

FEBRUARY 2022



# THINK AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

## ANNUAL REPORT



Contact Information:



Contact Information:

The World Bank Group, Africa Region  
1818 H Street, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20433  
USA

**Albert Zeufack**  
Africa Chief Economist  
[azeufack@worldbank.org](mailto:azeufack@worldbank.org)

**James Cust**  
Program Manager, Think Africa Partnership  
[jcust@worldbank.org](mailto:jcust@worldbank.org)

[worldbank.org/tap](http://worldbank.org/tap)  
[thinkafrica.dev](http://thinkafrica.dev)  
[africaceog.org](http://africaceog.org)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1-</b>	
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2-</b>	
<b>THINK AFRICA PARTNERSHIP AT A GLANCE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3-</b>	
<b>THINK AFRICA PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
a. Pillar One: Amplify the Knowledge Base .....	8
b. Pillar Two: Supporting Regional and Domestic Knowledge Platforms .....	13
c. Pillar Three: Building the Bridge to Policy Impact .....	25
d. Think Africa Program Management.....	29
<b>4-</b>	
<b>ANNEXES .....</b>	<b>31</b>
Annex 1- TAP eligible expenses (cumulative) .....	31
Annex 2- TAP total grantee support by window .....	32
Annex 3- Think Africa Partnership budget .....	33
Annex 4- Overview of Africa Fellows 2021 .....	35
Annex 5- Outputs Africa Fellows 2021 .....	37
Annex 6- Think Africa Partnership Results Framework .....	38
Annex 7- Overview of CEOG network members .....	46
Annex 7- Stata training session report .....	47
Annex 8- CEOG workshop agenda.....	49
Annex 9- CEOG country support options .....	50
Annex 10- ACET reporting documents.....	53

# 1- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Think Africa Partnership (TAP) is a multi-donor trust fund that supports economic transformation and growth across Africa by promoting better uptake of policy-relevant knowledge and data.

TAP bridges the supply side and the demand side of knowledge for policy making. It does this through peer-learning platforms and works across three constituents: African young professionals, scholars and universities; domestic and regional think tanks; and a network of over 40 chief economic advisors to African heads of the executive. The Think Africa Partnership is an African-centered initiative to better equip African scholars, institutions, and chief economic advisors with the tools, knowledge, and networks to better address local development challeng-

es with home grown solutions. By nurturing exceptional African talent, strengthening debate and deliberation inside and outside of government, TAP builds a pipeline of reformers among African development professionals and economists, and supports today's and tomorrow's economic policy makers in Africa.

The annual report summarizes key outputs, activities and achievements under the Think Africa Partnership from 17 February 2021 – 31 January 2022.

Previous annual reports can be accessed here:

[Annual Report 2019](#)

[Annual Report 2020](#)

[Annual Report 2021](#)

## 2- TAP AT A GLANCE

The Think Africa Partnership Multi Partner Fund is active as of April 2018. The Program received its first contributions in 2018 from the government of Germany (via GIZ), complemented by contributions from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) in 2019, 2020, and 2021 and additional contributions from Germany in 2019 and 2021. Since its inception the Think Africa Partnership has received a total of USD 20.96 million development partner support from Germany and Norway. This complements existing WBG resources to support activities under the three windows, for example staff time, support to the WBG Africa Fellowship, and complementary support to relevant research and regional studies.

Due to changing and increasing demands from stakeholders during the pandemic, and thanks to additional development partner support in 2021, we have started to implement the scaled-up vision for TAP throughout 2021: we have hosted a total of 14 CEOG peer-learning webinars on topics ranging from Covid-19 and epidemiology, the economic response to the crisis and recovery plans, to the Compact with Africa and climate adaptation. We held a hybrid workshop in Abuja and leveraged the CEOG network for the IDA20 Abijan Declaration in July 2021. We provided country-specific support to the CEOG network where needed, ranging from staff support in the form of CEOG Presidential Fellows in South Africa, setting up institutionalized chief economist units at the presidencies of Madagascar and Burundi and supporting the creation of an economic planning function within the Government of Mauritius. Beyond CEOG, we have built partnerships with

the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists (AAawe) and Afrobarometer, a pan-African survey and research network. We have started to link pillars more systematically: whether through a career-seminar for female E4T members with panelists from CEOG, AERC and the World Bank, an Afrobarometer webinar for the advisors and for E4T members, or a new project with the African Centre for Economic Transformation, involving Pillar 1 to 3 stakeholders.

### Pillar 1: Amplify the Knowledge Base

*Key outputs: continued support to the Africa Fellowship Program; the Economists for Transformation (E4T) network and implementing TAP's gender strategy.*

- 31 Fellows, of which 14 are female, have completed their program at the World Bank and the IFC in 2021, 10 of which were funded by TAP and five of which were working specifically on Private Sector Development. The 2021 Fellows underwent two training sessions on research design and writing with Afrobarometer.
- The Economists for Transformation (E4T) network, first convened by TAP in November 2019, has grown from 68 members in February 2020 to 272 members in January 2022 on LinkedIn and from 0 members in February 2020 to 371 members in January 2022 on Facebook. The E4T network provides a space for early career Afri-

can development professionals to share their research, write blogposts on topics related to economic transformation, and share career opportunities.

- E4T hosted/planned three seminars since the last reporting period: a panel discussion on strengthening the role of women in economic policy with 72 participants, a career-talk and a seminar with Afrobarometer.

## Pillar 2: Supporting Regional and Domestic Knowledge Platforms

*Key outputs: Support to the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) and engagement with Afrobarometer*

- ACET held its third African Transformation Forum and published the third African Transformation Report in July 2021.
- In the second half of 2021, ACET launched the ACET Business Transform (ABT) program, providing coaching and mentorship to local SMEs.
- ACET prepared two peer review notes and a technical note for the G20 Africa Advisory Group meetings and completed their joint analysis with the Economic Commission for Africa on the fiscal risks of public private partnerships.
- TAP implemented a new partnership with Afrobarometer, a pan-African survey and research and survey network, who will be providing data analysis support to TAP's stakeholders, including the advisors but also E4T members.

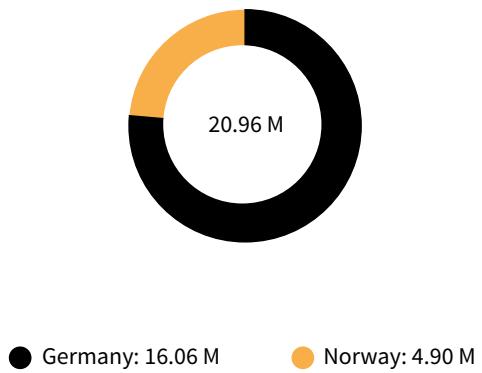
## Pillar 3: Building the Bridge to Policy Impact – the Chief Economists of Government Initiative (CEoG)

*Key outputs: Supported growing peer-network of chief economic advisors and carried out virtual skills and knowledge building activities, including support to chief economist units*

- The CEoG Secretariat has hosted seven peer-learning webinars in 2021 on topics ranging from the economic recovery to climate adaptation, industrialization and investment incentives.
- In July 2021, CEoG network members from Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Togo prepared a joint technical note justifying African countries' requests to replenish IDA20 funds. An exchange of ideas between different African countries was facilitated by CEoG, so that the "Abidjan Declaration" covered the major common positions and concerns of African countries.
- During 2021, CEoG has been supporting the preparation of institutionalized chief economist units at the presidencies of Madagascar and Burundi, the creation of an economic planning function at Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of Mauritius and South Africa's green transition via two CEoG Presidential Fellows at the Presidency.

## *Partnerships and contributions*

To date, the Partnership has received USD 16.06 million development partner support from Germany and has secured USD 4.90 million from Norway.



**Figure 1:** Development Partner Center, January 25, 2022

### 3-

## THINK AFRICA PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

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

### 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 WBG/AERC Visiting Scholars Program, scaling up the Africa Fellows Program as well as the network of Economists for Transformation to amplify data and evidence on African economic growth and transformation and increase visibility and outreach by African female economists.

#### *The WB/AERC Visiting Scholars Program:*

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) World Bank Visiting Scholars Program offers an opportunity for research placements of up to four months at the World Bank for early-career academics from Africa. The program aims to enhance the capacity of African scholars to boost economic policy research in sub-Saharan Africa; help strengthen members of AERC's global linkages in economic policy, academic research, and graduate training; deepen and broaden the policy impact of both AERC and the Africa Chief Economist Office; and enhance the skills and output of individual African researchers by providing them direct access to wider and better information and data accessible via the World Bank.

