



GIZ African Union

Connecting People, Economies, Continents

Annual Report 2025



GIZ works with the African Union on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Foreign Office (AA).

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GIZ African Union



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Welcome

by Dr Tobias Thiel,
Director of GIZ African Union



Dear partners, colleagues, and friends,

Like many of us, I had hoped that the downward spiral of intensifying geopolitical competition and the weakening of international norms of statecraft would subside. Instead, the raw pursuit of power politics, the weaponisation of economic leverage and the erosion of respect for international law have become defining features of the prevailing multilateral order.

This underscores how deeply interconnected our world has become: geopolitical tensions and armed conflict, fragile supply chains, climate change and health emergencies do not stop at borders – they reverberate across regions and systems, demanding joint solutions. Anyone who believes they can seal themselves off today misunderstands this reality.

Yet, paradoxically, this emerging multipolar order also presents a rare window of opportunity. History shows that international norms and institutions have often advanced most decisively in the wake of crises. Today, a renewed sense of urgency to reshape the global order is palpable among democratic leaders – creating momentum for African countries to secure a stronger seat at the table.

In this context, development partners are natural strategic allies in strengthening the African Union as a driver of rules-based multilateralism, democratic governance, regional economic integration and human development. At the same time, these partnerships must evolve – shifting from aid-based models towards genuinely reciprocal cooperation.

This is why we chose **Connecting People, Economies, Continents** as the theme for our 2025 Annual Report: our work with the African Union helps bring its member states and citizens closer together, while fostering economic growth and opening new opportunities for trade with Germany and Europe.

The recent momentum of the AU and its member states gives me reason for optimism. Over the past year, we have seen steady progress on the Agenda 2063 flagship initiatives. More companies are trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area, while Green Infrastructure Corridors continue to expand, connecting people, markets and economies. Tangible advances are also being made in institutional reform, peace and security, climate action, migration, health and digitalisation.

But we cannot stop here. We must move from declarations to delivery. Member states need to provide the mandates, sustained commitment and resources the African Union requires – because strong institutions are the foundation of a prosperous and resilient Africa. My sincere appreciation goes to our commissioning parties, whose support makes this work possible as we move forward together.

Enjoy reading.

Addis Ababa, April 2026



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About this Report

Why we chose the theme “Connecting People, Economies, Continents”

Connection creates opportunity. Ideas, skills and innovation move faster than ever. Infrastructure, policies and technology bring people closer together, enable exchange and build shared understanding. Businesses reach new markets, and cooperation opens pathways that no country can unlock alone.

But connection does not happen by itself. Currently, only about 16 per cent of Africa’s trade takes place between countries on the continent, and mobility across borders remains more complex than it could be. Strengthening connection therefore requires sustained effort, political commitment and strong institutions.

This is why we work with the African Union towards its vision of a connected and integrated African continent – for prosperity, peace and security.

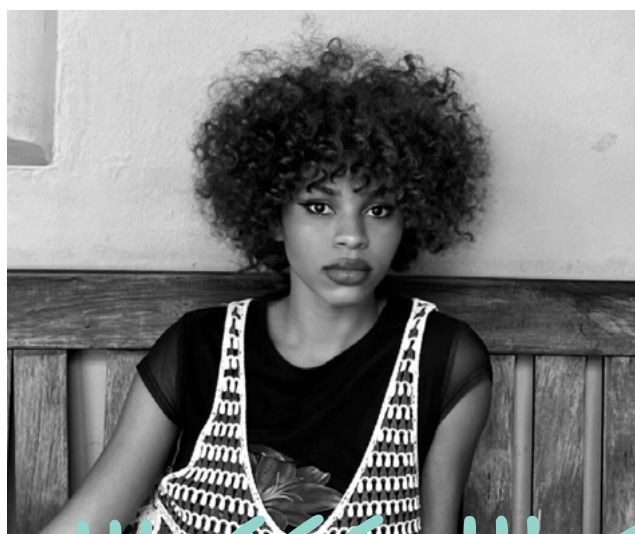
This report presents stories of connections, such as our work to bring **people** together by promoting the free movement of persons on the continent (see pages 26–29), and how

the African Continental Free Trade Area is connecting **economies** and creating the world’s largest common market (see pages 18–21). We also showcase our efforts to connect **countries and continents** through cross-border infrastructure (see pages 30–33), the use of digitalisation to enable investment and collaboration (see pages 22–25), and sustained efforts towards a peaceful and secure Africa (see pages 34–37).

This report brings these connections to life through the perspectives of our partners – from personal stories (pages 38–41) to insights from the private sector (pages 20 and 33) and policy perspectives (pages 8–9).

Especially at a time when the multilateral order is under pressure, this report highlights the value of cooperation and dialogue. By linking some of the world’s fastest-growing economies, including through initiatives such as the EU’s Global Gateway, we foster partnerships based on shared interests and mutual benefit, strengthening cooperation between Africa, Germany and the European Union.

About the Cover Artist



Natasha Mwila is a digital artist from Zambia. Her work centers on conversations around inequality, social injustices and misrepresentation of girls and women.

“Connection, from my perspective, is a positive emotional experience shaped by both internal and external influences. The first connection we experience is between mother and child, followed by the connection we develop with ourselves and later with our environment. Connection is a driving force that sustains us and gives life meaning.”

About the African Union

The African Union (AU) is the most important pan-African organisation, uniting its 55 African member states. It plays a pivotal role in advancing peace and security, democratic governance, regional economic integration, and social development across Africa.



AU VISION

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

Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

Agenda 2063 is Africa's long-term blueprint and master plan for transforming the continent into a global powerhouse of the future. It aims to deliver on the goals of inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and prosperity.



Agenda 2063 and its 7 Aspirations



A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development



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



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



A peaceful and secure Africa



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



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



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

Our Vision



We are a trusted partner of the African Union



We embody change and facilitate change processes across the continent



We connect people, partners & ideas across Africa



We foster innovation and sustainable solutions to continental challenges

About our Work with the AU

Since 2004, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has worked with the AU Commission, as well as many of the AU's specialised institutions and agencies, to jointly implement programmes and projects at continental, regional and national level. These include, among others, the AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

As a strong partner of the African Union, GIZ is committed to advancing the continent's aspirations and global development objectives. On behalf of our commissioning parties – the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA) – as well as additional international partners such as the European Union, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, we support the AU's efforts in 45 of its 55 member states.

The AU–GIZ partnership is guided by the AU's vision and the core aspirations of Agenda 2063, while simultaneously contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



“We are United by AU Principles”

Interview with Birgit Pickel,
Director-General Africa at BMZ

Why is cooperation with the African Union so important for BMZ?

At a time when our rules-based order is openly being called into question, the AU – through its commitment to multilateralism, its G20 membership, and its role as Africa’s voice – is an important political partner. This is also reflected in the Chancellor’s trip to the AU-EU Summit in Angola and Development Minister Reem Alabali-Radovan’s visit to the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, in December 2025.

Germany supports the AU in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, the continent’s

strategic development plan. Since 2004, Germany has reliably supported the AU with more than one billion euros. Our cooperation focuses on peace and social cohesion, sustainable economic development (including training and employment), health, as well as climate and renewable energy. In particular, long-term technical cooperation – especially through GIZ – strengthens African institutions in developing and implementing continental solutions.

We are united by AU principles such as peace, democracy, and human rights. Key African reform initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) or the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) offer great potential for cooperation. With our support, we aim to create continent-wide conditions for financing development. Illicit financial flows, for example, cost Africa more than what flows back through development cooperation. Germany therefore supports the AU, together with the European Union, in drying up these flows. To that end, we are promoting, for example, an electronic platform to combat money laundering.

[How do German companies also benefit from cooperation with the AU?](#)

With the AfCFTA, the AU is creating the world’s largest single market. The free trade area will also offer major opportunities for German companies. Volkswagen expects that by 2035 Africa will be a market for up to five million new cars per year – four times more than in 2024. E-mobility will also play an important role. VW already manufactures in Ghana and aims to export duty-free to neighbouring countries. For this, the framework conditions must be right, including with regard to environmental and social standards. That is why Germany is strengthening the AfCFTA Secretariat – the central actor and driving force of the free trade area.

The AfCFTA is intended to help advance industrial development and create jobs for Africa’s young population. Germany supports, among other things, AU initiatives to expand cross-border infrastructure corridors for sustainable mobility, renewable energy, and digitalisation – in line with the EU’s Global Gateway initiative. In this way, we promote economic integration and create reliable

framework conditions for investment, for example in the responsible extraction of raw materials and the development of more diversified supply chains. And we create export opportunities in both directions.

What role do Africa and the AU play in climate action?

Africa is not only particularly threatened by the impacts of climate change, it is also an active shaper of global climate policy. At the 2025 Africa Climate Summit, AU member states defined African solutions and then went to the UN Climate Change Conference with a unified position. Despite its fossil resource wealth, Africa is increasingly defining its energy future as renewable. It also possesses raw materials needed for sustainable renewable energy supply around the world.

In 2027, the UN Climate Change Conference will take place in Addis Ababa, the AU headquarters. We are preparing for this together with our African partners, because decisions there will set the course for the world's climate. And we know that work on climate adaptation on the African continent must be significantly intensified compared with other continents.

Germany is investing substantially in Africa's energy transition – currently around one billion euros per year, mainly in the form of repayable loans and key contributions to opening markets for renewable energy systems – with great opportunities for German and European companies. In doing so, we support the AU, among other things, in creating a continent-wide energy market. A large market for renewable energy in Africa also offers opportunities for Europe – just think: green hydrogen.

The Mpox virus in Central and East Africa has brought health back into focus. What role does the AU play in this area?

