

# GIZ African Union Office

Diversity is power and unity in diversity is strength

Annual Report 2021

# Abbreviations

AU .....	African Union	ECOWAS .....	Economic Community of West African States
AA .....	German Federal Foreign Office	EU .....	European Union
AEEP .....	Africa-European Union Energy Partnership	GIZ .....	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
AfCDC .....	The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention	GmBS .....	Gender makes Business Sense
AfCFTA .....	African Continental Free Trade Area	ICBP .....	Institutional Capacity Building Programme
AGA .....	African Governance Architecture	iDove .....	Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism
APRM .....	African Peer Review Mechanism	IGAD .....	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
APSA .....	African Peace and Security Architecture	IPSS .....	Institute for Peace and Security Studies
ATVET4W .....	Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women	MENA .....	Middle East and North Africa
AU .....	African Union	MS TCDC .....	MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation
AUBP .....	African Union Border Programme	MSME .....	Micro-, Small- Medium-sized Enterprise
AUC .....	African Union Commission	NELGA .....	Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa
AUC-CIDO .....	African Union Commission Citizens and Diaspora Directorate	PAU .....	Pan African University
AUDA-NEPAD .....	African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa's Development	PAUWES .....	Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change)
BMZ .....	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	PIDA .....	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
CBN .....	Continental Business Network	PVE .....	Prevention of Violent Extremism
COVID-19 .....	Corona virus disease of 2019	RECs .....	Regional Economic Communities
DataCipation .....	Citizen Engagement and Innovative Data Use for Africa's Development	SADC .....	Southern African Development Community
EAC .....	East African Community	SDGs .....	Sustainable Development Goals
ECCAS .....	Economic Community of Central African States	SIFA .....	Skills Initiative for Africa
ECCAS BP .....	Support to the ECCAS Border Programme	SLGA .....	Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa
		SME .....	Small-, Medium-sized Enterprise



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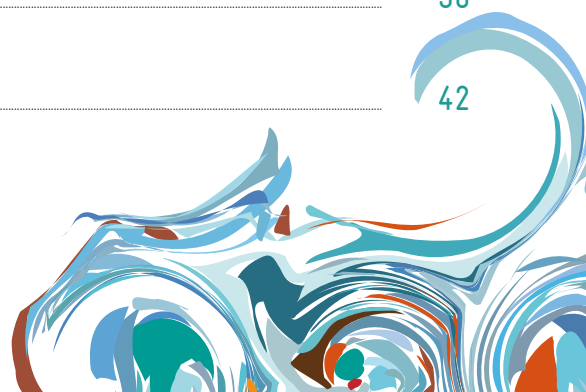


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# Welcome by Director Dr Inge Baumgarten

We all know how difficult it is to change perspectives and mindsets – may they be unconscious or deliberate. And while cartographers have made progress in projecting the Earth, in many people's minds around the world the size of Africa is often underestimated while Europe is pictured bigger.

The African continent could easily fit the landmass of the European Union seven times. By taking a different perspective we can learn about others and ourselves and challenge biases. We can see how diverse we are but fundamentally so similar. We can leverage our different views, ideas and emotions to connect with each other, exchange and benefit from everybody's experience.

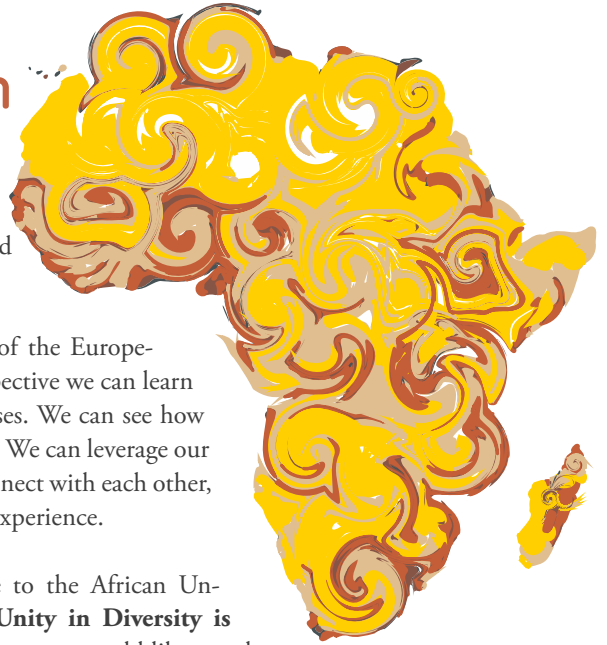
That is why the GIZ Liaison Office to the African Union made '**Diversity is Power and Unity in Diversity is Strength**' its core motto. With this report, we would like to celebrate the diversity in our work with our partners as well as the diversity of people we work for and with.

**German International Cooperation** with the African Union and its institutions has been and remains varied and comprehensive. Currently, we are focusing efforts in the areas of peace and security, governance and migration as well as trade, infrastructure, skills and education. Additionally, we are happy to contribute our part to underpin Africa's pandemic response now and in the future.

This cooperation is built by and with a team of enthusiastic and dedicated people all over Africa. They are responsible for our successes, for which we are most grateful. In this report, you will find **Portraits** of some of them. In the **Faces & Stories** section, you see examples of people directly benefiting from our partnership with the African Union. Furthermore, we let you take part in our daily work on such concrete goals like increasing the numbers of female police officers, fostering youth inclusion and hacking for peace.

We commend the **African Union** for their efforts and progress achieved to implement its vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena. We are looking forward to our continued, evolving, and trusted partnership.

Addis Ababa, April 2022



» Visit our [GIZ AU Website](#),  
follow us on [twitter](#)  
or contact us at [africanunion@giz.de](mailto:africanunion@giz.de)





## Our vision



We are a **TRUSTED PARTNER** of the African Union



We **EMBODY CHANGE** and facilitate change processes across the continent



We foster **INNOVATION** and **SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS** to continental challenges



We **connect** people, partners and ideas across Africa

The African Union (AU) is the most important pan-African organisation, uniting all African states. It combines convening power, experience in finding continental solutions and the potential to foster regional integration. Thus, the collaboration with the AU is a foundational part of Germany's international cooperation.

Since 2004, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been working with the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and multiple departments of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), its Specialised Institutions, Organs, Member States, and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Our common goal is to strengthen capacities and enhance coordination between and efficiency of the continental, regional and national levels of development.



The GIZ-AU partnership is rooted in the AU's vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa aiming to find African solutions to African challenges to realise the Africa they want. For this purpose, its strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development is The Agenda 2063. The seven core aspirations

of the Agenda 2063 are designed to accelerate Africa's growth and development, while simultaneously contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### AU Vision

An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.



# ABOUT GIZ AU

Our programmes,  
footprint and team





## Areas of work

We are dedicated to being a strong and trusted partner to the African Union. On behalf of our commissioning party, the German government, as well as other global players like the European Union (EU), the government of Norway, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, we support the AU in its work in 35 of the 55 African Member States. Our activities with the AU focus on the areas of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Training and Sustainable Growth for Decent Jobs, Pandemic Prevention and Response, and Land Governance.

All programmes commissioned by the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and the **German Federal Foreign Office (AA)** contribute to the United Nations' Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the AU's Aspirations of the Agenda 2063 towards the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity.

## Agenda 2063 and 7 Aspirations



### Aspiration-1

A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development



### Aspiration-5

An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics



### Aspiration-2

An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance



### Aspiration-6

An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children



### Aspiration-3

An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law



### Aspiration-7

Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner



### Aspiration-4

A peaceful and secure Africa



# List of programmes of the GIZ AU portfolio

## PEACEFUL & INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES



**APSA** Support to the African Peace and Security Architecture  
(06/2018 – 04/2022, EUR 7.5 million)

**IPSS** Support to the Research and Training Programme of the African Union in the Area of Peace and Security  
(07/2018 – 4/2022, EUR 7.5 million)

**Tana** Support to the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa  
(07/2021 – 09/2022, EUR 0.7 million)

**AUBP** Support to the African Union Border Programme  
(01/2020 – 12/2022, EUR 18.0 million)

**ECCAS BP** Support to the ECCAS Border Programme  
(09/2019 – 03/2023, EUR 13.3 million)\*

**AU AFRIPOL** Programme to Build and Strengthen the Police Structures in Selected Partner Countries in Africa  
(07/2019 – 12/2022, EUR 3.5 million)

**DataCipation** Citizens Engagement and Innovative Data Use for Africa's Development  
(06/2020 – 06/2023, EUR 11.9 million)

**AGA** Support to the African Governance Architecture  
(01/2020 – 06/2023, EUR 9.3 million)

**ICBP** Institutional Capacity Building Programme  
(01/2021 – 12/2023, EUR 3.0 million)

**Migration** Support to the African Union in the Area of Labor Migration and Free Movement of Persons  
(01/2022 – 12/2024, EUR 5.6 million)\*\*\*

## ONE WORLD – NO HUNGER: LAND GOVERNANCE

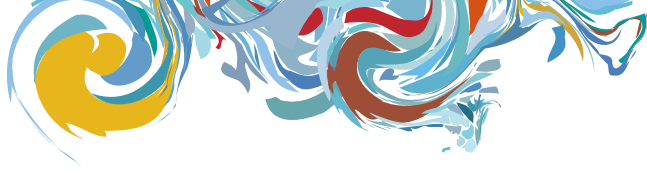


**SLGA** Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa  
(01/2021 – 11/2026, EUR 24.0 million)

All programmes are on behalf of the German government.







