

POST-EVENT INSIGHTS AND ACTION REPORT

WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE

UNDERSTANDING DISENGAGEMENT AND
REBUILDING PARTICIPATION



*Understanding youth electoral disengagement and
identifying practical pathways for rebuilding
participation.*

Prepared by Mandela Institute of Development Studies

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The MINDS Africa webinar, “Why People Don’t Vote: Understanding Disengagement and Rebuilding Participation,” provided a timely platform to examine a central democratic challenge. The growing distance between young Africans and formal electoral participation. The session was attended by 44 participants from a range of stakeholder groups, with 75% remaining engaged for at least 60 minutes and 86% rating the session as relevant or very relevant to their work, studies or context.

The session did not reduce disengagement to apathy. Speakers and participants examined the relationship between trust, electoral integrity, representation, security, legal frameworks and the everyday experience of whether participation yields visible results.

Three core findings stand out. First, trust is the central organising issue: young people are less likely to participate when elections, institutions and political leadership are perceived as incapable of translating voice into accountable outcomes. Second, withdrawal from the ballot does not necessarily mean withdrawal from public life; young people continue to mobilise through protests, digital activism, community initiatives and civil society organisations. Third, participation is not only a matter of individual motivation — structural barriers, including insecurity, administrative obstacles, political gatekeeping, financial costs and gender-specific constraints, shape whether participation is feasible and meaningful.

The strategic implication for MINDS is clear. The organisation can add the greatest value by moving from a one-off conversation to a structured, non-partisan civic learning process. MINDS is well positioned to convene young leaders across countries, document context-specific barriers, share practical approaches and connect alumni with credible civic participation initiatives.

Three priority next steps are recommended: 1) publish a concise insights brief; 2) organise a targeted follow-up session on young women’s political participation and gender-sensitive barriers; and 3) develop a practical pilot toolkit that helps alumni assess participation barriers and identify realistic civic actions in their respective contexts.

KEY TAKEAWAY

The webinar confirmed that youth disengagement is not simply a motivation problem. It reflects a trust and efficacy gap shaped by structural barriers. MINDS should build on the momentum through a focused, non-partisan civic learning pathway: capture the insights, deepen the gender dimension and pilot practical tools that help alumni translate concern into organised civic participation.

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2. Event Overview

The webinar was structured around a progression from diagnosis to action. The opening framing emphasised the importance of elections in shaping leadership and governance outcomes. Keynote interventions unpacked the drivers of disengagement, before the moderated discussion shifted towards practical pathways for participation.



ITEM	DETAILS
Event Title	Why People Don't Vote: Understanding Disengagement and Rebuilding Participation
Organiser	MINDS Africa — Election and Governance Program
Format	Online webinar
Date	May 2026
Primary Objective	To explore why young Africans disengage from formal electoral participation and identify practical pathways for rebuilding participation.

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ITEM	DETAILS
Target Audience	MINDS community, alumni, young Africans and stakeholders interested in elections, governance and civic participation.
Main Speakers	Dr Nkosana Moyo; Lenny Tabu; Bochum Samuel; Lindiwe Mazibuko
Total Attendees	44 participants (excluding facilitators and MINDS staff)
Average Attendance Duration	92 minutes (median: 108 minutes)
Countries Represented	South Africa, Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria, Malawi, Ghana, Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and others
Data Sources	Full webinar transcript; MINDS institutional summary; live polls and post-activity survey data

3. Participation and Engagement

The MINDS MEARL Team monitored outcomes through live polls administered during the webinar. These captured participant characteristics assessed the relevance of the session, measured learning outcomes, identified intended actions and gathered feedback on the adequacy of time for discussion and engagement.

3.1 Attendance

A total of 44 participants attended the webinar. Attendance duration ranged from 13 to 134 minutes, with an average of 92 minutes and a median of 108 minutes.

75% of participants attended for at least 60 minutes, and 59% attended for 100 minutes or longer. These findings indicate that most participants accessed the webinar's full content and discussions.

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ATTENDANCE DURATION	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	PERCENTAGE
Less than 60 minutes	11	25%
60–99 minutes	7	16%
100–119 minutes	14	32%
120 minutes or more	12	27%
Total	44	100%

3.2 Participant Profile

Of 44 participants, 34 (77%) responded to the audience profile poll. Students made up the largest share (32%), followed by civil society representatives (24%) and participants from academia and research (21%).

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE
Student	32%
Civil Society	24%
Academic / Research	21%
Private Sector	18%
Policy / Government	0%
Other	6%

3.3 Relevance of the Webinar

Of the 29 participants who responded to the relevance poll, 86% rated the webinar as very relevant or somewhat relevant to their work, studies or context. This high relevance rating reflects the alignment between the session theme and the audience's day-to-day concerns.