The AU's importance has been evident not only during mpox and cholera outbreaks, but also during the Covid-19 pandemic and Ebola outbreaks. In the fight against Mpox, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention coordinated the continental response plan together with the World Health Organization. This enabled AU member states to deploy their resources more effectively. Since pathogens do not respect borders, everyone benefits – including us in Europe. That is why we support the aforementioned AU centres with technical advisory services to help them become even more effective.

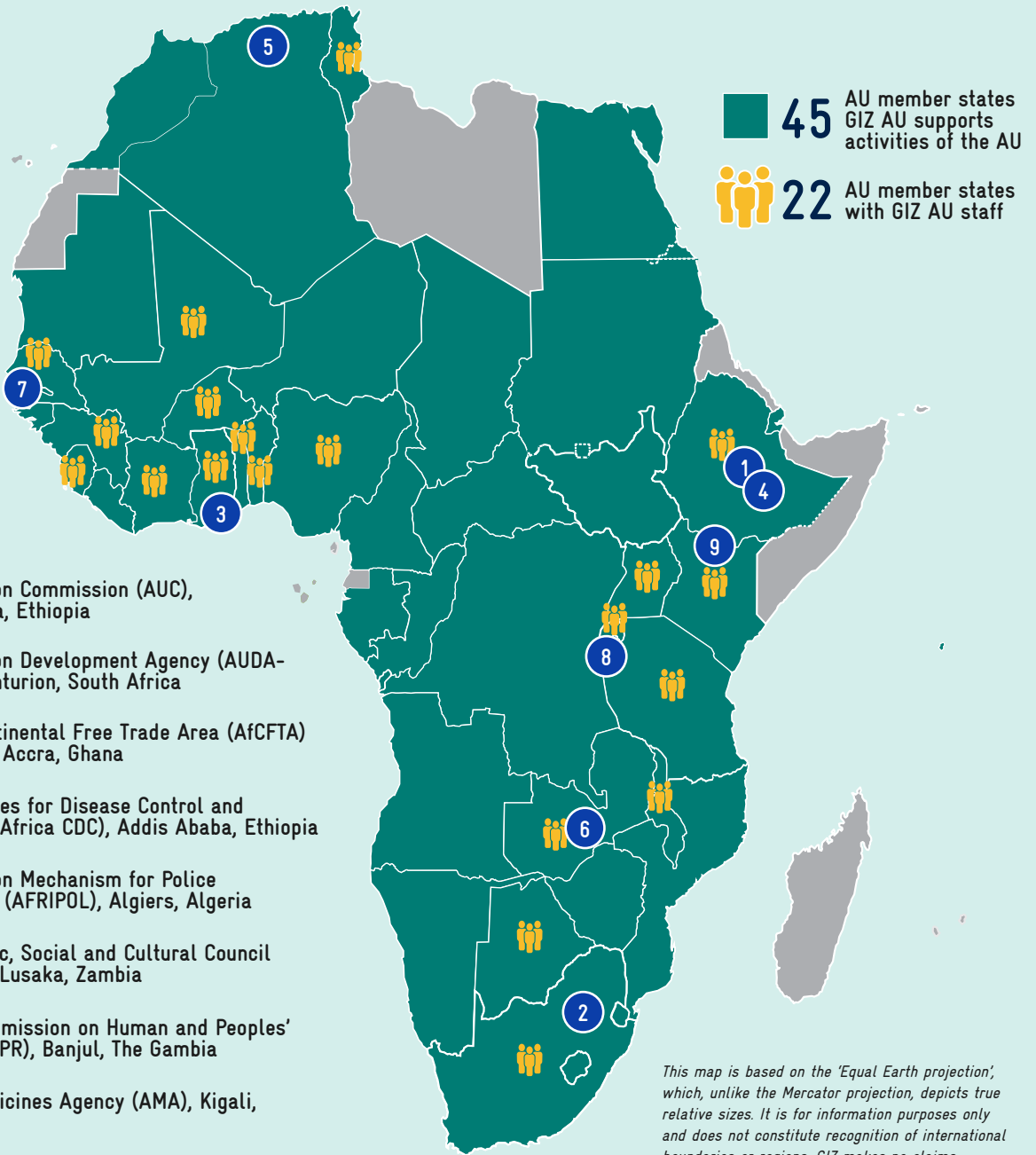
Multilateralism is in deep crisis. What gives you hope in the current international context – especially regarding Africa?

We observe that the AU and its member states are rightly appearing more self-confident on the international stage and demanding a say. We support this. What gives me hope is the AU's clear commitment to multilateralism – even though African voices remain underrepresented in global governance structures. The AU's G20 membership is an important first step toward greater participation. However, multilateralism requires not only political commitments but also capable institutions. Especially in times of geopolitical tensions, reliable cooperation is crucial to translate multilateral decisions into impact. Africa is very young, and its youth are seeking prospects. We see this, for example, in our support for digitalisation and for strengthening the economic opportunities of young people and women.

Birgit Pickel has worked for the BMZ for over 25 years and has served as Director-General Africa between 2022 and April 2026. In addition to Africa, her thematic priorities include Global Health, One Health, and Pandemic Preparedness.



Facts and Figures



This map is based on the 'Equal Earth projection', which, unlike the Mercator projection, depicts true relative sizes. It is for information purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions; GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of maps nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information therein.

National

Activities in
45
member states

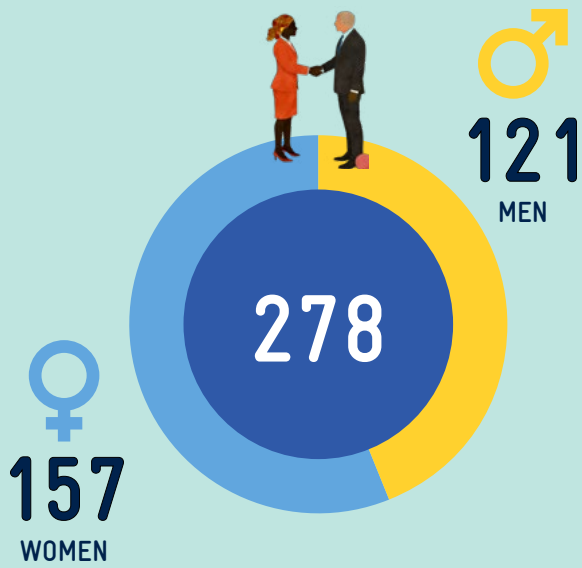
Regional

Cooperation with
7
RECs
(CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC)

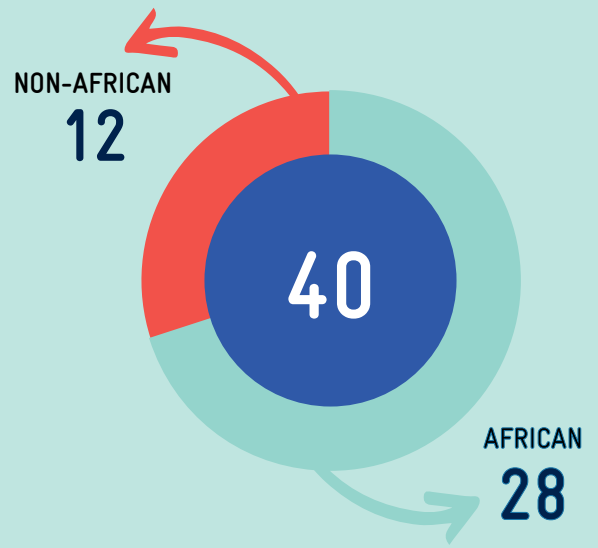
Continental

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

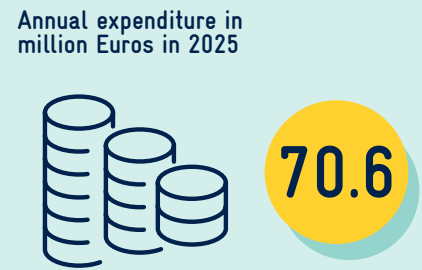
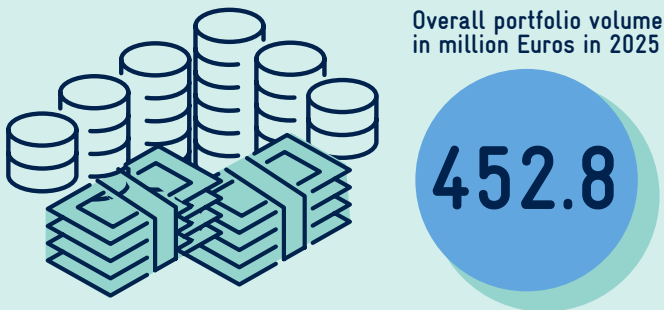
The GIZ AU Team



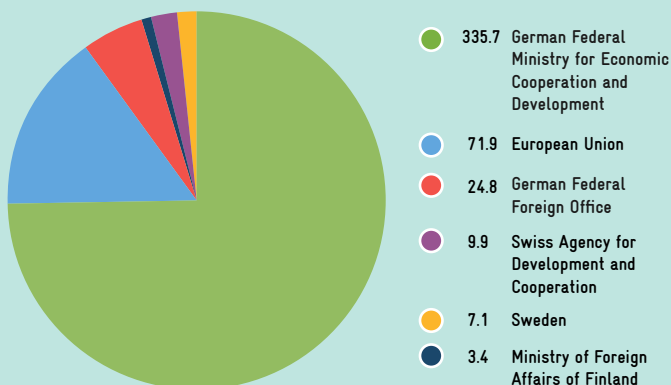
Nationalities



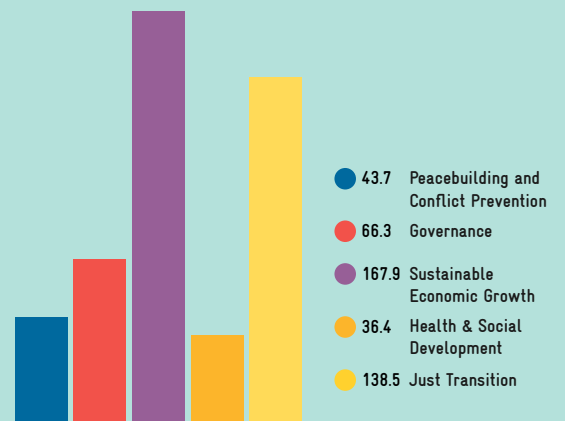
Budget and Expenditure



Budget by Funding Source in Million Euros



Budget by Sectors in Million Euros





Our Areas of Work

Sustainable Economic Growth

Strong and inclusive economic growth is key to creating jobs, improving livelihoods and expanding business opportunities across Africa. We support the African Union in building resilient economies and strengthening innovation for sustainable growth.