## TRAINING & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR DECENT JOBS



- SIFA** Skills Initiative for Africa  
(10/2016 – 12/2022, EUR 18.5 million)\*
- ATVET4W** Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women  
(01/2017 – 10/2022, EUR 22.0 million)\*\*
- PAU** Support to the Pan African University  
(08/2020 – 12/2022, EUR 3.7 million)
- ENACTUS** Support to the Entrepreneurship Hubs of the Pan African University (PAU)  
(12/2021 – 12/2022, EUR 0.5 million)

- AfCFTA** Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area  
(08/2020 – 08/2024, EUR 48.0 million)\*
- PIDA** Support to the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa  
(11/2021 – 10/2024, EUR 7.0 million)
- AEEP** Africa-European Union Energy Partnership  
(04/2018 – 09/2026, EUR 6.8 million)\*

## PANDEMIC PREVENTION & RESPONSE



- AfCDC** Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Prevention in Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
(12/2021 – 11/2024, EUR 3.2 million)

## Diversity is power

'Diversity' will be the focus of this year's report which goes in line with the AU's theme of the year 2021 'Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want.' Underlining the importance of diversity to us, we declared our core motto to be 'Diversity is Power and Unity in Diversity is Strength.'

On the following pages, we not only want to present the different dimensions and our understanding of diversity, but highlight the diversity of our team and the people we reach, the diversity of our working areas in cooperation with the African Union and the diversity of the African continent.

### Through our work in 2021...



**5,500+**  
**professionals**  
received trainings  
to develop their skills.



**4,000+** people  
**networked** and  
exchanged their  
knowledge in  
**30+ events.**



**320,000+**  
**social media**  
**users** actively  
participated in our  
online campaigns.



**90 knowledge**  
**products** were  
developed with our  
partners and are now  
in use to advance  
regional integration.



**1,000+ km**  
previously ill-defined  
**borderlines** were  
**delimited** and  
**demarkated**  
contributing to peace.



**Participation** from the  
private sector and civil society  
representatives in **120+**  
**initiatives** of continental scope  
**supported and improved.**



We ensured that statements  
towards **human rights,**  
**gender equality,** and **climate**  
**protection** are included in **45**  
official **AU policy documents.**

Our motto:

*Diversity is power  
and unity in diversity  
is strength.*



Diversity

# Our guiding principles of diversity

## Building bridges

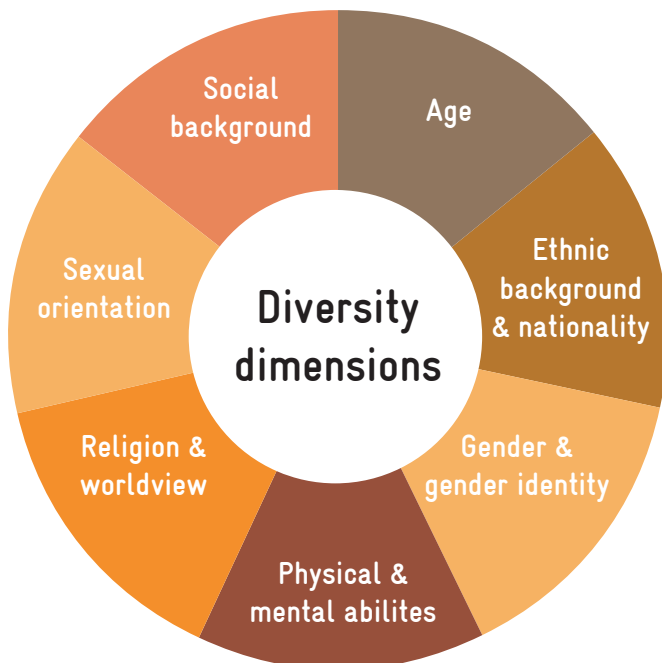
Diversity might have different personal meanings to everyone and finding one common definition is challenging. However, it is about the importance of diversity in our lives and working environment, and its essential message and necessity towards eliminating all forms of discrimination, stereotypes and personal conscious and unconscious biases.

GIZ states diversity as recognising, respecting and benefiting from diverse identities and their varied experiences, life plans and outlooks. Working with people of different backgrounds all over the world makes us a di-

verse company where everyone should have equal opportunities to participate in shaping a future worth living. In our own perception and role in international cooperation, we have an obligation to stand up for diversity and its different dimension. That is why we at GIZ AU define our core motto as

*‘Diversity is Power and  
Unity in Diversity is Strength.’*

GIZ has signed the Diversity Charta, an initiative to promote diversity in companies and institutions. These are its core dimensions of diversity:



We celebrate and appreciate diversity and want to unify in all our diverse aspects to find the best solutions to the challenges of the future. Thus, we established a team of so-called change agents who support us in achieving the greatest possible harmony of working together in a diverse context. As an example, we carried

out awareness raising measures and conducted trainings on inclusion and unconscious bias, power and privileges. We commit ourselves to this and are in the process of developing the following eight guiding principles of equality, diversity and inclusion for our daily work at GIZ AU:

### Tolerance & Respect

Diversity by its nature means among others different cultures, beliefs, backgrounds, point of views. Respecting this and resolving and discussing differences amicably.

### Equity in Rules & Opportunities

Minimizing intercontinental differences in rules and ensuring equitable access to opportunity for staff as well as creating a safe space to discuss issues.

### Encouraging Creativity

Creating mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue and opportunities for cultural exchanges translated in different languages.

### Togetherness

Supporting one another and working towards an inclusive environment.

### Empathy & Understanding

Understanding the other's point of view by putting yourself in their shoes and making them feel at ease.

### Belongingness

Identifying as one team despite being based in different African regions and working towards multiple objectives. GIZ AU unites us all.

### Diverse Recruiting Strategy

Ensuring more inclusive recruiting policies irrespective of ethnicity, gender, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, age etc.

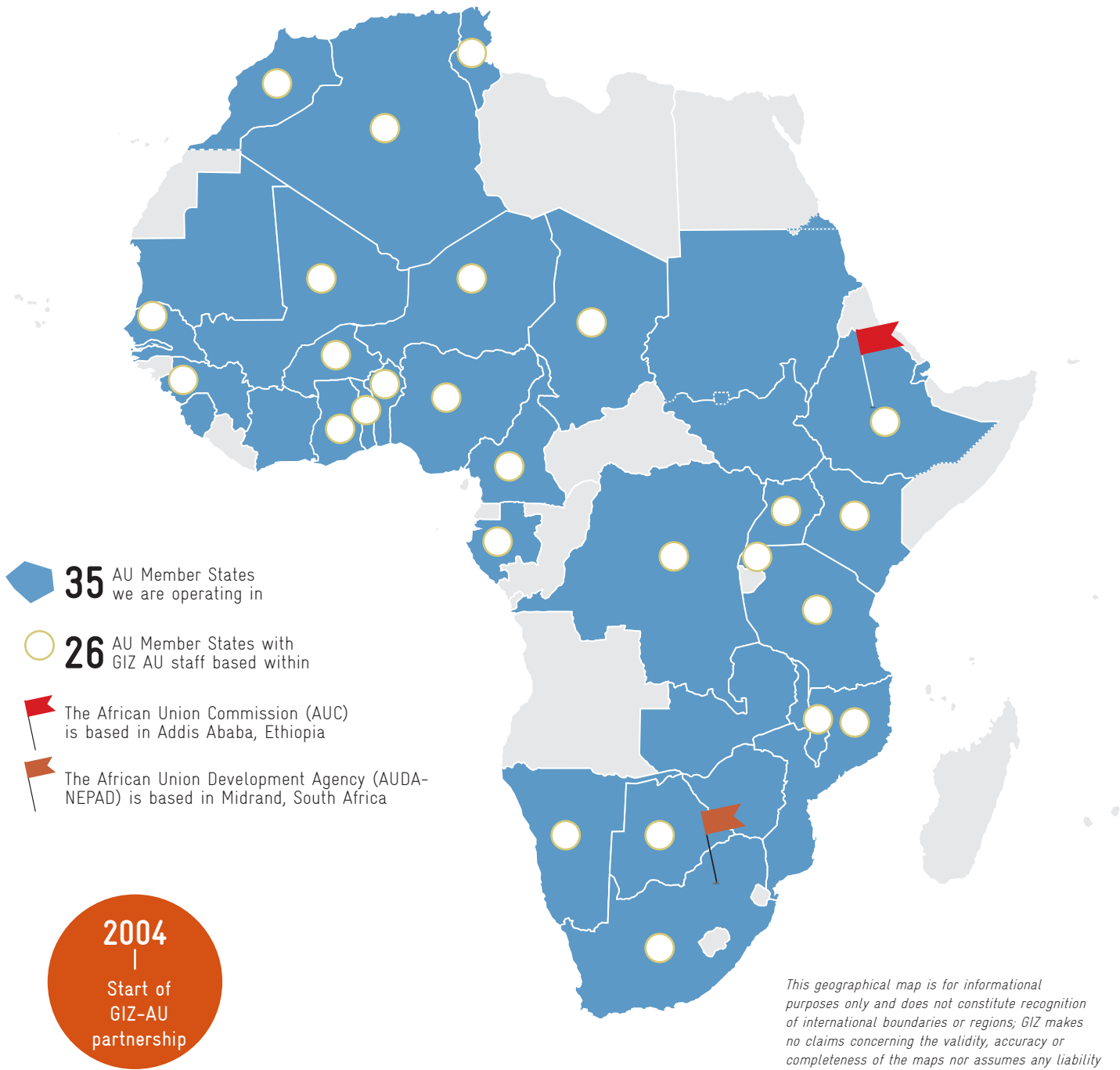
### Bridging the Generation Gap

Finding common ground with peers from different age groups to learn and exchange ideas through mentoring and coaching on life skills.

