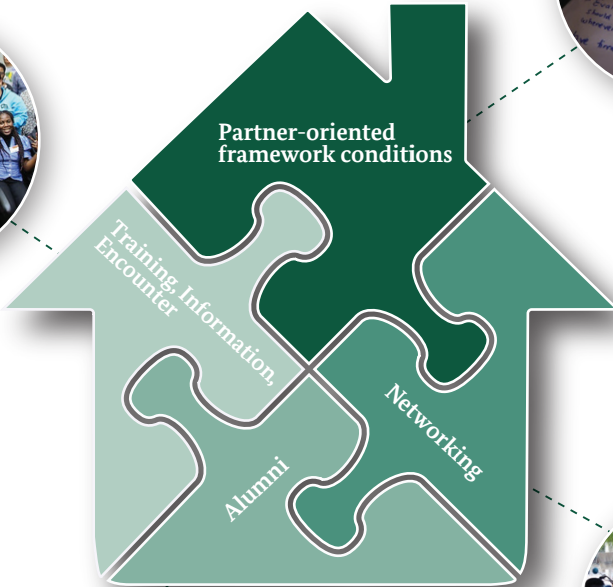


Strengthening an African Partner Structure in the Framework of the African-German Youth Initiative



#AGYI

HORIZONTE VERBINDEN. CONNECTER LES HORIZONS. CONNECTING HORIZONS.

Connecting Horizons – Results of the AGYI Pilot Phase 2017 - 2020

The African-German Youth Initiative (AGYI) supported young people in developing their potential and participating in political and social development processes through youth exchange projects, voluntary services and returnee activities with a focus on sustainable development.

The AGYI was implemented in Germany and Africa. Engagement Global coordinated the overall initiative, in order to promote youth exchanges that are characterised by partnerships between African countries and Germany.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ strengthened resources, competencies and capabilities in the African partner structures. The AGYI is aligned with the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the Youth Charter (2006), the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2019-2023) and the national youth strategies of the pilot countries.

The GIZ programme, headquartered in Addis Ababa, worked on a Pan-African level and in the three pilot countries Benin, South Africa and Tanzania. Implementation partners were the African

Union Commission (AUC) and the implementation structures, AGYI Benin Network, Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) and WESSA in the three pilot countries.

They all worked together to promote exchange between young people from Africa and Germany, to continuously increase the number of participants and to promote the further qualitative development of youth voluntary services and exchange formats.

At the end of the pilot phase of the African-German Youth Initiative, this brochure gives an insight into the realised achievements of the initiative and their effects. The facts and figures featured in this publication are drawn from the joint results and impact monitoring system of all AGYI partners.

Training, Information, Encounter

The AGYI supported implementation structures in the three pilot countries Benin, South Africa and Tanzania in developing a service offer comprising further training, information and networking for sending and host organisations in the respective countries. The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), the Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) and the AGYI Benin Network, an association of 25 non-governmental organisations in Benin, have been implementing concrete measures in the areas of information, network meetings and training since the beginning of the pilot phase. The service offer developed by each partner initiates new partnerships and improves the quality of youth exchange formats. Service offers have been set-up to persist beyond the AGYI pilot phase. The African Union has been integrating target groups and perspectives beyond the pilot countries into the initiative and has been developing and disseminating guidelines and good practice examples across the continent. A Pan-African Dialogue and Coordination Mechanism on youth exchange and voluntary services promotes the further development of volunteer services on the African continent.



"AGYI's work has had a positive impact on AFS's profile in the NGO sector in South Africa. In particular, opportunities for networking with other South African organisations are a real asset to our operations."

Image 1: AFS South Africa



- More Guidelines and Tools:**
- Alumni App SAAN Alumni Network
 - Training Manual – Benin
 - Inclusion Manual – TYC
 - Training Manual – TYC
 - Skills Framework - WESSA

Graphic 1: Milestones Training, Information, Encounter

Networking


Under the umbrella of the AGYI, youth exchange formats that are already supported by the BMZ such as ASA, ENSA, CHAT der Welten and weltwaerts, have been expanded both quantitatively and qualitatively. The focus lies on the sustainable strengthening of the African partner structures by supporting regional associations and networks in the field of youth exchange. Those include the Southern African Alumni Network (SAAN as well as a Beninese and Namibian Alumni Network) or the Southern African weltwärts Network (SAwN), a network of weltwaerts sending and hosting organisations in Southern Africa. A similar process in West Africa with the Western Africa weltwärts Network is underway. Networks ever more strongly also collaborate to represent a stronger voice. The African Union supports pan-African exchange formats through a strengthening of networking between the African Member States. As such a continental Linkage Platform and Coordination Mechanism as well as the AU-EU Youth Hub emerged as new innovative approaches to youth exchange at intercontinental level. The networking between organisations in Germany and on the African continent is also a core element, having resulted amongst others in a Virtual Trainers' Wiki and a new partner-matching format. Continental Quality standards were developed by the AUC; in Benin a Quality Certification Label is in place.



