

PROF. JANENAANA OPOKU-AGYEMANG, VICE-PRESIDENT OF GHANA  
A LEADING FIGURE IN EDUCATION AND  
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

[www.femmesdafriques.net](http://www.femmesdafriques.net)



PANAFRICAN MONTHLY FOR GENDER PROMOTION

# FEMMES d'AFRIQUE Magazine

N°113 FEBRUARY 2025

Africa CEMAC : 1500 Fcfa - Other african country : 4\$ US - Europe : 4 Euros - Switzerland : 6,50 CHF - America : 6\$ US - Maroc : 20 Dhs - Madagascar : 5000 Ariary

ANA DIAS LOURENÇO  
PILLAR OF SOCIAL  
CHANGE IN ANGOLA



LA CLÉ POUR COMPRENDRE L'AFRIQUE

# HOMMES d'AFRIQUE Magazine

MENSUEL DE L'ACTUALITÉ DES PERSONNALITÉS AFRICAINES



Afrique Zone CEMAC : 1500.fcfa - Autres pays d'Afrique : 4\$ US - Europe : 4 Euros - Suisse : 6,50 CHF - Amérique : 6\$ US - Maroc : 20 Dhs - Madagascar : 5000 ARIARY

N° 2 Rue Australia - Imm. N° 04 - Océan - Rabat - Maroc

Tél. : +212 5 37 72 58 31 • Gsm : +212 6 48 82 21 37

Site web : [www.hommesdafrique.com](http://www.hommesdafrique.com)

B.P. 5351 Akwa  
Douala, Cameroun  
www.femmesdafrique.com

**DIRECTEUR DE PUBLICATION**  
**PRÉSIDENTE DU CONSEIL EDITORIAL**  
Samirat NTIAZE  
samirat2008@gmail.com  
tél. : +212 6 48 82 21 37

**Editeur**  
SANTIA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SARL)  
4 RUE AUSTRALIE. OCEAN-RABAT - MAROC

**Cameroun**  
**JOURNALISTE**  
Sylvestre Tetchiada  
+237 95264115  
Tetchiada@yahoo.fr

Joseph KAPO  
tél. : +237 7779 4485  
kajoseph@yahoo.fr

Ngaleu Woukogou christelle  
tél. : +237 76026816  
Email:chrisingaleu@yahoo.fr

Zacharie Roger MBARGA  
mbargaroger@yahoo.fr  
tél. : +237 697846674

Nyeck Wilfried junior  
tél. : 00237695057925  
Email: obonomarie@yahoo.com

**Egypte**  
**JOURNALISTE - REPRÉSENTANT**  
Eric I. Asomugha  
tél. : +20 11 003 3228

**MAROC**  
Karima Mouhallam  
tél. : +212 0642969974  
karimamouhallam@hotmail.com

**USA**  
NTIAZE NDONGMO Mohamed  
tél. : +1 (202) 823-878 / +12028238783  
anelkapresi2010@gmail.com

Eric I. Asomugha  
tél. : +1 267 243 9580  
achoski@gmail.com  
eric@fissonline.com

**USA. Sy soire salimata**  
Syssoire@yahoo.com  
+1 (646) 240-1155

Amde Nardos  
Adohelnar1@gmail.com  
+1 (703) 228-9800

**France**  
Georgina Mercader  
tel: +33681461270  
mail: sangeorgina@hotmail.com

Salomon Mezepo  
tél. : +33 601 181 652  
menaibuc@orange.fr

**Suisse**  
**REPRÉSENTANT**  
METANGMO Patrick  
tél. : +41797966656  
wtsobgny@gmail.com

**Côte d'Ivoire**  
**CORRESPONDANT**  
Valery Foungebe  
tél. : +225 40 40 20 51  
v.foungebe@yahoo.fr

**Congo**  
**JOURNALISTE**  
Jean Igor Cameroun  
tél. : +242 06 522 6217  
+242065226217  
E-mail: igorcameroun1303@gmail.com

**Gabon**  
**REPRÉSENTANT**  
Serge Olivier NziKoue  
tél. : +241 07 36 67 65  
nzikoue\_so@yahoo.fr

**Bénin/Togo**  
**JOURNALISTE**  
ferdinand Gade  
Tél. : +228 97 38 61 13 togo  
+229 97 84 97 76 Bénin  
ferdinandgade@gmail.com

HOUNGBEDJI Cir Raoul.  
Tél. : (+229) 52 22 72 22  
E-mail : houciral@yahoo.fr

**Guinée Equatoriale**  
**JOURNALISTE**  
Ela Ondo Onguene Clemente  
tél. : +240 222 022 315  
clementeela@hotmail.com

Jillapia Nestor  
tél. : +240222259070

**Ghana**  
**JOURNALISTE**  
Florian Mallely.  
Tel +233538449357

**TRADUCTEUR**  
Tsobgni Bruno  
tél. : +240 222 24 33 26

**Conception**  
hichampro2020@gmail.com

**Imprimerie**  
Linaprint

**Périodicité: Mensuel**  
Dépôt légal  
2013PE0010  
ISSN  
2028\_9944

# CONTENTS

## FOCUS

6/ Ana Dias Lourenço, Pillar Of Social Change In Angola

12/ Education And Youth Empowerment

Angola And Its Promotional Vision For Human And Intellectual Development

18/ Ana Dias Lourenço, First Lady of Angola :  
«I have dedicated a large part of my career to working for the economic and social transformation of Angola»

## POLITICS

24/ Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Vice-President Of Ghana : A Leading Figure In Education And Women-S Leadership

26/ DR ANTOUHO OLOGA JEANINE : «After nearly 30 years, my greatest satisfaction is having been able to reintegrate young mothers into society»

30 / Samia Hassan : On Track for a Second Term in Tanzania

## WOMEN LEADERS

34/ Andeme Bindang Tung : The Imprint of a Visionary Leader in the Hotel Industry in Equatorial Guinea

## THE GUEST

38/ Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Ceo Of The Anda-Nepad: "Shaping African solutions for a global future"

## WOMEN IN VIEW

50/ Shaping Economic Futures : Verra Songwe Joins President Ramaphosa's Advisory Team



## ECONOMY

52/ PIDA Week 2024 : Stakeholders Invited to Focus on Innovative Financing Mechanisms

## EDUCATION

54/ GIRLS' EDUCATION IN AFRICA BY 2024

Progress and Challenges According to AU-CIEFFA

58/ Path to Empowerment and Equality for Africa's Women : Quality Education: Unlocking Africa's Greatest Untapped Potential

## HEALTH

62/ Health and Skills Development : The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD and Senegal join forces

## WOMEN LEADERS

64/ The Traveler's Fair 2025 : Approximately 1.3 million deaths annually worldwide due to accidents



# Votre magazine Hommes d'Afrique est disponible sur Kalpin, le premier kiosque digital au Maroc

Prix  
unitaire

**60** DH

Accès digital

Prix  
annuel

**590** DH  
Par an

Accès digital  
à 12 numéros

Prix  
étudiant

**530** DH  
Par an

Accès réservé  
aux étudiants



## Education and Empowerment of African Women: A Key Lever for an Inclusive Future

**A**frica is undergoing a transformation. Across the continent, women from all backgrounds are fighting to improve their own conditions and those of their communities. This struggle, championed by prominent figures such as Ana Dias Lourenço in Angola and Simone Yankey-Ouattara of the AU-CIEFFA, highlights a fundamental issue: education and women's empowerment as a lever for sustainable development.

**One of Africa's greatest challenges remains** equitable access to education. While notable progress has been made—such as Angola's 2021 law making primary education free and compulsory for six years—there is still a long way to go. The #AfricaEducatesHer campaign, promoted in Kenya, illustrates the need to mobilize governments and civil society to ensure unhindered access to girls' education.

**Education is not just a matter of schooling; it is a fundamental tool** for women's economic and social independence. Initiatives like the Empowerment and Learning Program for All (PAT II) in Angola show that girls' education extends beyond the classroom, encompassing sexual and reproductive health training as well as vocational skills development. These programs help young girls break the cycles of poverty and dependence.

**Beyond education, women's economic empowerment** is a cornerstone of social progress in Africa. Across the continent, female entrepreneurs are emerging, proving that financial independence is a real driver of emancipation. Business leader Traoré Oumou Diarra aptly summarizes this challenge: "In a constantly evolving job market, creating your own business can be the best way to secure stable employment."

**However, obstacles persist.** Access to financing remains a major challenge for African women entrepreneurs. Banks and financial institutions must multiply initiatives to facilitate women's access to credit and investment funds. Additionally, projects like Tata Uhayele, which provides rural populations with healthcare via mobile clinics, demonstrate that innovative solutions can help bridge inequalities.

**The fight for gender equality in Africa is not only** about education and economic empowerment but also about protection against gender-based violence. The We Are Equal campaign, supported by Ana Dias Lourenço, aims to raise awareness and push governments to adopt strict measures against violence against women and children.

**The mobilization of political actors, NGOs, and community leaders** is essential to ensure a safe environment for women and girls. Initiatives like "The Wheel of Love" in Angola, which promotes values of respect and solidarity from an early age, serve as inspiring models that could be adopted in other African countries.

**Africa has embarked on an irreversible path toward** gender equality. However, to fully realize these advancements, African governments, international organizations, and civil society must redouble their efforts to make women's education and empowerment a top priority.

**A continent where every girl has access to** education, where every woman can aspire to economic independence, and where gender-based violence is eradicated is a continent moving toward a more inclusive and prosperous future. It is time for Africa to fully invest in its female potential, as the continent's progress rests on the shoulders of its girls and women.

# ANA DIAS LOURENÇO, PILLAR OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN ANGOLA







**Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço is the First Lady of the Angolan Republic since September 2017 following the ascension of her husband, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço to the presidency of the country. Economist and politician Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço is a former minister of the Angolan government under the late President José Edouardo Dos Santos.**

Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço: A First Lady Committed to Angola's Development

In her new role as Angola's First Lady, Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço actively contributes to her country's development alongside her husband, the President, by engaging in social initiatives.

As First Lady, Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço prioritizes initiatives aimed at improving living conditions, well-being, and capacity-building for the sustainable development of communities. She focuses on education, health, the

environment, and culture, with particular attention to young girls. Her mission is to contribute to making Angola a country that Angolans are proud of, by preserving fundamental social and moral values.

**SHE QUICKLY THOUGHT OF THE STRATEGY OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT BY BASED ON ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF YOUTH PEOPLE...**

She quickly embraced the strategy of integrated development, emphasizing assistance and improving the conditions of young people, particularly young girls and children in early childhood. This strategy led to the creation of the platform Roda do Amor (Wheel of Love). "It is a platform with a symbolic name to demonstrate love for children by providing them with care, access to education, and healthcare for their holistic development during our mandate," stated Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço in an interview



with *Femmes d'Afrique Magazine*. As part of her advocacy for social causes, First Lady Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço called on all for-profit organizations to place social responsibility at the heart of their actions. This appeal was made on December 7, 2024, during her speech at the ceremony for the "Manuel Antonio da Mota Prize – A Life in Angola". During this event, she emphasized the need for these organizations to act sustainably and become agents of change with a lasting impact on Angolan communities.

The First Lady has also gained recognition for her advocacy on gender equality and the fight against violence against children. On December 5, 2024, during the presentation of the action plan for the "We Are All Equal" campaign, she urged all Angolans to actively participate in combating vio-

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE BETTER CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN IN THIS CENTRE WAS OFFERED BY THE PLATFORM OF THE FIRST LADY ANA AFONSO DIAS LOURENÇO.**

lence against children and young people with determination and urgency.

"Education on gender equality and the fight against violence against children and youth should not just be a slogan, but a fundamental pillar of a future where no girl or boy is forced to endure the

pain and scars of violence," declared First Lady Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço.

Since its creation, the Roda do Amor platform has been working with children in hospitals. Several initiatives have been carried out in support of children. The pediatric department of Luanda General Hospital has received assistance from Roda do Amor, providing better conditions for children in the facility. The platform has donated clothing, toys, soap, toothbrushes, and various hygiene products for personal and oral care.

Beyond Luanda General Hospital, several other hospitals across Angola have benefited from Roda do Amor. The platform has established play and recreational spaces equipped with libraries, allowing children to engage in play and reading activities.





## Health Sector

First Lady Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço and the Roda do Amor platform, committed to supporting the angolan government in reducing gender inequalities and strengthening social initiatives, have partnered with international organizations to build healthcare and educational infrastructure, conduct vaccination campaigns, and reduce both mother-to-child HIV transmission and maternal and child mortality.

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, First Lady Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço launched the Born Free to Shine campaign, which she described as a great success. Following the conclusion of this campaign, additional initiatives were developed to continue the

fight against HIV/AIDS. The Born Free to Shine project, launched in 2018, contributed to reducing the infection rate from 26% in 2019 to 15% in 2021. The First Lady expressed her satisfaction, stating that thanks to her advocacy, many

children in Angola are now born free of HIV/AIDS.

With the campaign's closure, she remains dedicated to HIV/AIDS prevention programs through the Generation Without AIDS 2030 project. This initiative focuses particularly on young women and children, combating stigma and discrimination while aiming to significantly reduce AIDS in Angola by 2030. Ana Dias Lourenço continues to drive this mission through advocacy efforts, working in partnership with the government, civil society, and religious and traditional leaders.

"Let me share the example of an HIV-positive woman from Moxico who gave birth to triplets—none of whom are infected—thanks to the Born Free to Shine campaign and government support. Today, these children are

**FIRST LADY ANA AFONSO DIAS LOURENÇO LAUNCHED THE CAMPAIGN "BORN FREE TO SHINE" WHICH WAS SUCCESSFUL.**

seven years old and living HIV-free. We continue to monitor them and their family, for whom we have even built a home," stated Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço.

In her efforts to make healthcare accessible to all, the First Lady also initiated the Tata Uhayele project. This program involves a mobile clinic operating in the Benguela and Luau municipalities, providing medical care to rural populations.

