



Gender Equity, Voices and Social Justice:

Together we can...

Outcome Statement of the 2021 Inaugural Summit and awards of the Bold Pathfinding Women of Africa (BPaWA)

Theme: Sailing Strong: The Authentic Voice of The Woman of Africa

1. Introduction

CHESTRAD Global, in collaboration with partner organizations including, Pathfinder International, ABC Foundation, Adire Oodua textile hub, Cephil Drinks, CI Coaching and beyond, Griples, Family, Childs and associates, Lotus Bank, Maya Awards, and White Ribbon Alliance together with individual support, hosted the inaugural Bold Pathfinding Women of Africa (BPaWA) summit and awards on the 4th of November 2021.



BPaWA is a global movement that brings together **Women of Africa** (women all over the world who love Africa, its context, its culture and identify with both its progress and struggles), various organizations that support them for the purpose of strengthening their voices within the movement to reposition gender equality and the critical effort to bounce back from the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19.

Summit and Awards

The summit and awards present a unique opportunity to celebrate the core contributions of women of Africa to the advancement of social justice and gender equity. The event engaged more young people to



envision the future of gender equity in Africa that build on generational capacities, harness the progress achieved in health, access to input in human capital development, and yet not leave behind Africa's rich culture, traditions, and norms. The theme, "Sailing Strong – The Authentic Voice of the Woman of Africa", encourages African women to own their authentic voice—using it to push confidently towards their hopes and desires.

It strives to celebrate the authenticity of the African woman within this space. Participation in this hybrid event included delegates from Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, the United States, United Kingdom. Citizen’s participation included community leaders from CHESTRAD’s Covid-19 citizens hub. The platform will be used as an opportunity to train women on economic empowerment initiatives for them to be financially inclusive.

2. Current Situation

The culture, evolution, and history of women who were born, live, and are from the continent of Africa reflect the evolution and history of the African continent itself. The place of a woman in the development of any nation/continent cannot be overemphasized. Women are source of empowerment to all nation. According to the International Finance Cooperation, Women-led MSMEs have been particularly badly struck, with many reporting revenue losses of more than 50%, owing to their smaller size, informality, and concentration in strongly affected industries.

The impact of the COVID19 pandemic and its responses merely exacerbated chronic social injustice and inequity that has affected low-income populations across Africa, but has disproportionately impacted women, children, and young people. In Africa, women are the vanguards of the pandemic response in their homes and communities, as entrepreneurs and managers providing care, delivering services, and saving lives. It is worthy to note that the contributions of women have lightened up the continent, contributing to the birth of a “new Africa” and having that “Authentic Voice as the African Woman”.

Gender equity is a matter of social justice by allowing equal access to rights, resources, and opportunities. When women are empowered, the benefits are perceived by the entire community. Now more women in Africa are having vital and decisive roles in the social, economic, and political development. African women are achieving great success in terms of enhancing women’s status in all aspects of life. This is therefore the much-needed opportunity to amplify the voice of African woman, ensure inequity is corrected and position gender equity appropriately within the African context.

3. BPaWA Theme

This event is a unique opportunity to highlight the core contributions of women in social Justice and



gender equity, engage more young people to talk about future of gender equality in Africa and build generational capacities for equity, as well as celebrate women of Africa who have stood out. The theme, “Sailing Strong - The Authentic Voice of the Woman of Africa”, looks and encourages African women to own their authentic voice—using their voice as a force towards their hopes and desires.

The goal of BPaWA is to amplify the voices of the Woman of Africa, celebrate their successes towards accelerating equality, leadership and opportunities for women and girls as part of generation equality movement and commitment.

4. Core pillars of the summit

The summit will be implemented following four main objectives:

(1) Explore opportunities and options to mitigate the disproportionate negative impact of COVID19 pandemic and its national responses on women, children, and young persons

- The first panel, “Covid 19 Bounce Back, Financial Inclusion and Gender Equity: Engaging Citizen’s-led Action”, addressed issues around the challenges in the economy shutdown due to COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on women economic activity in Africa. Participation here engaged citizens, including women and young people from CHESTRAD’s COVID 19 citizens hubs.
- COVID-19 will leave deep economic damage, so a combination of immediate relief and long-term reforms are needed to help women bounce back.

