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**African Liberty Camp 2026 Quantitative
Evaluation:
Participant-Reported Knowledge Gains,
Perceived Impacts, and Behavioral Intentions**

AFODIresearch

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Authors:

Kai H. Kayser

Arthur Odong

Opedun Isaac Joseph

Amito Brenda Olaa

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Abstract

This paper presents a quantitative evaluation of Africa Liberty Camp 2026, the 11th edition of an annual intensive residential program held in Uganda. Drawing on feedback from 23 of the 64 participants, the study examines self-reported knowledge gains, perceived influence, session impact, logistical quality, and future engagement intentions.

Participants reported substantial increases in understanding of individual liberty, free markets, entrepreneurship, property rights, and public policy. Between 74% and 91% indicated that the camp had significantly influenced their understanding of liberty, confidence in defending it, leadership ability, entrepreneurial mindset, networking opportunities, and desire to create positive change. Keynote speeches were identified as the most impactful session format. While time management received the weakest logistical ratings, overall satisfaction remained high, with strong endorsement of the speakers, venue, meals, and many more. Nearly all respondents expressed willingness to recommend the camp and to contribute to future editions.

The findings indicate that Africa Liberty Camp continues to deliver meaningful short-term cognitive and motivational effects and has established itself as a valued platform within East African free-market networks. This study is conducted by Action for Development Initiative (AFODI) and forms the first paper in the Africa Liberty Camp 2026 Impact Trilogy. To the best of our knowledge, AFODI is currently the only organization systematically evaluating the outcomes of the camp and making the results available through open-access publication.

Keywords: liberty education, Africa, quantitative evaluation, Uganda, knowledge gains, participant impact, AFODI

1. Introduction

1.1 Context of Africa Liberty Camp

Africa Liberty Camp has been held annually in Uganda for over a decade and reached its 11th edition in 2026. Organized collaboratively by free-market oriented organizations including Action for Development Initiative (AFODI), Mtindo Network Development Initiative, Action for Liberty and Economic Development (ALED) and other partners, the camp has grown into one of the most established locally organized platforms for introducing young Africans to the ideas of individual liberty, free markets, entrepreneurship, and limited government. The 2026 edition, held under the theme “A Free and Prosperous Africa,” brought together students, young entrepreneurs, professionals, and civil-society actors for an intensive residential program of keynote lectures, panel discussions, networking sessions, and fireside conversations.

1.2 Evaluating Short Intensive Liberty Education

Short intensive educational programs and seminars have long been used by classical liberal and civic education organizations to expose participants to foundational ideas and to stimulate critical discussion. Evaluations of comparable interventions have shown that well-designed programs can produce measurable short-term gains in knowledge, increase conceptual complexity in participants’ understanding of liberty, and foster residual engagement and civic motivation (Arthur et al., 2023; Center for Civic Education, n.d.). At the same time, the literature consistently notes that knowledge gains are often more readily detectable than durable changes in attitudes or behavior, and that program effects depend heavily on selection, intensity, facilitation quality, and follow-up mechanisms (Wolf, 2007; Liberia Civic Education Impact Evaluation, 2025).

In the African context, where formal curricula and policy environments frequently provide limited sustained exposure to classical liberal ideas, intensive camps of this kind constitute one of the few

structured vehicles available for concentrated engagement (Reason, 2018). Systematic quantitative evidence on their short-term cognitive and motivational effects, however, remains scarce.

1.3 Rationale and Research Aim

While qualitative accounts from organizers and speakers provide valuable insight into design intentions and perceived mechanisms of influence, participant-reported outcomes are essential for assessing whether the camp achieves its intended short-term effects. This study therefore examines the self-reported knowledge gains, perceived impacts, and behavioral intentions of participants at Africa Liberty Camp 2026, using anonymized questionnaire data, in order to assess the short-term cognitive and motivational effects of the camp.

1.4 Research Questions

The study is guided by four research questions:

RQ1. To what extent did participants report changes in their understanding of individual liberty, free markets, entrepreneurship, property rights, and public policy after attending the camp?

RQ2. How did participants rate the influence of the camp on their understanding of liberty, confidence in defending liberty, leadership ability, entrepreneurial mindset, networking opportunities, and desire to create positive change?

