



DESCRIPTIVE MANUSCRIPTS

#IJFAEAfrica: Advancing Life-Saving First Aid Training Across Africa

An invitation to African educators, practitioners, and researchers

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ABSTRACT

The International Journal of First Aid Education (IJFAE) has launched the #IJFAEAfrica campaign and a new **Africa Collection** to elevate African-led first aid education, research, and practice. In a proactive effort to promote first aid education as a vital tool for strengthening public health, especially in low- and middle-income settings, our campaign aims to amplify African authors, increase submissions, and position the IJFAE as a trusted, accessible home for research on first aid education, community training, and bystander response.

Building on the IJFAE's history of supporting emerging researchers through free, targeted workshops and mentorship, #IJFAEAfrica is a fresh call for contributions from Africa showcasing program evaluations, training innovations, community projects, and reflective practice pieces. Consider it a shared space where African-led scholarship, community practice, and academic inquiry meet, and where anyone with experience, data, or stories can receive support to develop their work into publishable articles with the IJFAE's support.

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 OPEN ACCESS

Beginning in 2026, #IJFAEAfrica will drive contributions by providing enhanced support. We will build regional ambassador networks, form university partnerships, host writing workshops, and expand digital visibility. Articles that we publish from Africa or by African authors will be published in full in at least one African language in addition to English.

Research from Africa remains underrepresented in international guidelines. This is our response to that. We encourage you to join us by exploring the [Africa Collection](#) and visiting our [submissions page](#) to read our author guidelines. If you have questions or ideas you can email us at editor@firstaid-revolution.org.

Keywords: #IJFAEAfrica; first aid education; global health; healthcare campaigns; research collaborative

MUHTASARI

Jarida la Kimataifa la Elimu ya Huduma ya Kwanza (IJFAE) limeanzisha kampeni ya #IJFAEAfrica pamoja na [mkusanyiko](#) mpya wa machapisho ya Afrika ili kuinua elimu, utafiti, na vitendo vya huduma ya kwanza vinavyoongozwa na Waafrika. Katika jitihada za makusudi za kuendeleza elimu ya huduma ya kwanza kama nyenzo muhimu ya kuimarisha afya ya umma, hasa katika mazingira ya nchi zenye kipato cha chini na cha kati, kampeni yetu inalenga kukuza sauti za waandishi wa Afrika, kuongeza idadi ya machapisho, na kuiweka IJFAE kama jukwaa linaloaminika na linalofikika kwa urahisi kwa utafiti kuhusu elimu ya huduma ya kwanza, mafunzo ya jamii, na mwitikio wa mashuhuda wa matukio.

Ikiendeleza historia ya IJFAE ya kusaidia watafiti wanaochipukia kupitia warsha maalum za bure na ushauri elekezi, #IJFAEAfrica ni mwito mpya wa michango kutoka Afrika unaoonesha tathmini za programu, ubunifu wa mafunzo, miradi ya kijamii, na machapisho ya tafakari ya kitaalamu. Hili lichukulie kama jukwaa la pamoja ambapo taaluma inayoongozwa na Waafrika, vitendo vya kijamii, na utafiti wa kitaaluma vinakutana—na ambapo yeyote mwenye uzoefu, takwimu, au simulizi anaweza kupata msaada wa kuendeleza kazi yake hadi kuwa makala inayoweza kuchapishwa kwa msaada wa IJFAE.

Kuanzia mwaka 2026, #IJFAEAfrica itaongeza mchango kupitia msaada ulioboreshwa. Tutaunda mitandao ya mabalozi wa kikanda, kuanzisha ushirikiano na vyuo vikuu, kuandaa warsha za uandishi, na kupanua mwonekano wa kidijitali. Makala zitakazochapishwa kutoka Afrika au na waandishi wa Afrika zitachapishwa kikamilifu angalau katika lugha moja ya Kiafrika pamoja na Kiingereza.

Utafiti kutoka Afrika bado unawakilishwa kwa kiwango kidogo katika miongozo ya kimataifa. Huu ndio mchango wetu wa kukabiliana na hali hiyo. Tunakuhimiza kujiunga nasi kwa kutembelea [mkusanyiko wa Afrika](#) na ukurasa wetu wa uwasilishaji makala ili kusoma mwongozo kwa waandishi. Ikiwa una maswali au mawazo, unaweza kututumia barua pepe kupitia editor@firstaid-revolution.org.

