

2024 Reach Africa Convening

25 & 26
October, 2024

Kumasi, Ghana



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Welcome to the 2024 Reach Africa Convening in Kumasi, Ghana!

The Reach Alliance is a consortium of global universities – including Ashesi University and the University of Cape Town in Africa - developing the leaders we need to solve urgent local challenges of the hard to reach – those under-served for geographic, administrative, or social reasons. Working in interdisciplinary teams, and in partnership with community collaborators, Reach’s globally-minded students use rigorous research methods to identify innovative solutions to climate, public health, and economic challenges.

Reach believes that empowered emerging leaders like you, those willing to push boundaries and question norms, can help ask and answer important questions: How do we ensure no one is left behind? How do we creatively communicate actionable research insights to policy makers and practitioners? How can we foster innovation grounded in local realities? These participatory conversations will help shape new ways of thinking about the post-2030 agenda; together we will explore the mechanisms and tools needed to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and set the stage for a youth-led research agenda, with emphasis on public health, economic and climate issues, to guide future Reach Alliance research and strategic collaboration opportunities. Over the next two days, we invite you to lean into these discussions, listen deeply, and challenge each other, so that we can learn from the diverse experience and perspective in the room.



Marin MacLeod
Executive Director, Reach Alliance



About The Reach Alliance

The Reach Alliance is a consortium of global universities - with partners in Ghana, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and Singapore - developing the leaders we need to solve urgent local challenges of the hard to reach – those underserved for geographic, administrative, or social reasons. Working in interdisciplinary teams, Reach's globally-minded students use rigorous research methods to identify innovative solutions to climate, public health, and economic challenges.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals provide inspiration and a guiding framework. Research is conducted in collaboration with local communities and with guidance from university faculty members, building capacity and skills among Reach's student researchers.

The Reach Alliance was created in 2015 by the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, in partnership with the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. It is guided by an Advisory Council of leaders in academia, and in the private, public, and non-profit sectors who help to drive impact, influence and scale, and support fundraising efforts.



Event Agenda – Friday, October 25, 2024

7:50 AM

Welcome Breakfast: A Seat at the Table for Emerging Leaders

- Marin MacLeod, Executive Director, Reach Alliance
 - Joseph Wong, Founder and Faculty Mentor, Reach Alliance
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9:00 AM

Break

9:30 AM

Professional Development: Communicating Actionable Insights for Impact

- Filsan Dualeh, Digital Communications & Engagement Officer, Reach Alliance
 - Disraeli Asante-Darko, Reach Alliance Faculty Mentor, Ashesi University
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11:30 AM

Networking Lunch

Event Agenda – Saturday, October 26, 2024

8:00 AM Emerging Leaders' Perspective: Setting the Stage for the Post-2030 Agenda