Several other projects in the health, education, and economic sectors have been launched under Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço's leadership to effectively address social challenges in alignment with the government's vision. Illiterate women in Angola are receiving financial empowerment training

**FIRST LADY ANA DIAS AFONSO LOURENÇO DOES NOT INTEND TO STOP. WITH VITALITY AND ENERGY, SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES ARE UNDERWAY SO THAT AT THE END OF HER HUSBAND'S TERM, ANGOLA SHINES ON A SOCIAL LEVEL.**

and literacy education, a testament to the First Lady's dedication—over 75% of her initiatives focus on social development.

First Lady Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço has no intention of

slowing down. With energy and determination, she continues to develop new projects and initiatives, ensuring that by the end of her husband's mandate, Angola will shine on the social front.

For these noble objectives to be fully realized, local populations and authorities at various levels must play their part alongside the First Lady. If Angola's technical and financial partners provide their support, the country could, in just a few years, position itself among the fastest-growing nations in terms of social progress and economic development.

*Ferdinand GADE, On Special Assignment in Angola*



EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

# ANGOLA AND ITS PROMOTIONAL VISION FOR HUMAN AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT



**The Angolan Education Law adopted in 2021 makes primary education free and compulsory for 6 years. The country's long-term strategy promotes the human and intellectual development of the people.**

Angola has an education system that includes primary school, middle school and high school.

The service is provided by public and private institutions. Since primary public education is free, the capacity to absorb the demand of this age group is limited. But the government has initiated projects to first ensure an adequate learning environment and to produce young graduates from middle schools, high schools and autonomous universities.

***Access to education in 2024 is improving.***

At the end of 2024, on the initiative of the government, 80 new schools, representing 729 additional classrooms, opened their doors in Angola to facilitate better access to education and reduce overcrowding in classes. Initially at 12,547, the increase in the number of schools in Angola

is the result of the investment of the Executive in the sector, considered as the starting point for the creation of a developed society, capable of improving the quality and modernizing education, in the face of the multiple challenges of an increasingly competitive and constantly changing world. The ever-increasing number of students forces the government to take appropriate measures to promote education. The 2024/2025 academic year has 237,689 more students than in 2023/2024, bringing the number of enrollments in general education to 9,253,713. According to official data, the availability for initiation and 1st class has been set at 1,600,000 places, for the first entry.

The number of classrooms that has increased has been accompanied by the entry into service of 8,653 new teachers, mostly young, following public competitions organized in the sector. An-

## **THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN ANGOLA, IS THE RESULT OF THE INVESTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE...**

gola in this 2024/2025 school year has 213,356 teachers compared to 204,703 in the 2023/2024 school year in the various schools.

Still in the context of efforts to improve the Education sector in general, several school equip-

ment, including desks, have been the subject of special attention by the Government.

Furthermore, the Executive supports children from disadvantaged families through the School Canteen Program, which in 2023 benefited just over a million students.

A larger budget allocation will be granted to school meals under the school canteen program so that, gradually, all children in the public education system can benefit from it.

The data show that in the places where this program is implemented, there is higher school attendance, a higher academic success rate and a low school dropout rate.

Also in the area of school social support, the essential contribution of the Project for the Empowerment and Learning of Girls for All (PAT II) stands out, supporting girls in the area of sexual





and reproductive health. Aimed at providing scholarships to reduce costs to families whose children attend the first cycle of secondary education, the project will cover around 900 thousand students by 2025. A salutary decision action of the government in the education system at the end of 2024 was the approval of the National Reading Plan, which aims to encourage reading and raise the literacy level of students in the different subsystems. More than two million students will benefit from this project by 2027, according to its actors.

### *Empowering young people.*

Empowerment is linked to the process of self-discovery and one's

abilities to contribute to society. It is also linked to acquiring a sense of having a moral vocation. It is by learning to know one's true nature and innate abilities that a person becomes autonomous.

The Government of Angola, in its quest to ensure a good education for young people and make them autonomous, initiated the Empowerment and Learning for All (PAT) project with the support of the World Bank and some NGOs. Launched in 2023, the first pilot phase of the project aimed primarily to improve the quality of education through continuous teacher training.

The second phase of this project takes into account three hundred thousand students, aged 10 to 17, from 68 municipalities in Angola

according to the announcement made in April 2024 by the Ministry of National Education during the launch of the second part. Started with the training of school gender focal points in resilience and trauma, the project on the 300 thousand students, girls who represent 70 percent will be educated in sexual and reproductive health, prevention of early pregnancy and school dropout.

They are called upon to analyze issues such as how to recover from trauma related to sexual, physical and psychological abuse, as well as first aid to victims. Lessons on the functioning of the mechanism of suggestions and resolution of complaints will be given to the beneficiaries of the project who are supervised by 25

teachers from the municipalities of Cazengo, Banga and Ambaca of the country.

It is planned in this project that each school enrolled in the program will have a complaint box, where students and the community can file complaints on abuse or sexual harassment according to the authorities of National Education.

Emphasis was placed on menstrual hygiene, adolescent development, sexual and reproductive health, alcohol and other drugs, harassment and gender-based violence during the training of girls so that they can play their full role in society.

Measuring the importance of the project, the Angolan authorities in charge of Education plan to extend the training programmed to various sectors related to academic life.

The authorities cited as an example the first part of the training

## **THE “SAFEGUARD YOUNG PEOPLE” PROGRAMME HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE IN ANGOLA TO COPE WITH THE LACK OF INFORMATION**

planned under the project which aims to improve access to information and health services, as well as to reduce the risks of gender-based violence for girls and boys, in some communities and schools.

Among other actions, it is also expected that the sector will focus on the empowerment of young Angolans, especially girls, by increasing the number of students, from 10 to 18 years old, with better access to information and sexual and reproductive health services.

Started in the provinces of Huila, Cunene, Benguela and Luanda, the second cycle of training of PAT-II, at the time of writing this paper covers the other provinces of Angola.

Safeguard Young People (SYP) to strengthen the empowerment of young people.

In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Safeguard Young People Programme (SYP) is strengthening youth empowerment in Angola. The programme (SYP) instills a culture of mutual aid among young Angolans. The Safeguard Young People programme helps





young people in Angola address the lack of information and vocational skills through community-led behaviour change interventions, empowering adolescents to lead healthy lives, protect themselves from STIs (including HIV), prevent unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, early marriages, gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices.

Thus, to achieve the objectives of the program, the actors worked to set up youth support centers in the cities. These are spaces designed to facilitate access to information and training for young people.

The usefulness of this program through these youth support centers is one of the testimonies. Silvia Francisco, member of the SYP and activist of the Cazenga Youth Support Center, met at the Masculusso Youth Support Center in Luanda, says, "Joining the SYP

helped me overcome an internal battle where I thought I had no solution. I live with someone very close to me who has been HIV positive for many years and being an activist helped me help this person, by giving him the right information about everything I have learned about the disease. Today, this person has agreed to follow the entire protocol to be healthy," she confessed. The main objective of the Safeguard Young People (SYP) program is to support young people and adolescents by providing them with essential knowledge and life skills to improve their decision-making in this challenging context.

Applause and the chant "Shine, we shine" are the warm way in which members of each social mobilization activity led by young activists show respect and affection to other members and visitors.

It is worth mentioning that in An-

gola, young people are facing difficult realities, moments of support and attention between peers are essential to build essential hope for the future. The unemployment rate is high in Angola, and particularly higher among young people aged 15 to 34 years old at 31% and 15 to 24 years old which exceeds 35%. Gender-based violence remains a major challenge, approximately 33% of women aged 15 to 49 years old are victims of some form of physical or sexual violence.

In 2023, more than 80 youth civil society organization social mobilizers have already been trained in knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, prevention of STIs including HIV and life skills so that they can empower groups of adolescents and young people after a few months of the program. These activists are expected to



lead community benches in five (5) provinces. Similarly, 10,265 young people were impacted during the year by these community engagement and peer behavior change activities.

The Angolan population is very young, with 47.1% of Angolans under 15 years old and 66.4% under 25 years old according to the National Institute of Surveys report published in 2015.

The program (SYP) that gives young people essential social skills for mutual assistance and for development and empowerment is well appreciated in Angola.

“As an activist, it is a constant struggle to transmit information about sexuality, because there are still parents who think that talking about sexuality with adolescents and young people leads them to have sexual relations. But with our dynamics and the methods we have learned through the SYP, we always manage to transmit the message of protection and delay the dating of adolescents,” explains Silvia Francisco, member of the SYP and activist of the Youth Support Center of Cazenga.

Community-led social mobilization through the (SYP) program is important to reach out-of-school youth, as gender imbalances in the education sector persist.

In Angola, a study reported that 17% of youth have never attended school, with a gender distribution of 11% for men and 23% for women. Angola has a generalized HIV epidemic with a prevalence in the adult population aged 15-49 years of 2%, with 2.6% among women and 1.2% among men.

The SYP program was designed to address the sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of adolescents and youth.

The SYP aims to empower adolescents and youth to lead healthy lives, protect themselves from STIs (including HIV), prevent unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, early marriages, gender-based violence and harmful



cultural practices.

It is worth noting that 126 teachers from schools in Luanda were trained in sexuality education, menstrual health and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) for school-based training for girls and boys reaching 6,220 students in 40 schools with inclusive and quality SRH courses under this program in Angola according to the actors.

The SYP aims to simultaneously promote inclusion, gender equality norms and protective

behaviors, thus contributing to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and the realization of the reproductive rights of adolescents and young people in five provinces of Angola. The program aims to accelerate efforts to reduce teenage pregnancies and unwanted pregnancies among young people and women, with the corresponding benefits of investment in education, promoting their empowerment to reach their full potential.

The activities are focused on the group of adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24 years. Secondary beneficiaries are adult women and men, health professionals, teachers, community and religious leaders.

In Angola, the SYP program is supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Embassy of the Netherlands and aims to reach 60,000 adolescents and youth by 2026.

The Angolan government has accepted and supported this program given its vision to empower youth to initiate the rational development of the country.

*Ferdinand GADE, on special assignment, in Angola*

**THE SYP AIMS TO  
EMPOWER  
ADOLESCENTS  
AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE  
THE MEANS TO  
LEAD A HEALTHY  
LIFE...**



ANA DIAS LOURENÇO, FIRST LADY OF ANGOLA

# «I have dedicated a large part of my career to working for the economic and social transformation of Angola»

*Madam First Lady, could you please introduce yourself and share with us your current priorities?*

I am Ana Dias Lourenço, a deeply committed citizen, and my political and professional career has always been guided by the desire to defend causes that are close to my heart. I have dedicated a large part of my career to working for the economic and social transformation of Angola. Thanks to my experience in economic planning, investment programming, as well as development and prospective analysis, I have had the opportunity to contribute within the government and multilateral development financing organizations.

My expertise has allowed me to participate in the implementation of public policies and projects aimed at combating poverty and promoting

sustainable development. As First Lady, I place particular emphasis on initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions and well-being of our populations, especially the most vulnerable, such as young women and children.

I am also committed to promoting integrated and sustainable development of communities, especially those in rural areas, in key sectors such as education, health, environment and culture. My goal is to contribute to making Angola a country that every Angolan can be proud of, while preserving our fundamental social and moral values. After years of war, we face significant challenges in social and economic development, particularly in terms of inequality, poverty and access to basic services. These issues are at the heart of my priorities, as they are essential



to guaranteeing a better future for all Angolans.

***What initiatives has Ana Dias Lourenço put in place to promote women's rights and combat gender-based violence in Angola?***

As First Lady of Angola, my commitment to promoting women's rights and combating gender-based violence is at the heart of my priorities. I firmly believe that women's empowerment is essential for truly inclusive and sustainable development. Thus, I support initiatives aimed at strengthening their emancipation in key areas such as education, health, and access to fundamental rights.

I work closely with non-governmental organizations to raise awareness in society about critical issues such as gender-based violence and women's repro-

ductive rights. As a woman and mother, I am deeply concerned about the serious violations of women's and children's rights, particularly domestic and sexual violence, femicide, child trafficking, and forced marriages. These realities drive me to advocate for stronger justice and more decisive action to protect the most vulnerable.

In this context, I had the honor of participating in the We Are Equal campaign launched by the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OA-FLAD). On November 9, 2024, in Luanda, I had the opportunity to present the theme "Education for Gender Equality and the Fight Against Youth Violence." This initiative aims to stimulate collective reflection on ways to reduce gender inequalities and encourage concrete actions to eradicate gender-based violence.

***What Are the Objectives of This Campaign?***

The objectives of this campaign are multiple and aim to:

- Strengthen awareness and the involvement of all sectors of society in promoting gender equality.
- Provide information on legal rights and judicial protections for victims of violence.
- Strengthen support networks and advocate for the swift resolution of legal cases, with strict penalties against all forms of violence.
- Improve victim assistance services in a more integrated and effective manner.
- Increase the involvement of families, schools, government institutions, religious communities, and civil society organizations in combating harmful cultural practices.

- Encourage public denunciation of violence to ensure a safer environment for all.

Through these actions and many others, I am fully committed to advancing the fight for gender equality, strengthening the protection of human rights, and creating a more equitable and secure environment for women, children, and the most vulnerable communities.

Bas du formulaire

**What actions has Ana Dias Lourenço taken to promote public health improvement and foster the integrated development of communities in Angola?**

As First Lady, public health is one of my key priorities. I am deeply convinced of the importance of ensuring universal access to quality healthcare for all. That is why I have actively supported several health initiatives, such as vaccination campaigns, targeted programs for maternal and child health, and the construction and equipping of basic healthcare infrastructure throughout the country.

In this regard, I also took the initiative to launch the "Free to Shine" campaign, a project aimed at reducing the transmission of HIV from mother to child. Through this commitment, we succeeded in lowering the HIV transmission rate from 26% in 2019 to 15% in 2021, a result that reflects our progress in this fight. Although the campaign has now concluded, my commitment remains strong and unwavering. I continue to support projects like "Generation AIDS-Free 2030," which particularly targets young women and children, with a focus on combating the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV. My goal is clear: to reduce the spread of HIV in Angola by 2030.

