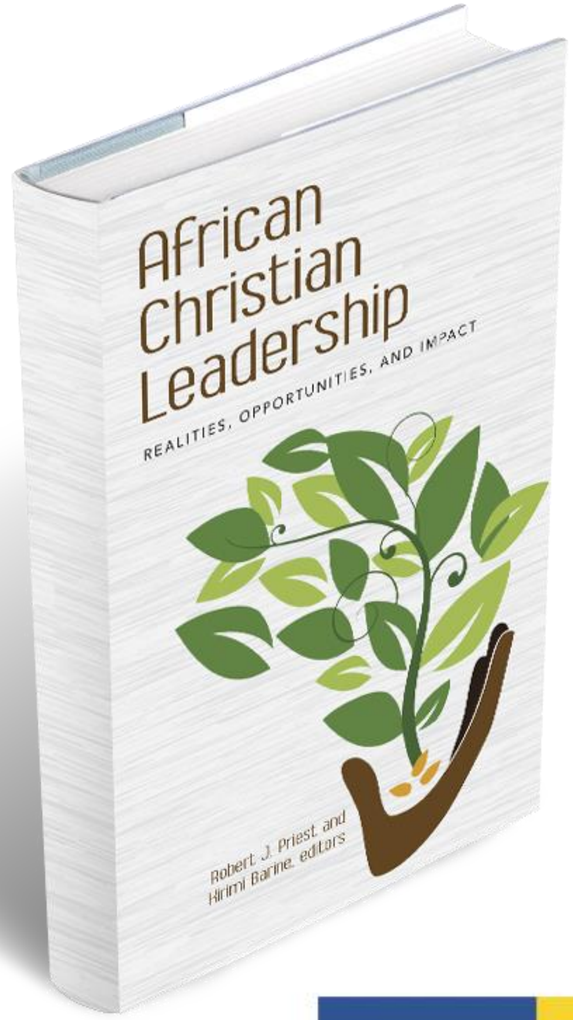
African Christian Leadership

Engaging with the Africa Leadership Study



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Why this Research Matters

- Growth of the African Church
- Lack of study of African leadership trends
- There is significant need to understand the leadership dynamics in Portuguese-speaking and French-speaking Africa

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Research Overview

Understanding the project

- 8041 survey respondents
- 24 leader profiles and 24 organizational profiles
- Insight from three countries (Angola, CAR and Kenya) and three languages (English, French, Portuguese)

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The ALS Team

Understanding the ALS Working group

- Scholars
- Advisers
- Interdisciplinary
- Collaborative

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Scope of The ALS Research

Figure 1–1. Africa by colonial language and featuring the three countries researched