- Reach Alliance Researchers
 - Mastercard Foundation Youth Table
 - KNUST Mastercard Foundation Scholars
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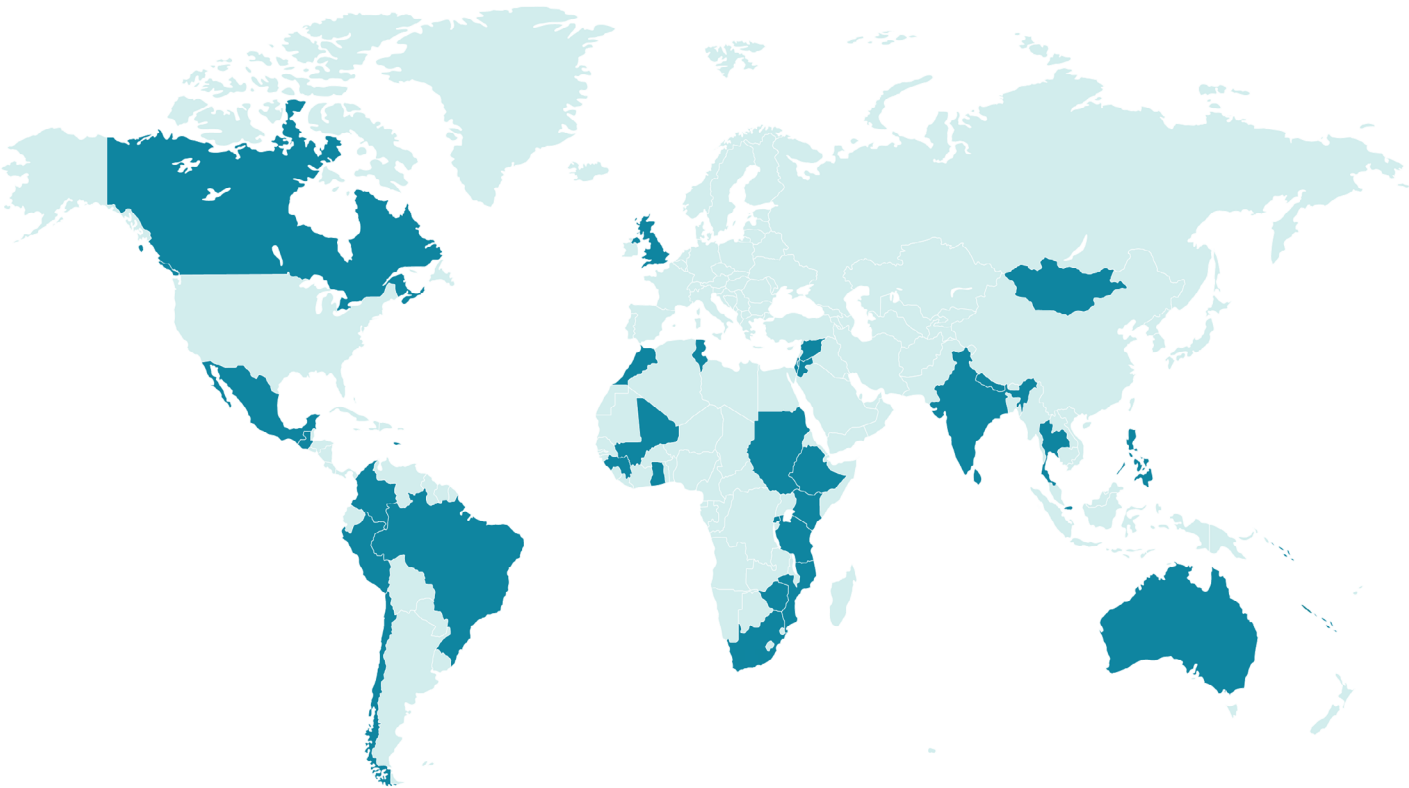
11:00 AM Networking Lunch

12:30 PM Actionable Research Insights Positioned for Impact (Reach Researchers to Present in this Order)

- From policy to practice: Evaluating the WHO-PEN framework for cardiovascular disease management in Ghana - Ashesi University
 - Technology interventions for preventing, diagnosing, managing and reducing non-communicable diseases in Africa - Ashesi University
 - Intersection of technology and trauma: Overcoming barriers to digital PTSD treatment for refugees in Canada - University of Toronto
 - Indigenous Knowledge sisters: Exploring Indigenous knowledge systems as an adaptive tool for resilience by African migrants living in Cape Town - University of Cape Town
 - Future forward: Addressing youth unemployment in South Africa by exploring how to make high school dropouts employable - University of Cape Town
 - Education: ABC 123 - University of Cape Town
 - Climate resilience vanguard - University of Cape Town
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6:30 PM Dinner

Reach Alliance Research Around the World



Sustainable Development Goals

The Reach Alliance is inspired by the United Nations' call to leave no one behind as part of a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) intended to transform our world. We understand that, to pursue the full achievement of the SDGs, delivery approaches designed to get "important stuff" to everyone, everywhere must change. Bold innovation and collaboration across all sectors are essential for success.

The power of the Reach Alliance stems from engaging leading universities to unleash actionable research insights for impact. To date, the Reach Alliance has trained nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students across seven countries, launched over 90 case study reports, covering innovative interventions in more than 35 countries. These actionable research insights have been published in numerous journals such as Lancet and BMJ Global Health and are being used by policymakers and sector leaders, such as the Government of Canada and Stanford Social Innovation Review, to catalyze impact around the world.



Reach Alliance Researchers



Charlton Mandaza

Reach Researcher, Ashesi University

Charlton is a Mechanical Engineering student at Ashesi University. He is passionate about sustainable hydrogen products, reducing indoor air pollution, tackling deforestation, and improving health outcomes. His focus is on developing clean cooking technologies using hydrogen as a fuel source to address environmental challenges and enhance public health.



Hilary Kwofie

Reach Researcher, Ashesi University

Hilary is a Business Administration student at Ashesi University. She is passionate about using technology to tackle complex issues, such as non-communicable diseases in underserved African communities. Through this program, she aims to help bridge the gaps in addressing NCDs in the near future.