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4. What Worked Well

The table below summarises the key strengths identified during and after the session.

STRENGTH	EVIDENCE FROM THE SESSION	WHY IT MATTERED
Clear and timely theme	The webinar addressed electoral disengagement during a particularly dense electoral cycle across the continent.	The topic connected directly to current democratic and governance concerns.
Complementary speaker perspectives	The session combined governance framing, electoral observation expertise, youth-work experience and public leadership experience.	The discussion addressed individual, institutional and structural dimensions of disengagement.
Pan-African relevance	Speakers and participants drew on experiences from South Africa, Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria, Malawi, Ghana, Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and other contexts.	The discussion surfaced shared concerns while showing that solutions must remain context-sensitive.
Active audience engagement	Participants raised questions on electoral integrity, safety, legal reform, women's participation, diaspora involvement and accountability.	The discussion generated a credible agenda for future learning and programming.

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STRENGTH	EVIDENCE FROM THE SESSION	WHY IT MATTERED
Shift from diagnosis to action	The moderator repeatedly redirected the session towards practical solutions, including citizen observation, legal-framework analysis and collective organisation.	The webinar created a foundation for an applied follow-up process.
Alignment with MINDS' role	The session reflected MINDS' commitment to building democratic, inclusive and transparent cultures through convening, knowledge-sharing and youth networks.	The event fits naturally within MINDS' non-partisan civic leadership positioning.

The event's strongest feature was the quality of the analytical reframing. Rather than treating non-voting as a personal failure, the conversation examined the conditions under which participation becomes credible, safe and consequential. This created a stronger foundation for future MINDS programming than a generic call to vote would have.

5. Key Insights

The webinar generated five core insights, each with direct implications for MINDS programming.

CORE INSIGHT	WHAT THE DISCUSSION REVEALED	IMPLICATION FOR MINDS
1. Trust is the central issue	Participation weakens when citizens do not believe elections, institutions and leaders will translate choices into visible results.	Prioritise trust, accountability and electoral efficacy in future content.
2. Disengagement is not the same as apathy	Young people may withdraw from the ballot while remaining active through protests, digital platforms and civic initiatives.	Design pathways that connect existing activism with structured civic participation.

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STRENGTH	EVIDENCE FROM THE SESSION	WHY IT MATTERED
3. Structural barriers shape participation	Security risks, administrative obstacles, corruption, costs and political gatekeeping affect whether people can register, vote or stand for office.	Use context-specific barrier mapping rather than one-size-fits-all messaging.
4. Representation must be substantive and inclusive	Youth representation cannot be tokenistic. Young women face additional barriers involving resources, safety, social norms and political access.	Build a stronger gender-sensitive strand into the follow-up programme.
5. Mobilisation must become organised and actionable	Numbers matter only when converted into collective strategy, practical preparation and sustained action.	Equip alumni with tools that move discussion towards local action.

5.1 Trust and Electoral Efficacy are the Central Organising Issues

Throughout the webinar, the most persistent concern was not a lack of awareness that elections matter, but a loss of confidence in the link between participation and outcomes. Lenny Tabu argued that turnout statistics do not explain why citizens withdraw, and that meaningful participation depends on whether people trust the process and believe that their vote counts. Lindiwe Mazibuko sharpened this point by describing a broken cause-and-effect relationship: young people are more likely to participate when they can see that voting, organising and holding leaders

accountable produce observable change. Contributions on the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon reinforced concerns that perceived manipulation and weak institutional credibility can make formal participation feel ineffective.

5.2 Youth Disengagement from the Ballot is Not Equivalent to Political Apathy

The discussion challenged a common narrative: young people are not necessarily disconnected from political life simply because they do not vote. Bochum Samuel Bache highlighted digital activism, civil society advocacy and issue-based mobilisation. Lindiwe Mazibuko similarly argued that

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begins by framing young people as apathetic may overlook the civic energy that already exists. The more productive question is how to connect existing forms of civic expression with formal electoral participation, institutional accountability and leadership pathways.

5.3 Participation Barriers are Structural, Practical and Context-Specific

The webinar highlighted a layered set of barriers, including insecurity around polling stations, electoral manipulation, corruption, difficult registration processes, migration, limited access to political parties, the high costs of standing for office, and the pressure of economic survival. A participant from Nigeria offered a practical example: registration logistics can unintentionally reduce turnout when people register near their workplace but cannot travel there on election day. The discussion therefore cautioned against a purely motivational approach, which can overlook legitimate safety concerns and structural constraints.

