



Africa Capacity BULLETIN

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From the Executive Secretary

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the seventh edition of Africa Capacity. This issue highlights yet other achievements by the Foundation through a variety of programs that it supports across our continent. Capacity building can only bear positive fruits when gaps have been identified and solutions put into place to remedy the deficiencies. This simple truth is highlighted through three case studies, in three different areas of activities and with positive outcomes.

In Zambia, an alternative to the current allocation model of funds implemented by the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is raising debate among the government and its key stakeholder as to how important understanding and measuring the needs of constituencies and applying customized solution is crucial to the success of

development programs in those constituencies. The alternative to CDF developed by the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, a think tank supported by the Foundation, could change the way development funds are allocated and disbursed to rural constituencies.

In these times of restraints when donor intervention has become more and more limited, low-resourced African women's rights organizations have experienced difficulties diversifying their sources of funding and raising the needed resources to sustain their programs. Launched in 2012 by the African Women Development Fund, annual resource mobilization training boot camps are helping to turn the tide, equipping women's rights organizations across Africa with the right skills to increase their fundraising capabilities and make an impact on the ground.

This issue of Africa Capacity also looks at our latest partnerships and upcoming activities in March and April.

Enjoy the read!

RESULTS

Promoting Equitable Development in Zambia

An alternative allocation model developed by the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) and aimed at enhancing the use of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in Zambia has spurred deliberations and interrogation among government and stakeholders, which could lead to better use of the CDF.

The CDF, which was approved by the Zambian Parliament in 1995 and administered through the local government to all constituencies in Zambia, is intended to support the implementation of development programmes at the constituency level. It is the only fund that goes directly to the community and as a result, is an important vehicle for achieving their prioritized needs. Communities are, to a reasonable extent involved in the utilization of the fund. The challenge, however, is that an equal quantum of the fund is disbursed to all constituencies regardless of their geographical size and location, population size and levels of deprivations. Notwithstanding this 'one-size-fits-all' current allocation model, the CDF has the potential to lift the rural and deprived communities out of poverty and promote equitable development in the country.

The allocation model developed by ZIPAR aims to promote equitable distribution and effective development of the constituencies developed and to stimulate the utilization of funds that reflects the needs and capacity of each constituency.

ZIPAR sought to develop a resource allocation model for the CDF that takes into account the different needs of constituencies and thus is equitable. A robust study involving both desk and field research was conducted, which resulted in the development of an equitable model for the allocation of the CDF. To ensure early buy-in, ownership and utilization of the model, ZIPAR engaged members of parliament who would be the custodians of the model and the local councils through which the fund was administered. In

addition, ZIPAR presented the model last year at an Economic Management meeting of the Ministry of Finance, which was attended by the Secretary to the Treasury, the Bank of Zambia and other high level institutions. The Ministry acknowledged the necessity for a needs-based formula in the allocation of the CDF and also indicated that such a formula can be applied beyond the CDF.

An article on the CDF in a local newspaper (The Times) in July 2014 reported the Minister of Finance as indicating publicly the government's commitment to adopt the model to ensure equitable distribution of the CDF. In a statement, the Minister reportedly said, "allocating CDF equally to all constituencies is not fair, as rural constituencies face serious challenges compared to urban-based constituencies". The paper went on to report that the minister requested the "relevant parliamentary committee to provide guidance as to how the issue could be resolved to ensure there is fair distribution of resources", which precisely is the position advocated by ZIPAR.

Furthermore, in the 2015 budget, the government introduced a Local Government Equalization Fund that will use a resource allocation model to determine how much funds should be disbursed to the constituencies based on needs.

Evidence of the impact of the resource allocation model was also given when a prominent member of parliament, Hon. Given Lubinda, visited ZIPAR offices on 13 August 2014 without prior notice. The MP was interested in the model and requested for the publication on the CDF model. He was also interested in getting to know of other research studies that ZIPAR had done.

By focusing on the implementation of a model that reflects the needs and priorities of individual constituencies, the utilization of an equitable resource allocation model will go a long way to enhance effective and efficient utilization of the CDF and to promote equitable development of the constituencies and Zambia at large.

Building Fundraising Skills of Women's Rights Organizations in Africa

In a bid to ensure that women's rights organizations continue to remain viable and sustainable in promoting women's development in Africa, the ACBF has over the last few years sponsored an annual training camp aimed at equipping low-income African women's rights organizations to build their fundraising skills and contributing to slowly reversing a trend that has seen many donors shift their funding focus from women's rights work to other areas.

In 2012, the ACBF extended a four-year grant to the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) to design an annual resource mobilization training boot camp to provide skills and knowledge on various aspects of fundraising with a view to improve grantees funding base to sustain women's right work on the continent. The training covered the following topics: rationale for resource mobilization strategy, resource mobilization environmental scan, mapping organizational needs, identifying strategic objectives, strategic focus, guiding principles, sources and targets, critical success factors and monitoring and evaluation of the resource mobilization effort.

