Editorial

Keith Richards sang that he never kept a dollar past sunset (happy, in exile on main street, 1972).

Always Keith reminded us of the importance of walking (away) before they make you run (before they make me run, Some Girls, 1978).

Some people seem unable to keep a job, some people like the Charles Bukowski of factorum move from a job to another, from a city to another, from a woman to another.

Workers, who sometimes strike for fame, always hope to be able to retire before government raise the retirement age.

Politicians would love to hold on to their job forever. But usually fail to stick around as long as they would like.

And then you have African leaders, who, in spite of rules, regulations, constitutions, term limits, elections, mistakes, catastrophes are able to rule for as long as they live…and sometimes even after.

The news today report that Burundi’s President, who shares the same birthday of Keith Richards, is attempting to retain his post until 2034 when he turns 71.

Riccardo PELIZZO

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Beware of Black Death

When I was in Baltimore (Md), many years ago, every year someone would drop a rose in front of Edgar Allan Poe’s House. Though Poe was probably not more popular than (Charles Sanders) Peirce, today he is celebrated to the point that Baltimore’s (American) football team is called Ravens—for the Raven was Poe’s most famous poem. I remember Poe (and Peirce) for different reasons. I remember Peirce for the murals in Shriver Hall, on Johns Hopkins’ Homewood Campus, that says all that needs to be said about the man and about why his academic career was wrecked. Poe is someone I remember for Dupin and for the Mask of the red death. Dupin is, if Sebeok and Eco are to be trusted on this issue, the first detective story ever written—the model for Sherlock Holmes, Arsene Lupin, Benoîlin, Gideon Fell, sir Henry Merrivale, Poirot and Maigret…to name a few. But the Mask of the red death is about the plague—a plague that as of now has killed more than 120 people in Madagascar and is threatening Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, France’s La Réunion, the Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania.
Better Measures, Better Data Needed

By Riccardo PELIZZO

For the past 20 years, scholars, practitioners, governments and international organizations have been obsessed with corruption that they had so blissfully neglected for the previous 40 years. The study of corruption became a real industry. Several scholars/organizations devised a wide range of methodologies to estimate corruption, large datasets were assembled to track corruption across time and space, theoretically-inclined scholars engaged in extensive debates as to what corruption is, while the more empirically inclined used the data that had just been made available to investigate the causes and the consequences of corruption.

It is not difficult to understand why these empirical analyses were important. It is only by showing that corruption has a wide range of deleterious effects – erodes the fabric of a society (trust), that it reduces the quality of government, that it takes a toll on a country’s economic performance, that it prevents socioeconomic development, that it may destabilize political regimes – that we can justify why it is so important to study corruption and we may decide to allocate to the study of corruption the resources (manpower, time, funds...) that we’d have otherwise used to support a different research agenda.

After twenty, one may be tempted to make a comprehensive assessment of this research agenda and by doing so one would have to reach two conclusions: first, that this research agenda has produced a massive wealth of information not just in terms of data, dataset, but also analyses and results; second, that the evidence generated by this line of research -coupled with the notion that evidence-based policies are generally preferable to policies adopted for other, more whimsical, reasons- has persuaded policy makers to adopt anti-corruption strategies, policies and measures.

Some policy makers have embarked in the anti-corruption fight because they wanted to signal their commitment to good governance (and possibly get access to international funds), others did so because they were hoping to appeal to international investors and attract more foreign investments, others still did it because they really believed that too many of the little resources at their disposal was squandered because of corruption, some did it to settle domestic political scores, and a final group of policy makers joined the anti-corruption crusade to have a noble excuse to implement (often liberticide) policies that otherwise would have been unpalatable for the public.

Policy makers joined the anti-corruption fight for the most diverse reasons. This much we know.

What remains somewhat less clear is how much progress they made in their respective anti-corruption fights (and why).