5.4 Representation Must Be Substantive, Inclusive and Gender-Sensitive

The discussion emphasised that young people need to see credible pathways into substantive leadership, not merely youth-specific portfolios or symbolic appointments. Lindiwe Mazibuko argued that youth concerns are not niche because all major policy areas affect younger generations.

A participant representing a young women's network challenged the webinar to place gender more centrally in the analysis. Women and young women may face additional constraints, including patriarchal norms, safety risks, online intimidation, unequal access to finance and the burden of unpaid care responsibilities. These factors affect not only turnout but also the ability to organise, campaign and stand for office.

5.5 Collective Organisation is the Bridge Between Frustration and Influence

The closing discussion shifted the focus from diagnosis to organisation. Dr Nkosana Moyo emphasised ownership, preparation and strategic thinking. Lenny Tabu identified citizen election observation as a practical way to strengthen confidence and accountability. Lindiwe Mazibuko emphasised that democracy is a numbers game and a collective endeavour: individual concern only becomes influential when people organise around a clear goal. The discussion supports a practical MINDS approach centred on civic learning, local barrier analysis, trusted partnerships and alumni activation.

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5.6 Strategic Pathway: From Disengagement to Structured Participation

STEP	OPERATIONAL MEANING
1. Listen	Document how young people experience institutions, elections and barriers.
2. Diagnose	Identify trust gaps, practical obstacles and groups facing additional exclusion.
3. Equip	Provide simple civic-learning tools, case studies and context-sensitive options.
4. Connect	Link alumni with credible civic organisations, peers and learning opportunities.
5. Track	Capture actions, lessons and outcomes to improve future programming.

6. Learning Outcomes

Participants were asked to identify the issues they understood most following the webinar. The results reflect responses from participants who engaged with the learning outcome poll.

THEME	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTING IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING
Reasons why people disengage from voting	21
Trust and accountability challenges	16
Barriers to political participation	13
Youth exclusion in civic participation	11
Practical ways to rebuild participation	10

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Understanding the reasons for disengagement is particularly significant as it informs the strategies required to address the problem. The strong performance of trust and accountability as a learning theme reflects the quality of speaker contributions on institutional credibility and electoral efficacy.

7. Intended Actions Following the Webinar

Twenty-eight participants responded to the intended action poll. The table below summarises their responses.

INTENDED ACTION	PERCENTAGE
Share lessons with peers and community	32%
Learn more about civic participation	21%
Stay engaged in future MINDS discussions	18%
Apply insights in work or leadership role	14%
Start or join civic conversations	14%

The most commonly reported intended action was sharing lessons with peers and communities, which reflects the peer-learning and multiplier potential of MINDS alumni networks. The proportion of participants intending to apply insights in professional or leadership roles suggests that the webinar reached participants with practical impact beyond their individual participation.

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8. Speaker Contributions

SPEAKER	CENTRAL CONTRIBUTION	DISTINCTIVE VALUE ADDED	POTENTIAL FOLLOW-UP ANGLE
Dr Nkosana Moyo	Framed elections as foundational to governance outcomes; called for ownership, preparation and strategic thinking.	Connected personal responsibility with the wider political environment; emphasised that passivity still shapes outcomes.	Strategic civic leadership, risk awareness and youth mobilisation.
Lenny Tabu	Explained multiple forms of disengagement; highlighted trust, accessible electoral processes, citizen observation and legal frameworks.	Brought an electoral-process perspective and practical entry points for accountability.	Citizen election observation; legal-framework literacy; participation barriers.
Bochum Samuel Bache	Outlined how unmet expectations, exclusion, corruption, insecurity, unemployment and limited representation affect youth participation.	Grounded the discussion in youth-work experience and the everyday pressures facing young people.	Youth civic pathways in contexts affected by insecurity and economic precarity.

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The moderation added value by maintaining an interactive format, encouraging participation in polls and chat, and repeatedly bringing the discussion back to practical next steps. The session also demonstrated the importance of allocating sufficient time for audience questions and structured synthesis in future events.

