

PARTNER-

SHIPS

GIZ African Union Office

Partnerships for Impact

Annual Report 2020

Abbreviations

AU	African Union	ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa’s Development	ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
AUBP	African Union Border Programme	EU	European Union
AUC	African Union Commission	ICBP	Institutional Capacity Building Programme
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture	ILO	International Labor Organization
AA	German Federal Foreign Office	GIZ	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH</i>
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	iDove	Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism
AGA	African Governance Architecture	IGAD	Inter-governmental Authority on Development
AGYI	African-German Youth Initiative	IPSS	Institute of Peace and Security Studies
ATVET	Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training	JEVEV	<i>Jeunesse et Emplois Verts pour une Économie Verte</i>
ATVET4♀	Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women	JKUAT	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	NELGA	Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa
CDC	The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention	PAUSTI	Pan African University’s Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation
COVID-19	Corona virus disease of 2019	PAUWES	Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change)
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism	RECs	Regional Economic Communities
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Data-Cipation	Citizen Engagement and Innovative Data Use for Africa’s Development	SADC	Southern African Development Community
D4D	Digital4Development	SEEG	German Epidemic Preparedness Team
DG INTPA	European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Cooperation and Development	SLGA	Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa
EAC	East African Community	SWP	German Institute for International and Security Affairs
		WiDS	Women in the Driving Seat



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SHIPS

Welcome by Director Dr Inge Baumgarten



2020 was characterised by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world and the African continent. Beyond the immediate health and security concerns, we are faced with long-term socio-economic consequences. We could not assume that COVID-19 is merely a health issue. Instead, we realised that the pandemic is a complex development issue that needs a comprehensive solution in order to 'leave no one behind'. **What we have learned is how interconnected, and genuinely global the world, its countries and people are.** While we have been truly challenged, in 2021, we will continue to use the strength that lies in these links that exist between us. Instead of finding individual solutions, we will go ahead as partners who overcome this global crisis together.

A comprehensive approach built on partnerships for sustainable impact is and remains at the core of German Development Cooperation. In 2020, the GIZ Office to the African Union re-focused this strategy to make better use of synergies, while staying open for new opportunities. In **three priority areas of collaboration – Regional economic integration, Peace & Security, Governance & Migration** – we formed the base for ever-closer cooperation with our partners in the African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency and many others, on a continental, regional and national level.

This cooperation is built by and with enthusiastic and hard-working people all over Africa. They are responsible for the successes mentioned in this report, for which we are most grateful. In the report, you will find portraits of some of the GIZ Office to the African Union's dedicated and diverse staff, telling you a bit about themselves as well as their work. Additionally, in the **Faces & Stories** section, you can find examples of people directly benefiting from our partnership with the African Union.

We congratulate the **African Union** for their achievements in improving the lives of Africans on the continent. Despite extraordinary circumstances and obstacles, much has been realised, and is featured in this report: Continental strategies to respond to COVID-19, initiatives on the African Union annual theme, **Silencing the Guns**, and the start of trading of the **African Continental Free Trade Area** in January 2021, which heralds a decade of great opportunities for Africa and its people. While hindrances might persist in the near future, we are confident that we can overcome them by continuing to work together in trusted partnerships that make a difference!

Addis Ababa, January 2021

» Visit our [GIZ-AU Website](#) or contact us at africanunion@giz.de



Our vision



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



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



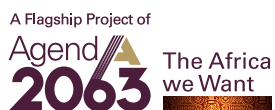
We **EMBODY CHANGE** and facilitate change processes across the continent



We connect people, partners and ideas across Africa

The African Union (AU) is the most important pan-African organisation, uniting all 55 African states. It combines convening power, experience in finding continental solutions and the potential to foster regional economic integration. The collaboration with the AU is, therefore, a foundational part of Germany's international cooperation. For the past 15 years, since 2004, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been working with the AU at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, multiple departments of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), and AU's regional organisations, specialised institutions and member states. Our common goal is to strengthen management capacities and enhance coordination and efficiency between the continental, regional and national levels of development.

The GIZ-AU partnership is rooted in the AU's vision and strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development: The Agenda 2063. The seven core aspirations of the Agenda 2063 are designed to accelerate Africa's growth and development, while simultaneously contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Among the most significant achievements in the past years has been the introduction of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The GIZ AU Office was privileged to play an important part in this process, which will foster regional integration, economic growth and the creation of jobs.



ABOUT GIZ AU

Our programmes, footprint
and team



We strive to be a close and reliable partner to the African Union (AU). To further that aim, our commissioning parties, the German government, together with other global players like the European Union (EU) and the government of Norway, pursue a consolidated approach of cooperation. Five areas of collaboration were streamlined into the three focus areas of Regional Economic Integration; Peace and Security; and Good Governance and Migration. All our programmes, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic

Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as well as the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), contribute to the United Nations' Agenda 2030, its Sustainable Development Goals, and the AU's Agenda 2063 towards **The Africa We Want**. Consequently, we support the continental drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and prosperity. For everybody to benefit from it, the principles of gender equality, diversity, sustainability and inclusion drive our activities.

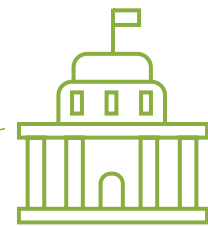
List of programmes of the GIZ AU portfolio

Total volume: EUR 187.2 million



Peace and Security

- APSA** Support to the African Union for the operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (2018–2021, EUR 6 million)
- IPSS** Support to the Research and Training Programme of the African Union in the area of Peace and Security (2018–2021, EUR 6 million)
- AUBP** Support to the African Union Border Programme (2020–2022, EUR 18 million)
- AU-AFRIPOL** Programme to build and strengthen the police structures in selected partner countries in Africa (2019–2022, EUR 3.5 million)
- ECCAS BP** Support to the ECCAS Border Programme (2019–2022, EUR 11.5 million)*
- STG** Support to the African Union Initiative Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 (2019–2021, EUR 2 million)



Good Governance and Migration

- AGA** Support to the African Governance Architecture (2020–2023, EUR 8.9 million)
- DATA-Cipation** Citizen engagement and innovative data use for Africa's Development (2020–2023, EUR 11.9 million)
- ICBP** Strengthening of Management Capacities of the African Union Commission (2021–2023, EUR 3 million)
- Migration** Support to the African Union on migration and displacement (2018–2021, EUR 6 million)
- SLGA** Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (2014–2024, EUR 32.5 million)

Regional Economic Integration

- AfCFTA** Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area (2020–2023, EUR 18.5 million)
- PIDA** Support to the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (2018–2021, EUR 9 million)
- AEEP** Africa – European Union Energy Partnership (2018–2021, EUR 6 million)
- PAU** Support of the African Union Commission in launching the Pan African University (2020–2022, EUR 3.7 million)
- SIFA** Skills Initiative for Africa (2017–2022, EUR 18.5 million)*
- ATVET4♀** Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women (2017–2022, EUR 22 million)**



Partnerships for impact

2020 was a year of uncertainty and constraint for many of us. It was also a year that called on us to work more than ever before in a spirit of cooperation and understanding to achieve sustainable impact. The following pages will present these partnerships for impact and

their results. We highlight some of our joint efforts with the African Union, its institutions and specialised agencies to foster collaboration and capitalise on partnerships that create change and drive impact towards a unified and thriving Africa.

Through our work in 2020...



Over **12,000 people** were reached in **70 networking or knowledge exchange events.**

We supported and improved **participation** from the private sector and civil society representatives in more than **100 initiatives** of continental scope.




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



More than **40 million social media users** could interact with our content.

“Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable!”