Maneno Muhimu: #IJFAEAfrica; elimu ya huduma ya kwanza; utafiti wa Afrika; mafunzo ya jamii; programu za kijamii; waandishi wa Afrika; uandishi wa kitaaluma; miradi ya kijamii; utafiti wa afya; machapisho ya kitaaluma Afrika

المخلص

ومجموعة إفريقيا الجديدة بهدف تعزيز التعليم #IJFAEAfrica حملة (IJFAE) أطلق المجلة الدولية لتعليم الإسعافات الأولية والبحث والممارسة في مجال الإسعافات الأولية بقيادة أفريقية. وفي جهد استباقي لتعزيز تعليم الإسعافات الأولية كأداة أساسية لدعم الصحة العامة، خاصة في البيئات منخفضة ومتوسطة الدخل، تهدف حملتنا إلى رفع صوت المؤلفين الأفارقة، وزيادة عدد كمنصة موثوقة وسهلة الوصول للبحث في تعليم الإسعافات الأولية، والتدريب المجتمعي، IJFAE المشاركات، وترسيخ مكانة واستجابة المارة.

في دعم الباحثين الناشئين من خلال ورش عمل مجانية و موجهة وبرامج الإرشاد، تمثل IJFAE وبلاستفادة من تاريخ دعوة جديدة للمساهمات من إفريقيا، تُبرز تقييمات البرامج، والابتكارات التدريبية، والمشاريع المجتمعية، #IJFAEAfrica حملة والمقالات التأملية. اعتبروا هذا الفضاء مساحة مشتركة تلتقي فيها المعرفة الأفريقية والممارسة المجتمعية والبحث الأكاديمي، حيث يمكن لأي شخص لديه خبرة أو بيانات أو قصص أن يحصل على الدعم لتحويل عمله إلى مقال قابل للنشر بدعم من IJFAE.

على تعزيز المساهمات من خلال توفير دعم موسّع. سنبنّي شبكات سفراء #IJFAEAfrica ابتداءً من عام 2026، ستعمل حملة إقليميين، وندشئ شراكات جامعية، ونستضيف ورش كتابة، ونزيد من الحضور الرقمي وستنشر المقالات التي ننشرها من إفريقيا أو التي يكتبها مؤلفون أفارقة كاملة بلغة أفريقية واحدة على الأقل بالإضافة إلى الإنجليزية.

لا يزال البحث القادم من إفريقيا ممثلاً تمثيلاً ناقصاً في الإرشادات الدولية. وهذه هي استجابتنا. ندعوكم للانضمام إلينا من خلال زيارة صفحة الإرسال للاطلاع على إرشادات المؤلفين ولأي أسئلة أو أفكار، يمكنكم مراسلتنا *Africa Collection* استكشاف عبر البريد الإلكتروني: editor@firstaid-revolution.org.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تعليم الإسعافات الأولية ; الصحة العالمية ; حملات الرعاية الصحية ; التعاون البحثي -

ABSTRAITE

L'International Journal of First Aid Education (IJFAE) a lancé la campagne #IJFAEAfrica ainsi qu'une nouvelle *Collection Afrique* afin de valoriser l'éducation, la recherche et la pratique des premiers secours dirigées par des Africains. Dans un effort proactif visant à promouvoir l'éducation aux premiers secours comme un outil essentiel pour renforcer la santé publique, en particulier dans les contextes à revenu faible ou intermédiaire, notre campagne cherche à amplifier la voix des auteurs africains, à augmenter les soumissions et à positionner l'IJFAE comme une plateforme accessible et fiable pour la recherche sur l'éducation aux premiers secours, la formation communautaire et la réponse des témoins.

S'appuyant sur l'historique de l'IJFAE en matière de soutien aux jeunes chercheurs grâce à des ateliers gratuits et ciblés ainsi qu'à du mentorat, #IJFAEAfrica est un nouvel appel à contribution provenant d'Afrique, mettant en avant des évaluations de programmes, des innovations en formation, des projets communautaires et des réflexions professionnelles. Considérez-le comme un espace partagé où la recherche africaine, la pratique communautaire et l'enquête académique se rencontrent, et où toute personne disposant d'expérience, de données ou d'histoires peut recevoir un accompagnement pour transformer son travail en article publiable avec le soutien de l'IJFAE.

À partir de 2026, #IJFAEAfrica renforcera les contributions en offrant un soutien élargi. Nous développerons des réseaux d'ambassadeurs régionaux, établirons des partenariats universitaires, organiserons des ateliers d'écriture et augmenterons la visibilité numérique. Les articles que nous publierons provenant d'Afrique ou écrits par des auteurs africains seront publiés intégralement dans au moins une langue africaine en plus de l'anglais.

La recherche africaine reste sous-représentée dans les directives internationales. Voici notre réponse. Nous vous invitons à nous rejoindre en explorant *l'Africa Collection* et en visitant notre [page de soumissions](#) pour consulter nos directives aux auteurs. Pour toute question ou idée, vous pouvez nous écrire à editor@firstaid-revolution.org.

