practices.

With this, Northern Light Health has found a way to make safe, in-person healthcare work for its patients.

"We all need to keep up with our health, so it's good to know our safety guidelines are making this happen," said Hammond. "We've been safely seeing patients throughout these uncertain times, and we look forward to continuing to be partners in their care moving forward."

Additional information about Mercy Primary Care can be found by visiting [Maine-MadeUs.com/MercyPrimaryCare](https://Maine-MadeUs.com/MercyPrimaryCare). To learn more about the safety measures being taken across Mercy and Northern Light Health, please visit [NorthernLightHealth.org/SafeCare](https://NorthernLightHealth.org/SafeCare).

Contributed by Northern Light Mercy Hospital



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**WELCOME HOME. WORK SAFELY.**

**MEMIC**



### Amjambo Africa celebrates community heroes



Heritier Nosso was a lawyer in DR Congo, and when he arrived in Maine in 2015, he wanted to keep doing what he loves most – helping others. Since he didn't initially have enough English skills to practice law in the U.S., he decided to volunteer for a non-profit organization, which was something he had done back home in DR Congo. One thing led to another, and before long he had read widely enough, and accumulated enough information about life in Maine, to be a valuable resource to his community. Now his phone rings day and night with people seeking help.

People ask for rides to the airport, rides to the hospital - he has assisted more than one woman in labor get to the hospital! - for help checking the accuracy of rumors they have heard - for example, if the census papers are really related to stimulus fund applications (they are not), for referrals to lawyers, for help filling out benefit applications for DHHS, food stamps, TANF, for help filling out job applications - the requests are endless. "I don't give legal advice, just general information. 24 hours a day are not enough for me," Nosso said.

"But I love to spend my free time this way. It feels good to help my neighbor. It is my hobby to help people. I feel proud, content to be of service, because I don't like to see people suffer. COVID has meant lost jobs, shops closing, people having trouble getting food.



moment can cause death - and someone we help today could easily be our doctor, or mechanic, or president tomorrow!"

If you have someone you'd like to spotlight for this feature, please email: [amjamboafrika@gmail.com](mailto:amjamboafrika@gmail.com) with the subject line Ordinary People doing Extraordinary things

Many nonprofits have closed, so it has been important to step in. Mental health is a huge need. There are many people here all alone, with no family - so I spend time talking to people, providing company. People are suffering from loneliness."

Lingala and French speakers reach out to Nosso most frequently, but sometimes Portuguese speakers contact him also. Lewiston/Auburn is his stomping ground, but Portlanders sometimes hear about him and reach out, and people who used to live in Maine but have moved on still occasionally call for assistance. Recently he helped someone in Texas with a form. He is happy to be of service to all these people.

"I receive a lot of calls, because of word of mouth. People know I will treat their information with care, and preserve confidentiality. They know I check reliable sources. A lack of information at a critical

## Nous pouvons vous aider si vous tombez malade!

**Appelez-nous et nous pouvons vous aider à vous faire tester pour COVID-19.**

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- En quarantaine, nous pouvons vous aider à rester en contact avec la famille et organiser la livraison des repas afin que vous puissiez vous soigner.
- Tout ce soutien est gratuit et coordonné par un membre de confiance de notre communauté, Charles Mugabe.
- Charles et RIS travaillent avec le Maine Center for Disease Control pour améliorer les services aux New Mainers pendant la pandémie.
- Charles peut aider quel que soit le statut d'immigration. Vous n'avez pas besoin d'être client de RIS.

***Veuillez appeler si vous ou quelqu'un que vous connaissez êtes malade et nous pouvons commencer à guérir notre communauté:***

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# Community Organizations News

Many organizations have been working extremely hard the past six months to support Maine's immigrant communities in a variety of different ways. Here is a sampling of some of these organizations, and the important work they have been doing. Some are immigrant-led organizations, and others are strong allies. Most of these organizations welcome volunteers, and always welcome support, if you are so inclined. The majority are members of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC), a statewide coalition of approximately 70 member organizations.

## Furniture Friends

Furniture Friends provides donated furniture to people in need throughout the Greater Portland area. The central tenet of the organization is that everyone deserves a safe and comfortable home regardless of circumstances, and the mission statement is "Creating Homes. Rebuilding Lives." Furniture Friends accepts donations of gently used, essential household furniture such as beds, bureaus, dining tables, chairs, and sofas from individuals and businesses throughout southern Maine. All the donations are stored temporarily at a warehouse in Westbrook, where they are carefully inspected and cleaned. Then individuals and families who are referred to Furniture Friends by over 120 social service partner agencies – because they can't afford furniture on their own – request particular kinds of furniture, and the match is made. With the help of donors and volunteers, Furniture Friends provided furniture to over 640 families in 2019.

COVID-19 required modification to normal operations to ensure the safety of clients, volunteers, and staff. The biggest change was the suspension of the use of volunteers, who normally pick up and deliver the furniture and work in the warehouse. Although capacity has been reduced as a result, the organization is still working hard to get furniture to their clients. Donors and clients alike are asked to schedule appointments to come to the warehouse to drop off or pick up furniture. Appointments can often be scheduled within a day or two of referrals, and clients are able to choose the furniture they would like from the showroom, quickly and easily. For clients without access to transportation, Furniture Friends schedules contactless, curbside drop-off of furniture, and sometimes is also able to schedule contactless pick-up of furniture donations.

*If you or your family needs furniture, please have a case manager or other provider make a referral for you. To those who have supported our work in the past, or continue to do so now, we thank you! For more information about Furniture Friends: [www.furniturefriends.org](http://www.furniturefriends.org), 207-210-3140, [jmcadoo@furniturefriends.org](mailto:jmcadoo@furniturefriends.org).*



## Gateway Community Services

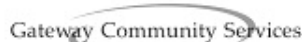
When the pandemic first hit, Gateway Community Services Maine (GCSM), with branches in Portland, Lewiston, and Augusta, introduced programming that was held virtually so that community members would be able to continue to connect. This programming included painting classes, dance classes, yoga sessions, current events discussions, movie and game nights – all held on Zoom or other virtual platforms. As the warm weather arrived, Gateway turned its attention to other ways of supporting young people during such this challenging time.

GCSM recognized that young people play an important role in community safety, and collaborated with Lewiston-based Fowsia Musse, from Maine Community Integration, to create a COVID-19 Youth Coalition (CYC). The CYC consists of 20 young community leaders who spend 8-10 hours per week to disseminate reliable information about COVID-19 to young people in immigrant communities. CYC members share information through many platforms, including social media, text, phone calls, videos, and in person at protests.

In addition to their leadership in COVID-19 education and prevention, CYC members have led conversations about racial equity and anti-racism within immigrant communities. In partnership with CYC, GCSM has been able to distribute over 2,500 reusable masks throughout Greater Portland, Lewiston, and Auburn. The masks were sewn by members of the community and purchased from them.

Both the Youth Coalition (initially a five-week pilot, and now a pillar of the organization) and the mask distribution efforts have been made possible by support from the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Maine Humanities Council, the Haymarket Foundation, League of Conservation Voters, the Tides Foundation, and Catholic Charities of Maine. The Coalition is committed to celebrating immigrant youth voices.

CSM continues to provide youth and young adult peer mentoring services to those between the ages of 15-24 who have arrived in the U.S within a window of approximately the past five years. These mentorship relationships have proven especially important in these times. <https://gcsmaine.org/>



## The League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of the Portland Area has developed a comprehensive training program for organizations interested in learning how to plan and host a moderated forum or debate for the upcoming and future elections. The hope is that community support and social justice-oriented organizations will host election forums for their members. The "Election Forums 101" training is designed to prepare members of these organizations to plan and host their own forums or debates in anticipation of the November 3 election. The program is designed for all members of the event planning team and includes detailed guidance, including planning, working with candidates, generating questions, selecting a format, and best practices in moderating. Participants will learn how to moderate an event, either live or online. Originally designed as a live event, the training has been adapted to an online format consisting of two 2-hour sessions. For more information or to schedule a training, please contact Sue Robins, League of Women Voters Portland Area; [suerobins@twc.com](mailto:suerobins@twc.com).



## Hope Acts

Hope Acts exists to serve the basic needs of the Greater Portland community's newest asylum seekers. While the organization is best known for Hope House, its apartment building that provides a home for 13 New Mainers, the organization also offers English classes and social services that help asylum seekers prepare for independent living in Maine.

**Hope House** - Since 2013, 70 asylum seekers have called Hope House their first American home. Hope House is the only housing in Maine specifically for asylum seekers. Residents receive one-on-one support and cultural and educational activities in a warm, family-like environment.

**Hope House English Language Program (HHELP)** - HHELP offers the opportunity for beginner and intermediate adult English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students to develop and practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking English in small, supportive classes.

