

# Knowledge for Transformation (K4T)

## The Challenge

An impactful policy for **sustainable economic development in Africa requires reform ideas grounded in evidence and research**. Evidence based economic policymaking determines the extent to which the economies on the continent can develop sustainably, offering decent jobs for a fast-growing young population and contributing to the achievement of national, regional and international development objectives. This calls to the **forefront the role of African and pan-African research institutes and networks**. They have unique context-specific knowledge of the economic challenges at hand and are therefore in the best position to offer solutions and mitigating measures grounded in profound local knowledge.

Yet, economic policy making barely considers the inputs offered by African researchers. Less than one percent of the research on African economic issues published in renowned scientific journals stems from African institutions. Consequently, neither domestic nor international economic or development policy adequately **reflects the findings and recommendations made by the African scientific and research community**.

Africa has a vast **landscape of research institutes and think tanks** that have the potential to influence policies with their work, grounded in evidence and a thorough understanding of the local context. However, they often face resource constraints, capacity challenges or lack of access to effectively deliver their findings to political decision-makers on the continent and at the international arena.

<b>Project Title</b>	Supporting the transfer of knowledge between research and economic policy making in Africa (short: Knowledge for Transformation, or K4T)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Implemented by</b>	GIZ GmbH
<b>Area</b>	Africa (supraregional)
<b>Duration</b>	January 2022 – June 2025

## Our Approach

The goal of the **Knowledge for Transformation (K4T)** regional project is to **strengthen the transfer of knowledge between research and policy making on** economic challenges in Africa. To do so, the project supports African think tanks and other African knowledge producers in their role of shaping policy through evidence.

The project supports the dialogue between science and politics in three areas:

1. **Supporting the multi-donor Trust Fund *Think Africa Partnership (TAP)*** implemented by the World Bank and aimed at enhancing knowledge-to-policy uptake on economic policy making both in Africa and at the multilateral level.
2. **Enhancing the capacities of African think tanks** to effectively inform policy making through fostering a collaborative model of peer learning (*Learning Partnerships*) on good practices and joint knowledge production.
3. **Strengthening networking and exchange between African think tanks and development partners** to promote the increased use of African generated knowledge into German and international development policy.



Contribution to Agenda 2030

## Our Impact

Achievements of the preceding project phase (*Supporting the Think Africa Partnership*) include:

**Strengthening the capacities of the TAP trust fund** which has, amongst others, established a network of African Chief Economists of Government, scientific peer-learning networks across Africa and fellowship programmes for African economic researchers.

**Inclusion of African perspectives in decision-making process of development partners**, for example, through scientific support of the G20 Compact with Africa initiative and the German EU Council Presidency.

**Support to innovative knowledge brokers and promotion of exchange platforms** to bring African perspectives into German and European politics as well as to a broader public, for example through high-level events and podcasts.



Consulting with the scientific community for BMZ's new Africa Strategy  
Copyright: GIZ/Lisa Roob

### Imprint

**Published by:**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn

Köthener Str. 2-3  
10963 Berlin  
Germany  
T +49 30 338424 256  
E [lisa.roob@giz.de](mailto:lisa.roob@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

**GIZ project K4T is  
responsible for this  
publication:**  
Lisa Roob  
Köthener Str. 2-3  
10963 Berlin

Berlin, 2023



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development