A central pillar of this work is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). We support the AU and its member states in turning the AfCFTA into reality and making it easier for African citizens to move, work and do business across the continent.

We also work with African and European partners to ensure that Africans benefit from digital transformation by reducing gaps in internet access, technology and digital skills. With Africa home to the youngest population in the world, we promote innovative approaches that equip young people with the skills they need for the jobs of the future.



Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

A peaceful and secure Africa is the foundation for sustainable development. At a time of rising civil unrest and political instability in parts of the continent, the AU plays a critical role in preventing conflict and maintaining stability. We support the AU to prevent crises, transform conflicts and build peace.

We also support the AU's efforts to clarify borders. Many of Africa's borders were drawn during the colonial era and remain poorly defined, creating territorial grey areas that can fuel conflict and disputes over natural resources. Our work strengthens stability and builds trust in border regions.



AfCFTA

Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area

08/2020 – 03/2028, EUR 78.2 million including the Team Europe initiative “Technical Assistance Facility to Support the AfCFTA and Continental Economic Integration” cofinanced by the European Union and Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Sweden

AfPQ

Alliance for Product Quality in Africa

03/2023 – 03/2026, EUR 5 million

DataCipation

Inclusive and Harmonised Digital and Data Policies in Africa

06/2020 – 07/2026, EUR 41.3 million including the multi-donor action “Data Governance in Africa” cofinanced by the European Union

Cyber

Partnership for Strengthening Cybersecurity

02/2023 – 12/2028, EUR 5.5 million including the multi-donor action “Safe Digital Boost Africa (SDBA) – Continental” cofinanced by the European Union

AIMM

African Integration through Labour Migration and Mobility

01/2022 – 08/2029, EUR 29.3 million including a multi-donor initiative supporting the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) cofinanced by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

HMCCC

Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change

12/2023 – 03/2027, EUR 0.8 million including the multi-donor action “Improving the Implementation of Climate-Resilient and Gender-Responsive Approaches to Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change” cofinanced by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SIFA

Skills Initiative for Africa

01/2023 – 12/2026, EUR 7.9 million

AUPSG

Support to the AU on Peace, Security and Governance

05/2022 – 05/2030, EUR 22 million

AUBP

Border Governance – Support to the African Union Border Programme

07/2023 – 06/2026, EUR 15 million

AFRIPOL

Programme to Build and Strengthen Police Structures in Africa

01/2023 – 12/2025, EUR 1.7 million

TANA

Support to the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa

07/2021 – 04/2025, EUR 5 million

Health and Social Development

Pandemics and public health challenges can undermine Africa's economic and social development. We work with the AU and its partners to strengthen health institutions so they can better prevent, detect and respond to health threats.

We also promote stronger cooperation across the continent so countries can respond more effectively to health risks. By connecting data about the health of people, animals and the environment, we support partners in detecting and managing disease outbreaks earlier.



Governance

Effective public institutions are essential for meeting citizens' needs and strengthening trust in government. We support the AU and other public institutions to become more transparent and closer to citizens. We also support the implementation of African commitments on human rights, gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities.

We also work with African countries to strengthen economic governance and financial resilience. This includes tackling illicit financial flows, strengthening domestic revenue systems, improving debt management and mobilising sustainable private investment.

Finally, we work with the AU and African think tanks to strengthen Africa's voice on the global stage and bridge the gap between research and policy.



SAHA

Strengthening AU's Health Architecture

12/2021 – 02/2028, EUR 23.9 million

PROH

Pandemic Resilience, One Health

09/2021 – 08/2027, EUR 2.1 million

SAHA and PROH jointly implement the multi-donor action "Strengthening One Health Coordination in Africa: Support to Africa CDC" cofinanced by the European Union.

BACKUP Health

Global Programme Health System Strengthening

04/2020 – 06/2026, EUR 3.3 million

including the multi-donor action "Support Structure for the Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines, and Health Technologies in Africa (MAV+)" cofinanced by the European Union

OHDA

One Health Data Alliance Africa

01/2022 – 12/2028, EUR 5 million

S4DA

Sport for Development in Africa

08/2022 – 06/2025, EUR 2.1 million

AWARE

Promotion of Human Rights and Empowerment of Women in Africa

07/2023 – 06/2026, EUR 9 million

SFIFD

Strengthening Development Financing in Africa through Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Effective Debt Management

07/2024 – 06/2028, EUR 28.4 million

including the multi-donor action "SecFin Africa" cofinanced by the European Union

GFG

Good Financial Governance in Africa

02/2019 – 06/2026, EUR 11 million

including the multi-donor initiative "Fighting Illicit Financial Flows in Africa" cofinanced by the European Union and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

ICBP

Institutional Capacity Building Programme

01/2024 – 12/2026, EUR 6.5 million

BRIDGE

Boosting the Rights of Individuals with Disabilities in Africa

11/2024 – 10/2028, EUR 10 million

K4T

Supporting African Think-Tanks for Evidence-based Policy Making

01/2022 – 06/2028, EUR 0.9 million

SFF Debt Management

08/2023 – 10/2026, EUR 0.5 million

Just Transition

Africa contributes less than 10% to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is among the regions most exposed to climate and disaster risks. Strengthening infrastructure, energy systems and cities to cope with these risks is therefore essential for Africa's development. We work with the AU to strengthen urban development and water systems that can withstand these risks.

We also work towards a greener and more connected continent by advancing an African power grid, developing cross-border infrastructure corridors that link countries and markets, and fostering dialogue between Africa and Europe to increase investment in renewable energy.

To support inclusive growth in rural areas, we work with partners to improve land management and protect land rights while promoting innovation in agriculture and livestock production.



Global Gateway



All programmes and projects are implemented on behalf of the German Government.



Africa InCORE Integrated Corridors for Economic Growth in Africa – Support to PIDA

11/2021 – 10/2029, EUR 22.5 million

SLGA Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa

11/2014 – 11/2026, EUR 47.7 million

RIA Resilience Initiative Africa

07/2022 – 06/2029, EUR 22 million

ENGAGE Accelerating the Energy Transition in Africa

01/2025 – 11/2027, EUR 16.5 million

AEEP Africa-EU Energy Partnership

04/2018 – 09/2026, EUR 11.7 million

cofinanced by the European Union

ABF Agri-Business Facility for Africa

01/2020 – 06/2027, EUR 1 million

SecBlue Global Water Security for Resilient Development

01/2024 – 12/2027, EUR 12.2 million

including the multi-donor action “Blue Africa” cofinanced by the European Union

AgSyS Global Programme Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies

03/2023 – 12/2027, EUR 0.5 million

PeOPLE Fund Fund for Strengthening Human Capacities of Partners in Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security

01/2023 – 03/2029, EUR 0.8 million

LiveSys Catalysing Transformation towards Sustainable Livestock Systems

01/2024 – 12/2028, EUR 2.5 million

Soil Matters Soil Matters – Innovations for Soil Health and Agroecology

01/2025 – 04/2029, EUR 0.6 million

SFF Support to the Africa Climate Summit (ACS2)

07/2025 – 06/2026, EUR 0.5 million



OUR WORK IN 2025





10,500+ people

participated in GIZ capacity building and training measures



Private sector and civil society were actively included in the political dialogue at

55+ continental events



We ensured that statements on human rights and gender equality are included in

45+ official AU policy documents



Our online campaigns reached

2 million+

social media users, driving awareness and engagement



Together with our partners, we developed

120+ knowledge products

to accelerate regional integration



6,500+ people connected,

collaborated, and exchanged knowledge

at **80+ events** across the continent



CREATING A SINGLE AFRICAN MARKET

Africa is a vast continent with a growing population and a rapidly expanding, tech-savvy middle class. Yet infrastructure gaps and regulatory fragmentation are hurdles to its economic development and the expansion of intra-African and foreign trade. The African Continental Free Trade Area opens new opportunities: from a Tunisian pharmaceutical exporter shipping medicines to South Africa, to a Kenyan DHL specialist, navigating the rules that make cross-border trade work. But turning a landmark agreement into real-world results takes training, trust and the right technical support.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a key African Union initiative that brings 54 African countries together to create a single market for goods and services. The AfCFTA creates the world's largest common market, strengthens global supply chains and opens the door to deeper, more balanced trade relationships between Africa and its international partners, including Europe.

“

Trade only happens if people trust each other and know the rules.

The lower customs tariffs under the AfCFTA allowed Tunisian Mohamed Rouahi to expand his export market, with his company's pharmaceutical products now reaching South Africa, 8,000 kilometres away.

“This has enabled us to build customer loyalty and explore the African market,” he said at an October 2025 event celebrating Tunisia's first export experiences under the AfCFTA framework. Tunisia participated in the AfCFTA's Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), launched in 2022 and implemented by the AfCFTA Secretariat to kickstart, test and expedite commercially

meaningful trade under the AfCFTA framework.

By October 2025, Tunisia had recorded over 370 export operations to different African countries conducted by 42 companies, demonstrating the practical value of accessing preferential tariffs and new African markets. Other focus countries of the GIZ's support are Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia.

GIZ's overall objective in supporting the AfCFTA is to strengthen the enabling environment for continental trade, such as effective legal and governance frameworks. For example, GIZ assists the AfCFTA Secretariat in fostering regional integration; strengthening negotiation capacities for protocols on investment, competition and intellectual property; and facilitating private sector engagement.