(2) Engage women, peer-to-peer leaders and the African diaspora in the identification of opportunities to amplify and position the African narrative within global movements and commitments towards ‘Generation Equality’

- The second panel, “Accelerating Equity and Social Justice for Women, Children & Adolescents”, addressed how progress can be achieved in the areas of women’s empowerment, gender equity despite the gaps and challenges that exist in Africa. Many of these barriers to achieve gender equity and social justice include education, access to resources, employment opportunities, and female representation in decision-making levels.
- In the third panel, “Desired Daddy Roles: When the guard rails become prison rails”, the need for male partnership in gender equality was reinforced. This panel addressed male involvement in the family, its importance to a child’s psychological and physical wellbeing and the impact on society at large.
- The fourth panel, “Our Narrative, Our Voice”, focused on the importance of storytelling in creating needed change in ways that are impactful and realistic.

(3) Launch the publication ‘BOLD on Purpose’ and present ‘BOLD Pathfinding Women of AFRICA’ Awards

-



-The launch of “BOLD on Purpose’ and following book commentaries provides the inspiration and motivation to follow your authentic voice, support and uplift the women in your community. This reminds us of the theme of today’s summit: “Sailing Strong - The Authentic Voice of the Woman of Africa” This book has established the framework for BPaWA.

- The awards presented will continue to be an inspiration as we learned more about those who show a high level of distinction and recognition. They are a force to reckon with when it comes to sustainability in the African economy
- (4) Establish the BPaWA Collaborative as a movement for social justice and equity for women and young persons in post-COVID in multi-sector bounce back interventions with special emphasis on access to financial services, technology other assets for human capital development.

- Throughout the Summit, leaders across Africa and diaspora communities have shared their knowledge, insight, and recommendations
- Awards given to many of these leaders are meant to celebrate and recognize those who have shown industriousness, intellectuality, potentiality, and ingenuity.
- BPaWA Bloomers have amplified and influenced the voices of young African people on a larger scale.
- Together, along with the organizers of the event, we have built a movement for social justice and equity for African women and young people.

5. Continuity

We can confirm that the discussions and commitments made throughout the summit will continue to celebrate and support the voice and equality of African women and following the four core objectives. Specifically, it will continue to address the impact of COVID-19 and other challenges faced by women, children, and young people, it will amplify and position the African narrative within global movements, it will continue to promote BOLD leadership, and it will continue to build a movement for social justice and equity for women and young persons. CHESTRAD, in collaboration with continuing partners will host the BPaWA summit and awards every year on the 4th of November and Ghana has been identified and accepted to host the next summit and awards.



Key outcomes for the summit include: 1) Summit Outcome Statement delivered for endorsement by key stakeholders and traditional duty bearers; 2) Proclamation of Endorsement and Support key stakeholders and traditional duty bearers; 3) Book Launch: BOLD on Purpose; 4) Public presentation of the BPaWA collaborative and BPaWA bloomers movement; 5) BPaWA Awards and Special Recognition of BOLD Giants.

6. Plan of Action

Continued partnership among key stakeholders of BPaWA beyond the summit to collectively elevate the voice and equality of African women.

- The Summit is only the beginning of several partnerships across sectors and countries, and we look forward to staying engaged with old and new partners beyond the Summit so that we're able to successfully reach our shared goals for the African woman.

Selection of BPaWA Bloomers.

- Involving the voice and perspective of young people is critical in both ensuring that that summit reflects the needs of all of Africa's stakeholders as well as ensuring young people have the support they need to develop into the next generation of leaders
- Ahead of each BPaWA summit, new Bloomers should be selected by outgoing Bloomers to include fresh perspectives and ensure more young people are given opportunities to gain connections

BPaWa Summit.

- Given the vast opportunities for partnership and elevating causes, this serves as the first of many Summits
- Holding recurring Summits will ensure that this is not the last of the conversation, but rather that as time progresses and new challenges occur, we are able to work together as a community and network to ensure challenges are addressed and risks to women's equality are mitigated.