9. Participant Questions and Unresolved Issues

ISSUE RAISED	WHY IT MATTERS	ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED?	RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP
Electoral integrity and perceived manipulation	Participation loses meaning when people believe outcomes may not reflect votes cast.	Partially — through trust, preparation and citizen observation.	Dedicated civic lab on electoral integrity, accountability and citizen observation.
Security risks during elections	Safety concerns can be a legitimate barrier to turnout and participation.	Raised clearly but not resolved in depth.	A safety-sensitive discussion with credible election and peace building actors.
Youth access to political leadership	High costs, age thresholds, party gatekeeping and limited representation reduce entry opportunities.	Addressed conceptually; country-specific solutions remain open.	Map legal and institutional barriers across selected countries.
Women's participation and gender-specific barriers	Young women face layered constraints that require more than a generic youth lens.	Recognised late in the discussion; requires deeper treatment.	Prioritise a dedicated gender-sensitive follow-up session.

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ISSUE RAISED	WHY IT MATTERS	ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED?	RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP
Diaspora participation	Diaspora members may wish to contribute but legal options differ by country.	Discussed in principle; legal variation needs verification.	Include diaspora participation in the country self-assessment template.
Institutional accountability	Young people need credible feedback loops after elections, not only election-day mobilisation.	Central to the discussion but not operationalised.	Develop a practical accountability pathway extending beyond elections.
Converting digital activism into electoral action	Youth energy is visible online but does not automatically translate into organised influence.	Identified as a key question; not fully answered.	A civic mobilisation lab focused on moving from online engagement to local action.

PRIORITY UNRESOLVED TOPIC

The gender dimension deserves a dedicated follow-up session. The discussion showed that a general youth framework is insufficient unless it explicitly addresses the barriers affecting young women's access, participation, safety and substantive representation.

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10. Feedback on Time Allocation

Twenty-eight participants responded to the question regarding the adequacy of time allocated for discussion and engagement.

RESPONSE	PERCENTAGE
Yes, time was sufficient	29%
Somewhat sufficient	36%
No, more time was needed	36%

71% of respondents indicated that additional time would be beneficial. This finding suggests that future Elections and Governance webinars should consider extended sessions or structured break-out discussions to accommodate the depth of participant interest.

11. Productive Tensions to Preserve

The discussion did not produce a single explanatory model of disengagement. This is a strength. Future programming should preserve the following tensions as they prevent oversimplified solutions.

TENSION	WHY IT MATTERS	PROGRAMMING IMPLICATIONS
Individual responsibility versus structural barriers	Ownership matters, but people cannot be asked to ignore insecurity, weak institutions or exclusionary rules.	Balance agency-focused messages with context-sensitive barrier analysis.
Compulsory voting versus rebuilding trust	Compulsory voting may improve turnout but does not automatically repair trust or institutional integrity.	Treat compulsory voting as one policy question, not the central solution.

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TENSION	WHY IT MATTERS	PROGRAMMING IMPLICATIONS
Electoral participation versus broader civic engagement	Voting is important, but young people also engage through protests, advocacy, community work and digital platforms.	Build bridges between forms of engagement rather than ranking them simplistically.
General youth mobilisation versus a stronger gender lens	A shared youth agenda matters, but young women face additional barriers that require explicit attention.	Mainstream gender while also creating dedicated spaces for deeper analysis.
Democratic idealism versus pragmatic risk awareness	Ethical political participation remains essential, but electoral contexts require preparation and realistic risk assessment.	Promote strategic preparedness without normalising misconduct or unsafe practices.

12. Recommendations for MINDS

MINDS should build on the webinar through a focused and proportionate follow-up pathway. The recommended approach is deliberately selective, prioritising a small number of deliverables that align with MINDS' convening role, youth networks, and non-partisan positioning.

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12.1 Immediate Actions: Within 30 Days

PRIORITY ACTION	RATIONALE	DELIVERABLE	POTENTIAL LEAD	SUCCESS INDICATOR
Publish a concise webinar insights brief	Capture momentum and circulate the strongest learning points.	Four-page digital brief with five insights, unresolved questions and next steps.	MINDS Secretariat with communications support.	Brief approved and shared with the MINDS network.
Consolidate the evidence base	Strengthen reporting quality and establish a learning baseline.	Consolidate file with registration, attendance, country representation, survey and poll data.	Event coordination and MEARL focal point.	Verified dataset archived and key metrics integrated into the final report.
Announce a targeted follow-up session on young women's participation	Respond directly to a substantive gap identified during the discussion.	Concept note and speaker outreach for a dedicated session.	MINDS with a credible women's civic leadership partner.	Session date, scope and partner profile confirmed.