The AERC Visiting Scholars program was paused in 2021, because of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions at the World Bank HQ. One year on, the program was transitioned to take place as a virtual scholarship and three scholars have started their assignments in January 2022. We will report on their assignments in next year's Annual Report.

Below are the latest publications of our 2020 scholars, Rita, Ramaele and Andre:

Rita Nikiema:

- <https://aercafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Research-paper-490.pdf>
- <https://aercafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/PB11-Pouureketa-Rita-Nikiema.pdf>

Ramaele Moshoeshoe

- <https://www.africaportal.org/publications/effect-weather-shocks-womens-labor-supply-and-income-women-headed-household-lesotho/>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/saje.12288>

Andre Tsambou

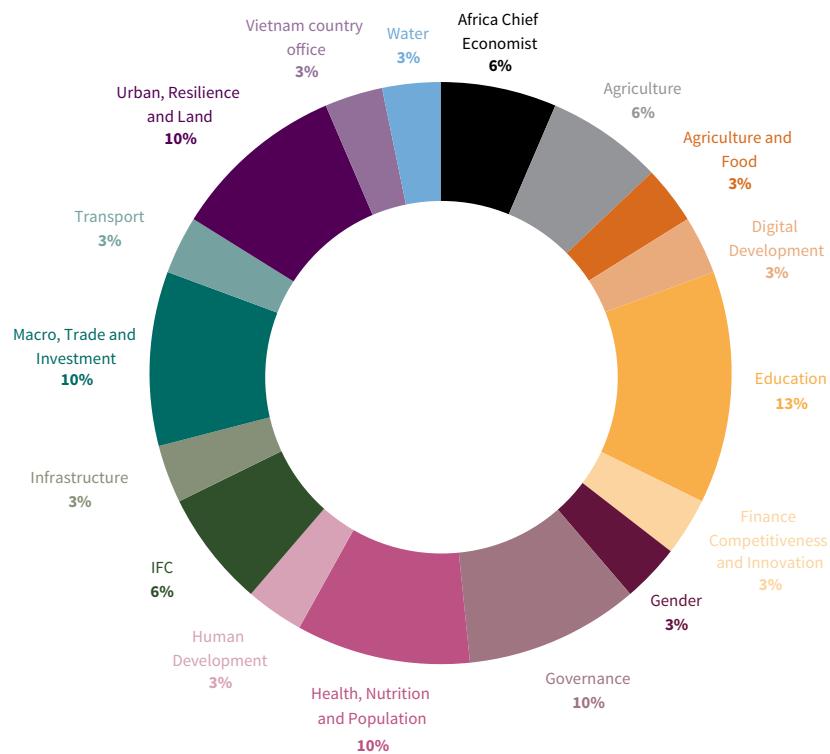
- <https://www.cairn.info/revue-d-economie-industrielle-2021-1-page-107.htm>

## WBG Africa Fellows Program:

The WBG Africa Fellowship Program targets young talented African nationals who are completing or recently completed a PhD 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 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 WBG Young Professionals (YP) Program.

## Africa Fellows 2021

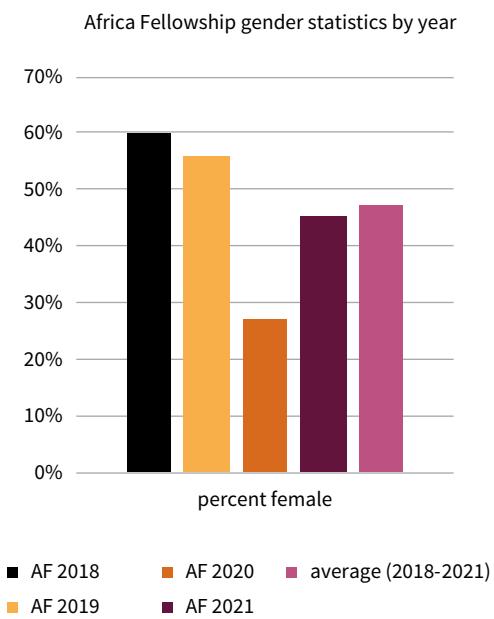
Between January 2021 and December 2021, 31 Fellows, of which 14 are female, representing 45 percent of the 2021 cohort, have completed their program at the World Bank and the IFC. 10 of these are funded by TAP and five have been working on private sector development related topics. The 2021 cohort attracted a total of 3,100 candidates. The 2021 WBG Africa Fellows come from Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia. The percentage of female Africa Fellowship graduates increased from under 27% in 2020 to almost 45% in 2021. The Fellows were placed in a range of global practices and units across the World Bank and the IFC:



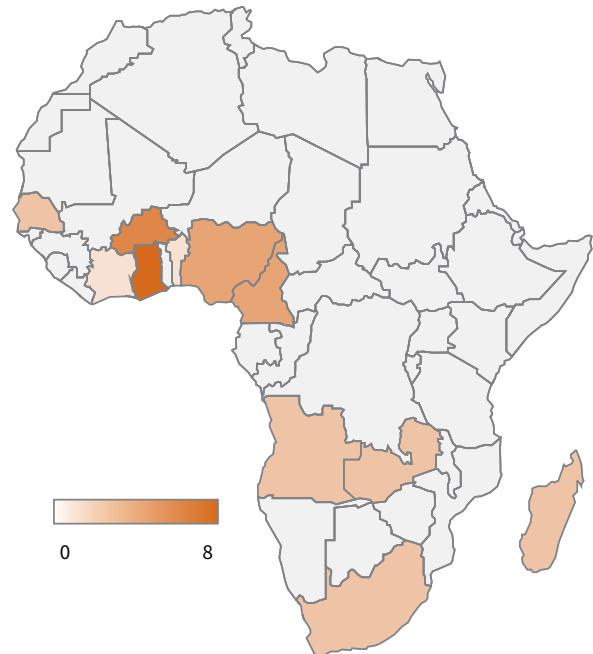
**Figure 2.** Composition of 2021 Africa Fellows

In order to support Fellows and the broader E4T community in their career paths, TAP hosted a career-talk in January 2021 attended by 7 Africa Fellows, and is hosting a second, more open E4T career-talk on February 8, 2022 to discuss careers in economic development across inter-

national institutions, African governments or think tanks with Jim Cust, TAP program manager and economist, and Aissata Coulibaly, former Africa Fellow and former WBG Young Professional and now Social Protection specialist at the World Bank.



**Figure 3.** Africa Fellowship gender statistics by year



**Figure 4:** 2021 Africa Fellows nationalities: number of Fellows per country

### *Special partnership with the WBG Africa Fellowship program and Afrobarometer*

During 2021, TAP partner Afrobarometer provided two training sessions on research design and writing for the 2021 cohort of WBG Africa Fellows. The seminars each spanned Friday-Saturday and took place in Q1 and Q2 of 2021. A selected number of the 2021 WBG Africa Fellows

has since undertaken specific research using Afrobarometer survey data. Four teams from the 2021 Fellows are ready to present their papers to AB in February 2022. All papers will go through editorial reviews within AB before being presented to the World Bank for review and Working paper publication. Afrobarometer is involved in providing feedback, reviewing and guiding the production of the publications.

### *Economists for Transformation*



**Economists  
For  
Transformation**

Economists for Transformation (E4T) is a new network for early-career African economists and those interested in African economic policy issues. The network was officially launched around the 2019 Annual Meetings where a number of economists met to brainstorm ways to assemble and support early-career African economists.

Since then, the network has grown in its virtual-only format and meets on Facebook and LinkedIn discussion groups called “Economists for Transformation”. Participants in the LinkedIn group have grown from 68 members in February 2020 to 273 members in January 2022 and network members in the Facebook group have increased from 0 members in February 2020 to 371 members in January 2022.

**Why E4T?** The E4T network, supported by TAP, has been a response to the need for a place for the growing number of early career African PhD economists and others working on these topics to meet and discuss research and policy issues. The network is responding to a significant increase in recent years in the quality and quantity of research being done on Africa’s economic development. However, policy debates remain dominated by established voices and do not always take advantage of new research insights.

One major goal for this networked community is therefore to help members find opportunities and amplify their voice and discuss new research findings for policy applications. The network can also provide a space to early-career professionals to chart their career path and find interest-

ing job opportunities, whether it is in think tanks, government or academia. The network should help outstanding African economists and development professionals to connect to one another, stay informed around the latest research, opportunities and application deadlines, and connect to African think tanks, policy research institutes, and governments.