# Diversity



# Facts and figures



## Portfolio activities

National

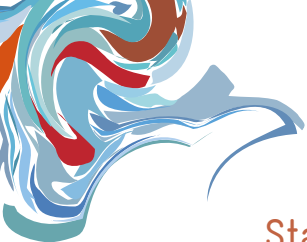
Regional

Continental

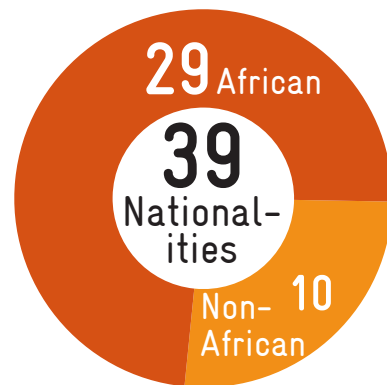
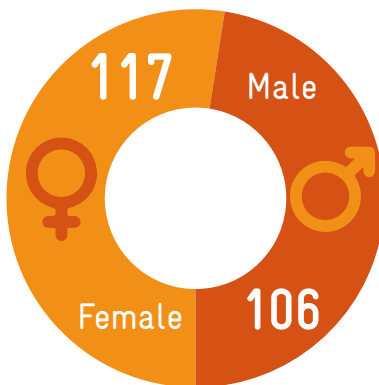
Activities in  
**35**  
Member States

**5**  
Cooperation with  
RECs  
(EAC, ECCAS  
ECOWAS, IGAD,  
SADC)

Collaboration  
with AUC,  
AUDA-NEPAD and  
other specialised  
agencies and  
organs  
of the AU



## Staff



## Budget and expenditure

Expenditure in million Euros as of December 2021 was

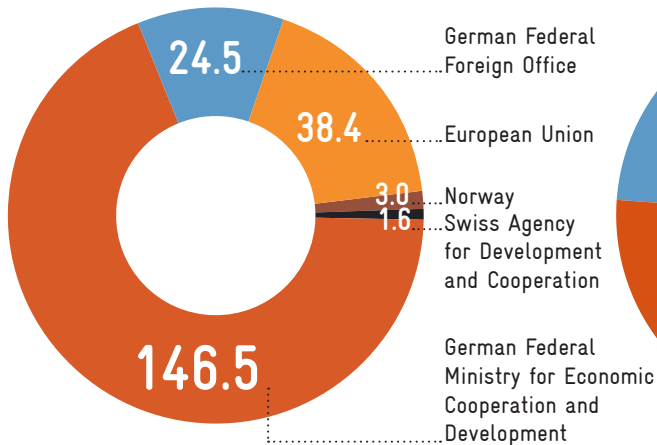
**51**

Overall budget in million Euros as of April 2022 (current project phases)

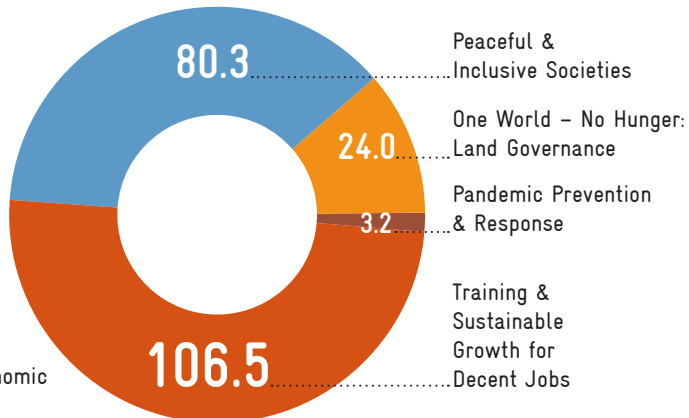
**214**



Budget by commissioning party in million Euros



Budget by thematic area in million Euros



## GIZ AU staff portraits

The GIZ AU Office is fortunate to have passionate minds and personalities from diverse backgrounds working behind our collaborative programmes. These are varied experts worldwide – from different cultures, ethnic groups and nationalities, working together to realise the Africa that its citizens want. We want to acknowledge and celebrate this diversity and introduce some of these valued professionals.



**Sophia Laizer Malemo**  
AGA, Tanzania



### > Tell us something about yourself

I'm a very resourceful and ambitious person who is solution-oriented, creative, and solves problems without necessarily escalating to my supervisor if it is not necessary. I do it and I consider myself very good at it.

### > What do you do at GIZ AU?

My main job at GIZ AU is contracting and a bit of financing. In this context I have been organising events and managing project expenses, preparing and managing consultancies as well as financing agreements.

### > What are the best parts of your job?

The best part of my job has been interacting with colleagues in other offices around the globe/ African continent. I enjoy this form of interaction, because most of my colleagues are very cooperative, resourceful and team-minded. This has been a great experience for me.

### > What does diversity mean to you?

Diversity means the acceptance and inclusion of everyone with all their different backgrounds. This is an important asset, since it acknowledges individual strengths. Our potentials make us more cohesive and complete; with our differences we complement each other.



**James Amisah Hammond**  
AfCFTA, Ghana



### > Tell us something about yourself

I have German lineage on my mother's side. My mother's father was a local district official in the then Gold Coast. He was transferred as part of his work to Kete Krachi in the current Volta Region of Ghana where he met my grandmother.

### > What do you do at GIZ AU?

I am responsible for the setup of the technical advisory component of the project by supporting partners like the Customs, Chamber of Commerce, and Industry, and by working with the private sector towards the implementation of the AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Agreement) in Ghana.

### > What are the best parts of your job?

Interacting with various partners and meeting their expectations is something I find very invigorating. As partners have a lot of expectations about the support from GIZ and sometimes their demands are outside of GIZ's scope, it is always pleasant to maneuver and deliver on these expectations.

### > What does diversity mean to you?

Making a conscious effort to accept everyone for who they are and what they believe in, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, etc.







## Fathi Taibi

PAU, Algeria



### > Tell us something about yourself

I am a computer scientist with a PhD in Software Engineering. Most of my working experience was acquired at the international level. I am fluent in English, French, and Arabic and have basic conversational skills in Malaysian/Indonesian.

### > What do you do at GIZ AU?

I have been a technical advisor in the GIZ support project to the PAU (Pan African University) for 3 years. Currently, I manage the support to all academic and quality assurance processes including the development and review of academic programmes, teaching and learning quality.

### > What are the best parts of your job?

The chance to interact with people from diverse backgrounds both within GIZ PAU team and its partners is a unique challenge and privilege. Also, making an impact at a continental level by supporting the training and capacity development of selected African youth and the development of programmes that are important, such as the new master's programme in climate change.

### > What does diversity mean to you?

To me, diversity is appreciating people's differences (e.g. gender, age, disability, ethnicity). It is about acceptance and respect where the uniqueness of individuals is recognized and valued, and their differences are explored in a safe and positive environment.



## Nina Nick

ECCAS BP, Cameroon



### > Tell us something about yourself

You all probably know me as very active and lively, always on the go and loving to socialize. So it's certainly not surprising that I also need a little balance. Et voila, my secret passion: puzzling to come down - highly recommended!