"The AGYI Benin Network was set up in August 2018 by civil society actors in Benin and its main mission is to (i) bring together all actors involved in the field of volunteering and exchange programmes; (ii) defend and negotiate the interests of CSOs working in the field of volunteering and exchange programmes in the Republic of Benin with the State, development partners and umbrella organisations.


Koudoussou Adéchina Laourou,
President of the AGYI Benin Network

Image 2: Capacity Building of network members in Sokponta, Benin



The following network structures are launched and offer activities for their members

- AGYI Benin Network**
50+ organisations
- Southern African Alumni Network (SAAN)**
Alumni Networks in Benin (RAVIES), Tanzania and Namibia
West African weltwärts Network
44 active members
- Southern African weltwärts Network (SAwN)**
56 member organisations




36

Initiation of New Partnerships


- > 8 with organisations from Tanzania
- > Preparation of 10 partnerships with organisations from South Africa
- > 18 partnerships in Benin

Digital Solutions to Increase Quality




AUC "Continental Volunteer Linkage Platform"

Online platform for information and networking between different actors (state structures, civil society, youths) at different levels (continental, regional and national)



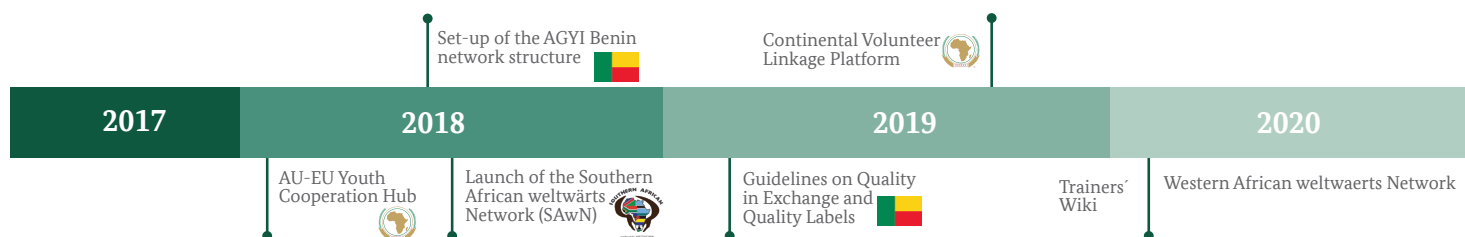
Volunteer Management System

A digital open source software to improve management of volunteers within programs (application, selection, deployment and post-deployment journey)



Africa Youth Corner

AGYI supported the AUC to host Youth Corners, a weekly online platform for the exchange of ideas on the impact of COVID-19 on youth and how they can respond to it. The initiative reached out to approximately 1400 young people.



Longterm Goals

- Sustainable Partner Networks
- Continental Community of Practices

Graphic 2: Milestones Networking

Alumni

After their exchange, volunteers have not only grown in terms of their intercultural competences and language skills, but also gained valuable personal and professional experience. The AGYI has built on these experiences and supported various measures to strengthen returned volunteers in their role as multipliers in the sense of global learning and local development.

To promote creative commitment after returning home the AGYI has set up an innovation fund which supported innovative project ideas from alumni and CSOs both technically and financially. In that framework, 28 projects have been supported – due to the Covid-19 situation all projects have been adapted to the virtual space.

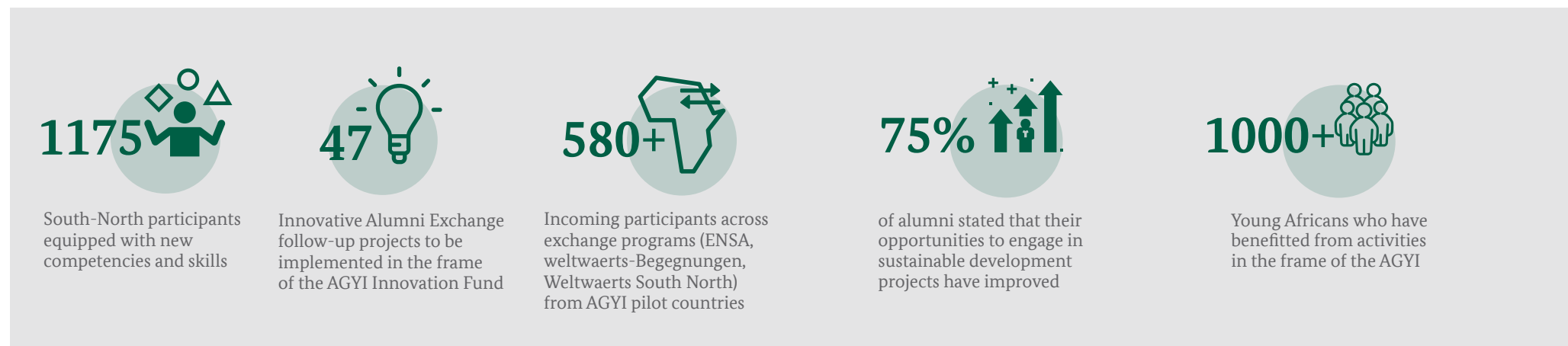
The establishment of a Southern African Alumni Network (SAAN) was supported by WESSA and the AGYI and has begun with the implementation of activities, including a capacity-building trainings and continental webinar series. In Benin, alumni formed the RAVIES Alumni Network which is since 2019 a member of the AGYI Benin Network.