RQ3. What behavioral intentions related to promoting liberty were most frequently reported by participants, and were higher levels of intention associated with more positive evaluations of the camp experience and logistics?

RQ4. Which session formats and logistical elements were most strongly associated with positive overall evaluations and higher recommendation likelihood?

1.5 Objectives

- To measure and compare participants' self-reported understanding of five core liberty-related topics before and after the camp.
- To describe the distribution of perceived impact across six key areas.
- To identify the most common post-camp behavioral intentions and examine their relationship with overall satisfaction.
- To determine which session types and logistical factors were linked to more positive participant evaluations and recommendation likelihood.
- To generate evidence-based insights that can inform the design and targeting of future liberty-oriented camps.

1.6 Position within the Trilogy

This paper constitutes the first study in the Africa Liberty Camp 2026 Impact Trilogy. It provides the quantitative participant-outcome baseline. The second paper reports qualitative findings from organizers and speakers, and the third integrates both strands in a mixed-methods evaluation.

1.7 The Background of the Trilogy

This evaluation is conducted by Action for Development Initiative (AFODI). To the best of our knowledge, AFODI is currently the only organization systematically studying the outcomes of Africa Liberty Camp and making the findings available through open-access publication. The present paper forms part of AFODI's broader effort to generate rigorous, publicly accessible evidence on liberty-oriented education and policy in Uganda and the wider East African region.

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Design

This study employed a cross-sectional, post-event quantitative design with retrospective pre–post knowledge items. Single-wave post-event surveys with retrospective pre-test questions are widely used in the evaluation of short intensive educational programs when true experimental pre-testing is logistically difficult or risks priming participants (Hill and Betz, 2005; Lam and Bengo, 2003). The design prioritizes the measurement of self-reported cognitive change, perceived influence, and behavioral intentions immediately after the intervention, consistent with established approaches in civic and liberty education evaluation (Arthur et al., 2023; Center for Civic Education, n.d.).

2.2 Participants and Sample

The target population consisted of all participants who attended Africa Liberty Camp 2026. A convenience sample of attendees who completed the feedback questionnaire was analyzed. After data cleaning, 23 fully completed responses were retained.

The sample was predominantly Ugandan, with smaller representation from Kenya and South Sudan. Students constituted the largest occupational group, followed by entrepreneurs, professionals, and civil-society actors. Most respondents were aged 18–24 or 25–34. While the sample size is modest, it is typical of feedback evaluations of intensive residential programs of this scale and provides sufficient data for descriptive analysis and basic comparisons (Malterud, Siersma and Guassora, 2016, on information power adapted to quantitative descriptive studies).

2.3 Instrument

Data were collected using a structured online questionnaire. The instrument contained:

- Six overall experience items rated on a three-point scale (Not at all / Yes / Very much);
- Retrospective pre–post ratings of understanding of five core topics (Individual Liberty, Free Markets, Entrepreneurship, Property Rights, Public Policy) on a five-level scale (Very Low to Very High);
- Six perceived-influence items (Understanding of liberty, Confidence in defending liberty, Leadership ability, Entrepreneurial mindset, Networking opportunities, Desire to create positive change) rated as Not at all / Moderately / Significantly;
- Identification of the most impactful session types;
- Logistics ratings (Registration, Accommodation, Meals, Venue, Communication, Time Management, Overall Organization);
- Behavioral intention and future engagement items;
- A recommendation likelihood item;
- Open-ended questions for qualitative context.

The use of short ordinal scales and retrospective pre–post items is common in post-event evaluation of educational interventions where minimizing respondent burden is important (Pratt, McGuigan and Katzev, 2000; Lam and Bengo, 2003).

2.4 Data Collection

The questionnaire was administered online shortly after the camp (early to mid-August 2026). Participation was voluntary. Responses were anonymized prior to analysis; identifying information (names, emails, phone numbers) was removed. The final analytic dataset contained 23 complete cases.

2.5 Data Analysis

Analysis was primarily descriptive. Frequencies and percentages were calculated for all closed items. For knowledge gains, the proportion of respondents rating their understanding as High or Very High before and after the camp was compared for each topic. Perceived influence was summarized by the percentage reporting “Significantly.” Session impact, logistics ratings, and future engagement intentions were likewise reported as frequencies and percentages.