Since COVID-19 ended in-person classes, HHELP has been offered remotely. Thanks to generous supporters and partners, we have been able to offer solutions (internet access, phone data minutes, and use of laptops) for students lacking technology to participate in classes.

In 2019, 130 students from 18 different countries participated in HHELP classes.

**Asylum Seeker Assistance Program (ASAP)** - ASAP was designed to be a no-barrier, drop-in service for asylum seekers needing help accessing and navigating resources such as housing and employment. Last year, the ASAP program also began assisting clients with federal work permit applications. In 2019, staff and volunteers worked with over 250 clients, including 33 families with a total of 78 children. In just four months last year, we helped 185 clients complete work permit applications.

Since COVID-19 made many in-person services impossible, Hope Acts pitched a large canopy in the backyard to serve clients outdoors. Some mornings, students sit under the canopy to access wifi and participate in classes. On Wednesday afternoons, masked staff and volunteers sit outdoors, completing work permits and answering clients' questions. Indoors, two staff members work the printer and copier, and pass paperwork and documents in baskets through an open window.

For more information: [www.hopeacts.org](http://www.hopeacts.org), 207-228-1140, [info@hopeacts.org](mailto:info@hopeacts.org).



## Welcome the Stranger

**Welcome the Stranger (WTS)** knows it takes a village to support asylum seekers, and WTS offers one piece of that support. In 2016, seeking to help newly arrived individuals and families from central African countries, a small group of Portland residents created WTS, a mentoring program that partners local volunteers with mentees in what the group calls "cross-cultural friendships."

The beauty of the mentoring relationship is that each mentor-mentee pair creates their own relationship; each match or partnership looks different. However, the primary goal of WTS is to provide a friend for New Mainers going through what is a challenging and sometimes difficult transition to a new life. Mentoring activities might include connecting people to unfamiliar community resources; learning and practicing English; figuring out the transportation system; finding housing, furniture, jobs, and warm clothes and boots. Mentors and mentees also enjoy fun activities together, such as snow-tubing, apple picking, time at the beach, and celebrating American holidays.

WTS recruits volunteer mentors through friends, word-of-mouth, faith groups, and other community organizations. New mentors are given a brief orientation, matched with an individual or family, and then provided ongoing support (with occasional training workshops on various topics), support groups, an active email listserv, and a WTS web page that lists community resources. WTS works closely with many other community organizations to help provide support for asylum seekers.

To date, WTS has served 380 asylum-seeking families, and currently has 200 active matches. Of course, COVID-19 has altered many relationships, and now most involve online communication and contactless drop-offs of donated items like microwaves or clothing – distanced partnering, in other words. But need remains high during these difficult times, and WTS remains committed to being available to help.

*If you would like to mentor, or know someone who might benefit from having a mentor, contact [info@wtsmaine.com](mailto:info@wtsmaine.com) or visit the organization's website at [www.wtsmaine.com](http://www.wtsmaine.com).*



## Coastal Enterprises

Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) is a nonprofit community development organization that helps entrepreneurs start and grow businesses. CEI's mission is to build a more equitable economy by focusing on good jobs, environmentally sustainable enterprises, and shared prosperity.

Through its StartSmart program, CEI offers free and confidential business advice to immigrants about starting or growing a business. Topics for advising can include developing or evaluating a business plan; marketing and advertising assistance; location review; support with permits, licensing, bookkeeping or taxes; credit-building guidance; and completing finance applications. Interpreters are available. To date, StartSmart has assisted over 1,500 individuals from 92 countries. If you are an immigrant or refugee starting a business anywhere in Maine, StartSmart can help you. CEI also offers several financing options to meet business capital needs, including the "Wicked Fast" loans – fast-track microloans (up to \$25,000) for existing and start-up businesses, with decisions typically made within three business days. CEI also offers a fee-for-service financing product for business owners who cannot utilize interest-based loans due to religious restrictions. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, CEI has been working closely with all of its clients to help them pivot their business offerings to adjust to new guidelines, access federal relief programs, or seek modifications to their loans to help them weather the impacts of the pandemic.

To learn more or schedule a meeting, contact John Scribner, StartSmart Director; [John.Scribner@ceimaine.org](mailto:John.Scribner@ceimaine.org), 207-535-2915, or visit [www.ceimaine.org](http://www.ceimaine.org)





## Maine Association of New Americans

Maine Association for New Americans (MANA) is an immigrant-led, multiracial organization that seeks to empower immigrants and their families by raising awareness of individual and collective trauma and how these affect lives; providing resources to expand resilience-building strategies; and connecting people with their peers across cultures.



During the pandemic, in collaboration with immigrant-owned small businesses and local nonprofit organizations, MANA has been delivering medications and groceries – with an emphasis on culturally-specific foods – to immigrants in the Greater Portland area. MANA has also collaborated with other organizations to create and deliver multilingual and culturally tailored materials about COVID-19 spread prevention, and mental and emotional resilience.

MANA has developed a new program, “Resilient New Americans,” which focuses on cultivating resilience through becoming aware of the place of trauma in impacting lives. This is a multilingual and culturally tailored program and is offered both in-person and online from the Greater Portland area.

MANA welcomes inquiries and interest in becoming involved: [info@mana-maine.org](mailto:info@mana-maine.org); 207-387-0749 (text/voice); Twitter @MANAMaine; Facebook @MaineMANA.

## Mid Coast New Mainers Group

The Mid Coast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) offers support to immigrant families that are newly settled in Bath, Brunswick, and Topsham. This all-volunteer group works to build inclusive, multicultural communities where everyone feels safe and welcome.



Group members help locate housing and medical care, provide family mentor teams, assist in finding work opportunities, and connect adults and children with education and language learning opportunities. MCNMG builds connections between New Mainers and local community organizations and services such as the library, food bank, and police, and in doing so hopes to foster mutual understanding and further integrate newcomers into their communities.

Odette Zouri, a member of the MCNMG board, contributed these remarks: “In my dual capacity as the first person to benefit from the support of MCNMG as I resettled my family in midcoast Maine, and as a new member of the MCNMG board, I want to recognize the efforts of the Mid Coast New Mainers Group, as well as the greater midcoast community, in welcoming my family and other New Mainer families to life in Maine. Since my family arrived in December 2017, MCNMG has helped more than 10 other families from Angola, Burundi, Burkina Faso, DRC, and Gabon. The organization has done so much to facilitate my own family’s integration – from improving my children’s English writing and reading skills through the help of Midcoast Literacy to helping my own education, from day one until my entrance into UMA Brunswick Center’s first nursing program cohort. One of the biggest challenges new arrivals face is housing, but MCNMG found an apartment I could afford for my family, and landlords who are really supportive of our community. I highly recommend that immigrants look around the state and reach out to support networks like MCNMG. This group of wonderful people and their community partners have made adaptation much easier for us, and our children have felt included at school and supported when they face discrimination from classmates. <https://www.mcnmg.org/>”

## Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition

Since March, Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition (MIRC) has played a key role in COVID-19 relief efforts within the immigrant community. The organization has collaborated with community organizations that have worked tirelessly to provide critical services including cultural brokering, quarantine support, food assistance, protective supplies, and educational support. MIRC has also been a driving force in advocating for racial justice and for the needs of communities of color. MIRC Executive Director Mufalo Chitam spoke before the legislature’s Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to urge the Mills Administration to address systemic racism in Maine, and to request that communities of color be considered a priority when budgeting decisions are made for the federal CARES Act. MIRC also co-organized a press briefing that provided a public platform for Black and brown people to talk about their experiences with COVID-19 and to highlight the disproportionate impact on their communities.



As a continued partnership with Bates College and thanks to a PPP loan, MIRC hired three summer interns - Higerá Sevigny, Oo Meh, and Imtithal Hassan who helped take on a summer project of researching responses to racial and ethnic inequities in the pandemic. They studied states’ responses to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BIPOC communities. Nationwide, Black individuals are dying at 2.5 times the rate of white people. While Black Mainers make up only 1.6% of the state’s population, they account for almost 25% of Maine’s positive cases. In response to these injustices, many states have declared racism a public health crisis and have created health equity task forces. Maine has not done this. In Maine, individuals from communities of color often work frontline jobs, in unsafe conditions, and lack paid sick leave. Financial hardships, food and job insecurities, language barriers, and lower quality of education are among some of the reasons for the racial disparities.