The reason why do not know whether, when, how and for what reasons countries make progress in curbing corruption is that we do not know how to measure corruption. If a given country C at a given point in time T had been a clear instance of systemic corruption (score 100 on a fictional corruption thermometer) and then had been able to clean up the political system and the civil service, that country’s progress in reducing corruption should be captured by a corresponding decrease of the value recorded by the corruption thermometer. Because of the fact that the measure captures, with some precision, real world changes, if someone detected a marked decrease in the level of corruption recorded by the corruption thermometer he/she could with some confidence reach the conclusion that in that given period corruption in that country decreased and could start investigating why that had been the case.

Unfortunately, the corruption measures do not work so well. Pelizzo, Baris and Janenova (2017) showed how poorly Kazakhstan’s corruption levels are captured by World Bank and Transparency International. But a very similar problem arises if one attempts to measure corruption elsewhere. Let’s take, for example, the case of Tanzania.

Tanzania is and was believed to have a serious corruption problem, President Magufuli was elected primarily on the basis of a forceful anti-corruption agenda, many of the measures that President Magufuli has adopted (from wage reform to the arm-wrestling with mining companies) are intimately connected with the President’s vision to eradicate corruption and to create the conditions for sustainable development in the country.

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Has Tanzania been successful in eliminating corruption? The answer depends on the data that one chooses to adopt.
According to Transparency International Tanzania had a high level of corruption (and conversely a low level of transparency), thanks to the President’s anti-corruption efforts has managed to do some in contrasting corruption and the overall corruption level remains sensibly higher than it had been in 2012.

If we take the World Bank data, however, one gets a very different picture. Yes, Tanzania has a corruption problem, yes corruption increased from 2012 to 2013, but it has steadily declined since, it was declining before President Magufuli took office, it decreased markedly as soon as he launched his anti-corruption campaign and it is remarkably lower than it had been in 2012.

The two accounts do not simply display minor differences. They’re totally incompatible with one another—see the figure.

This is not just a technical problem for methodologically inclined social scientists. This is a major practical problem as well. If we do not know how to measure well, that is with some confidence and precision, what we want to study, our data analysis tells us precious little, and, from a practical point of view, it does not tell policy makers whether what they’re doing is working (or not) and for what reasons.

That is why a new generation of better corruption measures would be very welcome.

Is Africa making progress on technology and innovation?

By Riccardo PELIZZO

A recently released report indicates that Africa is making ‘incremental progress’ on knowledge economy thanks to technology and innovation. Has there been incremental success in innovation? well, if we take a look at the number of patent applications by residents, is that yes, maybe, to some extent there has been some progress. But only some progress.

In Burkina Faso there were 2 applications in 1998, in 2000, in 2004 and 2010; in 1999 there were 4 applications, but only 1 in 2003 and 2005. Was there progress in Burkina Faso?

The data for Burundi go way back by they stop by the mid-1990s. What do they show? That the number of patent applications in 1965, 1966, 1969 and 1972 was the same number recorded in 1989 and 1996 as in each of these years only 1 patent application was filed.

In Congo DRC the number of applications increased from 1 in 1971 to 8 in 1984, but it peaked twice in 1975 and 1979. So yes there was some progress, but long ago and far away and World Bank data tell us very little as to what the current situation may be. The Republic of Congo did indeed experience progress—from 5 application in 1986 to 19 in 1988, but World Bank Data don’t show what happened in Congo since then.

Ivory Coast filed 26 patent applications in 2012, Djibuti 1 in 2013, in Ethiopia the number of applications increased from 1 in 2002 to 12 in 2007. It’s a great result, but once we compare it with Kenya, that recorded 135 patent applications in 2011 and 137 in 2015, the Ethiopian progress looks considerably less impressive.

South Africa produced 889 patent applications in 2015. If we divide the GNI per capita (5480 dollars) by the number of patents, we find that there 1 patent application for each 6.16 dollars of GNI per capita. It’s very efficient, better than Kazakhstan where the ratio is 1 patent application for 6.85 dollars of income per capita. But this is hardly a remarkable success for a country where in 1989 the number of patent applications was 5134.