Where relevant, simple cross-tabulations were examined to explore associations between overall satisfaction, recommendation likelihood, and other variables. Given the modest sample size and the ordinal nature of most measures, the emphasis remained on transparent descriptive presentation rather than inferential statistics (Field, 2018). Open-ended responses were reviewed for illustrative context but were not subjected to formal thematic analysis in this quantitative paper.

2.6 Ethical Considerations

Participation was voluntary and respondents were informed that their feedback would be used for program evaluation and academic publication. All data were anonymized. No sensitive personal information was retained. The study was conducted as a low-risk program evaluation of an adult educational event and did not require formal institutional review board approval under standard guidelines for such evaluations (British Educational Research Association, 2018).

3. Results

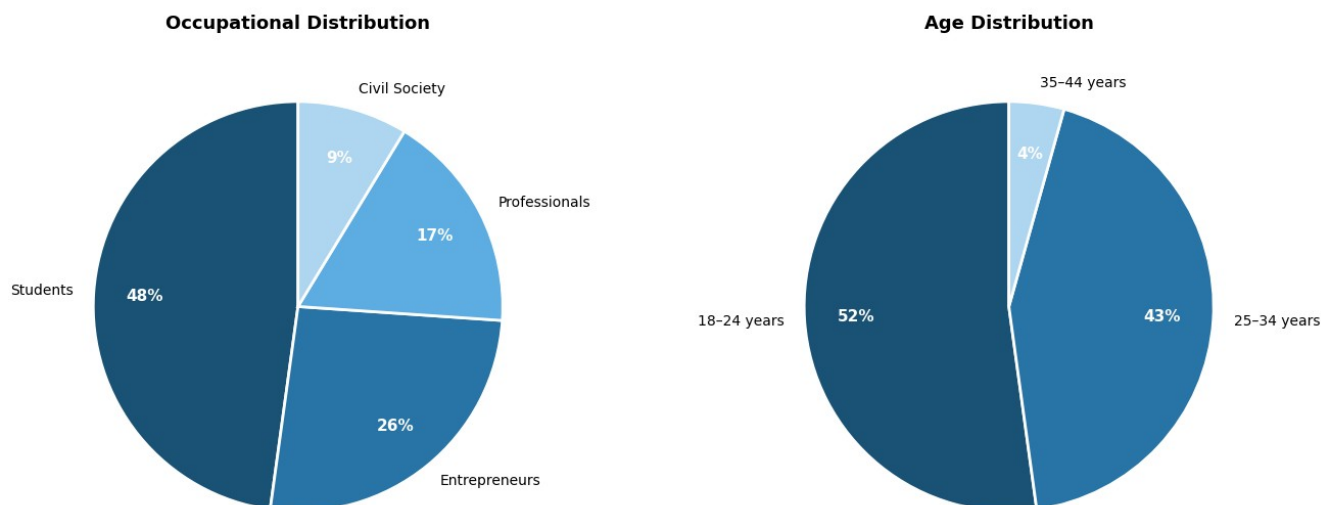
The results are based on 23 completed participant questionnaires. All percentages are calculated against this total (n = 23).

3.1 Sample Characteristics

The majority of respondents were Ugandan (approximately 20/23). The sample also included one participant from Kenya and one from South Sudan.

Occupationally, students formed the largest group (about 10/23), followed by entrepreneurs (roughly 6–7/23) and professionals or civil-society actors. Most respondents fell in the 18–24 and 25–34 age ranges.

Figure 1: Profile of Respondents



Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

3.2 Overall Experience Ratings

Participants rated six overall experience items on a three-point scale (Not at all / Yes / Very much).

- **The camp met my expectations:** 10/23 (43%) answered “Very much,” 11/23 (48%) answered “Yes,” and only 1/23 answered “Not at all.”
- **Sessions were relevant:** 10/23 (43%) “Very much,” 11/23 (48%) “Yes,” 1/23 “Not at all.”
- **Speakers were knowledgeable:** 15/23 (65%) answered “Very much” and 7/23 (30%) “Yes.” Only one respondent rated this negatively.
- **Discussions were engaging:** 12/23 (52%) “Very much,” 8/23 (35%) “Yes.”
- **The camp was well organized:** 10/23 (43%) “Very much,” 12/23 (52%) “Yes.”
- **I would recommend this camp:** 17/23 (74%) answered “Very much” and a further 4/23 answered “Yes.” Only one respondent indicated they would not recommend it.