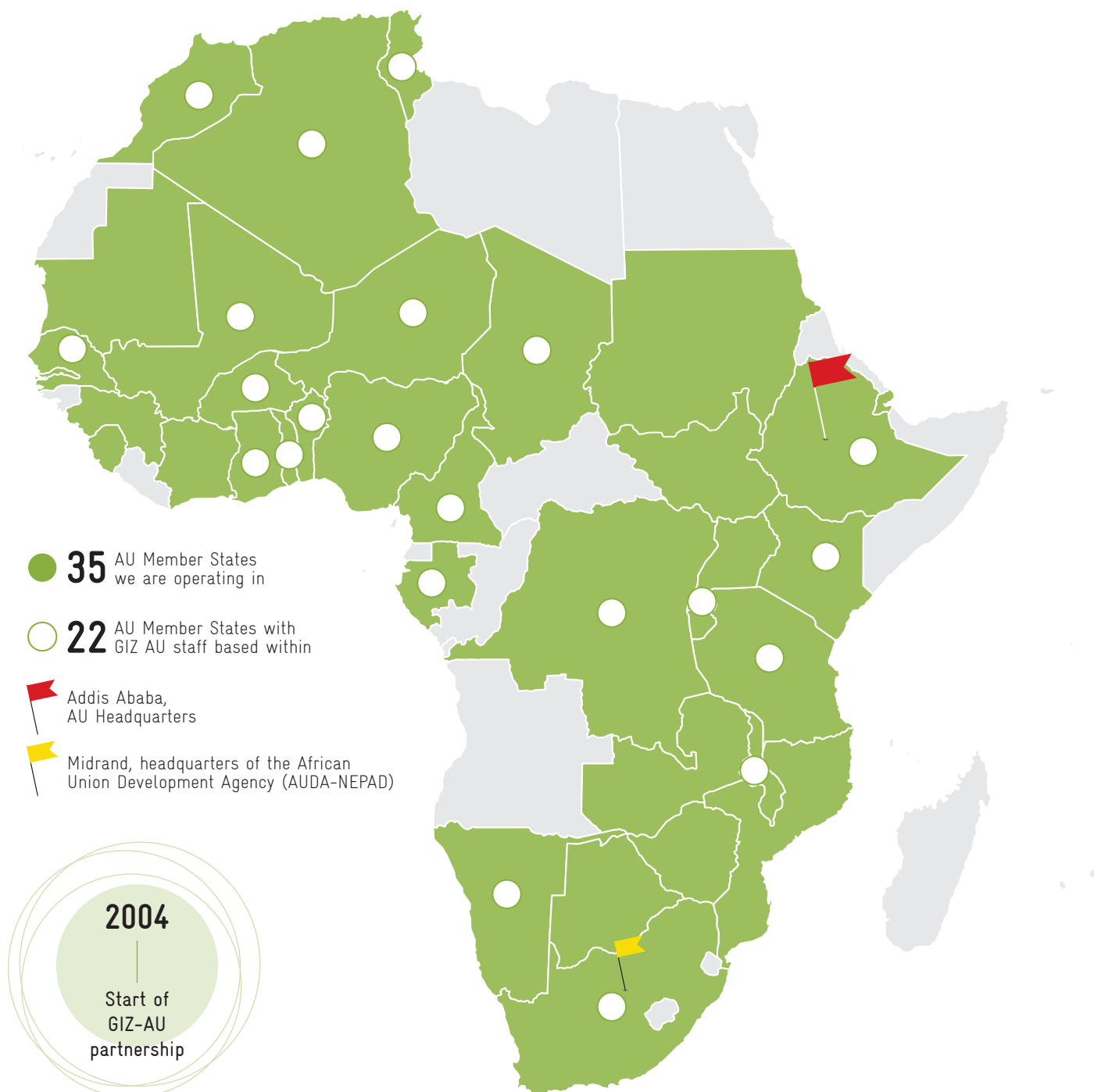
African proverb



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Facts and figures



Portfolio activities

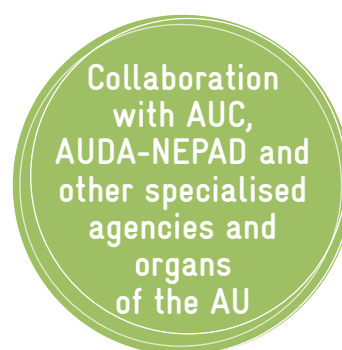
National



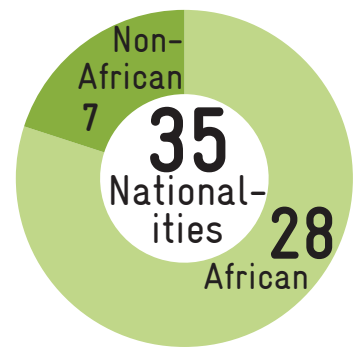
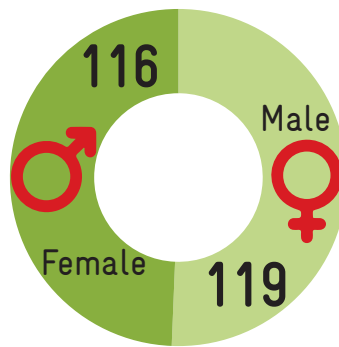
Regional



Continental



“Our motto: diversity is power and unity in diversity is strength.”



Budget and expenditure

The expenditure in million Euros as of December 2020 was

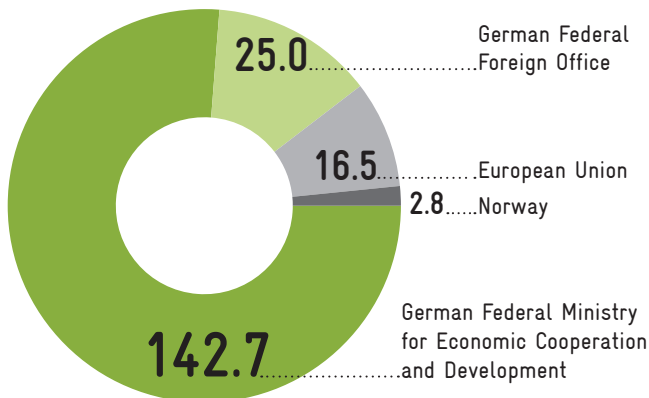
44.03

Overall budget 2020 in million Euros (current project phases)

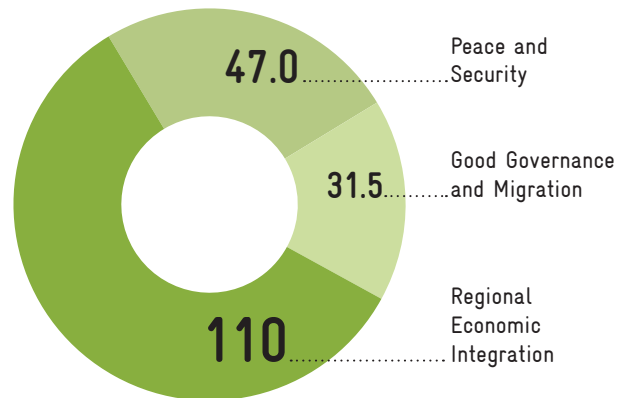
188.5



Budget by commissioning party in million Euros



Budget by sector in million Euros



GIZ-AU office staff portraits

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

> Tell us about yourself

I am an International Development Expert from Nigeria focusing on the intersection of governance, new technologies, and innovation for development in Africa, with a bias for citizens' engagement.

> What is your professional background?

I am a trained Accountant with an MBA in Finance and an Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa. I have over a decade of experience in democratic governance, policy and practice advisory, institutional development, and capacity building in civic engagement, innovations for development, and youth participation in democratic governance processes.

> What do you do at GIZ AU?

I have worked as a Senior Advisor with the Data-Cipation Programme since June 2019. Before that, I was a GIZ seconded expert to the African Governance Architecture Secretariat at the African Union Commission for five years.

> What are the best parts of your job?

I love impacting policies and programmes that accelerate development and make life meaningful for Africans. Having the space to innovate solutions, support our partners, and contribute to creating the Africa its citizens want, makes my work meaningful.



Ibraheem Sanusi
Senior Advisor, Citizen Engagement and Innovative Data Use for Africa's Development

> Tell us about yourself

I am a young African passionate about making a difference for people and international relations. These two are intertwined in many ways. The idea of the world being a global village is real as infamously proved by the current COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout my personal and professional development, it has been my motivation to contribute to putting international relations at the service of the furthest to it, the ordinary citizens.

> What is your professional background?

My background is in comparative law and international analysis, focusing on conflict prevention.

> What do you do at GIZ AU?

I joined the GIZ African Peace and Security Architecture Programme following an internship at the African Union Peace and Security Department. Four years later, I joined the GIZ African Union Border Programme in Addis Ababa then moved to Arusha for it. I am currently working as an advisor supporting the programme's implementation at regional and national level.

> What are the best parts of your job?

Put simply: my job allows me to join my two passions: one week I am on the field, building something with local communities, the next I am somewhere else like Addis or Tana engaging with high-level political figures or stakeholders from different thematic and geographic backgrounds.



Aichatou Tamba
Advisor on Border Governance, East African Community, Support to the African Union Border Programme

> **Tell us about yourself**

I'm fluent in Arabic, French and English, and I can speak and understand some Italian and Swedish. I have a Ph.D. in Public Law and Political Sciences from the University of Hassan II in Morocco, and a Master in Environmental Sciences from Lund University in Sweden.

> **What is your professional background?**

I have more than 20 years of experience working with embassies, international organisations and different development organisations. I worked intensively with government institutions and representatives of the civil society in Morocco.

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

I am a Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) technical and cooperation advisor and knowledge manager for North Africa. As part of the Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) Programme, NELGA North Africa seeks to connect universities, academic and professional expertise to further the exchange of ideas, knowledge and skills on the topic of land governance. This project covers Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Sudan and Egypt, and in the future, Libya. In three years, we set up a research centre and a specialised Master Programme in Land Governance and Geospatial

Sciences; we created an African Journal on Geospatial and Land Policy.

We also conducted evidence and needs-based scoping studies, relating to land governance and identifying institutional training and research, which helped set up the research centre and create a competency development matrix.