Personal Reflections of Higerá Sevigny: As a young Black woman, having come to the U.S. as a refugee and lived in Maine for most of my life – where I’m often in white-dominated spaces – it has been amazing to feel represented in an environment that supports and uplifts Black voices. During my time at MIRC, I have taken great interest in the research, and hope what we have learned will aid MIRC in advancing immigration policy in Maine and advocating for racial justice. COVID-19 has exacerbated the racial disparities in our inequitable healthcare system. A blind eye is often turned to the root causes: systemic racism and implicit biases. The first step is to acknowledge that these racial disparities have less to do with individual behavior and more to do with discriminatory policies and unconscious bias. As a minority, a Mainer, and the daughter of two immigrant parents, I have seen firsthand the effects of COVID-19 in my community. New Jersey’s governor publicly acknowledged that “COVID-19 did not create the inequalities in our society, but it laid them bare,” and New Jersey has taken steps to address disparities by requiring hospitals to report demographic data, including the race and ethnicity of those who have tested positive, died from COVID-19, or been turned away from testing. Maine must fully acknowledge racial inequities and implement measures that protect those most vulnerable. <https://maineimigrantrights.org/>

## The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) is a statewide advocacy and public policy network anchored in the Unitarian Universalist faith and connecting Maine’s 25 UU congregations in active legislative ministry. MUUSAN welcomes all who share its values. The organization joined the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition because one of MUUSAN’s areas of primary focus is racial, indigenous, and immigrant justice. The organization supports and advocates for legislation and policies that recognize the inherent worth and dignity of our immigrant neighbors, and which advances the rights and well-being of immigrants as they become established and valued members of our communities. MUUSAN also strives to educate its members and other Maine residents about how they can welcome and support their immigrant neighbors and has made relevant resources available on its website at [www.muusan.org](http://www.muusan.org). (Its 2-year old Maine Immigrant Justice Resource List is being revised as we speak!) <https://www.muusan.org/>



## In Her Presence

In Her Presence (IHP) serves approximately 250 women and children representing 70 households from 15 African countries as well as San Salvador, Syria, Iraq, and Ukraine. These IHP families live in family shelters (3), senior housing (14), and low-income housing (53) in Portland, South Portland, Scarborough, and Westbrook. Since the beginning of the pandemic, IHP’s network of volunteers and partners has worked to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the women, seniors, children, and families IHP serves. The need for assistance has been great – for food, social, emotional, and cultural support, as well as help navigating the process of applying for benefits.

Some focus areas for support have been developing a public health education campaign to ensure all IHP participants know how to protect themselves and their families and keep their home environments safe; checking in on individual participants to find out their unique needs; providing culturally appropriate food (the type of food provided by mainstream food pantries often is not culturally appropriate for immigrant and refugee communities); protecting and supporting the mental well-being of women and families; providing supplemental childcare and transportation support to allow 25 mothers with school-age children, who are home due to school closings, to continue to work; delivering food and other essentials (while respecting social distance) to families; purchasing supplemental supports such as phone cards and food cards; running a storage unit (in a donated U-Haul rental truck) stocked with basics for participants to safely access; and an IHP COVID-19 Facebook resource for posting updates and sharing locations for finding needed resources, as well as techniques for decreasing emotional anxiety and stress (in French, Portuguese, and Swahili). The Facebook posts also include resources for helping IHP participants support their children educationally.

A number of organizations have helped support IHP with donations of food, diapers, and other essentials. These include Wayside Food Programs, the Jewish Community Alliance, Maine Needs, and Eastpoint Christian Church. IHP women have also been engaged in helping others by sewing handmade masks, which they donate to Preble Street and Wayside. For more information about IHP, [www.inherpresence.org](http://www.inherpresence.org), 207-347-9891, [contact@inherpresence.org](mailto:contact@inherpresence.org).



## Creative Portland

Although most people might associate an arts agency with visual arts only, Creative Portland promotes and serves artists of all artistic disciplines and genres. Two years ago, Ms Minot launched Hear Here, a local annual talent showcase at Merrill Auditorium to promote Portland’s diverse performing arts talents. Performers and artists included Rwandan dancers, a Flamenco dancer, Burundian drummers, a digital music composer, and a maestro conductor of the USM Chamber Singers. 300 complimentary tickets were offered to attend the live performance at Merrill Auditorium, representing diverse cultures and communities.

In addition to the annual Hear Here showcase, Creative Portland worked closely with Alain Nahimana, former executive director of the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, to curate art for sale by immigrant artists in their offices on Preble Street. Today fiscal sponsorship agreements are in place with Black Artists Forum, Black Youth Fund, Immigrant Music Connection, Freedom & Captivity, and Batimbo United.

If you are interested in receiving a monthly arts update or in serving on a curatorial team for visual or performing artists, Creative Portland welcomes your interest and inquiries. [info@creativeportland.com](mailto:info@creativeportland.com).



## Maine MultiCultural Center

In addition to providing referral services to area immigrants, the Maine MultiCultural Center (MMCC) is also involved in community outreach and education. MMCC’s Education Committee has offered many in-person workshops for area teachers on how to teach effectively in a multicultural classroom. The committee has also hosted monthly Community Forums which have featured a variety of immigrant and multicultural issues. Since the pandemic shut-down in mid-March, MMCC has been working at transferring its community outreach work to a virtual platform. Not only has this allowed us to continue to deliver our programming, but it has also expanded our potential audience. This past summer, led by local educator Stephanie Hendrix, MMCC hosted a virtual book club for teachers. Over the course of 5 weekly sessions, teachers gathered over Zoom to discuss the book *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Ms. Hendrix followed the series with a wrap up session on how to address race issues in the classroom, and what resources are available for doing that. In September, MMCC will begin offering its monthly Community Forums via Zoom and Facebook Live. On September 23, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Attorney Beth Stickney from Maine Business Immigration Coalition (MeBIC) will talk on the direction in which immigration law and policy is headed. For more information visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mainemulticulturalcenter>. A presentation on voting rights by representatives from the League of Women Voters is planned for October.





KINYARWANDA TRANSLATION

IJAMBO RY'IBANZE:  
KUJYANA ABANA MU ISHURI NIRYO SHORAMARI RI-  
HAMBAYE DUSHOBORA GUKORA  
Georges Budagu Makoko

Kuri uyu munota twandika iyi nkuru, aho bisa n'ibitoroshye kuvuga igihe iki cyorezo kizarangirira, abagera ku 727,357 bamaze guhitanywa n'icyorezo cya COVID-19 naho miliyoni zirenga 19.6 bafashwe na COVID-19. Tuzi neza ko icyorezo cyahungabanyije ubukungu bw'ibihugu ndetse gihungabanya n'uburezi hafi ku isi hose. Ingaruka zabyo zizagera no kubisekuruza biri imbere.

Ubu muri Amerika, gusubiza uburezi mu buryo birakomeye kurusha no mubihugu bikennye aho ku isi yose cyane muri Afurika abanyeshuri bagera kuri miliyoni 710 batari kubasha kujya mu ishuri kubera iki cyorezo nkuko bitangazwa na Global Partner for Education. Ikiyongeraho kandi ni ubushobozi bucyeye mu ikoranabuhanga rikenewe ngo nibura abana ntibate umurongo w'ibyo biga mu gihe bari mu rugo, bisobanuye ko bacye cyane mu bihugu biri mu nzira y'amajyambere aribo babasha kwiga muri ubwo buryo buhenze ugereranyije n'ukuntu muri Amerika ho abana bibashobokera kwiga.

Hari ibihugu muri Afurika byagerageje guhuza abana n'amasomo bakoresheje watsapu, telefoni cg se televiziyo ariko nabyo bisa nibyananiranye kubera ibikoresho bike by'itumanaho mu ikoranabuhanga. Ibi biratuma uburezi bunanirana kuri benshi. Mu ngaruka zitezwe harimo izamuka ry'ubujiji hanyuma abarangiza amasomo nabo bakagabanuka. Dr. Lazare Sebitereko, umuyobozi wa kaminuza ya Eben-Ezer muri Repubulika iharanira demukarasi ya Congo yagize kimwe mu bimuhangayitse atangaza aho avuga ko mu gihe uburezi bwazaniraga icyizere abanyeshuri, nibubura bamwe bazatangira kujya mu mitwe yitwara gisirikare gushakiraye amaronko bishobora gusenya umugabane w'Afurika wibera mu ngorane nyinshi.

Kuba narakurikye mu gihugu cya Congo kandi mu muryango w'abantu batize, mfite benshi mu nshuri batagiye mu ishuri bibera mu buzima butoroshye mu midugudu twavukiyemo. Nyamara abo bana bari abahanga ariko aho twakuriye n'ubuzima twavukiyemo byabaye isoko y'ahazaza hacu. Ku giti cyanyje nakuze nshaka kwiga ibinteye amat-siko ariko kandi bigendanye n'ibyo nkunda. Imwe mu nyungu nakuye mu kwiga harimo kuba ubuzima bwanjye bwarahindutse. Umutima wanjye ujya uterwa intimba n'amamiliyoni y'abana bari hanze aha bazagirwaho ingaruka n'iki cyorezo. Abagiraneza n'abakunda ikiremnamuntu ntibazibagirwe abo bana.