“Trade only happens if people trust each other and know the rules,” says GIZ head of programme Barbara Rippel. This is why GIZ's support for AfCFTA implementation is so important. A harmonised legal framework for intra-African trade builds trust among governments, businesses and investors, and encourages trade within Africa as well as with the rest of the world. The AfCFTA is part of the German government's coalition treaty, emphasising the relevance for the country's development policy.

The AfCFTA's positive effects are tangible. Since the beginning of 2026, German carmakers, such as Volkswagen, which operates – besides other African countries – in South Africa, can benefit from reduced tariffs when exporting vehicles between African countries, subject to compliance with AfCFTA rules of origin and national tariff schedules.

For many, the free trade area is a decisive pillar for Africa's economic development. The projections support this view: intra-African trade is expected to rise by 45 per cent by 2045¹.



AFCFTA – THE FACTS

The AfCFTA agreement went into effect on 1 January 2021

54 AU member states have signed the agreement

With Africa's population of 1.4 billion, the AfCFTA represents the world's biggest single market

¹ UNECA, 2025

A Business Perspective

By Michael Marmon-Halm,
Managing Director Ghana at fairafric

Why are you interested in trading under AfCFTA rules? What benefits do you expect from it?

The AfCFTA creates access to a larger African market for trading. With its plans, we can benefit from reduced tariffs and fewer trade barriers. For our business, it means reaching new customers beyond Ghana while strengthening regional supply chains. If we can export to more African countries at competitive prices, it means lower the cost of exporting finished chocolate products. It will also mean importing our raw materials such as cashew, milk, etc from other African countries, increasing revenue within Africa.

You were part of a business delegation in Kigali organised by the AfCFTA Secretariat. What were your impressions and results?

The delegation to Kigali provided valuable insights into how the AfCFTA is facilitating trade across Africa. The discussions highlighted practical opportunities for cross-border partnerships. It also gave an opportunity to network and understand how businesses can be run in other African countries. Through the business delegation, we held follow-up conversations with key contacts that yielded concrete results and new partnerships. We hope to expand further into other regions.

The AfCFTA creates the world's largest common market. How does this scale make your business more attractive to German investors compared to five years ago?

The scale of the AfCFTA will strengthen Africa's investment case. For companies like ours, it means investors are no longer looking at a single national market but a continental one. A bigger market



for their returns. This broader market potential makes long-term manufacturing investments far more attractive to all investors.

In your view, how does the AfCFTA connect a business in your region to the global value chain?

One of the core mandates of the AfCFTA is regional integration to benefit businesses, building stronger supply chain systems which will connect to global and larger markets as a result. For instance, cocoa processed locally into chocolate can move across African markets more easily. This strengthens African manufacturing capacity and positions businesses to export competitively worldwide. It allows local companies to participate more actively in global value chains and produce more as there is a market available to purchase their products.

fairafric is a fair chocolate producer, that sells its Ghana-made products in Europe.

Highlights of 2025

Building accountable institutions

- The AfCFTA Implementation Review Mechanism for the Trade in Goods Protocol was successfully developed and adopted by the AfCFTA Secretariat, providing a monitoring and evaluation tool to track compliance, enhance transparency, and identify areas needing technical and financial support.



Accelerating implementation

- Supported the AfCFTA Secretariat's shift from negotiation to implementation
- Assisted three regional economic communities in aligning their import tariffs list with AfCFTA trade rules
- Strengthened national implementation committees in 8 countries

Deepening country-level impact

- Conducted legal reviews in 3 countries to align national laws with the AfCFTA trade in services protocol
- Strengthened Kenya's digital trade framework to attract investment
- Supported Ghana in shaping the implementation of the women and youth protocol



Monitoring progress

- With GIZ support, the AU Commission developed the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII), enabling monitoring and comparison of regional integration progress across regional economic communities.

Streamlining African Trade



Kimotho Kariuki is DHL Kenya's AfCFTA compliance and strategy specialist, having been trained on the rules of origin principles that underpin the common market.

"I've guided clients through exports for years, but this training added a new layer of depth," says Kimotho Kariuki. After taking part in a training in rules of origin principles in the context of the AfCFTA, he was appointed compliance and strategy specialist for DHL Kenya. "I now feel confident advising on the intricacies of rules of origin and broader trade dynamics. It's a shift toward more informed, strategic engagement with continental trade."

The training was put together by GIZ and the World Customs Organization (WCO), together with Kenya Revenue Authority. Before Kariuki joined more than 50 professionals from organisations such as DHL, L'Oréal, Nestlé, Kevian, and the

Kenya Association of Manufacturers for the workshop, he often relied on outdated reference materials and informal networks.

In international trade, rules of origin are the critical criteria used to determine a product's national source. These rules dictate whether

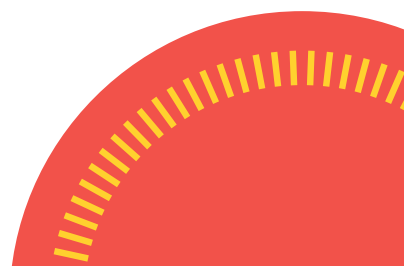
goods qualify for preferential tariffs and faster customs clearance under agreements such as the AfCFTA. Historically, a lack of understanding regarding these complex requirements constituted a significant barrier in Kenya, causing businesses to miss out on duty-free access and competitive advantages.

Through the training, David Maru from the English Press, a Kenyan printing company, discovered new business opportunities. "This session revealed export opportunities I hadn't considered. The presenters made complex tariff and AfCFTA topics accessible and actionable," he says.

In Malawi, Victor Msesa, a manager in the Malawi Revenue Authority's head office, received training similar to Kariuki's. Those officers are now able to train others. Likewise, Ghanaian senior revenue officer Jocelyn Ntiako says that many of her country's customs officers struggled to confidently apply trade rules across different regimes before the rules of origin training. The practical exercises and case studies during the sessions offered clarity and boosted morale: "They are now confident in verifying and validating certificates of origin under various trade regimes," says Ntiako.

The enormous potential of the free trade zone can be illustrated by a single figure: By simplifying compliance and enhancing competitiveness, trade costs could be reduced by 20 per cent.

“I've guided clients through exports for years, but this training added a new layer of depth.”



DATA AS AFRICA'S NEXT GROWTH ENGINE



An AI-powered app that helps Kenyans assert their legal rights. A digital platform that helps close the teaching skills gap in Nigeria's rural communities. These are two of 15 civil society projects funded through the African Union Civic Tech Fund. Behind this is a GIZ programme building harmonised data governance frameworks that make Africa investment-ready, protect citizens and allow trade to flow freely between the continent and Europe.

Kenyan John Mwangi thought he was going to be evicted from his home but then he received speedy legal advice through a local civil society organisation's access to an AI-powered digital app.

The organisation used Kenyan legal tech company Esheria's LexChat app to help Mwangi. The app provides instant, accurate legal research and analysis, as well as document drafting. "I felt protected for the first time," Mwangi says.

What used to take days of back-and-forth research can now be addressed within hours, allowing the team to respond more effectively to urgent cases such as unlawful detentions, gender-based violence and eviction threats. "We have everything at our fingertips. This means victims don't have to wait, and that can be life-changing," says Mary Opondo, a legal officer at the Midrift Human Rights Network.

In Nigeria, the Restored Heart Foundation developed an app, Teacher Bank, to provide teachers with access to essential educational resources, digital tools and professional growth opportunities.

"I've learned to do better, and I hope to do even more," says Mary Bahago, one of the educators who has used the app's resources.

The Esheria LexChat and Teacher Bank apps are just two of 15

civil society projects funded through the African Union Civic Tech Fund in 2025. "I am amazed how civil society innovations are being scaled to empower millions of citizens. This is startup-entrepreneurship for good governance," says GIZ's Franz von Weizsäcker.

The programme he leads, DataCipation, supports the African Union across a wide range of projects, including the development of robust data governance policies.

In 2025, the programme advised the AU on its support to six member states in developing their first national data governance frameworks and ensuring that these are harmonised with the AU's data governance framework.

Ensuring harmonised regional and national data regulations supports the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area because aligned data governance rules smooth cross-border trade in goods and services. In addition, it means African businesses can more easily expand into other African countries.

DataCipation also assists the AU in ensuring that alignment between African data regulations and those of the European Union promotes Africa-Europe supply chain interconnectedness, boosting trade with the enormous African continent and its 1.4 billion people.

"The win-win of working towards more credible and transparent digital governance is that European trade partners will find a legally predictable environment while African economies will benefit from sustainable access to capital," says von Weizsäcker.

DataCipation's work shows that when digital governance gets the foundations right, the benefits reach far beyond boardrooms and trade agreements – all the way to the people who need them most.



Digitalising Africa

DataCipation aims to create harmonised digital and data policies across the continent. It operates in 36 African countries, supporting the roll-out of the AU Data Policy Framework to enhance data governance and digital innovation.

Building a Digital Trade Bridge



GIZ is working with the AU and regional and national authorities to:

- Align African data policies with each other and harmonise them with EU policy, ensuring businesses in both regions can exchange data without the friction of conflicting privacy laws
- Boost economies by developing streamlined regulations that reduce the compliance burden on small businesses
- Contribute to stable African societies by empowering citizens to hold governments and institutions accountable by promoting responsible, transparent civil society data use
- Create an investment-ready market by aligning national African data policies with the AU Data Policy Framework, which makes the African Continental Free Trade Area's Digital Trade Protocol operational

Highlights of 2025



Supported six African countries with their national data governance frameworks – Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Sierra Leone



Supported innovative digital solutions to strengthen citizen engagement through 15 organisations as part of the AU Civic Tech Fund



Supported South Africa in aligning its national data governance framework with that of the AU



Supported the inaugural edition of the African Union Innovation Festival (AU InnoFest) showcasing the AU's work with innovators and the African digital ecosystem



Quotes from AU Civic Tech Fund grantees



This recognition proves that our local struggles have global relevance, and that citizen power, amplified by technology, can reshape governance anywhere.