So, to sum up, there has been somewhere somehow to some extent some progress, but not everywhere, not massive and not enough to provide the foundations for a proper knowledge economy. Africa needs to do more and better. And to do more and better, it has to start with doing more research. Talking about research is fine, but it does not lead to producing research papers, to generating ideas and patents, to innovating and to having an innovation-based economy.
Africa’s Curse: Her Natural Resource Endowment

By Steven MACHAYA

So much has been written on causes of Africa’s present economic predicament, with a wide range catalogue of theories on the academic shelves for one to select from, including a variety of failed prescription medicine to cure its seemingly incurable economic immune-deficiency syndrome (EIDS). While it is plain that indeed the west has never allowed Africa to rise above her disadvantaged economic status on the global platform, explanations that emphasise putting the blame on the west seem to abrogate our political leadership of responsibility for our destitute status. The reason the west is determined to keep the leading position in terms of dominance of world trade is because they are aware of their lack of resource endowment and will thus make sure conditions are always set for the shipment of our natural resources to their countries, while we buy back the same as finished products at more than twice their original price. This works well for them and bad for us. And this does not mean that our political leadership is not aware. It is aware. And this does not mean that it is clueless as to what needs to be done to change the continent’s fortunes. It does have a clue. Evidence abound on countries that have fought hard to come out of the vicious circle of poverty without even following the World Bank and IMF prescribed methods and these countries today stand out as success stories of the possibility for once considered Third World Economies to be ranked among the developed ones. These are often referred to as developmental states because the state takes a leading role in directing and channelling the country’s human and natural resources (as opposed to the purely free market approach) towards a development ethos. Simply because there is not much that is required to dig gold from the ground as opposed to the sophisticated technology required in producing processed goods, and because one can always go back to dig for more if one runs out of money, it does not create the impetus to do more than just dig and dig. That is the problem with our leadership, they just dig and dig. As long as their people continued to breed, chiefs never bothered to look for alternative means to create wealth except to sell their people to slave traders. Each time a woman fell pregnant, the chief celebrated the purchase of cheaper ram and out-dated guns for once baby left its mother’s womb, it became of commercial value as a commodity to be sold on the market. They only stopped the practice because those who used to buy them were no longer seeing economic value in them as industrialisation set in. Resource endowment has created a spirit of ‘laziness’ for our leadership to think beyond the breadths of their spectacles. Like a woman sitting under a tree, waiting for her usual customers to come and buy her tomatoes as they make their way home from work, so is like our leadership! The world is littered with African entrepreneurial prophets who have had to run for their lives, with their own political leadership in hot pursuit; and their crime?—they dared to venture into wealth creation outside the ambit of the political elite! Strive Masiiwa comes to mind. I do not see the difference between now in the 21stcentury, our leadership sitting around a table, trying to decipher the perennial headache of economic impoverishment of their countries, with our ancestors 450 years ago, trying to decipher the same problem, while their able bodied young man and women lined up the shores of the sea coasts, waiting to be transferred to the Americas and the Caribbean islands. It’s a shame! Like the beasts of the kraal, we live for the here and now and tomorrow’s generations will have to find means to fend for themselves when our land has become an empty shell.
Attract European retirees, boost consumption and growth

By Riccardo PELIZZO

Several years ago, some friends brought me to a meeting with some senior officials in the Ministry of Tourism. I was able to interview them and I used some of the information that they were kind enough to share with me for a book called Tourism in Africa (which in reality deals exclusively with the developmental dividends of tourism in Tanzania and Togo).

In the course of that meeting with the government officials I noted that it was a tragedy to see that some of the historical hotels in Lome’ - Hotel 2 Fevrier, Hotel de la paix and the Tropicana - looked more similar to ancient Roman ruins than to functioning hotels.

They told me that they had plans for both the Hotel 2 Fevrier that has now reopened and that they also had plans for the Hotel de la Paix (which, if I am not mistaken, must be on sale or at least was on sale up to not so long ago), and that they were not sure what to do with the Tropicana. I was not sure either.

