

THINK AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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Donor Partners:



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1- Executive Summary

The Think Africa Partnership is a multi-partner program to support improved economic policy-making across Africa. To achieve this, the Partnership promotes knowledge uptake and capacity on economic policy matters among three key constituents – African researchers, policy institutes, and government chief economists. The Think Africa Partnership also aims to foster knowledge collaboration and networks between these groups.

The annual report summarizes key outputs and achievements of activities, under the Think Africa Partnership, as well as progress in fundraising efforts, led by the Think Africa Secretariat. The report highlights progress on all activities under the Think Africa Partnership for the past ten months (April 2018 - February 19, 2019).

2- Think Africa Partnership at a Glance

Pillar 1: Amplify the Knowledge Base

Key outputs: World Bank (WB)/African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Visiting Scholars Program, leveraging the African Centers of Excellence (ACE) for Think Africa objectives, and scaling up the Africa Fellows Program

- One AERC visiting scholar completed the program at the World Bank during 2018. Two additional scholars began their visits in January 2019 and are expected to complete the program in April. Collectively, the visiting scholars have contributed to 6 working papers, 3 regional studies, 7 trainings and lectures, 3 conferences and seminars, and 1 mission.
- The Think Africa secretariat's proposal has been accepted for the first African Center of Excellence on Quantitative Public Policy at the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- The 2018-2019 application cycle of the World Bank Group Africa Fellows Program attracted a total of 1,600 applications from promising candidates. The selection process is still underway. To date, 18 Africa fellows have been shortlisted for the program, of which 5 will be funded under the Think Africa Partnership.

Pillar 2: Supporting Regional and Domestic Knowledge Platforms

Key outputs: Supporting the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) and Compact with Africa (CwA)

- Think Africa's regional strategic partner, the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), a pan-African economic policy institute at the forefront of promoting economic transformation via blending analysis, advice, and advocacy, has made significant strides in broadening and deepening policy engagement across Africa.
- ACET has led 6 peer learning events among CwA countries, in collaboration with 3 institutions (i.e. International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and Milken Institute) and the Government of Ghana. The events have focused on topics such as blended finance, capital market development, risk mitigation, DFIs and PPP frameworks, economic diversification, domestic resource mobilization, tax compliance, and base erosion and profit shifting by multinational companies.
- ACET has led 2 CwA peer learning workshops which focused on the operation, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of Compact country teams and the role of Compact country teams in engaging the private sector. ACET also conducted 2 policy dialogues in the areas of youth, employment, and skills.
- ACET hosted the second African Transformation Forum (ATF), a policy-focused event that brought together leading experts and practitioners to share perspectives on how to accelerate job growth, boost investment, and implement transformation policies. The Forum focused on domestic resource mobilization, with the President and Vice President of Ghana, the President of Rwanda, the Vice President of the Côte d'Ivoire as well as finance ministers from Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Rwanda, in attendance.

- ACET is also the recipient of the 2018 Prospect Think Tank award for Best Economic Think Tank in the global category, surpassing runners-up like the Argentinian Libertad y Progreso, and the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics.

Pillar 3: Building the Bridge to Policy Impact

Key outputs: Launching the Chief Economists of Government (CEoG) Initiative including the Chief Economic Advisors' inaugural Forum

- The Office of the Chief Economist Africa Region initially held 3 consultative meetings, video calls and face to face meetings with chief economic advisors from 28 African countries to design the CEoG work program and identify how the CEoG initiative can add value to their work.
- One on one conversations with advisors offered an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the various challenges and priorities in their respective positions and propose how the World Bank can better support them in their daily functions.
- The World Bank Office of the Chief Economist Africa Region and the University of Oxford's Centre for the Study of African Economies co-hosted the 2019 inaugural African Chief Economic Advisors' Forum from the 6th - 8th of February in Oxford, United Kingdom. The forum launched a new peer network of chief economic advisors with the objective to foster better advisory support to head of states in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The inaugural forum brought together 19 African chief economic advisors, composed of 14 men and 5 women. The cohort of advisors represented 10 Anglophone countries, 8 Francophone countries, and 2 Portuguese-speaking countries.