Overall, the large majority of participants expressed positive or strongly positive evaluations of the camp experience.

3.3 Knowledge Gains (Before–After)

Participants rated their understanding of five topics before and after the camp using a five-level scale (Very Low to Very High). Clear upward shifts are visible across all topics.

Individual Liberty

- Before: 15/23 (65%) rated their understanding as Moderate; only 5/23 rated it High or Very High.
- After: 13/23 (57%) rated it Very High and a further 4/23 High.

Free Markets

- Before: responses were more spread (High 10/23, Moderate 5/23, Low 5/23).
- After: 19/23 (83%) rated their understanding as High or Very High.

Entrepreneurship

- Before: 9/23 Moderate, 7/23 Very High, 5/23 High.
- After: 20/23 (87%) rated it High or Very High.

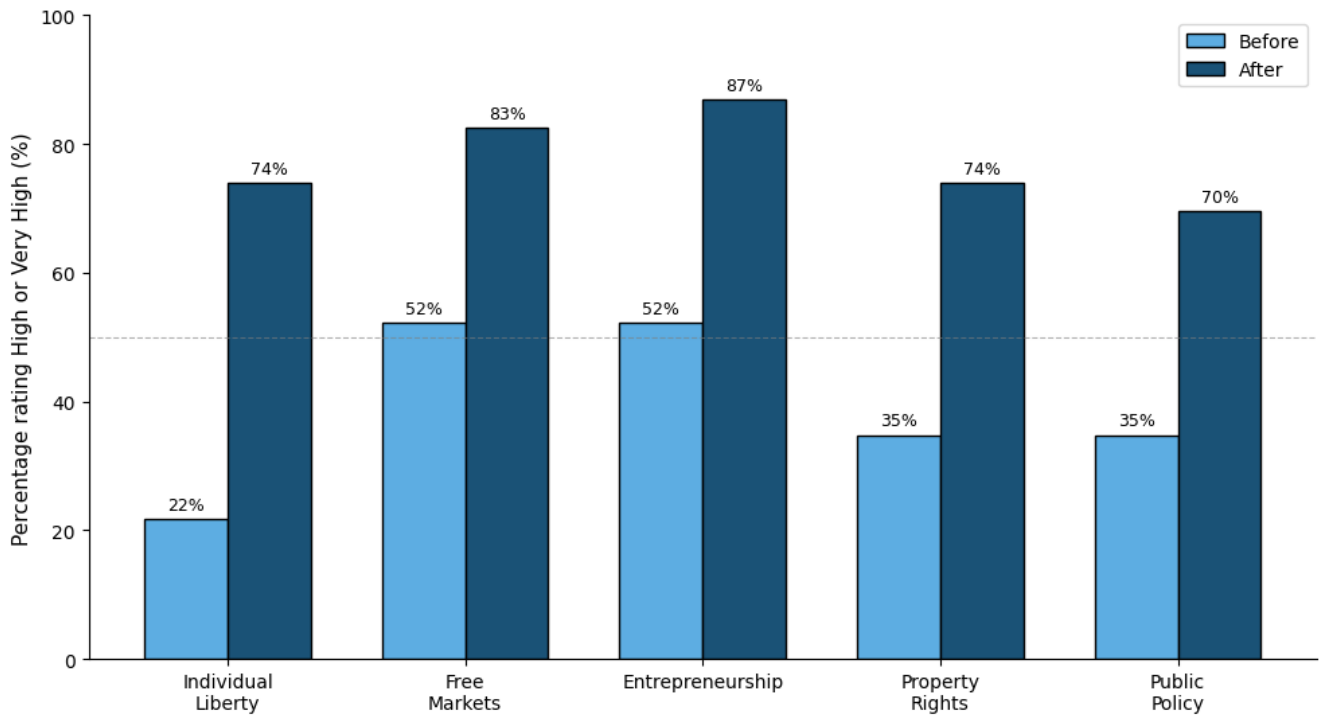
Property Rights

- Before: relatively lower (Moderate 8/23, Low 6/23).
- After: 17/23 (74%) rated it High or Very High.