Mots-clés : éducation aux premiers secours; santé mondiale; campagnes de santé publique; partenariat de recherche

The International Journal of First Aid Education (IJFAE) is an inclusive, open-access platform dedicated to advancing evidence-based first aid education worldwide. As part of our commitment to global health equity and to elevating underrepresented voices, we are launching the #IJFAEAfrica campaign to spotlight African-led first aid education, practice, and research. This editorial introduces #IJFAEAfrica and our new Africa Collection, and invites educators, practitioners, students, and researchers across the continent to share their work, stories, and innovations with the world.

THE NEED FOR A CAMPAIGN

First aid education is essential for developing a strong public health system; it builds knowledge and practical skills, including among individuals without formal medical training (Ygiyeva et al., 2024). Yet, despite its critical role—particularly in low- and middle-income settings—research on first aid education from African countries remains underrepresented. The IJFAE was created to serve as an inclusive, open-access platform for advancing evidence-based first aid education worldwide, but several visibility and engagement gaps currently limit its reach and impact across Africa.

These gaps include limited awareness of the journal among first aid educators, non-governmental organizations, and training institutions; a low volume of African-led research submissions; and the absence of local ambassador networks and formal university linkages. As a result, valuable local knowledge, innovations, and contextualized practices remain under-shared, reinforcing inequities in whose evidence informs global first aid standards.

Coordinated, strategic campaigns have proven effective in addressing similar challenges across global health, education, and public safety (AlSabah et al., 2018). When thoughtfully designed, campaigns can raise awareness, strengthen systems, and mobilize resources. Given the urgent need to elevate African voices in first aid education research—and the growing global emphasis on bystander intervention and community-based emergency response—now is a critical moment to launch a focused campaign to expand IJFAE's visibility, relevance, and impact across the continent. That is why we have launched #IJFAEAfrica, along with The Africa

Collection, which includes articles fully translated into at least one African language other than English. Early contributions include articles on topics such as Stop the Bleed initiatives in Kenya and studies examining parental knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to safe medication storage and disposal in Libya.

DEFINING THE PURPOSE OF THE CAMPAIGN

The primary purpose of the #IJFAEAfrica campaign is to amplify African authors and African research by positioning the IJFAE as a trusted, accessible, and relevant platform for first aid education research and innovation in African contexts. Increasing awareness that IJFAE is free to read and free to publish could lower structural barriers in places where funding for research is harder to come by. The IJFAE has a history of actively supporting emerging authors, including early-career researchers, through free online workshops, short courses, and mentorship programs in research methods, scientific writing, and first aid education. These have been designed to strengthen authors' capacity and confidence, and we intend to maintain this offer as our volunteer body of ambassadors grows.

A key campaign goal is to increase submissions from African authors, particularly those focused on first aid education, training models, bystander response, and community-level interventions grounded in local realities. We especially welcome manuscripts such as program evaluations, training innovations, community-based projects, implementation case studies, student-led initiatives, and reflective practice pieces that translate local experience into shared learning. The campaign provides an opportunity to position first aid education as a core pillar of public health: increased awareness, training, and participation are interlinked and can drive behavior change when underpinned by evidence-based first aid practices and the translation of research into teaching and training. In this way, all stages of the Chain of Survival Behaviors can be implemented.

At a broader level, the campaign seeks to influence systems and policy by highlighting the life-saving impact of bystander intervention and the essential role of high-quality first aid education in strengthening

emergency care pathways. By elevating evidence from African settings, the campaign can support advocacy for increased investment in training, community education, and institutional capacity building.

Our target audience includes:

- Academics and practitioners who may serve as authors, reviewers, and collaborators
- Universities and training institutions
- NGOs and professional organizations involved in first aid and emergency care
- Policymakers and health system leaders.

If you run a local training program, coordinate community health volunteers, or teach first aid to students, you already have experience, data, and stories that could become a publishable paper with our support.

LESSONS FROM OTHER SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS

Numerous global health campaigns—such as those focused on infectious disease prevention, vaccination uptake, and guideline dissemination—provide valuable lessons for this effort. They demonstrate how coordinated messaging, community engagement, and evidence translation can drive sustained impact (Ekezie et al., 2024). Studies examining vaccine communication strategies and guideline development processes highlight the importance of bridging evidence gaps through inclusive, context-sensitive approaches. In other instances, mass CPR education has been effective through a cascade principle using instructor-trainers who train instructors who then train rescuers (Strömsöe et al., 2010).