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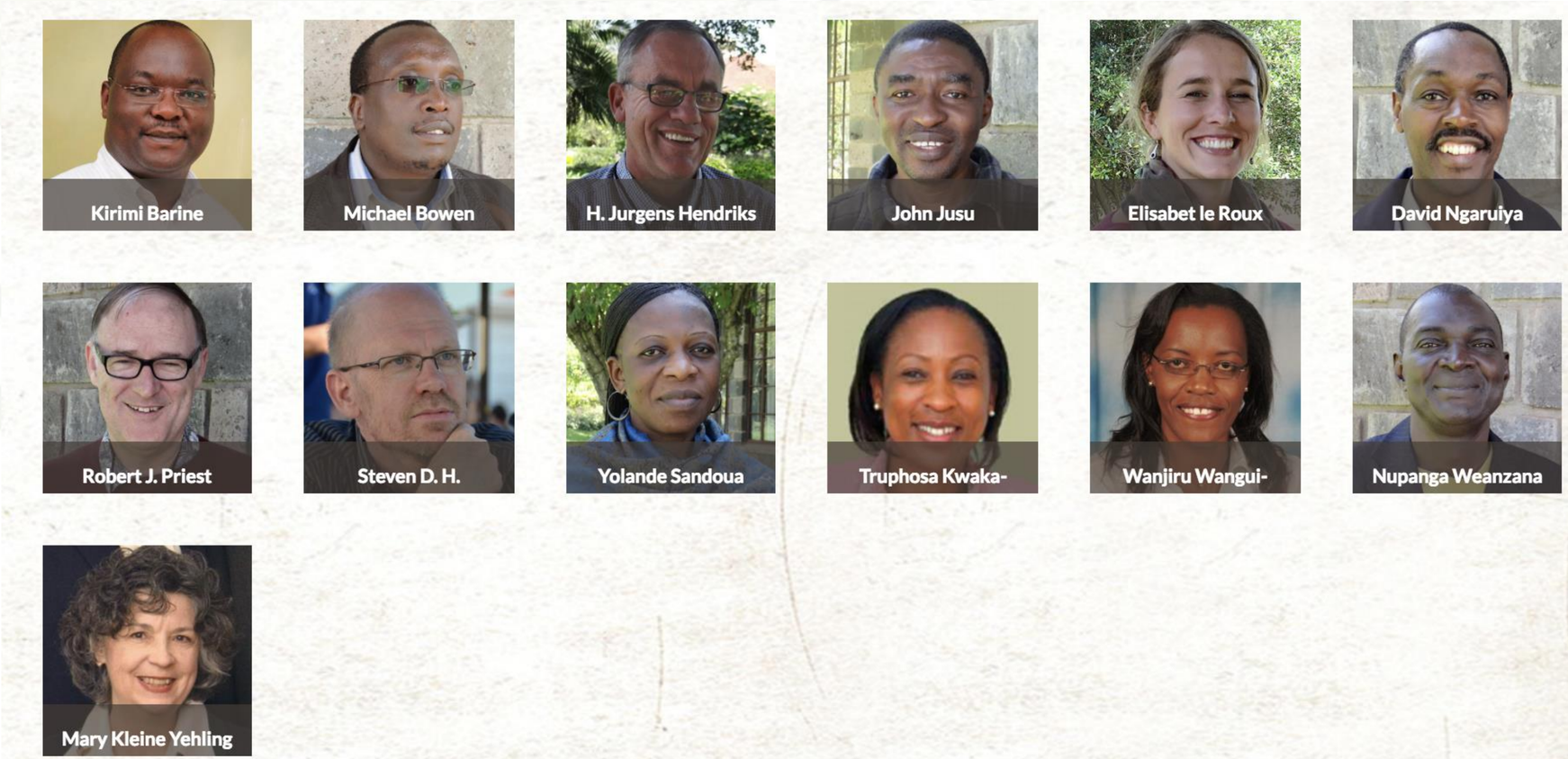
Meet The Authors



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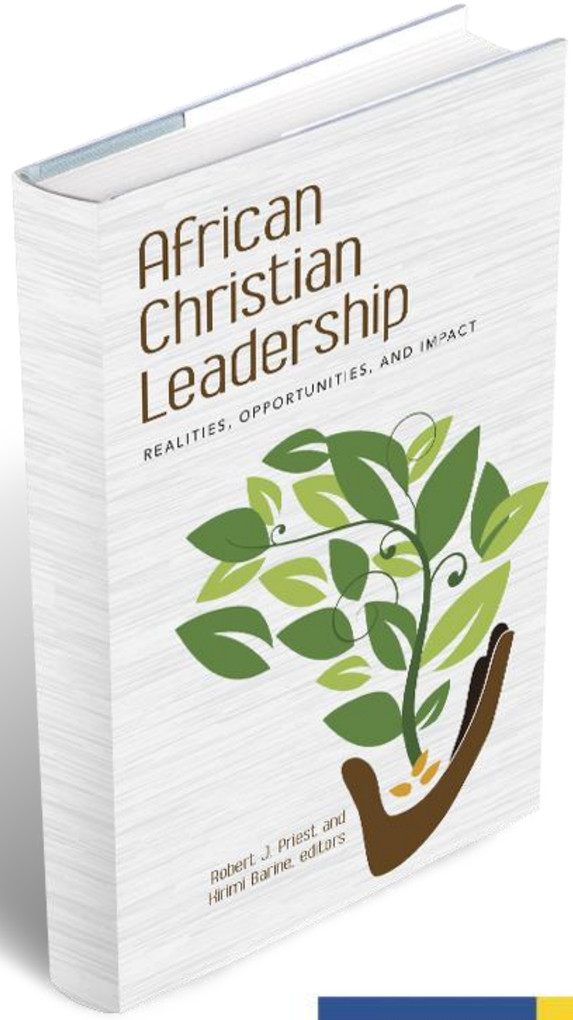
17 Insights

