



**ACBF**

**THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION**

# **INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW**

**Shaping Africa's Future through Capacity Development**

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# About ACBF

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) is the leading institution for capacity building on the African continent. As a specialized agency of the African Union, we enable transformative human and institutional development by effectively designing and implementing impactful programs throughout Africa.

By 2063, we envision an Africa that is stronger, self-reliant, and globally competitive. Our work is laying the foundation for economic resilience, sustainable trade, food security, and governance excellence, ensuring that Africa thrives.

With over 30 years of experience and a continent-wide mandate, we strengthen African institutions and leaders with the skills, tools, and knowledge to drive inclusive and sustainable development.





## Our Vision

A prosperous, resilient, and inclusive Africa.



## Our Mission

To build the human capital and institutions needed to drive Africa's inclusive and sustainable development.

## Why ACBF?

### Our work is anchored in three core pillars:

- Capacity to empower people and institutions
- Connection to unify stakeholders across the continent
- Change to foster inclusive, sustainable transformation

### These pillars reflect our mission and strategic approach through:

#### Empowering Africa's Future Through Capacity Development

ACBF builds the capabilities of public and private institutions to lead Africa's development agenda.

#### Trusted Partner for Strategic Capacity Investments

As the African Union's specialized capacity-building agency, ACBF aligns development investments with Africa's long-term goals.

#### Driving Policy and Innovation Through African-Led Solutions

Through think tanks and policy dialogues, ACBF leads discourse and delivers evidence-based development strategies.

#### Comprehensive Capacity Services for Growth

From technical support to financial oversight, we offer integrated services through the Uhora Academy, Institutional Accelerator Model, Capacity Knowledge Hub, and Fiscal Agent Services.

# Key Achievements



**40**  
member states  
engaged



**330+**  
institutions and  
**100,000+** civil servants  
trained



**60**  
think tanks established and supported



**70**  
universities supported



**548+**  
knowledge  
products produced

# Our Business Model: Empowering Capacity for Sustainable Impact

Our model integrates four key pillars:





### **Delivery Modes**

Our delivery modes are diverse and accessible, offering degree programs, mentoring, technical assistance, and digital platforms.



### **Revenue Model**

We operate under a blended revenue model that includes donor funding, service fees, training fees, and sponsored programs.



### **Beneficiaries**

Our programs serve a broad and inclusive group of beneficiaries, including government institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and individual professionals.



### **Implementation and Sustainability**

We ensure effective implementation and long-term sustainability through strong strategic partnerships, sustainable funding mechanisms, and a robust monitoring and evaluation framework.



### **Strategic Partnerships**

We collaborate with governments, the private sector, academic institutions, and development partners to amplify impact and foster shared ownership.



### **Sustainable Funding**

Our funding model is designed for long-term viability, drawing from member contributions, grants, and service-based revenue streams.



### **Robust Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)**

A comprehensive M&E framework is in place to ensure accountability, track progress, and measure the impact of our interventions.

# Our Four Key Impact Areas

# Climate Change and Energy for Productive Use

Africa faces increasing pressure from climate change alongside limited access to reliable and affordable energy. ACBF supports countries and institutions through targeted capacity development, policy support, and improved access to climate finance. The Strengthening African Leadership for Climate Adaptation program (SALCA) builds the capacity of African-led organizations to design and implement adaptation initiatives grounded in local realities, with partner institutions in **Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the Republic of Congo** recording capacity score increases of approximately 20 percentage points between 2022 and 2025.

In partnership with the African Union and the Global Green Growth Institute, the Transformative Climate Finance Program supports the implementation of the Green Recovery Action Plan, with a strong focus on women, youth, and marginalized groups.

Through the Strengthening Capacities of African Countries to Access Climate Adaptation Finance program (SCACAF), implemented with AGNES, **30** national expert teams across Ghana and Kenya have been strengthened to develop bankable adaptation proposals and access international climate finance. The African School of Regulation has engaged over **2,449** stakeholders and trained **268** professionals through specialized regulatory courses, while **151** policymakers from **Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Lesotho, and Rwanda** have been equipped to advance inclusive climate and energy policies aligned with national strategies and nationally determined contributions.



# Agribusiness and Food Sovereignty

ACBF strengthens food systems by equipping farmers, entrepreneurs, and institutions with practical skills, tools, and market access opportunities. Across West and Central Africa, **734 women and youth** have received structured training in agro-food management and entrepreneurship, supported by **80 trainers** and **82 female coaches** developed to sustain knowledge transfer. Fourteen grants have been disbursed to women and youth-led agribusiness enterprises, and **21 agribusiness organizations** have been assessed, with **five** strengthened to improve institutional performance across value chains.

The Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture Program supports farmers in **Burkina Faso, Gabon, and Sierra Leone** to adopt value-adding practices that increase income, improve productivity, and reduce post-harvest losses. Exchange visits, including a study visit by Sierra Leone to Brazil and a two-day masterclass in Gabon that trained **46 participants**, have strengthened knowledge exchange and cross-country learning. These interventions help reposition agriculture as a viable economic sector for young people and women while strengthening local economies.

ACBF promotes a systems approach that connects production, processing, and distribution, improving food availability and supporting long-term resilience in the face of climate and market shocks.



# Trade as an Engine for Economic Development

ACBF strengthens Africa's capacity for regional integration, intra-African trade, and structural transformation by supporting institutions, policies, and human capital. The Capacity Development for Africa's Structural Transformation program (CADAST) supports Regional Member Countries to strengthen institutional capacity for trade policy implementation, regional integration, and sustainable economic development.