### > What do you do at GIZ AU?

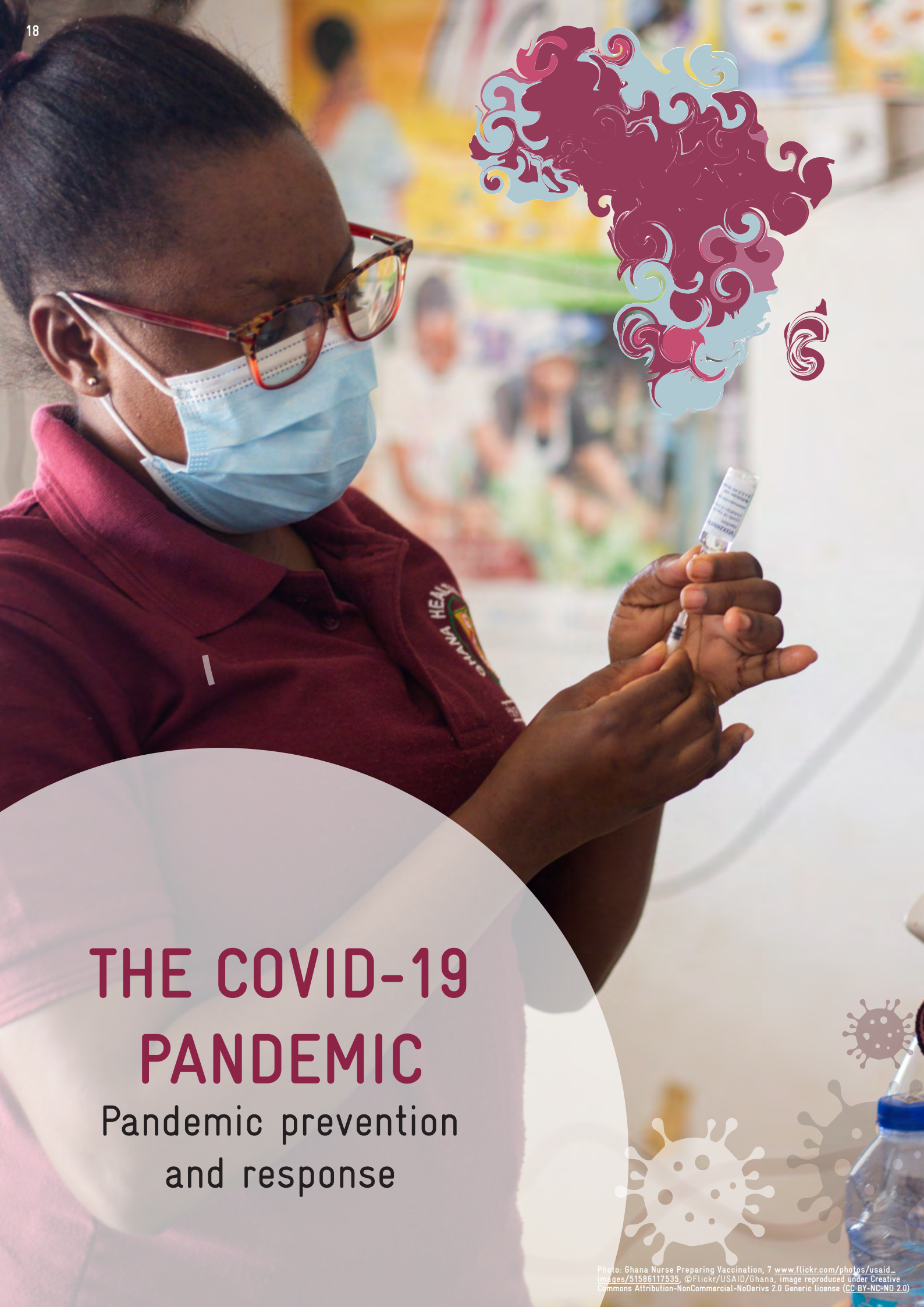
I joined the GIZ AU family as an intern at the African Union Border Programme in Addis Ababa in 2019. After a short interlude with the Civil Peace Service, I'm back. Based in Yaoundé, I'm currently working as an advisor for human rights, gender, communications and monitoring for the ECCAS Border Programme.

### > What are the best parts of your job?

One of the best parts of my job is definitely advising partners and colleagues on the thematic embedding of human rights and gender, as these for me are central to ensuring sustainable project implementation. We also have an amazing team and I enjoy working with my colleagues every day.

### > What does diversity mean to you?

I understand diversity as recognizing different perspectives and contexts and making room for them. For me, incorporating diversity is a unique opportunity to reflect on and enrich our own actions.



# THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Pandemic prevention  
and response

## SDGs



## Agenda 2063 Aspirations



## Strengthening crisis and pandemic prevention

Public health challenges have a tremendous impact on realising Africa's transformation goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need for strong, effective, and capable institutions at national, regional, and continental levels.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) have been at the forefront of Africa's response to the threats of diseases and outbreaks. Established in 2017, the Africa CDC is a specialized technical institution of the AU mandated to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control, and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

In December 2021, GIZ started implementing a new programme with the objective to 'strengthen the resilience of Africa CDC' in line with the Agenda 2063 goal of achieving a safer, healthier, integrated, and prosperous Africa. Its systematic approach is aimed at enhancing the internal capacities of the Africa CDC in organisational development, project management and partnership management. The new initiative also serves as the internal coordination hub for all GIZ funded projects with Africa CDC in various technical areas including vaccine manufacturing, and One Health amongst others. GIZ is looking forward to working together with the Africa CDC and ensuring a long and healthy life for all in Africa.

**New programme start with the Africa CDC to respond effectively to disease threats.**

## Migration and health

The connection between migration and health is recognised as a key cross-cutting issue to achieve effective migration governance in Africa. The Migration Policy Framework for Africa highlights the fact that linkages between migration and health are constantly brought to the fore in the international discourse on migration, in the context of the spread of communicable diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic is an unfortunate but perfect example of how various migrant groups are especially vulnerable and exposed to health risks.

As part of its collaboration with the AUC, GIZ supported the initial reflections and analyses to better understand the issues and challenges related to access to health care for migrants and refugees, but also to respond to the fundamental needs of key actors in terms of capacity building:

**'Migration and Health: Addressing Current Health Challenges of Migrants & Refugees in Africa'** – This report provides a scoping review of available literature at the international, continental, and regional levels, as well as in 15 African countries. Presenting an analysis of migrants' health needs based on assessment from sub-group of migrants in Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa, the study for-





ulates recommendations towards AU Member States, RECs and the AUC on improving health outcomes, also during the COVID-19 pandemic, for different migrant and refugee groups in Africa.

**10-module training course on migration and health** was developed, targeting policy makers in AU Member States and addressing issues such as universal health coverage and migration and emergency preparedness and response.

### Rapid skills assessment in 8 countries

## SIFA's skills anticipation to develop reskilling and upskilling measures

Rapid skills assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on labour markets were conducted in eight countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia). A comparative analysis of these countries identified the common skills needs of enhancing IT literacy for workers across occupations, health and safety skills, and skillsets that enable workers to handle diversified work streams.

Looking ahead towards post-pandemic times, employers emphasised the importance of reskilling of staff, particularly in specific technical skills required for innovation in each occupation, as well as team management skills, and digital skills. Findings from the comparative study were presented at the Skills Anticipation continental conference in September 2021 and formed as part of the Conference recommendations.



## Impact of COVID-19 on peace and security

Within the context of the interlinkages between good governance and peace & security, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was supported by the GIZ AGA programme to undertake five regional studies focusing on emerging threats to peace and security within the five AU regions. The studies identified the impact of COVID-19 on peace & security and mapped cross cutting issues to inform policy initiatives and COVID-19 response measures by AU Policy Organs. A continental report was presented and adopted at the APRM and Peace & Security Council first retreat in Durban, South Africa, in December 2021.

## Communication response strategy

The African Union through the Africa CDC highlighted the active involvement of citizens and the use of appropriate new technologies as key elements of a successful communication response strategy to the challenges posed by COVID-19. This ensures the real-time transmission of information relating the pandemic to African citizens, as well as fighting misinformation and misconceptions. GIZ AGA and DataCipation Programme facilitated a collaboration between Africa CDC and the pan-African research & development innovation centre *Co-Creation HUB (CcHUB)* to support innovative and effective communication projects based on African languages at the semi-urban and rural population across Africa. This involved educating the public and ensuring fact-based information using various media such as comics, animation, illustrations, infographics, interactive SMS, mobile apps, etc. The selected eight teams were supported with grant funding of up to USD 5,000 for research and design support. With these innovative mass messaging, more than 5,000,000 people were directly and more than 20,000,000 people were indirectly reached in more than 20 local languages across Africa.

8 start-ups  
developed  
50+ content

5,000,000+  
people directly  
and 20,000,000+  
people indirectly  
reached in 20+  
languages





# AFRICAN PROVERBS

on diversity



## Funtumfunefu Denkyemfunefu – Unity in Diversity



Symbol of democracy and unity  
from the Adinkra dictionary by W. Bruce Willis

*Milk and honey have  
different colours, but  
they share the same  
house peacefully.*

African proverb

*Africa is one  
continent, one  
people and one  
nation.*

Kwame Nkrumah

*Diversity is not how  
we differ. Diversity is  
about embracing one  
another's uniqueness.*

Ola Joseph

*A single bracelet  
does not jingle.*

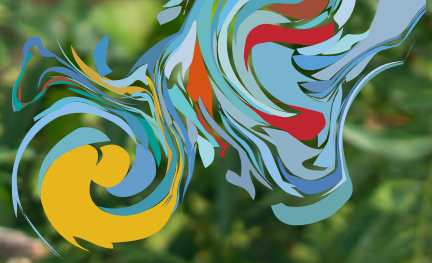
Congolese proverb

*It takes a village  
to raise a child.*

African quote

*Difference does  
not affect or spoil  
friendship or  
kindness.*

Proverb from the  
MENA region



# AGRIBUSINESS TRAINING WITH A GENDER TWIST

Why does gender  
make business sense?