Into leadership in Africa



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3 Influential groups of leaders

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Insight 1

- **Pastors are very influential among Christians in Africa.**

STAT

"Who has influenced you most?"

#1 Answer: Pastors

Angola: **35.3%**

CAR: **50.2%**

Kenya: **55.8%**

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Insight 2

- **Churches play a variety of strategic roles in the lives of African Christians and communities.**

STAT

Churches are providing significant help to believers.

Christians answered that their church "provided ethical teaching for all of life"

Angola: **63.9%**

CAR: **68.3%**

Kenya: **77%**

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STAT

Of the non-clergy leaders surveyed, people identified them as having the greatest influence in the following areas:

Church leadership development:
24.5%

Evangelism:
20%

Education:
13.5%

Homes and Families:
6.7%

Insight 3

- **Non-clergy leaders also play strategic roles in a wide variety of areas.**

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Insight 4

- **Women, who make up 60% - 70% of the African church, are seen as strategic to the strength of the church, but are often under-acknowledged and under-supported.**

STAT

While respondents indicated that churches provided opportunities for women in leadership:

Angola: **61.5%**

CAR: **52.3%**

Kenya: **72.1%**

only **36.7%** of the non-clergy leaders and only **6.1%** of pastoral leaders referenced in the study across all three countries were women.

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Insight 5

STAT

Overall **56%** of parachurch organizations in all 3 countries have either national or international impact.

- **African-led parachurch Christian organizations are central to evangelism, discipleship, and social engagement.**

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Five areas were identified as key to developing their impact and influence . . .

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Insight 6

Ability and opportunity to work interculturally / interethnically

- **African Christian leaders minister within ethnic and interethnic settings where intercultural skills, competencies, and commitments are crucial to success.**

STAT

When our respondents were asked to name a pastor or non-clergy leader with most impact, a majority in Kenya and Angola named someone from their own ethnic group, while a majority of respondents in CAR named someone from an ethnic group different than their own.[1]

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STAT

Roughly **8 out of 10** respondents in the CAR had cell phones, with **9 out of 10** in Angola and Kenya[2], and with pastors in all countries at even higher rates. Roughly **1/3** of our Angolan and Kenyan respondents indicated they owned computers, with **less than a sixth** in CAR – and with pastors in all three countries owning computers at lower rates than other respondents. Less than a 1/3 of CAR respondents (**31%**), less than 1/2 of Angolan respondents (**44%**), and over 1/2 of Kenyan respondents (**55%**) indicated that they had access to the internet.[3]

Insight 7

Ability and opportunity to navigate a world increasingly dependent on technology.

- **African Christian leaders are increasingly part of a "wired" world, although with marked constraints.**

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Insight 8

Opportunity and commitment to taking advantage of mentoring relationships.

- **Mentoring is central to the development of leadership in Africa.**

STAT

More than ½ of respondents who named a key leader as being particularly good at leadership development, identified mentoring as one of the important tools that leader employed in their leadership development work.

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STAT

From the interview results, it appears that most leaders have been shaped by some combination of high quality formal education along with other forms of informal and mentoring relationships – with the combination being more important than any single one of these alone.