Think Africa Program Management

- The Think Africa Partnership Trust Fund is active as of April 2018. To date, the Partnership has received USD 5.6 million from its first development partner, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) of Germany.
- Norway has made a verbal pledge to support the initiative and negotiations are nearing completion. NORAD has signaled interest in supporting activities towards the implementation of the Compact with Africa and advancing private sector development in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The World Bank Africa Chief Economist and his team have engaged in three fundraising missions with a broad range of potential partners. These include all major bilateral development partners of the Africa region as well as non-traditional development partners and major foundations.

3- Think Africa Partnership Activities and Outputs

Think Africa Partnership Overview:

The Think Africa Partnership is structured around three pillars of activity. This annual report summarizes activities, outputs and achievements under each pillar to date:

a. Pillar One: Amplify the Knowledge Base

The Partnership supports policy-relevant and collaborative economics research, with greater engagement and participation of African scholars and experts. Key outputs under Pillar 1 include the World Bank and African Economic Research Consortium Visiting Scholars Program, mobilization of the African Centers of Excellence Program to support TAP goals, and the World Bank Group Africa Fellows Program.

Initiating the WB/AERC Visiting Scholars Program:

The World Bank and African Economic Research Consortium Visiting Scholars Program offers four-month research placements for AERC scholars to join the World Bank and its partners to work on African economic policy issues. The Program is designed to provide opportunities for the scholars to contribute to World Bank research programs and projects in their field of expertise as well as enhance their own research relevant to economic development in Africa. The Program aims to: (i) boost economic policy research in Sub-Saharan Africa via African scholars; (ii) strengthen linkages between African scholars and the global research community in the areas of economic policy, academic research, and graduate training; and (iii) enhance skills and research outputs (i.e. publications and coursework) of African scholars by providing them access to networks, research and data via the World Bank and partner organizations.

Achievements: The WB/ AERC Visiting Scholars Program was officially launched in June 2018. The first cohort consisted of one visiting scholar to the World Bank. The scholar contributed to two working papers in the areas of financial sector expansion and child nutrition outcomes. She attended the 2018 Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, a conference which promoted the use of mathematics and statistical tools in the design of economic policy. She supported activities under the Chief Economists of Government Initiative, by assisting in follow-up discussions with selected chief economic advisors. The scholar joined the former World Bank Executive Director for South Africa, Nigeria, and Angola, to disseminate the findings of the 2018 World Development Report to policy-makers and practitioners in the education sector. The mission team also initiated talks with senior university administrators, discussing possible collaborations between the Bank and academic institutions in Africa. The scholar participated in seven in-house trainings and lectures, including training on WB Financial Products and Program Evaluation. The scholar presented her research to WB colleagues and peers, and submitted a paper to the World Bank Research Working Paper Series. She has continued to a lectureship in South Africa where she is incorporating lessons from her visiting scholar experience into syllabi for classes on Public Policy and Leadership, Agricultural Policy and Finance, and Issues in Banking and Financial Markets.

Two new visiting scholars started the program at the World Bank in January 2019. They have been paired with regional studies on Human Capital in Africa, and on African Industrialization respectively. The first visiting scholar's fields of expertise include Education Economics, Public Finance, and Human Development. His work titled "Analyzing the Determinants of Pupil's

Performance in Primary Schools: Evidence from Cameroon and Chad” is now under review at the Journal of Economic Development. His other work “Decomposition of Test Score Difference in PASEC Countries: An Analysis Based on Unconditional Quantile Regression” will be submitted to the World Bank Research Working Paper Series. The scholar has been invited to present his research findings at the AERC’s XXI Senior Policy Seminar in March 2019. The second visiting scholar’s research interests include economics of exchange rates, international macroeconomics credit risk in the banking system, and other topics in monetary economics. He is working on a research paper titled “Is the Exchange Rate a Shock Absorber or a Source of Shocks? Evidence from South Africa.” He plans to submit his paper to the World Bank Research Working Paper Series and present it at the AERC Biannual Conference.