Ntidukwiye kandi kwibagirwa isomo rikomeye ry'iki cyorezo ko turi umwe twese kandi ko duhurira ku ipfundo rimwe. Bisobanuye ko amafaranga dushora mu burezi mu bice bitandukanye byo ku isi azatubera urwunguko mu kugabanya ingorane muri sosiyete zitandukanye mu gihe kiri imbere. Umushinga Global Partnership for Education wakomeje gufasha ibihugu biri mu nzira y'amajyambere muri iki gihe cy'icyorezo ngo bibashe guhangana na COVID-19. Umuryango mpuzamahanga wita ku burezi, umuco n'ubumenyi UNESCO washyizeho ihuriro ngishwanama ku burezi muri ibyo bihugu nyuma yo kubona ko abagera kuri miliyoni 24 biga kuva mu mashuri abanza kugeza muri kaminuza bashobora kutazasubira ku ishuri muri uyu mwaka wa 2020 kubera COVID-19. Umubare munini w'abari mu kaga ukaba ari miliyoni 5.9 babarirwa mu majyepfo y'uburengerazuba bwa Aziya naho miliyoni 5.3 zo zikaba ziri muri Afurika yo munsu y'ubutayu bwa Sahara. Utu duce twombi twari dufite ingorane mu burezi na mbere y'iki cyorezo byitezwe ko bazarushaho guhuhuka.

Hano muri Amerika, ubuyobozi bw'uburezi buri gushyira ubushobozi mu myigire, gutanga murandasi y'ubuntu ku banyeshuri, kubohereza ibiryo k'ubuntu imashini n'ibindi bakenera mu rwego rwo kugirango bagume mu ishuri muri iki gihe cy'icyorezo cya COVID-19. Nyamara nubwo Amerika ifite ubushobozi ntibikuraho ko hari abanyeshuri bazagirwaho ingaruka n'iki cyorezo bigatuma bakererwa mu masomo yabo. Muri bo harimo abimukira bafite ababyeyi badafite ubumenyi ku burezi bityo ntibabashye gufasha abana guhura n'abarimu kuri mudasobwa ngo bige. Mu gihe abashinzwe uburezi mu turere twa Amerika bashyira hamwe ingamba zishoboka ngo bigishe abana muri iki cyorezo, ndasaba ko bagira umwihariko wo kwita ku bana b'abimukira ndetse n'imiryango itari ku rwego rw'abana bamenyereye uburyo bw'uburezi muri Amerika.

Ubusanzwe ukwezi kwa munani muri Amerika kuba abantu bahuze cyane imiryango yitegura itangira ry'umwaka w'amashuri. Ubu ababyeyi n'abana bafite impungenge zitewe niki cyorezo ntibazi uko umwaka uzaba umeze ndetse n'ingamba zizafatwa. Ababyeyi b'abimukira bo bari mu gihirahiro -kuba bari mu muco batamenyereye

AMJAMBO AFRICA!

ndetse bakaba bari no guhangana n'ingaruka za COVID-19. Ndakangurira ababishoboye guhamagara bakamenya amakuru, bakabaza abakuru b'ibigo bakababwira ibyo umwana akeneye ngo abashe gutsinda. Muri Amerika ubuvugizi bw'ababyeyi burakenewe cyane. Iminsi turimo yo ubuvugizi burakenewe ku rwego rwo hejuru aho dukeneye ko uburezi buba ubufasha abana bose gutsinda mu ishuri.

Amakuru ya Afurika  
DR. HAWA ABDI ARIBUKWA NK'INTWARI, IJWI RY'A-BATAGIRA IJWI MURI SOMALIYA

Dr. Hawa Abdi, ukunze kwitwa Mama Hawa yari umuganga wazobereye kuvura indwara zo mu myanya y'ibanga y'abagore akaba azwiho kuba yarakijije amagara ibihumbi mu gihe cy'umyaka igera muri 30 ubihuje n'igihe intambara yamaze iyogozza Somaliya. Dr. Abdi akaba yaritabye Imana tariki 5 Kanama 2020 mu murwa mukuru wa Mogadishu afite imyaka 73. Urupfu rwe rwavuzweho na benshi bamwibukira ku bikorwa yakoze.

Dr. Abdi ni umwe mu bagore bo muri Somaliya bambere bagize amahirwe yo kujya kwiga ubuganga muri Leta Zunze Ubumwe z'Abasoviyete. Yanabonye impamyabushobozi y'amategako muri Kaminuza ya Somaliya. Nyuma yaje gushinga ivuriro rito mu mugi muto avukamo. Intambara itangiye Somaliya ahagana mu 1990, Dr. Hawa yagumye muri Somaliya birangira ahinduye bya bitaro bye ahantu hakira abagera kuri 400. Mu bo yavuraga harimo abagore, abana ndetse n'abagabo. Yafashije cyane ababyeyi bashakaga kwibaruka nyuma aza no gushinga ishuri ry'abagore ndetse n'ishuri ry'ubuhinzi.

Mu gihugu cyashegeshwe n'ivanguramoko, Dr. Abdi yabaye intangarugero: Yavuraga buri wese atavanguye. Yashyizwe ku rutonde rw'abababwira ibihembo by'amahoro byitiriwe Nobel mu mwaka wa 2012 ahabwa n'ibindi byinshi mu gihe cye, harimo n'impamyabushobozi y'icyubahiro yo ku rwego rw'ikirenga mu mategeko yahawe na Kaminuza ya Havard. Asize abana babiri nabo bakaba ari abaganga umwe akaba yaramuzunguye mu gucunga ibitaro.

Perezida Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed wa Somalia abicishije mu nyandiko kuri Facebook yavuze ko Dr. Abdi afite umwanya w'igicro mu mateka ya Somaliya ...Azibukirwa ku mirimo ye mu kuzahura igihugu kiri mu ngorane. Ikinyamakuru Glamour Magazine cyo cyavuze ko Dr. Abdi ni umukobwa we w'umuganga ari abatagatifu ba Somaliya wageranyije na Mother Teresa.

Deqa Dhalac, umunyasomaliya akaba umunyamerika uba muri Maine avuga ko yigiye kuri Dr. Abdi kuba ijwi ry'abatagira ijwi. Avuga ko yishimira cyane ibyo Dr. Abdi yakoze muri Somalia. "Imbaraga ze zo guhangana mu ntambara ntawe mu gihugu-ashyira ubuzima bwe mu kaga ngo afashe ibihumbi bidafite kivurira ni iby'agaciro gakomeye. Abenshi tumugomba ishimwe kubera impinduka mu buzima bwa benshi".

Ikinyamakuru The New York Times kivuga ko mu mwaka wa 2010 ubwo ibitaro bye byafatwagwa n'imitwe y'intagondwa ya kisilamu barabisahuye ndetse bamusaba kubasigira ibitaro ariko yaranze. Indangamurage ya Somali iri muri Leta ya Minnesota yanditse ku rukuta rwayo ngo: "Dr. Hawa Abdi ni intwari ku mamiliyoni kandi ibyo yakoze ntibizibagirana."

UMURYANGO W'IBIHUGU BYA AFURIKA Y'UBURASIR-AZUBA URAGENDA UCIKA INTEGE KANDI WARI IKITEGEREREZO  
Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

Agace k'ibihugu by'Afurika y'uburasirazuba kabarirwamo ibihugu bitandatu aribyo Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzaniya, Sudani y'Epfo, Kenya na Uganda. Hagiye imyaka ibiri irenga Uganda n'uRwanda bihagaritse imigenderanire bifunga n'imipaka ibihuza ahagana muri Werurwa 2019. Ibi bihugu bitungana intoki ko buri kimwe gicumbikira abashaka guhungabanya umutekano w'ikindi. Imishyikirano hagati y'ibi bihugu yahagaritswe na COVID-19 ariko Uganda iheruka kubuza abatutuye bayo kujya i Rwanda bitungura abantu benshi bizeraga ko imigenderanire yaba iri hafi ku-garuka mu buryo. uRwanda kandi ruherutse gutangaza itoroka ry'umusirikare warwo wo ku rwego rwa ofisiye agasanga igisirikare cya Uganda naho Tariki 11 Kanama, Uganda yo itangaza ifungwa ry'abasirikare bakuru barindwi baregwa gusangiza amakuru y'ubutasi bwa gisirikare igihugu cy'uRwanda. Urebye iyi mibanire biragoye ko wakwizera umubano wari witezwe gusubira mu buryo.

