



DATA + DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Data Visualization for Social Impact



Leaders of Africa Institute · 2025



Bridging inquiry and creativity
is the future of development
research and advocacy

ABOUT THE LEADERS OF AFRICA INSTITUTE

The Leaders of Africa Institute (LoAI) is a special and life-changing place to upskill, engage in international networking, build personal and collaborative relationships with professors, and amplify one's voice in research, academia, international development, and business. LoAI provides Scholars and Fellows with the tools and platform to creatively transform knowledge production and society.

There are many things that make LoAI unique. We value personal relationships and collaboration, creativity and experimentation, rigor, engagement, and a mission-driven approach to skills, knowledge, and career development.

We cultivate well-rounded faculty members, graduate students, civil society, government, entrepreneurial, and emerging professionals. Everyone at the LoAI is bound by the highest standards of ethical thought leadership enshrined in our Leaders of Africa Pledge and Leaders of Africa Institute Honor Code. To learn more about our values, kindly visit: <https://www.institute.leadersofafrica.org/about/>

We encourage you to explore the ongoing and future programming at LoAI and the Leaders of Africa. We also invite you to reach out to us at institute@leadersofafrica.org, so that we may match your interests with your program offerings.

The Leaders of Africa Institute is a special institution with a distinctly international community and a personal approach to teaching and learning.

**Knowledge
Production and
Advocacy for
the Good**

DATA + DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2025

SHAPING POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING WITH DATA

The ability to visualize and communicate data effectively is more important than ever. As we navigate challenges from public health crises and climate change to social inequality and gaps in educational achievement, data plays a critical role in shaping decisions and driving action. The power of data lies not just in its collection and analysis but in how well it is presented to those who can use it to create meaningful change.

The flagship Data + Design for Development Program is open to all fields and is in a live virtual format accessible anywhere. In the program, Data and Design Scholars become proficient in translating complex datasets into clear, accessible, and impactful visualizations and data stories. These skills are invaluable for engaging diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, community leaders, professional colleagues, and the public. Whether the goal is to inform policy, advocate for change, or foster understanding, compelling data visualizations ensure that insights are not only seen but also understood and acted upon.

Data and Design Scholars in the program gain a competitive edge in their fields by learning advanced tools and techniques for data visualization, as well as human-centered design skills to craft data experiences. In today's data-driven world, experts who can bridge the gap between data analysis and audience engagement are in high demand in the research, policy, and advocacy space. By learning how to design visualizations that resonate with specific audiences, Data and Design Scholars extend the reach and influence of their work, enhance their professional profiles, and become leaders in making data-driven decisions accessible and actionable.



ABOUT D+DD 2025

The Data + Design for Development Program equips researchers, faculty, practitioners, advocates, and social innovators with the tools and techniques to transform complex datasets into dynamic and impactful visualizations for diverse audiences, including policymakers, community leaders, professional stakeholders, and the public. Data and Design Scholars learn how to design audience-centered visualizations, select appropriate data representations, and integrate data from dynamic sources. The program covers best practices for using tools including Tableau, Power BI, Datawrapper, and Flourish, as well as principles of effective design thinking to ensure visuals are both engaging and meaningful. Data and Design Scholars apply these skills to their own data, build their data visualization portfolio, and craft a Capstone Project, which is presented at the Data and Design International Showcase. By the end of the program, Scholars are prepared to amplify the reach and impact of their data insights. **Click below to access the program page:** <https://www.institute.leadersofafrica.org/program/data-design-for-development/>

IMPORTANT DATES & INFO

Application Deadline: January 17th, 2025

Notification of Decision: By February 7th, 2025

Program Dates: March 2025 - June 2025

Program Format: Live Synchronous Virtual Cloud Classroom (~3 hours per week)

Certificate: Official Leaders of Africa Certificate

IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP & TUITION

The total tuition for the Data + Design for Development Program is 3,000 USD. The Leaders of Africa Institute subsidizes the tuition through Impact Scholarships for accepted applicants. If accepted, the remaining fee is only between 220 and 320 USD.