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12.2 Short-term Actions: Within Three Months

PRIORITY ACTION	RATIONALE	DELIVERABLE	POTENTIAL LEAD	SUCCESS INDICATOR
Pilot a country-level participation barrier self-assessment	Avoid one-size-fits-all solutions and help alumni identify realistic entry points.	Simple template covering trust, registration, safety, legal barriers, representation, gender and diaspora participation.	MINDS programme team with selected alumni reviewers.	Template tested with alumni from at least three country contexts.
Run a civic learning lab on electoral integrity and citizen observation	Respond to repeated participant concerns about credibility and accountability	Interactive session and short practical resource identifying credible forms of non-partisan engagement.	Election observation or civic education partner.	Lab delivered; practical resource circulated; participant feedback collected.
Map potential partnerships	Connect MINDS' convening role with specialised technical expertise.	Short partner map covering election observation, civic education, women's leadership and youth participation.	MINDS Secretariat.	Prioritised list of potential partners and collaboration options.

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12.3 Medium-term Actions: Within Six to Twelve Months

PRIORITY ACTION	RATIONALE	DELIVERABLE	POTENTIAL LEAD	SUCCESS INDICATOR
Develop a light-touch civic participation toolkit	Translate learning into practical alumni action without turning MINDS into a partisan actor.	Digital toolkit with barrier-mapping questions, action-planning templates, case studies and safety guidance.	MINDS with technical partners and alumni contributors.	Toolkit completed, piloted and revised based on user feedback.
Activate alumni as civic learning connectors	Use MINDS' youth network to circulate learning and gather context-specific insight.	Small pilot cohort with a clear non-partisan role, reporting template and safeguarding guidance.	MINDS alumni engagement function.	Pilot cohort active; country insights and actions documented.
Establish a pre- and post-election learning model	Extend engagement beyond isolated events and capture lessons over time.	Repeatable learning cycle for selected electoral contexts.	MINDS programme team with specialised partners.	Model tested in selected contexts and reviewed for scale-up.

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13. Proposed Follow-up Series

PROPOSED SESSION	CENTRAL QUESTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT	POTENTIAL SPEAKER OR PARTNER	EXPECTED OUTPUT
1. Young Women, Political Participation and Power	What barriers affect young women differently, and what practical reforms or supports can widen access?	Moderated webinar with country examples and participant discussion.	Women's civic leadership network; gender and governance practitioner; young woman political leader.	Gender-sensitive barrier checklist and recommendations.
2. Electoral Integrity and Citizen Observation	How can young people strengthen confidence in electoral processes through legitimate, non-partisan action?	Practical civic lab.	Election observation organisation; civic education practitioner; alumni case study.	Short citizen-observation learning resource.
3. From Digital Activism to Organised Civic Action	How can online engagement become structured influence, local mobilisation and accountability?	Workshop with practical exercises.	Digital mobilisation practitioner; youth civic organiser; MINDS alumni facilitator.	Simple action-planning template.

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PROPOSED SESSION	CENTRAL QUESTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT	POTENTIAL SPEAKER OR PARTNER	EXPECTED OUTPUT
4. Legal Frameworks, Youth Access and Diaspora Participation	Which rules enable or restrict participation, representation and accountability?	Comparative learning session.	Election-law specialist; youth leadership organisation; diaspora engagement practitioner.	Country self-assessment template refined through examples.
5. Building a Repeatable MINDS Civic Learning Model	Which elements should MINDS pilot across selected contexts?	Internal design workshop with selected partners and alumni.	MINDS programme team; technical partners; alumni representatives.	Pilot design, responsibilities and indicators.

14. Risks and Points of Attention

RISK OR SENSITIVITY	WHY IT MATTERS	MITIGATION APPROACH
Political sensitivity	Electoral discussions can be interpreted through partisan lenses.	Maintain a clearly non-partisan civic-learning position; use transparent selection criteria and balanced facilitation.
Perceived partisanship	Country examples may be read as support for or criticism of specific political actors.	Focus on systems, barriers, civic rights and transferable learning rather than party-political advocacy.

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RISK OR SENSITIVITY	WHY IT MATTERS	MITIGATION APPROACH
Country-specific differences	Legal frameworks, risks and civic spaces differ significantly.	Use country-level self-assessment and avoid universal prescriptions.
Gender inclusion	A generic youth framework can obscure barriers affecting young women.	Mainstream gender in tools and indicators; retain a dedicated learning strand.
Participant safety	Public participation may carry risks in some contexts.	Include safeguarding guidance; avoid encouraging unsafe or legally uncertain actions; use specialised partners.
Moving from conversation to implementation	A webinar series can become discussion-heavy without producing usable outputs.	Attach a concrete deliverable, owner and success indicator to each activity.
Evidence limitations	The available evidence base does not include all survey, poll and attendance datasets.	Consolidate missing data before external circulation and before designing a baseline.

