



02<sup>ND</sup>  
RUFORUM  
Triennial Conference  
12-16 August 2024  
Namibia



## 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### CONCEPT NOTE

## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDING AND LEADERSHIP CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> August 2024 **Time:** 08.30-16:30 South African Time (SAT)

**Venue** Hilton Garden Hotel TBC, Windhoek, Namibia

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### BACKGROUND

Globally, there is a recognition and commitment to providing quality education at all levels that is inclusive of vulnerable groups of young women and men including those from economically underserved communities, differently abled, refugees and internally displaced persons, minority groups, among others. Sustainable Development Goal Four (SDG 4) "*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*" and the accompanying "Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of SDG 4 led by UNESCO<sup>1</sup> underscore the need to provide quality education for vulnerable young women and men. Specifically, target 4.5 of SDG 4 commits to eliminating gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations by 2030. Specific guidelines have been developed for providing quality education for each of the vulnerable groups by different organisations working with these groups such as [refugees and displaced persons](#)<sup>2</sup>, persons with disabilities<sup>3</sup>, etc.

However, to translate these guidelines into reality, institutions delivering tertiary education should be engaged to put in place human resources, policies, systems, and physical infrastructure to implement these guidelines. Recognising the need for these prerequisites, African universities have been receptive of reforms that make them inclusive of these groups. Such changes have been through initiatives such as bridging programmes, policies protective of such groups, and minor infrastructural

<sup>1</sup><https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000245656>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.unhcr.org/people-forced-to-flee-book/wp-content/uploads/sites/137/2021/10/Rez-Gardi\\_Access-to-higher-education-for-forcibly-displaced-persons-challenges-good-practices-and-suggestions-for-the-future.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/people-forced-to-flee-book/wp-content/uploads/sites/137/2021/10/Rez-Gardi_Access-to-higher-education-for-forcibly-displaced-persons-challenges-good-practices-and-suggestions-for-the-future.pdf)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.iucea.org/mdocs-posts/quality-assurance-guidelines-on-disabilities-and-other-special-needs/>

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changes. However, more remains to be done to provide a safe learning environment that enables these groups to thrive. The vulnerable and special nature of young women and men, and more so those with special needs, and vulnerable backgrounds, requires dedicated and clear policies, processes, and support actions to respond to needs as and when they emerge. These should be effective in addressing issues such as preserving mental and physical health, preventing sexual harassment and exploitation, helping differently abled young people to thrive academically and economically among others. In the unavoidable circumstances that these unfortunate events happen, processes and systems should be in place to help the young people overcome challenges that result.

To support African universities to become effective in providing a safe and inclusive environment for young people, an understanding of what exists in terms of institutional capacities needs gained. A platform for sharing of best practices among institutions, and training and mentorship in areas of capacity limitations needs to be provided. Recognising these needs, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation have organised a workshop to discuss the state affairs for safeguarding young people and share best practices on how to make African universities inclusive and safe. The workshop is organised as part of the “Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa’s growth and Development (TAGDev 2.0) programme and seeks to strengthen institutional safeguarding and leadership capacity for transformative education among RUFORUM member Universities.

## OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the workshop is to enhance the African universities’ institutional capacity to provide a safe and inclusive space for all groups of young people to learn and thrive at the universities. The workshop specifically seeks to;

1. Create awareness of key concepts around safeguarding for young people including among others harm, power, vulnerability etc.
2. Develop capacity of participants to anticipate, mitigate, and address harm and abuse of young people within the universities.
3. Position Principals and Deans as champions for safeguarding young people at the universities.

## APPROACH

This workshop adopts a co-creative approach based on keynote presentations, group discussions, and plenary discussions. Keynote presentations will be made on three discussion areas; i) gender; ii) mental health and wellbeing; and iii) disability, diversity, and inclusion. Group and plenary discussions will be held around the required human capacities, institutional systems, processes, and practices to make universities safe and inclusive for young people of all groups. These discussions will be held in the context of “universities being change agents for transformative change in society that is inclusive of all



societal groups”. Participants will then be engaged to develop a concrete plan for implementing actions that making universities safe and inclusive for young people.

### EXPECTED OUTCOME

By the end of this workshop the Principals and Deans are expected to have enhanced capacity and understanding in institutional safeguarding and management of internal systems, processes, and people.

### PARTICIPANTS

This workshop will be attended by Principals and Deans of RUFORUM member universities, development partners and staff of RUFORUM.

### ORGANIZERS

This event has been co-organized by RUFORUM and the Mastercard Foundation.

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day and Time	Agenda Activity	In-charge
<b>Day One: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>		
08:00-08:30	Arrival and settling	SPO Systems Strengthening
08:30-08:35	Opening remarks	Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
08:35-08:45	Opening remarks	Ms. Pauline Gangla, Head Higher Education, Mastercard Foundation
08:45-09:15	Transformative education in Africa: A new imperative for development focused universities	Prof. Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM
09:15-10:00	Reactions and co-creating the pathways	All Deans (Slido)
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee/Health Break</b>	<b>Service Providers</b>
10:30-11:00	Safeguarding: Institutional systems, processes, practices, and people	Prof. Justine Namaalwa, Makerere University
11:00-11:30	Dialogue on the presentation	All Principals and Deans (Slido)
11:30-12:10	Safeguarding: Policy and tools	Oluranti Adetoye & Sheila Kinaheirwe, Mastercard Foundation





12:10-13:00	Gender: Catalyzing inclusive university environments	Joyce Muchena, Mastercard Foundation
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>Service Provider</b>
14:00-14:40	Mental health, well-being, and associated costs to higher education institutions	Chantal Mudahogora, Solid Minds, Rwanda
14:45-15:45	Dialogue and mapping of universities mental health and wellbeing capacities	All Principals and Deans
15:45-16:30	Disability, diversity & inclusion in higher education	Anneke Maarse, Light for the World TBC
<b>16:30 -</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee/Health break</b>	<b>Service Provider</b>
<b>Day Two: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>		
08:30-08:45	Wrap-up of Day One	Prof. Patience Mshenga
08:45-09:30	Refugees and excluded populations	World University of Canada
09:30-10:00	Discussions and feedback	Moderator
<b>10:15-11:00</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee/Health break</b>	<b>Service Provider</b>
11:00-12:00	University leadership for transformative education: Rethinking universities in place of change	Dr. David Wang'ombe
12:00-13:00	University leadership and diversity management	Dr. David Wang'ombe
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>Service Providers</b>
14:00-15:30	Co-creation of safeguarding priorities and Road Maps	Group Sessions
15:30-16:30	Presentations of safeguarding priorities and Road Maps	Group Sessions
16:30-16:45	Closing Remarks	Prof. Patrick Okori
<b>16:45 -</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee/Health break</b>	<b>Service Providers</b>

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