Insight 9

Formal and informal education are key to leadership development.

- **Formal education holds a key role in leadership development but it is not the only avenue.**

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STAT

A surprising proportion of leaders with greatest impact have lived and/or studied abroad in places such as Brazil, Canada, France, India, Italy, Portugal, UK, and USA and draw on global relational ties on behalf of strategic local ends.

Insight 10

Opportunity and skills in relational networks at the national, regional and global levels.

- **African Christian leaders and organizations achieve success through relational networks.**

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Three important areas

that are receiving varying levels of focus . . .

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STAT

58% of respondents in Angola, **57%** in CAR, and **79%** in Kenya indicated that their own congregation focused either "a good bit" or "very much" on youth leadership development. Africa, where the median age is approximately 20, is experiencing a "youth bulge."[4]

Insight 11

Ministry to youth.

- **African initiatives that focus on youth are strategic.**

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Insight 12

Integration of Faith and Politics

- **Many African Christian leaders are ambivalent about politics, but recognize that much is at stake, and thus often engage the political arena on behalf of the common good.**

STAT

In Kenya **less than 18%** of respondents indicated that their church provided no education on political realities, with almost half saying their churches provided either "a good bit" or "very much."

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STAT

Around **10%** in CAR and **15%** in Kenya indicated their churches did "very much" in the area of Muslim outreach.

Insight 13

Outreach to Muslims

- **While most Christian churches, organizations, and leaders have minimal focus on relating to Muslims, a minority are doing an amazing job in this strategic area.**

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Areas of strength and need
for us to consider and address together . . .

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STAT

16.7% from Angola, **20.1%** from CAR and **21.3%** from Kenya have read **more than 10** books in the past 12 months. In the US, the average number of books read per year is **12.**[5]

Insight 14

Committed Readers

- **Many Africans do read books, especially books that are motivational, practical, and oriented towards helping readers achieve success.**

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Insight 15

The role of the Bible strongly reaffirmed

- **The Bible as the Word of God is important in the lives of African Christians.**

STAT

53.5% from Angola, **55.6%** from CAR and **55.4%** from Kenya claimed to read their Bibles daily. The next closest category was frequency of newspapers or magazines with **10.5%** from Angola, **12.3%** from CAR and **34.5%** from Kenya reading them daily.

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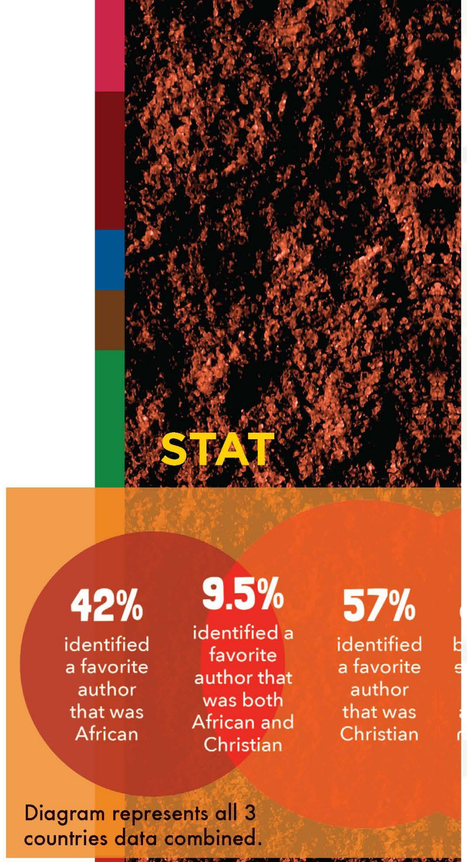
Insight 16

Equipping and empowering African Christian authors

- **In Africa there is a strong need for local Christian authors.**



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STAT

Over **25%** of respondents in Angola and CAR indicated that there was not a Christian Bookshop nearby, whereas only **12%** of respondents in Kenya indicated the same.