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

One of the best parts of my work is designing, monitoring and evaluating the projects I am involved in. I also enjoyed my journey with the GIZ 'Cooperation and Leadership' process exercise within the SLGA team. It was exciting to co-create our daily cooperation in the SLGA Programme, test some diversity exercises, and innovate our operations and communications.



Nabila Zouhiri Regional Technical Advisor for NELGA North Africa, Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa

> **Tell us about yourself**

I am an economist, specialising in international trade and investment policy.

> **What is your professional background?**

Before coming to Addis Ababa, I worked in a GIZ Sector Project in Germany, where I advised the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development on how to align EU Trade Policy with development and sustainability goals.

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

I have been a technical advisor in the GIZ support project to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for one and a half years. I am in charge of the issue of Trade in Services, which includes technical studies for the negotiations, supporting the exchange among member states to agree on common positions or between public officials and

the private sector to ensure that African businesses can harness the opportunities of the AfCFTA.

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

Our team brings together colleagues from 13 nationalities, each with their own fascinating background and unique skills. The same is true for my partners in the various continental, regional and national levels. Working on such a historical endeavour [the AfCFTA] in such a diverse context is a massive privilege for which I am incredibly grateful.



Xaver Keller Technical Advisor in International Trade and Investment Policy, Programme Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A collaborative
response to a
global crisis



SDGs



Agenda 2063 Aspirations



The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed many lives, challenged communities and nations globally. It is a catalyst to increase poverty and inequalities, making enhanced efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 in Africa more urgent. Despite everything, institutions and people are coming together, showing solidarity and helping each other. Chaired in 2020 by the President of South Africa, the African Union (AU) and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) guided the implementation of multi-partner and multi-stakeholder approaches to prevent the spread of the virus, educate communities about the disease and stigma attached to specific groups, and reshaping policies. Communities and individuals at a grassroots level have also shown the power of innovation finding simple solutions to halting the virus's spread and alleviating its impact.

The GIZ AU Office and its programmes mobilised all available resources to support immediate responses to the pandemic. Close to EUR 3.5 million were re-programmed to gather protective gear for our partners, develop information campaigns and materials, and counter fake news. We capitalised on existing partnerships to drive innovative approaches, use existent expertise and increase skills.

Team Europe supports the African Union's COVID-19 response

In a Team Europe effort, Germany and the European Union (EU) collaborated to assist the AU Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT) to deliver its COVID-19 tracing and testing objectives. Africa CDC received extraction and test kits for over 1.4 million COVID-19 tests, which the German government financed with EUR 10 million through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and made available by the German Epidemic Preparedness Team (SEEG). An EU Humanitarian Air Bridge flight delivered the test kits as part of the EU's global corona virus response. In addition to providing testing materials to over 25 African countries, Africa CDC and SEEG are teaming up for External Quality Assessments in the designated Reference Laboratories, for benchmarking and accreditation of quality and effectiveness of testing in Africa.

The SEEG was initiated in 2015 by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in response to the West African Ebola crisis. It brings together the GIZ, the Charité University Clinic in Berlin, the Robert Koch Institute and the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine.

Cross-border communities at the forefront of the COVID-19 response

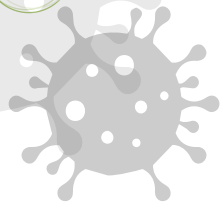
Since the COVID-19 outbreak cross-border trade was heavily affected by border closures. Restrictions of movement and curfews disrupted small-scale trade and created traffic jams at border crossings. In some instances, drivers were stigmatised and perceived as COVID-19 couriers in border areas. This false prejudice posed significant risks to the drivers and traders. A concept note on fighting COVID-19 in border regions, proposed by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) border programme was embedded by the Heads of State and Government in the ECCAS regional response strategy during the ECCAS summit in July 2020. The strategy features four pillars, one of which deals exclusively with strengthening cross-border cooperation in the public health sector and featuring borders as crucial means to fight the spread of the disease.

Communities and individuals at a grassroots level have shown the power of innovation finding simple solutions to halting the spread of COVID-19.

Africa CDC received test kits for over 1.4 million COVID-19 tests, financed by the German Government with EUR 10 million.



Supported by the European Union



In response, the GIZ support to the AU and the ECCAS Border Programme has implemented targeted communication campaigns with its national and regional partners to curb the spread of COVID-19 in border areas:

- The East African Community (EAC) Youth Ambassador Programme, an initiative of the Nyerere Centre for Peace and Research in Arusha, targeted seven border points and the surrounding border communities to increase knowledge about, and engagement with, the EAC sensitisation among young people in the community. They provided an exchange platform between citizens and regional and national authorities to address communities' concerns and suggestions to slow cross-border transmission of COVID-19. Bulk SMS messages reached 1,200 people in the targeted border communities. A radio campaign broadcasted eight interviews with health and border officials from EAC and Members States. It aired best approaches to trade and cross border movements during the pandemic.
- In Central Africa, the ICT provider Viamo, developed a gamified telephone quiz, to reach a wide range of persons in remote border regions with reliable COVID-19 information. The quiz on the free-to-use telephone hotline allows border citizens in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to play out different scenarios related to COVID-19 like finding alternatives to small cross-border trading in times of border closings and thereby provides an interactive learning experience. So far, more than 200,000 persons have called the quiz hotline.
- In Cameroon, together with the national Health Ministry, the programme implemented sensitisation campaigns in the border regions with Chad and the Central African Republic. Around 410 members of border authorities, local village chiefs, traditional authorities or heads of youth associations were empowered as 'information multipliers' through community workshops.

Harnessing citizen innovation for the fight against COVID-19

In line with the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak, the two GIZ AU programmes Data-Cipation and support to the African Governance Architecture collaborated with the Africa CDC to implement COVID-19 risk communication and social engagement activities. A partnership emerged with the Co-Creation Hub, a pan African research and development innovation centre dedicated to innovating social impact. The cooperation was initiated to harness creative energies and ideas of Africa's booming innovation ecosystems, leveraging technology and innovative non-digital methodologies to ensure broader citizen awareness and understanding of COVID-19 response strategies and precautions in over ten countries in Africa. Through an open call for innovative ideas for 'last-mile' communications targeted at semi-urban and rural populations in Africa, over 2,800 applications were received.

Eight creative communications and innovations start-ups were supported with grant funding of up to USD 5,000 for research and design support. More than 60 vetted and culturally relevant awareness information messages were distributed to more than 700,000 people in over ten African countries, in approximately 15 African languages for six months. The support accelerated public awareness of COVID-19, empowering citizens to take personal responsibility, and combat the spread of false and dangerous narratives. The support also demonstrated the added value of leveraging local innovations and strengthening functional collaboration between Africa's policymakers and actors in the continent's digital innovation space.

More than **200,000** persons have called the **quiz hotline** for different COVID-19-related scenarios.

In Cameroon **410** community members were empowered as 'information multipliers' through community workshops.

Distribution of information to more than **700,000** people in over **10** African countries and in about **15** African languages for **6** months.

Mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on AfCFTA negotiations

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiation and implementation process was challenged by the pandemic. Meetings could not take place as planned anymore. To mitigate these effects, partners have joined the African Union Commission (AUC) in developing a comprehensive response, and GIZ supported the transfer of the negotiation process online. Among others:

- GIZ supported the shift to an Online Negotiation Tool for Trade in Services (developed with support from the African Export-Import Bank, Afreximbank) through user guidelines. Training sessions for all AU member states on using the manual are set for February 2021.
- GIZ supports the AUC Department of Trade and Industry in drafting a comprehensive African Union Customs Strategy of dealing with Relief Goods to combat Disasters to ensure the AU's preparedness for future crises and learn from the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact.
- Together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Trade Law Centre (TRALAC), and the SheTrades initiative from the International Trade Centre (ITC), GIZ organised online workshops and training which increased more than 1,200 participants' understanding of the AfCFTA and its opportunities. Supported by GIZ, partner institutions disseminated novel research on COVID-19 and trade policy to inform policy makers at the AU and its Member States. The work directly fed into the negotiations and led, for example, to a decision about front-loading health services in the AfCFTA Trade in Services negotiations.