15. Conclusion

The webinar provided a valuable starting point for MINDS Africa by shifting the discussion away from simplistic explanations of youth non-voting. The central message was not that young Africans are disengaged from society. It is that many do not find formal electoral participation sufficiently trustworthy, accessible, or consequential.

The event data supports this analysis. 75% of participants remained engaged for at least 60 minutes, 86% rated the session as relevant, and the most frequently reported learning outcome was an improved understanding of why people disengage from voting. These findings indicate

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that the webinar reached an audience that is genuinely concerned about civic participation and ready to act on what it learned.

MINDS has a distinctive role to play. Its value lies in convening, connecting and translating insight into practical civic learning without becoming partisan. The organisation can help young Africans compare experiences, identify context-specific barriers, learn from credible practitioners and develop legitimate forms of civic action suited to their realities.

The most suitable next step is to establish a targeted follow-up strategy: gather insights, enhance gender considerations, test practical tools, and link alumni with specialized partners. The webinar should be viewed as the start of a planned process rather than an isolated event. By adopting a selective method with defined deliverables and clear learning goals, MINDS can transform an engaging conversation into a credible impact on youth participation, democratic values, and accountable governance throughout the continent.

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Annex A: Action Prioritisation Matrix

PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED IMPACT	LEVEL OF EFFORT	PRIORITY LEVEL	RECOMMENDED DECISION
Publish webinar insights brief	High	Low	Immediate	Approve and deliver within 30 days.
Consolidate survey, poll and attendance data	High	Low	Immediate	Complete before external circulation.
Dedicated session on young women's participation	High	Medium	Immediate	Prioritise as the first follow-up session.
Country-level participation barrier self-assessment	High	Medium	Next phase	Pilot with a small number of alumni contexts.
Civic learning lab on electoral integrity	High	Medium	Next phase	Deliver with a specialised technical partner.
Partnership mapping	Medium	Low	Next phase	Complete before toolkit development.

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PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED IMPACT	LEVEL OF EFFORT	PRIORITY LEVEL	RECOMMENDED DECISION
Light-touch civic participation toolkit	High	Medium	Next phase	Develop after testing the self-assessment template.
Alumni civic learning connectors pilot	Medium to High	Medium	Explore after tools are ready	Start with a small, clearly defined cohort.
Repeatable pre- and post-election learning model	High	High	Explore later	Test only after the initial learning pathway is validated.

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Annex B: Evidence Base and Limitations

SOURCE	AVAILABILITY	AVAILABILITY USE OR NEXT STEP
Full webinar transcript	Available and analysed	Primary source for speaker contributions, participant questions and discussion themes.
MINDS institutional summary document	Available and analysed	Used to align recommendations with MINDS' mission, non-partisan convening role and youth-governance programming.
Live poll results	Available — 34 of 44 participants (77%) responded	Used to report on participant profile, relevance, learning outcomes, intended actions and time allocation.
Attendance and registration data	Available — 44 attendees confirmed	Used for engagement analysis; duration and participation rates reported.
Pre-event survey report and raw survey data	Not available	Insert verified figures if available; use in future events to measure baseline awareness.
Participant country breakdown (full verified dataset)	Not available as a verified dataset	Add verified geographic representation data.
Full chat export	Not available	Review for additional questions, quotations and participant takeaways if available.
Post-event survey	Not available	Use in future events to measure relevance, learning and intended action.

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Annex C: Suggested MEL Framework for Follow-up Activities

DIMENSION	SUGGESTED INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE
Reach	Number of participants; number of countries represented; proportion of alumni engaged.	Registration and attendance records.
Inclusion	Gender distribution; representation of young women; participation of diaspora members where relevant.	Registration and attendance records.
Learning	Percentage of participants reporting clearer understanding of participation barriers and civic options.	Short post-event survey.
Actionability	Number of participants identifying at least one realistic next action.	Post-event survey and action-planning template.
Follow-through	Number of alumni who complete a barrier self- assessment or participate in a follow-up lab.	Programme tracker.
Partnership development	Number of credible technical partners engaged and collaboration options identified.	Partner map and follow-up log.

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MINDS WEBINAR: "WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE" POST-ACTIVITY SURVEY REPORT

1. Introduction

The MINDS MEARL Team routinely monitors the outcomes of its activities by administering pre- and post-activity surveys and comparing the results to determine the extent of gains in participants' knowledge or awareness. This report presents the post-webinar outcomes and participants' feedback on the webinar process. Gains in awareness levels were measured through administering a series of live polls during the webinar. The polls captured participant characteristics, assessed the session's relevance, measured learning outcomes, identified intended actions following the webinar, and gathered feedback on the webinar process, particularly the adequacy of the time allocated for discussion and engagement.