Insight 17

- **The need for local Christian authors is especially the case in Francophone and Lusophone Africa where it is much more difficult to acquire knowledge about leadership realities.**

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Explore these 17 Insights

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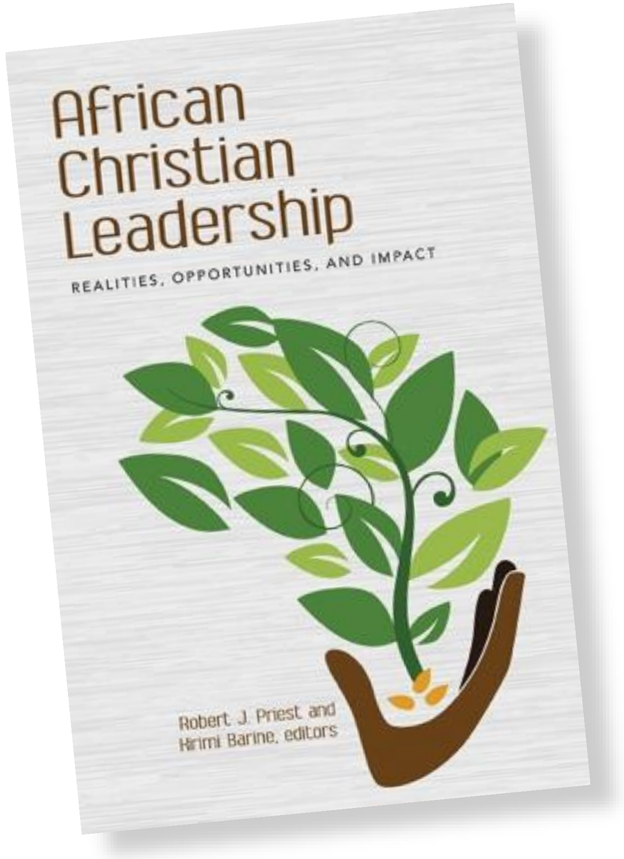
Read the new Book:

African Christian Leadership



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Website Tour

Engaging with the Africa Leadership Study via the Seedbed

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CONTEXT What is the Africa Leadership Study?

Insights from Africa for cultivating the next generation of African leaders.