To achieve this ambitious goal, I am advocating with government

authorities, civil society, as well as religious and traditional leaders. All of my efforts are part of a broader framework aimed at offering a healthier future to the next generations, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable groups.

**How does the First Lady participate in social transformation in Angola through her initiatives for integrated community development and the promotion of sustainable development?**

My commitment goes far beyond social issues. I am deeply involved in integrated community development projects that focus

**MY COMMITMENT GOES WELL BEYOND SOCIAL ISSUES. I AM DEEPLY INVESTED IN INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS...**

on sustainability and respect for our environment. I strive to promote practices that encourage responsible management of natural resources, mindful of the challenges our society faces.

Angolan society, like others, is confronted with complex challenges. However, I am committed to overcoming the obstacles that may hinder the implementation of our initiatives, whether it is cultural resistance or a lack of resources. With determination and conviction, I fight to overcome these barriers, as I firmly

believe that change is possible.

I am convinced that my efforts in support of women's rights, education, health, and community development, particularly in rural areas, contribute to shaping a better future for our country. These actions are not only aimed at transforming our society but also at inspiring every Angolan to believe in the impact that each individual can have in building our shared future.

**Let's talk about the 'Tata Uhayele' project you launched through your Foundation. How does this project contribute to improving community health in Angola?**

Through my foundation, 'Ngana Zenza for Community Development - FDC,' I have had the honor of launching the 'Tata Uhayele' project, a program that carries a simple yet essential message: 'Take care of your health.' This project was designed to address the health needs of populations living in remote and hard-to-reach areas, where healthcare facilities are often nonexistent.

The project spans along the Benguela railway, from the Lobito station to Luau, offering a full range of primary healthcare services. We deploy a dynamic team of young healthcare professionals who intervene in various areas, including health promotion and prevention, pediatrics, gynecology and obstetrics, general medicine, ophthalmology, dentistry, nutrition, vaccination, as well as HIV screening services, clinical analysis, and a pharmacy.

For urgent cases requiring specialized care, each stop is supported by an emergency team (INEMA), which provides immediate care and directs patients to the nearest healthcare facilities.

'Tata Uhayele' is more than just a project; it is an act of solidarity and humanitarian commitment. We work every day to ensure that



even the most isolated regions have access to essential health-care services.

*Could you explain what the 'Roue de l'Amour' Platform is, one of your initiatives?*

*How does it contribute to the promotion of education and the empowerment of young people in Angola?*

I am pleased to present the 'Roue de l'Amour' Platform, an initiative I launched to promote integrated and sustainable development for our youth, particularly girls and children. The name 'Roue de l'Amour' was chosen to symbolize this initiative, as it aims to teach children the essential values of affection, respect, and love for others. Our goal is to reach children from a young age, up to 14 years old, instilling in them fundamental social principles that will contribute not only to their personal development but also to the well-being of our nation.

'Roue de l'Amour' is not just a platform; it represents a profound and ongoing educational process. For the past eight years, it has been striving to sow the values of family while celebrating our cultural, moral, and civic identity. Through various activities, such as reading, theater, educational games, and more, we provide children with a space conducive to growth and learning the values that will guide them throughout their lives.

*What initiatives has the First Lady put in place to promote education, environmental protection, and the empowerment of young people, particularly girls and children?*

The First Lady I am deeply committed to projects aimed at improving the well-being of young people, protecting our environment, and promoting the empowerment of girls and children. Among the initiatives we have launched, I would like to hi-

ghlight the creation of the puzzle 'Les Gardiens de Mayombe,' which honors the Mayombe forest and serves to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving our environment, as well as the protection of wildlife and flora in Angola.

At the same time, we have launched educational projects like the book 'Les Règles de Bases de l'Hygiène - Corps sain, esprit sain' and 'Mes 11 copains,' which illustrate Angola's commitment to protecting children's rights.

Another important initiative is the "The Wheel of Love" platform, created as part of an integrated development strategy. It aims to improve the living conditions of young people, with a particular focus on young girls and children. The project seeks to encourage the younger generations to cultivate values of affection, love, solidarity, empathy, and respect for others.

Lastly, I am particularly proud of the "Transform Lives, Be a

Woman" program, a platform dedicated to empowering young girls. This program focuses on education, with goals to combat gender inequalities, prevent early pregnancies, and eradicate child marriage. Through this initiative, I am committed to opening new opportunities for girls, enabling them to overcome social obstacles and strengthen their rights for a better future.

**What challenges does Angola face in terms of education, and what initiatives have you put in place to improve access to education, particularly for girls and children in rural areas?**

In Angola, we face a major challenge regarding access to education, particularly for children aged 12 to 17. Currently, only 44% of these young people have completed their primary education, although school attendance for children aged 6 to 11 reaches a rate of 72%. This situation is particularly concerning for girls, whose attendance rate is much lower (22%) compared to boys (16%), and is even more pronounced in rural areas.

Aware of these issues, I believe it is imperative to work on improving access to quality education, especially for young girls. It is crucial to ensure, by law, universal access to free and quality primary education. I also advocate for measures aimed at motivating our teachers and supporting the most vulnerable families, particularly those living in rural areas, so that they can benefit from an inclusive education system.

I am convinced that initiatives such as the School Lunch Program and Cash Transfers are essential to encourage school attendance and ensure children's regularity. These programs contribute to improving students' nutrition and well-being, while fostering their academic success, particularly in the most disadvantaged communities.



**What initiatives does First Lady Ana Dias Lourenço support to preserve cultural heritage and empower youth in Angola?**

I consider the preservation of cultural heritage as a key element to ensure a promising future for future generations. Culture and art are powerful tools to highlight the identity of Angolans and showcase the diversity of our ethnolinguistic groups.

In this regard, I support several

initiatives, including the 'Kaposoka Symphony Orchestra' project, an important initiative founded by Mr. Pedro Fançony in 2008. This youth project, born out of the fight against poverty, aims to provide children from disadvantaged backgrounds access to music and ethical teachings. It is primarily focused on diverting these young people from crime by offering them constructive and fulfilling alternatives.

I also support other projects for youth empowerment, such as the creation of the 'Jangos,' centers dedicated to learning, recreation, and reflection. These spaces provide a place for dialogue and listening for communities, so they can exchange ideas and find solutions to local challenges. All these initiatives reflect my commitment to promoting the development of youth, offering them opportunities for growth, and contributing to their full integration into Angolan society.

**I CONSIDER THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A KEY ELEMENT TO GUARANTEE A PROMISING FUTURE.**

*Interview with Samirat Ntiaze in Luanda.*





# PROF. JANENAANA OPOKU-AGYEMANG, VICE-PRESIDENT OF GHANA A LEADING FIGURE IN EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, the current Vice President of Ghana, embodies a leadership vision centered on education, gender equality, and socio-economic development. Born in 1951 in Takoradi, in Ghana's Western Region, she has become one of the most influential figures in her country and across Africa. Through her exceptional journey, she has not only broken barriers in a political environment historically dominated by men but has also worked tirelessly to improve Ghana's education system, making it more inclusive and accessible to all.

## A Lifelong Commitment to Education

Before venturing into politics, Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang pursued a career in higher education. Holding a Ph.D. in education, she became a prominent figure in the academic world, teaching at several Ghanaian universities and holding leadership positions in higher education institutions. This academic background strengthened her commitment to education and served as a pivotal foundation for her political career.

Her vision for education went beyond traditional teaching; she sought to transform Ghana's educational system to be more inclusive, accessible, and equitable, particularly for girls and young women. At a time when girls' education was still a struggle in many parts of Africa, Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang championed policies promoting girls' enrollment and retention in school, regardless of gender. She advocated for the construction of modern school infrastructure and increased funding for rural schools, where access to education was especially limited.

## A Remarkable Political Career

Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang's political journey was marked by her appointment as Ghana's Minister of Education in 2013, a role she held until 2017. In this position, she spearheaded several ambitious reforms aimed at modernizing and diversifying education in Ghana. Under her leadership, significant efforts were made to increase the number of girls in secondary and higher education, as well as to strengthen teacher training programs.

She also implemented initiatives to make education more accessible to underprivileged youth, particularly in rural and marginalized areas. Furthermore, she focused on improving educational infrastructure, including the construction of new schools and the renovation of existing ones. Her management of the education sector was praised for its strategic vision and her ability to drive

reforms in an area where changes often take time to materialize.

## The Rise of Female Leadership

In 2020, Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang made history by becoming the first woman elected Vice President of Ghana, following her nomination as the running mate of National Democratic Congress (NDC) presidential candidate John Dramani Mahama. This milestone marked a turning point for women's leadership in West Africa, paving the way for other women aspiring to high-level political roles.

As Vice President, she has continued to advocate for women's rights, not only in education but also in politics and the economy. She has worked to promote an inclusive political environment where women are better represented, encouraging their active participation in decision-making processes. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang also demonstrated strong leadership in managing the COVID-19 health crisis. She supported government efforts to safeguard public health while maintaining crucial economic initiatives for the country.

## An Influence Beyond Borders

Beyond her national achievements, Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang has become an iconic figure in women's leadership across Africa. Her journey inspires countless women and girls on the continent, who see her as a role model for success and resilience. As an advocate for education and social justice, she has been an active voice for women's rights, particularly in developing countries where inequalities remain significant.

She is also a strong proponent of regional cooperation in West Africa, advocating for the strengthening of regional economic and political institutions. Through her work with the African Union and other international forums, she strives to promote policies that empower women and foster economic stability across Africa.

Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang's journey demonstrates that education is the cornerstone of social and economic progress. Her work as Ghana's Minister of Education and Vice President reflects her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Ghanaians, particularly women and girls. Through her leadership, she inspires a new generation of African leaders to make bold decisions for a more inclusive and prosperous future. Her vision of a strong, educated, and united Africa remains a source of hope and motivation for millions.

*Sylvestre Tetchiada*

# Dr ANTCHOUO OLGA JEANINE

Dr. Anchouo Olga Jeanine is a multidimensional woman who belongs to that elite group of women who spare no effort to assert themselves. Her educational background and professional journey reflect a strong character and a constant drive for success, always reaffirmed by her ability to overcome new challenges. Indeed, Dr. Anchouo Olga Jeanine quickly understood that a free and independent woman in contemporary societies is one who is financially stable.

She did not wait long to venture into a wide range of income-generating activities. But she is not just a woman who seeks to achieve for herself alone. With the resources she has acquired, Dr. Anchouo has ventured into social work. She excels in this domain and aims to continue alleviating the suffering of the most disadvantaged in her community and throughout Gabon.

Finally, Dr. Anchouo is a political figure who is active in the second-largest political party in Gabon, after the PDG. In this field, she is swiftly climbing the ranks and has much more to say. She confides in Femmes d'Afrique Magazine.



DR ANTCHOUO OLGA JEANINE

«After nearly 30 years, my greatest satisfaction is having been able to reintegrate young mothers into society»

*What does your slogan ('One Woman, One Vision, One Future') encapsulate?*

For me, and with my complete conviction, my slogan is primarily a Vision, a message, an opening of the mind, preparing the future by drawing from the past and navigating through the present with its twists and benefits! It expresses what a woman is at her core, something she will now project into her future, which she will determine to secure an even better tomorrow—for herself, her children, and future generations. Simply put, when a woman has a vision, she always highlights it to prepare a better future. For the visionary woman, the best is yet to come.

*What does this mean to you?*

Indeed, I do not define myself as a modern woman, yet I am one! Simply because I was fortunate to be born at the right time—when Africa began to take serious steps forward. The 1950s and 60s had passed, and we were entering the era of independence! So, the good hour was approaching, and I arrived right in the middle of it. I was born on February 26, 1971, exactly. Africa is now independent. I came into the world at this pivotal moment! I was born to a literate, cha-



ristmatic woman, married to a soldier. Imagine the rigor! My mother was born on March 24, 1938, and passed away on March 28, 2024, at 86 years old. My mother left us with dignity! Devout and deeply committed to the eternal, she remained steadfast for 83 years in her monastic life and in her faith.

We, her children, were raised with values and a well-structured, healthy lifestyle! Organization is thus second nature to me!

I inherited my commercial and financial independence from her, as well as my rigor, which I also owe to my father, especially his discipline! Yes, I am an emancipated woman because I am educated, and I remain a fighter because today, I am separated from my fiancé. I am, therefore, both the mother and the father to my children, as the fathers are absent, which is typical in Gabon! I do not complain because God has blessed me. He has given me the means to raise my children, and I thank Him for it! I have created my companies, my businesses; I am an

entrepreneur, a political woman, a peace mediator, a leader, a member of several NGOs, the secretary general of an association, an actress in civil society, and head of the family, always in demand. You understand that I never rest; my energy is overflowing, but well channe-

led! Rest assured! The best part is that I love what I do, and I adore my children! They are the ones who give me the strength to keep pushing forward! It's for their future and well-being that I fight. And God accompanies me every day, protecting me from illness...

*How many companies have you created? How long have you been in business? With what means, and what are the results today?*

I started my business journey at the age of 7. My first capital was a can of Guigoz milk (gifted by my mother), which I sold by the spoonful for 10 francs, making 2,500 francs per can! My bank was my mother—she kept my money for me! At 9 years old, with my older sister and our younger siblings, we often accompanied our mother to sell food (salted fish, steak, manioc, bananas, manioc leaves, and more). That's how the adventure began seriously. I continued in high school, selling various goods (Chouchoux, ice cream, hand-knitted items, and more). At university, during my free time, I learned how to drive, which led to my fashion design training. Now, I'm on my third business. My fourth company is a brick factory. I started it at 16, in partnership with one of my tenants, Mr. Sylla from Mali, who now lives in France.