Leveraging the African Centers of Excellence (ACE) Program to support quantitative public policy training:

The TAP had included in its original objectives to support the creation of a new program in Africa for training the next generation of public policy professionals with cutting edge quantitative program evaluation skills. By working closely with colleagues in the WB Education global practice, the secretariat has succeeded in seeing this activity taken forwards under the African Centers of Excellence program. This means the objective will be met but without requiring TAP resources to support it.

The newly initiated World Bank African Center of Excellence on Quantitative Public Policy aims to build the next generation of ‘change agents’ for the continent: young, quantitatively trained African economists and public policy professionals who will lead the economic transformation agenda and address the continent’s most pressing challenges. The overarching goal of the ACE Program is to produce a critical mass of graduates who will be retained in the region. They will be equipped to apply tools from quantitative public policy in key leadership roles in the institutions that shape the policy environment. Such leadership roles would range across governments, non-governmental agencies, research institutes and development agencies. The Center will partner with leading international institutions to design curricula, explore approaches to pedagogy, and promote skills-centric learning that is aligned with local demands in the labor force. The ACE aims to produce well-rounded graduates. Therefore, the program puts both hard skills (e.g. program evaluation and quantitative analysis) and soft skills (e.g. critical thinking and cognitive flexibility) at the forefront of its agenda. with the graduates will be part of a network of peers creating a vibrant intellectual environment.

Achievements: The Think Africa secretariat has helped initiate the selection and funding for a new African Center of Excellence on Quantitative Public Policy. The existing World Bank ACE Program focused on STEM and vocational skills is now expanding to other areas. This will now include a public policy ACE.

The Education Global Practice initiated a first call of proposals for the Public Policy and Quantitative Skills course in September 2018. The Think Africa secretariat’s proposed terms of reference has been used to structure the call for the first African Center of Excellence on Quantitative Public Policy. The winning institution was the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Next steps to be undertaken by the ACE team include working with the selected center on the implementation plan and identifying key academic experts who could help guide the center in its launch and project implementation. The

Center will be completely funded under the Education Global Practice ACE program rather than TAP, while meeting an original objective under TAP -- and representing a win in mobilizing significant additional WBG resources toward TAP goals.

Scaling-up the Africa Fellows Program:

The World Bank Group Africa Fellowship Program targets young talented African nationals who are completing or recently completed a Ph.D. in an area relevant to the World Bank's work. The fellowship program has been very successful since its inception in 2015, building a strong pipeline of young African talent interested in a career working on development economics in international institutions, African governments, think tanks, and academia. The Program offers chosen fellows a six-month assignment at World Bank Group (WBG) offices in Washington D.C. or in country offices. Fellows gain hands-on experience in the operations of the WBG and are prepared for a recruitment path in the competitive WB Young Professionals (YP) Program. Areas of experience include knowledge generation and dissemination, design of global and country policies, and the building of institutions to achieve inclusive growth in developing countries. Fellows also have the opportunity to work on topics in research, economic policy, technical assistance, and lending operations that contribute to the World Bank's goal of eliminating poverty and increasing shared prosperity.

Achievements: TAP has supported the scaling up of the program in 2018/9.

The Office of the Chief Economist Africa Region received a total of 1,600 applications for the 2018-2019 application cycle and the selection process is still underway. To date, 18 Africa fellows have been shortlisted for the program, consisting of 9 men and 9 women from 10 African countries. Fellows are represented in 9 units (so far) across the World Bank, including: Africa Chief Economist Office; Agriculture; Education; Governance; Gender; Human Development; Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment; Social Protection and Labor; and Water. The Think Africa Partnership will support 5 Africa fellows under this new cycle.

b. Pillar Two: Supporting Regional and Domestic Knowledge Platforms

The Partnership works to strengthen Africa-based think tanks and other intermediary actors supporting policy impact and linkages to knowledge generation. Key outputs under Pillar 2 include support to the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) and through them support to the implementation of the Compact with Africa (CwA).