DATA + DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS & STRATEGY

Effective data visualization begins with understanding your audience. This involves analyzing the needs, interests, and knowledge levels of stakeholders, such as policymakers, community leaders, colleagues, and the public. The program focuses on designing visualizations that align with audience goals, using tailored data representations and design strategies to ensure clarity and impact. By focusing on audience alignment, Scholars create visualizations that educate, inform decisions, inspire action, and drive meaningful dialogue. The program also includes techniques for evaluating the success of visualizations through tools like analytics dashboards, ensuring continuous refinement to better meet audience needs.

ADVANCED DATA VISUALIZATION

Data and Design Scholars master Tableau, Microsoft Power BI, Datawrapper, Flourish, R, and Infogram, among other tools, for creating impactful data visualizations and dashboards. These platforms enable researchers and advocates to analyze, interpret, and present complex data in interactive and visually engaging formats tailored to diverse audiences. Learning these skills provides the versatility to work across various data types and professional contexts. By becoming proficient in these tools, Data and Design Scholars showcase their expertise in assignments and develop a dynamic Capstone Project on a platform of their choosing. With a background in multiple platforms, Scholars have the flexibility to carry out impactful data visualization experiences in many settings.

CRAFTING A PORTFOLIO

Data and Design Scholars will create a professional data visualization portfolio showcasing their expertise in tools such as Tableau, Power BI, and Datawrapper. Using real-world data, Scholars design dynamic, audience-centered visualizations that highlight their analytical and storytelling skills. The portfolio demonstrates each Scholar's ability to present impactful insights, enhancing their professional and academic profiles.

STORYTELLING TECHNIQUES

In the program, Data and Design Scholars learn to transform complex data into meaningful narratives that resonate with audiences. Scholars combine data analysis with storytelling techniques to highlight key messages, establish context, and educate. Scholars practice identifying relevant data, designing logical and engaging flows, and enhancing stories with visuals using different visualization workflows and formats. By crafting compelling narratives, Scholars make data accessible and persuasive, improving understanding and inspiring action. Through hands-on projects, Data and Design Scholars develop the skills to create impactful stories that connect with audiences, ensuring their data-driven insights inform decisions and foster meaningful change.

SHAPING DECISION-MAKING

In the program, Data and Design Scholars learn to present data and visualizations with clarity and purpose, tailoring their designs to engage diverse audiences. They explore how to incorporate data visualizations into policy briefs and interactive dashboards, ensuring insights are both accessible and actionable. By focusing on audience needs, Scholars craft visuals that support informed decision-making and advocacy efforts. The Capstone Project offers the opportunity to create a comprehensive visualization that can be used to shape decision-making and public discourse.

PERSONAL MENTORSHIP

The program offers mentoring and personalized relationships with instructors, including in-depth and individualized feedback. It also provides a framework for international networking and building professional and research relationships that span the globe. Scholars will have access to the Leaders of Africa Institute's professional network.

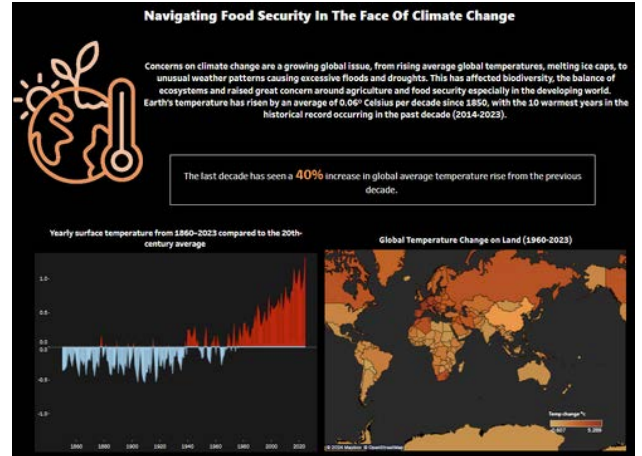
SHOWCASE SPOTLIGHT

The Capstone Project is at the heart of the Data + Design for Development Program. Ngosa, Henry, and Morohunranti represent our talented Data and Design Scholars from twenty countries who presented at the International Showcase in 2024.



