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Two years on, African diaspora across the world share critical reflections on overcoming COVID-19

Cambridge, USA – 15 June 2022. For many people of African descent across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic compelled them into transformative decisions and actions. “Voices of the African Diaspora” is a collection of these experiences. This fourth publication by [Collateral Benefits](#), a collaboration with the Colombian NGO [Visible Hands Foundation](#), brings you 43 unique Afro-descendant voices from all the corners of the world.

An Afro-Colombian lawyer and LGBTQ+ activist who advocates for equal rights and collective healing. An Afro-Chilean politician running for office to ensure, for the first time, the participation of Afro-Chileans in drafting a new constitution. A Cameroonian entrepreneur in Qatar reinventing healthier versions of African culinary delicacies. A Sierra-Leonian social worker in Australia calling for the lifting of barriers to brain circulation and the return of African talent. A Ghanaian-Japanese man in Tokyo, an African-American in New York, and a queer Somali-Yemeni in Abu Dhabi, which inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement organized their local communities to call for change.

Contributors bravely and candidly cover these and other poignant topics such digitalization, healthcare and vaccines, innovation, inclusive pedagogy, and personal growth. Despite their diversity of backgrounds and contexts, parts of their experiences, insights, and lessons resonate with one another, giving shape to a collective, and sometimes particular narrative for Afro-descendants’ experiences worth singling out.

Lead editors of the paper, Susana Edjang and Paula Moreno explain *“during the pandemic, Afro-descendant individuals and communities were reaching out, learning from one another and innovating. From trying to overcome structural racism to ensuring equal access to vaccines, essential medicines and education, we wanted to archive and showcase this collective learning to ensure it could inform our futures”*. Co-editors Sarah Owusu and Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson also note *“it was important to reach out as wide as possible and to offer a platform for those voices in the African diaspora which had useful intersectional lessons to share and needed to be heard”*.

Read the full paper here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7k6euz>

About Collateral Benefits

Collateral Benefits is a platform that through a series of Perspective Papers aims to lift up the voices of African and Afro-descendant people from all walks of life, so that African and Afro-descendant intellect, wisdom and experiences can contribute to and shape the global conversations on the critical issues of our time.

Co-founded by Susana Edjang and Sarah Owusu, since May 2020, Collateral Benefits launched three Perspective Papers, [COVID-19 impact on Africa and its peoples](#), [Voices of African Woman](#) and [Voices of African Leaders](#), which shared 96 stories from Africans and Afro-descendants on the opportunities for



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transformation presented by COVID-19, and their future implications. Voices of the African Diaspora is their latest publication.

Collateral Benefits is on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Visible Hands Foundation

Founded and run by Paula Moreno Zapata, Visible Hands Foundation is a Colombian NGO that empowers and connects leaders from regions in conditions of exclusion, generating ecosystems that transform territories and promote inclusion. Since its launch in 2010, it has trained and empowered 3,000+ leaders of different municipalities in Colombia, with a particular focus on the Colombian Pacific. Visible Hands Foundation's intervention model has been recognized by organizations such as the World Economic Forum in 2018 and more recently the Global Fairness Initiative, which awarded us the 2019 Fairness Award.

Visible Hands Foundation is on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).