Public Policy

- Before: lowest starting point (Low or Moderate for 14/23).
- After: 16/23 (70%) rated it High or Very High.

Figure 2: Knowledge Gains



Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

In summary, self-reported understanding increased across all five domains, with the most visible gains in Individual Liberty, Free Markets, and Entrepreneurship.

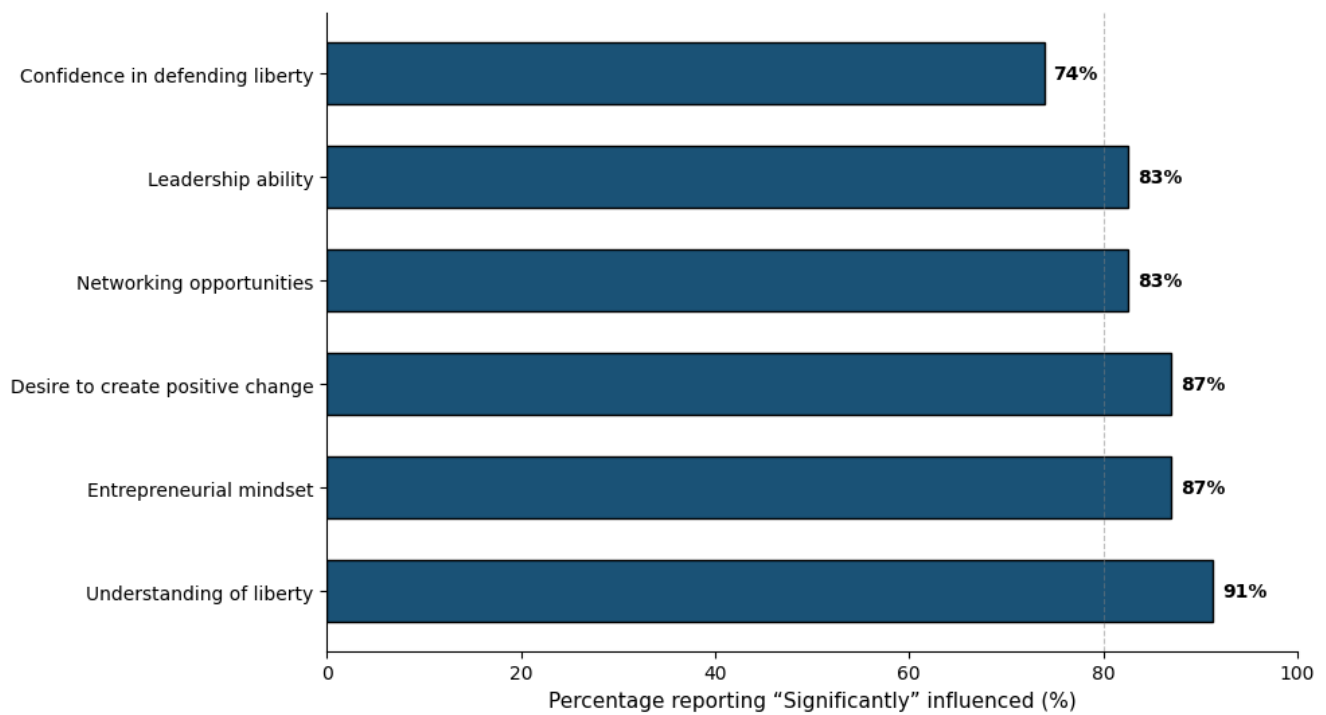
3.4 Perceived Influence of the Camp

Participants rated how much the camp had influenced six areas (Not at all / Moderately / Significantly).

- Understanding of liberty: 21/23 (91%) “Significantly”
- Confidence in defending liberty: 17/23 (74%) “Significantly”
- Leadership ability: 19/23 (83%) “Significantly”
- Entrepreneurial mindset: 20/23 (87%) “Significantly”
- Networking opportunities: 19/23 (83%) “Significantly”
- Desire to create positive change: 20/23 (87%) “Significantly”

Across all six domains, the large majority of respondents reported significant influence. Moderate ratings were few, and negative ratings were almost absent.