I bought chickens in 1990 at CK2 and rented them to him. Aside from the rent he paid, he also gave me dividends. This allowed me to save and eventually open a Tele-shop (phone booth) in partnership with my sister. We later created an event planning company (Angy-



Man), which expanded my furniture rental business. I opened a restaurant-bar in 1998, 'Le Cordon Bleu,' and in 2012, I

opened my shopping center and created my own market! Today, I have my 9th official company under my belt. With my capital, I was a spoiled child, demanding and capricious, but today, the results are remarkable! I live comfortably, I pay for my children's education with millions, and I am not complaining at all!

## I STARTED IN BUSINESS AT THE AGE OF 7...

*Already being involved in business and having several enterprises under your belt, what motivates you to also get involved in social causes?*

Now that's a question for a champion! But I'll simply tell you, and I say this with my heart: honestly, it's the social aspect that pursues me, that hunts me down! Ever since I was a child, I've been helping

people! I would take food from one of our freezers (we had three large ones of 600 liters each, one specifically for bush meat, another for fish and shellfish, and the third for steaks, chicken, duck, quail, and wild pigeons). I would take food and rice to give to a friend of my older brother Moryl, who had just given birth at 16 and was destitute. This broke my heart! I would share my pocket money with my siblings, friends, and classmates! My mother always said I had a “leaky hand” because I was so generous! And I’ve always helped those around me—my parents, strangers, young single mothers, people with disabilities, the elderly, and economically disadvantaged people! I have a cousin who lost her sight, and I partly take care of her. My NGO, Euclide, is going to grant her a scholarship because she is exceptionally gifted. Honestly, she is intelligent and has a fierce will to succeed, and I can only support her.

I seek nothing in return! I believe that those in need today didn’t choose to be so—they are human beings just like me, and with the little I have, if I can help and share with others, why should I deprive myself? It’s simply about making my fellow citizens happy and giving them a second chance, supporting them as best as I can. My reward will come from God! That’s a bit of what I can say about my social work.

***Can you share the details of your social actions in Gabon over nearly 30 years?***

After nearly 30 years, my greatest satisfaction is having been able to reintegrate young single

mothers into society, helping some pay for their education at (CEMEF), providing taxi fare for others, offering work opportunities to both Gabonese and foreigners, granting spaces and boxes to sell their goods, and helping mothers and fathers to work, so they can care for their families. I have helped and mentored many people, reintegrated and coached them, and followed them without expecting anything in return.

**I AM AN  
EMANCIPATED  
WOMAN, BECAUSE  
I AM EDUCATED,  
AND I AM AND  
REMAIN A  
FIGHTER.**

So, listing all of these actions would take too long. Just know that I will never stop helping people in the social sphere because every day, a new case arises. Even in politics, the social cause follows me.

***With all these responsibilities, you still manage to invest in politics. What drives you? How far do you plan to go in politics?***

Yes, with all these responsibilities, I have still been able to pursue politics. Simply because politics has been in my family for a long time. My father was a politician, an opposition leader, one of the first Gabonese

opposers in Morena, alongside Oyono-Abah! My siblings, my cousins, we all do politics. Some of my elders are in the PDG (the former ruling party, which fell on August 30, 2023). I myself am with the CLR (the second largest ruling party, still in power).

There’s nothing driving me; I just have multiple talents. I am full of energy, and I am hyper-organized. That’s all!

How far do I plan to go in politics? Well, I plan to continue until Gabon has many structures allowing us to achieve 100% financial independence, where we can enjoy all our rights, invest freely without facing challenges, and where our children won’t have to leave the country to acquire knowledge in the West.

I intend to pursue politics until I take the reins of decision-making power. By this, I mean becoming a mayor, a member of the National Assembly, or a senator through the electoral process. That’s how far I intend to go in politics.

***Finally, can you reveal the secret that allows you to balance business, social work, and politics?***

There is no secret. It’s simply discipline, organization, love for my fellow human beings (when it comes to social work), and finally, ideals, ambition, decision-making capabilities, goodwill, courage, affection for my homeland, time, and energy to do politics.

That’s my secret! Apparently, I have boundless energy, much like a battery

**interview conducted  
by Samirat Ntiازه**



# Samia Hassan : On Track for a Second Term in Tanzania

**When her predecessor, John Pombe Magufuli, passed away in March 2021, Samia Suluhu Hassan, then vice-president of Tanzania, succeeded him. Four years later, after completing his second term, she aims to position herself as a free agent in the political landscape. Here's a look at a strong woman who has remained loyal to her mentor.**

On March 17, 2021, Samia Suluhu Hassan, who had served as vice-president since November 5, 2015, announced the death of President John Pombe Magufuli "due to heart complications." Two days later, the Zanzibar native, born on January 27, 1960, made history as the first woman to lead Tanzania as president. Originally from the semi-autonomous archipelago of Zanzibar, with historically turbulent relations with mainland Tanzania, Ms. Hassan, a Muslim, became the president for the remainder of the five-year term, which runs until 2025 according to Tanzania's constitution. As reported by The Citizen, she will be eligible to run for a second term, and since the beginning of the year, she has already been campaigning for that.

## A Rich Political Background

Samia Suluhu Hassan, a serious contender for re-election, brings over 25 years of experience in Tanzanian and international institutions. She holds a master's degree in "Community Economic Development" from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and the University of Southern New Hampshire, USA.

After her academic studies, she began her career within the Zanzibar government, serving between 1977 and 1987 in various administrative roles before becoming head of development. Between 1988 and 1997, she worked as a project manager for the World Food Programme (WFP) and later led the Zanzibar NGOs Association (Angoza).

In 2000, she was appointed as a member of Zanzibar's parliament, representing the ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). Over the next decade, she held several minis-

terial positions in Zanzibar, including Minister for Women and Youth, as well as Minister for Tourism and Trade. At the national level, she served as Minister for Union Affairs under President Jakaya Kikwete from 2014.

As vice-president, though in a largely ceremonial role, she frequently represented the country abroad, becoming the face of Tanzania internationally. Notably, in 2019, under her leadership, the Ministry of Environment banned the use of plastic bags.

## A Political Climate Shaped by Authoritarianism

When Samia Suluhu Hassan took office in March 2021, Tanzania was already known for its shift towards authoritarianism, largely due to Magufuli's leadership. Magufuli, nicknamed "the bulldozer," was known for launching large-scale infrastructure projects and for his tough stance against corruption, but he also cracked down on the opposition and media. Observers widely agree that Samia will not break from her predecessor's style. As political analyst Thabit Jacob from Roskilde University in Denmark explains, "There will be no rupture with Magufuli's style. Tanzanians must brace themselves."

## A Competent Leader

January Makamba, a Tanzanian MP who worked with her during her time as vice-president, describes Samia Suluhu Hassan as "the most underestimated political figure in Tanzania." "I have closely observed her work ethic, decision-making, and temperament. She is a very competent leader," he noted.

On the personal front, Samia Suluhu Hassan married Hafidh Ameir in 1978, an academic specializing in agriculture. They have four children, one of whom, Mwanu Hafidh Ameir, is currently a member of Zanzibar's House of Representatives.

**B.B.**

**WHY SETTLE FOR LESS  
WHEN YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL?**



**TamTech**  
Harnessing ICT to serve you



[WWW.TAMTECHSOLUTION.COM](http://WWW.TAMTECHSOLUTION.COM)



TAMTECHSOLUTION



TAMTECHSOLUTION



Scan me!





# TAMTECH SOLUTION

HARNESSING ICT TO SERVE YOU



## • ABOUT US

TamTech Solution is your one-stop shop for all your virtual interaction needs. We offer a variety of 100% customized products and services to make your digital interactions user-friendly, secure, and easy to use.

## • OUR SERVICES

- **Virtual Platforms:** TamTech Solution goes beyond just virtual meeting rooms. We offer comprehensive virtual interaction platforms designed to meet your needs and make your digital interactions user-friendly, secure, and easy to use.
- **Training and Seminar Management Platforms:** We provide a variety of platforms to help you manage your training sessions and seminars, from registration and scheduling to content delivery and assessment.
- **Hosting Services:** We offer secure and reliable hosting for your virtual meeting rooms, training platforms, and other websites.
- **And much more!** We also provide additional services such as virtual tutoring, video conferencing, and live streaming.

## • WHY CHOOSE TAMTECH?

- **Reliability:** Our services are backed by a 99.9% availability guarantee.
- **Affordable Pricing:** We offer competitive prices tailored to your budget.
- **Commitment to Customer Satisfaction:** We are here to help you succeed in your virtual interactions.
- **Data Privacy and Security Guaranteed:** amTech Solution is committed to protecting your data and ensuring its maximum confidentiality and security. We operate in strict compliance with Moroccan law 09.08 on personal data protection.



TAMTECH CONNECT



TAMTECH SEMINARS



TAMTECH EDU



TAMTECH TUTORING



SITE WEB

[WWW.TAMTECHSOLUTION.COM](http://WWW.TAMTECHSOLUTION.COM)



EMAIL

[CONTACT@TAMTECHSOLUTION.COM](mailto:CONTACT@TAMTECHSOLUTION.COM)



TÉLÉPHONE

+212 537 708 291

# WOMEN LEADERS



ANDEME BINDANG TUNG

# The Imprint of a Visionary Leader in the Hotel Industry in Equatorial Guinea

**In the world of hospitality in Central Africa, few careers are as inspiring as that of Andeme Bindang Tung, General Manager of the 3 Agosto Hotel in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Her name resonates as that of a woman of conviction, with a clear vision and unwavering determination. She embodies the model of impressive professional ascension, rising from the lowest ranks in the hospitality industry to leading one of the most renowned hotels in the region.**

Andeme Bindang Tung's story begins quietly, driven by determination. Her first contact with the hospitality industry was behind the scenes, as a housekeeper, a role often overlooked but essential. However, she never viewed her position as a limited starting point, but rather as a springboard for learning and rising. Through hard work, she climbed the ranks, always ready to seize new opportunities.

Her journey took an international turn when she moved to Washington D.C., United States. It was here that she left her mark in prestigious establishments such as Sofitel and the Marriott Renaissance Mayflower. In 1999, she was crowned Employee of the Month, a well-deserved recognition of a career that was already shaping up to be brilliant. These years

spent in internationally renowned hotels provided her with invaluable expertise, which she would later apply in managing Hotel 3 Agosto, her establishment of choice.

## **At the Helm of Hotel 3 Agosto: A Strategic Vision**

Upon taking the helm of Hotel 3 Agosto, Andeme Bindang Tung breathed new life into the hotel located in the heart of Malabo, the strategic capital of Equatorial Guinea. The hotel, named after the historic coup of August 3, 1979, was transformed by Andeme into a place where business and tourism converge. Her management is characterized by a human and pragmatic approach. Never resting on her laurels, she constantly redefines the standards of hospitality in Equatorial Guinea.

Under her leadership, Hotel 3 Agosto has become more than just a hotel. It is a place where every detail matters, from the comfort of the rooms to the quality of the service, offering guests an unforgettable experience. Thanks to her sharp organizational skills and attention to detail, Andeme has made the hotel a model of professionalism and hospitality. Her team, trained with a focus on quality and service, embodies the hotel's core values: humility, simplicity, and efficiency.

## Welcoming as a philosophy

What stands out about Andeme Bindang Tung is her ability to foster an environment where every guest feels at home. Upon arrival at Hotel 3 Agosto, visitors immediately sense the unique atmosphere: a palpable serenity, impeccable cleanliness, a warm welcome, and a smiling staff. Luxury hospitality, often perceived as cold and distant, takes on an entirely different face here.

Her goal is simple: to ensure a memorable experience. Whether for business or leisure, the hotel, ideally located near the airport, luxury shops, and banks, aims to be a crossroads for exchanges among travelers from around the world. Time spent at the hotel seems to stretch, with quality services and constant attention to even the smallest details.

## A Model of Female Leadership

Andeme Bindang Tung's success goes far beyond the hotel's walls. Her journey is an inspiration to many women who, like her, dream of making a mark in a field historically dominated by men. She embodies modern female leadership: determined, authentic, and approachable. Her story is that of a woman who has navigated a challenging environment and demonstrated exemplary resilience to reach the top. Her vision is clear: to prove that success has no gender, and ambition has no boundaries. Under her leadership, the hotel has not only become a symbol of hospitality in Equatorial Guinea, but also a model for the entire tourism sector in the region. The stability she brings to the hotel's management, as well as the way she leads her teams, gives employees a sense of belonging and motivation. It is this compassionate leadership that makes all the difference and makes Hotel 3 Agosto a place of excellence.

## A Future-Oriented Vision

Andeme Bindang Tung does not settle for maintaining the hotel's standards of excellence; she dreams of an even brighter future. In a country where the tourism sector is flourishing, she sees the opportunity to expand the hotel's influence beyond the borders of Equatorial Guinea.



Her vision for the future is ambitious: to make Hotel 3 Agosto a must-visit destination for international travelers while actively contributing to the region's tourism development.

Her strategic approach to hospitality, her commitment to continuous service improvement, and her ability to tackle industry challenges are key strengths in ensuring the hotel's long-term success. She never rests on her laurels and constantly strives to move forward and reinvent herself.

## Model of Perseverance and Success

Andeme Bindang Tung is much more

than just a general manager of a hotel. She is a model of perseverance and success, a woman who has made her mark in a demanding sector and continues to chart her path with humility and determination. At the helm of Hotel 3 Agosto, she has created a place where excellence and hospitality come together to offer a unique experience for guests. Her journey is a testament to the importance of believing in oneself and never giving up, regardless of the obstacles encountered. Her story is one of success, passion, and dedication—an exemplary model for future generations.

*Samirat Ntiaze*





NARDOS BEKELE-THOMAS, CEO OF THE AUDA-NEPAD

# “Shaping African solutions for a global future”

*Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas as the Chief Executive Officer of Africa's premier development agency, the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD - what would you consider to be the continental and global landscape that we face as a continent?*

Looking at 2024, Africa and the global economy are grappling with a complex landscape characterised by recovery, challenges, and emerging opportunities. Digital transformation, sustainability initiatives, and shifting trade patterns are bringing about significant economic changes worldwide. Despite the unprecedented challenges faced by Africa in 2024, it has also brought forth new opportunities and a sense of optimism. It has emerged as a landmark year, shaped by global events redefining the development landscape.