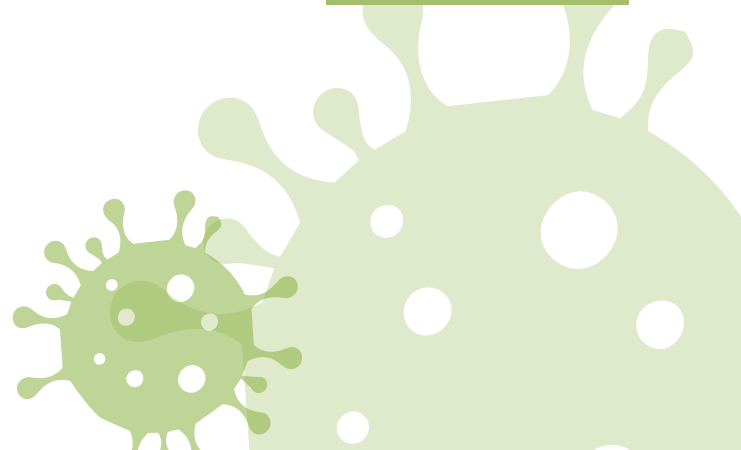
Youth advocacy training in support of Africa CDC information campaigns

Building on the African CDC's efforts to disseminate COVID-19 information, the AUC's Youth Division was supported by GIZ's African-German Youth Initiative (AGYI) programme to conduct an information campaign. Young people were encouraged to take preventive and mitigating measures against COVID-19 in their communities. In this regard, the available advocacy and youth engagement training and onboarding for the AU Volunteer Programme were converted into a virtual training, enabling the Commission to use it for many people.

The idea of a seminar series for alumni, initiated by AGYI, was expanded to reach even more young people. It was refocused to create a format for youth exchange and peer learning on COVID-19 youth response activities. Experts in virtual collaboration, education and communication accompanied the transformation and extension of existing approaches into virtual formats. The COVID-19 youth campaign was developed and is available to the Commission for implementation.

Through virtual webinars young people on the continent were reached in 2020, and about 200 young volunteers took the virtual e-learning modules. The modules will be used primarily from 2021 onwards and will be available through the AU internal e-learning platform, AU Learn.

Link to the
e-learning
platform



PERSPECTIVES

on partnerships
and diversity



The quality of the partnership between Europe and Africa has a direct impact on strengthening multilateralism. Behind this partnership, there is a sense of common destiny.



Dr Ibrahim Mayaki
CEO AUDA-NEPAD



There is a lot of complementarity between Europe and Africa, with clarity on what we need to do. While we have different experiences, learning from one another is important in implementation to have a real partnership.

Tanja Gönner
Chair of the Management Board, GIZ

Generally, there seems to be a trend to retreat to nationalism and protectionism. However, both Europe and Africa stand to win through greater cooperation, through co-creation.

Koen Doens
Director-General, European Commission
Directorate-General for International
Partnerships



Peace and security, mobility, human rights, climate protection, global inequality during the COVID-19 crisis, digital transformation: these are all issues that young people want to discuss – both in Africa and Europe. Together, all of us can move forward in a fresh and more creative and innovative way of partnership.

Aya Chebbi
AU Special Envoy on Youth

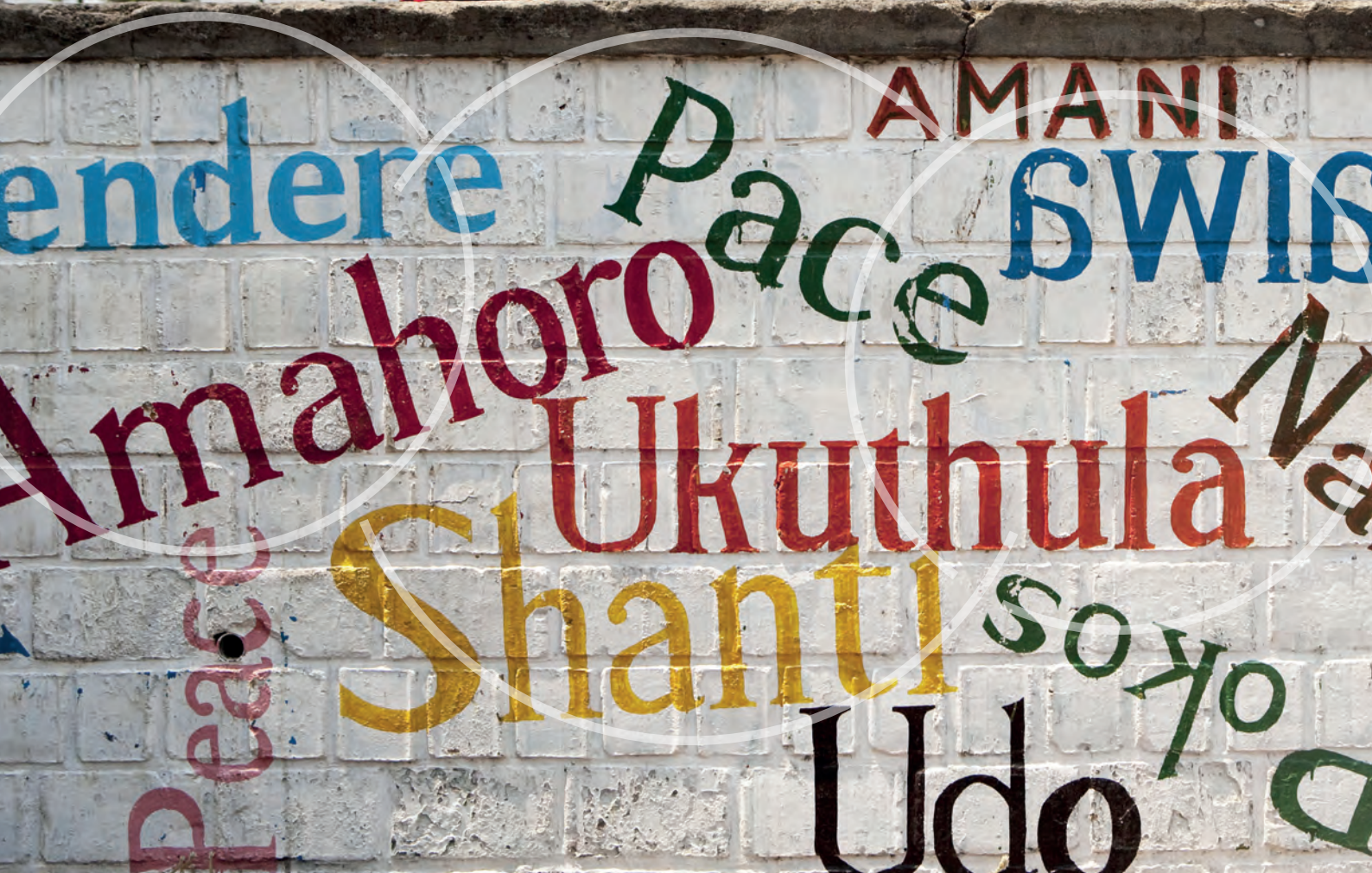
SILENCING THE GUNS

Creating conducive conditions for Africa's development



SILENCING THE GUNS:

Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development



SDGs



Agenda 2063 Aspirations



A Flagship Project of



Africa continues to be home to several conflicts that jeopardise human, national and international security. While good progress has been made to reduce state-driven war, the persistence of ethno-religious, resource and politically driven conflicts remains one of the biggest threats to Africa's socio-economic development. The African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 calls for dialogue-centred conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms. Additionally, the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 was extended until 2030. Furthermore, the AU's 2020 theme – Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development – emphasises the AU's commitment to achieving the goal of Silencing the Guns in Africa.

Since 2019, GIZ, commissioned by the German Foreign Office, has contributed to developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating a continental awareness-raising campaign, led by the Silencing the Guns Unit under the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission. The campaign aims to sensitise for the peace-development-nexus, at the AU Commission, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and civil society, and actively contribute to reducing violent conflict on the continent. Despite the pandemic and many relevant actors shifting their focus towards the fight against it, 2020 has been a year full of activities, events and discussions around the topic of Silencing the Guns:

Virtual conference series on Silencing the Guns

The AU Silencing the Guns Unit, supported by GIZ, organised a series of virtual conferences that started on Africa Day – 25 May. The seminars provided a platform for representatives of various backgrounds: from international organisations and the private sector to traditional leaders and youth, women and civil society organisations to exchange ideas, raise awareness of relevant issues, and inspire peace initiatives. The conferences coincided with the arrival of COVID-19 on the African continent. Hence, the topic took a central part of the discussions, also since the pandemic and peace and security matters are strongly interlinked. Numerous participants actively engaged by raising critical questions to the panelists. The contributions demonstrated the vivid interest of many African citizens in becoming active for sustainable peace.

Exploring the role of journalists reporting in conflict

A virtual media conference on The Role of Media in Silencing the Guns in Africa was organised to discuss challenges regarding Africa's path towards peace. The conference covered topics like reporting on ongoing conflicts, what journalistic interventions tackling root causes of conflict look like, and the role of media in civilian disarmament and protection.

The discussion highlighted that African journalists should report on the Africa they experience and re-write how the 'African story' is told. When the media is tackling the root causes of conflict, it must do so with equal rigour, hold aid workers, human rights activists and other entities, often presented as 'saviours', accountable. However, a massive challenge for journalists was underlined as a lack of training in data journalism, digital journalism, and verification in the era of fake news.

2017 AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 was adopted.

2019 GIZ contributed to developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating a continental awareness-raising campaign.