Figure 3: Influence



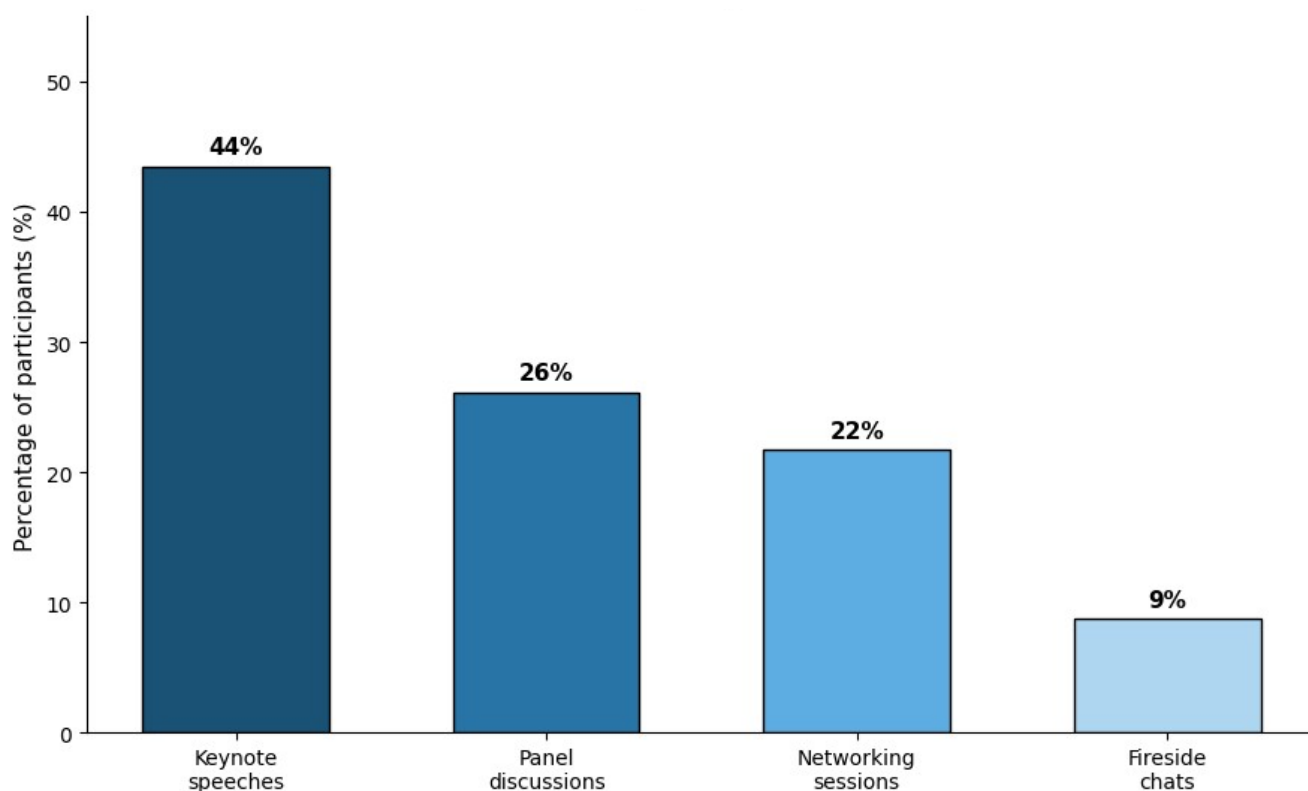
Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

3.5 Most Impactful Session Types

When asked which sessions had the greatest impact:

- Keynote speeches: 10/23 (43%)
- Networking sessions: 5/23 (22%)
- Panel discussions / panel sessions: 6/23 (26%)
- Camp fireside chats: 2/23 (9%)

Figure 4: Impact



Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

Keynote speeches were the single most frequently cited format, followed by panels and networking.

3.6 Logistics Ratings

Logistics items were rated on a scale ranging from Poor to Excellent.

- **Registration:** 20/23 (87%) rated it Very Good or Excellent.
- **Accommodation:** more mixed — 13/23 (57%) Fair, 10/23 Very Good or Excellent.
- **Meals:** 21/23 (91%) Very Good or Excellent.
- **Venue:** 22/23 (96%) Very Good or Excellent.
- **Communication:** 16/23 (70%) Very Good or Excellent; 7/23 Fair.
- **Time Management:** the weakest area — 11/23 (48%) Fair, only 11/23 Very Good or Excellent, and 1 Poor.
- **Overall Organization:** 18/23 (78%) Very Good or Excellent.

