



RUFORUM 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

Transformative Education and Ecosystem Engagement



THEME

Positioning Africa's Universities and the Higher Education Sector to effectively impact development processes on the continent

Hosts:

The Government of Botswana and
RUFORUM member Universities in Botswana led by Botswana University of
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Venue:

GICC, Tsodilo Suite

Date: 1st December, 2025

Time: 08:30-16:45 CAT SAT

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Background

Global conversations on education are wrought with emphasis on transformative education as the necessary imperative for delivery of quality education. Across Africa, efforts have been galvanized towards the delivery of transformative education with diverse interpretations on what it actually entails. Over the last 10 years, RUFORUM through a partnership with the Mastercard Foundation have been coordinating a Pan-African initiatives through the transforming African agricultural universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's growth and development (TAGDev). Within the TAGDev program transformative education has been framed as an education that delivers positive changes and outcomes at higher education institutions that train quality graduates who then create value and wealth in society. Thus, an education that creates positive changes at institution, individual and community and the economy. Thus, this education is pursued through a new philosophy that integrates teaching, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship for science translation into products and services to deliver tangible benefits and changes in the economy and broader society.

Delivering transformative education within the TAGDev consortium has required that universities undertake introspection forging forward with curriculum reform as opposed curriculum review as often pursued. It has called for challenging the learning paradigms deployed over the years seeking to move from disciplinary perspectives to transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary dimensions where problem based and student-centered learning paradigms facilitate learning and lateral skills such as leadership, creativity, innovation and ethics and values receive necessary attention. It has also challenged the universities to reconsider the ivory notions to open up their gates to welcome the private sector, engage more closely with the advanced knowledge institutions, regulatory and policy organisations as well as accelerator organisations that indeed support universities to scale their operations. Further, it has called on universities to secure collaborative delivery and focus on long-term program level focus than routine projects with short-life spans. Within this wrap has been the encouragement to recognize the wider ecosystem and the global multilateralism at play in the current global scene.

Beyond the TAGDev initiative, the Mastercard Foundation has championed transformative education through various programs such as the Scholars Program that is focused on educating leaders for the future, the Education Collaborative-an initiative that brings together universities seeking to reform their institutions to advance the delivery of quality education, the health programs seeking to educate quality health and pandemic professionals for Africa as well as the teaching and learning, and digital collaboratives that seek to advance the quality teaching approaches and technology integration including artificial intelligence into education processes. Lessons emerging from all these collaborative efforts point to the need to strengthen ecosystem level engagement and coordination in order to increase impact of programming as well as secure common vision for the advancement of transformative education in the continent.

Purpose and Objectives of the session

This session seeks to bring together transformative education efforts from various Mastercard Foundation supported initiatives as part of connecting the islands of

success into a plane of concrete land of best practices for higher education institutions in the RUFORUM network and beyond. The specific objectives are:

1. Provide evidence and accountability of program impact at individual, institution, community and economy
2. Bring the higher education collaboratives together to share lessons and best practices to inspire other higher education institutions
3. Create a platform for expanded network of the higher education collaboratives as a community of practice

Conveners

This session is collaboratively convened by RUFORUM and Mastercard Foundation and brings together other higher education collaboratives such as the Education Collaborative, Climate Collaborative, Digital Learning collaborative among others.

Day 1: Monday 1st December, 2025

Venue: Tsodilo Suite

Registration Link: <https://ruforum-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/rxakPuwEQG2kEuaxzDFE1w>

Session Chair: Pauline Gangla

Rapporteurs: Prof. Ngwasiri Pride , Dr Kulabako Mary

Time	Event	Person in-charge
08:00-08:30	Guests Arrival and Videos	Protocol team (Emmanuel Okalany, Winston Abanaitwe, David Amitu)
08:30-08:45	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Patrick Okori, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
08:45-09:05	Key note: Transformative Education and Ecosystem Engagement for Higher Development Impact and Sustainability	Dr. John Nkengasong, Executive Director, Higher Education, Collaboratives, and Strategic Initiatives, Mastercard Foundation
Fireside Chat: Agency and Voice of Young Change Makers in Society		
09:05-10:00	Ms. Winnie Wambugu, Nakuru Tubers; Engaging business ecosystem and facilitating change in the potato value chain.	Pauline Gangla, Mastercard Foundation (Moderator)
	Ms. Zena Saliru, Juma Farms, (U) Ltd; Enabling opportunities for persons with disabilities through business development	
	Mr. Kato Omia, Omia Agribusiness Development Organization; Engaging refugee populations and host communities for resilient livelihoods	
	Mr. Gordon Akejo, Gordon Agricultural Organization; Creating Opportunities for out of school through delivery of bundled services	
10:00-11:00	Transition to Official Opening	State Protocol
11:00-13:00	Official State Opening of the AGM	
13:00-14:30	Lunch and Exhibition Viewing	Ushers
14:30-15:00	Return to Plenary Session	
15:00-15:15	Prof. Bruno Agossou DJOSSA (RUFORUM Deputy Board Chairperson & Vice Chancellor, National University of Agriculture): Welcome to the Session Remarks	
Fireside Chat: Creating institutional and ecosystem connections for change		

15:15-16:00	Prof. Isaac Kibwage (Vice Chancellor & TAGDev 2.0 Partnership Council Chairperson, Egerton University): Building on lessons of pilots for scaling and ecosystem engagement	Prof. Justine Namaalwa Makerere University (Moderator)
	Prof. Nkuo-Akenji Theresia (RUFORUM Board Chairperson & Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda): Institutional reform to facilitate scaling to other higher education institutions and ecosystem stakeholders	
	Prof. Jalal Charaf (Chief Digital & AI Officer, UM6P): Infusing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to catalyze innovations and unlock business opportunities	
	Dr. DeBrenna Agbényiga's (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, International University of Grand-Bassam): Education Collaborative: Connections Creating Ripples of Change in African Higher Education Ecosystem	
16:00-16:30	Dr. Akanimo Odom (Head of African Strategic Partnerships Lancaster University, UK): Resourcing for transformative Education in Africa	
16:30-16:45	Prof. Maulid Wallad Mwatawala (Sokoine University of Agriculture). Reflections and takeaway message	Session Moderator
16:45-17:00	Session Ends (Photographs)	Communications Team