AWDF organized training boot camps in 2013 and 2014, which were each attended to by 42 organizations from different parts of Africa whose work on the ground was hindered by a lack of resources and limited fundraising capacity. Following training, all of these organizations have developed Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) documents, diversified their funding bases and secured more funding.

According to Heal the Land Initiative in Nigeria (HELIN), an organization working with people living with HIV/AIDS, prior to the boot camp training in 2014, "We did not have efficient skills to write a good proposal and know-how to approach partners. We wrote many proposals without any funding". From the boot camp, HELIN acquired skills to approach donors rather than wait for calls for proposal and to look for funding and

resources within its community. HELIN has raised US\$100,000 for its activities in 2015 as opposed to \$10,000 raised for 2014.

The Foundation for Integrated Development (FID/SL) is another organization, which participated in the 2014 training boot camp. It supports its members through small-scale agricultural and other income generating activities. FID at that time of training did not have a coherent resource mobilization tool and therefore lacked clarity on where it should focus its fundraising activities. In addition, a majority of FID staff did not share the same mission and vision as the organization but their involvement in completing the RMS for the organization has enhanced their understanding about the organization's mission, vision and focus. Prior to the training, FID's annual operating budget stood at \$55,502 and was mainly funded by three organizations, namely Manos Unidas, AWDF, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and other local contributions. The RMS training in 2014 has enhanced FID's capacity to increase its operating budget to \$171,387. Its sources of funding have diversified to include UNDP and other organizations, and FID is in negotiations with Christian Aid for funding.

The contribution of women's rights organizations in promoting development in Africa cannot be over emphasized but despite these achievements, the funding terrain for women's rights work is narrowing by the day as many donors are shifting funding focus from women's rights work to other areas.

Research has demonstrated that globally, funding for women's rights has steadily decreased over the past 20 years even though it is recognized that women's empowerment is central to sustainable development. In fact, the African Union Commission recognizes that the empowerment of women will greatly drive the continent towards realizing Agenda 2063. This year, the Africa Union (Heads of States and governments) declared it as the "Year of women's empowerment and development towards Africa's Agenda 2063."

PARTNERSHIPS

ACBF and ECA sign MOU to foster capacity development in Africa

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a three-year partnership to build human and institutional capacity in Africa. The MOU came as a successor to a previous one which expired in December 2014.

Speaking at the signing ceremony on 16 January 2015 at the ACBF secretariat in Harare, Zimbabwe, the ACBF Executive Secretary, Emmanuel Nnadozie said that the partnership was critical for capacity development in Africa, noting that “despite a steady economic growth over the last decade, Africa still faces significant challenges”.

“The current plunging of the oil prices, if prolonged, may result in significantly slowing down Africa’s growth because the continent’s economies are not diversified enough to resist such unexpected shocks”, he said.

He also pointed out that the Ebola crisis in West Africa was a reminder that capacity deficits are still real for the continent.

Both the ACBF and ECA agree that Africa’s economic transformation through industrialization, recognized by all as the way to achieve the continent’s sustainable development, requires a steady investment in capacity development.

ECA’s Deputy Executive Secretary, Abdalla Hamdok said the two organizations agreed on concrete and specific programs to further Africa’s development. “For the past two days our teams not only agreed to work on broad thematic areas but also for the first time, we agreed on specific areas of work”

He also urged African governments against over reliance on aid.

“For the last decade or so, the aid that came to Africa, particularly the development aid was

declining. The continent should aspire to be in a position, whereby we depend on ourselves, on mobilising domestic resources and taking charge of our development destiny.

“Until we get to that position, relying on aid will not take us anywhere. So even if we get aid we should look at it as probably leveraging our own resources,” he said.

The MOU between ACBF and ECA will form a basis for partnership between the two organizations to work together on joint programs and activities that are of mutual interest. Key programmatic areas will include; Capacity Development for Transformative Leadership, Capacity Development to Track, Stop and Return Illicit Financial Flows, Enhancing the Capacity Development of African Peer-Review Mechanism (APRM) Countries, Policy Research on Root Causes and Development Consequences of Conflict in Africa, Case Studies on Gender Equitable Growth and Development in Selected African Countries and Implementing a Data Revolution in Africa.

Other areas covered by the partnership include economic policy analysis and management, regional integration, trade capacity, gender and capacity building, information, communication and technology, knowledge management, statistics, governance, institutional building and monitoring and evaluation.