Here below see some of the critical issues underlying the context for the operating environment of our agency are:

Macroeconomic Performance - Recovery Amidst Global Challenges: Africa's real GDP growth slowed to 3.2% in 2023, down from 4.1% in 2022, due to ongoing global challenges and economic disruptions (AFDB Africa Economic Outlook report:2024). Financing Gap - Expanding

Foreign Loans and Debt Financing: The AfDB estimates that Africa's total external debt reached \$1.152 trillion by the end of 2023, up from \$1.12 trillion in 2022. With global interest rates at a 40-year high and several bonds maturing in 2024, Africa is expected to face \$163 billion in

**IN 2024 WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS TO DECENTRALISE OUR OPERATIONS AND EXPAND PRESENCE WITHIN MEMBER STATES TO BETTER ALIGN OUR PROGRAMS WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES.**

debt servicing, a significant increase from \$61 billion in 2010. Insufficient domestic resource mobilization in Africa: Domestic resource mobilisation in Africa remains significantly below global averages. The average tax revenue as a percentage of GDP in African countries is 16%, compared to 34% in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries (2024 Africa Sustainable Deve-

lopment Report).

Climate change and sustainability - Climate change is having a profound impact on Africa, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and creating significant challenges across the continent. Rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are leading to more frequent and severe droughts and floods, threatening food security and the livelihoods of millions, particularly in rural areas dependent on agriculture.

Increasing Adaptation Costs in Sub-Saharan Africa: The cost of climate adaptation in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to increase to between US\$ 30-50 billion annually over the next decade, equivalent to 2-3 percent of the region's Gross.

Regional Integration -Growing intra-African trade: by 7.2% in 2023, reaching \$192 billion and accounting for 15% of total African trade, up from 13.6% in 2022, highlighting the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)'s potential role in boosting intra-regional trade and driving economic integration (African Trade Report: 2024).

Regional disparities persist, with Southern Africa leading in intra-African trade followed by East, West, North, and Central Africa (African Trade Report: 2024).

Harnessing Africa's Critical

Mineral Wealth -From electric vehicles to solar panels to future innovations, the global transition to clean energy is set to further heighten demand for critical minerals. Between 2022 and 2050, demand for nickel will double, cobalt triple and lithium rise tenfold, according to the International Energy Agency. With sub-Saharan Africa estimated to hold about 30 percent of the volume of proven critical mineral reserves, this transition—if managed properly—has the potential to transform the region (Regional Economic Outlook Report, 2024).

*Would you share with us some of your key milestones achieved in 2024?*

Answer: 2024 marked significant milestones, driven by collaboration, innovation, and unwavering commitment to Africa's socio-economic transformation. Together with our stakeholders—including our member states, the African Union Commission, and Regional Economic Communities, regional and international Development Partners—we have achieved what we set out to do at the beginning of the year:

### **Launch of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP)**

In February 2024, the Assembly of the African Union adopted and launched the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan (STYIP), setting a clear roadmap for achieving Agenda 2063's aspirations. AUDA-NEPAD played a pivotal role in technical preparations for domestication at sub-national, national, regional, and continental levels. Included were the development of draft technical tools, Agenda 2063 Digital Platform and Dashboard and



preparation of Country Profiles for nations like Tanzania, Tunisia, Equatorial Guinea, and DRC, integrating foresight analysis to identify investment opportunities.

### **Mobilising Resources for Africa's Development**

The AU Agenda 2063 Development Fund gained momentum with in-depth feasibility studies and stakeholder consultations. Concurrently, the Africa Team Resource Mobilisation Campaign advanced institutional arrangements to secure funding for transformative projects.



## **Strengthening AUDA-NEPAD's Footprint**

in 2024 we have made significant efforts to decentralise our operations and expand presence within Member States to better align our programs with national priorities. This structure aims to enhance the Agency's ability to deliver on Agenda 2063's priority programs by integrating AUDA-NEPAD into national frameworks. Notable initiatives include the recent landmark agreement signed with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to establish a national AUDA-NEPAD office in the country. There has also been deployment of pilot missions to Equatorial Guinea, Congo Brazzaville, and Uganda, with plans to scale the approach continent-wide. We also established host agreements to enhance local capacity for implementing Agenda 2063 priorities.

## **Delivering on the Energize Africa Initiative**

Under the Energize Africa Pillar, AUDA-NEPAD focused on strengthening public institutions by deploying experts in key areas, such as digital transformation and resource conservation, to Regional Economic Communities (RECs) like COMESA and SADC. This initiative is vital to accelerating Africa's human capital development.

## **Promoting Agricultural Transformation and Climate Action**

From spearheading the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan to advancing the Post-Malabo CAADP Strategy, AUDA-NEPAD demonstrated leadership in sustainable agriculture. Additionally, the AUDA-NEPAD Centre

of Excellence on Climate Resilience and Adaptation in Egypt began preparations for full operation in 2025 and was launched at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Through the AFR100 program, we supported one hundred youth and women entrepreneurs in scaling restoration businesses.

## **Industrialisation and Trade Integration**

The Home-Grown Solutions Accelerator and 100 million MSMEs Program empowered African entrepreneurs, while the PIDA Program advanced infrastructure projects in transport,

## **UNDER THE ENERGIZE AFRICA PILLAR, AUDA-NEPAD FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BY DEPLOYING EXPERTS IN KEYS AREAS...**

energy, ICT, and water resources. These efforts are critical to fostering regional integration and economic resilience.

## **Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation**

AUDA-NEPAD bolstered Africa's position in global innovation ecosystems by publishing knowledge products on technologies like 5G and AI. We hosted the African Youth in AI & Robotics Competition to inspire the next generation of innovators. We also launched the Continental Strategy on Responsible AI, promoting ethical and inclusive adoption of AI technologies.

## **Building Resilient Health Systems**

The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative continued to support the operationalization of the African Medicines Agency. Efforts under the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa advanced local production of essential health products, reducing dependency on imports and enhancing public health outcomes.

## **COP29**

At COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan, AUDA-NEPAD called for urgent, united action to tackle the climate crisis. We participated inside meetings with our partners delivering a clear message that if Africa fails in adaptation and resilience, the world will fail. Climate change impacts continue to disrupt economies and communities and adapting to these changes is critical not only for Africa but for the world's shared survival and sustainable development. Through partnerships with governments, international groups, businesses, and communities, as Africa we remain ready to take the lead in shaping solutions that work for everyone.

## **PIDA Week**

Together with the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD hosted the 8th PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa) Week which brought together ministers, delegates, development partners, regional economic communities (RECs), private sector representatives, and key stakeholders from across Africa and beyond. PIDA Week concluded

with a rallying cry to the private sector to get involved to improve in the 3% attributed to the sectors investment rate. There was also a resounding affirmation of the continent's commitment to building quality, resilient infrastructure that will accelerate sustainable development and regional integration.

During the week key PIDA regional projects were highlighted with a view to benchmarking and accelerating implementation. These included the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, a flagship project aimed at enhancing connectivity and trade in Eastern Africa by linking Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan through highways, railways, a deep-sea port at Lamu, and other vital infrastructure, with an estimated cost of \$25.5 billion.

*Would you share highlights of some of your programmes as the agency charged with driving development of the African continent?*

Absolutely, my leadership team and the AUDA-NEPAD staff delivered exceptional performance in 2024 on some of our key programmes as below:

### **CAADP Implementation Support**

AUDA-NEPAD played a pivotal role in providing technical support for the preparation and launch of the 4th CAADP Biennial Report for adoption during the AU Summit in February 2024. This collaborative effort, involving AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, witnessed the active participation of forty-nine countries, each submitting detailed reports on their progress in implementing the Agriculture Transfor-



mation Agenda across the continent.

### **Agribusiness and Investment Programme**

This programme has continued to collect baseline data on agro-processors and supply chain optimisation in Kenya, Ghana, and Zambia. This information will be used to design interventions that optimise and increase competi-

tiveness of agribusiness in priority value chains in the National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs).

### **Post-Malabo 10-year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan**

The Post Malabo Agenda roadmap was launched in March 2024. Subsequently, AUDA-NEPAD has been working to implement the roadmap and develop

a new CAADP 10-year Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035). AUDA-NEPAD supported regional consultations with RECs on the post Malabo CAADP Agenda to gather inputs for the new Strategy and Action Plan.

### **Climate Finance and Adaptation**

The AU Assembly, in February 2024, tasked AUDA-NEPAD to lead the development of a standard for Carbon Markets in Africa. Since then, the Agency has developed a report on the state of carbon markets in Africa, highlighting efforts across different regions and countries to establish a structured and robust mechanism for carbon offsets. In addition, the Agency is currently in the process of developing a draft framework for the African Standard which would incorporate successes, lessons learnt, and innovative approaches tailored to the specific needs and challenges of African countries, especially specifying how communities will benefit from the offset market.

### **AUDA-NEPAD Centre on Climate Resilience and Adaptation**

The AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence on Climate Resilience and Adaptation has been established in Cairo, Egypt, with the Government of Egypt providing office space for the Centre. Renovation work is currently underway to prepare the Centre for full operation by January 2025. AUDA-NEPAD has also engaged partners to provide both financial and technical assistance. Furthermore, the Agency has developed a Business Plan for the Centre of Excellence.

### **Ecosystem Restoration**

Through the AFR100 land acce-

lerator programme, AUDA-NEPAD has provided mentorship and innovation grants of \$5,000 to 100 women and youth restoration entrepreneurs across Africa in 2024 to scale up small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in landscape restoration, thereby sequestering carbon and protecting biodiversity, while also creating jobs and livelihoods for smallholder farmers. Furthermore, a platform for tracking and monitoring forest landscape changes in Africa has been developed.

### **Blue Economy Programme**

Throughout the year, AUDA-

**AFRICA IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING A SIGNIFICANT DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT, WITH A GROWING YOUTHFUL POPULATION AND...**

NEPAD has continued its multi-pronged approach to implement the Agency's Blue Economy Programme. Much of the effort has been focused on implementing targeted project activities and outlining the development of new areas of opportunity to support Member States and regional bodies. The two main projects currently under implementation include the EU-funded Fish-Gov-2 Project for "Enhancing sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa" and the APC Colombia South-South Cooperation partnership project on "Maximizing Africa's and Colombia's Blue Economy."

### **African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Support to African Medicines Agency (AMA) Operationalisation**

The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Initiative aims to improve access to quality-assured, safe, effective, and affordable medical products to the African population. The initiative mobilises technical, financial and advocacy support for addressing gaps in regulatory systems and supports regional harmonisation. The AMRH was initiated as part of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) to support Member States to create an enabling regulatory environment for local manufacturing of medical products.

### **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa**

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) is a strategic initiative launched by the African Union (AU) following Assembly Decision 55 at the January 2005 Abuja Summit. Initiated by the AU Commission under the NEPAD framework, the PMPA aims to develop a competitive pharmaceutical industry across Africa, concentrating on achieving sustainability and self-reliance in the production of essential medicines and health products. The PMPA is designed to enhance local production of essential therapeutics, ensuring access to affordable, high-quality, and essential pharmaceutical products to strengthen the continent's health systems. This initiative seeks to improve public health outcomes, reduce dependency on imports, and create jobs across the manu-

facturing value chain to contribute to the economic growth of the continent.

## **24 Medical Products for Regional Manufacture Initiative (MPRMA)**

Recognising the need to bolster Africa's pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities, AUDA-NEPAD has launched the 24 Medical Products for Regional Manufacture in Africa (MPRMA) Initiative. This initiative builds upon the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) and aims to improve local production of twenty-four priority medical products. These products are crucial for addressing Africa's healthcare needs, particularly in the areas of maternal, neonatal, child health (MNCH), and adolescent girls.

## **Africa Demographic Dividend and Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme**

Africa is currently undergoing a significant demographic shift, with a growing youthful population and rapid urbanisation. This presents both opportunities and challenges for the continent's development. To fully harness the potential of this demographic shift, Africa must invest in health, education, and economic opportunities to ensure sustainable development and improve quality of life. Programs that focus on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) are essential for maximising the demographic dividend, as they have a direct impact on human capital. Recognising the significance of SRH in harnessing Africa's demographic dividend, AUDA-NEPAD launched the Africa Demographic Dividend and Sexual and Reproductive Health (A2DSRH)



Programme. This initiative aims to support African Union (AU) Member States in advancing SRH strategies to promote economic growth and social development across the continent.

## **Programme For Investment and Financing in Africa's Health Sector (PIFAH)**

PIFAH aims to attract investments and channel funding into Africa's healthcare sector by leveraging strategic partnerships,

capacity building, policy reform, and project facilitation to transform Africa's Health Economy. It focuses on addressing gaps in financing and technical capacity to support governments and the private sector in scaling up health system investments, thereby improving healthcare delivery, broadening the tax base, and expanding the fiscal space for sustainable health financing. To date the following milestones have been achieved in the roll out of AUDA-NEPAD's PIFAH Programme:

- The PIFAH Programme Document has been developed based on lessons learnt from the implementation of the African Leadership Meeting (ALM) Agenda. This document outlines the primary areas of focus and is currently under review for validation and approval by key stakeholders.
- The inaugural BOMA@UNGA meeting took place on September 23, 2024, bringing together prominent African leaders, healthcare experts, private sector representatives, venture capitalists, leading scientists, and key stakeholders. The meeting focused on the pressing need for innovative financing solutions in Africa's health sector.
- During this high-level gathering, President William Ruto, African Union Champion for Institutional Reform, officially launched the Programme for Investment and Financing in Africa's Health (PIFAH). He highlighted the need to reduce Africa's dependency on external aid and called for the development of sustainable financing models to drive the transformation of Africa's health economy.
- Two key partnerships, with Purpose Africa and USAID, are

being developed to support the first funding window, which will focus on strengthening the clinical trials ecosystem.