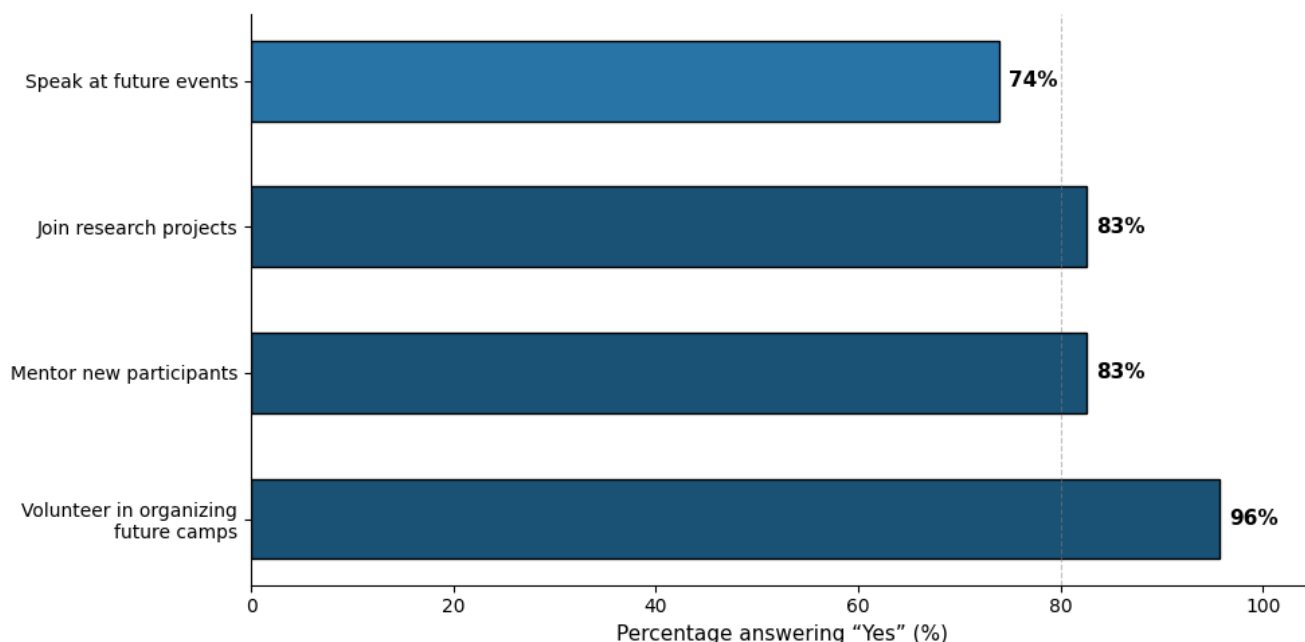
Venue, meals, and registration received the strongest ratings; time management and accommodation were the relative weak points.

3.7 Behavioral Intentions and Future Engagement

Willingness to engage further was high:

- Volunteer in organizing future camps: 22/23 (96%) Yes
- Speak at future events: 17/23 (74%) Yes
- Mentor new participants: 19/23 (83%) Yes
- Join research projects: 19/23 (83%) Yes

Figure 5: Willingness to Engage in Future Activities



Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

3.8 Recommendation Likelihood

When asked how likely they were to recommend Africa Liberty Camp to a friend or colleague, 20/23 (87%) answered "Very much" and the remaining 3/23 answered "Yes." No respondent indicated they would not recommend the camp.

4. Discussion

4.1 Interpretation of Key Findings

Of the 64 participants who attended Africa Liberty Camp 2026, 23 completed the feedback questionnaire, corresponding to a response rate of approximately 36%. While modest, this rate is typical for voluntary post-event surveys of intensive residential programs.

The quantitative results indicate that the camp produced clear, participant-reported short-term effects. Self-reported understanding of the five core topics rose substantially: the share of respondents rating their knowledge as High or Very High increased by more than 30 percentage points in every domain, with the largest gain recorded for Individual Liberty (from 22% to 74%). Perceived influence was equally strong. Between 74% and 91% of respondents reported that the camp had influenced them “Significantly” across the six measured areas—understanding of liberty, confidence in defending liberty, leadership ability, entrepreneurial mindset, networking opportunities, and desire to create positive change.