## SDGs



## Agenda 2063 Aspirations



A Flagship Project of

Agenda  
**2063** The Africa  
we Want

Women's empowerment is essential for inclusive growth in Africa. The continent is the only region worldwide where more women become entrepreneurs. Yet women often face gender-based constraints in addition to challenges in access to capital and markets. In many instances, laws and customary norms restrict their ability to own and run businesses, including a lack of resources such as land, little or no vocational training, and not holding bank accounts. Socio-cultural practices may also negatively impact women's strategic choices, self-confidence and aspirations and often lead to discriminatory treatment by others. For the continent's economies, agriculture remains by far the most critical sector. Business training approaches have not sufficiently addressed these realities of African entrepreneurs. Gender makes Business Sense (GmBS) was created to shake up this status quo.

GmBS addresses all entrepreneurs to enhance their understanding of business with an integrated gender dimension to thrive with a new mindset. In addition to providing a strategic and powerful way of understanding business operations and collaborating with partners, they learn how to explain better and visualise their businesses. GmBS covers gender empowerment aspects, including management and leadership, control over the use of income, and attitudes towards abuse. The gender-transformative approach aims to equally empower both women and men, challenging them to address their own gender biases and make awareness-based inclusive business decisions.

The practical capacity development journey builds on five years of skills development for women in seven countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, and Togo. Participants of the course – both women and men – are equipped with practical business management skills, financial know-how and an understanding of the socio-economic impact of gender dynamics in their businesses.

GmBS is the flagship product of the Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women (ATVET4W) with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). An innovative approach promoting gender equality in the African business landscape and contributing to gender-transformative change in Africa.

The practical capacity  
development journey  
builds on

**5 years**  
**of skills**  
**development**  
**for women in**  
**7 countries**

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- South Africa
- Togo

**Diversity**

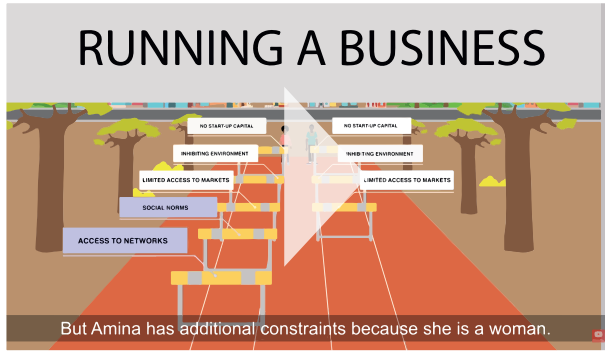
## Results

### Furthermore,

GmBS digitally contributed to entrepreneurs' resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic by launching a GmBS free online course offered to entrepreneurs across Africa as part of AUDA-NEPAD's '100.000 SMEs for 1 million jobs' initiative.

Animated teaser videos to attract the interest of entrepreneurs from all over Africa:

[Gender makes Business Sense! | AUDA-NEPAD](#)



**Women entrepreneurs in action**



*“The Gender makes Business Sense training completely unlocked my mind. I was able to get over the fear and just drive in.”*

**Anabelle Kamondo**  
Tea entrepreneur from Kenya

In 2021,

**5,000+**  
entrepreneurs  
(78% women)

**400+**  
facilitators &  
mentors  
(55% women)

**27**  
master  
trainers

have been trained or currently enrolled in training in the seven countries.

To date,

A total of

**94**  
training  
institutions

partner with SIFA in the implementation of GmBS.

71%  
private

29%  
public

According to a study by the International Finance Corporation, 90% of MSMEs across sub-Saharan Africa suffered harsh economic impacts and women-led MSMEs reported revenue losses of over 50%. They entered the pandemic with lower financial inclusion rates than male-led MSMEs which exasperated gender-based inequality.



# THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

Creating one African market



A Flagship Project of



SDGs



Agenda 2063 Aspirations



Many of the world’s fastest growing economies are in Africa. Yet the continent is still heavily reliant on commodity and agricultural exports while importing capital goods or food products predominantly from outside the continent. Increasing intra-African trade is one avenue to foster industrialization and regional value chains on the continent.

Although some Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa have achieved improvements in trade integration through tariff reductions, the African market remains fragmented and intra-African trade is

lower than in any other continent. Non-tariff barriers such as uncoordinated bureaucratic procedures, long waiting times at the border or lengthy and cumbersome export requirements raise trade costs on the continent. As a result, Africa has integrated with the rest of the world faster than with itself.

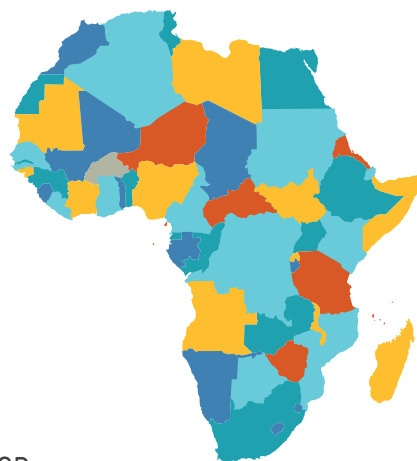
The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement is one of the AU’s flagship projects for the implementation of its 2063 Agenda – The Africa We Want. It was signed by 54 of the 55 African states and came into force in May 2019.

There is strong political support for the project and as of April 2022, 43 Member States have officially ratified it, thus becoming so-called ‘State Parties’ to the AfCFTA. The agreement covers the areas of trade in goods, trade in services and dispute settlement as well as investment, intellectual property, competition and e-commerce. At the AU Summit in February 2022, the Heads of State announced an additional protocol on women and youth.

Current challenges to intra-African trade

Many small states

Many small countries some with populations of <20 million



Many countries have GDPs of <10 billion USD



National markets often too small to attract large investments

Multiple memberships

AfCFTA addresses many countries’ multiple and overlapping memberships in Regional Economic Communities (RECs)



Complicates integration efforts

Kenya, for example, belongs to 4 RECs

Source: Creating one African market. Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area

The AfCFTA is the **world's largest free trade area** connecting 54 countries and 1.3 billion people.

As of April 2022, **43 Member States** have officially ratified the agreement.

The German government is providing support to the AfCFTA through GIZ. The aim is to address the challenges around institutional and legal frameworks in supporting the negotiation and implementation of the AfCFTA. The AfCFTA State Parties are heterogeneous in terms of size, income level and openness to other economies. Consequently, they face different challenges during AfCFTA negotiations and implementations. In response GIZ is partnering at the continental level with the AUC and the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana; on the regional level with two Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS and EAC) and on the national level with government partners in focus countries.

In 2021, the number of focus countries doubled from four to eight: Ivory Coast, DR Congo, Malawi and Niger joined the existing countries Ethiopia, Ghana, Tunisia and Rwanda. Activities on the nation-

al level focused on supporting government and private sector partners to better equip themselves for the agreement through capacity building measures such as trainings and workshops, as well as gap assessment studies among others.

Additional support to the AfCFTA comes from the European Union which established the AfCFTA Technical Assistance Facility in 2021. The Facility is part of a larger AfCFTA Team Europe Initiative, which includes existing and new programs by the EU and its Member States in support to continental economic integration in Africa. Besides the EU, Germany, France, Spain and Sweden are funding the Facility, and Expertise France, the Spanish agency FIIAPP (Fundación Internacional Y Para Iberoamérica De Admón Y Políticas Públicas) and GIZ as lead agency are implementing it.



**3 virtual learning modules** for an inclusive AfCFTA were developed with **250+ enrolments**

**15 events** on empowering women with **850+ participants**



Women's involvement in the AfCFTA is key for inclusive growth. The SheTrades Initiative empowers women to harness trade opportunities and to enable them to benefit from the AfCFTA. A key achievement in 2021 was the participation of female-owned businesses from Malawi and Ethiopia in the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2021), in Durban, South Africa.

For some of them, this has been the first ever international engagement and all of them succeeded in connecting to new customers from countries they might have otherwise never met.



## AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project

With 65 per cent of the total population estimated to be below the age of 35, Africa is the world's youngest continent. Therefore, the involvement of young people in the implementation of the AfCFTA is crucial to ensure maximum relevance and benefit for young people and future generations.

The GIZ AGA and AfCFTA programme are jointly supporting the MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation / YouLead Secretariat to implement the 'AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project: Towards Amplified Continental Youth Mobilization, Awareness and Engagement in AfCFTA Processes'. This project aims to shed light on the extent to which African young people are currently aware of the AfCFTA and how they can be mobilized to position themselves as key stakeholders in accelerating the implementation of the free trade area in Africa.