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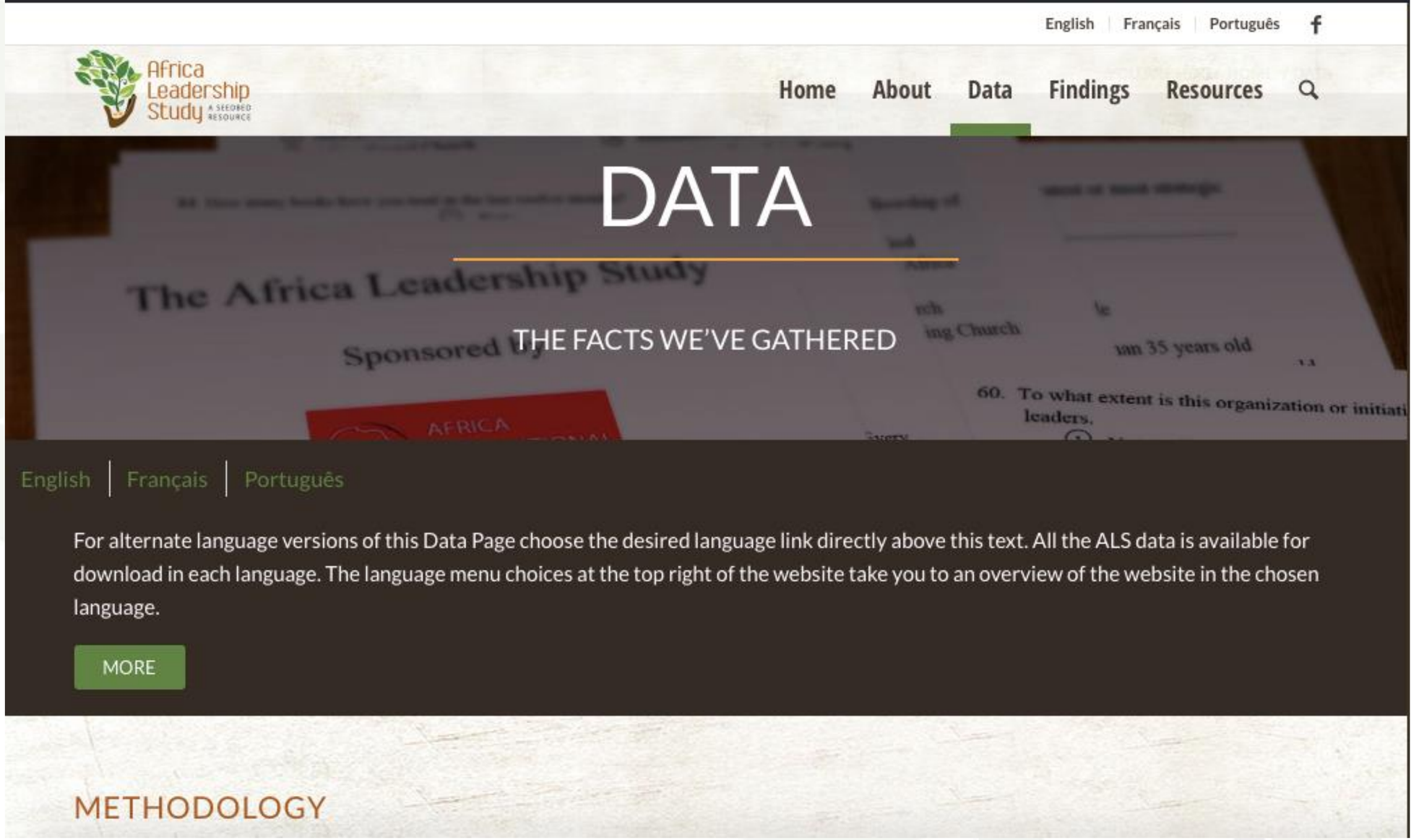

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Phase 1: Download survey dataset and documentation

QUESTIONNAIRE AND METHODOLOGY

Methodology (PDF 235k)	French	Portuguese	English
Questionnaire (PDF 285k)	French	Portuguese	English / Swahili
Summary of Responses (PDF 255k)	French	Portuguese	English

DATA SETS

Angola dataset (SPSS 677k)	French	Portuguese	English
Central African Republic dataset (SPSS 904k)	French	Portuguese	English
Kenya dataset (SPSS 1.5mb)	French	Portuguese	English

English | Français | Português

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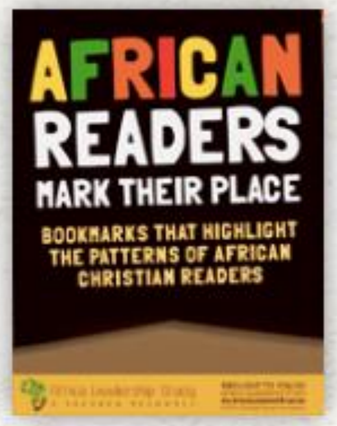
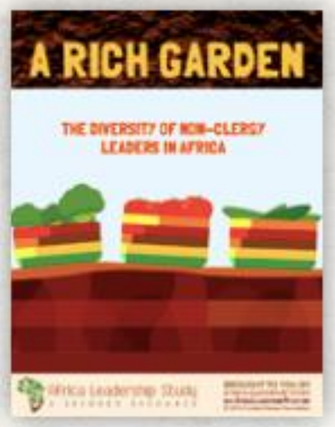
Overview of Findings