Mu Burundi n'uRwanda naho ishyamba si ryeru. Uburundi burega uRwanda gucumbikira abagerageje guhirika ubutegetsi bwa nyakwigendera Nkurunziza, uRwanda rukarega uburundi gucumbikira FDLR. Perezida Kagame aherutse gutangaza ko yiteguye kuba yagirana imigen-

deranire myiza na Evariste Ndayishimiye uheruka gutorwa ariko we ntabikozwa aho saba ko uRwanda rubanza rukohereza abagerageje guhirika ubutegetsi bagashyikirizwa ubutabera,

Ku rundi ruhande Kenya na Tanzania bisanzwe bizwiho amahoro arambye nabyo biri mu ntambara y'ubukungu. Kenya iheruka gutangaza ifungurwa ry'ibikorwa nyuma y'aho icyorezo cya COVID-19 gitangiye kugabanukira. Mu bihugu byemerewe kwinjira Kenya, Tanzania ntirimo bituma nayo ihita ihagarika uruhushya rwa Kenya Airways rwo gukorera ingendo mu mujyi wa Dar Es Salaam nkuko Aljazeera ibitangaza.

Mu myaka yatambutse, umuryango w'Afurika y'uBurasirazuba wakoze ibikorwa biremereye harimo gutegeka isoko rusange, ifaranga rimwe, imipaka ifunguye ku baturage ndetse n'itangizwa ry'imishinga ikomeye nka gari ya moshi ihuza ibihugu. Nyamara iyo urebye amakimbirane hagati y'uRwanda, Uganda, uBurundi, biragoye kumenya neza ahazaza h'uyu muryango.

UBUCURUZI BW'IBYO KURYA  
ABIMUKIRA BASHAKA GUCURUZA IBIRYO NTIBOROHWE  
Bonnie Rukin

Gutangiza ubucuruzi bw'ibyo kurya muri Maine ntibyoroheye buri wese ariko abimukira bashakira kubikora bo bibarushya ku rwego rwisumbuye. Abenshi ntibazi neza uko amasezerano yo gucuruza, impushya ndetse n'ibijyanye n'amategako bigerwaho. Ntibazi uko hatangwa raporo mu kigo cy'imisoro ndetse n'uburyo ukomeza gufasha abakozi uba-gira inama ngo bizinesi yawe ibashe gukora.

Claude Rwaganje, umuyobozi mukuru wa ProsperityME, yafashije amaduka amwe n'amwe y'Abanyafurika kubasha gutangira harimo Moriah Market LLC, iri ku muhanda wa 360 Cumberland Ave., Portland; the Glory Store iri ku muhanda wa 645 Forest Ave., Portland; na Helena Store ya-hoze ku muhanda wa 671 Forest Ave. mu gace ka Portland ubu ikaba iri mu mugi wa Lewiston. Yagiye atanga ubufasha tekini ku maresitora menshi y'abimukira bava Congo no mu Burundi. Ureste ProsperityME, Rwaganje avuga ko izindi sosiyete zifasha abimukira zibaha igishoro n'ubufasha tekinike zirimo Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), na Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE) zifasha abimukira muri byinshi.

Rwaganje avuga ko icyakabiri cya busineshi z'abimukira zatangiye mu myaka itanu ishize arizo zigifunguye. Impamvu zifunga harimo imiterere y'umuryango, ikodesha ri-henze, ubucungamutungo budashobotse, ibura ry'abakirya, kutamenya ibaruramari ndeste no guhenda kw'ibikorwa muri rusange - ibi kandi byari biriho na mbere y'uko haza COVID-19.

ProsperityME iri gutegeka icyegeranyo ku ngorane ba Rwiyezamezimirimo b'abimukira bahura nazo zikazasangizwa abasomyi bacu mu nmero ziri imbere. Rwaganje avuga ko mu gace kamajyepfo ka Maine, aho ibijyanye n'amazu bya-maze kurenga ubushobozi bwa benshi-biri kugenda bigara-gara ko ubucuruzi bw'abimukira bugenda buhunga agace ka Portland mu mugi bukurikira aho abakirya bari kwimukira. Avuga ko byaba byiza habayeho isoko mpuzamahanga muri Maine agasaba uwaba afite igitekerezo cyo kurishinga ko ya-mureba bakaganira kuri emeli ya crwaganje@prosperityme.org, cg 207-797-7890.

Somali Continued from page 7

Marka laga soo tago ProsperityME, Rwaganje wuxuu xusay in Xeebaha Ganacsiga, Inc. (CEI), iyo Adeegga Isku-duwaha Hawlgabnimada (SCORE) ay ka caawiyaan sooga-lootiga sidii ay u heli lahaayeen taageero maaliyadeed iyo taageero farsamo.

Rwaganje wuxuu sheegay in kala bar kaliya ganacsiyada ay bilaabeen soo galootiga shantii sano ee la soo dhaafay ay furan yihiin. Sababaha loo xiray waxaa ka mid ah dhaqd-haqaaqa adag ee qoyska, kirada sare, arrimaha maareynta, tirakoobka macaamiisha, caqabadaha xisaabaadka, iyo kharashyada hawlgalka badan - tanina run ayey ahayd xitaa ka hor inta uusan aafu cudurku si xun u saameeynin xarumaha badan ee cuntada.

ProsperityME waxay hada diyaarinaysaa warbixin ku saabsan caqabadaha soo food saaray ganacsatada soo galootiga ah ee lala wadaagi doono arinta soo socota ee Am-jambo Africa. Rwaganje wuxuu xusay in Koonfurta Maine, oo ah halka sicirka guryaha ay ka noqdeen kuwo aan la gaari karin, in badan oo ganacsatada cuntada soogalootiga ah ayaa ka guuraya magaalada Portland si ay u raacaan salka macaamiishooda. Wuxuu xusay suurtagalnimada suuq suuq caalami ah oo Maine ku yaal, wuxuuna casuumay qof kasta oo daneynaya inuu gacan ka geysto abuurista suuq noocan oo kale ah oo lagala xiriir crwaganje@prosperityme.org, 207-797-7890.



## PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION

## A EDUCAÇÃO DOS FILHOS É O MAIS IMPORTANTE INVESTIMENTO QUE PODEMOS FAZER

Editorial da editora por Georges Budagu Makoko

Até o momento, estamos sem um fim claro à vista para a crise de saúde, 727.357 pessoas morreram em todo o mundo com o novo coronavírus e mais de 19,6 milhões de pessoas contraíram COVID-19. Todos nós sabemos que a crise ameaça o bem-estar econômico de indivíduos e nações. De igual modo a interrupção dos sistemas educacionais em todo o mundo é devastador, com consequências que provavelmente serão possivelmente sentidas por mais de uma geração.

Em nenhum lugar as preocupações com a educação são mais agudas do que nas partes mais pobres do mundo, incluindo muitos países da África, onde 710 milhões de crianças foram excluídas das escolas, de acordo com o Global Partner for Education. Além disso, em muitos países africanos, as escolas não podem se dar ao luxo de fornecer os materiais e a tecnologia necessários para manter os alunos pelo menos um pouco nos trilhos acadêmicos enquanto estão fechadas, o que significa que poucas crianças nos países em desenvolvimento têm o luxo de estudar remotamente, como as crianças podem fazer nos Estados Unidos.

Mesmo aqueles países da África que tentaram conectar professores e alunos por meio de programação de rádio ou TV, ou usando aplicativos de telefone como o WhatsApp, não conseguiram alcançar muitas crianças porque a infraestrutura de tecnologia é muito limitada. Isso torna a educação completamente inacessível para muitos. As consequências previstas para o futuro incluem um aumento esperado nas taxas de analfabetismo e um declínio no número de formandos. O Dr. Lazare Sebitereko, Diretor da Universidade Eben-Ezer na República Democrática do Congo, compartilhou comigo uma preocupação adicional: à medida que os jovens são privados da esperança que a educação traz, eles se sentirão mais atraídos pelos os grupos armados e podem buscar a prosperidade neste caminho, trazendo assim uma maior destruição nas ruas dum continente que já sofreu muito com a violência.

Crescendo na República Democrática do Congo, numa família com pais analfabeto, tive muitos amigos que nunca estudaram. Muitos desses amigos agora vivem em condições criticamente comprometidas na minha aldeia natal. No entanto, essas eram crianças inteligentes. Foi o ambiente e as circunstâncias em que cresceram que determinaram seu futuro e o que foram capazes de alcançar na vida. No meu caso, fui motivado pela curiosidade pessoal em buscar uma educação e as circunstâncias se alinharam a meu favor. Como resultado da minha educação, minha vida mudou. Meu coração dói pelos milhões de crianças em todo o mundo que serão seriamente afetadas pela atual pandemia. Pessoas generosas, filantrópicas e governos não devem esquecer essas crianças.

