

Dear Partners,

We hope you are keeping well during this turbulent time. As a pan-African network focused on building a vibrant social investment ecosystem, we see a critical need for social investors to leverage their strengths to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

In that spirit, we are reaching out now to do three things:

First, we want to share with you some inspiring examples of decisive actions social investors around the world are already taking to tackle the virus:

- [Over \\$1 billion in philanthropic giving](#) to coronavirus relief efforts has been [pledged](#) so far from private companies, foundations and individuals globally.
- In China, [members of our sister organization](#) AVPN were amongst frontline responders to the crisis, delivering supplies, sharing information and coordinating donations.
- Chinese billionaire [Jack Ma announced](#) he would donate 1.1 million testing kits, 6 million masks, and 60,000 protective suits and face shields to African countries.
- In New York, [one man raised](#) \$10,000 through Twitter for hourly-paid workers struggling to pay their bills.
- Corporates like Safaricom and Jumia in Kenya are offering free or discounted services.
- Banks in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria have outlined measures to [support borrowers](#) and small businesses.
- Guaranty Trust Bank Plc is setting up a fully equipped 100- bed Intensive Care Centre for the Nigerian people.
- Foundations like the Ford Foundation in Nigeria are providing emergency logistics support to the Lagos State Ministry of Health.

- In Nigeria, AVPA is partnering with Social Impact Finance Advisory Ltd to design Social impact bonds and conversations are underway with government, development agencies, non-profits and private sector players to build critical healthcare infrastructure.

Second, to let you know how we are working to support you in coordinating and scaling up your own Covid-19 response efforts. At AVPA, one of our roles is to showcase solutions and facilitate collaboration amongst social investors across the continent.

The need for local action is clear. Social needs will continue to be immediate and fast changing, highlighting the essential role for local support from corporates, foundations, social enterprises and high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) who care deeply about their communities.

We know many of you are already working hard to support your communities. To continue to do so, social investors will need timely information about opportunities to act and compelling examples of what is working across the continent.

To that end, AVPA recently set up online platforms where people and organizations with resources (time, treasure or talent) that could support COVID-19 response efforts can upload information about what they can offer and/or what help they need to keep current efforts going:

- **Kenya Covid-19 Crew** [SIGN UP](#) and [LIST SUMMARY](#)
- **South Africa Covid-19 Crew** [SIGN UP](#)
- **Nigeria Covid-19 Crew** will kick off with a webinar on the topic: ***Covid-19: How Leaders Should Respond and Prepare for the Future*** on March 31st from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group and the American Business Council. More information will be provided regarding the link for the webinar and online platform later this week on our website and social media handles.

DISCLAIMER: these platforms facilitate self-reported information that has not been vetted. AVPA does not vet nor endorse any projects. Please pursue funding and partnership opportunities independently. Funders should complete due diligence before allocating capital to projects on these lists.

We hope that these platforms can help you connect to opportunities and scale up response efforts together. It is becoming clear that the COVID-19 response will require deliberate collaboration amongst a diverse range of financial and non-financial players:

- Grants, corporate donations and discounted products can address the dire need for hygiene products, health care supplies and protective equipment in support of [vulnerable informal settlements and rural communities](#)
- Debt finance on favorable terms can help stabilize small businesses in every country
- Grants can leverage private sector and impact investment to fund relief efforts through simple blended finance structures
- Corporate services and platforms can facilitate response efforts at cost
- Direct cash transfers can help vulnerable households access basic supplies
- Volunteer health and community workers are playing a vital role in last mile distribution of hygiene products and care

And third, to alert you that AVPA will continue to provide online tools to support your broad-based social investment work.

Watch this space! AVPA will continue to compile continental information about funding and partnership opportunities, success stories, and resources related to COVID-19 response efforts across Africa. We will also be sharing lessons with you from our sister networks in Europe and Asia. See for example, [what philanthropists are doing to mitigate the pandemic's impact in Asia](#).

AVPA will also be working on webinars, virtual convenings and podcasts to continue to support our stakeholders with the tools to scale up your social investment activities.