Habib Sheidu of the AdvoKC Foundation after its Promise Tracker project was awarded the Young Global Changers Award in the Reimagine Civic Engagement category in Berlin, Germany. Promise Tracker NG is designed to track, measure and report on government officials' campaign promises and legislative agenda to foster accountability and active citizenship.



Promise Tracker gave me the evidence I needed. My stories are now backed by data that officials can't ignore.

Journalist Uti Emmanuel, of FIJ Nigeria, on the Promise Tracker NG app



I came out to vote this year because I am no longer afraid of being abused since I have a voice through SmartRR.

Anonymous, Nigeria, on the Big Family 230 Foundation's Smart Reporting and Referral (SmartRR) app that allows anonymous reporting of gender-based violence



Kenya's digital bridge to the European market, one of the largest in the world

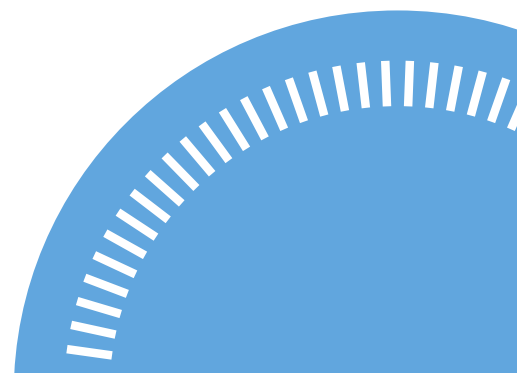
Kenya, one of Africa's most digitally advanced countries, may soon achieve European Union "adequacy recognition", confirming that its data laws are essentially equivalent to the EU's General Data Protection Regulation. This will mean personal data can flow seamlessly between the EU and Kenya, without additional legal requirements.

For Kenyan firms, this is a massive trade catalyst, enabling them to process data for European giants as easily as a company based in Berlin or Paris.

Kenya's journey illustrates a broader African experience, neither fully aligning with the East, nor with the West, but rather seeking opportunities with all sides: Kenya's telecommunications networks are built with China's Huawei hardware. At the same time, American hyperscalers such as Google, Microsoft and AWS are heavily invested and active in Kenya, employing sizeable workforces.

When it came to data regulation, Kenya consciously decided to opt for the European model, which enables cross-border data flows while protecting the rights of individuals. This stands in contrast to the Chinese model of strict localization and state control, and the American model of unregulated cross-border data flows.

This smoothed the way for Kenya's pending EU adequacy recognition, offering its business sector straightforward trade relations with Europe, one of the world's largest economies.





A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON MIGRATION

When stories of African migration are told, the millions of Africans who bring skills, innovation and economic energy to other African countries are often overlooked. The initiative “Move Africa” set out to change that – and the results suggest it is working.

Migrants bring skills, innovation and enterprise that strengthen economies and communities. However, media coverage often centres on concerns about jobs, security and social cohesion. This is also true in Africa. There has to be a way to shed positive light on migration. Like the story of Bonang Libate. She sends most of the money that she earns in South Africa sewing clothes for the export market home to Lesotho, where it has ensured that her four children are fed and educated. Bonang is one of the millions of Africans who move between the continent’s 55 countries seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

Regulated, free cross-border migration is at the heart of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and its Free Movement Protocol is the guiding document for the creation of a Schengen-like area that would allow African citizens the right to enter any AU member state without a prior visa, reside there and work or establish a business.

This is why ratifying and implementing the protocol is widely regarded as a prerequisite for the successful delivery of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which aims to unite the 54 AU member states into the world’s largest single market.

And so, Move Africa was born. Under the AU’s leadership and Germany’s support, the initiative aimed at reshaping and enriching migration stories in African media from narratives of crisis and struggle to more nuanced depictions, highlighting migration’s role in the continent’s economic and social development.

“The project’s role is in providing journalists and storytellers with the tools, training and resources necessary to amplify diverse voices, encourage balanced dialogue, and advance policies that ensure migration serves as a driver of development,” says Leslie Richer, the AU Commission’s Director of Information and Communication. To produce the stories the initiative brought together the media organisations Africa No Filter, African Women in Media (AWiM), YouthHubAfrica, and The Continent with training on data-storytelling, provided by Baraza Media Lab. After the training, journalists reported to have greatly improved confidence in reporting on migration. The project connected several non-governmental organisations, journalists and digital creators to produce stories on migration.

Contributions were received from across Africa and the diaspora, highlighting the benefits of easier labour migration brought about by the African Union Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons. The interest in these stories speaks for itself – they reached more than 1.8 million people.



DID YOU KNOW

Most African migrants remain in Africa.

- In 2020, more than half of all African migrants lived in Africa, but outside their birth country.
- Since 2010, intra-African migration has increased by 43.6%, significantly outpacing migration from Africa to Europe (+26%)

Sources: International Organization for Migration Africa Migration Report (Second Edition) (November 2024); Mo Ibrahim Foundation: Facts & Figures (November 2024)



How Storytelling is Transforming Africa's Migration Narrative

“

Families along borders between Nigeria and Niger or Ghana and Togo often have homes, farms, and livelihoods in multiple countries. Migration is part of daily life, yet narratives portray migrants as threats.

Amanda Bisong, policy officer at the European Centre for Development Policy Management

“

Migration is not a bad thing. When people move, they bring new energy, new skills, and experience. Migrants work, send money home, and contribute to host communities... These stories attracted more readers than many others.

Simon Mkina, editor-in-chief of Tanzania-based Swahili digital outlet Pambazuko News

Health Advocacy Beyond Borders

Francine Ziruka Mwozi is a Congolese mother of seven in Kitebi, Wakiso District in Uganda. Since arriving in the country in 2011, she has supported migratory women through entrepreneurship and health advocacy. A social worker and community administrator back home, she was designated chancellor of Health in All Refugee Nationality Communities in Africa and continues as an HIV counselor. “I’m still a social worker, and my journey didn’t stop at the border.”

She founded Touch and Smile Development, offering HIV counseling, training for hairdressers, tailoring, soap making, and child nutrition programs. Motivated by her son’s illness and language barriers upon arrival, she created a service to help others facing similar challenges. The group supports women at Kiruddu, Mulago, and Bbosa Clinic; sells women-made liquid soap to fund food and essentials; collaborates with hospitals and village health teams; and organizes health camps by requesting volunteer doctors to reduce costs.



The East Africa Common Market protocol (2010) enabled her to travel, join leadership forums, and collaborate with female leaders across Africa. Therefore, she can keep promoting economic empowerment and inclusive development: “If you’re a migrant with the right qualifications and documentation, you can get good-quality jobs.”

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Excerpted from the article [“Hope Beyond Borders: How Migrant Women Are Changing Their Stories”](#) by Zam Nakityo, produced as part of the [Move Africa](#) campaign.

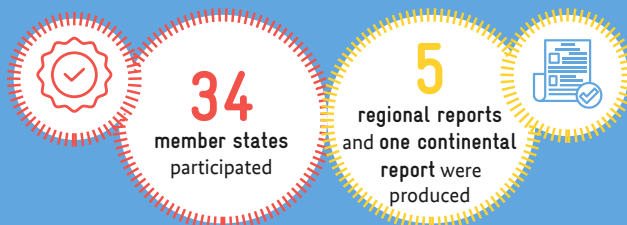


Working Towards Free Movement

GIZ partners with the AU to implement continental and regional migration policy frameworks that promote the orderly free movement of people across Africa's more than 50 countries.



Monitoring implementation of the AU's Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action

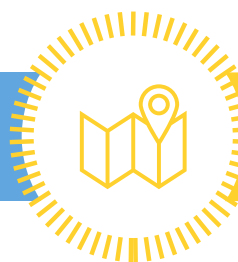


- Ensuring regulated migration channels within Africa contribute to more balanced and cooperative migration partnerships
- Monitoring provides stronger evidence on why people migrate out of their countries of origin and where they go (which is most often not Europe)
- The AU's policy framework is very holistic and its full implementation will improve migration governance across Africa

Highlights of 2025



6 reports published



5 regional evaluations of policy implementation



Facilitated an AU peer-learning mission that secured agreement to establish the Forum of Heads of Immigration Services and a roadmap toward 15 ratifications of the Free Movement Protocol



Supported the African-Diplomatic Indaba on accelerating the ratification of the AU Free Movement of Persons Protocol, reinforcing free movement as a strategic driver of economic transformation



Supported the AU Technical Meeting on Skills Mobility to align the African Continental Qualifications Framework with regional priorities and advance free movement



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CORRIDORS FOR AFRICA

Africa's future runs on infrastructure, and the pressure to build it right has never been greater. This is why Germany is supporting AU member states to develop low-carbon, climate-resilient corridors that strengthen trade routes across Africa and into global markets.

When the business world looks at Africa, all eyes are on infrastructure. This is why the African Union established the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The vision is to develop green infrastructure corridors for transport, energy, water and data to boost economic growth and productivity. Bridges, train lines and other new structures are being carefully designed to withstand shocks such as floods and cyclones, natural events that disproportionately affect women and marginalised groups.

Germany supports this endeavour through the Africa InCORE project, working with AU member states to improve the technical capabilities required to implement low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure projects that promote cross-border trade and regional integration across Africa.