Também não devemos esquecer que talvez a maior lição desta pandemia - que estamos todos interligados. Portanto, quanto mais recursos alocarmos para apoiar os sistemas educacionais em todo o mundo durante este período difícil, melhor e menos problemáticas estarão todas as nossas sociedades no futuro. A Parceria Global para a Educação tem trabalhado arduamente para apoiar os países em desenvolvimento enquanto eles se esforçam para mitigar o impacto que o fechamento das escolas está tendo nas crianças mais vulneráveis do mundo. A UNESCO formou uma coalizão com o mesmo propósito. De acordo com a UNESCO, “24 milhões de alunos do ensino pré-primário ao superior correm o risco de não encontrar o caminho de volta aos estudos em 2020, após o encerramento induzido pelo COVID-19. A maior parte dos alunos em risco, 5,9 milhões, vive no Sul e no Oeste da Ásia. Outros 5,3 milhões de estudantes em risco estão na África Subsaariana. Ambas as regiões enfrentaram sérios desafios educacionais mesmo antes da pandemia, o que provavelmente piorará sua situação consideravelmente.”

Aqui nos Estados Unidos, os sistemas escolares estão disponibilizando recursos para o fornecimento de pontos de acesso da Internet, refeições gratuitas, laptops e outros materiais para os alunos em suas escolas, na esperança de que os jovens possam prosseguir seus estudos com segurança no contexto da pandemia. No entanto, mesmo aqui, com recursos muito maiores do que em tantos países, algumas crianças sofrerão atrasos em sua educação que podem impactá-los nos próximos anos. Isso inclui crianças de famílias de imigrantes, cujos pais não têm recursos linguísticos ou conhecimento cultural para ajudar seus filhos com os trabalhos escolares em um momento em que os professores estão fisicamente separados das crianças que tentam servir. Como superintendentes, administradores e profes-

sores trabalham de forma criativa para tentar criar políticas e procedimentos que mantenham todos seguros e aprendendo, exorto que cuidado especial seja tomado para os filhos de imigrantes e outras famílias que enfrentam obstáculos acima e além daqueles das crianças americanas.

Normalmente, o mês de agosto aqui nos Estados Unidos é agitado, com famílias se preparando para mais um ano letivo. Mas muitos pais e alunos ficam abalados com a incerteza criada pela pandemia. Eles não sabem como será o novo ano acadêmico e quais serão os novos protocolos. Os pais imigrantes estão particularmente confusos, enfrentando o duplo golpe de navegar no sistema educacional de uma nova cultura - e, além disso, um sistema sofrendo com os efeitos do coronavírus. Enquanto que escolas e conselhos escolares lutam para atender os alunos sob seus cuidados, por favor, estenda a mão para eles. Diga a eles o que seus filhos precisam para ter sucesso. Nos Estados Unidos, a advocacia dos pais é sempre esperada e incentivada. E agora, mais do que nunca, devemos todos advogar em nome de todas as crianças e de um sistema educacional que funcione para todos.

## NOTÍCIAS DA ÁFRICA

## O herói Somali, Dr. Hawa Abdi, lembrado como a voz dos sem voz

Por Jean Damascene

A Dra. Hawa Abdi, carinhosamente conhecida como Mama Hawa, era uma ginecologista a quem se atribui a salvação de dezenas de milhares de pessoas ao longo de várias décadas. Sua carreira durou os mesmos 30 anos em que a guerra civil devastou seu país. A Dra. Abdi morreu em 5 de agosto de 2020, em Mogadíscio, aos 73 anos, e seu falecimento foi amplamente lembrado. Tendo estudado medicina com bolsa de estudos na ex-União Soviética, a Dra. Abdi foi uma das primeiras mulheres somalis a fazê-lo. Ela também se formou em direito pela Somali National University. Mais tarde, ela fundou uma pequena clínica em sua aldeia natal. Quando a guerra civil estourou em 1990 e ameaçou separar o país, a Dra. Hawa permaneceu na Somália e gradualmente transformou sua clínica em um hospital de 400 leitos que tratava de crianças, mulheres e homens. Ela ajudou a todos, desde vítimas de guerra a mães que deram à luz. Ela também construiu uma escola para mulheres e uma escola de agricultura.

Num país devastado por divisões étnicas, diz-se que a Dra. Abdi estabeleceu o padrão: ela tratou a todos com igualdade, independentemente de sua etnia. Ela foi indicada para o Prêmio Nobel da Paz em 2012 e recebeu muitos prêmios em sua vida, incluindo um diploma de Doutor em Direito pela Universidade de Harvard. Dois de seus filhos agora são médicos e um dirige o hospital fundado pelo Dr. Abdi. O presidente Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, da Somália, descreveu a Dra. Abdi em uma postagem no Facebook como alguém que tem “um lugar de ouro na história da Somália. ... Ela será lembrada por seu trabalho em tempos de crise”. A Glamour Magazine descreveu a Dra. Abdi e sua filha médica em 2010 como “as santas da Somália”, comparando-as a Madre Teresa.

Nascida na Somália, Mainer Deqa Dhalac, agora cidadã dos Estados Unidos, diz que aprecia muito o serviço prestado pela Dra. Hawa Abdi à Somália. “Sua coragem de enfrentar a guerra e permanecer no país - colocando sua vida em perigo para ajudar milhares de pessoas vulneráveis - não tem preço. Muitos de nós devemos a ela uma enorme dívida de gratidão pela diferença que ela fez para tantos”, disse Dhalac, e acrescentou que a atitude do Dr. Abdi a inspirou a também se esforçar para ser uma voz para os que não têm voz. O New York Times noticiou que em 2010 seu hospital foi tomado por militantes islâmicos. Depois de saquear o local, eles tentaram fazer com que ela deixasse o centro para eles, mas ela se recusou e se manteve firme. Uma postagem no Facebook do Museu Somali de Minnesota diz: “Dr. Hawa Abdi é uma heroína para milhões em todo o mundo, e seu legado nunca será esquecido.”

## NOTÍCIAS DA ÁFRICA

## Antigamente um farol de integração regional, o Bloco Comunitário da África Oriental está batalhando

Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

O bloco da África Oriental inclui os seis países: Burundi, Quênia, Ruanda, Sudão do Sul, Tanzânia e Uganda. Nos últimos dois anos, Uganda e Ruanda cortaram as relações bilaterais e Ruanda fechou suas fronteiras em março de 2019. Os países se acusam mutuamente de abrigar elementos que pretendem desestabilizar a segurança nacional. Os esforços de mediação foram cancelados quando a pandemia COVID-19 se estabeleceu. Recentemente, Uganda anunciou

que não permitiria que ugandeses viajassem para Ruanda, um movimento que surpreendeu muitos que haviam antecipado a normalização das relações em um futuro próximo. Ruanda relatou a deserção de um oficial militar ativo para o exército de Uganda. Enquanto isso, de acordo com o The Observer, uma companhia de imprensa Ugandesa, em 11 de agosto Uganda acusou sete dos seus ativos oficiais de segurança de compartilhar inteligência secreta com Ruanda. Dadas as disputas em curso, a tão esperada abertura da fronteira para o comércio terá de esperar um pouco mais.

Para adicionar lenha ao incêndio regional, as relações do Burundi com Ruanda também têm sido tumultuadas, com o governo do Burundi acusando Ruanda de apoiar os rebeldes que tentam organizar um golpe para derrubar o falecido presidente Nkurunziza. Ao mesmo tempo, o governo de Ruanda acusa Burundi de proteger a terrorista Force Democratic de Liberation du Rwanda, ou FDLR. O presidente Paul Kagame de Ruanda disse recentemente que Ruanda está pronto para normalizar as relações com o novo presidente do Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye. No entanto, Ndayishimiye recusou a oferta, exigindo que os organizadores do golpe sejam entregues primeiro para enfrentar a justiça.

Enquanto isso, a Quênia e a Tanzânia relativamente estáveis estão trocando cara a cara enquanto abrem cuidadosamente suas economias, com a Al Jazeera relatando que a Quênia não listou os cidadãos tanzanianos entre aqueles que podem voar para a Quênia, e a Tanzânia, por sua vez, proibiu a Kenyan Airways de voar em Dar es Salaam.

Nos últimos anos, o bloco da Comunidade da África Oriental tem promovido um mercado comum, uma moeda única, fronteiras abertas e grandes projetos de infraestrutura como a Ferrovia Standard Gauge. Mas com as rixas continuando entre Ruanda, Uganda e Burundi, o futuro da organização parece imprevisível.

## NEGÓCIOS ALIMENTÍCIOS

## Empresas de alimentos imigrantes encontram caminho difícil

por Bonnie Rukin

Começar e administrar uma empresa de alimentos no Maine não é fácil para ninguém, mas os empreendedores imigrantes de países africanos enfrentam desafios específicos. Muitos não estão familiarizados com contratos americanos, licenciamento, estruturas legais e relatórios de IRS e precisam de orientação contínua para ter sucesso.

