



MAWAZO INSTITUTE
WOMEN LEADING RESEARCH IN AFRICA

"A transformative journey..."

When in 2018 we put out a call for applications for the inaugural [Mawazo PhD Scholars Programme](#), we could never have anticipated what lay ahead. What a "transformative journey" it has been, as Melisa Allela, one of the PhD Scholars told us as the programme came to an end this March. From 170 applicants spanning six African countries, [Mawazo chose 10 Scholars who together](#) represent some of the most novel and influential research taking place across Kenya.

Our Scholars, in their 10 distinctive fields are filling knowledge gaps around life threatening viruses like Ebola and HIV/AIDS; studying emerging threats such as antimicrobial resistance; helping map out the future smart city that is Nairobi; and identifying areas for possible policy intervention when it comes to pressing issues like global migration patterns. Their individual and collective areas of research are the stuff Big Ideas are born of. Which is why we spent our year with them helping to cultivate these ideas.

We supported our Scholars through research funding, and training and travel grants to attend workshops and conferences. We provided them with mentorship from female scientists and other subject matter experts who have journeyed before them. We worked with partners and industry leaders to teach them skills they will need to be publicly engaged scientists and leaders in their fields. We gave them opportunities to share their work and expanded their networks — and potential reach.

The results are outstanding:

5 of 10 of our Scholars are expected to graduate this year. Another half of them secured additional funding and grants thanks to Mawazo support. One of them paid for her entire field research and lab analysis using Mawazo funding. She is

have given our Scholars a better chance at success.

To our 2018 Scholars, we say a hearty thank you for journeying with us. We also congratulate you for your accomplishments over the last year, and celebrate your part in creating prosperous African futures.

The Mawazo Team

Meet The 2018 Mawazo PhD Scholars on our Blog



The 2018 Scholars share their fellowship experience



The culmination of our one-year fellowship was [a day-long research symposium where Scholars shared the progress](#) of their research with a

- On [International Girls in ICT Day](#), April 23rd, Elizabeth Benson supported costs for

PhD, this was a valuable opportunity to test the strength of their research and identify new areas for further exploration. But the symposium is not the only place where our Scholars have been presenting their ideas and gaining recognition.

Here are some of their other highlights:

- Melisa Allela was selected as [a 2019 recipient of the prestigious HEVA Cultural Heritage Seed Fund](#)
- In March, Peris Amabala [hosted a community sensitization workshop](#) on filoviruses in partnership with USAID-Predict in Laikipia County

Alpha, where she had been invited as a guest speaker. At the end of May, Susan Gichuna attended the [15th World Conference on Transport Research](#) in Mumbai

- Also in April, Edinah Song'oro attended the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) Advanced Training For Multi-Method & Policy Oriented Research held in Nairobi
- Lastly, Elizabeth Benson was appointed Accommodation Chair for Deep Learning Indaba-Kenya Conference, taking place at Kenyatta University from 25th - 31st August



[Meet Dr. Teresiah Njihia](#)

Our first graduate of the Scholars Programme, Teresiah, is [an entomologist who is creating new knowledge](#) that will help in the development of non-toxic, and affordable, pesticides for coffee farmers in Africa. Just a couple of days ago, Teresiah was awarded her doctoral degree from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology's Horticulture department.

Congratulations Dr. Teresiah!



We have been working with organisations like DAAD and the African Academy of Sciences to learn from their vibrant alumni programmes. Stay tuned for Mawazo's own pilot alumni programme launching this September.



Since the [Mawazo opportunities page](#) launched in November, we have connected African students, researchers, and practitioners to over 170 (and counting) funding, training, conferences, and other opportunities to aid their academic and professional development. Featured in June/July (with deadlines you don't want to miss):

- [Call for Applications The Royal Tropical Institute \(KIT\) of The Netherlands Professional Development Programme for Gender Trainers \(Deadline: 29 June\)](#)
- [Call for Applications Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study \(JIAS\) Writing Fellowships 2020 \(Deadline: 30 June\)](#)

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- [Call for Applications PASET Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund \(RSIF\) PhD Scholarships 2019 \(Deadline: 22 July\)](#)

Want to see your opportunities on our page? Share them with us at opportunities@mawazoinstitute.org

Mawazo in the News

Visit our [media page](#) for a summary of Mawazo's recent media appearances including:

- PhD Scholar, Elizabeth Benson's feature in [the Business Daily](#) as part of the International Women's Day themed article #BalanceForBetter
- CEO, Dr. Rose M. Mutiso also gave a talk at the [Nairobi Garage's After Office Hours](#), discussing the need for more women in academia

The Mawazo Blog

Visit our blog page to stay up-to-date on all of our events and activities including:

- International Women's Day celebrations, [featuring the women of Mawazo](#)
- National DNA Day [Link Round Up](#); and
- a visit from Ms. Adirah Ashet-Tsalmiel's [all-girl 'Chemistry is Cool,'](#) class

Recent Partnerships



[The L'Oréal Foundation](#)

CEO, Dr. Rose M. Mutiso was invited to join **The New York Times Battle** held in Paris in partnership with the L'Oréal Foundation in February. Featuring six debaters, Rose joined the discussion debating against the motion that there should be quotas for men in scientific institutions.

At the request of the Foundation, Rose was also invited to present at a **workshop contributing to the Group of Seven (G7) inputs on gender equality** on the theme: "Promotion of African women scientists and their contribution to the global challenges the world is facing." While in Paris for the Workshop, she attended the Foundation's annual **[For Women in Science \(FWIS\)](#) Awards ceremony** held in March.

[DAAD Alumni Conference](#)

Mawazo attended the **DAAD Alumni Conference** in March held under the theme: "Young Scholars in Africa – Challenges and Opportunities," where Rose participated as a panelist alongside representatives from other organizations that support young scholars in Africa. She also served on the steering committee in charge of organizing the conference. Elaine Mungai, Mawazo Programme Manager, showcased our work at the DAAD-organized Market Place, where initiatives serving as support networks for scholars were invited to display and discuss their work.

[Riara University](#)

[The Conversation Africa](#)

[participated in Riara University's](#) science diplomacy seminar, held at its Nairobi campus. The seminar's goal was to, "elevate the role of science and research in foreign policy of African states in order to address national, regional and global challenges."

paired Mawazo CEO Dr. Rose M. Mutiso with APHRC Executive Director, Catherine Kyobutungi for [an engaging discussion](#) on moving from "Evidence to Action: How to connect your research with policy makers and how to use evidence to influence policy."



With every newsletter, we share with you some of our current favorite reads:

[Kenyan varsities need training programmes for PhD supervisors](#) (Business Daily)

[The UK's self-harming scandal of visa rejections for visiting academics](#) (London School of Economics)

[As the continent digitizes rapidly, Africans need a bill of data rights to protect them online](#) (Quartz Africa)

[Build science in Africa](#) (Nature, International Journal of Science)

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