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“The greatest untapped potential lies in jointly scaling sustainable industrialisation, linking Europe’s technology and capital with Africa’s demand for energy, manufacturing and digital solutions”

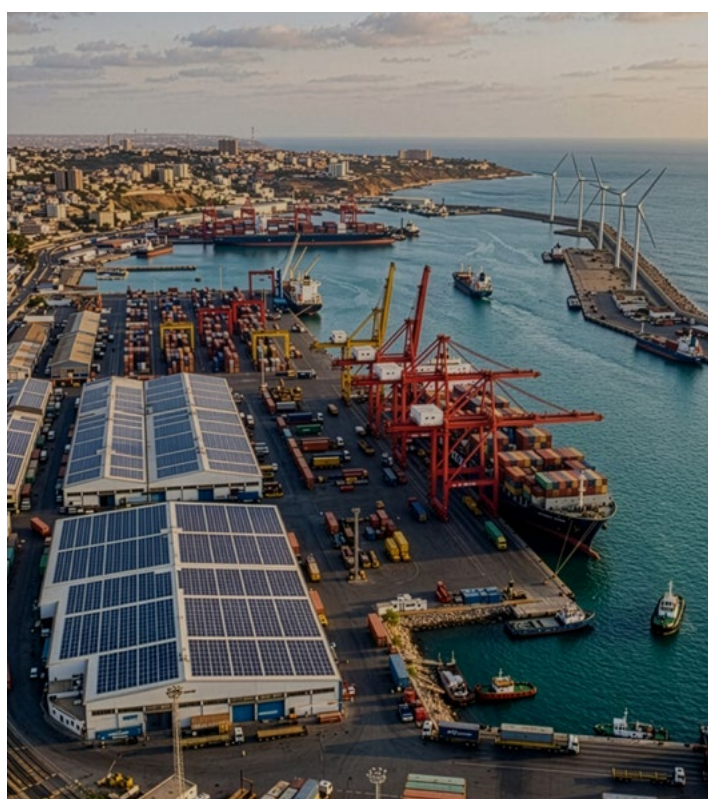
This not only serves the vision of a prosperous Africa, it is also an attractive vision for German and European companies and investors, and aligns with the EU’s Global Gateway initiative. “The greatest untapped potential lies in jointly scaling sustainable industrialisation, linking Europe’s technology and capital with Africa’s demand for energy, manufacturing and digital solutions,” says Sabine Dall’Omo, Siemens CEO for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Integrated corridors enhance socio-economic impact and create a more predictable environment for businesses from Africa, Germany, and around the world. This is already evident: over 600 German companies are active in the North–South Corridor which connects, among others, South Africa with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

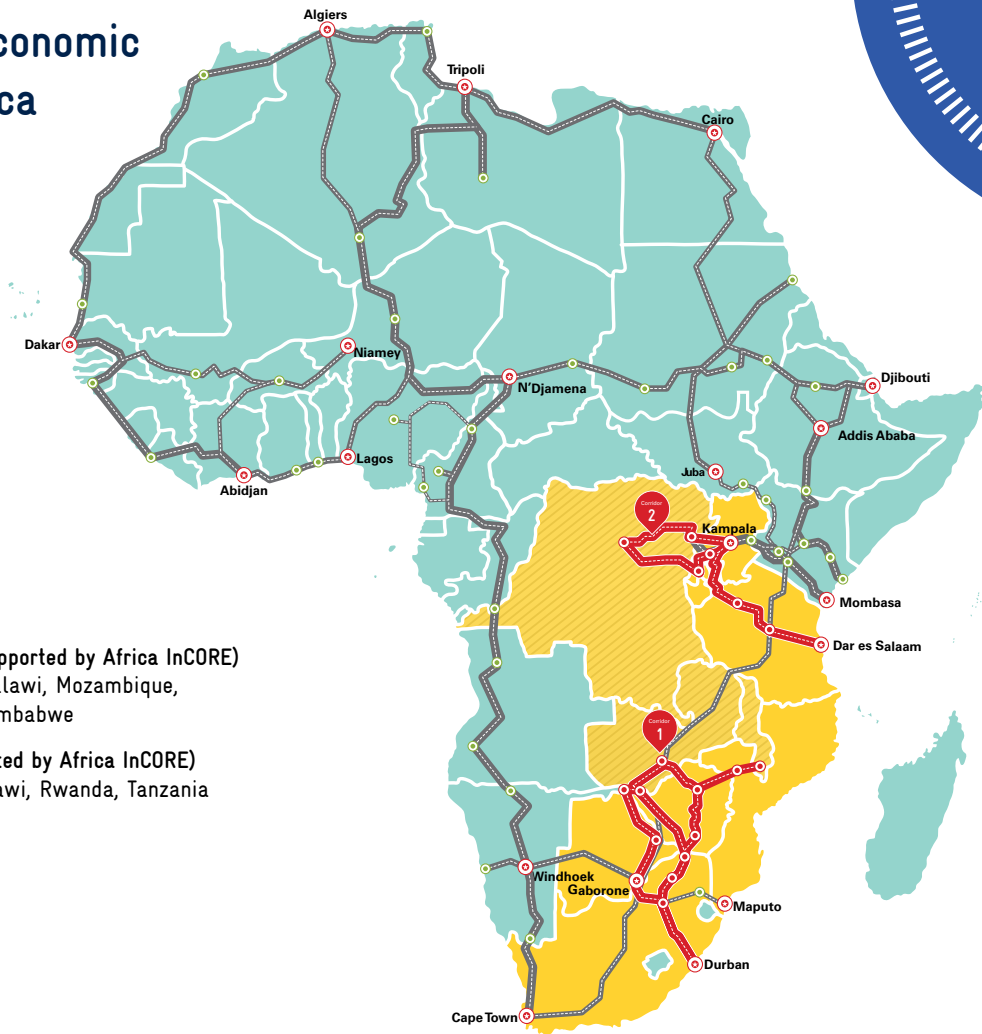
Africa InCORE’s 2025 work included both policy-related activities with the AU and collaboration with the Central

Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA) focused on preparing infrastructure projects. The CCTTFA is responsible for coordinating, managing and promoting the development of a 1,300 km integrated multimodal transport network (road, rail and inland waterways) connecting the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam to six other countries in East and Central Africa, many of them landlocked.

The AU indicates that, given Africa’s particularly challenging economic geography, regional integration is the best way for the continent to realise its growth potential and participate effectively in the global economy.



Main Axes for Economic Corridors in Africa



Legend

- 1** North-South-Corridor (supported by Africa InCORE)
Botswana, DR Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- 2** Central Corridor (supported by Africa InCORE)
Burundi, DR Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
- Part of corridor 1 & 2
- Other corridors

Highlights of 2025

Through Africa InCORE, GIZ offers technical advisory support to the AU and member states that serves mutually beneficial business relationships between Germany and Africa by delivering:



A continental green infrastructure policy adopted by the AU



6 high-priority projects advanced, including the Central Corridor Standard Gauge Railway



Finalised Continental Railway Source Book to standardise investment-ready networks



Expanded use of a structured digital framework for finance-ready project preparation



Institutional capacities of AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and corridor management authorities strengthened



Promoted enhanced gender equality in infrastructure development



“The Priority is to Move to Scale”

Sabine Dall’Omo, CEO for Sub-Saharan Africa at Siemens

Where do you see the greatest untapped potential in Africa–Europe economic cooperation?

The greatest untapped potential lies in jointly scaling sustainable industrialisation, linking Europe’s technology and capital with Africa’s demand for energy, manufacturing, and digital solutions. To unlock impact, partnerships must move faster from pilots to platforms, supported by blended finance, risk-sharing instruments, and predictable policy frameworks that enable long-term investment rather than short-term projects. Industrial AI can further accelerate this cooperation, while Africa contributes a growing pool of highly skilled young talent that is already supporting global innovation and industrial competitiveness, as seen in digital and engineering hubs such as the BMW IT Hub in South Africa.

Energy, transport, and digital infrastructure are critical enablers of growth. Where are today’s most binding infrastructure constraints in Sub-Saharan Africa?

The most binding constraint in Sub-Saharan Africa remains reliable power, closely linked to water security. Without stable electricity, industry, transport, digital services, and water systems cannot function at scale. The strongest multiplier effects come from integrated investments in renewable power, storage, rail-based transport, digital platforms, and energy-efficient water and wastewater infrastructure – planned together to lower costs, build resilience, and unlock inclusive growth.

Siemens operates across multiple African markets. What needs to happen next for the African Continental Free Trade Area to move from political agreement to tangible benefits?

The AfCFTA has entered an early execution phase. Trade is taking place, tariff schedules are being implemented in a growing number of countries, and businesses are beginning to test cross-border value chains. The priority now is to

move from early transactions to scale. That requires faster implementation of harmonised standards, digital customs processes, and reliable cross-border infrastructure. For businesses to invest with confidence, they need predictability, consistency, and speed across markets. If this execution phase is supported by effective trade facilitation, skills mobility, dependable energy supply, and modern logistics, the AfCFTA can progress from early momentum to sustained industrialisation, delivering tangible benefits for businesses, jobs, and consumers across Africa.

What “soft” enablers – such as regulatory frameworks, standards, skills development, or institutional capacity – matter most for sustainable private investment in Africa?

Regulatory certainty, skills development, and strong institutions matter as much as physical assets. Clear rules, bankable project pipelines, and aligned standards reduce risk and accelerate investment. Public support is especially needed for technical capacity, vocational training, and regulatory modernisation, ensuring that local skills and institutions can fully absorb and sustain private-sector investment.

In your role as Chairperson of the Afrika-Verein der deutschen Wirtschaft, what are the most important signals that African and European policymakers could send to encourage long-term, sustainable investment by German and European companies?

Policymakers should signal long-term commitment through stable policy environments, transparent procurement, and credible climate and industrial strategies. On both continents, stronger public–private dialogue and risk-sharing mechanisms are essential. When governments demonstrate predictability, partnership, and alignment with sustainability goals, European companies are far more willing to invest for the long term.