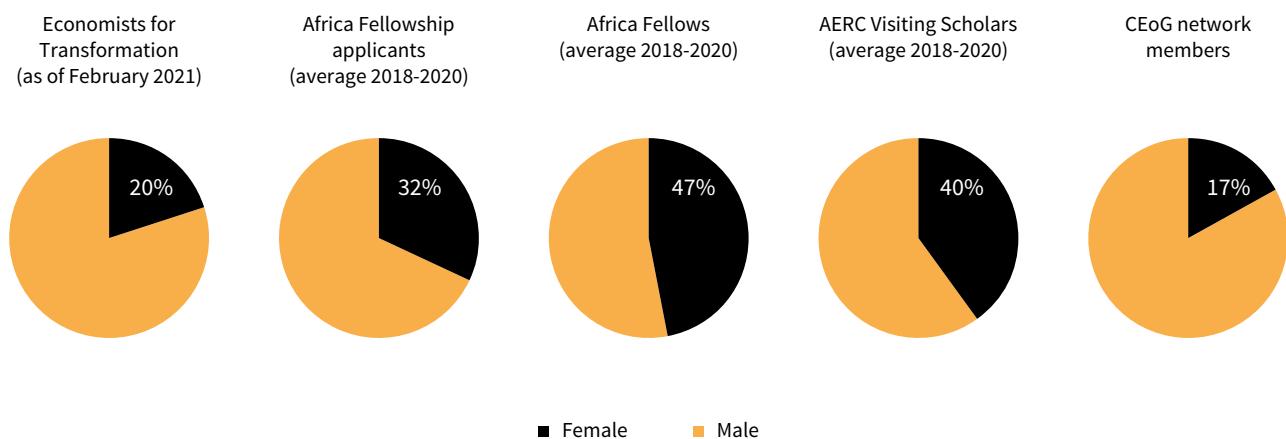
Since the last reporting period, three E4T blogposts have been written by E4T members and published on <https://www.econfortransformation.org/blog/>. Five other blogposts by E4T members are still being written, on topics including gender, their respective thesis topic and Covid-19. Throughout 2021, content on the E4T discussion groups on Facebook and LinkedIn was focused on job- and fellowship opportunities and E4T members sharing their research. We have noted that many E4T members have applied to CEOG Presidential Fellowship positions that we have advertised, including in South Africa and Mauritius. Applicants who were E4T members have added their E4T blogs on their CVs under publications.

E4T newsletters have become a valuable communication tool, as these reach not only our Facebook and LinkedIn group members but the whole talent database. To recall, the E4T talent database includes pre-selected applicants to the WBG Africa Fellowship program, of which there currently are 2,006. Each member is free to unsubscribe from the newsletters and we have only included those in the talent database that have explicitly agreed in their application to be contacted by the WBG. Out of 2,006 recipients, over 50% read the newsletter and click on links. Through these newsletters we advertise job and fellowship opportunities, we introduced the two CEOG Presidential Fellows in South Africa to the network, invite members to relevant economic policy events, and invite them to our own virtual E4T events.

Since the last reporting period E4T has hosted and/or planned three events: a joint E4T-AAAWE panel discussion on strengthening the role of women in economic policy which took place in September 2021 and attracted 72 E4T members on zoom, an E4T career-talk with former WBG Young Professionals Jim Cust and former Africa Fellow and former YP Aissata Coulibaly which is taking place on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and an E4T virtual workshop with Afrobarometer which is taking place on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### *Gender focus*

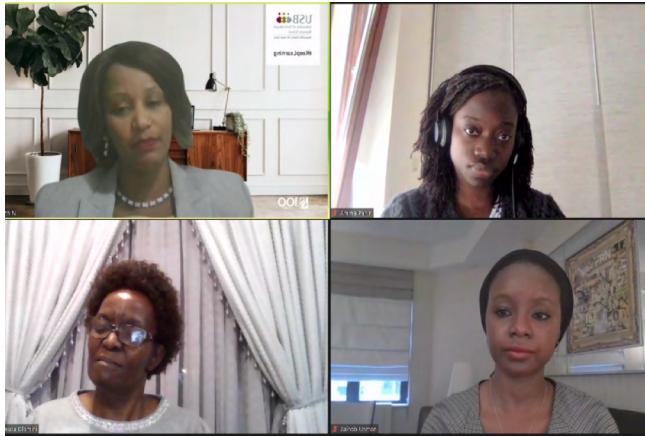
Less women apply to the Africa Fellowship, and even less of these join the E4T network. The percentage of women in TAP supported programs is lowest within chief economic advisors. Unsurprisingly, fewer women are in more senior positions. However, the problem lies not always in hiring but rather lower demand for a career in economic policy. The ratio of female PhD economics students in US is the same as the ratio of female applicants to the Africa Fellowship: the share of female Africa Fellows is almost 50%, but only one third of applicants are women.



**Figure 6** gender statistics among TAP stakeholders, December 2021

Throughout 2021, TAP program management held discussions with the steering committee and the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists (AAAWE), included gender-related outcomes and outcome indicators in the TAP results framework, and has started to implement gender-focused activities. E4T offers a huge audience of over 2,000 early-career professionals, around 400 of which are women. At the same time, our other female TAP stakeholders from government, think tanks and

academia offer valuable experiences to share. E4T allows us to share female success stories through our newsletter. Additionally, together with AAAWE, we have set up a series of virtual roundtable discussions on “[African women in economic policy: perspectives from researchers, development leaders and chief economic advisors](#)”. The first of these roundtables was held in September 2021 and was attended by 72 early-career economists and development professionals from E4T.



**Figure 7:** joint E4T AAAWE panel discussion on strengthening the role of women in economic policy

Our speakers were TAP stakeholders from government, academia and think tanks: Mrs. Nomusa Tibane, former chief economic advisor to the government Eswatini, Dr. Amma Panin, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Louvain and Dr. Zainab Usman, Director of the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Through a quick zoom-poll we found out that 40% of participants were PhD students, 63% worked in academia, 7% in government and 17% in Multilateral Development Institutions, while 53% aspire a career in Multilateral Development Institutions, 27% in think tanks and 5% in government. 95% responded that they would be “very willing” to participate in the policy debate of their respective country, if given a chance. This series of virtual roundtable discussions is set to continue throughout 2022.

[To watch this event, click here.](#)

## b. Pillar Two: Supporting Regional and Domestic Knowledge Platforms

### *Support to the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)*

Pillar two of the Think Africa Partnership strengthens platforms that link knowledge to policy across Africa. The *Support to Regional Knowledge Capacity* project, implemented by the African Center for Economic Transformation, was financed through a 4.95 million USD Recipient Executed Trust Fund (RETF). The project development objective is to strengthen ACET’s capacity in the delivery of policy to action, implementation of the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA), and promoting private sector development, in selected countries. The *Support to Regional Knowledge Capacity* project was closed on November 30, 2021 and will be evaluated during Q1 and Q2 2022.

Thanks to additional financing from Germany in Norway, a new project with ACET is being prepared and will be launched in early 2022: *Support to Regional Knowledge Capacity on Economic Transformation, Resilience and Recovery* will be financed through a second, larger RETF of 8 million USD. This project aims to provide scaled-up support to ACET in delivering economic transformation and contribute to a more effective COVID-19 response and resilience through core policy analysis, advice, and advocacy in alignment with ongoing Think Africa Partnership activities; implementation support to the G20 Compact with Africa agenda; and provision of hands-on support to partner countries regarding economic transformation and private sector development, particularly in the face of COVID-19. This project builds on the successful implementation of the past project, *Support to Regional Knowledge Capacity*.

The following sections will report on the activities of the four components of the past project with ACET:

- 1.** Strengthening ACET's core activities on policy design
  - 1.1.** 1.1. Technical Assistance for an institutional policy engagement case study
  - 1.2.** 1.2. Assistance to ACET's ongoing activities
- 2.** Supporting ACET's role in implementing the CwA
  - 2.1.** Strengthening Compact countries' capacity
  - 2.2.** Bi-Annual peer review of the CwA self-assessment
  - 2.3.** Advocacy for Africa and the CwA
- 3.** Supporting the Strategic Partnership for Private Sector Development and growth
  - 3.1.** Promoting Sustainable Export Processing Zones (SEPZ)
  - 3.2.** Integrating Local Content SMEs into Global Value Chains
  - 3.3.** Linking the LC-SME and SEPZ programs
- 4.** Institutional Capacity Support

### **Component 1: Strengthening ACET'S core activities on policy design**

#### *Subcomponent 1.1.: Technical Assistance for an institutional policy engagement case study*

The case study was finalized in 2019 and has been updated to reflect ACET's new strategy and to better align with ACET's communications approach. The case study has been shared and discussed with research partners that collaborated with ACET's Youth, Employment, and Skills program. The conversation focused on shared experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt of knowledge providers in the current development climate.