Jemila Abdulai

Reach Researcher, University of Toronto

Jemila has a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and is currently studying for a Master of Engineering degree (Biomedical Engineering specialisation) at the University of Toronto. She is on a mission to make a positive impact through research and technology, and this is why her current research at the Reach Alliance focuses on the use of digital platforms to promote PTSD treatment in refugee populations.



Kezia Asare

Reach Researcher, Ashesi University

Kezia is a recent alumna of Ashesi University. She is passionate about revolutionising healthcare systems in Ghana through local technological innovation. With her background in engineering, she aims to develop sustainable healthcare technologies across Africa, making healthcare more accessible to patients in rural areas.



Landisiwe Binza

Reach Researcher, University of Cape Town

Landisiwe is an MPhil student at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business, with a background in Social Work and Integral Coaching. Her experiences, along with her work with Reach, have influenced her master's research, aiming to create a fairer world for all populations.



Namatshego Magagane

Reach Researcher, University of Cape Town

Namatshego is a Linguistics and Psychology student at the University of Cape Town. She has a passion for education and sharing knowledge to keep the world informed and enlightened. She believes in justice and fairness, advocating for equal access to learning opportunities in supportive environments, as well as personal development for all individuals.



Nana Akua Dickson

Reach Researcher, Ashesi University

Nana is a Business Administration student at Ashesi University. She is a dynamic leader and problem solver who fosters collaboration and drives results. With a keen analytical mind and strong communication skills, she excels at navigating challenges and inspiring teams. Excited to join Reach, she looks forward to leveraging her expertise to create impactful solutions and contribute to a culture of excellence.



Pohmahmbuh Nah-Anzoh

Reach Researcher, Ashesi University

Pohmahmbuh is a Computer Science student at Ashesi University. She is passionate about addressing complex global challenges through technology and community engagement. With her background in computer science, she applies her technical expertise to develop solutions that enhance service delivery and improve access.



Sidney Muchemwa

Reach Researcher, University of Cape Town

Sidney is an Occupational Therapist and a candidate for the Master of Occupational Therapy at the University of Cape Town. His research explores the intersection of mental health and ecological crises in low-resource settings.



Sikelelwe Mtshizana

Reach Researcher, University of Cape Town

Sikelelwe is a master's student in International Relations at the University of Cape Town. Her thesis examines contradictions in South Africa's foreign policy and its decision-making process. As a Reach Alliance researcher, she focuses on youth unemployment, specifically exploring strategies to enhance employability for high school dropouts.



Valerie Maame Abena Ackon

Reach Researcher, Ashesi University

Valerie is a Computer Engineering student at Ashesi University. Her academic interests include embedded machine learning and technology law.

Mastercard Foundation Youth Table



Adane Petros

Health Collaborative Scholar, Addis Ababa University

Adane is a Cardiology Fellow and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Addis Ababa University. He also doubles as the Task Force Lead at Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences, where he is saddled with the task of digitising healthcare and creating an electronic medical recording system for the centre. He earned his medical degree from Addis Ababa University, and also holds a Specialty Certificate in Internal Medicine and a Sub-specialty certificate in Cardiology from the same university.



Cajetan Songwae

Health Collaborative Scholar, Ashesi University

Cajetan is a final year student at Ashesi University, where he is studying for a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He enjoys using technology and design thinking to solve critical problems that impact lives, and he keeps exploring new ways to leverage Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning models to transform business models. During his free time, he enjoys watching political documentaries.



Caroline Karugu

Health Collaborative Scholar, AIMS

Caroline is a PhD Fellow in Epidemiology at the Amstel Academie, Amsterdam, Netherlands. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematical Sciences (Statistics Specialisation) from Maseno University, Rwanda, before bagging a Master's degree in Mathematical Sciences from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. She combines her training in Mathematics with her passion for Public Health, having served as Biostatistician and Statistician at different times in public health organisations. She currently serves as a Statistician at the African Population and Health Research Center in Nairobi, Kenya.



Eudora Obeng Sackey

Health Collaborative Scholar, KNUST

Eudora is the chairperson of the Youth Table and scholar representative at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistantship Studies from Central University, Ghana, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Health with a special focus on Global Health and Non-Communicable Diseases. She is passionate about marginalized groups and aims to address the often-overlooked issues surrounding mental health in underserved communities.



Joseph Kiarie Ndungu

Health Collaborative Scholar, Moi University

Joseph is a third year student at Moi University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business management with a specialization in banking and finance. He is also the president at Enactus Moi Annex, an international organization that nature business leaders by equipping them with entrepreneurial skills to better their future.