Feb. 2019 'Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Condition for Africa's Development' adopted as the AU's Theme of the Year 2020.

Dec. 2020 AU Summit extending the roadmap.

2030 Silencing the guns campaign has been extended.





Some of these challenges were addressed in the adjoining training Reporting in Conflict and Post-Conflict Zones. The training convened local, and community journalists and civil society organisations from various African regions that are in or have recently emerged from conflict. It featured the importance of journalists in assisting societies in understanding the root causes of conflicts while acknowledging the rules of sensitive reporting. In the sessions' follow-up, trainees were invited to send their articles on the Silencing the Guns initiative or conflict-related topics, which have then been proposed to prominent media houses for publishing.

#MyPledgeforPeace

On the International Day of Peace, 21 September, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smail Chergui, launched the Pledge for Peace Campaign on Twitter and Facebook. High-ranking staff of the AU and other international organisations as well as influencers from various sectors encouraged citizens from all region of Africa to recognise their responsibility for more peaceful coexistence using the hashtag #MyPledgeForPeace. Musician, actor and peace activist Emmanuel Jal; Grammy-nominee Niniola; actress, TV and radio host Folu Storms; as well as South African singer Zoë Modiga, lent their voices, influence and networks to share the campaign's message of peace, through an animated video and individual interviews with the most prominent media houses, such as BBC, CNBC, eNCA, CGTN, SABC and KTN. Within the first week, the campaign reached an estimated 22 million people.

The **Pledge for Peace Campaign** has reached **22 million people**.

[Link to the animation video](#)





GIZ APSA support to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda

In 2020, the AU Peace and Security Council adopted the Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security to effectively engage and collaborate with youth to promote peace and security. This 10-year framework reiterates the following priority areas: participation, prevention, protection, partnership and coordination.

Within the framework, the AU Citizens and GIZ and Diaspora Directorate launched the Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism (iDove) initiative in 2017, which promotes innovative youth-led approaches for the prevention of violent extremism. One of iDove's core activities is the annual Intercontinental Youth Forum. The Forum brings together young professionals with diverse backgrounds to share best practices and develop innovative solutions to violent extremism in their respective communities. In November 2020, iDove hosted its first Online-Forum in which 50 participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 on violent extremism and innovative tools for remote project implementation.

GIZ has also supported initiatives at the intersection of the Youth and Women, Peace and Security agendas. In cooperation with the FemWise Secretariat and the youth-led civil society organisation, International Centre for Peace, Human Rights and Development, the second edition of the International Young Women Mediation Forum was organised in January 2020. This initiative aims to counteract young women's marginalisation in peace processes, through capacity building and intergenerational dialogue. Hence, an intercontinental network of young women mediators was created, promoting continuous capacity building and fostering exchanges between civil society organisations and the AU.



THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

Developing economic resilience
through a unified African market



SDGs



Agenda 2063 Aspirations



Regional economic integration is key to Africa's prosperity. The GIZ African Union Office supports this goal with a cross-cutting approach based on three pillars: Trade, Human Resources, and Infrastructure. Our support to the negotiation and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area – a flagship project of the African Union – is key for regional economic integration.



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) strives to create an internal African market for 1.3 billion people. If implemented successfully, the Area will, by the year 2035, pull 30 million people out of extreme poverty and improve the lives of 68 million living on less than USD 5 per day (World Bank). 2020 marked the start of the newly established AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra. Despite delays to the AfCFTA negotiations – caused by the COVID-19 pandemic – trading under the agreement started on 1 January 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected African economies adversely. Cross-border trade is heavily impacted by the crisis. Businesses are experiencing further trade barriers, for instance: more thorough, time-consuming inspections, reduced hours of operation, road and border closures, increased transport costs and newly imposed non-tariff and tariff measures. Strengthening intra-African trade and regional value chains through the AfCFTA will be crucial in overcoming the long-term economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa.

AfCFTA strives to create an internal African market for **1.3 billion people.**



AfCFTA strives to pull **30 million Africans out of extreme poverty by 2035.**





From the very beginning, Germany has been an AfCFTA partner. GIZ supports the AUC's Department of Trade and Industry and the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra in the negotiation process. Specific attention is paid to strengthening institutional structures in the AU and its member states, trade in services, trade in goods, investment policy, e-commerce and mainstreaming sustainability issues. In doing so, the GIZ programme is working at multiple levels: on the continental level, for the negotiations and implementation of the agreement; on the regional level, with the Economic Communities to coordinate, and promote trade integration, and on the national level via direct support, to the governments of Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, and Tunisia, for negotiations and implementation preparations. A focus lies on involving the private sector in negotiations and execution of the agreement.

Women entrepreneurs and women business associations are often side-lined, marginalised and not adequately represented in trade negotiations, despite being heavily involved in economic activity on the ground. Therefore, the GIZ supports the International Trade Centre's SheTrades Empowering Women in the AfCFTA initiative, by

partnering with the AUC and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to embed a gender-sensitive approach to the negotiating process. The SheTrades initiative aims to empower women-owned businesses to benefit from trade opportunities created by the agreement through capacity-building, networking, and advocacy. It brings together women's business associations and policymakers to discuss concrete policy options, improve women business associations' policy advocacy skills, create a continental network, and navigate the COVID-19 recovery phase. SheTrades was made available online and has trained over 320 female entrepreneurs throughout 2020.

Our programmes works on the **continental**, the **regional** and on the **national** level.

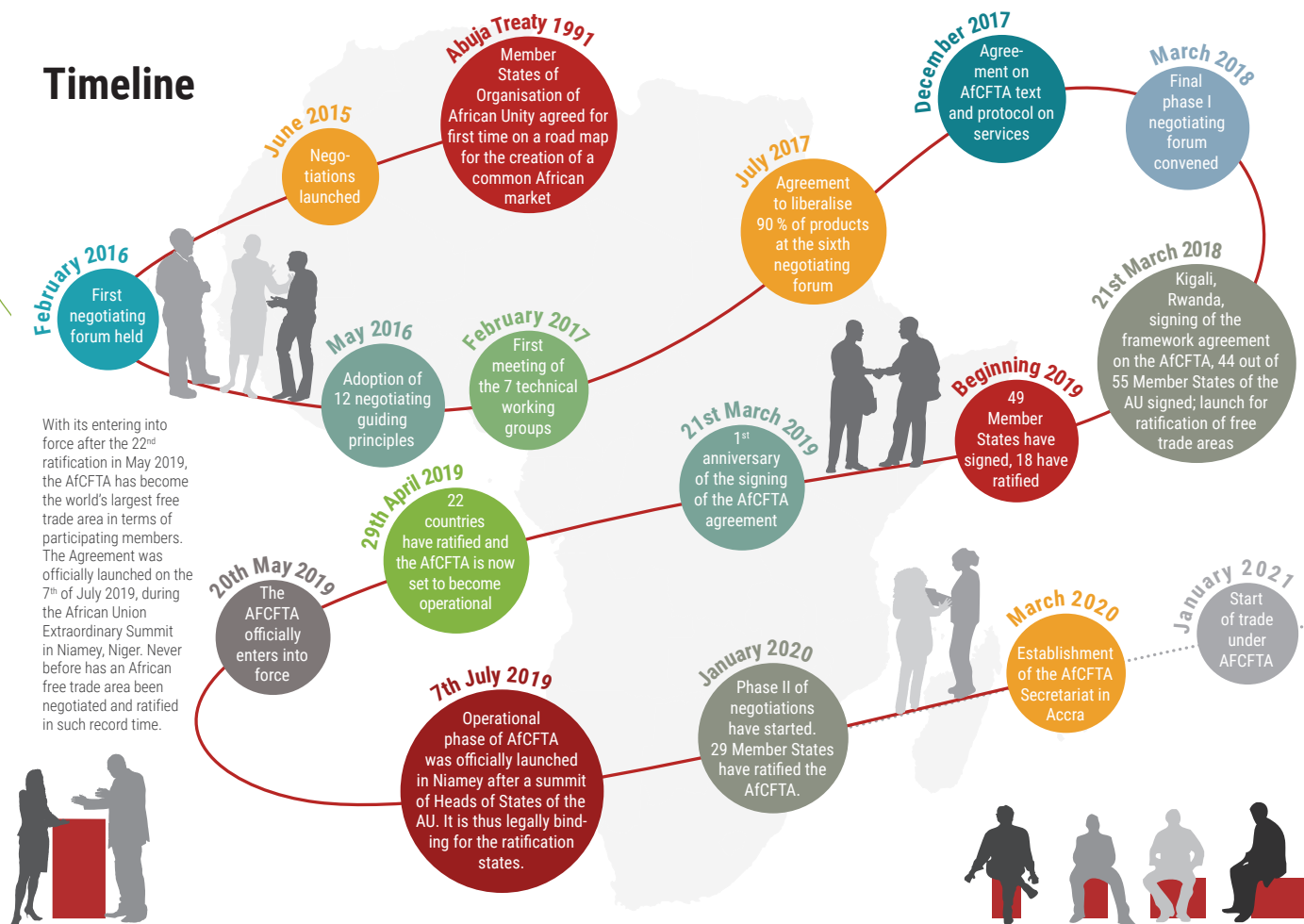


GIZ AU tries to leverage the continental impact of the AfCFTA by combining approaches of various programmes. In doing so we capitalise on synergies and support regional economic integration:

- > In 2020, GIZ AU fostered human rights by supporting stakeholder engagement of vulnerable groups in trade-related activities.
- > As part of the regional economic integration cluster, the strengthening of infrastructure corridors as a basis and precondition for intra-African trade was initiated.
- > Additionally, our programmes promote the development and performance of strategic trade infrastructure corridors.
- > The efforts in infrastructure and trade development are complemented by supporting an African Continental Qualification Framework.
- > Finally, we are looking into synergies with topics like data governance, harmonised legal frameworks for data economy as well as participatory policy-making approaches on the continent.