NGOSA MWIYA ZAMBIA, SCHOLAR 2024

I am a development economist with a primary interest in economics and finance, particularly in local economic development strategy. I am passionate about using data analysis to assess economic trends and opportunities. Presently, I am working at the intersection of development and climate action. My Capstone Project examines how recent droughts in sub-Saharan Africa have impacted crop yields and food security. The purpose is to use the results to inform climate mitigation strategies.



Excerpt of the larger data visualization project



HENRY DUAH GHANA, SCHOLAR 2024

I am a research analyst at The FutureList, focusing on the healthtech entrepreneurship ecosystem. I am also the co-founder of Nurture Mentorship, a platform that connects African youth to mentors. My Capstone Project visualizes healthtech investments and the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa by analyzing funding trends, comparative landscapes with other sectors, startup distribution, and investment sources. I aim to attract more attention and investment to the underfunded but promising healthtech sector in Africa.

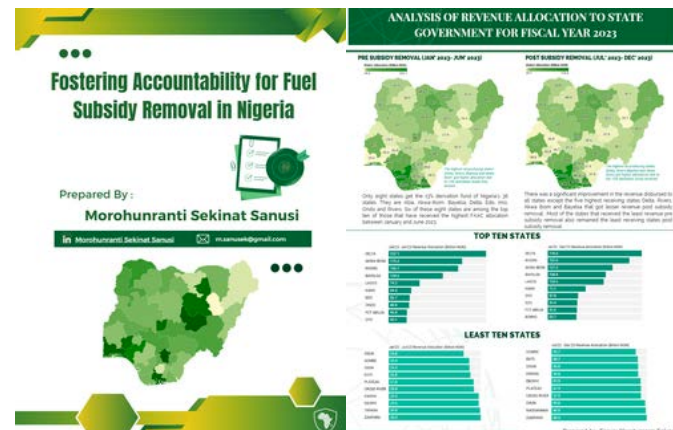


Excerpt of the larger data visualization project



MOROHUNRANTI SEKINAT SANUSI NIGERIA, SCHOLAR 2024

I am the Senior Programme Officer at Development Governance International Consult. I am passionate about Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and my career goal is to leverage my technical skills to advance public health and ensure healthcare for all. My Capstone Project advances accountability for Federal Allocation Account Committee (FAAC) transfers, especially at the state and local government levels, due to the fuel subsidy removal. The project aims to awaken health policymakers and stakeholders to consider a more equitable distribution of resources.



Excerpt of the larger data visualization project

A GLOBAL NETWORK OF IMPACT LEADERS

Through the global network of mentors and alumni, the Leaders of Africa Institute and the Data + Design for Development Program offer a worldwide network of data analysts and research leaders, as well as opportunities for international exposure in data advocacy and impact. To date, the Leaders of Africa Institute has welcomed Scholars and Fellows from over 45 countries.



Leaders of Africa Institute Scholars and Alumni

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To complete the application, you will need the following materials:

- Curriculum vitae/ resume (one PDF of up to 5 MB)
- Statement of Interest (500 words maximum).
Your Statement of Interest should include:
 - What are your research, thematic, and professional interests?
 - What shaped your interest in learning to craft data visualizations and dashboards?
 - What do you hope to learn from the Data + Design for Development Program at the Leaders of Africa Institute?
 - What are your career goals?
 - How this program will help you meet or achieve your career and educational goals?

DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025
AT 11.59 PM UTC

**APPLICATION
PORTAL**

Application Portal Link:

<https://zfrmz.com/GKgkChqoCSn7qcXg9rK2>

The Data + Design for Development Program is open to all fields and from all countries internationally. If you have any questions, reach out to the Leaders of Africa Institute at institute@leadersofafrica.org.



Connect with the Leaders of Africa Institute on social media. Click the social media icon to connect.



LEADERS OF AFRICA



@LEADERSAFRICA



MESSENGER GROUPS