Support to ACET and the implementation of the CwA:

The TAP supports ACET across a range of activities, with a core focus on its role supporting the implementation of the CwA. Via an initial grant of US\$1.6million, ACET has undertaken a program structured around two components and five sub-components:

1. Strengthening ACET's core activities on policy design
 - 1.1. Technical Assistance for an institutional policy engagement case study
 - 1.2. Assistance to ACET on-going activities
2. Supporting ACET's role in implementing the CwA
 - 2.1. Strengthening Compact countries capacity
 - 2.2. Bi-Annual Peer review of CwA self-assessment
 - 2.3. Advocacy for African and the CwA

The WBG group works closely with ACET, both through formal channels such as collaboration on the CwA Africa Advisory Group, but also via the Think Africa strategic partnership. Here areas of collaboration include design of a fellowship pipeline to support ACET work – linking ACET recruitment to the alumni of the WBG/TAP Africa Fellows program. Additionally, ACET and WBG are working to develop a mechanism for improved peer review and expert input to the knowledge policy outputs of ACET and its partners. This would seek to leverage WBG staff expertise to feed in more systematically into ACET work as it is being developed. Under the management of the grant with ACET, the WBG team have been working collaboratively to help ACET strengthen various capacities and systems including procurement planning and procedures. During the grant period ACET have made progress across a range of operational priorities including IT, HR, program management, resource mobilization and governance.

ACET activities under TAP

ACET was appointed as the CwA secretariat for coordination and peer learning. As the secretariat, ACET engages in a variety of activities including: (i) coordination role in CwA implementation; (ii) supporting peer learning among CwA countries; and (iii) peer-reviewing country self-assessments on progress. ACET is catalyzing CwA implementation via a peer learning platform and independent peer review of progress towards country identified policy goals.

Component 1: Strengthening ACET's core activities on policy design

Sub-component 1.1: Technical Assistance for an Institutional Policy Engagement Case Study
Sub-component Objective: Through development of a case study based on ACET's policy engagement model, positively impact the organizational effectiveness of selected policy institutes in Africa

Sub-component Progress: ACET has begun a dialogue with numerous organizations which could be involved with or contribute to the case study. Likewise, ACET has identified an initial group of prospective African policy institutes, with which to partner in development of the case study.

Sub-component 1.2: Assistance to ACET on-going activities¹

African Transformation Forum (ATF): The second ATF (ATF 2018) was held in Accra 20th to 21st June 2018. ATF2018 was convened with a clear set of objectives for participants. It offered a unique opportunity for the private sector and other non-state actors to engage directly with ministers and other policy makers to help shape the course of economic transformation in Africa. The occasion was well received and honored by the President and Vice President of Ghana, the President of Rwanda, the Vice President of the Cote d'Ivoire as well as finance ministers from Ghana, Burkina Faso and Rwanda.

In keeping with the central objective of ATF2018 – a dialogue for action – the first day focused on five concurrent working sessions centered around each of the PACT Chapters. During those sessions, stakeholders deliberated on key challenges and policy solutions to help drive economic

¹ Given the various objectives and work plans for each individual activity under sub-component 1.2., this section will focus exclusively on the project progress. The support from the Think Africa Partnership is additive under this component- these activities are pre-existing and/or supported from other sources also.

transformation. The second day of the Forum, which featured all plenary sessions, started with a speech from Dr. Amoako in which he announced the formation of an African Transformation Leadership Panel to be chaired by Liberia's former president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The Panel will be formed over the coming year and it will comprise eminent men and women – proven experts and leaders – who will help promote important transformation policies at the highest levels.

Component 2: Supporting ACET's role in implementing the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA)

Sub-component 2.1: Strengthening Compact countries' capacity

Technical assistance for CwA implementation support

Sub-component Objective: To strengthening the capacity of compact countries' in the implementation of CWA, through peer-to-peer learning, to include analysis and consultations.

Sub-component Progress: In October 2018 ACET organized the Germany-Ghana Investor Forum, which included participation from a wide range of private sector representatives, as well as Chancellor Merkel, President Akufo-Addo and World Bank President Jim Kim.