Kelvin Ashie

Health Collaborative Scholar, University of Cape Town

Kelvin is currently studying for an MPhil in Inclusive Innovation at the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town, Ghana. He is a technology entrepreneur who has experience in multiple sectors such as agribusiness, healthcare and financial services. He is a Next Einstein Forum Ambassador, where he continues to advocate for youth-led innovations for sustainable development in Africa. He was also a 2022 Mandela Washington Fellow, a 2023 Halcyon Fellow, and an Ex-Curator at Global Shapers, Accra.



Kennedy Ojowi

Health Collaborative Scholar University of Toronto

Kennedy is a digital ecosystem curator pursuing a Master of Health Informatics at the University of Toronto. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Moi University. His experience includes bedside nursing, clinical research, and health information system design, focusing on projects that improve healthcare access for underserved population.



Miriam Nsekonziza

Health Collaborative Scholar, Africa Leadership University

Miriam is a Learning Officer at Water for People in Kigali City, Rwanda. She is also the Founder of ARAME Rwanda, a social venture that provides sexual and reproductive health education (SRHE) to young girls in Rwanda, as a solution to the increasing number of teenage pregnancies.



Tiffany Wanjiru

Health Collaborative Scholar, AMREF International University

Tiffany is a Health System Specialist who works at AMREF International University as a coordinator for health education programmes. She has a Bachelor's degree in Health System Management and Development from Amref International University, Kenya. She is passionate about health system strengthening and the implementation of solutions that will change health outcomes, especially in underserved communities.

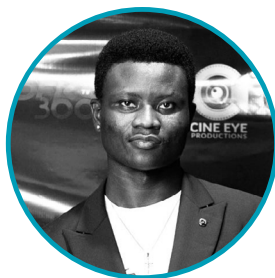
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Mastercard Foundation Scholars



Eliham Salifu

Mastercard Foundation Scholar, KNUST

Eliham is a medical doctor with an MBChB from KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana. Her areas of specialization include epidemiology, public health, and preventive health. She is dedicated to advancing healthcare through research and innovative strategies, with keen concentration on disease prevention and promoting overall community well-being.



Jeremiah Kwesi Akwaboah

Mastercard Foundation Scholar, KNUST

Jeremiah graduated with a first-class degree in Business Administration (Marketing Specialisation) from KNUST, and is studying for a Master's degree in Health Entrepreneurship at the same university. As an aspiring entrepreneur, he is passionate about creatively addressing mental health challenges among youth, while also advocating for climate change action and sustainability.



Juliet Kusi-Boateng

Mastercard Foundation Scholar, KNUST

Juliet is a Medical Doctor who is currently studying for a Master of Public Health degree in Global Health and Non-communicable Diseases at KNUST. She is known for her commitment and enthusiasm, going the extra mile in every task she is given. She is passionate about advocating for inclusive and equitable healthcare for all.



Louis Nebayeng Mornah

Mastercard Foundation Scholar, KNUST

Louis is a Public Health Nutritionist and Lactation Consultant with over a decade's experience in providing nutrition care to key vulnerable populations within rural Ghana. He is a key player in the clinical nutrition industry in the upper west region of Ghana, and he is a passionate advocate for the provision of critical care for persons with physical disabilities living with non-communicable diseases.



Sarah Kwansema Ofori

Mastercard Foundation Scholar, KNUST

Sarah is a primary healthcare provider with a strong passion for health research and advocating for evidence-based health reforms. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistantship from Central University, Ghana, and is currently pursuing an MPhil in Health Systems Research and Management at KNUST. She hopes to contribute significantly to the improvement of healthcare systems in Ghana and around the globe in the near future.

Reach Alliance Mentors



Albert Bensusan

Faculty mentor, Ashesi University

Albert's passion for ensuring industry and academic collaboration. His experience working with last-mile communities and the businesses that support them has driven his research interest in problem-solving, innovation, and entrepreneurship. He supports communities' aspirations for growth through innovation grounded in human-centred research. He has joined the Reach Alliance to drive similar research. Supporting students to put people at the centre of research and ensuring actionable insights from their research findings.



Disraeli Asante-Darko

Faculty Mentor, Ashesi University

Disraeli is a seasoned business strategist, consultant, and Associate Professor at Ashesi University's Business Administration Department. With over a decade of experience bridging industry and academia, he brings a unique perspective to both boardrooms and classrooms. Disraeli has spearheaded high-impact projects valued at over \$1 million across various sectors. His expertise in operations management, supply chain optimization, and data analytics has helped numerous organizations enhance their efficiency and competitiveness.