The findings presented below are based on responses collected during the live session and provide insights into participant engagement, learning, and perceptions of the webinar.

2. Participation and Engagement

A total of 44 participants (excluding facilitators and MINDS Staff) attended the webinar. Attendance duration ranged from 13 to 134 minutes, with an average of 92 minutes and a median of 108 minutes.

Analysis of attendance duration indicates that most participants remained engaged for a substantial portion of the webinar, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Webinar attendance duration

ATTENDANCE DURATION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	PERCENTAGE
Less than 60 minutes	11	25%
60–99 minutes	7	16%
100–119 minutes	14	32%
120 minutes or more	12	27%
Total	44	100%

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According to Table 1, 75% of participants attended for at least 60 minutes, while 59% attended for 100 minutes or longer. In addition, 27% of participants remained connected for 120 minutes or more. These findings indicate most participants were engaged for the greater part of the webinar, which suggests that most participants accessed the webinar's content and discussions.

3. Polls Participation Rate

A total of 34 of 44 (77%) participants responded to the audience profile poll as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Categories of participants involved in the poll

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE
Student	32%
Civil Society	24%
Academic / Research	21%
Private Sector	18%
Policy / Government	0%
Other	6%

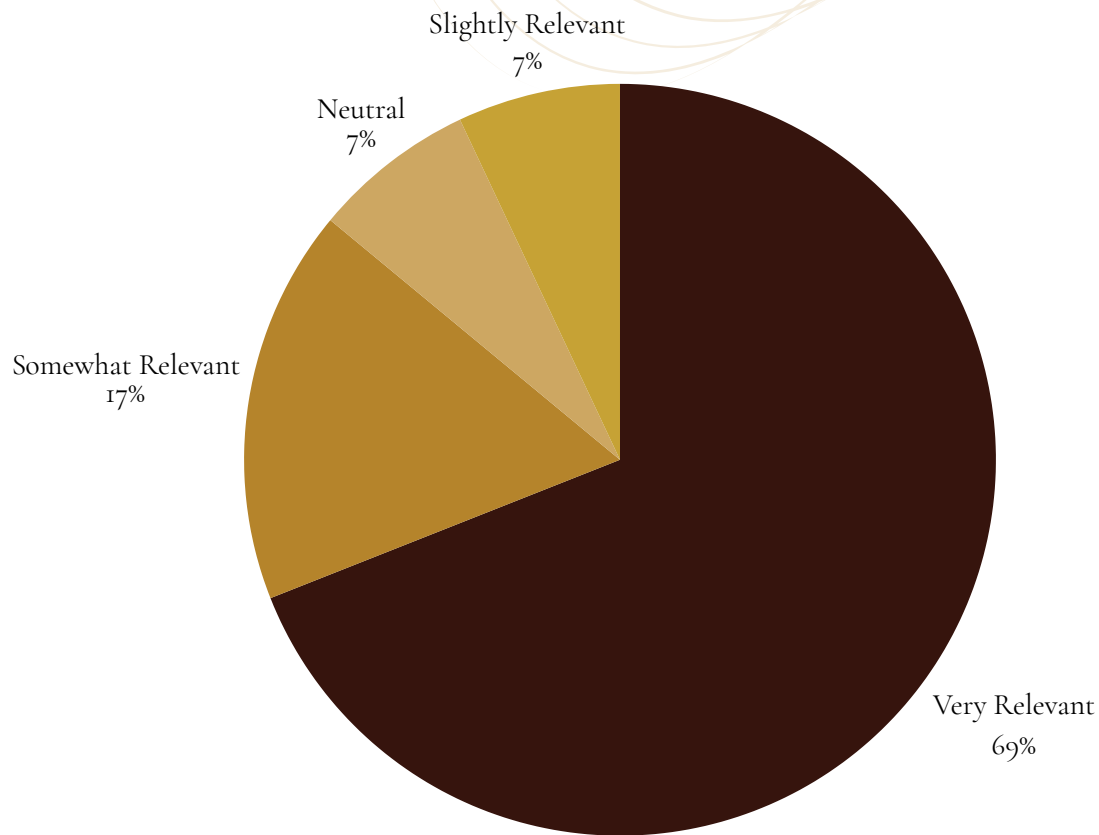
The webinar attracted participants from a range of stakeholder groups, with students forming the largest share of respondents, followed by civil society representatives and participants from academia and research institutions.