Young people from over 40 African countries participated in the Continental Essay and Debate Competitions and shared their creativity and thoughts on various topics related to the AfCFTA.

Another highlight in 2021 was the first continental Young Leaders and Policy Makers Summer Bootcamp to get an in-depth understanding of the AfCFTA and its opportunities.

**92,000+**  
young people across Africa engaged in AfCFTA processes

**14 studies & 1 short film** to raise awareness about the AfCFTA were published

**2,000+** members of the private sector & **500** policy makers were trained on AfCFTA

**19 policy & position papers** produced

**6 high-level events** with international participation

## Potentials of the AfCFTA for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Well positioned to tap into regional export destinations.



Can use regional markets as **stepping stones** for expanding into overseas markets.

Representing more than 90% of African businesses.

Tariff-free access to a huge and unified market will encourage manufacturers and service providers to **leverage economies of scale.**



Consumers will pay less for products and services



... as business expand operations ...



... and hire additional employees.

## FACES AND STORIES

### Commanding paths and improving the lives of many

GIZ works to shape a future worth living around the world. However, it is the people who make the difference. Across Africa, many inspiring individuals show the diversity of the work we do. Whether in Togo, Zambia, Ghana, or Kenya, the champions of these success stories are people of diverse backgrounds – eagerly driven, commanding their paths and helping to improve the lives of many others. We are honored to support them with and through our partners and happily share their stories with you.

#### Akou Akofa Rose Degboe

Human Rights Defender and Trainer for the Prevention of Violent Extremism, Togo

Faced with the challenges related to peace and security in my country and in the West African sub-region, I received the means to be a peacemaker for my community!

As a human rights defender, I was sensitized to the topic of prevention of violent extremism (PVE) during my participation in a Training of Trainers organized by iDove. This training allowed me to understand the root causes of violent extremism and the determining role of different groups in society, especially the youth and religious leaders. Following this, I applied the skills gained and delivered trainings myself, also within my organization, the Center for Documentation and Training on Human Rights (CDFDH), which became my personal priority.

To date, the CDFDH conducted digital campaigns and raised awareness among 30,000 young people, produced multimedia content, implemented two inter-religious dialogues, and trained more than 1,000 religious leaders.

**i** The Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism (iDove) was jointly launched by the African Union Commission Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AUC-CIDO) and GIZ under the support to the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) in 2017. Engaging youth as peace builders by using innovative youth-led approaches in the field of religion and the prevention of violent extremism, it has developed into an exemplary initiative that reaches out to and successfully involves youth in conflict prevention and peace building.





## Mwila Chiseddy Bwanga

Youth Governance Practitioner and Participant of the AfCFTA Bootcamp, Zambia

I strongly believe that the AfCFTA will succeed only when youth and women-led businesses are enlightened and supported to reap the benefits at the grassroots level.



Being selected for the inaugural AfCFTA Continental Young Business Leaders and Policy Makers Bootcamp was a significant honor. The chance to meet fellow young leaders and policymakers from across the continent was also a chance to learn about the AfCFTA.

I had just come from an intense election campaign in Zambia, where I ran for Member of Parliament, and my race and campaign had been closely watched by friends and other youth from across the continent – and they had been inspired. I was determined to share practical experiences on how best the AfCFTA could benefit youth-led enterprises and most importantly, provide employment to the emerging youth population in Africa.

**i** The YouLead Bootcamp is part of the ongoing GIZ AGA and AfCFTA support to the YouLead Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project implemented by YouLead and MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC). One major outcome of it was the establishment of the Independent Youth Advisory Council on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which has now representation in over 20 African countries. Its main purpose is to foster youth inclusion in shaping and accelerating trade in Africa.

## Emmanuel K. Bensah

Deputy Executive Director of AfCFTA Policy Network, Ghana

To see Tana Forum in all its glory back then, and make the contacts I made, reminded me of the uniqueness of the platform and its immense capacity to create new vistas of opportunities for development.



I have great memories of working with GIZ on African peace and security issues and was very pleased to attend the 9th Tana Forum 2020 in Addis Ababa on the theme of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Forum accorded me a chance to network with thought leaders and policy makers on aspects of economic integration and its role in promoting peace and security in Africa. The networking at Tana opened doors to strengthen our work at the Africa Policy Network (APN) through direct engagement. Looking back, I reckon the value and power of networking at an event like Tana Forum and appreciate GIZ's contribution to the Annual Forum as well as the inclusion of non-governmental actors to the Forum.

**i** The Tana Forum on Security in Africa is a flagship annual event that brings together African leaders and stakeholders to engage in deep reflections and to explore African-led peace and security solutions. 2021 marked the 10th Anniversary of the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa. However, the event had to be postponed due to security challenges.

## Frank Mintah

NELGA-DAAD scholarship holder  
at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science  
and Technology, Ghana

It gave me memories  
that will last for  
a lifetime.

Growing up in Ghana and experiencing rising social problems, I was eager for social change. As I gained more insight into these phenomena, I became more passionate about the social and economic problems that affect the well-being of people. So, I wanted to use my talent in art and design in a meaningful adventure to help resolve the critical problems of society. Through the scholarship, I could complement my knowledge in land use planning with governance aspects that influence land-use decisions and land-use outcomes. Essentially, my experiences on the NELGA programme exposed me to critical issues related to land tenure security, land policy, land administration, gender and development, and environmental sustainability. I understood how social problems manifest in different forms in different places but are connected in several ways, which make intercultural learning and knowledge-sharing very important in research and practice.



**i** The scholarships by the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provide academic support to students to further their skills and knowledge in the land governance space in Africa. Empowering future land policymakers and land practitioners, the scholarship supports the African Union's Land Agenda by bridging capacity gaps on land governance, and thus contributing towards the economic and social development of the continent.

## Faith Cheronu

Student at Pan African University, Kenya

As a female, I felt that  
the experience was  
inclusive and being in a  
female lead team, I also  
felt empowered.

I had the pleasure of being one of the participants of the first edition of the PAU Innovation Challenge. My team of five PAU students, led by a female, won second place with our start-up DishAsili. We aim to reduce post-harvest losses in Africa using solar energy to dehydrate fruits and vegetables, thus giving them long shelf-life. During the challenge, the coaching process helped us to turn our start-up into a real business by equipping us with business skills to develop our ideas, business model and overall strategy. With the financial support and the gained knowledge, we were able to focus on further research to optimise our appliances. I think such initiatives help the youth to boost their entrepreneurial spirit which is fruitful for the development of Africa as a continent.



**i** The Pan African University's (PAU) is supported as a model for higher education and quality research in Africa. In 2021, it conducted its first Innovation Challenge to raise awareness on innovation and promote entrepreneurship mindsets.



## Benedicta Tamakloe

Founder of Bean Masters Coffee and GmBS trained agriprenuer, Ghana

I realised that having men understand women's plight helps bridge the economic gap quicker. We can't win in isolation.



The GmBS capacity development journey helped to shift my view of men and enabled gender transformative change. Before the training, my primary focus was connecting with like-minded women and learning how to capacitate other women. The focus was on women, women, women, 100 per cent. But after the training, I realised that we need to leverage each other's strengths, skills and expertise. Now the men help the women farmers when intensive labour work is required. We're working and moving along a lot faster. Of course, women remain the key beneficiaries. But the skills, knowledge sharing, and efforts everyone is putting in are amazing now. The women are now prepared to contact their husbands. Their husbands, too, went from being sceptical and unsupportive of their wives involvement to being willing to help in any areas they can.

**i** Gender makes Business Sense (GmBS) is an agribusiness training with a gender dimension in seven African countries through the ATVET4W programme, it contributes to the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA). Its aim is to improve the well-being of agripreneurs and their communities by creating thriving and profitable agribusinesses that unlock employment opportunities.

## Eric G. Kariuki

Founder of Aquaethanol Technology, Kenya

The more technical bits of the assistance felt overwhelming at the beginning, but the team made the whole experience feel like cycling on training wheels.



The technical assistance that we received for Aquaethanol Technology was an immersive experience; one that led me to understand and view our business through a different lens. Our business case and financial model were realistically portrayed and properly adjusted, showing us the possibility of running more profitably at a smaller scale while making our contribution to the environment and the communities affected by the invasive water hyacinth. We also profited from the support of reaching out to potential funders and stakeholders on our behalf, with some of whom we are still in active engagement. I now feel ready to boost this enterprise to the next level, as the assistance has equipped us with the requisite tools.

**i** Aquaethanol Technology develops clean and affordable cooking and fuel solutions by harnessing the invasive water hyacinth weed, a highly invasive water plant that is found worldwide in freshwater bodies. In Kenya, it has affected about 42 per cent of the Winam Gulf of Lake Victoria. GIZ PIDA Programme supported the Continental Business Network (CBN) Call for Proposals COVID-19 to strengthen those small-scale infrastructure projects.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## of the year

### PAU Innovation Challenge – Grand Finale

Virtual, June 2021



Innovation is the translation of an idea into a good product, service or project with an added value. In this spirit, the Pan African University (PAU) started the 1<sup>st</sup> PAU Innovation Challenge and invited all students and alumni to submit their business ideas to resolve everyday African problems. The Challenge also aimed at developing their ability to utilize academic knowledge proposing new solutions and contributing to the

economic, cultural, environmental and social development of Africa.

