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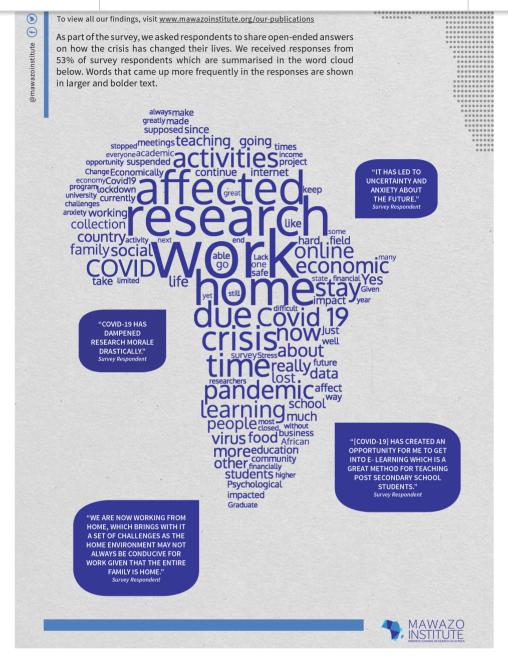
The Mawazo Institute's Report on the Impact of COVID-19

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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As a research institution, Mawazo is committed to increasing understanding on COVID-19, and how communities are coping. We are hopeful that the information we have gathered will help us better understand and respond to the emerging needs in our sector, and to our beneficiaries' needs. We also hope that the survey can serve as a resource to our readers and partners working in the region. We look forward to sharing more of Mawazo's findings on the topic with you.

Best wishes, and stay safe.

The Mawazo Team

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