A first continental alumni summit was organized by alumni themselves as a vehicle to highlight the impact of exchange and improve the quality of the exchange landscape. An Alumni Toolkit was developed in collaboration between the alumni by the AUC.



“Being part of an exchange with Germany has given me confidence and self-determination. After my return, I have shared my experiences as a person living with a disability participating in an exchange programme and encouraged others to apply.”

Image 3: Shavonne Samaai, self-advocate with an intellectual disability who took part in a group exchange between South Africa and Germany in the frame of *weltwärts Begegnungen*



Graphic 3: Milestones Alumni

Partner-oriented framework conditions

With the aim of contributing to sustainable development goal 17, Global Partnerships, the AGYI promoted the exchange of young people from African countries and Germany. The AU acts as a bridge to the national governments and prepares the political ground in view of more equal partnerships and the expansion of youth exchange.

The development of innovative approaches in the initiation of new partnerships has been an important contribution to increase the number of exchange participants. Partner-matching encounters to initiate and consolidate German-African partnerships have taken place in Tanzania, Benin and South Africa.

AGYI also contributed to developing stronger quality assurance mechanisms on the African partner side. In a participatory process, WESSA developed a handbook on quality in youth exchange. In Benin, a national quality label certifies since 2020 actors in voluntary services. The AUC member states validated a continental Quality Volunteerism Framework that will be shared to Heads of State assembly for endorsement.

Due to the strong demand, a policy paper was developed to broaden youth exchange formats in the area of skills development and vocational training. WESSA together with different exchange and diaspora actors developed a skills framework and mentoring scheme for outgoing participants.



"Good partnerships are based on trust, mutual respect and excitement. In addition, cultural acceptance and mutual learning are crucial."

Image 4: Participants in a working session during a partner matching conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



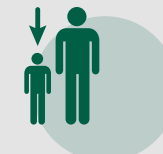
Promotion of inclusion of young people with disabilities in youth exchange formats in Africa



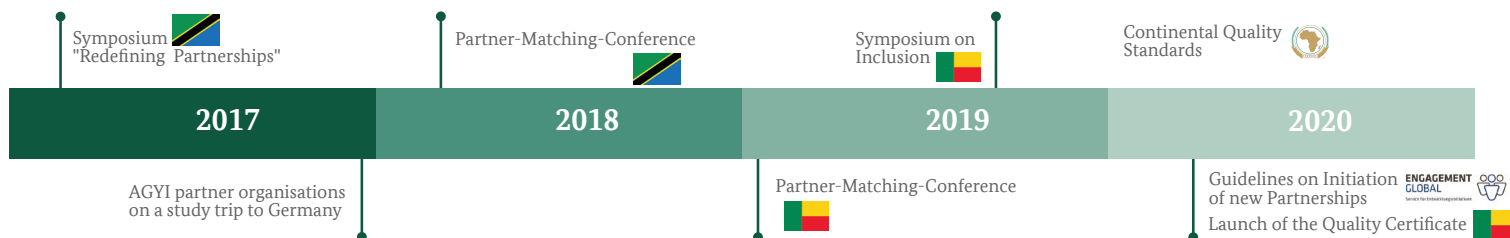
Study and Policy Paper on skills development and the role of the private sector in German-African youth exchanges



Decision to strengthen voluntary services and exchange during the AU Summit (Feb 2019)



Innovative pilot-measures on youth participatory approaches in youth exchange



Longterm Goals

- New exchange format focusing on apprentice exchange
- More exchange partnerships established
- Youth exchange programmes and voluntary service programs are more accessible, inclusive and partner oriented

Graphic 4: Partner-oriented framework conditions

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered departments Bonn and Eschborn

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As of

October 2020

In Cooperation with

African Union (AU)
www.au.int

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation
and Development (BMZ)

Service location of the BMZ

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.