In the course of our, lovely, conversations I brought to their attention the fact that when Europeans retire, they do not always get a pension or, when they do, do not always get a terribly high pension. So they cannot live well in their own country and the cannot afford to go, with a retirement visa, to Singapore (which requires or at least required they have a pension of at least 6000 dollars a month) or, for that matter, to Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

My suggestion was that if you do not require retirees to have the kind of ‘high’ income/pension that they are expected to have to retire in one of the South (East) Asian countries listed above, you have a wide market of retirees who could come and spend the winter here, who could generate a massive income for the government, who could boost consumption and, with it, the economic performance of the country.

The GNI per capita of Togo in 2012 was of 470 dollars, the population was of roughly 6.9 million people, so the GNI was 324300000 dollars.

Bring in some European retirees, who can enjoy a warmer climate, and a higher quality of life than they could afford back home where the cost of living is much higher, and this immediately contributes to local economy. It makes a massive contribution to the local economy.

It brings more revenue to the government as it issues more visas, it brings more money to the airport, and it boosts consumption.

If only 10000 Europeans retirees had spent 10 dollars per day for six month in 2013, that alone would have represented a 0.5 per cent increase in the Togolese economy. Any increase either in the number of retirees or in the dollars spent per day would have led to an even faster economic growth. So much so twenty thousand retirees spending 20 dollars per day for six month would have singlehandedly increased the Togolese economy by more than2 per cent in a year. And that money would have created employment, would have paid salaries, and more and better paid workers would have, in their turn, contributed to a faster economic growth.

Togo, then decided that the idea was not terribly interesting. But the idea remains interesting for all those developing countries that need to diversify their economies, not because we say so, but more importantly because every year hundreds of thousands of European retirees leave their home countries in search of a place where they’d more happily enjoy their retirement age.

The numbers are staggering and African countries would make a terrible mistake if they failed to grab this opportunity.

According to various sources, every year 107,000 Italian go and live abroad [1]. This number includes 40000 millennials and more than 4000 retired individuals. Overall there are 4.8 million Italian living abroad. For some is a way to find a job, for others is a way to make an experience, but for the older migrants it is an opportunity to go to countries where they can enjoy a higher quality of life for a lower cost.
If African countries were willing or able to provide these Italian retirees with retirement visa, the inflow of these individuals would provide a powerful stimulus to the economy of the receiving country.

On the previous page, we showed that by attracting these European retirees, the Togolese economy could easily grow by an additional 2 per cent.

One could say that Togo is a small country, with a small population, with a low income per capita and with a relatively small economy and it is precisely because of this smallness that the inflow of few retirees could have such an impressive impact on the economic growth.

Fair enough.

So let’s take a bigger country, such as Tanzania, which has a large population (55.5 million), a GNI per capita considerably higher than Togo (900 Us dollars in Tanzania in 2016, vs 470 dollars in Togo in 2012).

In 2016 Tanzania received 1284279 tourists, who on average stayed in the country for about 9 days, spending roughly 184.4 dollars per day. A tourist ends up spending, for a holiday in Tanzania, 1659.3 dollars.

Take retirees, give them a retirement visa (and cash the visa application money), keep them in the country for 180 days. This means that by simply spending 10 dollars per day, one of these retirement tourists would spend 1800 dollars, that is 8.5 per cent more than the current average tourist. If our retired tourist spent 20 dollars per day, he or she would spend more than twice what an average tourist now spend (about 217 per cent). This means that 500,000 of these tourists would generate as much income as the 1284279 tourist who visited Tanzania in 2016. Reaching so many retirees at once may not be feasible, but attracting 100,000 of them is not impossible—and attracting these 100,000 retirement tourists would boost the tourism receipts by 20 per cent. And they’d also boost the economy.

By exploring new markets, by targeting new types of customers, a country like Tanzania could make its tourism sector and its economy grow.