#### *Subcomponent 1.2.: Assistance to ACET's ongoing activities*

##### **African Transformation Forum (ATF)**

The third African Transformation Forum (ATF 2021) was launched as a virtual event on July 15, 2021. The launch included opening remarks by K.Y. Amoako and Tito Mboweni, South Africa's Finance Minister and ACET Board Chair, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on the continent and existing opportunities for African countries to harness growth and development through regional integration. The ATF also included a keynote address by Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, emphasizing the need for regional integration and collaboration among African leaders to accelerate transformation.

The forum also featured two panel discussions, one among six members of the Transformation Leadership Panel (TLP), H.E Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Dolika Banda, Reeta Roy, Hafez Ghanem, Vera Songwe, and Ibrahim Mayaki, and the second panel discussion featured a diverse set of panelists from the public and private sector including Hon. Souleymane Diarrassouba, Côte d'Ivoire Minister of Trade and Industry, who commented on the various aspects of leadership needed for improved African collaboration in ensuring long-term development success. The forum was

attended by over 600 participants from government institutions, private sector, academia, and civil society organizations across 47 countries.

The launch of the ATF also marked the start of a series of webinars hosted by ACET. On November 15, 2021, the first of four virtual deep dives was convened on the theme “Climate Change: Securing Africa’s Future”. The webinar brought together key stakeholders, including youth leaders and representatives, for a discussion on how African leaders can collaborate to jointly address the continent’s most pressing climate adaptation and mitigation challenges.

#### **African Transformation Report (ATR)**

On 15th July 2021, during the ATF, ACET launched the third African Transformation Report (ATR 2021) “Integrating to Transform”. The report focuses on population and demographics; climate change; regional integration; and innovation. The report notes that greater regional collaboration, especially through the delivery of regional public goods like transport corridors and digital connectivity, will help remove barriers that have slowed progress in the past. Working across borders will be key to address critical pan-African issues including jobs, technology, and climate that pose national problems but require regional solutions. The report can be found at [www.acetforafrica.org/atr](http://www.acetforafrica.org/atr)

#### **African Transformation Index (ATI)**

Following kick-off in 2019, ACET has focused on the production of a second African Transformation Index through revision of the ATI variables with new indicators to enhance the coverage of the index. The notable additions include the Gini coefficient to represent income inequality and gender inequality that both have been added to the Human Wellbeing component of the index. Policy variables representing the overall environment for growth, skills and technology, domestic resource mobilization, infrastructure and agricultural and industrial transformation will be used to help explain why and how transformation occurs.

In September 2021, statisticians from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) completed an external review of the ATI computation codes. This followed an initial review undertaken by experts of United Nations Development Program- Human Development Office (UNDP-HDO).

First drafts of the report’s first two chapters have been completed. Both have been reviewed internally and by external reviewers. The third and fourth chapters are progressing and to be completed in early 2022. Twelve country case studies have been concluded and the respective outputs produced. The public launch of the ATI is planned for Q2 2022.

#### **The Pan-African Coalition for Transformation (PACT)**

ACET continues to focus on the PACT Agriculture and Youth Employment and Skills chapters which have clearly defined projects and funding.

##### *Youth, Employment and Skills (YES) Chapter:*

The implementation of the YES Chapter began January 2019. The key deliverables include an inception meeting, six country level case studies, country validation workshops, a synthesis report and a multi country policy learning event for the PACT launch. The synthesis report is finalized and being designed for publication in Q1 of 2022. This report provides an opportunity to illuminate, draw and share learnings across countries and develop policy recommendations that promotes existing policy gaps.

The dissemination of the YES Policy Learning Event Report ended in June 2021. The 5-pager report summarizes findings from the Policy Learning event and highlights key actions for engagement and next steps. The report was further translated into French and shared with the study partner institutions for wider dissemination amongst their networks.

The PACT platform brings together relevant high-level stakeholders to continuously engage on evidence for policy action and implementation emerging from research findings. Work has begun on compiling background material that feeds into the YES PACT chapter. A matrix, mapping out the policy and implementation gaps and recommendations has been produced based on findings from the 6-country reports. An external key stakeholder mapping was also conducted for the 6 countries to begin identifying key stakeholders and existing advocacy initiatives in youth, employment, and skills.

All country reports, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda and Ghana, have been reviewed and went through the final revisions in June 2021. Abridged versions of the country reports have been finalized and will be published on the ACET website.

#### *Agriculture Chapter:*

The agricultural PACT chapter includes a “Global Scan Portal”, a market linkages study in Ghana and Kenya, convening national platforms and setting up the PACT platform for agriculture. With the Global Scan Portal live, the objective is to continue to update content and increase audience engagement. The final country reports for Ghana and Kenya, as well as the synthesis report are being edited to ensure consistency and assure quality. Results from both studies will be shared through a virtual policy learning event to kick-start the chapter.

ACET continues to engage private sector- and development partners to develop content pieces for the Global Scan Portal, which was launched in 2020. In Q2 of 2021 ACET secured a partner, Agromovil, a mobile supply chain platform that helps farmers connect with buyers to identify new opportunities, sell directly, and find optimized means of transportation to convey products to customers around the world. Agromovil provided a case study of Tanzania's

agricultural market. This case study is undergoing reviews to be published on the platform.

#### Transformational Leadership Panel (TLP)

The TLP is partially funded by TAP. As the TLP Secretariat, ACET facilitates the group's efforts to influence urgent action for transformative change in Africa by 2030. Its primary focus has been on policy actions in four broad areas—demographics, innovation, climate, and regional integration—and with the cross-cutting goal of gender parity in leadership across all sectors.

The TLP marked its 2nd year of operation in July 2021. ACET assessed its mandate to explore successes achieved by the panel and improve aspects of their operations that were lagging. The review, led by Caroline Kende-Robb, sought to inform the constitution of the 2nd TLP panel. Data for the review was accessed through interviews with panel members, ACET staff and other relevant stakeholders.

In March 2021, the TLP hosted its fifth meeting, with the special guest President Adesina of the African Development Bank (AfDB), discussing AfDB's priority areas of support to Africa's COVID-19 recovery and highlighted the importance of local and national institutions in Africa's development. It was also an opportunity for President Adesina to share insights on the AfDB's goals and strategies during his second term of presidency. Present at the meeting were 12 panel members and 3 special guests. Upon the request of Madam Johnson Sirleaf, President Adesina concurred to a follow up meeting for in-depth discussion around the issues raised by TLP members such as gender parity and supporting African institutions.

The panel held its 6<sup>th</sup> convening session virtually on May 19, 2021, discussing the African Transformation Report (ATR 3). After meeting again during the ATF, the TLP met virtually for its 7<sup>th</sup> TLP meeting on November 24, 2021 discussing the constitution of TLP2, the outcomes of the

ATR and climate change. Dolika Banda reflected on her participation at COP26 and at ACET's climate change deep dive. The panel discussed the ways in which the TLP can be instrumental in influencing the COP27 agenda for Africa.

### **Component 2: ACET's role in G20 Compact with Africa**

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

#### ***Subcomponent 2.1.: Strengthening Compact countries' capacity***

Final editing of blended finance case studies was completed in Q2 of 2021. The report *fiscal Risks of Public Private Partnerships* was published by the ECA (Economic Commission for Africa) in Q1 2021.

#### ***Subcomponent 2.2.: Bi-annual Peer Review of CwA Self Assessments***

In addition to the 7th peer review note, which was written throughout 2021, ACET independently reviewed the monitoring report for CwA Ministers and Governors. The report provides an overview of macroeconomic, FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and trade-related developments in the twelve Compact countries as well as progress on the 2018 reform commitments. The report further investigates new growth opportunities in the digital economy and the green economy. The report was collaboratively produced by the World Bank Group (WBG), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

On April 15, 2021, ACET supported preparations for the G20 Africa Advisory Group (AAG) meeting, including inviting a private sector special guest, Tony Oteng-Gyasi. The

bi-annual peer review note of the Compact with Africa was presented at the AAG meeting.