To ensure continued momentum and political support, a BOMA Commission is being constituted. This commission will steer high-level political engagement and facilitate the strengthening of ecosystems for research, development, manufacturing, and technology, ensuring equitable access to health and improved health outcomes.

### **Creating Opportunities for Youth and Women in Africa**

## **THE PROGRAMME FOSTERS SUSTAINABLE ÉCONOMIC GROWTH, IMPROVE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES...**

### **(COYWA)**

Aligned with AU Agenda 2063 aspirations, the COYWA programme aims to empower women and youth economically and socially. The programme's cross-cutting themes include training, employment, inclusiveness, human rights, and gender equality. The primary objective of the COYWA programme is to enhance livelihoods, boost employment, and reinforce equality and human rights. A joint workplan and budget have been approved and the Project Management Unit has been operationalised. The program will officially

launch at the February 2025 AU Summit.

### **Program for Strengthening National Institutions Supporting Vulnerable Communities**

The Strengthening National Institutions Supporting Vulnerable Communities (SNVC) program represents a significant step towards addressing the intertwined social challenges of poverty and resilience faced by Africa's most vulnerable populations. It embodies a strategic commitment to fostering effective partnerships and innovative solutions, with the goal of achieving sustainable development and economic integration in the global economy. This commitment is especially relevant in Africa, where social protection serves as a vital tool for combating poverty, mitigating life-cycle risks, and promoting sustainable economic growth, development, and social justice. During the review period, a project proposal was finalised, and financial and technical commitments were secured from partners. Moving forward, the focus will include assessing the status of social protection systems across Africa, examining regional and national policies, and identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement.

### **World Skills Africa Desk**

World Skills Africa Desk aims to harness the power of skills for Africa's economic development. It seeks to empower AU Member States, strengthen the alignment between skills development and industry through the exchange of best practices, benchmarking, and peer learning. Several key developments have occurred. These include ongoing efforts to mobilise membership in pre-

paration for the 3rd Edition of WorldSkills Africa, scheduled for 2025. Additionally, work has on the African Occupational Standards Framework, and a network of regional capacity building centres is being developed to focus on priority value chain skills sets. This initiative is intended to enhance TVET trainers' understanding of WorldSkills Occupational Standards. Moving forward, efforts will concentrate on mapping priority skill sets, assessing TVET institutions/networks, developing a Private Sector Charter, and convening a TVET and labour ministers' conference with industry partners in mid-2025.

## Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA)

The Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) is a programme of the African Union Commission (AUC) implemented by the African Union Development Agency (AUDANEPAD). It is supported by the German Government and the European Union with counterpart contributions from member states and grantees. The programme aims at promoting the occupational prospects of young Africans through the support of innovative skills development projects in close cooperation with the private sector. The initiative consists of two components, a Finance Facility, and a Technical Component. The Finance Facility provides funding to innovative skills-oriented development projects. The Technical Component provides a continental platform for knowledge exchange and lessons learned including models of private sector engagement in skills development.

### Current developments include:



- A total of forty-eight grantees identified and signed implementation agreements amounting to EUR 66.5 million across eight countries to support youth skills development and entrepreneurship, which are crucial investments in our future.
- The first cohort of 54 SIFA-financed trainees completed their two-year hydraulics diploma in 2024 in Tunisia, with an impressive 85% of them entering the labour market. Additionally, for-

ty-eight students graduated from short-term courses in renewable energy, in Cameroon, demonstrating our commitment to providing relevant, high-quality education.

- More than 1,500 students are currently enrolled in long-term training programs across five SIFA projects. These initiatives equip young people with the skills to thrive in today's competitive job market.
- Forty training of trainers pro-

vided in competence-based evaluation and skills delivery. This investment in our educators is critical to the success of our training initiatives.

- Over EUR 30 million committed to construct eighteen training institutes, with the first two facilities already completed. These centres will serve as vital hubs for skills development and workforce training in their respective regions.
- Eighteen new national curricula developed across the eight pilot countries in collaboration with local stakeholders. These curricula are designed to meet the needs of industries and the labour market, ensuring that our education systems are aligned with economic demands.

### **The AUDA-NEPAD Home-Grown Solutions (HGS) Accelerator**

The AUDA-NEPAD Home-Grown Solutions (HGS) Accelerator is a pan-African initiative designed to support and scale innovative African businesses in key sectors, with a primary focus on healthcare. The programme fosters sustainable economic growth, improves access to essential services, and promotes African-led solutions to continental challenges. The HGS Accelerator provides targeted support to early and growth-stage companies, helping them to expand their operations, attract investment, and increase their impact across multiple African countries. The HGSA provides acceleration support for businesses that have led to the following cumulative outcomes:

- \$18 million total capital raised for ventures is different funding series.

- Thirteen million patients served.
- Over 4,600 staff employed (direct and indirect)
- Over \$46 million in additional capital raised.
- Over \$20 million in added annualized manufacturing value.

### **Tourism and Creative Industries**

The AUDA-NEPAD Tourism and Creative African Member States Support Programme aids countries to harness the economic potential of the tourism and creative industry for long-term growth. Six pilot countries

## **THE ENERGY SECTOR AIMS TO ENHANCE ENERGY ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY BY FOCUSING ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPING INTERCONNECTED ENERGY NETWORKS.**

have been selected to pilot this programme. These countries are Benin, Djibouti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, and Mauritania. After the successful completion of the pilot phase, a standardised Tourism and Creative Industries Toolkit will be developed and shared with all member countries to exchange resources, insights, and best practices.

Service Delivery Mechanism for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) AUDA-NEPAD's Industrialisation programme is dedicated to

accelerating Africa's industrialisation by strategically developing SEZs across the continent. Recognising SEZs as crucial drivers of economic growth, the programme focuses on two key pillars: first, a Service Delivery Mechanism aimed at facilitating the comprehensive study, implementation, and development of SEZs throughout Africa, ensuring that these zones are well-prepared to attract and sustain private investment, and second, enhancing the capacity of Agro-Industrial Zones (AIZs) to support Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) operating within and around AIZs by bolstering their capacities through enhanced infrastructure, comprehensive services, and improved access to finance and technology.

### **Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration**

Enhancing the capacity of border agencies—encompassing both state and non-state actors—to effectively fulfil their cross-border trade mandates is a critical consideration that cannot be overlooked. When this capacity is strengthened, it not only facilitates pre-clearance processes at ports but also ensures smoother transit operations. In this respect AUDA-NEPAD is developing a compendium of tools to complement the work of the RECs in promoting Trade Logistics. The tools/instruments will aid the expeditious exchange of information for border processes, facilitate intra- and inter-agency and inter-state connectivity, and enhance the understanding mobility and trade patterns.

Science, Technology, and Innovation

The Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation (OSTI) is

operating from the CEO's Office. It coordinates the implementation of the 10-year Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) in Member States in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities, including the advancement of science, technology, and innovation (STI) on the continent through fifteen 15 programmes. The STI programmes that are delivered under the Office of Science, Technology and Innovation are outlined below:

- the African Union High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET).
- the Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue (CJED) on Emerging Technologies.
- Innovative Financing for R&D.
- Artificial Intelligence for Development; and the African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative

The African, Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Programme

The ASTII Programme plays a key role in strengthening the capabilities of AU Member States through their respective ministries responsible for Science, Technology, and Innovation to measure the level of investment in research and innovation for evidence-based policy development. To date, the programme has trained more than 3,500 national experts from R&D performing sectors such as Government, Higher education, Business, and non-profit-organisation and still strengthening the capacity of the group of 43 AU Member States involved in the programme from 2007 to 2019. ASTII training workshops are conducted by the ASTII team in collaboration with other international, continental, regional and



national players in the field of STI measurement. Since the inception of ASTII Phase 4 (2021-2025), 60 African officials have been trained in Sweden through Lund University Commissioned Education (LUCE). It is a postgraduate module of 8 weeks on Transformation, Innovation and Resilience for Sustainable Development. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) fully sponsor the scholarship.

**Infrastructure, Digitalization,**

## **and Energy**

The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) focuses on energy, transport, ICT, and transboundary water resources, promoting an Integrated Corridor Approach to infrastructure development.

## **Transport and Logistics**

PIDA enhances regional connectivity by linking major cities to key ports, reducing logistical barriers, and promoting efficient trade flows. The PIDA PAP 2 Transport portfolio includes



twenty-four regional projects, ranging from road networks to rail systems and maritime infrastructure. Currently, 21% of these projects are in the definition stage, 37% are in the prefeasibility and feasibility stages, and 42% are undergoing structuring and transaction support processes. Technical assistance has been provided to Chad, the Central Corridor SGR project, and the implementation of SAATM.

### Energy

The energy sector aims to enhance energy access, affordability, security, and sustainability by focusing on regional integration and developing interconnected energy networks. The PIDA PAP 2 Energy portfolio includes eighteen regional projects, comprising generation resources, transmission interconnectors, and a crude oil pipeline. Of these projects, 5% are in the definition stage, 67% are in the prefeasibility and feasibility stages, and 28% are undergoing structuring and transaction support processes. Technical assistance has been provided for the Masaka-Mwanza, Ruzizi IV, and ZIZABONA projects, as well as for the Egypt-Sudan Interconnector feasibility studies. The Continental Power System Masterplan (CMP) and Africa Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) programs are also actively pursuing their objectives.

### Water

PIDA's water vision promotes integrated water resource management and the development of transboundary water infrastructure to meet growing water demand. This year, five projects at various stages of development received support in risk assessment and investor outreach. These

projects include hydrometric stations in Sao Tome and Principe, dams in Namibia and South Africa, a multipurpose dam in Kenya and Uganda, a dam in Lesotho and Botswana, and water and sanitation projects in Madagascar.

### Information Communication Technology

The PIDA PAP II ICT portfolio includes eleven approved ICT and digitalization projects. Key projects include the Amilcar Ca-

**AFRICA MUST CONTINUOUSLY EXPAND THE NUMBER OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ECONOMY, IN TANDEM WITH ITS POPULATION GROWTH, FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH.**

bral Submarine cable, the Transborder Submarine Fiber PoPs and Regional Smart Hub Facility and Data Centre, the Trans-Saharan Optic Fibre Broadband project, and the Juba-Nairobi Fibre Optic Link. These projects aim to enhance connectivity and digital infrastructure across various regions in Africa.

*As a female leader in Africa and advocate for women empowerment, what is your message to women in the African continent ?*

Africa must continuously expand the number of stakeholders in the economy, in tandem with its population growth, for a Sustainable and inclusive growth. We cannot build Africa without the 70% of its population. Women and youth must be in the frontline. Women bring a perspective of collective gain, unity, and development, and AUDA-NEPAD is therefore creating platforms to amplify their critical voices.

Under our Creating Opportunities for Youth and Women in Africa Programme (COYWA), which complements the AU Women and Youth Financial and Economic initiative (WYFEI 2030) which aims to unlock 100 Billion USD to 10 million Women and Youth entrepreneurs, we plan to establish a Women's Sounding Board to bring together the valuable insights and strengths of women.

Similarly, under our Energize Africa initiative, which aligns with our 100 million MSMEs initiative, where we have provided 84 million USD in financial guarantee funds to benefit women-led MSMEs, we plan to establish a Youth Sounding Board to ensure that young people can actively contribute to shaping Africa's development.

These platforms should not just be symbolic; they will be the engines of transformative change towards dignity and prosperity. As women let us proudly raise our voices to celebrate the strides we have made together as a collective. Today, as a continent, we stand with our own vision—Agenda 2063—and its Ten-Year Implementation Plans guiding us toward our aspirations.

*Interview conducted by Joseph Kapo & Samirat Ntiaze*



## SHAPING ECONOMIC FUTURES

# Verra Songwe Joins President Ramaphosa's Advisory Team

**The economist by training is now one of the members of the Advisory Council appointed by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Alongside others, she will contribute by guiding the 7th administration in its pursuit of economic growth and the rapid, sustainable creation of jobs.**

This council was created to ensure greater coherence in the implementation of economic policy and to equip both the government and civil society to better address current challenges. This distinguished woman has successfully pursued high-level positions in the past. In addition to serving as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), she has held key roles within Bretton Woods institutions, including Regional Director for West and Central Africa at the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group. From 2005 to 2008, she served as a sector coordinator and lead economist in the Philippines, and from 2008 to 2011, she was an advisor to the Managing Director of the World Bank for Africa, Europe, and the Central and South Asia regions.

Verra Songwe completed her secondary studies at Our Lady of Lourdes College Mankon in Bamenda, in the North-West region, before moving to the USA to continue her education at the University of Michigan, where she earned a bachelor's degree in economics and political science, followed by an advanced diploma in law and economics. She later obtained a Ph.D.

in mathematical economics from the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium before returning to the United States to serve as a visiting professor in California.

After leaving the Economic Commission for Africa, she joined the Bank for International Settlements—commonly known as the Bank of Banks—as a senior advisor to the Financial Stability Institute. Her work has since focused on macroprudential regulation and financial stability in the era of climate change. She has also continued to address issues related to liquidity and the cost of capital in emerging markets.

President Ramaphosa recently appointed her to his 7th Presidential Economic Advisory Council as South Africa assumes the G20 presidency, emphasizing themes of solidarity, equality, and sustainability. She serves alongside renowned global and Southern economists such as Dani Rodrik, Esther Duflo, Haroon Borat, and others.

The Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) advises President Cyril Ramaphosa to provide sound economic policy recommendations aimed at fostering sustained, inclusive economic growth, investment, and job creation in South Africa. The Council serves as a platform for in-depth, structured discussions on emerging global and domestic developments, economic and development policies, and the effective implementation of these strategies. She is also a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and was.