On February 13th, 2019, ACET organized two CwA peer learning workshops. The first workshop focused on the operation, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of Compact country teams. The second workshop focused on the role of Compact country teams in engaging the private sector. Approximately 70 people joined the workshops and participants included representatives from six Compact countries, eleven G20 countries; and the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank. The workshops included country presentations from Ghana and Tunisia, which highlighted challenges and success of Compact teams. The second session included a significant number of private sector representatives from across sub-Saharan Africa who provided unique perspectives. A summary of the proceedings, including recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the CwA Compact teams, will be provided to the Africa Advisory Group (AAG). The peer-to-peer learning approach allowed all stakeholders to identify challenges, opportunities, and good practices, with a view towards strengthening the Compact teams and enhancing public-private dialogue.

In early 2019, ACET established the CwA Advisory Panel, represented by eminent persons with a deep understanding of Africa. These include a former Prime Minister, a former Central Bank Governor, a former civil society CEO, and a former policy institute CEO. The CwA Advisory Panel will provide technical support to implementation of the CwA, as well as advocate for the initiative in international fora and among Africa's leaders.

In January 2019, ACET launched a special project of analysis addressing local conditions for blended finance. The research includes literature review, interviews with more than a dozen development finance agencies, and a panel discussion at the OECD Private Finance for Sustainable Development (PF4SD) Conference in Paris. The study will serve as a major input to a planned CwA peer to peer learning event later in 2019. The analysis will be the first comprehensive and comparative review of DFI practices in meeting OECD blended finance principle three.

Technical assistance for peer-to-peer learning

Peer learning events: In continuation of the work started in 2017, ACET hosted a second peer-to-peer learning meeting in Accra on April 4th and 5th 2018 in partnership with the Government of Ghana and the IMF. Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia were represented by ministers or other senior government officials. Representatives from the World Bank, the IMF, Germany and a host of development partners supporting the DRM efforts in CWA countries, as well as key civil society organizations on the continent and the private sector were also in attendance. The discussion covered a number of key issues, including the institutional and political constraints in revenue mobilization, improving tax compliance, and alleviating base erosion and profit shifting by multinational companies. It also focused on common DRM challenges and proposed short- and medium-term growth friendly, revenue enhancing solutions.

During the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in April 2018, ACET collaborated with the OECD and CwA partners to facilitate a peer-to-peer learning engagement on domestic resource mobilization as part of the African Advisory Group meetings. Ten Compact Countries participated in the peer learning program.

Sub-component 2.2. Bi-Annual Peer review of CwA self-Assessment

Sub-component Objective: For ACET to provide an independent, light-touch review of the CwA monitoring process that provides all CwA stakeholders insights into progress and possible options for improvement

Sub-component Progress: At the request of the G20 Africa Advisory Group, ACET undertook independent peer reviews of the CwA in April 2018 and October 2018. The peer reviews have been included in the broader monitoring reports produced by the Africa Advisory Group (AAG). The latest one, developed in collaboration with IFC and AfDB, was published in October this year and is titled 'Trends in FDI and Cross-border Investments in Compact with Africa Countries: Interim Monitoring Report - 2018 Annual Meetings'. ACET has furthermore participated in both AGG meetings in Washington and Bali.

In January 2019, the World Bank requested ACET, in its role supporting the CwA, to undertake a senior level review of the CwA, to include visits to numerous CwA capitals. This will serve as an input to the G20 Africa Advisory Group meeting in April. To ensure a high-level perspective for this World Bank requested review, ACET has established the CwA Advisory Panel as envisaged under the Think Africa Trust Fund. The panel of eminent persons will engage with CwA stakeholders, including at the CwA Compact Team workshops in February and will visit CwA capitals to engage with senior officials. The CwA Advisory panel will provide a report to ACET which will serve as an input to future peer reviews.

Sub-component 2.3. Advocacy for Africa and the CwA

Sub-component Objective: Enhance advocacy for the CwA through collaboration with think tank partners and organizing and facilitating a CwA Advisory Panel.

Sub-component Progress: ACET was actively involved in the T20 Forum held in Buenos Aires in September 2018. This event received widespread recognition and interest and provided excellent opportunities for ACET to advocate for the CwA. ACET engagement included the submission of a CwA policy note (prepared jointly by ACET and Brookings), which was included in the T20 communique package for the Argentinian Presidency of the G20. The policy note was titled “Mobilizing Private Investment and the Compact with Africa: A Preliminary Assessment and Steps Ahead”.

