

CALL FOR BOOK CHAPTER ABSTRACTS

Building Africa's Resilience in the Post - COVID-19 World

Lessons for Research and Development Priorities

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Deadline for Submissions: **15 August 2020, 11:59 GMT**

The Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN) and partners are pleased to invite submissions for chapter abstracts for an edited book, 'Building Africa's Resilience in the Post-COVID-19 world: Lessons for Research and Development Priorities'.

The book chapters will be presented and discussed during the upcoming ARIN's International Research & Impact Conference to be held in November 2020. The submission guidelines and thematic areas for the chapters are described below.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping various aspects of the society. Since the pandemic was first reported in Wuhan in December 2019, the world has witnessed an exponential increase in the number of infections and deaths. The response has also been unprecedented; coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and cascaded to national and subnational actions through emergency directives, lockdowns, cessation of movements, among others. The overall aim of these actions has been to contain the spread of the virus. Nonetheless, as the situation continues to unveil, it has become apparent how elusive it is to contain the virus as infections continue to be confirmed in most parts of the globe, especially across African countries where the virus containment was seemingly promising.

The COVID-19 pandemic comes at a time when African countries had prepared development plans to enable a transition to sustainable and industrialized economies in line with the African Union Agenda 2063, and the United Nations' SDGs. There has

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been concerns from the WHO and other commentators that Africa would be the most impacted region by the pandemic, owing to its weaker socio-economic safety nets. Indeed, the pandemic has affected various sectors that are crucial to the continent's growth (cities, tourism, minerals, agriculture, among others) and transition to sustainable industrialization. In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to further drain the hard-won socio-economic developments in Africa.

As efforts are geared towards developing safe vaccines, as a promising measure for managing the pandemic, many African countries are now lifting the virus' containment restrictions such as lock-downs. Countries and citizens are eager to revert to normal ways of life as the race to economic recovery takes center stage, incentivized by substantial economic stimuli packages being put in place by these countries. However, this rush to economic recovery and normalization could potentially create new opportunities for reinforcing existing challenges such as pollution and climate change, urban hazards, among others.

As African states take steps towards post-COVID-19 economic and social recoveries, there is need to clearly understand the impact of the COVID-19 on various sectors that are critical to the continent's growth, and learn lessons for building resilience to future pandemics. From the research lens, the all-important question is how to safeguard and consolidate the resultant lessons from the COVID-19 experience to inform the management and repositioning of resources not only for development, but also as a cushion against future pandemics, disasters, and other emerging shocks. This is crucial for an adaptive and resilient post-COVID-19 future, and it requires a collective action through people-centered policies and knowledge that the COVID-19 experience could provide.

It is in this context that the Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN), and its partners aim to put together an edited book comprising of lessons and insights that Africa can draw from the COVID-19 experience. These lessons will inform research perspectives/priorities and policy planning for building resilience post-COVID-19, and enable the continent to take advantage of emerging opportunities. The book also identifies some research, practice, and policy gaps that would need to be addressed in the realignment of priorities and actions. The book draws from a variety of research and policy projects and initiatives across Africa that have engaged in the COVID-19 situation either through implementation or discussions. It is also complemented by submissions from a wider body of scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and other actors.

Thematic Focus

The theme of the book is building resilience for Africa, drawing on lessons from the COVID -19 experience. The book will be organized around four thematic sections: i) Background & context; ii) Institutional responses; ii) Case studies; and iv) Synthesis and lessons.

- i) Background & Context:** Epidemics and pandemics are a common feature in Africa. From Ebola to Malaria, the African continent has had a long history combating these challenges. Substantial literature has therefore been developed, both scholarly and otherwise, that captures this history. Submissions under this theme will seek to set the background context on how the African continent has previously dealt with pandemics and epidemics. This section will comprise chapters that draw on the continental and regional contexts (African Regional Economic communities) on the approaches used to tackle pandemics. The chapters should primarily be conceptual or theoretical, to capture the multifaceted aspects of pandemics. Chapters focusing on social, natural, and clinical science are preferred. Overall, the section will set the context for the rest of the book.
- ii) Institutional Responses:** This section will focus on the various institutional responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of particular interest will be the chapter submissions focusing on international, regional (continental and regional economic communities), national (federal), and sub-national institutional responses. Crucially, submissions focusing on initiatives by non-state actors are strongly encouraged, given that the global landscape has been significantly

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influenced by these actors. Institutions, as understood herein, have a wide merit, and include both formal and informal institutions. A non-exhaustive list of institutions includes development agencies, (in)formal community networks, charities, academic and research institutions, among others.

- iii) Case Studies:** There has been a diversity of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these responses have followed traditional approaches, while others have pioneered new models. We are specifically interested in case studies that draw on rich and detailed analysis of responses to COVID-19. Quantitative and qualitative analyses are both welcome, as well as mixed method approaches. Submissions should draw attention on the unique contextual factors of the case studies. Submissions are welcome from research, policy, civil society, development partners, private sector, and other practitioners. Submissions that examine the linkage of pandemics to other issue areas such as poverty eradication, climate change, financial inclusivity, etc. are strongly encouraged.
- iv) Synthesis & Lessons Learnt:** The COVID-19 will most likely not be the last pandemic. COVID-19 has however highlighted the need for better preparation for future pandemics. If anything, COVID-19 should serve as a warning shot. This section will synthesize contributions under the preceding sections. It will attempt to draw out the key emergent themes, then distill key lessons especially for policy, but also for research and other dimensions of engagement. The section will also include a concluding chapter outlining key recommendations and suggesting the best way forward for Africa to effectively tackle future pandemics.

Abstract submissions should respond to one of these themes.

Submissions can cover one or more topics, including but not limited to:

1. Understanding COVID-19 in the context of Africa: Regional perspectives
2. Resilient cities
3. Multi-hazard system thinking
4. Clean Energy
5. Resilient Agricultural Systems
6. Climate action and Non-state action
7. Trade and investment
8. Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and Knowledge Systems
9. Gender and Social Differentiation
10. Livelihood impacts and adaptation
11. Health, nutrition, and well-being
12. Social cohesion and governance

Regardless of the topic(s) covered by the submissions, authors should explicitly orient their submission to one of the four thematic sections. Submissions shall be peer-reviewed by experts.

Please note that submission of abstract(s) does not guarantee acceptance of a chapter for publication. Publisher: Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN Press)

Audience: Policy makers, Students in the field of Resilience, Climate change, development, wider physical and social sciences among others; , urban and rural planners, researchers

Submission: Please submit your abstract through this online form: <https://forms.gle/KwPQ9bpBE5m9PjVK7>

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Important timelines for the book chapters

1. Submissions of book chapter abstracts (150 words): 15 August, 2020
2. Decision on abstract submissions: 21 August 2020
3. Submission of draft book chapters (5000-6000 words): 30 September, 2020
4. Review of draft book chapters: 15 October 2020
5. Submission of revised book chapters (Presentation at the virtual ARIN Research & Impact Conference): 18th-20th November 2020
6. Finalization and Publication: February 2021