Europe can supply a lot of retirees who seek a higher quality of life, and African countries can provide good weather, low prices and high quality of life. Given what Africa has to offer and what Europe demands, it’d be silly not to match demand and supply.


First, Africa, from 2000 to 2015, experienced sustained strong economic growth. This growth allowed Africa to improve in each developmental category—infant mortality decreased, life expectancy increased, income per capita tripled, literacy improved and so on.

So there was growth and there was progress on the developmental path. This is the second point.

Third, this economic success depended on a wide range of factors—Africa’s foreign debt was canceled, aid increased, foreign direct investments increased even more, the demand for commodities—thanks to China—increased, and the price of commodities sky rocketed.
**Fourth**, as aid started decreasing, as investments started declining and the price of commodities decreased, African economies slowed down—especially those which depend on the export of oil and other commodities.

**Fifth**, African economies are bouncing back. Yes, but there is a marked difference between the average growth rate that non-commodities economies will experience and the rate that commodities-based economies will experience. Countries that rely on the export of commodities will grow less, more lowly, than those which don’t.

This is because, **sixth**, the increase or the appreciation of oil and commodities has been small. If price of oil and commodities goes back to the values recorded before the the end of 2014, the rate of economic growth in Africa will accelerate.

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**Tax Rate in Tanzania and Togo**

By Riccardo PELIZZO

After reading some of our previous posts [1], some friends asked us whether it’s better to relocate to Togo or Tanzania.

There are obvious differences: one country is French speaking, the other is for the most part English speaking. Tanzania is a richer faster growing economy, but Togo is cheaper.

Togo was probably the most peaceful, safest, place in the continent, but it is not clear what will happen now that citizens have started voicing their discontent towards the President and his government.

Taxation rate may affect one’s decision to relocate to either country.

Togo has a very low tax rate for royalties (5 to 10%), so if you’re the author of a successful book or the holder of several patents, Togo is an ideal destination for you. If you have invested extensively in stocks and you earn a lot from the dividends, Togo could also be a good place for you—the tax rate on dividends is 13 %.

But if you go to Togo to work, the income tax is higher. It’s 15 for non resident companies without a permanent establishment, it is 27 per cent for industrial companies and it is 30 per cent for non resident individuals—while for resident individuals is 29 per cent [2].

In Tanzania individuals do not pay income taxes if their yearly income is below 170000 shilling a month, which makes roughly 800 euros a year. The highest income bracket is for individuals whose income exceeds 3348 euros per year.

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Uhuru Wins

By Riccardo PELIZZO

Uhuru Kenyatta won the elections and he is once again the President of Kenya. The media are already complaining about the fact that only 6.5 million voters went to the polls and that, as a result, his victory and his second terms may not be as legitimate as they’d have been with a higher turnout.

In democracy, you have the right to vote. If you decide not to exercise it, then you cannot really complain about an electoral outcome that is not in line with your preferences.

But Kenyatta’s victory is, for me, a lesson in life. When I first saw him, in 2011, presenting the Budget in Parliament, an African-born Canadian, sitting next to me, said that Kenyatta would never and he underlined never be President.

I knew nothing, and he knew everything. He was after all a Canada-trained African politics specialist. And yet, in spite of his knowledge, he was not able to see the future.

And that’s not the training he received in Canada was not good, ut because, as my great advisro used to say he who lives by the crystal ball, ends up eating glass.

True then, when my advisor imparted this lesson on me, was true when in 2011 Kenyatta was presenting the budget right in front of my eyes and was true each time he won an election.

Kenyatta VS Odinga

Kenyatta and Odinga or Kenyatta vs Odinga seems to be the second act of a play that started when Uhuru’s and Raila’s fathers were respectively Kenya’s President and Vice President.

In Ancient Greece they’d have turned this story into a great tragedy. You have all the elements for an instant hit: friends turn into enemies, the sins of the fathers fall on their sons, nobody seems able to escape his/her own destiny...