As a former executive at GIMPA, he managed multi-campus operations, oversaw budgets, and led strategic planning initiatives. In the academic arena, Disraeli brings his wealth of industry experience into the classroom, ensuring that his students at Ashesi University are equipped with skills that are immediately applicable in the workplace. His research, which has resulted in over 20 published articles and book chapters, focuses on the practical application of business theories. He is a recipient of the Emerald Literati Outstanding Paper Award, acknowledging the real-world impact of his research.



Fergus Turner

Mentor, University of Cape Town

Fergus is the programme lead for the Systems Justice Innovation portfolio at the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship at the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Graduate School of Business (GSB) where his work includes convening collective impact processes for systems change, teaching and training for entrepreneurship incubators in emerging economies, and designing innovation labs to catalyze new ways of meeting systemic socio-economic and climate injustice with pragmatism and ingenuity. He is interested in research and practice in the fields of social innovation, systems change, climate justice and systems

entrepreneurship. Fergus manages Bertha Centre's Scholarship Programme. Fergus holds a Masters in Inclusive Innovation Studies at the Graduate School of Business where he focused on action research in the cultural sector and creative economies. Fergus, an alum of 2019's Systems Change and Social Impact Executive Education course, continues to apply systems thinking and systems change frameworks and tools in his work at the Bertha Centre.



Theodora Ekua Aryee

Faculty mentor, Ashesi University

Dr. Theodora has a strong expertise in accounting, with a BSc, MPhil and PhD all in accounting. She is passionate about research making an impact in society. Her research interests span sustainability, not for profit governance, professional identity and change management. She considers the Reach Alliance as a fine platform to support emerging scholars bring change to the hard-to-reach communities through their research. She believes that "Anything worth doing is worth doing well."

Reach Alliance Leadership Team



Marin MacLeod

Executive Director, Reach Alliance

As the Executive Director, Marin leads strategic development and scale up of the Reach Alliance, including managing relationships with Reach's global partners and broader insights community. Marin was a member of the Reach team that investigated the world's first iris-scanning cash-assistance program for refugees in Jordan. Prior to joining the Reach Alliance, Marin led Grand Challenges Canada's approach to impact measurement across their maternal, newborn and child health innovation portfolio. Her focus was on the systems and processes used to capture results, and to share knowledge generated by grantees through

the organization's unique innovation platform. Marin has experience with program design, delivery and evaluation, having worked across a range of public health issues in several countries. Marin holds a BA (Hons) from Queen's University as a Loran Scholar, and a Master in Public Health degree from the University of Toronto.



Filsan Dualeh

Digital Communications & Engagement Officer, Reach Alliance

As the Digital Communications & Engagement Officer, Filsan manages the Reach Alliance's online, social, and digital presence, and oversees brand awareness and visibility. Filsan is a development professional with several years of experience working in youth digital engagement, communications, and program coordination within Canada and internationally. Filsan has mainly focused on projects that improved youth entrepreneurship skills in Tanzania, Ghana, Senegal, Indonesia, and Bolivia. Filsan has also worked with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) where she supported partnerships and organizational

development. Filsan graduated from the University of Ottawa with a bachelor's degree in International Development and a Masters of Philanthropy and Nonprofit leadership from Carleton University. Filsan has a passion for working to create positive and sustainable change for the betterment of communities especially those often left behind or forgotten.



Joseph Wong

Reach Founder and Faculty Mentor, University of Toronto

Joseph is Vice-President, International, University of Toronto, where he is also a Professor of Political Science. He held the Canada Research Chair in Health, Democracy, and Development from 2006 to 2016 and was the Roz and Ralph Halbert Professor of Innovation at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy from 2013 to 2023. Before becoming Vice-President in 2021, Professor Wong served as U of T's inaugural Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost for International Student Experience and as Director of the Asian Institute at the Munk School. He is the author of many academic articles and several books, including the

latest *From Development to Democracy: The Transformations of Modern Asia* in 2022, published by Princeton University Press. His academic articles have been published in *The Lancet*, *Perspectives on Politics*, the *Annual Review of Political Science*, the *Bulletin of the WHO*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Governance*, among others. Professor Wong has had affiliations with Harvard, Oxford, Fudan University in Shanghai, Seoul National University and the Institute for Policy Research in Taiwan. He has advised governments on matters of public policy in Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, as well as the UN and the WHO.

Notes



Reach Alliance

 The Reach Alliance

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 www.reachalliance.org