



Regional Project

Knowledge for Transformation (K4T)

Background

Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	GIZ GmbH
Area	Africa (supraregional)
Duration	January 2022 – June 2025

The BMZ promotes **sustainable economic development** in its partner countries. In doing so, it strives for a socio-ecological economic transformation that strengthens **socially just, ecologically sustainable**, digital and competitive economic systems. The aim is to effectively reduce hunger, inequality and poverty and to support disadvantaged population groups. This requires **scientifically based reform** ideas that are communicated to policymakers. In **Africa**, regional and pan-African **research institutes and networks** have context-specific knowledge on how to deal with local and pan-African socio-economic challenges. They have the potential to contribute as **drivers of reforms** if they share their scientific expertise with **policymakers and development partners**. Strengthening scientific innovators in Africa is therefore a lever for making policy on the continent as well as development cooperation with Africa more sustainable and inclusive.

Objective and Approach

The objective of the regional project “Knowledge for Transformation” (K4T) is to **strengthen the transfer of knowledge between research and policymaking on economic challenges in Africa**. The project therefore supports the dialogue between the scientific community and policymakers in three areas:

1. The **multi-donor Trust Fund Think Africa Partnership (TAP)** implemented by the World Bank supports the entire knowledge transfer chain - from the career development of young economists and the strengthening of African research institutes to scientific support for economic advisors in politics. TAP also provides scientific support for the *G20 Compact with Africa* initiative for successful private sector mobilization in selected African countries.
2. **Think tanks** work together in a **collaborative model of peer learning (Learning Partnerships)** to produce joint analyses for African decision-makers. They also strengthen the think tanks’ ability to communicate their research findings to policymakers.
3. **The exchange between African think tanks and relevant development partners** is being strengthened to incorporate locally generated knowledge into German and international development cooperation.

Our Impact

Contributions to policymaking: The project partners presented their results to policymakers at over 230 conferences. They are increasingly being approached for advice on policymaking. In spring 2023, for instance, the *African Center for Economic Transformation* (ACET) developed a joint African position on reforms of the global financial architecture at the request of African finance ministers. This was followed in October 2023 by the adoption of a joint framework with African finance ministers and development partners, the *Marrakech Framework*.



Angola's Minister of Finance (left) with ACET President (right) during a ministerial dialogue initiated by ACET at the Annual Meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (2024).



Former Federal Minister Svenja Schulze (center) at an event with the Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) on development policy in Africa (2024).

Research networks: The project has strengthened research networks and peer-learning partnerships between over 20 think tanks, which contribute to advising the African Development Agency (AUDA NEPAD) and the Central African region, among others. In addition, a network of African Chief Economists of Government from 43 African countries was established, which uses its combined expertise to develop joint African positions, for example during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2022.

Exchange between research and development partners: Development partners received scientific input from the project partners at over 85 events. More than 15 exchanges have already taken place between the executive level of the BMZ and the think tanks, for example in January 2023 with former German Federal Development Minister Svenja Schulze in Berlin. Additionally, the partners have contributed to the development of the BMZ Africa Strategy (2023).



Participants of the "Central African Think Tank Forum" of the Cameroonian Nkafu Policy Institute, which brought together research institutes from the Central African region (2024).

Imprint

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

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Photo credits/sources:
ACET (2024), Jeske (2024),
Nkafu Policy Institute (2024)



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Berlin, 2025