Timeline



FACES AND STORIES

Commanding paths and improving the lives of many

GIZ works to shape a future worth living around the world. However, it is people who make the difference. While our programmes are designed to support change at the continental level, across the boundaries of regions and countries in Africa, there are inspiring stories of many who work with and are supported by GIZ and its partners. Whether in Benin, Malawi, Kenya, Sudan or Mali, the champions of these success stories are people – eagerly driven, commanding their paths and helping improve the lives of many.

Agnes Addai

Licensed Tractor Operator & Co-Founder of 'Women in Tractor Operations Association', Ghana; ATVET4♀

“In 2018, I was one of the first trainees to participate in Ghana's pioneering women-only tractor operations and maintenance training, Women in the Driving Seat (WiDS). I completed the Women in the Driving Seat training with flying colours. When I started my work placement, I encountered some obstacles. Some of my male colleagues did not trust me to operate and repair a tractor. Eventually, I was allowed to work with an old tractor. Once my superiors witnessed my skills, I was offered a job on the farm. After a few weeks, I applied for another job with a different company, and I was offered a job as a tractor operator. Rather than being an employee, my goal is to run my own farm and use my training skills.

Training as a mother was not difficult for me because my child was in boarding school. However, I believe that having childcare facilities would attract more mothers to participate in the training. My message for young mothers who want to join the training is to remember that babies should not hinder you from pursuing your dreams.

The training Women in the Driving Seat was developed by Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture supported by GIZ. Since the inaugural training in 2018, over 120 women have been trained and certified as tractor operators in Ghana. Despite the progress, mechanised agriculture remains male-dominated. For this reason, along with my fellow WiDS graduates, I established the Women in Tractor Operations Association to organise and support each other. The vision is to inspire more women to venture into mechanised agriculture for higher income and increased productivity’.



Nerima Wako-Ojiwa

Executive Director, Siasa Place; AGA

**CATALYSING
PARTICIPATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**



“In 2014, I stumbled upon an online competition by the African Union (AU), African Governance Architecture Secretariat supported by the GIZ Programme. The competition asked young people to create a five-minute video on the AU High-Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance in Africa – Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. I took my camera, placed it on a window panel and started shooting a short video to make my submission.

Weeks passed, and I remember being in the middle of Korogocho slums in Nairobi, visiting a youth centre when I received a phone call to come for an awards dinner. I had won. At the dinner, I met inspirational young people. Some had started their initiatives looking at issues that concern their community. I remember thinking, this is something that I could also do.

At the time, the Kenyan Constitution was only five years old, and most Kenyans had not interacted with it. Motivated by my success and the exchanges in 2015, Siasa Place was born – looking internally, at youth engagement in Kenya and strengthening youth voices for good governance. Siasa, which means ‘politics’ in Swahili, often has a negative connotation, but youth must realise that politics affects their daily lives. Siasa Place is about educating youth on the Kenyan constitution, governance processes, electoral processes and encouraging them to engage meaningfully.

We have built and supported youth networks, involved youth in public participation forums, and created platforms for young aspirants to speak to the public. At the same time, they can campaign and even support youth wings in political parties through training. Now, we reach across counties in the country. We have an extensive network and one of the largest youth organisational digital footprints in Kenya’.

Patrick Godi

Youth Lead, Activist, South Sudan; APSA

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
FOR PEACE
AND JUSTICE**



“Since my engagement with the Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism (iDove) initiative at the 2nd Intercontinental Youth Forum in October 2018 at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the diversity of skills, knowledge and networks I interacted with, inspired me to challenge myself: To think beyond my current scope; to engage others, especially youth drawing on the soft power of religion, and to prevent violent extremism in my country. It gave me a deep understanding of radicalisation, conflict trends and radical ideologies in Europe and Africa. It provided me with expert knowledge and skills to design effective, violent extremism prevention mechanisms with peers.

Progress has been made in my country regarding awareness of violent extremism, youth in policy development, and decision-making. This progress will facilitate positive change, promote social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just, and are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights – including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, improving social cohesion and increasing resilience to violent extremism in at-risk communities.

In December 2018, I was co-opted into the South Sudan Peace Committee, a collective including: faith-based leaders, civil society, women and eminent persons under the auspices of the respected elder statesman, Hon. Clement Wani, to engage the estranged armed movements who abstained from signing the Inter-governmental Authority on Development’s mediated Agreement, on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan 2018, to join the peace process to achieve lasting peace’.

Lilian Okembo

Commissioner of Police in Kenya, Directorate of Operations and AU planning Officer; AU AFRIPOL

“My father was a Police Officer, and as a child, I would brush his shoes and listen to his radio – to recognise his call code and inform him when he was being called. As I grew up, my father joked that I could only be a police officer with my strong attitude. On his passing, I decided to become a Police Officer, and I have been working with the Police since 1989. Currently, I am a Commissioner within the Directorate of Operations. At the African Union (AU), I am a Planning Officer.

I aim to increase spaces for women in the Police Force which has always been a men's world. As constable at a Police College for nine years, together with my colleagues, I began: initially, women did not attend the same classes as men; they also did not get the same treatment and were seen as second-class officers. We introduced a quota system, ensuring that they attended the same classes as men, received equal treatment and that more women got the opportunity to become Police Officers.

My work at the AU has made it possible for me to bring more Policewomen into active international duty, especially in countries where women have not traditionally been in these positions. In an assessment carried out in October in Djibouti, I engaged in a shooting competition, with Djibouti tactical officers to convince them to facilitate more women to attend Police assessments. I assessed and successfully passed 18 women instead of five. Most recently, in Uganda, I passed 34 women out of a contingent of 160.

I believe women have an essential role in Security. They understand certain issues better and are very good at gathering tactical information as they observe their surroundings’.



Henri Totin

Jeunesse Et Emplois Verts Pour une Economie Verte (JEVEV), Benin; AGYI

“I am the Executive Director of Jeunesse et Emplois Verts pour une Économie Verte (JEVEV), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Dangbo, a south-eastern town in Benin, located approximately 16 kilometres from the capital, Porto-Novo. We are active in gender transformative change, climate change, green economy, green entrepreneurship, and volunteerism and social engagement.

As the only youth-focused organisation with a framework agreement with the Beninese government, our NGO is present in all twelve governmental departments. It has received more than twenty national and international awards in gender transformative change, climate change, green entrepreneurship and environmental leadership. We work with several international partners, including GIZ, through the Benin Network within the African-German Youth Initiative.

Because of our experience, we applied for a certification process in volunteerism and youth exchange in Benin, which was conceived by the Office Béninois des Services de Volontariat des Jeunes and its partner GIZ. It aims to set national standards for volunteering and youth exchange to improve the different volunteering and exchange opportunities, quality and impact. In this process, we have learnt two vital lessons: Courage, creativity and innovation are essential in our work and personal lives. We must remain curious and persevere by always exploring new horizons.

Being awarded the certificate of good practice in volunteering and exchange reaffirms the quality of governance and work we are doing, motivates and encourages the entire JEVEV team to continue sound management of volunteer and youth exchange missions. This acknowledgement has reinforced our credibility among our stakeholders and partners. Of course, our efforts are rewarded, but it is a new responsibility to be more professional and efficient’.



Valentina Nyame

Research Assistant and MPhil in Planning graduate, KNUST, Ghana; SLGA

“My experience with the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) scholarship programme has been transformational for my career development. I received sponsorship for a short-term research stay at the Chair of Land Management, Technical University of Munich in Germany. I got the unique opportunity to research while interacting and networking with experts on land governance from different countries in Africa. The course on land management and tenure exposed me to global land management practices and tools and techniques used in the land sector.