In ancient Greece, tragedies and comedies were expected to entertain the population. In Rome, rulers believed that citizens needed panem at circenses. Bread and circus or entertainment. The Greeks knew that as well. But they also knew that the tragedy could have some kind of a cathartic effect. You put a drama on stage, you exorcise it by making it public, and the spectators walk away in the end purified and relieved.

This is I guess the main different between Greek tragedies and what’s happening in Kenya now.

There is no cathartic dimension in the electoral/post-electoral drama that Kenya is experiencing. And if the main actors fail to act more responsibly, the magnitude and the severity of the problems may escalate uncontrollably.
The President of Ambazonia

By Riccardo PELIZZO

Surrounded by a group of friends, an elegantly dressed young man told me something that I failed to understand. Then he said he was from Cameroon and since he was obviously Anglophone (though he pronounced some words with an obvious French accent), I said ‘ah, you must be from Ambazonia’

he said ‘do you know Ambazonia?’

and i said ‘of course i know Ambazonia, everybody knows about Ambazonia’

‘i am the President of Ambazonia’ he said

‘that’s great, so maybe we’d sit down for an interview’

‘are you a journalist?’

‘of course’

‘i will be happy to give you an interview’

‘i will be happy to interview’

So, actually, however incredibly, there is a remote chance that one of the days we may actually sit down who may (but may not) be the President of Ambazonia in Exile–another Exile on Main Street of course, an exile in Napoleonic style, an exile lived with class, good taste, good friends, and all those things that make life worth living.

—

This reminded me, that in one of those rare moments of sublime intelligence, I wrote that nothing is more realist than surrealism and absurdism. As is often the case, reality confirmed what my intuition had anticipated, or, to put it in slightly different terms, reality conformed itself (with some delay…) to what my mind had conceived. And voila, reality was indeed as surreal and absurd as a play by Ionesco, in this respect far superior to Beckett (who after the trilogy only write for the the effect thus betraying surreality). Reality was surreal and absurd and a surreal absurdity -a news hunter bumping into big news in a bar where people were singing – was actually very very real.

So one of the man of the President asked my phone number, they gave me their number in return, I walked home full of joy and tripidation. I was holding in my hand a piece of paper on which one of the President’s men had scribble the phone number.

As soon as I started looking, in my pocket, for the key of my apartment, i realized that there was no piece of paper and no phone number.

Maybe it was just a dream. Who knows? Regardless of whether they call me or not, I will never find out whether I dreamt of a meeting in which I planned to interview someone of whether I dreamt about the dream itself.

To Borges’ delight, who, I am sure, he is smiling upon reading all this, this is really what happened to me. I once read Borges and Beckett (and Ionesco), and now I live in the universe they created for me. I know it for a fact.

I wrote plays and described situations and things that would, many years later, happen to me.
Gunjur Village Museum is Opened!

Gunjur, a small coastal town of the Gambia located in Kombo South District, boasts a new museum. Gunjur Village Museum, run by our friend Lamin BOJANG, was officially inaugurated on 28th October 2017. With the help of the Footstepd Eco Lodge, JIKI foundation of Holland and Ethical travels of Norway, the Gunjur Village Museum is something unique for Gambia. The museum established in the natural environment promotes the preservation of the endangered animal species, serves as a center for learning traditional medicine using the growing here traditional herbs and medicinal tree species, ensures the protection of indigenous cultural heritage by housing the local artefacts and already become a prominent platform for organizing different workshops, seminars, and exhibitions of the local art works.