Following the April Advisory Group Meeting, ACET was tasked with the coordination of a technical workshop to obtain informal country feedback on the CwA program and facilitate discussions around the next phase of reforms. On September 7th, ACET in collaboration with the World Bank organized a technical workshop with CwA countries to review progress to date, discuss country feedback on the effectiveness of the CwA and initiate discussions on the next set of country reforms. Five CwA countries participated, Tunisia, South Africa, Egypt, Ghana, and Rwanda, alongside a range of partners including colleagues from G20 countries, the World Bank, GIZ, Global Infrastructure Hub, IFC, AfDB and AU-DA NEPAD. Prior to the meeting a survey was conducted among the CwA countries, the results of which indicated a consensus among survey participants that the CwA program has been a positive experience and has facilitated country reforms in key areas such as tax, SME development, the investment climate and mobilize support from international partners. Countries have also experienced challenges such as political instability and reduced opportunities for investment promotion, especially since the pandemic. Two recommendations that stood out was the need for the CwA to consider the new challenges countries are facing because of the pandemic as well as an assessment of the real impact of CwA supported reforms on investment and growth in CwA countries.

There was also a consensus that for the CwA to remain relevant and useful, it should evolve along the following areas:

- The updated matrices should support sector-specific policy reforms and actions to complement the macro and cross-cutting policy reforms it is currently supporting.

- More emphasis should be placed on the digital and green economies and regional integration - leveraging the Africa Free Trade Area.
- G20 Partners should consider providing additional technical and financial support for feasibility studies and implementation of new reforms. This support can be provided either through bilateral grants or multilateral financing instruments such as trust funds.
- Countries also called for more regular peer-to-peer learning and ongoing dialogues outside of AAG meetings.
- The private sector should be invited to actively participate in the CwA process.

It was agreed that the technical workshop summary would serve as the 8th peer review note. The summary was included in the Monitoring Report developed by the World Bank ahead of the October African Advisory Group Meeting. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 the AAG met to discuss key updates to the program. ACET presented the results of the technical summary for feedback from countries and partners institutions.

### *[Subcomponent 2.3.: Advocacy for Africa and the CwA](#)*

ACET prepared an abstract of a Policy Brief dubbed “G20 Support for Improved Infrastructure Project Cycles in Africa” for the Finance Ministers of the T20. The abstract has been approved and was presented on February 8-9, 2021 at the Infrastructure Finance meetings of the T20 Inception conference. Drafting of the annual policy brief to inform G20 Finance Ministers began in Q1 2021 and was completed by June 2021. The brief, led by ACET, was finalized in Q1 2021 and was co-authored by the OECD Development Center, the Africa Growth Initiative, South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and BRICS Policy Center. It addresses long project cycles for infrastructure

in Africa and proposes three specific policy recommendations – support for the PIDA (Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa) Quality Label, a community of practice for African Infrastructure practitioners and G20 support to accelerate investment.

On 4th November 2021, ACET participated in the final Task Force 7 “Infrastructure Investment and Financing” meeting. This was a hand-off meeting from the Italians to the Indonesians for G20 Presidency and an opportunity to introduce the Indonesian representatives to the rest of the team. The meeting featured discussions on trending issues of economic importance in the likes of:

- Sustainable and climate friendly infrastructure
- Digital application to infrastructure
- Financing issues: The challenge of rising debt levels in developing countries, PPPs, technical assistance
- Regional collaboration.

Policy Brief: ACET in partnership with the Task Force produced Policy Briefs which have been published at this link: <https://www.t20italy.org/publications/>

Advisory panel visits to the reform partnership countries were postponed due to the second wave of COVID-19 earlier in 2021. However, as a result of the February 2020 CwA peer learning workshop in Accra, a new subset of work was initiated within the CwA under the Reform Partnership Framework. This subset included studies on good governance and COVID-19; industrial innovation; and investment. In 2021, activities focused on the dissemination of ACET’s studies on Good Governance and COVID-19, and Industrial Innovation.

While the reports on industrial innovation and pathways to investment were not directly funded by TAP, the reports have indirectly contributed to TAP funded CwA activities and have informed some central TAP funded work. The Good Governance & Covid-19 report was part of the

ACET-WB joint work on Covid-19 recovery and resilience. Under this umbrella, ACET published two research papers produced in Q1 2021: A “Scan of COVID-19 Governance-Related Policy Actions” and “Responding to COVID-19: An Overview of Governance Issues.” Additionally, two COVID-19 recovery related events were hosted on January 28th, and on March 15th, 2021 in collaboration with the World Bank titled “Bringing Everyone Along: An Inclusive Recovery in Africa”.

### ***Component 3: Strategic Partnership for Private Sector Development and Growth***

TAP is supporting ACET to support private sector development and growth in G20 Compact with Africa countries, starting with Ghana. The project focuses on the manufacturing sector, given the relevance of manufacturing to economic transformation and the industry’s ability to generate sustainable, explosive growth. To support this agenda the ACET program focuses on three work streams: (1) promoting the development of sustainable export processing zones (SEPZ) aligned with Ghana’s industrial policy; (2) supporting local content through the integration of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the global supply chain and value-chains of large enterprises; and (3) supporting the integration of local SMEs in the promotion of SEPZ.

#### ***Subcomponent 3.1: Promoting Sustainable Export Processing Zones (SEPZ)***

This is a program to promote the development of sustainable export processing zones (SEPZ) aligned with the government of Ghana’s One Region, One Park (1R1P) policy. This sub-component focuses on two key activities:

- 1.** Landscape Assessment and Benchmarking Study: finalized and disseminated among key stakeholders in Q3 2021
- 2.** SEPZ Model and Retrofit: This activity will support the retrofitting of an existing EPZ into an SEPZ as a test case

for development and subsequent replication. Aligned to the activities above, ACET will also support efforts to crowd-in additional investments. This phase has however not yet started. In the interim, ACET will develop a model framework for an SEPZ to be socialized with African countries.

On 10 June 2021, ACET convened a workshop and policy dialogue on “Sustainable Export Processing Zones as a feasible approach for job creation” in Ghana. The workshop hosted key stakeholders from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI), the Ghana Free Zones Authority (FZA), Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), private sector and development institutions. Also present were three critical reviewers and discussants drawn from academia, CSO (Civil Society Organizations) and Government of Ghana Economic Management Team. Various media houses in attendance interviewed and featured the topical discussions at the event on their platforms.

In November, a call from ACET to support the Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) on the review of the Free Zones Act and Regulations was approved. The GFZA has also confirmed the landscape assessment and the benchmarking study reports have been instrumental and a major input for the review exercise.

#### ***Subcomponent 3.2: Integrating Local Content SMEs into Global Value Chains***

ACET’s objective has been to make SMEs “investment ready” and assist them in integrating into global value chains. The work program includes key research on Ghanaian SMEs and a coaching and mentorship program.

#### ***LC-SME Development - Value Chain and Product Space Analysis***

The reports on the *Product Space Study of the Ghanaian manufacturing sector* and the *Value Chain Analysis* have been completed and disseminated among stakeholders.

Results from the studies informed the selection of SMEs under the LC-SME Development.

#### *LC-SME Development – ACET Business Transform (SME Coaching and Mentorship)*

The ACET Business Transform (ABT) program has been further defined into two sub-programs:

- **Business Incubator:** The Incubator focuses on researching, developing and operationalizing business plans for new products/services to grow SMEs. The program seeks to develop 10 business plans around products and services, some of which will be chosen for scale up.
- **Business Accelerator:** This program will target 10 companies to go through a series of management and technical interventions/support systems aimed at building capacity and investment readiness. While ACET is targeting a higher percentage of brownfield companies, greenfield companies working in sustainable sectors such green energy and environment will be also given the opportunity to go through our accelerator programs.

Following the design of the ABT program on September 16th, 2021 ACET convened an orientation workshop in Ghana to onboard SMEs that have been admitted into the first cohort of the program. The technical delivery partner *Council for Local Experts (CO.L.E) Collective* has since been contracted to support implementation of the program. On 8th November, ACET officially launched the ACET Business Transform program at Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra.

#### *Key achievements of the accelerator component include:*

- The final selection of 10 firms (MaxtaChem, Bond Roofing Systems, Melach, Solar Taxi, Sky-3 Investments, Saliscom, Home Foods, Nelplast, Groital, Skylink) from the agriculture, Agri-processing, cosmetics, technology, and light manufacturing sectors of the country.

- ACET Business Transform (ABT) Orientation session for representatives from the 10 selected firms held on 16th September 2021 at Peduase Valley Resort.
- The successful selection of eminent members of the mentorship program for the accelerator.

PwC has completed the review of the Investment Readiness Certification Framework report (a module that assesses SME's for their investment preparedness). ACET is testing the framework with the first cohort under the ABT program. PwC is currently undertaking a diagnosis and gap analysis on all firms, coupled with site visits and comprehensive due diligence activities. The diagnosis report is expected by close of year.

#### *Key achievements of the Incubator component include:*

- EVC Africa has been selected as Technical Delivery partner. Contracting has been finalized.
- 10 opportunity profiles were presented to PwC for development into business plans. All 10 business plans have been finalized.
- Setting up of an Incubator Hub and a co-working space has commenced.

