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WOMEN LEADING RESEARCH IN AFRICA

The Mawazo Institute's Report on the Impact of COVID-19

Across most countries in the region, universities, colleges, and other centers of learning have been forced to close as governments try to stem the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. To better understand how the pandemic is affecting students, academics, researchers, and others in the African higher education and research sector, we issued a short online survey and collected over 500 responses.

We've analysed the survey data and are excited to share [our summary findings](#) in this special newsletter.

Unsurprisingly, we found that COVID-19 related disruptions were impacting women and men in the higher education sector differently, but more surprising was how this varied across regions, with notable differences between East Africa and West Africa and Southern Africa, for instance. We also found a critical gap in access to e-learning alternatives for students. With little known on how long the pandemic is expected to affect the African continent, this could have dire effects on continued learning and reverse student gains in the classroom. Majority of our respondents have also suspended their lab and field research activities, indicating that the ongoing crisis is likely to further constrain research productivity on the continent.

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