We are humbled by the efforts ongoing across Africa and look forward to hearing more about the many inspirational ways that social investors are stepping up to improve the conditions and prospects for people across our continent.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'F' followed by a series of loops and a long, wavy tail.

Dr. Frank Aswani and the AVPA Team

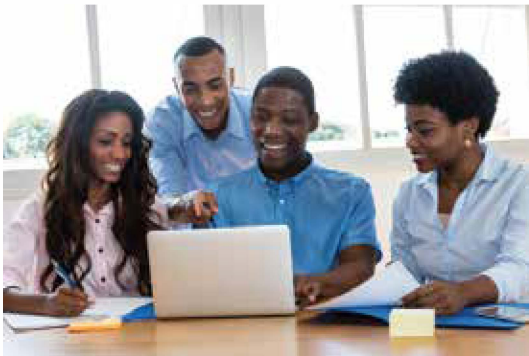
AVPA Receives USADF Grant Award



On 24th January 2020, AVPA was awarded a grant of US\$250,000 per year (for the next four years) by the United States Africa Development Foundation (USADF).

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Youth Employment Initiative



AVPA is currently working on building a coalition of reputable private companies and foundations that are keen to address the youth unemployment and underemployment issue facing the continent.

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WATCH THIS SPACE!

AVPA's Nine-Country Social Investment Landscape Study Coming Soon



Many different funders have a role to play in social finance: from foundations, impact investors, bilateral donors, DFIs and governments, to diaspora networks, family offices and high net worth individuals.

New research from AVPA will map current activity by diverse social investors across the continent and highlight opportunities to increase collaboration and the amount of capital flowing into African social investment.

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AVPA at Sankalp - Landscape Study Market Engagement



At the Sankalp Africa Summit held in Nairobi last month, AVPA hosted a session to share initial findings from our upcoming African Social Investment Landscape study. The study will map social investment

activity by diverse funders deploying grants, debt, equity, blended finance, other financial instruments and technical assistance across the continent.

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Mainstreaming SDGs In Today's Boardroom



More than 40 delegates attended AVPA's Corporate Session at the Sankalp Africa Summit (February 27th & 28th 2020). The subject matter under discussion was: "Mainstreaming The SDGs In Today's Boardroom – A KSh4 Trillion Investment Opportunity".

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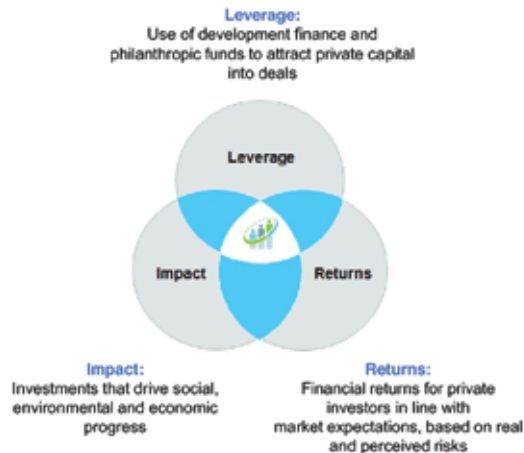
Robust policies for Social Investment & Inclusive Business



AVPA in partnership with Inclusive Business Action Network (iBAN) hosted the first African Policy Roadshow; a three-country event (Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana) that explored the challenges faced in building a robust policy environment for increased social investment and inclusive business.

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Blended Finance for Social Investment



AVPA participated in the Impact Investors Foundation (IIF) 2nd Annual Convening that focused on the “Opportunities and Challenges in Blending Finance for Social Investment in Nigeria”. Participants sought to share strategies, with corporates and high net-worth individuals (HNWI), on how to generate both financial and social returns (double bottom line) on investments.

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Contact Information:

Dr. Frank Aswani, Chief Executive Officer: faswani@avpa.africa

Oluwatoyin Adegbite-Moore, Executive Director W.A. Region:

tadegbitemoore@avpa.africa

Nancy Kairo, Executive Director E.A. Region: nkairo@avpa.africa

Rachel Keeler, Value Hub Director: rkeeler@avpa.africa