**Joseph Kapo**

PIDA WEEK 2024

# Stakeholders Invited to Focus on Innovative Financing Mechanisms



**The Collective Call for Action in the Transformation of African Infrastructure marked the 8th edition at the headquarters of the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from November 24-29, 2024, on the theme: "Promoting Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure for Africa's Sustainable Growth: Leveraging Transformative Financing and Regional Integration."**

Co-organized by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the

African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), and the African Union Commission (AUC), the event was attended by 1,000 delegates, including ministers, development partners, regional economic communities (RECs), and the private sector. AUDA-NEPAD Director-General Nardos Bekele-Thomas called on stakeholders to focus on innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance and public-private partnerships, stating: "Despite our achievements, persistent challenges in financing, risk perception, and project bankability continue to

hinder Africa's infrastructure ambitions." Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, noted with concern that only 3% of financing for PIDA projects came from the private sector, compared to 16-19% in other regions. "It is crucial that we examine the underlying reasons for this gap and explore potential solutions to stimulate private sector participation in the future. We now look towards 2025 with renewed energy, focusing on creating more opportunities for collaboration and investment, ensuring that infrastructure development

becomes a key driver of sustainable and inclusive growth," he suggested.

As the mid-term review of PIDA 2025 approaches, it is essential to accelerate efforts to attract investments for projects in the PIDA PAP2 pipeline, ensuring that infrastructure contributes to unlocking sustainable development in Africa. The Agency calls on investors, the private sector, and multilateral partners to seize the growing infrastructure opportunities in Africa. In line with Agenda 2063, Ethiopian State Minister for Transport and Logistics, Bareo Hassen, reiterated Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to developing regionally impactful projects that strengthen links between Ethiopia and its neighboring countries. Participants emphasized the critical importance of infrastructure as a foundational pillar to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063, specifically Goal 10, which envisions "world-class infrastructure across Africa."

160,000 jobs created

Only \$82 billion has been mobilized out of the \$360 billion needed to achieve PIDA's goals by 2040. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, stated: "We must leverage partnerships and consider infrastructure as a high-value asset class to unlock financing from pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and multilateral development banks." Ethiopian President Taye Atske Selassie called for renewed commitment to PIDA, emphasizing the importance of harmonized policy, partnerships, and financing. In the presence of 20 partners, the edition concluded with a resounding reaffirmation of the continent's commitment to building quality, resilient infrastructure that will accelerate sustainable deve-

lopment and regional integration. PIDA's achievements have enabled the provision of electricity to over 30 million people and the creation of 160,000 jobs. Experts reported significant progress in implementing the second priority action plan of PIDA, including modernizing and creating one-stop border posts, crucial for enhancing connectivity and regional trade. The session concluded with a firm commitment to equipping Africa with quality, resilient infrastructure that will accelerate sustainable development and regional integration. Key regional

**WORK WAS COMPLETED WITH A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM THE CONTINENT TO PROVIDE AFRICA WITH QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE...**

PIDA projects were presented for comparative analysis and accelerated implementation. Among these is the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor, a flagship project aimed at improving connectivity and trade in East Africa by linking Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan through highways, railways, a deep-water port in Lamu, and other vital infrastructure, with an estimated cost of \$25.5 billion. Additionally, there are the Cameroon-Chad railway, maritime connectivity for the Como-

ros Islands, the Abidjan-Lagos corridor, submarine fiber-optic cross-border posts, and the regional Smart Hub data centers. Regional express train and rapid bus transport projects, as well as updates on the Cairo-Cape Town corridor, were also presented.

The continued engagement of partners such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank Group, and international partners including the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Germany are part of the resolutions. In addition to innovation and financing, leaders highlighted the importance of innovative financing solutions, particularly public-private partnerships (PPPs), impact investments, and blended finance models to overcome obstacles and ensure the bankability of projects.

Not to be overlooked is climate resilience and capacity building, with an emphasis on combating the impacts of climate change on infrastructure and accompanying financing mechanisms for climate-resilient infrastructure. There was also a focus on gender equality and youth engagement, highlighting the role of young people and SMEs in driving innovation in infrastructure, with an emphasis on creating entry points for young entrepreneurs and women.

The final act focused on digitalization and data governance. There was strong advocacy for the integration of digital infrastructure, with AUDA-NEPAD launching a report on the state of one-stop border posts (OS-BPs) across Africa and digital transformation projects aimed at strengthening the continent's infrastructure landscape.

*Joseph Kapo, on special assignment in à Addis Abeba*



# Progress and Challenges According to AU-CIEFFA

*In 2024, girls' education in Africa continued to receive increasing attention from governments, international organizations and community actors. The International Center for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU-CIEFFA), a specialized agency of the African Union, played a key role in promoting this cause that is essential for the sustainable development of the continent.*

## Importance of Girls' Education

Girls' education is a driver of social, economic, and political transformation. Studies have shown that access to quality education for girls has positive impacts on health, poverty reduction, growth, and even the stability of societies. Despite these clear benefits, many African girls continue to face barriers to schooling, including early marriages, gender-based discrimination, and inadequate school infrastructure.

According to Simone Yankey-Ouattara, Acting Coordinator of UA-CIEFFA: "Girls' education is not only a priority for Africa, but a global necessity. Every girl who walks through the school doors opens opportunities for future generations." This vision reflects the growing commitment to removing barriers to girls' education on the continent.

Indeed, according to UA-CIEFFA documents consulted by Femmes d'Afrique, access to education in Africa has seen significant progress over the past decades, although many challenges remain. Many African countries have recorded an increase in enrollment rates, particularly due to efforts to ensure access to primary education. For instance, the Education for All (EFA) initiative and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have contributed to substantial improvements. Official sources confirm that countries such as Rwanda, Senegal, and Ghana have made progress in access to basic education, with higher primary school enrollment rates. There has also been increasing attention to reducing the gender gap in education. "Specific programs have been implemented to encourage girls' schooling, with positive results in countries such as Burkina Faso and Niger," acknowledges UA-CIEFFA.

One of the major achievements in 2024 has been the increase in the enrollment rate of girls across the continent. Several countries, including Rwanda, Senegal, and Ethiopia, have recorded significant improvements through policies promoting free primary and secondary education for girls. Rwanda, for example, continues to serve as a model with a near 1:1 gender parity rate in primary

education.

Incentive programs, such as scholarships and free school supplies distributions, have played a crucial role in encouraging families to enroll their girls in school. As stated by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO: "When you educate a girl, you transform not only her life but also the life of her family and community. Education is a powerful engine for development." These initiatives have been complemented by community awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of girls' education for family and community well-being.

## Education and Capacity Building for Teachers

In addition to improving access, 2024 was marked by a sustained effort to enhance the quality of education. UA-CIEFFA, in partnership with organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank, invested in teacher training, with particular emphasis on rural areas where the needs are most pressing.

Mentorship programs were also implemented to support girls throughout their educational journey. These initiatives aim to reduce dropout rates, particularly at the secondary level, where girls are more likely to leave school due to domestic responsibilities,



early pregnancies, or harmful cultural norms.

To quote Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia: "Women and girls have the ability to dream big and achieve extraordinary things. Let us provide them with the tools they need to thrive, especially through education."

Furthermore, the digitalization of education has expanded access to quality content. In 2024, several African countries introduced online learning platforms tailored to the needs of girls, particularly in rural areas. The use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has been identified as a powerful means of overcoming geographical and social barriers.

## Gender Inequalities and Gender-Based Violence

Throughout the past year, UA-CIEFFA has intensified its efforts to raise awareness among schools and communities about the need to create safe environments for female learners. Under its leadership, clear protocols for reporting and addressing cases of violence in schools have been adopted in

several countries. These measures include training teachers to handle harassment cases and establishing support centers for victims. Graça Machel, activist and former First Lady, emphasizes: "Investing in girls' education is not just a matter of social justice. It is a matter of progress for the entire nation."

Moreover, efforts have been made to strengthen the enforcement of laws against early marriages and female genital mutilation, which continue to severely hinder the educational prospects of girls.

The progress made in 2024 would not have been possible without the active involvement of local communities and civil society. Community leaders, influential women, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have worked together to promote a change in attitudes regarding girls' education.

Innovative community programs, such as "learning circles" and discussion groups, have helped mobilize parents and raise awareness about the long-term benefits of educating girls. As Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, says: "An educated

girl is a weapon against poverty, conflict, and injustice. Our girls deserve to have this weapon in their arsenal."

## Ongoing Challenges

Despite the progress made, several challenges remain. Regional inequalities are still pronounced, with conflict zones and rural areas lagging significantly behind urban centers. Poverty remains a limiting factor, as families often have to choose between education and other essential priorities. Additionally, the transition of girls to secondary and higher education remains insufficient. Many girls drop out of school before reaching these levels, thus compromising their long-term opportunities in the job market and their contribution to economic development.

Wangari Maathai, environmental activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, summed up this reality by saying: "I firmly believe that girls' education is the key to unlocking a sustainable and prosperous future for Africa. When girls succeed, everyone wins." "Access to education in Africa has made



significant progress in recent decades, but several challenges persist, still hindering inclusion and quality education for all," notes UA-CIEFFA.

These obstacles are multiple and vary by region and context, but they collectively affect the educational development of the continent. First and foremost, geographical and socio-economic inequality remains one of the primary barriers. Children from rural areas, often from poor families, face difficulties accessing schools due to distance, lack of infrastructure, and resources. Additionally, the indirect costs of education, such as uniforms or textbooks, exclude a significant portion of the student population. As a result, dropout rates are high, particularly among girls, who are often forced into early marriages or teenage pregnancies, according to this specialized UA body, for whom war and armed conflicts are major disruptors of the education system in Africa.

### Future Prospects

For the progress made in girls' education in Africa to be sustainable, it is crucial to maintain momentum with targeted and ambitious initiatives. UA-CIEFFA, in collaboration with its international, national, and local partners, must continue advocating for increased funding for girls' education and ensure that educational policies remain inclusive and equitable.

First, as UA-CIEFFA advocates, governments must strengthen their financial commitment by dedicating a significant portion of their national budgets to education. Priority should be given to improving school infrastructure, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, to provide safe and girl-friendly learning environments.

"Next, additional efforts are nee-



ded to ensure that girls are not just enrolled in school but also benefit from quality education," insists Yankey-Ouattara. "Teachers must receive adequate training to address the specific challenges girls face, including gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, and discrimination." "Policies must also strengthen career guidance and mentoring programs to help girls navigate their studies and career choices, particularly in scientific and technological fields, where girls are still underrepresented in Africa," she adds.

Furthermore, it is crucial to work with communities to change societal perceptions and cultural norms that limit girls' aspirations. This includes raising awareness about the importance of education and fighting harmful practices such as early marriages and female genital mutilation. Parents, teachers, and local authorities must collaborate to ensure a conducive environment for girls' education, emphasized the organization, which continued its commitment through significant

events such as the Pancoged1 - the First Pan-African Conference of the African Union on Girls' and Women's Education - held in July 2024 in Addis Ababa, as well as the #AfricaEducatesHer campaign. This campaign aims to inform and motivate African stakeholders to take concrete actions for girls' education.

Thus, while 2024 was marked by notable progress, significant challenges remain. However, it is essential to maintain this momentum to transform the lives of girls and young women through education, enabling them to become agents of change and leaders in their communities and beyond.

"Investing in girls' education is investing in Africa's future. Every educated girl is a step towards a more prosperous and just continent," emphasizes Yankey-Ouattara. "By removing structural and cultural barriers, and strengthening inclusive educational policies, Africa can fully harness the potential of its girls, who are the true architects of its sustainable development," she concludes.

*Sylvestre Tetchiada*



PATH TO EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY FOR AFRICA'S WOMEN

# Quality Education: Unlocking Africa's Greatest Untapped Potential



Education is more than just a tool for knowledge acquisition; it is the foundation upon which gender equality, economic empowerment, and sustainable development rest. It is a fundamental human right and an essential driver of progress, enabling individuals to break the cycle of poverty, challenge societal limitations, and build self-sustaining futures. However, across Africa, millions of girls and women are still deprived of this fundamental right. Cultural norms, economic hard-

## **EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL LEVER FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND GENDER PARITY.**

ships, early marriage, and inadequate infrastructure continue to keep many of them out of school, limiting their opportunities and restricting their ability to contribute fully to their communities and economies.

The global commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education for All) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), underscores the necessity of ensuring inclusive and equitable education, with a focus on empowering women and girls. However, for these commitments to translate into tangible change, Africa must move beyond theoretical policies

**Africa is a continent of immense wealth—not just in natural resources, but in human potential. Among its most valuable assets is this rich continent’s women, who constitute a dynamic, ambitious, and resilient force capable of driving innovation, leadership, and economic prosperity. Yet, despite the pivotal role women play in their societies, their full potential remains largely untapped due to systemic barriers, the most critical of which is the lack of access to quality education.**



and isolated interventions and instead mobilize a collective, continent-wide effort to transform its educational landscape. It is with this urgency and conviction that the Tamkine Foundation is spearheading the call for an African Education Decade (2026-2036), a transformative initiative aimed at reshaping Africa's education systems to ensure that quality education for all is not just included in the continent's agenda, but prioritized.

### **The African Education Decade: A Vision for Inclusive Growth**

The African Education Decade (2026-2036) is more than just an advocacy campaign; it is a structural and strategic commitment to placing education at the heart

of Africa's development agenda. Recognizing that education is the most powerful lever for economic mobility and gender parity, this initiative calls upon governments, institutions, private sector leaders, and global development organizations to align their efforts toward ensuring universal access to quality education.

For too long, Africa's education systems have been underfunded, outdated, and misaligned with the evolving needs of the 21st-century workforce. The consequences have been particularly severe for women and girls, who face additional challenges that restrict their access to higher education, STEM careers, leadership positions, and entrepreneurship opportunities. Too often, girls' education is interrupted

by early marriage, gender biases, and socioeconomic constraints, leaving them economically dependent and socially vulnerable. This is not just a crisis of education; it is a missed opportunity for Africa's progress.