Moreover, I worked on collaborative research with the Chair of Land Management on land access among women in Ghana. With the knowledge and expertise gained through the NELGA programme, I am now working as a research assistant on assessing the effects of land governance on socio-economic empowerment and gender in Ghana. I completed a Master programme and gained an extensive network of colleagues, experts and professionals, and together we are working to transform land governance in Africa. Even as an Alumna, I continue to benefit from skills training programmes and other research and networking opportunities. I encourage others, whether students, graduates or professionals, to take advantage of the multiple ways NELGA fosters sustainable impact on land governance in countries across Africa’.

**RESEARCH AND
TRANSFORMATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT**



Taye Abdulkadir Edris

Information Systems Officer, Continental Early Warning; IPSS

“Twelve years ago, I got a call from a GIZ advisor, who I knew from my work at the Inter-governmental Authority on Development’s (IGAD) Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN). The mission of CEWARN is to assess situations that could potentially lead to violence or conflicts and prevent escalation in IGAD’s member states Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Sudan and Eritrea. This is where I learned to run data-driven, evidence-based early warning systems. The call was a request to support the early warning efforts at the African Union, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), which aimed to establish situation rooms at the AU and Regional Economic Communities.

This new opportunity brought up a more significant challenge to serve the continental and regional institutions. After working as a GIZ consultant for a year, I joined AU CEWS in 2009 and co-led the development of its technical components. Over time, I contributed to several other tools and processes including the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessments and Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy – two essential tools for conflict prevention, which GIZ has also contributed towards. I also worked with civil society on data collection.

In 2019, I joined a study tour by the GIZ support to the Institute of Peace and Security Studies and shared lessons learnt from my work at CEWARN and CEWS with experts at the German Federal Foreign Office. All along, GIZ’s support for the implementation of CEWS has been immense. That support is still ongoing and is an exemplary partnership for a common goal. Most importantly, the successes on the AU level are passed down to the Regional Economic Communities, Regional Mechanisms and countries to support their efforts in conflict prevention and early response’.

**SUSTAINABLE
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR CHANGE**



HIGHLIGHTS of the year



The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Border Programme's support was officially launched at the ECCAS headquarters in Libreville, Gabon.

Co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Foreign Office, GIZ works together with ECCAS to enhance border delimitation, demarcation, cross-border cooperation, and border governance in the Central African region. As in the African Union Border Programme case, improved border governance is envisaged to lead to more robust regional cooperation and ultimately prevent conflicts between the Central African states.

This support is embedded in the overarching structure of the EU: The Reform and Institutional Capacity Building Support Programme for the Peace and Security sector of ECCAS. Under the ECCAS Secretariat's auspices, the ceremony was attended by the ECCAS Deputy Secretary-General and the Permanent Representative of the EU to Gabon and ECCAS, the German Deputy Ambassador, as well as Ambassadors of ECCAS Member States, France, and Italy.

33rd Annual summit of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 9–10 February 2020

The African Heads of State and Government gathered from 9–10 February for the 33rd Annual Summit of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. At the summit, the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el Sisi handed over the reins to the South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, who has assumed the position of AU Chairperson. The South

African President outlined how the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will reignite industrialisation and pave the way for Africa's integration into the global economy as a player of considerable scale. The AU also unanimously elected Rwandan President Paul Kagame as the new chair of the high-level Heads of State and Government Orientation Commit-

tee of AUDA-NEPAD, the AU's Development Agency. On the Summit margins, the First Continental Report on the Implementation of the Agenda 2063 was launched. The report assesses 31 AU Member States and six Regional Economic Communities, towards achieving Africa's master plan for sustainable development and economic growth. According to the report, only six years after the onset of Agenda 2063, the seven Aspirations (goals) were achieved by 32 per cent.



Promoting barrier-free borders at the Munich Security Conference, Munich, Germany, 14 February 2020



Participants from all over the world met in Munich, Germany for the 56th edition of the Munich Security Conference. The annual conference is one of the leading plat-

forms for international security policy. This time, the discussions centred on the future of Western alliances ('Westlessness'), and the state of world affairs given the

current conflicts and disputes over trade, territory and ideology.

The Tana Forum Secretariat organised a dinner side event in February to discuss the 2020 theme, The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): A Tool for Pan-Africanism and Conflict Transformation. This annual side event at the Security Conference is an opportunity for the Forum to contribute an African perspective to global discussions and set the tone for deliberations at the Forum. The side event explored the political, economic, and technological potential of the AfCFTA in resolving instability and transforming millions of African citizens' socio-economic future. The path to a single African market will require full buy-in from all stakeholders, not only political actors but citizens and the private sector who stand to benefit the most from the agreement.

Enterprise in a pandemic: African innovations to address COVID-19, Juja, Kenya, 8 May 2020



Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) students have developed several innovations to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Among them are two portable solar-powered ventilators, a contact tracing application, a digital system that predicts COVID-19 infection trends in Kenya and an

automatic solar-powered hand-washing machine developed by the Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI) housed at JKUAT. According to Reine Katte, the chair of PAUSTI Entrepreneurship and Innovation Club, the group hopes to create one million jobs per the Agenda 2063 which embraces innovation. Through its Entrepreneurship Hub hosted at the Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES), the PAU is committed to offer high-end courses and training and support its students in activities to develop market-oriented competences.

With the support of GIZ AU and several other stakeholders, the PAU's Entrepreneurship Hub provides students with necessary skills, incubation, mentoring, and seed funding. Students get entrepreneurial support to make knowledge applicable (good and innovative products and services) to transform Africa.



Towards evidence-based policy guidance on migration and health, online, 23 July 2020



The nexus between migration and health is conspicuously apparent at the time of a global pandemic. To further explore this nexus of migration and health in Africa and make recommendations for policy development at the continental level the African Union Commission (AUC) and GIZ commissioned a study with the Centre for Rural

Development of the Humboldt University, Berlin.

In a first scoping study, 15 countries in the five AU regions were analysed, policy frameworks mapped, and critical challenges identified. In the second step, five countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, and South Africa,) for in-depth studies were selected. For each case, a specific aspect of migration was looked at from a health perspective, like refugee-like situations in Kenya, regular migration in Nigeria and irregular migration in South Africa. Therefore, the study fills the data gap that exists on the specific policy intersection of migration and health.

Numerous challenges were identified concerning providing health services to migrants, including weak health systems, inequality of access, lack of health and wash facilities (especially in remote locations), and insufficient health screening. The study recommends making health care accessible to all. More data and policy coherence are needed on the continent – the AUC plays an important role by guiding its member states how to govern migration and health. Based on the study, a training module on the governance of migration and health is being developed for member states representatives. Considering migrants' health needs will also contribute to the AU's goal of making migration safe, orderly and regular on the continent.

Twelve years of German support to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme: key lessons, June 2020



After more than twelve years of close cooperation with its main partners, the Directorate of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) – GIZ support to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) officially ended in June 2020. GIZ was a key partner of the African Union in transforming African agriculture, particularly in the fields of climate change adaptation, agricultural technical and vocational education and training, agribusiness and women empowerment. GIZ provided impactful support that was rendered both at the continental level and at the member state level. In the words of Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD: 'Personally, I do not know of any other continental framework which has gone so deep at national level.'

At the time of winding down operations, the GIZ Programme comprised four thematic modules, twelve partner countries, and EUR 34 million budget. A paper by the International Food Policy Research Institute speaks to the impact of the AU's continental programme: 'CAADP has significantly raised the political profile of agriculture in the continent and has promoted greater participation of multiple state and non-state actors in agricultural policy dialogue and strategy development.'

Skills needs anticipation in light of COVID-19 labour market impacts

Pretoria, South Africa, September 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused massive labour market disruptions. According to the COVID-19 Monitor of the International Labour Organization (ILO), 8.8 per cent of global working hours, equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs were lost in 2020.

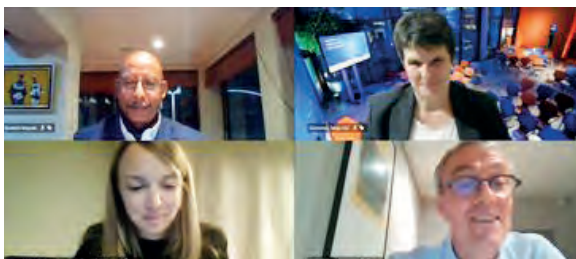
Time is of the essence in this response and skills development has an important role to play, in the short term, to help lessen the impact of COVID-19 while the pandemic is active, and in the medium to long term, to build the resilience of workers and firms, and to prepare for economic and employment recovery. In keeping with the need to provide a speedy response to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the labour Market, ILO developed a Guidance Note on how to conduct rapid skills surveys that can quickly assess the reskilling and upskilling needs arising from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market. The Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) used the Guidance Note to conduct rapid skills assessments in Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya in mid-2020 building on the

findings of the macro economic studies conducted earlier by SIFA and DNA Economics, which projected how long it would take prioritized economic sectors to return to pre-COVID-19 levels and which presented a basis for targeted SIFA interventions to improve skills levels. SIFA received additional requests from Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda which called for collective action in which SIFA promptly partnered with GIZ and ILO to initiate the assessment of the COVID-19 induced labour market skills needs.