Finally, ACET is replicating the SME Support Program (ACET Business Transform) and Good Exporting Practices (GEP) program in Rwanda as part of ACET's support to CwA countries specifically on AfCFTA support. Progress this period includes:

- Signing of MoU between the Rwanda Development Board and ACET has been completed.
- Started with mobilization and preparatory activities for engagement.
- Completing inception meetings and agreement on Implementation Scope.
- Developing additional TORs for the Procurement of Technical Consultants.
- Inception reports being finalized.

### *Sub-component 3.3: Linking the LC-SME and SEPZ programs*

The program will seek to ensure linkages between the promotion of SEPZs and the creation of SMEs. This component is dependent on outcomes of earlier sub-components, therefore activities will be determined following their completion.

### *Component 4: ACET institutional capacity support*

#### *Communications and Marketing*

As noted above, during this reporting period ACET published the third edition of our flagship product the African Transformation Report (ATR). The report, [Integrating to Transform](#), explores the critical need for African countries to work together beyond trade to tackle shared challenges, harness regional opportunities, and enable economies to scale – and in turn, accelerate Africa’s economic transformation. Other publications include:

- [Challenges and Opportunities in the Innovation Ecosystem](#) by Freda Yawson
- [The Impact of Innovation on Youth, Employment and Skills](#) by Rianna Owusu
- [Digital Technologies, Labor Markets and Post-Crisis Recovery](#) by Karishma Banga
- [A More Inclusive Recovery for SMEs and the Informal Sector](#) by Charles Odoom
- [FinTech: An Inclusive Pathway to Economic Recovery](#) by Victor Murinde and Efthymios Rizopoulos
- [China’s Role in Promoting Innovation and Productivity in Africa](#) by Linda Calabrese
- [Keeping Transformation on Track for Emerging Industries](#) by Carlos Oya
- [The Case for a New International Accord on Diffusing Innovations and Building Technological Capacity](#) by Christine Oughton

- [Evidence in policymaking: Enhancing linkages between government and non-government institutions in Ghana](#), by By Richmond Commodore and George Boateng
- [Lessons for a High-Quality Recovery in Africa](#), By Linda Calabrese, Kunal Sen, Chisom Ubabukoh, Dirk Willem te Velde, and Steve Wiggins
- [Digital Innovations & Leapfrogging: Africa’s Window of Opportunity](#), By Xiaolan Fu
- [Fostering Pandemic-Era Innovations in Agriculture](#) By Steve Wiggins
- [Climate-Smart Agriculture as a Pathway to Recovery](#) By John Asafu-Adjaye
- [Strengthening EU-AU Dialogue on Innovation and Digital Transformation](#) By Rob Floyd
- [The Imperative of Digital Infrastructure for Africa’s Future](#) by Rob Floyd
- [To be successful, the African Continental Free Trade Area needs a gender](#) protocol by Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi

ACET also republished one podcast, one letter supporting the call for urgent SDR allocation to developing countries, a statement on the AU’s landmark decision to back Dr Arkebe Oqubay, who is a member of the ACET Board to head UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and a tribute to the memory of the late Prof. Benno Ndulu, who was also a member of ACET’s Board of Directors.

#### *Human Resources*

As our core mandate, the human resource team continued to update ACET’s existing Policies and Procedures and supported recruitment processes. Revisions are ongoing for the Staff Handbook, Travel Policy, Remuneration Policy, and the Performance Appraisal Policy & Performance Management Procedure. The Staff Handbook has been designed by the Communications team, and following final updates, will be given to a legal practitioner for final review. HR finalized the Anti-Corruption and Safeguarding/ Child Protection policies during the reporting period.

ACET completed recruitments for the following positions:

- Program Head for Youth, Employment & Skills Program
- Finance & Admin Officer
- Analyst – President’s Office
- Director of Communications
- Knowledge Manager

#### *Program Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)*

ACET’s Program Management Office continues to support through planning, monitoring, and reporting.

- **Reporting:** the team prepared donor reports to the MasterCard Foundation, the World Bank, the Government of Netherlands, McGovern Foundation, and the Danish Embassy.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Work on the Theory of Change has been finalized. The team is currently developing an institutional results framework to track and measure key results.
- **TAP 2:** ACET’s program management finalized the TAP2 plans. ACET revised the project approach, detailed activities, and work plan for the program in preparation for kick-off in first half of 2022.

#### **TAP: Intensifying collaboration with additional economic policy think tanks**

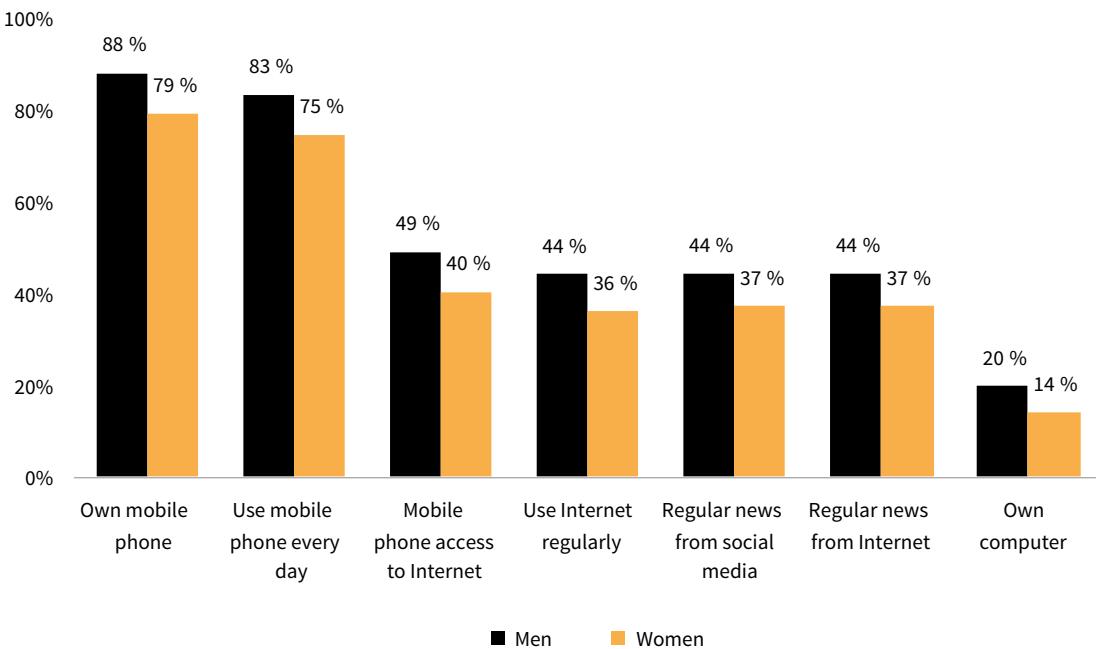
In September 2021 TAP has launched its new project with [Afrobarometer](#), a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides data on Africans’ evaluations and experiences of democratic governance and quality of life. The primary goals of this partnership are for Afrobarometer

to familiarize chief economic advisors and other TAP stakeholders with pan-African survey data and findings, in order to communicate African citizen’s evaluations and lived experiences of democratic governance, economic conditions and quality of life, to policymakers and to provide them with demand-driven and policy relevant data and analysis on the views and priorities of ordinary Africans. While the chief economic advisors are the target audience, TAP stakeholders including the E4T network and Africa Fellows are also beneficiaries of this partnership.

We have been preparing the first CEoG webinar with Afrobarometer which is set for February 22, 2022. Afrobarometer colleagues will demonstrate Afrobarometer’s online analysis tool for advisors who will be allowed to be joined by a dedicated member of staff. Over the course of the next two years, Afrobarometer will provide the advisors with quarterly analysis packages, brief digestible outputs to expose advisors to the data and provoke requests for deeper policy-relevant analysis. The partnership with Afrobarometer will also focus around on-demand analysis, responding to national or regional questions or issues identified by individual advisors. Finally, Afrobarometer will use TAP support to facilitate data collection around a series of special modules on transparency/open government and gender equality. We will report on these special modules in next year’s annual report.