A decade-long commitment to education's transformation will allow for the structural adjustments needed to make long-term, sustainable progress. This means investing in accessible and inclusive learning environments, ensuring that curricula are designed to prepare students—especially young women—for the demands of an increasingly digital and global economy, and implementing policies that eliminate discriminatory practices that hinder female participation in education and the workforce.

The African Education Decade is a vision for a more equitable, innovative, and prosperous Africa, one in which, through quality education for all, girls and women are no longer passive beneficiaries but active leaders of change.

**The Tamkine Foundation's Role: Transforming Education with Impact**

For almost a decade, the Tamkine Foundation has been dedicated to developing and implementing solutions that directly address Morocco's, Africa's and the world's educational challenges. Through innovative programs, digital learning platforms, teacher training initiatives, and strategic partnerships, Tamkine has worked to improve both the accessibility and quality of education, especially across the continent.

At the core of its mission is the Tamkine Equation for Qualitative Improvement of Education, a holistic and transformative framework that acknowledges that educational progress cannot be achieved in isolation. Education is a shared responsibility, requiring the active engagement of governments, teachers, parents, students, private sector actors, and international organizations. The Tamkine Equation is based on the understanding that only through collaborative and systemic change can Africa achieve lasting educational transformation.

By implementing this holistic approach, the Tamkine Foundation has successfully impacted tens of thousands of students and educators across Africa. However, the work is far from over. The African Education Decade presents an opportunity to scale these solutions up, build broad

der coalitions, and institutionalize reforms that will define the continent's educational trajectory for generations to come.

### **Mobilizing for an African Education Decade: A Call to the World**

The Tamkine Foundation has actively engaged with governments, policymakers, and international organizations to drive

## **THE AFRICAN EDUCATION DECADE IS A VISION FOR A MORE EQUITABLE, INNOVATIVE, AND PROSPEROUS AFRICA.**

momentum for this initiative.

In Gabon, we had the honor of meeting His Excellency Brice Oligui Nguema, the President of the Republic, to whom we formally submitted a letter urging him to take leadership in this call. His commitment to African development and regional collaboration makes him a crucial ally in ensuring that this initiative gains traction at the highest levels of governance.

We also met with the Director General of CAFRAD (The African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development), Dr. Coffi Dieudonné Assouvi, where we discussed the

urgent need to integrate qualitative and inclusive education policies into Africa's development frameworks. During this meeting, we formally submitted a letter requesting CAFRAD's endorsement and support in mobilizing African institutions to prioritize the transformation of the education in the continent. Now, we extend this call to the African Union, African nations, the global development community, and all advocates of quality education for all. The African Education Decade is a collective mission, and its success depends on the commitment of governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and international partners to work together in ensuring that education remains a top priority for Africa's future.

The African Education Decade is also, and by extent, an unprecedented opportunity to dismantle barriers that have historically marginalized girls and women from education and economic participation. It is an opportunity to create a future in which Africa's women are no longer left behind but positioned at the forefront of innovation, leadership, and economic transformation.

Education is not a privilege—it is a right. Investing in education for all is not an act of charity—it is an investment in Africa's future. The success of women is the success of Africa. Their empowerment is Africa's empowerment.

The time to act is now, and we must act all together!

#Tamkine\_together\_we\_will\_succeed

*By Aya Azaddou,  
Chief Operating Officer of the  
Tamkine Foundation*

## HEALTH AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

# The African Union Development Agency- NEPAD and Senegal join forces



**The African Union Development Agency - NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) has announced a historic collaboration with the Government of Senegal to**

**strengthen the country's health and skills development sectors through a tailor-made program of health initiatives.**

With this in mind, His Excel-

lency, Dr. Ibrahima Sy, Minister of Health and Social Action of Senegal, said: "Senegal is proud to deepen its collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD to strengthen our health systems and ensure

better health outcomes for all Senegalese. This partnership is perfectly in line with our vision of sustainable development and regional leadership in health.”

This established partnership reflects AUDA-NEPAD’s unwavering commitment to addressing systemic health challenges in Africa and fostering socio-economic transformation across the continent. To achieve this, the Agency is called upon to develop a set of measures to support Senegal’s health system. AUDA-NEPAD has worked closely with Senegalese government officials to fully understand the country’s health ecosystem priorities and identify innovative solutions across its comprehensive health programs. In terms of outcomes, the customization of AUDA-NEPAD’s flagship health initiatives to meet Senegal’s specific needs, firmly positioning the country as a leader in the delivery of essential health services.

During this meeting chaired on December 16, 2024 in Dakar by Symerre Grey-Johnson, Director of Social Development: Human Capital and Institutional Development at AUDA-NEPAD, a customized implementation roadmap for Senegal’s health priorities, outlining clear and achievable results up to 2025, was jointly developed, highlighting Senegal’s central role in promoting health, social and skills development in Africa, underlined by its long-standing partnership with AUDA-NEPAD.

### **An important step towards a prosperous and resilient Africa**

According to Professor Amadou Tidiane Wone, Minister at the Presidency of the Republic of Senegal and Special Representative

of the President to the AUDA-NEPAD Steering Committee: “This engagement with AUDA-NEPAD reaffirms our commitment to advancing health and socio-economic progress. Senegal’s role as a cornerstone of Agenda 2063 is a testament to our unwavering commitment to transforming Africa.” It should be noted that the tailor-made support program for the Senegalese Ministry of Health and Social Action

## **SENEGAL HAS ALWAYS DEMONSTRATED STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP IN IMPLEMENTING INITIATIVES...**

includes several components: the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan Initiative for Africa: addressing vulnerabilities in the pharmaceutical supply chain, the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Program: strengthening regulatory frameworks to ensure safe and accessible medicines on the African continent.

In addition to these initiatives, the African Union Smart Safety Surveillance Program (AU-3S) aims to enhance the safety and monitoring of medical products, with a recent \$300,000 funding allocation to support Senegal’s National Regulatory Authority (ARP). The Integrated Vector Management Program (IVM)

focuses on combating malaria through innovative vector control technologies. The Investment and Financing Program for the Health Sector in Africa (PIFAH) and the Demographic Dividend and Sexual and Reproductive Health Program in Africa (A2DSRH) represent significant commitments, with the latter being a \$100 million initiative aimed at improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes, addressing gender-based violence, and combating HIV/STIs. Additionally, the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) facilitates skills development and employment opportunities, particularly for young people.

Symerre Grey-Johnson, Director of Social Development: Human Capital and Institutional Development at AUDA-NEPAD, emphasized that: “Senegal holds a unique place in our hearts and strategies. Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, Senegal exemplifies the power of leadership that inspires nations. This partnership marks a significant milestone in our shared journey toward a prosperous and resilient Africa, supported by a strong healthcare system.”

Senegal has consistently demonstrated strategic leadership in implementing catalytic initiatives in health, agriculture, infrastructure, and technology as a founding member of AUDA-NEPAD. A testament to this leadership is the recent achievement of WHO Maturity Level 3 (ML3) by the Senegalese Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (ARP), highlighting the country’s pivotal role in driving healthcare transformation across Africa.

*Joseph Kapo*



## The Traveler's Fair 2025

**Approximately 1.3 million deaths  
annually worldwide due to accidents**





**This revelation was made in Yaoundé by the organizer of the Traveler's Fair 2025. The event took place from January 17 to 19, 2025, under the theme: "Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders for an Effective Travel Offering."**

The fair was inaugurated on January

## **TRAVELER SATISFACTION IS A LEVER FOR PROFITABILITY AND A SOURCE OF NUMEROUS INNOVATIONS THAT MAKE TRAVEL STAKEHOLDERS MORE EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE.**

17, 2025, by Minister Delegate Njoya Zakariaou, standing in for Minister of Transport Jean Ernest Masséna Ngalle Bibéhé. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Tourism and Leisure, diplomatic mission heads, and international experts.

According to the government official, "This innovative event marks a significant step in our shared ambition to improve the quality, safety, and reliability of travel in Cameroon and Africa. I would like to commend the exceptional work of Mrs. Christelle Grace Zinni Ngamani. Through her vision, dynamism, and commitment, she has turned a dream - an ambitious idea - into a reality full of hope for an entire sector."

The Traveler's Fair 2025 is a call for collective action to strengthen collaboration between public institutions, private sector players, and civil society to enhance infrastructure and service quality, raise user awareness about safety issues, promote best practices for better travel, and advocate for technological innovations and sustainable solutions to meet travelers' expectations.

Regarding the professionalization of the travel ecosystem, Grace Zinni

Ngamani, Director of the 2020 Traveler's Fair and Founder of the Maniati Mobility consulting firm, noted, "When we talk about travel, we are more familiar with transport providers. We also know travel agencies, but also insurers to ensure the traveler, banks to finance the traveler, and other key actors in the ecosystem."

The Traveler's Fair is a marketplace to bring together stakeholders, as its slogan is to unite different actors so that we can have a space for reflection, a space for exchange, and by the end of the fair, we should have a roadmap summarizing the discussions—whether it's about areas for improvement or challenges," she said on January 17, 2025.

The discussions focused on issues of insecurity, which manifest in several forms: travel-related insecurity, insecurity in urban taxis, insecurity in buses, and even psychological insecurity due to traffic jams.

The second issue addressed tourism: "Once we have reliable, safe, and comfortable travel, we can be a remarkable tourist destination. Cameroon holds the status of being Africa in miniature. It should position itself as a preferred tourist destination. The third pillar of the Traveler's Fair is African excellence, meaning we have solutions that address our local challenges. The Traveler's Fair is also about showing that Africa needs local, adaptable, and culturally relevant solutions," said the organizer.

### **€1850 billion loss**

To achieve this, she expressed the wish that when people talk about travel, there should be no fear of traveling, no fear of being attacked, no fear of accidents, and no stress from traffic jams. "Something must change because there are many Cameroonians with the skills to move Africa forward. We can make mobility projects, which



have been shelved, a reality." The Traveler's Fair is a wake-up call. It's about showing that we have great projects, and the goal is for all of this to become a reality. Senior road safety expert (Sécuroute), Martial Missimikim, lamented the stark lack of initiatives to unify the interventions of stakeholders. "Road safety is a crucial and sensitive aspect of travel because no matter the amenities you have at an agency or a hotel, if safety isn't ensured on the road, your trip won't be enjoyable. You are aware

that this year in transportation has been disastrous, as the Head of State mentioned. We must all mobilize and make it a national cause. Cameroon loses more than 300 billion CFA francs to road accidents. Most of these accidents involve trucks and buses, and travelers are the primary victims. This is why the fair is a great opportunity to promote road safety and remind passengers of their responsibility, such as wearing seat belts and assisting drivers during travel," he advised. This fair, which also aims to boost tou-

rism, sought to position Cameroon as a preferred tourist destination. "I want to change Cameroon's brand image so that it is recognized as a country for travelers, in addition to being Africa in miniature," she continued. With ten years of experience in vehicle manufacturing, she is convinced that "putting the traveler at the heart of the travel ecosystem is the key to economic and social development. Traveler satisfaction is a lever for profitability and a source of numerous innovations that make travel stakeholders more efficient and accessible."

The fair gathered travelers, businesses, and public and private institutions. It was designed to allow everyone to learn about each other's work, share experiences and expertise, ask questions, and offer appropriate solutions. Over 5,000 participants, including about fifty speakers, attended this event aimed at improving business relationships between travelers, professionals, and institutions, developing the image of the entrepreneurial and economic sector through a secure, reliable, and comfortable travel label.

J.K.





# GATEWAY TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

IATF is where Africa converges to create new business opportunities. Over \$44 billion in trade and investment deals, 2000+ exhibitors and over 35,000 visitors are expected in 2025.

IATF is Africa's premier trade fair, the go-to AfCFTA marketplace to showcase Africa's goods and services. Embrace the opportunities and take part in accelerating Africa's trade and investment.

Register now to attend or exhibit at [www.intrafricantradefair.com](http://www.intrafricantradefair.com)

**IATF** 20  
25

The AfCFTA Marketplace



**ALGIERS, ALGERIA**  
4-10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Stay updated with the latest info



[customerservice@intrafricantradefair.com](mailto:customerservice@intrafricantradefair.com)





**Établissement Privé  
d'enseignement supérieur  
reconnu d'utilité publique  
par l'Etat gabonais**

## **NOS ETABLISSEMENTS**



ÉCOLE DE MÉDECINE  
ET DE PHARMACIE

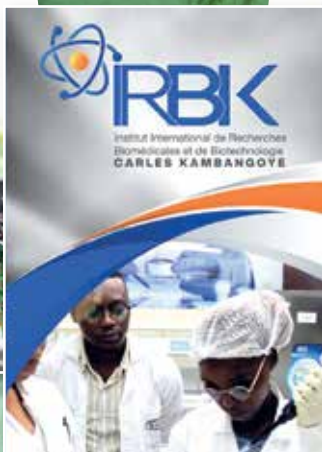


**epl**  
ÉCOLE  
POLYTECHNIQUE  
DE LIBREVILLE

- La formation en langues étrangères et de technologies numériques.
- La formation en partenariat et le perfectionnement des cadres de travail.
- La formation à la recherche technologique.
- Et l'appui au développement.



**IRBK**  
Institut International de Recherches  
Biomoléculaires et de Biotechnologie  
CARLES KAMBANGWE



**FDSP**  
FACULTÉ DE DROIT  
ET SCIENCE POLITIQUE



**ISGEA**  
Institut Supérieur  
de Gestion et Économie  
Appliquée

Une formation classique LMD Licence - Master  
et Doctorat, en un Programme - Licence des MSA -  
en partenariat avec l'École des Sciences de  
Gestion de l'UQAM du Canada (ESG UQAM)



Dis à ESSASSA, PK 23

B.P. 20411 Libreville (Gabon).

Email. contact @uil-universite.com

Téléphone : + (241) (0) 62 26 51 28 ou + (241) (0) 62 09 85 66

Site WEB : <https://uil-universirte.com>