From the 169 student teams applying from all over Africa, 8 finalists made it to the virtual Grand Finale in June 2021 to pitch their business ideas with guest of honours including the AU Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), the Algerian Minister of Education, and the German Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union. The *SoCool* team, PAU Water and Energy Science (PAU-WES) in Algeria, won the first prize for their idea of an af-

fordable solar cooling and filtration technology. The winners were awarded cash prizes up to USD 9,000 to launch their start-ups. In parallel, they are benefiting from the coaching and mentoring support of the African German Entrepreneurship Academy (AGEA) Network, receiving 3 months of incubation to develop their business skills and market readiness.

*SoCool* (PAUWES) 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner – YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnoLgc8qU0o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnoLgc8qU0o)

## AEEP Forum 2021: Aligning Energies for a Green and Prosperous Africa

### Virtual, October 2021



How can the energy transition contribute to a green and prosperous Africa – and how can Africa and Europe work together to achieve it? These were the questions the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) dived into with more than 500 stakeholders at its first AEEP Forum in 2021.

The half-day virtual event brought together representatives from the public and private sectors, as well as academia and civil society, to discuss Africa's and Europe's unique partnership on energy. Speakers highlighted that the African energy transition is an opportunity for the continent with

immense potential for job creation, innovation and inclusivity, especially for women and youth.

Speaking on behalf of the African Union Commission, Atef Marzouk, Acting Director of Infrastructure and Energy, noted that *'if SDG7 is to be reached by 2030 and the climate battle won, we will need a very dynamic political dialogue and continuous alignment between all the key institutions in Africa and Europe.'*

For a more detailed recap, download the [AEEP Forum 2021 Spotlight](#).  
<https://bit.ly/ForumSpotlight>

## Rights and Welfare of the Child

### Bujumbura, Burundi, November 2021

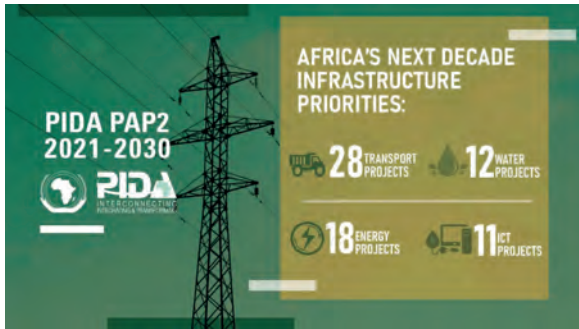


Africa is the only continent with a region-specific rights instrument for children: the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) is mandated to promote and

protect their rights. At its 35th Ordinary Session, the ACERWC established working groups as part of its special mechanisms considering challenges in the specific areas and the need for systematic approaches to address them more sustainably.

These included working groups on 'Children with Disabilities', 'Children's Rights and Business', 'Children's Rights and Climate Change', and on the 'Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations on the Rights and Welfare of Children'. They are anchored on the principles and norms stated in the ACRWC and its *Agenda 2040: Fostering an Africa fit for Children*. In those groups, elected members of the Committee will work together with external experts bringing policy and practical expertise into ACERWC. The GIZ Programme on *Strengthening Good Governance and Human Rights in Africa – AGA* has been supporting the establishment and operationalisation of the working groups.

## PIDA PAP II Implementation, February 2021



At the 34<sup>th</sup> AU Summit in 2021, the AU Heads of States and Governments adopted the *PIDA PAP II Integrated Corridor Approach*, which comprises 69 regional infrastructure projects in the area of transport, water, energy, and information communication technology. The *PIDA PAP II* is an ongoing process on infrastructure development in Africa implemented by the AU Commission (AUC) and AUDA-NEPAD and partners.

34 PIDA projects have been screened using the so-called 'Service Delivery Mechanism' (SDM), an AUDA-NEPAD technical advisory instrument used to support early-stage project preparation while also addressing capacity constraints. AU Member States are assisted in mobilising financial support. Two regional infrastructure projects successfully received financial contributions: (i) in the Northern Corridor the multinational Kenya-Uganda Road (Mombasa-Nairobi-Malaba-Kampala, for road section Kisian-Busia/Kakira-Malaba) and (ii) in the Central Corridor the multinational Tanzania-DR Congo Road (Luberizi-Kamanyola-Bukavu). Also, both projects received the PIDA Quality Label (PQL) award, which is Africa's standard of excellence certification in the early stages of project preparation and recognized by the AU Member States and acknowledged by the Africa-France Summit.

GIZ supports the *Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa* (PIDA), which is key for regional economic integration, in partnership with the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD.

## Female Police in AU Mandated Missions



Gender parity is essential to being successful in changing hearts and minds within conflicts. Including women and men brings knowledge and specific approaches to conflict situations, which results in better cooperation with host populations. In this aspect, women continue to play a massive role in stabilization effects as they often have access to parts of the population that are difficult for men to engage with. However, the percentage of policewomen in AU mandated missions continues to remain small.

The *GIZ Programme to Build and Strengthen the Police Structures in Selected Partner Countries in Africa Component – AU AFRIPOL* engages with the AU in various ways to raise these numbers to a minimum of 30 per cent. In 2021, those efforts led into a rise to more than 40 per cent female police officers in Ghana and more than 10 per cent in Djibouti. Looking ahead, wide outreach information campaigns are expected to attract even more interest and recognition for female police officers to contribute to international services.

## 34<sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2021



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The 34<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Assembly of the African Union took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of February. The main decisions of the Heads of State and Government was the election of key offices: Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, took over as Chairperson of the African Union. Moussa Faki Mahamat (Chad) was re-elected unopposed for a second term as Chair of the African Union Commission. His deputy, Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa (Rwanda), is now the first woman to hold this position.

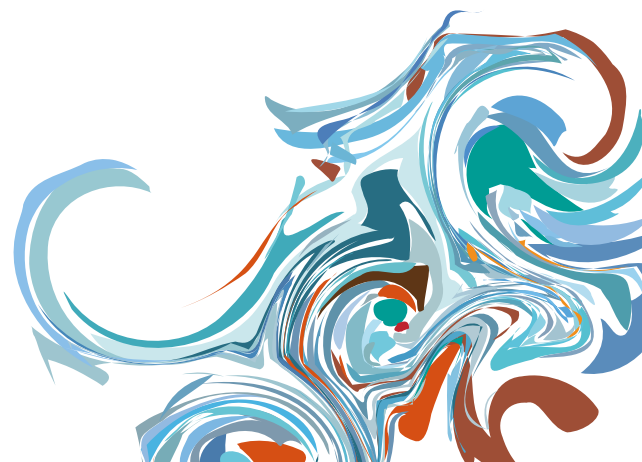
In line with the institutional reform process of the AU for greater efficiency, the portfolio for Commissioners had been restructured. They have reduced from eight to six and are as follows:

- Bankole Adeoye (Nigeria): Political Affairs, Peace and Security
- Josefa Sacko (Angola): Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
- Albert Muchange (Zambia): Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Mining
- Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid (Egypt): Infrastructure and Energy

- Minata Samata Cessouma (Burkina Faso): Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development
- Mohamed Belhocine (Algeria): Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

The new theme of the year was also decided: 'Arts, culture and heritage: levers for building the Africa we want.' The AU aimed to strengthen and support Africa's cultural and artistic richness as a common and unifying foundation of African countries and people in Africa and globally.

Diversity



## AU Digital and Innovation Fellowship Virtual, September 2021



DataCipation promotes public sector innovation by connecting AU policymakers with digital innovators. The Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission (AUC), Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, launched the African Union Digital and Innovation Fellowship Programme in September 2021 on the side lines of the bilateral negotiations of the AU with the German Government:

*'Our view is that engaging digitally-talented youth in developing sustainable digital and innovative solu-*

*tions is important to achieve an integrated and inclusive digital society and economy in Africa that improves the quality of life of Africa's citizens.'*

The fellowship programme will deploy 10 tech innovators from across the African continent to the AU to identify challenges within the system and propose digital solutions. These 'fellows' will be deployed to the African Commission on Human and People Rights in Banjul, Gambia, the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana as well as within the AUC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

They will be expected to co-create and build innovative tailor-made products and processes that improve delivery of the AU's mandate around Agenda 2063 with a focus on good governance and citizen engagement.

African Union Digital and Innovation Fellowship Programme.

<https://auinnovationfellowship.com>

## Africa Creates Jobs! Virtual, November 2021

There has never been a more crucial time for Africa to create jobs for its growing population than now; when 200 million people are between the ages of 15 and 24 and 60 per cent of the unemployed are youth. In two days of talks, workshops and best-practice learning exchanges, the virtual Africa Creates Jobs 2021 (ACJ!2021) conference focused on driving a responsive and agile skills and jobs agenda for economic growth in Africa.