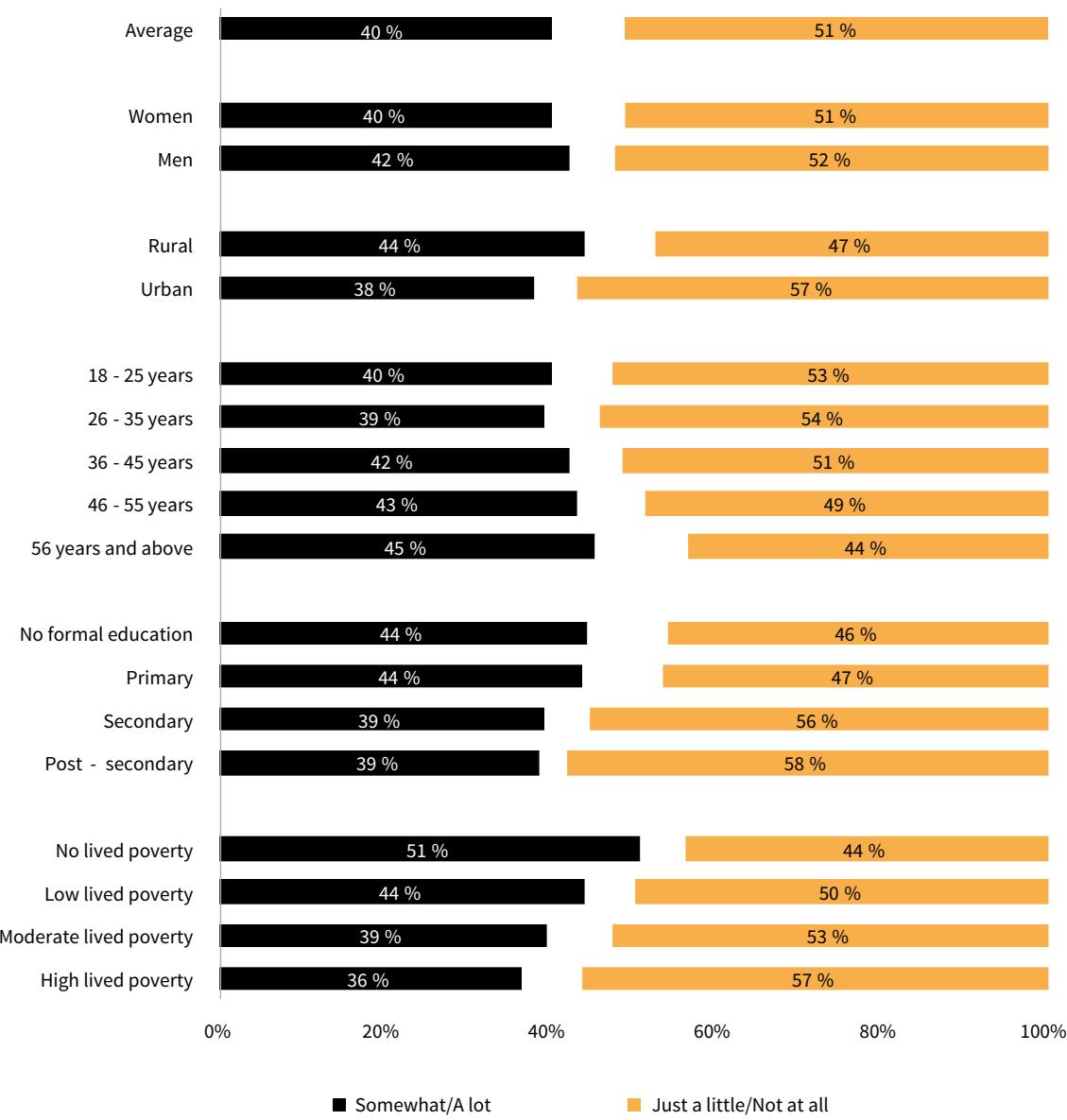
Below are two examples of outputs that were shared with the advisors and the E4T network

## Digital divide | 34 countries | 2019/2021



**Respondents were asked:** Which of these things do you personally own: Mobile phone? Computer?; Does your phone have access to the Internet? How often do you use: A mobile phone? The Internet? (% “every day” or “a few times a week”) How often do you get news from the following sources: Internet? Social media? (% “every day” or “a few times a week”)

### Trust in revenue authorities | 34 countries | 2019/2021



**Respondents were asked:** How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: National tax revenue authority\*? \*Name of tax revenue authority was inserted in each country.

### c. Pillar Three: Building the Bridge to Policy Impact



The Chief Economists of Government Initiative (CEoG) represents TAP's bridge to policy impact. CEoG provides a platform for peer support and learning, policy benchmarking, and support to economic policy units at the center of government.



The CEoG initiative convenes and supports chief economic advisors to heads of executive across the African continent. The CEoG network was launched in February 2019, with the Inaugural Forum that took place at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Since then, the network has expanded from 19 chief economic advisors who attended the inaugural Forum, to 42 active network

members, covering an increasing number of advisors from sub-Saharan Africa's 48 countries. Due to a range of political events during 2021 in Mali, Chad, Guinea, Burkina Faso and presidential and parliamentary elections in a number of African countries throughout 2020 and 2021, the number of active advisors in the network varies. The CEoG Secretariat is working in close collaboration with the WBG country offices to identify successors where relevant. We have welcomed a new female advisor in Tanzania as well as new advisors in Gabon and Malawi. Countries where a chief economic advisor has not yet joined the network include Botswana, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Namibia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Please find an overview of CEoG network members in the Annex.

#### *Activities between February 2021 and February 2022:*

With COVID-19 continuing to impact all planned physical network events such as the Annual Forum or meetings around the WBG/IMF Annual and Spring meetings, CEoG's peer-learning activities have continued to be offered in a virtual format. In 2021, advisors from Senegal, Guinea, the Gambia and Mauritania have shared their countries policy plans on the economic recovery, investment incentives and climate adaptation to gather expert inputs and peer feedback. Webinars have been attracting a large number of advisors, despite their busy schedule.

In July 2021 CEoG network members from Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Togo got together and prepared a joint technical note justifying African countries' requests to replenish IDA20 funds. An exchange of ideas between different African countries was facilitated by CEoG, so that the "Abidjan Declaration" covered the major common positions and concerns of African countries.

In 2020 and 2021, the CEOG Secretariat provided 27 Stata licenses to advisors and their teams. During August of 2021, and upon requests from three advisors, the CEOG secretariat organized three virtual Stata training sessions for advisors and their members of staff. These sessions were attended by a total of 20 advisors and advisors' members of staff. Please find a report of the Stata workshop in the Annex.

In November we held our first hybrid workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, with Mari Pangestu, the WBG's Managing Director (MD) of Development Policy and Partnerships, who had just returned from COP26. The objective of the discussion was for MD Pangestu to meet members of the CEOG network and hear their perspectives on Africa's climate adaptation and economic transformation and their expectations of the WBG and other donors' support particularly in the wake of the COP26 meetings in Glasgow. Advisors and Mari Pangestu discussed how the World Bank can support advisors in the green transition towards a more sustainable development path, what specific climate change actions can be placed into their existing national development plans and what opportunities the green, inclusive and resilient recovery offers to African countries. Please find an agenda of the workshop in the Annex.

### *Webinars*

Since the last reporting period, the CEOG Secretariat has hosted 7 webinars on the following topics:

- 1.** Senegal's and Guinea's economic recovery strategies, Gnouunka Diouf and Mohammed Doumbouya, 8 March 2021
- 2.** Africa's Pulse April 2021 on the economic recovery from Covid-19, Albert Zeufack, 5 May 2021
- 3.** A conversation with VP Hafez Ghanem and VP Ousmane Diagana, including remarks from Trudi Makhaya on the G7 meetings with President Ramaphosa, 15 June 2021

- 4.** Economic recovery: Investment incentive policies, by Momodou Dibba from the Gambia, 27 July 2021
- 5.** Africa's Pulse October 2021 on climate adaptation, Albert Zeufack with remarks by El Hassan Zein from Mauritania, 3 November 2021
- 6.** Hybrid physical-virtual meeting with Mari Pangestu, WBG's Managing Director (MD) of Development Policy and Partnerships, on perspectives on Africa's climate adaptation and transformation, 5 November 2021
- 7.** Industrialization in Africa with remarks from Albert Zeufack, UNIDO representative Jamie Moll de Alba, and Amina Rwakunda from Rwanda, 7 December 2021

On average, this year's webinars were attended by 12.3 advisors (compared to 12.2 last year).

### *Country specific requests*

During the summer of 2021, the secretariat has streamlined its country support options offering the following support, activities and resources to new and existing advisors:

- 1.** Connect you to your fellow African chief economic advisors.
- 2.** Connect you to top economics experts and emeritus chief economic advisors.
- 3.** Receive staff support through the CEOG Presidential Fellows program.
- 4.** Access data, policy analysis, and technical feedback on policy issues.
- 5.** Receive advisory support to help establish and/or institutionalize a CEOG unit within your government.
- 6.** Please find more details on these individual country support options in the Annex.