A SAFER, BETTER CONNECTED WORLD



When Gambian women's rights activist Binta Bojang completed the leadership mentorship programme on peacebuilding and governance, she took what she had learned straight to the markets, speaking to women about their role in peace and security. Her story is one thread in a much larger tapestry: Germany's support to the AU on Peace, Security and Governance (AUPSG) is to embed lasting peace and good governance across the continent.

"Women's rights have been a passion of mine for a long time, one that comes from personal experience," says Binta Bojang. The Gambian women's rights activist is one of 15 young women who participated in a leadership skills mentorship programme, organised by the PeaceHub in partnership with the African Union and Germany. Some of these young women live with disabilities. "Because of this mentorship programme, I have changed the way I approach my work. Now I am able to focus on many issues together, especially gender-based violence and the key role women play in peacebuilding processes."

The mentorship programme, delivered through the youth-led civil society organisation Peace Hub The Gambia, covered topics such as the roles the youth and women play in ensuring peace and security; The Gambia's national action plan on youth, peace and security and the nexus with the women, peace and security agenda; as well as personal branding. Women were chosen as key actors in peacebuilding and development.

The country's national action plan on youth, peace and security is a strategic framework designed to empower women by integrating their voices into national stability and development efforts and ensuring that their roles in peacebuilding are outlined and respected. GIZ works to foster peace and security across Africa. It supports the implementation of the AU's peace, security, and

governance policies and instruments to realise the aspirations of Agenda 2063. This is why it perfectly aligns with the approach of the German government which aims to link its development and security policies more closely in the future.

One of the year's biggest milestones was concluding

a project in collaboration with civil society, state institutions, and regional bodies across West, Eastern, and Southern Africa. A key achievement was the establishment of civil society organisation-led regional early warning systems for conflict prevention in East and Southern Africa by adapting a similar solution from West Africa.

Another milestone was the further development of the first Common African Position on the Climate Change, Peace and Security Nexus, shaping a shared African perspective on the nexus and strengthening Africa's voice in global climate and security discussions.

"Peace and security are public goods, and their benefits do not stop at borders," says GIZ head of programme Max Middeke. "Conflict in one country affects the entire region. It disrupts trade, undermines regional integration, and limits the opportunities that stable and cooperative neighbours could otherwise create together."

As these examples demonstrate, most of the programme's support is focused on building capacity within the AU Commission and AU member states. This reflects the AU's principle of finding African solutions to African problems.

Yet another key milestone was the support to enhance the institutional development of the AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security department (PAPS). Proposals were developed and training sessions implemented to enhance PAPS's institutional capacity, enabling PAPS to start joint planning, implementation and monitoring of its actions.

Women's rights activist Bojang has also used her new knowledge and skills to deepen the community's understanding of the role they have to play in peace and security. "We go into the markets and speak to people, especially women, about the role they can play in peace and security."

The national action plan frames youth as agents – from grassroots community mediation to formal security sector and peacekeeping roles. Bojang's work demonstrates that Germany's partnership with the AU extends beyond strategic and policy levels to include impacts in communities. Conflict in Africa leads to human displacement and migration, supply chain disruption and even terrorism. Helping to minimise it protects Africa and Europe's shared economic interests and social values.

Peace and security are public goods, and their good effects do not stop at borders.

DID YOU KNOW

Every USD 1 spent on conflict prevention policies in fragile contexts can yield economic returns up to USD 103

(Source: IMF – The Urgency of Conflict Prevention – A Macroeconomic Perspective, December 2024)

Empowering Women Peacebuilders in The Gambia

Women’s participation in peace processes leads to better and more sustainable outcomes. This is why GIZ mentored young women in The Gambia to strengthen the necessary leadership skills needed to be successful in this role.

As Gambian women’s rights activist Binta Bojang notes, “Because of this mentorship programme, I am able to focus on many issues together and highlight the key role women play in peacebuilding processes.”

These efforts are empowering young women to implement The Gambia’s National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security, launched in February 2025.



Participation



Encouraging and enabling active engagement of young women in peacebuilding and decision-making processes

Partnerships



Fostering collaboration and networking among young women, as well as between young women and other stakeholders in the peace and security sector

Prevention

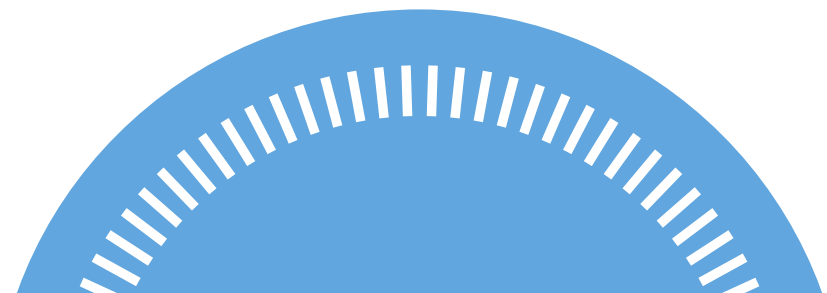


Equipping young women with the skills and knowledge to prevent conflict and promote peace

Protection



Ensuring the safety and security of young women in conflict and post-conflict settings



Highlights of 2025

Conflict Prevention and Early Warning

The Establishment of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)-led regional early warning systems for conflict prevention in East and Southern Africa enables CSOs to provide increased and high-quality data to regional and AU's Continental Early Warning Systems

- 236 peace actors were trained
- 45 field monitors and analysts (40% women) were equipped with tablets and laptops

Youth, Peace and Security

Advanced the implementation of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security through:

- Adoption of National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security in The Gambia and Cameroon through consultations and active participation of 2,600+ young people, majority of young women
- Implementing the Young Women 4 Peace Mentorship Programme in The Gambia to empower the next generation of female peacebuilders

Governance and Conflict Prevention

- Launch of Community-Led Governance Initiative in Sierra Leone to empower communities to participate in local decision-making
- Launch of the African Governance Report (AGR) 2025, offering key recommendations to help African states manage natural resources in an inclusive and sustainable way

The Climate-Peace-Security Nexus

- Supported the AU's growing engagement on the nexus between climate change, peace and security
- Development of the first Common African Position on the Climate Change, Peace and Security (CAP-CPS Nexus)



FACES AND STORIES



HON. DR FALESS DEBRAH MPOHA MOYO

Member of Parliament, Chitipa North Constituency; Malawi

“I was honoured to participate in the pre-election training programme for Malawi’s women candidates.

It was a game-changer, it equipped me with the skills to craft campaign messages that resonated with my target audience. I also learned how to stay resilient in the face of male dominance during the campaign period. One key takeaway was the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility with competitors and voters.

Despite challenges such as intimidation and limited campaign resources compared to male candidates, the knowledge and confidence I gained helped me win my seat in Parliament. The experience showed me how capacity-building can transform women’s political participation.”

“The knowledge and confidence I gained helped me win my seat in Parliament”

i

Women in Malawi often face structural barriers to political participation, including limited campaign resources, intimidation, and male-dominated political spaces. We supported trainings for women candidates ahead of the 2025 elections to strengthen their campaign skills, leadership capacities, and resilience during the electoral process. The initiative reached 204 aspiring and sitting women leaders, with 26 of the 48 women elected to Parliament having participated in the trainings.

ERIC NGONDI

Board Member, Africa Disability Forum (ADF), representing youth with disabilities; Kenya

“Participating in the second World Summit on Social Development was an important opportunity to bring the voices of youth with disabilities from East Africa to a global platform. As a representative of organisations of persons with disabilities at regional and continental level, I engaged in discussions on justice, social protection, inclusive education, and employment. During the summit, I contributed to conversations on disability-inclusive social protection mechanisms and emphasised the need to strengthen regional coordination among organisations of persons with disabilities. I also built strategic connections with international disability rights actors and development partners. The experience reinforced the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities are not only beneficiaries of social development policies, but active contributors in shaping them.”



“There is no social development without the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.”

i

Persons with disabilities are often underrepresented in social development discussions and decision-making processes. We supported the participation of representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities in global policy dialogues to strengthen their engagement in shaping inclusive social protection and development policies. This support helped amplify the voices of disability advocates and foster stronger regional and international collaboration.

AGWESE LUCY CHRISTIANE

President, Women Empowerment in Africa, Cameroon

“Taking part in two editions of the Executive and Strategic Leadership Programme was a turning point in my leadership journey. It strengthened the way we approach our work in girls’ education, women’s empowerment, and the fight against gender-based violence in Cameroon. It gave me clearer direction and practical tools to lead more effectively. Connecting with other leaders facing similar challenges was incredibly encouraging; we shared openly, learned from one another, and realised we were not alone. I applied the lessons on leadership and sustainability straight away in our organisation. As a result, we designed and launched income-generating activities for Women Empowerment in Africa, helping us reduce our dependence on external funding and build a more secure future. The programme also expanded our network of partners and created new opportunities to grow our work. It shifted my mindset and strengthened my skills as a leader. I’m grateful for the growth and clarity it has brought me.”



“It changed my vision of leadership.”

i

African think tanks and CSOs have the deepest understanding of local conditions and opportunities, yet they are often not sufficiently included in policymaking processes. Through targeted programmes, we are strengthening leadership, management, and policy engagement skills – especially for women leaders and researchers – enabling them to shape decision-making in Central Africa.

DR. MOHAMMED ALI MUSSA

Community Healthcare Worker, Tanzania

“During a busy emergency department shift, I assessed a middle-aged patient who presented with fever, confusion, and subtle respiratory symptoms. Drawing on the recent training, I quickly identified red flags for severe infection and applied a structured approach to early detection. I immediately initiated isolation precautions, ensured proper use of personal protective equipment by the team, and prioritised rapid investigations and early antibiotics. I also briefed junior colleagues on infection prevention and control measures to reduce exposure risk. The patient was stabilised and referred early to higher-level care, preventing deterioration and potential transmission to staff and other patients. Soon after, the patient’s test result came back positive for Mpox. Since cascading this approach throughout the county, I am happy to say that we have observed a measurable reduction of transmission and mortality rates over recent months.”