These examples underscore the power of intentional outreach, capacity-building, and platform accessibility in shifting who produces and benefits from knowledge. They also show that campaigns which center local voices and foster partnerships, rather than relying on one-directional dissemination, are more likely to produce lasting impact. For #IJFAEAfrica, this means prioritizing African languages, local champions, and community-led topics, and intentionally designing activities that enable educators and practitioners to shape both the questions asked and the evidence shared.

Throughout Africa, lifesaving first aid skills are being taught to laypersons in local training centers by local practitioners. Through #IJFAEAfrica, such work could be documented, good practices shared, and new approaches tested and improved across Africa and beyond.

WHAT IS #IJFAEAFRICA?

Our vision is simple: to make IJFAE the go-to academic and practical resource for first aid education research and innovation across Africa. The campaign narrative emphasizes IJFAE as a platform that values African-led scholarship, supports emerging authors, and bridges academia, practice, and community outreach. Core messages focus on visibility, trust, and partnership within the health, education, and emergency sectors. Rather than positioning the journal as an external authority, the campaign frames IJFAE as a shared space for learning, innovation, and impact.

#IJFAEAfrica will start in 2026 with a focus on first-aid training, pre-hospital care, and research around emergency medical care.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND EARLY PRIORITIES

To bring this vision to life, #IJFAEAfrica will focus on several priorities:

- Establishing regional ambassador networks to connect the journal with local educators, institutions, and communities
- Forming partnerships with universities and training institutions to integrate first aid education research and IJFAE content into teaching and assessment
- Hosting writing workshops and webinars tailored for new and emerging authors, including those who have never published before
- Leveraging social media and professional networks to improve digital visibility, promote African-language content, and share success stories
- Fostering interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaborations that connect first aid educators with public health, emergency care, and policy stakeholders.

In the first year of the campaign important activities include:

- Hosting targeted online writing workshops
- Recruiting ambassadors from a minimum of 5 African countries
- Highlighting at least 3 African-led articles in the African Collection
- Partnering with at least 2 universities to incorporate IJFAE content

Community-based and practitioner-led partnerships will be essential to ensure relevance and sustainability. We will monitor the number and nature of partnerships, explore whether university collaborations lead to research training opportunities and increased student engagement in first aid education, and track the integration of IJFAE-related content into academic programs. Measuring the success of this work over time will help us focus on activities where there is the most need and learn as we go.

We also plan to share periodic updates on campaign progress through the IJFAE website, social media channels, and future editorials, so contributors can see how their efforts contribute to a wider movement.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Effective implementation will require a clear communication strategy that leverages institutional partners, professional societies, academic networks, and digital platforms. Dissemination efforts will use both formal academic channels (journal articles, conference presentations, institutional partnerships) and informal outreach (social media, community networks, practitioner groups). Translating key messages into widely spoken African languages and tailoring content to different audiences will be central to this approach.

Through well-designed collaborative efforts, the campaign can lead to greater participation, stronger evidence, and improved first aid education and outcomes across Africa. Our aim is that first aid educators, community volunteers, students, and emergency care professionals across the continent see IJFAE as a home for their ideas, innovations, and research.

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF #IJFAEAFRICA

The all-volunteer Editorial Team of the IJFAE calls on its readers to support the #IJFAEAfrica campaign. Whether you are an experienced researcher, a community trainer, a student, or a practitioner, there is a role for you.

There are many ways to get involved including:

- Sharing your work: Submit manuscripts that describe your programs, evaluations, training innovations, or lessons learned from practice.
- Learning and building skills: Join our online workshops and mentoring opportunities to develop skills in research design, data analysis, and scientific writing.
- Connecting and collaborating: Partner with us as a university, training institution, NGO, or professional body, or volunteer as a reviewer or ambassador.

You can start by exploring the [Africa Collection](#) and visiting our [submissions page](#) to read our author guidelines. If you have questions or ideas, you can email us at editor@firstaid-revolution.org

Even if you have never published before, or if English is not your first language, we encourage you to get in touch. Imperfect drafts and early-stage ideas are welcome; our commitment to equity includes supporting authors to shape and strengthen their work, not only assessing final manuscripts.

We invite you to support #IJFAEAfrica by sharing this article with colleagues, students, and friends; following us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#) and [Facebook @ijfae](#); and connecting us with institutions or networks that might wish to collaborate. Together, we can build a vibrant, Africa-led evidence base for first aid education and contribute to saving lives across the continent.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Hamza Tamba, William Kimanzi and Mai Hilal Al Mahdi Abdulwahhab provide first aid education in Africa. Nardos Makonnen and Esther Good work with healthcare providers in Africa.

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