Keynote speeches emerged as the most frequently cited high-impact format (43%), followed by panel discussions and networking sessions. Logistics ratings were generally positive, particularly for venue, meals, and registration. Time management was the clearest area of criticism. Nevertheless, the very high levels of reported influence, the strong willingness to remain engaged in future activities (including a 96% readiness to volunteer), and the near-universal willingness to recommend the camp indicate that this operational shortcoming did not undermine the overall perceived value of the experience.

High satisfaction with meals and the particularly strong endorsement of keynote speakers further support the conclusion that the core educational and relational elements of the camp were successful. Combined with the excellent venue ratings and the exceptionally high recommendation rates, the results suggest that Africa Liberty Camp has established itself as a recognized and valued platform within East African libertarian and free-market networks. The data portray a program that, despite identifiable logistical weaknesses, delivers meaningful short-term cognitive and motivational effects and generates substantial residual commitment among participants.

4.2 Implications for Program Design

The data support several practical implications. First, the magnitude of reported knowledge gains and influence suggests that the intensive residential format continues to be an effective vehicle for short-term cognitive and motivational effects. Second, the prominence of keynote speeches underscores the value of high-quality external speakers, while the solid showing of panels and networking points to the importance of balancing didactic and interactive elements. Third, the weaker ratings for time management and accommodation indicate clear operational priorities for subsequent editions. Fourth, the very high future-engagement intentions constitute a ready pool of potential alumni contributors that organizers can systematically cultivate through structured follow-up, mentorship schemes, or alumni roles.

4.3 Limitations

Several limitations should be acknowledged. Although 23 of the 64 camp participants completed the questionnaire (a response rate of 36%), the sample is self-selected; those who responded may differ in motivation or satisfaction from those who did not. All measures are self-reported and collected retrospectively, which raises the possibility of social-desirability bias and recall distortion (Hill and Betz,

2005; Pratt, McGuigan and Katzev, 2000). The predominantly ordinal scales, while reducing respondent burden, limit statistical granularity. Finally, the study captures only immediate post-camp perceptions; longer-term retention of knowledge or translation into behavior is not part of the assessment's scope.

4.4 Contribution within the Trilogy

Despite these limitations, the study supplies a clear quantitative baseline of participant-reported outcomes. It demonstrates that, from the participants' own perspective, the 2026 camp generated substantial short-term knowledge gains, strong perceived influence, and high residual commitment. These findings will be integrated with the qualitative perspectives of organizers and speakers in the forthcoming mixed-methods paper, allowing a more comprehensive assessment of both outcomes and the mechanisms that produced them.

5. Conclusion

This quantitative evaluation of Africa Liberty Camp 2026 shows that participants reported substantial short-term gains in understanding of core liberty-related topics, strong perceived influence across cognitive, motivational, and relational domains, and high residual commitment to the ideas and the community formed at the camp.

Self-reported knowledge increased markedly across all five measured areas, with the clearest gains in Individual Liberty, Free Markets, and Entrepreneurship. The large majority of respondents indicated that the camp had significantly influenced their understanding of liberty, confidence in defending it, leadership capacity, entrepreneurial mindset, networking, and desire to create positive change. Keynote speeches were identified as the most impactful session format, while venue, meals, and registration received particularly strong logistical ratings. Time management emerged as the principal operational weakness, yet it did not appear to diminish overall satisfaction or willingness to remain involved.

Nearly all respondents expressed readiness to recommend the camp and to contribute to future editions through volunteering, mentoring, speaking, or research. These patterns, drawn from 23 of the 64 participants, portray Africa Liberty Camp as a program that continues to deliver meaningful short-term educational and motivational effects and that has established itself as a valued platform within East African free-market and liberty networks.

As the first paper in the Africa Liberty Camp 2026 Impact Trilogy, this study provides the quantitative participant-outcome baseline. The findings will be integrated with qualitative insights from organizers and speakers in the subsequent mixed-methods evaluation, allowing a more complete assessment of both results and the processes that produced them.

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