“Targeted training can have a direct, life-saving impact in everyday healthcare practice.”

i

Covid-19 showed how outbreaks in one region can quickly threaten global health security. Following Mpox’s declaration as a public health emergency of international concern, we supported Africa CDC and WHO in implementing the Continental Mpox Response Plan. By building frontline healthcare workers’ skills and providing supervision to facilities in six of the most affected countries, the initiative helped curb the disease and strengthen pandemic preparedness across communities.

ASCHAALOO YOHAANIS

Woreda Administrator of Miyo, Ethiopia

“For many years, our cross-border communities lived alongside one another without meaningful interaction to address burning challenges. We depended on second-hand information when concerns arose across the border, whether about livestock disease, theft, or human trafficking. Because of this, misunderstandings grew easily. When we finally had the opportunity to exchange with leaders and community members from both sides of the border, we understood the difficulties we were facing were deeply similar and the impact of conflict affected us all. Today, we share information early in a cross-border committee, review incidents together, and resolve concerns before they grow. Peace has become a shared responsibility.”



“After 32 years, I crossed the border with a sense of shared responsibility.”

i

Cross-border communities in the Sololo–Miyo border area between Kenya and Ethiopia have long faced tensions. We supported the establishment of a cross-border peace committee that brings community representatives and local authorities together for regular dialogue and early information sharing. This platform helps communities address concerns early and strengthen trust across the border.

TIGISTY KAUPIRURA

Chief Valuer, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia

“I worked as a junior property valuer in the Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. The scholarship I received allowed me to pursue a full-time Master of Spatial Sciences in Land Administration. It connected me to mentors, peers and knowledge networks. After graduating, I was promoted to Chief Valuer. In this role, I lead a subdivision and oversee key projects. I am also pursuing a PhD in this field. The scholarship not only advanced my career but also connected me to a broader community advancing land governance across borders. By shaping land use in my community, I am truly living my ancestors’ wildest dreams.”



“I am living my ancestors’ wildest dreams, thanks to the NELGA DAAD Scholarship.”

i Despite strong political commitment, land reform across Africa remains weak due to capacity gaps among professionals, institutions, and systems. GIZ strengthened human and institutional capacities by supporting postgraduate training, professional development, and curriculum reform in land governance. In the past 10 years, 160+ postgraduate scholarships were supported and 3,500+ professionals trained, with around 83% of graduates actively contributing to land governance in their countries.

ESTER NDEINDILA SHAPUMBA

TVET Trainee, Kunene Region, Namibia

“I had the opportunity to submit a proposal concept for inclusion of youth with disabilities through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), mentorship, and entrepreneurship support. As a TVET student myself, being given the chance to design an innovative solution for my community has strengthened my passion for advancing the inclusion in skills development. My solution was selected for further development and implementation, which was very encouraging. I also had the privilege of representing my community and showcasing the initiative during Africa Skills Week at the AU Headquarters in Ethiopia. Through this experience, I learned that inclusion is not just about access; it is about belonging. This realisation continues to inspire me to advocate for a TVET system that truly leaves no one behind.”

“Inclusion is not just about access, it’s about belonging.”

i Youth with disabilities remain underrepresented in TVET systems, facing barriers to participation, inclusion, and access to opportunities for skills development. We supported a youth innovation call for young innovators to develop, refine, and showcase their ideas for community-driven solutions. Selected participants were given the opportunity to further develop their concepts and present them at a continental platform, amplifying youth-led solutions for inclusive TVET systems.

SAMWEL OPANA

Energy Planning and Modelling Expert, Eastern Africa Power Pool, Ethiopia

“We are supporting Eastern Africa Power Pool member states – including ministries, regulators and regional institutions – to strengthen their use of advanced energy planning tools and scenario development. As the regional body coordinating cross-border electricity trade and grid interconnection, the Eastern Africa Power Pool plays an important role in improving power system integration and electricity reliability across East Africa. So far, five in-person training sessions have brought together 50 participants, with strong engagement and practical peer learning. Since the programme began, I have seen how closely it aligns with our regional priorities and how it is helping to strengthen evidence-based power sector planning.”



“Energy planning is the foundation of a more reliable regional power system.”

i Regional energy planning is essential for long-term energy security, system reliability, and sustainability. Through the Energy Transition in Africa (ENGAGE) project, we support robust, evidence-based power sector studies and investment analyses aligned with regional priorities.

Outlook

AI for Africa

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming Africa. Analysts project that AI could add up to USD 1.5 trillion to Africa's GDP by 2030, making it one of the most transformative technologies.

There are over 2,400 AI-focused organisations across the continent including startups, research institutions, and public agencies. However, venture investment is largely concentrated in startup ecosystems in Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tunisia.

Yet innovation is everywhere. Ethiopia's Hasab AI provides high-accuracy speech recognition for Amharic and other local languages. Kenya's Rhea uses AI-powered soil testing to give farmers data-driven advice alongside an AI chatbot for customer service. Morocco's DeepEcho applies AI to analyse ultrasound imaging, helping clinicians improve maternal health outcomes.

Despite this momentum, a gap remains between policy ambitions and startup realities. Many startups face constraints including limited cross-border data access,

fragmented regulatory environments, limited high-quality local datasets, and high costs of cloud infrastructure. Strengthening dialogue between policymakers and AI entrepreneurs is important to ensure regulations are informed by ecosystem needs.

To address this gap, we are working to strengthen the conditions for effective AI development. Through GIZ's AI Made in Africa project, a key focus is conducting a continent-wide survey of AI startups and businesses to generate evidence on constraints, growth patterns, and policy priorities. The project has also curated over 230 datasets across different sectors, almost 60% of which are open access. Expanding high-quality, accessible datasets is critical, especially given that Africa contributes only around 2% of global AI training data.

Looking ahead, continental momentum around AI is growing. The African Union is expected to prioritise AI in its strategic agenda in 2027, offering an opportunity to align policy frameworks, infrastructure investment, and startup ecosystem development at scale.

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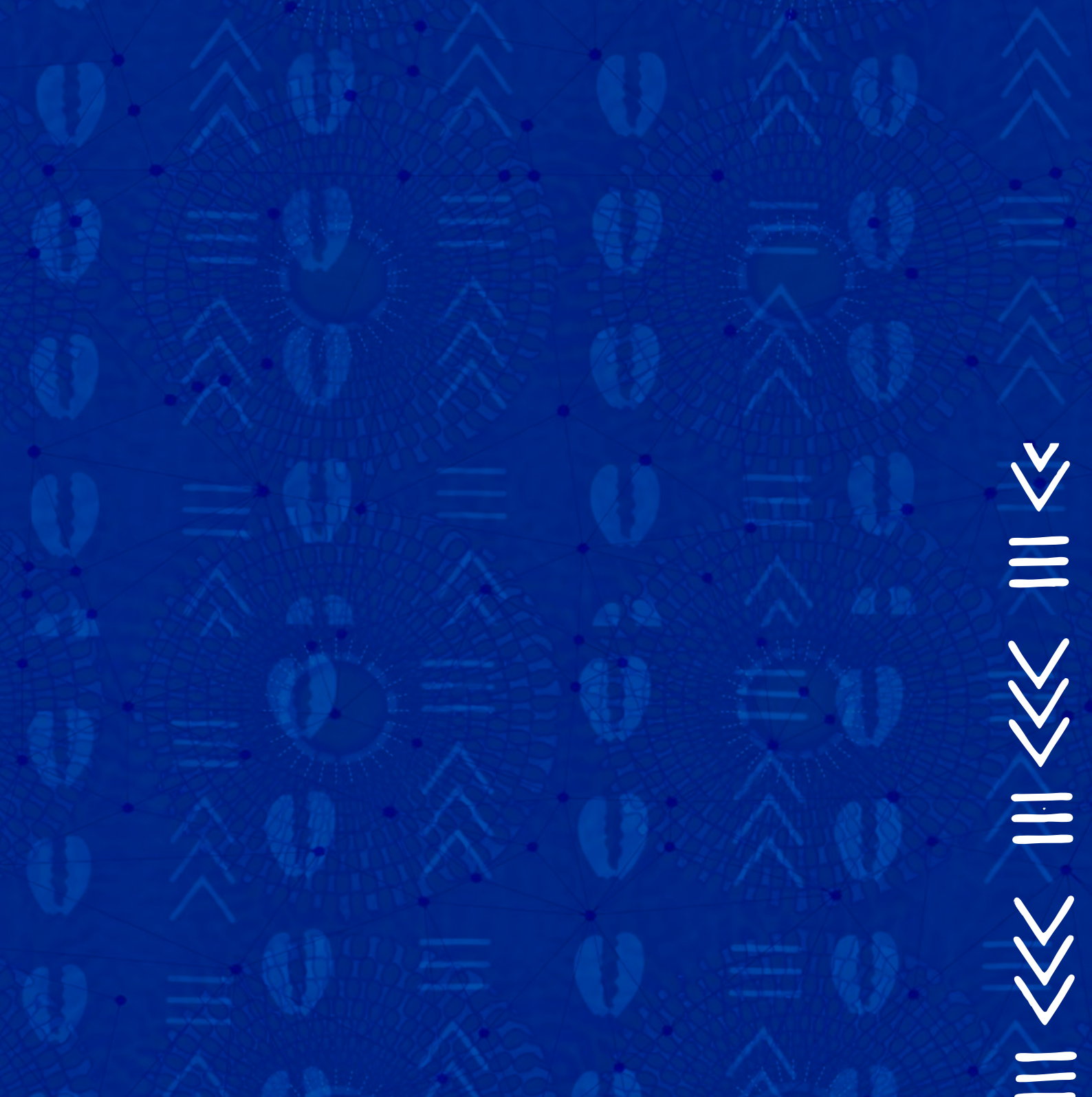
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Maps

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Addis Ababa, 2026

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