Arising from the rapid assessment surveys, actionable recommendations were developed to help limit the career scarring effects of prolonged unemployment and skills mismatch and to support speedy recovery for affected sectors.

Reshaping African-European relations

A high-level web talk, online, 7 October 2020



The GIZ African Union Office, in cooperation with GIZ's Berlin and the Brussels Representation, hosted a Web Talk on International Cooperation and 'Reshaping African-European Relations in Challenging Times'. The Web Talk was held against the backdrop of the postponement of the summit of the African and European Union due to COVID-19 and the European Union's announcement of a new Comprehensive Strategy with Africa in March 2020.

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Koen Doens, Director General at the European Commission's Directorate for International Partnerships (INTPA), and Tanja Gönner, Spokesperson of the GIZ Management Board, discussed these issues in front of their digital audience

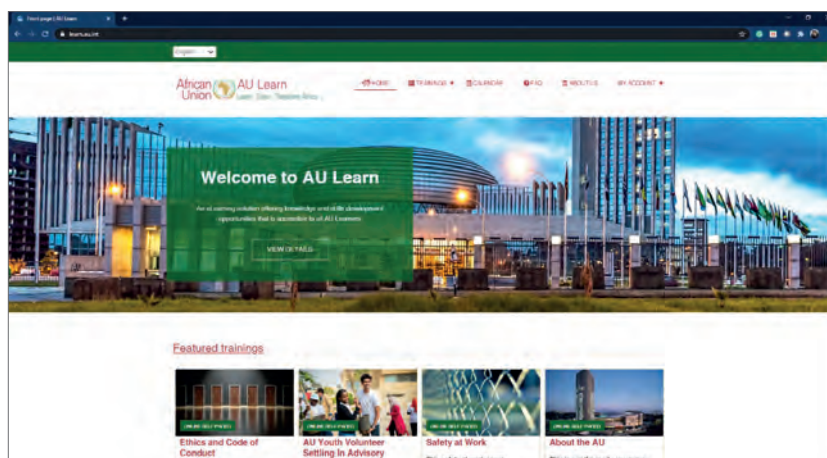
who contributed with questions. Dr Melanie Müller from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) provided a scientific perspective to the discussion.

In her opening statement, Tanja Gönner pointed out how the GIZ – through close cooperation with both the EU and the AUDA-NEPAD – positions itself as an integral part in strengthening the relationship between the two continents. The cooperation with the AU complements GIZ's work in bi-lateral partnerships and the cooperation on a regional level. The partnership with AUDA-NEPAD is crucial to the GIZ to contribute jointly to sustainable and inclusive growth on the continent. Regarding the relation of the EU and Africa, Koen Doens emphasised a unifying approach between the AU and the EU as a clear stand on promoting international cooperation in multilateral fora. Furthermore, he proposed to design a joint agenda with sustainability at its core, along the lines of the Green Deal. Dr Mayaki supported Doens' emphasis on multilateralism and stated that the quality of the AU-EU relationship is crucial as it directly impacts multilateralism and can strengthen it.

AU launches its eLearning platform 'AU Learn', online, 28 October 2020

The African Union Commission officially launched its new Learning and Management System and the eLearning platform AU Learn. The Learning and Management System is the outcome of an AU-wide eLearning Strategy process, initiated in March 2019. Inspired by a study tour to GIZ's Academy for International Cooperation, the AU embarked on developing its System, supported by the GIZ AU Institutional Capacity Building Programme. The state-of-the-art

platform, developed in cooperation with the consultancy, Common Sense, offers the AU the opportunity to design new capacity development delivery models, using different learning forms like self-paced learning, blended learning, and virtual classrooms. It allows AU employees to acquire additional skills, offering a wide variety of free and certificated training courses. The platform is conceptualised for internal and external target groups and, therefore, offers an excellent opportunity for reaching out to all AU organs and institutions and beyond, even during restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the first content on AU Learn are eLearning modules on advocacy and youth engagement developed by the German African Youth Initiative.



Knowledge product development for a sustainable exit strategy, online, November 2019 – July 2020



For the past seven years, in twelve African Union (AU) member states, the GIZ Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) programme has successfully introduced competency-based vocational education and training along several agricultural value chains, such as dairy, horticulture and aquaculture. After almost a decade of cooperation, the German support came to an end in June 2020. A broad range of implementing partners – public and private – generated a wealth of knowledge, good

practices, and lessons. To harvest and repackage this knowledge for dissemination to all AU member states by AUDA-NEPAD – the AU's Development Agency –, specialists in knowledge management, communications and graphic design produced a total of eleven knowledge products. These cover various topics – from private sector engagement to mentorship for women – and take different forms – from videos and policy briefs to interactive checklists.

1. Increased Public and Private Financing for ATVET
2. Gender-transformative Change in Practice – Six case studies
3. Mentorship for Agripreneurs
4. Projets Professionnels
5. Integrating ATVET in National Strategies
6. Journeying with Gender-transformative Change
7. Public-Private Partnerships for Skills Development
8. Student-centred learning
9. How to integrate private enterprises into ATVET delivery
10. Modelling Change Digital Manual
11. ATVET Soft Skills Wheel

The knowledge products are part of AUDA-NEPAD's advisory services so that agricultural skills development experience generated in twelve countries over seven years will be transferred.



Team Europe: Digital4-Development Hub launched to help shape a fair digital future across the globe, Brussels, Belgium, 8 December 2020



During the High-level Panel on the African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) Partnership on Digital Transformation on 8 December and under the German EU Council Presidency's auspices, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen launched the AU-EU Digital4Development (D4D) Hub.

In a Team Europe approach, the D4D Hub gathers key stakeholders from the EU Member States, the private sector, civil society and financial institutions to scale

up investments in digital transformation in partner countries and promote rights-based digital economies. Specifically, the D4D Hub will boost the rollout of the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy adopted in 2020, by launching the EU-AU Data Flagship and the African-European Innovation Bridge as the first cross-continental initiatives. The GIZ AU Data-Cipation programme will support the EU-AU Data Flagship as part of the Comprehensive Strategy with Africa.

By uniting the diversity of digital actors and innovation pioneers from Africa and Europe, the Hub will allow for unprecedented levels of coordination and continued multi-stakeholder dialogue, scaling of investments and impact to ensure a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation.

A resource guide for youth exchange and volunteering, December 2020



The African German Youth Initiative (AGYI) came to an end in December 2020. The four-year pilot phase was rich in insights, innovations and stimulating dialogues which witnessed the positive effects of youth engagement and the power of increased dialogue between German and African partners. More than 3,650 organizations have engaged in dialogue opportunities, 1,157 South-North participants equipped with new competencies and skills. Here is a resource guide of key learnings and tools developed:

- > The AGYI Learning Paper, jointly developed by the members of the AGYI Steering Committee as a compilation of the key learnings from the pilot phase
- > A toolbox compiles all the key products and services developed by AGYI partners in Benin, South Africa, Tanzania and at continental level by the AU Commission.
- > The AGYI results brochure shows the most important impacts of the AGYI pilot phase in facts and figures.

[Download
AGYI
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LOOKING AHEAD

Our cooperation with the African Union (AU) and its institutions, as well as all our partners, will remain strong in 2021 and we are looking forward to upcoming developments:



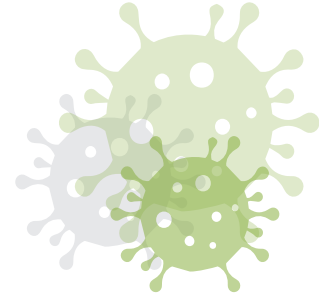
A new African Union leadership will continue institutional reforms towards more efficiency and impact, and implements its new annual theme: Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want.

The European Union looks into the renewal of a more comprehensive and thorough partnership with the African Union based on five key global trends:

1. green transition and energy access
2. digital transformation
3. sustainable growth and jobs
4. peace, security and governance
5. migration and mobility



Germany remains committed in its support to fight the pandemic and investigates closer collaboration with Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.



Creating One African Market

GIZ will expand its support to the African Continental Free Trade Area, to the negotiations

around the Free Trade Area and the implementation of rules and protocols.

Furthermore, the collaboration with the Free Trade Area's Secretariat in Ghana will be strengthened.

GIZ will design its support to the African Peace and Security Architecture to adjust to institutional reforms of the African Union at the nexus of Governance, Peace and Security, and strive to be a trusted implementing partner in stabilisation, conflict prevention, mediation and cooperation with civil society actors.



GIZ will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2021. Yet

10 YEARS



we have been shaping international cooperation on behalf of the German government for, and with international organisations and partners for more than 60 years via our predecessor organisations German Development Service, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit and InWEnt – Capacity Building International, Germany. We are looking forward to the next ten years, changing the world, and ourselves.



SHIPS

As a federally owned enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

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