Specific activities and trainings under CADAST have involved participants and stakeholders from **22 countries**, including **Benin, Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Zimbabwe**. AfCFTA readiness and trade facilitation initiatives provide assessments, training, and policy support to strengthen

countries' as well as private sector actors' ability to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Targeted capacity development programs support small and medium enterprises, policymakers, civil society organizations, and think tanks to improve market access, policy coordination, and trade governance. Across these initiatives, more than **100 MSMEs** across **19 countries** have been supported through blended training programs, **20 civil society actors** have been trained as AfCFTA ambassadors, and promotion case studies have been conducted across 10 African countries, strengthening institutional capacity, trade policy implementation, and regional economic integration.



# Economic and Social Governance

ACBF strengthens economic governance by supporting countries to improve public financial management, increase domestic revenue, and implement evidence-based policies. Through the Leadership Excellence in Africa's Public Sector (LEAPS) program, delivered via Ubor Academy, ACBF has trained **79 senior public financial management leaders** across **five countries** to drive reform and enhance institutional performance.

The program is currently developing the leadership capacity of **90 senior officials** across **Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe**, strengthening fiscal reform implementation and inter-institutional collaboration. Across two cohorts, ACBF has supported **185 public financial management officials** across **eight countries**, complemented by **765 executive coaching sessions**, **12 group coaching sessions**, and **33 leadership case studies** developed across six country contexts.

Under the Ubor Academy, the Building Excellence in Taxation and Administration (BETA) initiative has reached over **2,600 participants** across **50 African countries**, strengthening capacity in taxation and domestic resource mobilization. The Strengthening Public Financial Management Analysis, Research and Institutions (SPARI) program will reinforce macro-fiscal think tanks in **Ethiopia, Senegal, Kenya, and Nigeria**, improving policy analysis and strengthening accountability.



# Special Programs



Beyond its four key impact areas, ACBF deploys targeted investments in institutions working on public health, biomedical research, animal health, and tobacco control. These programs strengthen governance systems, professional capacity, and research infrastructure in sectors where the right expertise remains scarce across the continent.

## Tobacco Control in Africa

ACBF strengthens the institutional and human capacity of civil society organizations, governments, and research institutions engaged in tobacco control policy across Africa. Results include support to **10 civil society organizations in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, South Africa, and Senegal**, as well as 3 regional hubs; 13 projects implemented in alignment with national tobacco control priorities; and 3 regional policy dialogues reaching over **100 tobacco control actors and policymakers**. Three studies

on the African Continental Free Trade Area have also produced policy briefs that have been widely disseminated to support tobacco control policy engagement.

## SPIA: Strengthening Capacity of Strategic Partner Institutions in Africa

ACBF strengthens the capacity of strategic biomedical research institutions across Africa, contributing to improved scientific research, innovation, and public health policy development. The program has delivered **13 knowledge-sharing events** reaching **45 actors**, with institutional support extended to the Science for Africa Foundation, AiBST, the Drug Innovation Group at the University of Ghana, the Africa Leadership Institute, and the Africa Diaspora Network.

## WAAVP-AN: Advancing African Veterinary Parasitology

Through the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology Africa Network, ACBF strengthens collaboration among researchers working on parasitic diseases affecting livestock. The initiative supports **10 research projects** funded under the first call, led by institutions in **six** host countries: **Kenya with three projects, Benin with two, South Africa with two, and Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Botswana with one project each**. The program has also engaged over **300 participants** through a dedicated Community of Practice, strengthening mentorship, knowledge exchange, and scientific collaboration across the continent.

# Knowledge Management

ACBF is redefining knowledge management by translating insights into action, policy, and innovation.



## Key milestones include:

### 11th Africa Think Tank Summit

Convened **600 leaders** from **40 countries** to shape strategies on strengthening Africa's fiscal systems. The Summit is now an established continental platform, convening policymakers, think tanks, and development actors annually to exchange evidence and inform policy decisions.

### Policy Publications

Production of at least **50 policy and knowledge briefs** on priority development issues including AfCFTA, taxation, illicit financial flows, SME finance, and tobacco control, alongside **3 flagship knowledge products** including the Africa Export Competitiveness Report and the Strategic Study on Factoring in Africa.

### Thought Leadership

Co-produced the Africa Export Competitiveness Report and delivered targeted AfCFTA training workshops to bridge knowledge gaps, strengthening regional integration. Knowledge management frameworks have been institutionalized across **6 ACBF-supported institutions**, embedding formal policies and designated knowledge focal points across programs.

### Strategic Engagement

Partnered with institutions including the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA) and the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) to host high-level webinars on Artificial Intelligence, the SDGs, and think tank influence.



Discover more about our knowledge products:  
<https://elibrary.acbfact.org/>

## Our Member Sates



Benin



Botswana



Burkina Faso



Burundi



Cameroon



Cabo Verde



Central African Republic



Chad



Comoros



Côte d'Ivoire



DRC



Djibouti



Eswatini



Ethiopia



Gabon



The Gambia



Ghana



Guinea



Guinea-Bissau



Kenya



Liberia



Madagascar



Malawi



Mali



Mauritania



Mauritius



Namibia



Niger



Nigeria



Republic of Congo



Rwanda



São Tomé and Príncipe



Senegal



Sierra Leone



Sudan



Tanzania



Togo



Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe

## Our Institutional Partners



## A snapshot of our Funding Partners



## A glimpse of our Technical Partners





 [www.theacbf.org](http://www.theacbf.org)

 [comms@theacbf.org](mailto:comms@theacbf.org)

 [www.elibrary.theacbf.org](http://www.elibrary.theacbf.org)

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