ACET furthermore moderated and facilitated a high-level panel discussion on ‘Ensuring Progress of the G20 Compact with Africa’.

ACET was moreover engaged in the G20/T20 meeting held in Tokyo 3rd-6th December 2018. This was the first meeting of the G20 under the Japanese Presidency. The primary purpose was to define the priorities and areas of focus for the next year under Japanese presidency. It was a strong line up of speakers including Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Vice Minister Yamada, AsDB President Nakao of the AsDB, the heads of the Asian Development Bank Institute, the Institute for Monetary Affairs, the Japan Institute of International Affairs, as well as the G20 Sherpas from Japan and Argentina.

ACET featured as one of three think tanks from Africa represented. ACET presented a CwA policy note (co-produced by ACET and the African Development Bank) which provided six areas for potential policy recommendations to the G20 leaders.

Lastly, ACET has commenced work in establishing a CWA Advisory Panel as noted above. Future work of the panel will likely include high level advocacy linked to the “Reform Partnership Framework” whereby Germany has asked ACET to support.

c. Pillar Three: Building the Bridge to Policy Impact

The Partnership supports policy impact by building a network of chief economic advisors to Presidents and Prime Ministers This is done within the framework of the Chief Economists of Government (CEoG) Initiative. The network provides a platform for peer support and learning policy benchmarking, and support to economic policy units at the center of government. Building a regional network of chief economic advisors is a key output under Pillar 3.

Creating the CEoG initiative, and hosting inaugural Chief Economic Advisors’ Forum:

The CEoG secretariat launched the network of African Chief Economists of Government in February 2019. The inaugural CEoG Forum was hosted in partnership with the University of Oxford from 6-8 February 2019 and served as the official launch of the network. The Forum brought together 19 African chief economic advisors from 10 Anglophone countries, 8 Francophone countries, and 2 Portuguese-speaking countries

The aims of the Forum were to: (i) launch a peer network of African chief economic advisors; (ii) exchange experiences of the role of an economic advisor and to create the conditions for peer learning; and (iii) identify opportunities for the network to support advisors in carrying out their roles. Evaluations from the advisors indicate that they believe all these objectives were met. Many advisors explicitly highlighted that they were pleased to finally connect with their peers in other

countries who face similar responsibilities and challenges. Some have scheduled visits to meet their peers in Africa to continue the policy discussion following the Forum.

The position of presidential economic advisor is often a low-profile one, despite the great importance of the role. The advisors are often one of the most trusted and senior sources of policy advice for economic issues at the presidential level. To identify eligible members of the network and to begin understanding their needs, the CEOG secretariat carried out a lot of careful, preparatory work before the Forum.

The secretariat conducted consultative meetings with twenty-eight chief economic advisors to refine the CEOG work program and identify how the CEOG initiative can add value to their work. The meetings fostered a better understanding of the various challenges and priorities advisors face in their respective positions.

Through the consultations and discussions at the Forum, the network has identified some areas of support which include: (i) peer learning and exchange among economic advisors; (ii) providing timely policy options and case studies drawing on research; (iii) assisting in the design and training of economic teams; (iv) and equipping advisors with the necessary and relevant skills, tools, policy briefs, and country case studies.

Next steps include CEOG network activities and planning the next forum.

d. Think Africa Program Management

Since the inception of the Think Africa Partnership in the Fall of 2017, the World Bank Africa Chief Economist and his team have engaged in an outreach and consultation process with a broad range of potential partners. These include all major bilateral development partners of the Africa region as well as non-traditional development partners and major foundations. During 2018, the Think Africa secretariat continues to grow the Partnership, conducting additional consultation meetings with stakeholders and broadening the base of partners supporting the Think Africa agenda.

Achievements: The Think Africa Partnership Trust Fund is active as of April 2018. The Program has received USD 5.6 million from its first development partner, GIZ of Germany. This complements existing World Bank resources mobilized to support activities under the three windows. The funds have been used to support all three pillars of activity under the TAP program. The secretariat are in advanced negotiations with NORAD who have made a verbal commitment of support, to be concluded in the first half of 2019. Norway is interested to support to activities that support the implementation of the Compact with Africa and related private sector development activities.