Claude Rwaganje, Diretor Executivo da ProsperityME, ajudou várias lojas africanas a começarem. Esses mercados incluem Moriah Market LLC, em 360 Cumberland Ave., Portland; the Glory Store, em 645 Forest Ave., Portland; e a Helena Store, originalmente em 671 Forest Ave., Portland e agora em Lewiston. Ele também forneceu suporte técnico a vários restaurantes que pertencem e são administrados por imigrantes do Congo e Burundi. Além da ProsperityME, Rwaganje observou que a Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) e o Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE) ajudam as novas empresas de imigrantes fornecendo apoio financeiro e assistência técnica.

Rwaganje disse que apenas metade dos negócios iniciados por imigrantes nos últimos cinco anos permanecem abertos. Os motivos para o encerramento incluem dinâmica familiar complexa, aluguel alto, problemas de gestão, dados demográficos do cliente, desafios contábeis e altos custos operacionais - e isso era verdade mesmo antes de a pandemia impactar negativamente tantos estabelecimentos de alimentação.

A ProsperityME está atualmente preparando um relatório sobre os desafios enfrentados pelos empresários imigrantes que será compartilhado em uma próxima edição da Am-jambo África. Rwaganje observou que no sul do Maine, onde os preços dos imóveis ficaram fora do alcance de muitos, um número das lojas de alimentos pertencendo aos imigrantes estão se mudando da baixa de Portland para seguir sua base de clientes. Ele mencionou a possibilidade de um mercado internacional no Maine e convidou qualquer pessoa interessada em ajudar a criar tal mercado para contatá-lo em [crwaganje@prosperityme.org](mailto:crwaganje@prosperityme.org), 207-797-7890.





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Ethnic violence in California | By Tarlan Ahmadov

Being a resident of Maine for almost two decades - a state which is considered by many to be the safest in the entire nation - has made my family and other community members feel protected and happy. We consider Maine to be a place where we can put down our roots. But recently this image of safety and happiness was shattered by an outbreak of ethnic violence during a July 21 protest against the Azerbaijan Consulate General in Los Angeles.



On that day, approximately 3,000 Armenian protesters attacked and assaulted a small group (around 30) of Azerbaijanis, causing damages that required urgent medical attention at the local hospital in L.A. In addition, according to the LA Times, a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officer was hurt during the protest. With a push from the Azerbaijani community, and friends of the community, the LAPD opened a hate-crime investigation. In addition, the U.S. Embassies in Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as several Jewish groups, including the American Jewish Committee, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, issued statements condemning the violence.

Street demonstrations across the U.S. and elsewhere around the world by Armenians and Azerbaijanis have followed a July 12 attack by the Armenian Armed Forces, which launched a military assault across the border with Azerbaijan. The assault has escalated into intense fighting, which in turn has resulted in military and civilian casualties, and threatened Azerbaijan's oil and gas pipeline infrastructure, a vital source for Europe's energy security. This latest outbreak is another reminder that the frozen thirty-year Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict remains a major threat to peace and stability in the Caucasus and the entire region of Eurasia. Armenia continues to occupy 20 percent of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territories in violation of four U.N. Security Council resolutions and other international agreements.

My family's and my community's hearts and minds are occupied by terror due to images and videos of the violence that erupted at a peaceful protest in Los Angeles. YouTube footage shows radical Armenians chanting aggressive slogans full of racist, ethnic-based hate, driving cars in front of protestors, spitting insults, injuring protestors, and burning Azerbaijani flags. For me, California has always been associated with diversity – a welcoming place for people from many cultures. I would never have imagined that one day I would see such ethnically induced violence in broad daylight in California, coupled with the LAPD's failure to adequately protect peaceful protestors.

Armenian radicals are calling for an intimidation campaign against Azerbaijanis in the United States. Outrageous social media posts by Armenians have threatened the Azerbaijani community in California, offering bounties for those who locate Azerbaijanis.

Our families are frightened and scared to go out in public or be identified as Azerbaijanis. We cannot sleep. We cannot eat. Our kids are upset and traumatized. We can't believe that as citizens of a free democratic society, we are being targeted because of our national origin! We need the full support of our government, our elected bodies, and our communities! In our latest communications with members of the Azerbaijani Community of California, we found that individuals and families are relocating due to the threats they have received.

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I believe that the majority of Armenian-Americans are shocked by these hate crimes and hope that the Armenian-American Community will join others in condemning these violent acts, as well as the online threats against Azerbaijanis.

In recent months, America has experienced a very traumatic soul-searching about race, discrimination, and equality. Racial injustice, discrimination based on religious affiliation, biases against minorities all have real-life consequences for real people. Hate crimes affect not just the victims of violence. Hate crimes and violence have much wider implications for society as a whole.

Tarlan Ahmadov is the State Refugee Coordinator at the Office of Maine Refugee Services Catholic Charities Maine, where he has worked since 2004. He is a founder and the President of the Board of Azerbaijan Society of Maine.

“

In York County

3381

immigrants are eligible to vote

Source: American Community Survey - 2018

”

”

In Androscoggin County

1836

Immigrants are eligible to vote

Source: American Community Survey - 2018

”



## The 16<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Gatumba Massacre | By Adele Kibasumba

During the span of one hour on the night of August 13, 2004, in Gatumba Refugee Camp in Burundi, a camp run by the United Nations, 166 refugees from the Congo were massacred and 200 more were wounded. The victims were Banyamulenge, and they were massacred while under the protection of UN peacekeeping troops.



That night I lost my younger sister Deborah, age seven, as well as my cousin, Jeanne Murora, age 18. In addition, my amazing mother Rachel, my pastor Heritage Murinda, and my younger brother Ngabo Alex were all wounded by bomb fragments. I lost so many friends that I can't count them all.

Agatho Rwsa, leader of the National Liberation Forces (FNL), is widely considered to be responsible for the massacre. He is not only free today, but is highly influential in Burundian politics and is a two-time presidential candidate. Sixteen years have passed without justice for the Gatumba massacre. The survivors cannot get over it, will never forget, without justice. Justice is the only way for all survivors to move forward. We can't go on like this!

Sixteen years after the massacre, Banyamulenge from Congo continue to live under constant attack, this time in Minembwe, DR Congo. Just this past April, the Camp of Mikenke, also under the protection of the United Nations, was attacked. The victims are targeted because of their Tutsi ethnicity.

Genocide Watch has issued a Genocide Emergency Alert for North and South Kivu and Ituri provinces of DR Congo, and warns that the Banyamulenge, Hema, and other groups face a grave risk of genocide. "They are targeted by the false narrative that 'Bantu' people are the 'indigenous' inhabitants of the DRC, while 'Nilotic' people are 'invaders from the Great Rift Valley. The same narrative was used to justify the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda," according to Genocide Watch.

To my loved ones and the friends we lost, continue to Rest in Peace. For those wishing to learn more about the events of August 13, 2004, read *How Dare the Sun Rise*, written by my very own sister Sandra A Uwiringiyimana, a survivor of the massacre. It is the only book that has been published about the massacre.

*Adele Kibasumba is a human rights activist and advocate for the Democratic Republic of Congo. She has spoken out at the United Nations, the State Department, and the White House about violence against women and protection of minorities in conflict zones. Ms. Kibasumba is co-founder and Senior Advisor at Jimbere Fund. She and her family survived the 2004 Gatumba Massacre, and she is currently the leader of the Banyamulenge Congolese Diaspora community in the U.S., the first woman to hold the title.*

## What VP candidacy of Kamala Harris means for women of color | By Leyla Hashi

It's been a few weeks since California senator Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic Party's nomination for U.S. Vice President, making her the first Black and Asian-American woman on a major U.S. presidential ticket. Like many women of color, I am still processing this.



It's no secret that American politics lack representation. We could open up any history book and see this just by taking a glimpse at pictures of our former presidents. In recent years, we have seen a rise in ethnic diversity among female politicians. It could be argued that because younger generations are generally more open to diversity in various forms, unrepresented groups like Native Americans and Muslim women are beginning to get seats in Congress. Women like Reps. Ilhan Omar and Sharice Davids give hope to young women who look like them.

When Joe Biden selected Senator Kamala Harris to be his running mate, history was made. If Biden wins, Senator Harris will be the first female Vice President in our nation's history. This idea brings visibility to women of color. Black women are usually overlooked and underrepresented in this country. Being a female of color in America is equivalent to being at the bottom of the food chain. Harris' inclusion on the ticket as Vice President should make us all proud. Tackling this country's sexism and lack of diversity in politics will make us a stronger country, and will bring the change we all so desperately need.

If Harris gets elected, she will literally personify the phrase "started from the bottom now we're here." Harris' historic candidacy will allow little Black girls to dream, and give them the strength to know that females who are Black can now finally be heard. Seeing someone who looks like them in a position of power will create a space for change and acceptance.