4.Relevance of the Webinar

Most of the 29 participants who responded to the poll on the webinar's relevance felt it was relevant to their work, studies, and/or context, as illustrated below.

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Table 1: Participants' rating of the webinar's relevance



Overall, 86% of respondents rated the webinar as either very relevant or somewhat relevant to their work, studies, or context.

5. Key insights from the webinar

The webinar revealed several interesting insights regarding voter behavior, and these are summarised in the table below.

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Table 1: Key insights from webinar discussions

THEME	KEY INSIGHTS
Why people disengage from voting	Participants highlighted unmet expectations from political leaders, corruption, unemployment, insecurity, age and financial barriers to candidacy, social class exclusion, limited youth representation in leadership, and a growing belief that democratic participation does not lead to positive outcomes. The discussion also noted that many young people remain engaged through protests, social media activism, and civil society activities rather than electoral participation.
Trust and accountability challenges	Speakers emphasized declining trust in institutions, leaders who do not represent or renew leadership, and the absence of an accountability loop when elected officials fail to deliver. Discussions highlighted the need for institutions such as electoral commissions, political parties, and justice systems to earn public trust through transparency, accountability, and responsiveness.
Barriers to political participation	Participants identified structural barriers including insecurity, migration, age restrictions on candidacy, financial requirements for running for office, lack of diaspora voting provisions, bureaucratic obstacles to participation, and electoral systems that limit accountability. Women and young women were noted to face additional barriers including patriarchal norms, financial constraints, safety concerns, unpaid domestic responsibilities, and inadequate legal protections.
Youth exclusion in political participation	The discussion highlighted limited representation of young people in leadership and governance structures, age restrictions on candidacy, financial barriers, and concerns that young leaders entering political spaces are often absorbed into existing power structures. Participants stressed the need for greater youth inclusion in decision-making processes.

WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE REPORT

THEME	KEY INSIGHTS
Practical ways to rebuild participation	Suggested solutions included expanding citizen election observation, reforming electoral laws, lowering age barriers to candidacy, strengthening diaspora voting mechanisms, introducing measures to support women's participation, improving institutional integrity and accountability, and encouraging collective youth mobilization and electoral organizing. Participants were also encouraged to engage with legal frameworks governing elections and to participate actively in upcoming electoral processes.

6. Learning Outcomes

Participants were asked to identify the issues they understood best after the webinar.

- Most people (21) took an interest in and expressed a better understanding of the reasons people disengage from voting. Knowing the reasons for disengaging from voting is critical because it informs the kinds of strategies to be employed to rectify the problem.
- Participants ranked “trust and accountability challenges” second (16 votes) on the list of the themes that they understood the most,
- Followed by “barriers to political participation” (13),
- “Youth exclusion in civic participation (11) and
- Practical ways to rebuild participation (10).

7. Intended Actions Following the Webinar

Twenty-eight participants responded to the intended action poll.

INTENDED ACTION	PERCENTAGE
Share lessons with peers/community	32%
Learn more about civic participation	21%
Stay engaged in future MINDS discussions	18%
Apply insights in work/leadership role	14%
Start/join civic conversations	14%

WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE REPORT

The most commonly reported intended action was sharing lessons from the webinar with peers and communities. Other intended actions focused on continued learning, future engagement with MINDS activities, application of knowledge in professional settings, and participation in civic discussions.

8. Adequacy of Time Allocated

Twenty-eight participants responded to the question regarding the adequacy of time allocated for discussion and engagement.

RESPONSE	PERCENTAGE
Yes, time was sufficient	29%
Somewhat sufficient	36%
No, more time was needed	36%

9. Key Findings

- A total of 44 participants attended the webinar.
- The average attendance duration was 92 minutes, and the median was 108 minutes.
- 75% of participants attended for at least 60 minutes and 59% attended for 100 minutes or longer.
- Students constituted the largest group of participants (32%), followed by civil society representatives (24%).
- 86% of respondents rated the webinar as relevant to their work, studies, or context.
- The most frequently reported learning outcome was increased understanding of why people disengage from voting.
- The most common intended action was sharing lessons from the webinar with peers and communities.
- 71% of respondents indicated that additional time for discussion and engagement would be beneficial.

10. Conclusion

The attendance and poll data indicate that the webinar reached a diverse audience and maintained participant engagement throughout most of the session.

WHY PEOPLE DON'T VOTE REPORT

Participants reported learning across key thematic areas related to voter disengagement and civic participation and identified a range of actions they intend to undertake following the webinar. Feedback on time allocation suggests that future Elections and Governance webinars may benefit from longer discussion periods to better accommodate participant engagement and interaction.