During 2021, the CEOG secretariat has been receiving and responding to a number of country-requests, including requests for data, requests for Stata trainings, a request for literature on special economic zones, as well as requests for literature and data on debt, just ahead of the *Financing*

*African Economies* summit which took place in May 2021 in Paris. Beyond these, the CEOG Secretariat has also responded to requests for deeper country-level support in Madagascar, Guinea, Burundi and the DRC. Due to the unstable political situation in Guinea, plans to support the Guinean advisor with analysis and a potential workshop around domestic resource mobilization had to be delayed. In Burundi, CEOG has received a request to support the establishment of an institutionalized chief economist unit at the Presidency. A new designated chief economic adviser has been identified. Once the process is finalized and the unit institutionalized, the new advisor will be invited to the CEOG network. Since 2020 the CEOG secretariat has also been supporting the chief economic advisor to the President of the DRC and his unit with Stata licenses, analytical support and a workshop on de-dollarization which took place in December 2020. In 2021, the DRC has requested additional support in the form of expert-support on economic diversification and infrastructure, with the objective of learning from good practices and previous experiences. The CEOG secretariat, the WBG country office and the advisors' office are working on the delivery of this recent request. In Madagascar, plans to set up an institutionalized chief economist unit at the Presidency are fully underway. A mission was carried out in December 2021 which included discussions between CEOG, the country manager and the President of the country. The TOR for the position of chief economist at the Presidency of Madagascar have been written and an executive search firm has been hired to find the right professional.

#### *CEOg Presidential Fellowship*

Most advisors believe they would be able to do their jobs more effectively if they were able to recruit and retain high quality, PhD-trained economists in their teams. Therefore, CEOG has initiated a CEOG Presidential Fellows Program

that allows selected early-career economists to be placed in government (Presidencies, Vice-Presidencies, Prime Minister's Office, Central Banks or Ministries of Finance) and work directly with chief economic advisors to African presidents and prime ministers, supporting them in their daily work of providing economic advice at the highest level. The selected Fellows are African PhD graduates in economics who are expected to have demonstrated experience and interest in applying analytical tools to African policy issues. The CEOG Presidential Fellows gain hands-on experience with policy design and implementation in the offices of central decision-makers in African governments. The Fellows' work programs focus on sectorial and thematic policy issues central to economic transformation such as economic management, private sector development, domestic resource mobilization, and any other pressing economic policy topics individual to each country.

In November we recruited two CEOG Presidential Fellows who for the next six months will be working for the chief economic advisor to President Ramaphosa analyzing the market for climate finance to help implement South Africa's green transition. South Africa, in its National Development Plan, has set itself high ambition to implement a just transition towards a low carbon future. With new instruments and vehicles to invest in the green economy, the South African Presidency needed an analytical base on the bilateral, multilateral and private markets for climate finance. The Fellows have been working on a preliminary landscape report on climate finance and will be delivering to the Presidency a final report with recommendations.

The CEOG secretariat is also in the process of hiring a CEOG fellow to support the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Development (MOFEPD) of the Republic of Mauritius, specifically in setting up the Economic Research and Planning Bureau. The Bureau will work together with other stakeholders involved in the planning agenda, in-

cluding the Economic Development Board, ministries, departments and agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations. To be able to coordinate planning across government, the planning function will be complemented by a performance monitoring and evaluation function to ensure that whatever is planned can also be tracked to enhance implementation and development outcomes. It will be tasked with developing a planning policy, instruments and tools and ensuring adequate capacity-strengthening so as to leverage the planning function across government. The CEOG fellow will be writing an actionable roadmap that will lay out the overall architecture of the planning system, performance M&E framework and talent & change management; and provide to the government a technical manual to guide implementation of the planning and monitoring & evaluation frameworks.

#### *E4T meets CEOG:*

Both positions have been advertised with the E4T network and one of the Fellows hired in South Africa is a member of the E4T network.



Mpho (left) is a Soweto, South Africa, native and Development Finance student. She aims to use her skills to empower Africa. Currently, she wants to play a part in access to finance to accelerate access clean and reliable electricity.

Josue (right) holds a Ph.D. in climate finance. His research focuses on climate finance, green bonds, climate risks, and sustainable structural transformation. Prior to joining the CEOG Initiative as a fellow, Josue has worked for many international organizations such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank, and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office.

Going forwards, the CEOG Presidential Fellowship will be managed under ACET's Transformation Fellowship program.

#### *Writing support to African senior economic policymakers*

During 2021, six interviews have been published as blog-posts on <https://www.africaceog.org/blog>. The goal of the program *Writing support to African senior economic policymakers* is to gather recollections of senior economic policymakers who have played advisory roles in government during key economic events, in order to create a repository of knowledge for current and future advisors. So far, Sen Narrainen, chief economic advisor to Mauritius, Prof Benno Ndulu, former advisor to the government of Tanzania and Central Bank Governor, and Njuguna Ndung'u, former Central Bank Governor of Kenya have been interviewed. Their recollections were shared with the CEOG network and the AERC network. Additional current and former senior advisors will be interviewed throughout 2022.

#### *Advisors' feedback (from interviews of TAP midterm review)*

*"The difference between the CEOG network and other interactions I have had with cooperation agencies in the past, is 'the feel' of it. It has a different feel because it is a different space altogether. Each thing has its own room. It*

*has different flavor meeting with advisors than just asking someone for information. My expectation when I joined the network was not to get technical assistance. It is not just asking for help or an opinion or information, and then receiving the answer, but having a space for sharing and discussing, and most importantly, among peers.”*

*“[The highest value of the initiative is] without a doubt, sharing how practical things are being done in other countries. I have personally asked two or three times to advisors of four different countries for specific policies they have implemented. And what I like about it is not necessarily the technical stuff but the practical knowledge they bring to the table.”*

*“I may not always agree with what they do or the particular ways they found to solve a policy problem, but nevertheless I very much like to know. I want to hear and know what they have done in their countries.”*

*“When we met to prepare the IDA Summit, they were very fruitful encounters. We all knew what our presidents needed, and we could share practical advice and information, and thus we ended up coming out of it with very successful inputs for the Declaration”.*

*“Rather than throwing information and theories I want to know how is it doable. The challenge is not the knowledge. I know that subsidies are not good from an economic perspective, I can see the hole in my budget myself, but we do not want to be overthrown by simply removing them. That’s why the peer exchanges are very important to me.”*

*“I realized what I was saying about my country’s experience were news to many of them, although I was just sharing what we did. I got a lot of questions afterwards. Maybe the CEOG could improve on that, making it more intense, giving us more of those encounters and exchanges.”*

## d. Think Africa Program Management

Since its establishment in April 2018, the trust fund has received a total of USD 20.96 million in development partner support from the governments of Germany and Norway. This complements existing WBG resources to support activities under the three windows including on collaborative research and the Africa Fellowship program.

The second TAP steering committee meeting took place in February 2021 and focused on the Annual Report, the strategic direction of the trust fund with regards to changing global demands and conditions, the updated results framework and workplan. We have planned the third TAP steering committee meeting to be held in March 2022.

Between August and October 2021, the TAP secretariat has administered an independent midterm evaluation of the TAP trust fund. A team of two consultants have reviewed relevant documents and interviewed a representative sample of key stakeholders including project task team leaders, TAP staff, development partners, CEOG advisors, Africa Fellows, AERC Scholars and E4T members. This review was guided by the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria with a COVID-19 lens, in order to identify the factors that enhanced or detracted TAP’s ability to achieve its objectives, as well as to ensure the new challenges and opportunities were adequately identified and analyzed. The team chose to focus on four DAC criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness and sustainability. These four were chosen as they best aligned with our objectives: to provide recommendations for our forward-looking strategy. At this point, just three years after the launch of TAP, it is too early to measure impact. We agreed, together with the review team, that it is more effective to measure impact once the trust fund closes, but with intermediate outcome indicators in our results framework.

Overall, the findings of the review illustrated how, despite different operational and contextual constraints, the three pillars under the TAP program show relevance towards strengthening capacities for knowledge uptake in Africa. This relevance seems to have been underscored in the COVID-19 context, particularly in the case of the support provided through the CEOG initiative. The review team recognized the strong but flexible structure TAP built for the exchange of knowledge and argues that the stake-

holder groups part of TAP play key roles in the production, uptake and dissemination of economic policy knowledge.

Following the midterm review and its valuable recommendations, the TAP secretariat has drafted a workplan for phase II of TAP, outlining midterm review recommendations and our plans to respond to these. This workplan is to be presented to the steering committee during its meeting in Q1 2022.