*Leyla Hashi is a recent graduate of University of Southern Maine. She produces "Moja Africa," a video podcast series for Amjambo Africa.*

## Dear Native English Speakers: 'A medium hot latte with whole milk, please!' | By Jean Damascene Hakuzimana

The poem "Song of Lawino" by the celebrated Ugandan poet Okot P'Bitek, from the *English for Africa* manual, is known to many Africans who study English in Africa. I remember certain lines, such as "My clansmen, I cry – Listen to my voice: – The insults of my man – The insults of my man – Are painful beyond bearing.... He abuses me in English – And he is so arrogant....I do not understand – The way of foreigners – But I do not despise their customs...."

The poem depicts Lawino, a village wife left behind by a man who has gone off to school and been Westernized, and who eventually marries Clementina, who can dance like a European and behave like the colonists. Lawino sings poems to remind her former partner of his African roots, and to let him know that he does not have to betray those roots.

One day, after I moved to the U.S., when I was returning home from work, I ordered my favorite latte from Dunkin' Donuts. The teller asked me to repeat my order. I repeated myself loudly: "a MEDIUM HOT LATTE WITH WHOLE MILK." She processed my request quickly, and it was a well-made latte, but as I was draining the last drop of coffee, I thought, "How bad can my pronunciation be that I can't even say 'Medium Hot Latte' like an American?" Sometimes I feel as though I should check my vocal chords, just to make sure there is nothing that prevents me from pronouncing my words as well as white native speakers.

I estimate that my orders for coffee are correctly processed only four out of 10 times, and the closer I am to the vendor, the more likely I am to be heard correctly. So I prefer to be called up to the window when I order my coffee (unlike many Africans, my morning is graced with hot or iced coffee, depending on the weather). Far too often, my coffee is served without sugar, iced instead of hot, with skim milk instead of whole milk, or with a toasted croissant stuffed with cheese when I ordered plain. I am not a complainer, but although I have tried many times to rehearse how to quickly say "MEDIUM HOT LATTE WITH WHOLE MILK," the problem remains.

I think part of the problem is who is listening to me, and how far they are willing to go to understand non-native English speakers. Dear Native English Speakers, please take a little time and listen carefully to people who speak with unfamiliar accents. The gestures and pantomime we use might help. Albert Einstein once said that if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. We ought not to judge people and tailor the service we give them based on the accident of their birth. I have known many Americans who know a second or third language. They feel great about their skill, and don't complain about the accents of others, because they know how hard it is to speak like a native. My colleague at work is learning Swahili and Kinyarwanda – I see how proud she is when she practices it with me.

And if someone speaks English with an unusual accent, and you don't understand, please don't pretend you do. I have been in meetings where friends said "yes" just to please me, only later to realize that they did not understand what I was saying. I wish everyone would make an effort to understand those whose accent is not that of a native speaker. And I am fine with asking for a pen and paper to write down whatever I was saying that was not understood – I feel happy to be able to communicate.

I want to know that my American friends find interest in getting to know their new neighbors from Africa, and elsewhere – not as people who can't pronounce words correctly, but as people with rich cultures and languages of their own. Many videos have gone viral on social media showing white Americans harassing people who speak Spanish or other languages while they are in the U.S. To me this is nonsense – and hopefully against the values of most Americans. In my culture, the guest is treated as prime time. One of our proverbs is, "Umushyitsi muhire akurisha ikivuzza," which means that a distinguished guest prompts you to cook whatever you have, even if it is just seeds, to make sure that they feel welcome (usually you can eat the whole crop – but you cannot touch the seeds).

In our *English for Africa* manual, we read a story about "Professor Ology" – a white professor who was the first to set foot in an African village. With no bridges or roads, he asked an African boy to take him across the river in a canoe. Halfway over, he asked the boy to discuss marine biology. The boy said he didn't know anything about biology, so the white man asked about geology, anthropology, and zoology. The boy replied that he did not know anything about them, either. The white man laughed loudly, questioning the boy about how he could be alive without knowledge of those disciplines. Suddenly, the canoe hit a rock, and sank. The two struggled to swim across the crocodile-infested river. When the boy arrived on the opposite shore, and looked back, the white professor was crying for help as he drowned. The boy shouted, "Professor – tell me – do you know anything about swimology...?"

Each month, *Let's Talk* will focus on sayings that might sound funny or confusing to a new language learner. So if you have ever thought "What did they mean by that?" or "What are they trying to say?" this column is for you.



The past few months have seen extraordinary and upsetting events that are still playing out throughout the world. Everyone has been made aware of how quickly life's routines and expectations can change. Here are four idioms – expressions in which the meanings of the words are not the same as the meaning of the saying – which one might hear used in connection with learning and adjusting.

### Know what's what

To understand important facts about a situation

"Didier studied all about the college's application process so that he could understand what's what about its requirements."

### Sail through something

To move easily through a course of study

"Rifka presented a very comprehensive proposal, and it sailed through the budget committee's approval process."

### Know something backwards and forwards

To be very familiar with something

"After working in his family's restaurant for many years, Jean knew the business backwards and forwards."

### In the dark

To not know much about a topic

"Lesa took a drivers' education course because she was in the dark about the rules of the road."

If you have questions about sayings you have heard Americans use that you don't understand, or if you have questions about American culture, please email your questions to Claudia at amjambofrica3@gmail.com and "Let's Talk" will be happy to help.

*Claudia Jakubowski has her Masters Degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).*



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Outdoor learning | Hortense Massamba

All over Maine, school districts are investing a great deal of time and thought in preparations to ensure that students and staff stay safe when schools reopen, as they are expected to do throughout Maine in early and mid-September. Most districts are adopting a hybrid approach, with pods of students in school on some days, and working from home on other days. Many schools are looking at outdoor learning options, although weather challenges – and the distractibility of children – are hurdles to overcome.

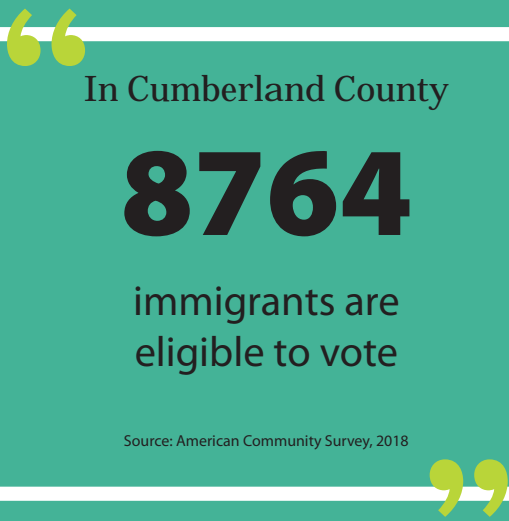


Boyd Marley, Principal of East End, explains outdoor learning.

At the East End Community School in Portland, administrators and teachers are looking at creative seating solutions: students sitting on tree stumps. Boyd Marley, Principal of East End, is working on other measures to ensure social distancing. “The school will place flags six feet apart to help students maintain proper physical distance.” When indoors, class sizes have been reduced. A class that usually has 18 students, for example, will now have 12 students. Plexiglass will separate students seated together. Hallways will be marked by signs indicating six-foot distances. The East End Community School has also made changes to riding the buses. Students will be seated with one student every other row, and only siblings will be allowed to sit together. Students will spend five hours in school and leave after lunch time.



In the garden, Lily Chaleff, School and Youth Program Coordinator at East End School.



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Pigeon, aka Orson Horschler, is a French street artist based in Portland who cares about belonging and sharing an intercultural space. Portraits from his Mainer Project represent Pigeon’s personal connections and friendships and are incorporated into the shelter design.

Our Town’ public art project

Over the summer, despite an unprecedented shutdown throughout the arts community, Creative Portland, the City’s arts agency, hired artists for an exciting new creative bus shelter initiative. Selected artists were chosen by a curatorial team of experts representing Indigo Arts Alliance and Portland Museum, and include Orson Horschler (a.k.a. Pigeon), Justin Levesque, and Ebenezer Akakpo of Akakpo Designs.

The creative initiative celebrates Portland’s racially diverse communities, including immigrant and refugee populations. The goal is to encourage multi-modal transportation, to increase ridership, to amplify the voices of diverse, underserved populations, and to facilitate a discussion of social acceptance and community bonding through art installations that utilize bus shelters as the canvas for public art. The theme is celebrating diversity, equity and inclusion, and our changing environments, due to migration and climate change.

The “Our Town” public art project is a result of public/private partnerships and will strengthen communities by engaging artists, private partners, and arts administrators.

Made possible in part by the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the creative bus shelter initiative was the brainstorm of Dinah Minot, Executive Director of Creative Portland and Kristina Egan, Executive Director of Greater Portland Council of Governments, in collaboration with GP Metro and the City of Portland. These creative bus shelters may be viewed at the following places: Hope & Friendship at 519 Congress St., The Mainer Project at 325 St. John St., and Glacial Retreat at 88 Bedford St.



“Muraho”

“Salut”

“Hujambo”

“Hola”

Every great relationship begins with a big “hello.”