In bringing together over 700 participants from across the African Union Member States, the conference created an open dialogue between high-level government rep-



representatives, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), businesses, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), skills development practitioners, and the youth.

The conference ended with a call for urgent action to all actors, ask-

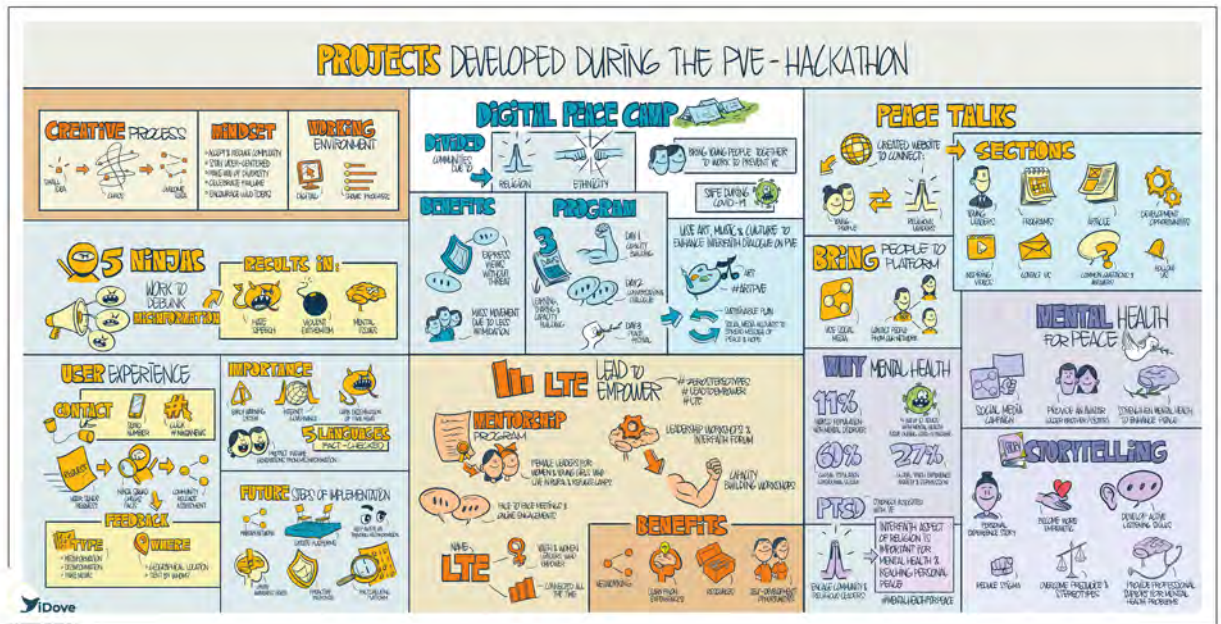
ing them to unite their collective leadership and collaborate for the desired change: an agile and responsive jobs and skills revolution for the Africa We Want.

Africa Creates Jobs!

<https://africacreatesjobs.vfairs.com>



## Virtual Hackathon for the Prevention of Violent Extremism



Working together virtually has become the new normal in COVID-19 times. This requires creative and innovative methods of communication to work effectively together despite multiple challenges. In this context, the *Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism* (iDove) organized its first virtual hackathon for the development of youth-led project ideas to prevent violent extremism (PVE).

Taking place at the end of March 2021, the virtual hackathon brought together 40 participants from Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. They

developed project ideas ranging from an app to debunk misinformation, a mentorship programme for women in peacebuilding, to social media campaigns to raise awareness on the importance of mental health and psycho-social support for PVE.

The ideas were presented to peacebuilding experts to receive critical feedback. To continue supporting youth-led PVE solutions, iDove and the *Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers* offered grant funding opportunities to implement selected projects in 2022.



# LOOKING AHEAD



Our cooperation with the African Union (AU) and its institutions, as well as all our partners, will remain strong in 2022 and we are looking forward to upcoming developments:

**New AU Theme: Food Security & Nutrition »** Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent is the AU's theme of the year 2022. With the war in Ukraine, a major worldwide wheat exporter, this theme has become even more pressing than it already is.



**AU Extraordinary Summit on Unconstitutional Change in Government »** The fight against terrorism as well as the emergence of frequent unconstitutional regime changes in Africa will be the topic of a special summit of the African Union. It is scheduled to take place from 27 to 28 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.



**AU on Multilateralism and Strategic Partnerships »**

2022 AU bilateral summits:

- EU-AU Summit, Brussels, February 2022
- 5th Korea-Africa Forum, Seoul, March 2022
- 5th Africa-Arab Summit, Saudi-Arabia, May 2022
- 8th Japan-Africa Summit TICAD, Tunisia, August 2022

**Africa CDC and AMA »** Independent institutions of the African Union play an integral part in tackling health issues on the continent. Africa CDC will receive this status in 2022. Additionally, the location of the Africa Medicines Agency will be chosen.



**AU-EU Summit »** The AU-EU summit took place in February 2022 in Brussels, Belgium, and delivered a couple of promising, yet sober results. Will it be enough to make good on the promise of 'two unions, a joint vision'? The COP 27 might be a major event both unions can show their unity.



**French Presidency of EU Council »** Major political events are organised the first half of 2022 on EU-Africa trade relations, EU-Africa pandemic response, security challenges in Sahel Region, and on investment and financing in Africa.



**COP 27 »** Egypt will host the COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, from 7 to 18 November. The 'African COP' might be a major event where Africa benefits from climate diplomacy and both unions - EU and AU - can show their unity.



**German Federal Coalition Government »** The German government announced a 'Feminist Development Policy' and a 'Feminist Foreign Policy'. Also, the government in its coalition agreement outlined its intention to come to terms with German colonial history, overcome colonial continuities and promote the return of cultural artefacts to their countries of origin.

**German G7 Presidency 2022 »** 'Progress towards an equitable world' - this is the goal the German G7 Presidency has set itself for its programme. It will culminate in the summit of the G7 heads of state and government from 26 to 28 June in Schloss Elmau.



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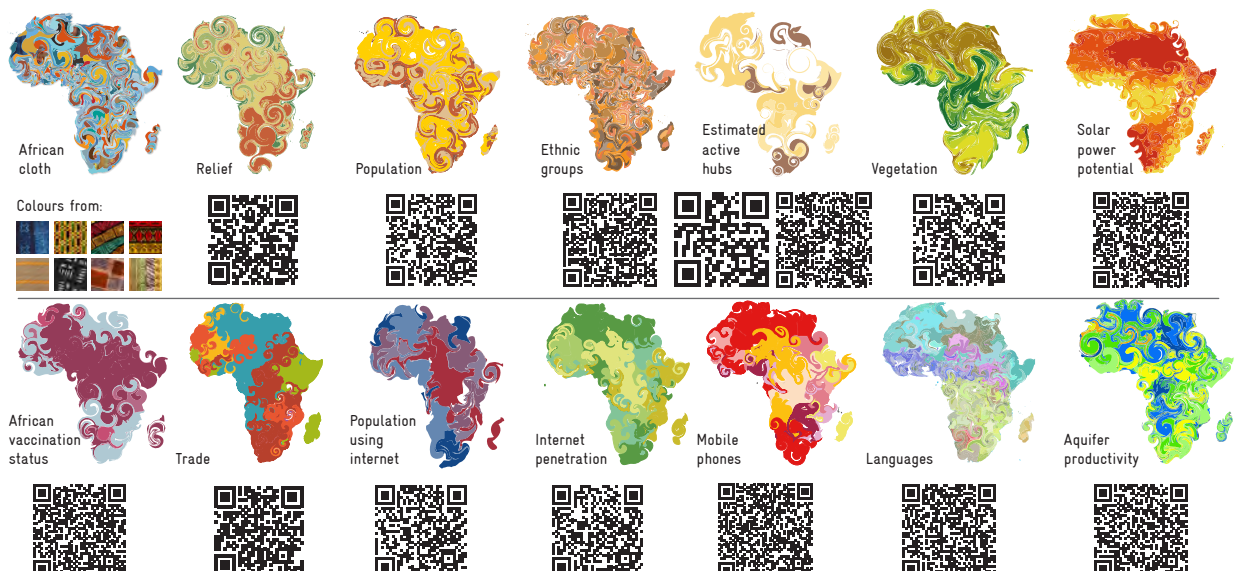
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#### DIVERSITY in Africa

'Diversity is power and unity in diversity is strength.'

Applying this motto to diversity in our work with the African Union demands that we understand the cultural, geographical, linguistic, vegetational, religious, governmental, educational, infrastructural, historic, climatic diversities, to mention a few, but also to take into account the diversities in the backgrounds of the people we work with and ensure inclusion of all. The title image as well as other images of Africa in this report are an abstract depiction of the immense diversity existing on the continent. The maps do not aim in anyway to represent real data but instead to create awareness for the enormous diversity of potential that lies slumbering on the continent. Please find the source of inspiration for each map under the link below or by clicking on the map.





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