African Readership

Leadership Insights



Non-Clergy Diversity

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Prayers

Developing Leaders

Developing Organizations

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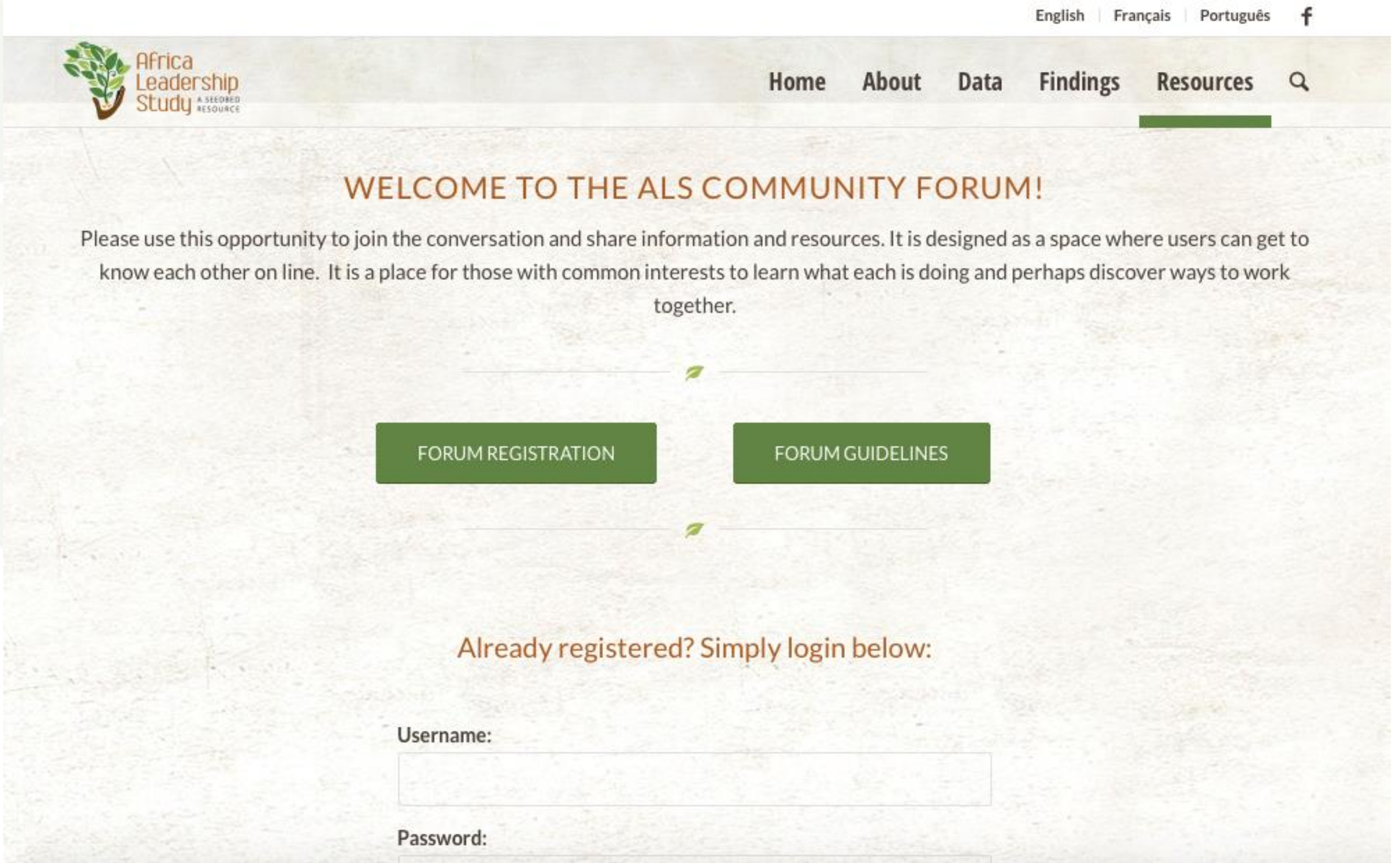

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