"Where the history of The Gambia comes to Life"

http://gunjurmuseum.com/
Love the Kids Foundation

Love the Kids Foundation (LKF) is a Rwandan based not-for profit charity organization which was founded by a dedicated team of young people passionate about working tirelessly to transform the lives of children in need. Current team members of Love the Kids Foundation are Rwandans by nationality and some of them have experienced similar childhood hardships. In the summer of 2015 and after the law which closed all orphanages in Rwanda, the current leader, Jean Claude Muhire, who previously served as a volunteer in one orphanage pledged to continue to assist children in need. He called upon a team of committed people to create an NGO which can support less fortunate children. The team was pleased by his idea and they went through running an organization. That’s how LKF was born. Love the Kids Foundation was created to support needy children whose basic human needs are yet to be met.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Work phone: +250 783 232 420

Website: www.lovethekidsfoundation.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA OF INTERVENTION</th>
<th>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>SHORT DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED BUDGET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Support non-sponsored children of Love the Kids Foundation to access formal education.</td>
<td>Send 81 needy children to schools and pay for school fees and other education costs. Among them, 7 children could be placed in Elementary school, 56 children in primary school, 14 children in secondary school and 4 teenagers in a technical school (Teenagers + LKF children who dropped-out schools because of various reasons).</td>
<td>253 USD per year - for a LKF child in Elementary school. 300 USD per year - for a LKF child in primary school. 625 USD per year - for a LKF child in secondary school. 438 USD per year - for a LKF child in a technical school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
<td>Support LKF beneficiaries with annual health insurance.</td>
<td>Pays for community based health insurances to Love the Kids Foundation children and their families (163 people).</td>
<td>713 USD per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUMANITARIANISM</strong></td>
<td>Love the Kids Foundation children's concert</td>
<td>Organize the children's concert with songs on Peace, Love, Hope, and Humanity. Inviting distinguished people to participate at the event.</td>
<td>1 255 USD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Books collection campaign</td>
<td>Organize an event for collecting books for children with a particular focus to raising awareness of rights, needs, and potentials of children and engage the members of community in social transformation by providing values to education for disadvantaged children and promoting self-learning at an early age.</td>
<td>1 783 USD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sports for Peace and Hope competition</td>
<td>Assist children in need to practice sport games as a tool to transform their lives. Organize a 2 day Sports’ Competition by playing match with children from other organizations. Award the winners.</td>
<td>671 USD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Celebrating the International Day of African Child</td>
<td>Organize a small party for LKF children to enjoy the International Day of African Child 2018.</td>
<td>200 USD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eat like a loved child</td>
<td>Providing foods and soft drinks to children of Love the Kids Foundation once a month in a single year.</td>
<td>214 USD per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ADVOCACY &amp; POLICY MONITORING</strong></td>
<td>Thrive for a better life</td>
<td>Provide a combination of trainings to parents and guardians of children supported by Love the Kids Foundation. Invest in their peer groups a few amount of money for them to start small businesses helping them to earn their living.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table detailing all the basic needs of Love the Kids Foundation. With your support Love the Kids Foundation can continue to transform well the lives of Rwandan people in need.
In October, the Environmental Concern Group Gunjur, run by our friend Lamin JAMMEH, performed a wide range of activities to protect the environment and combat climate change in The Gambia.

The Group held a three days workshop on climate change, its impact and resolution in Gunjur community center.

The Group planted 10000 trees.

Playing some kind of pedagogical role, the Group organized several activities to educate the Gambians about the importance of preserving the environment.

Being an important part of the environment protection network, the organization participated at the two-day conference “Launching of the Biochar Network Gambia”.

The Environmental Concern Group Gunjur one’s again arranged caterpillar to pave a way through the dumping site for the women vegetable gardeners to have access to their Gardens.
Collaborators

of the Newsletter of African Politics and Policy

Kristina BEKENOVA, correspondent African Politics and Policy.

Steven MACHAYA, correspondent, Zimbabwe

Riccardo PELIZZO, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan

Scholarships for African Students

Michigan State University (USA) provides full tuition scholarships to Bachelor and Master’s degree students from sub-Saharan Africa. [1st February, 2018].

Carleton University (Canada) has opened the Richard J. Van Loon Scholarship that will award an outstanding international student from an African country to study one year in any programme of the University. [15th November, 2017].

The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) invites applications for 10 postgraduate scholarships from Southern African women media leaders to study at Rhodes University. [24th November 2017]

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