The two organizations will re-enforce modalities for providing services and support to member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on capacity building interventions in key areas such as policy analysis and advocacy; consensus building on Africa’s key development challenges; and the provision of technical assistance to member countries, African institutions, and civil society organizations. Through the new agreement, the ECA and ACBF will continue to exchange information on events of interest to Africa and the two institutions and extend invitation for joint organization and participation; exchange of different publications and reports produced and sharing of profiles, contacts and products of partners, mainly policy think tanks that the two Institutions are partnering with.

The co-operation and collaboration between ECA and ACBF will not only serve their common objectives but also render their respective programs and activities more effective and beneficial to African countries. The comparative advantage of the partnership will ensure demand-driven support and realize synergies between their efforts.

This is the third time the ECA and ACBF are getting into partnership. The first MOU was signed on the 6th December 2008 and extended for the second time on the 16th September 2011.

FEATURE

ACBF-supported Australia-Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) improving livelihoods in Zambia and Zimbabwe

Three years ago, the Australian Government contracted the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) to manage resources for the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES), which contributes to reducing poverty

in Africa through food security, maternal and child health, and community-based interventions in water and sanitation, with particular attention to women, children and people living with disability. Under this partnership, many lives have been improved in the continent.

In Zimbabwe - Mashonaland East, Masvingo and Manicaland provinces, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) funded under AACES have supported the improvement in the health of more than 13,000 women and children. This was achieved through modern family planning methods, child vaccinations, and safe and clean baby delivery services. Nearly 5,000 women smallholder farmers have also improved their agricultural productivity thanks to Australian funding for fertiliser and seeds, and access to agricultural extension services. Also, more than 17,000 people accessed safe and sustainable water, appropriate sanitation and safer hygiene practices.

“NGOs supported by Australia under the AACES program have made a significant contribution to improving women’s and children’s access to clean and safe water, and health services. This has had positive impacts on children’s day-to-day activities such as going to school, and for pregnant women, it has meant safe delivery of healthy babies. We encourage them in their important work in making people’s lives better.” said H.E. Mr. Matthew Neuhaus, then Australia’s Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Democratic Republic of Congo.

One key actor in the program is the Community Technology Development Trust and Plan International Zimbabwe, which works with private sector healthcare clinics to provide sustainable, cost-effective sexual and reproductive health services. An increase in access to health services means women can make informed decisions on the family planning methods they want. Being able to control how many children they have saves women’s lives and gives them greater control over education for themselves and their children.



The construction of Maternal Waiting Homes has eased the burden for women, reduced maternal and neonatal deaths, transmission of HIV from mother to child and the risk of HIV transmission between those assisting and conducting deliveries. Since the first home was constructed in 2012, there has been significant reduction in the number of babies born HIV positive to 1 percent from an alarming 10 percent before the homes were built. The provincial and districts government is now rolling the Maternal Waiting Homes to other areas as a model for enhancing maternal and child health.

“The provision of a safe place to deliver has changed our lives, we no longer have to worry about walking long distances while in labor and incurring costs of going to Mutoko district hospital to deliver... the home has brought a lot of benefits such as learning which we did not think initially,” says an expectant women at Kawere Maternity Waiting Home.

At the Mongu and Kaoma districts in neighbouring Zambia, the same transformation has been observed. With funding from AACES, Oxfam who implement the AACES program in Zambia has provided close to 27,000 people access to safe and sustainable water, appropriate sanitation and safer hygiene practices.

“Australia’s support to Oxfam will help improve the health and quality of life of women, children, the elderly and people with disability in Kaoma and Mongu Districts. We want to see these communities enjoy better access to clean and safe water and sanitation services, and fewer inequalities in the impact of water and sanitation challenges on women, men, girls and boys, and vulnerable groups,” says H.E. Neuhaus.

The program has brought about positive initial outcomes by training women in construction, giving them skills to build and maintain water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, thereby increasing their access to income-generating opportunities. Women comprise 44 per cent of the membership of water and sanitation management committees, giving them greater voice to demand their rights and influence policy changes.

Clean, safe and adequate water was provided to more than 6,948 people through the drilling of 24 new demonstrative inclusive boreholes using low cost manual drilling technology and rehabilitation of 10 boreholes using community based enterprises. Continued mentorship and development of women owned construction companies and community-based manual drilling enterprises, ensured the successful building of infrastructure and community based enterprises, as well as increased confidence and competence. AACES is a partnership of the Australian Government, 10 Australian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and their Africa-based partners. The AU\$90 million program is being implemented in 11 African countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. As Resource Facility for AACES, ACBF provides administrative and technical support to the program.

KNOWLEDGE & LEARNING

ACBF investment in African Think Tanks yields dividends

The African Capacity Building Foundation’s (ACBF) long term investment in Africa’s development is paying off as most of its supported research centers have been identified as the best in Africa.

To date, 23 out of 33 Think Tanks supported by ACBF are recognized as “leading centers of excellence in public policy research” in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the 2014 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania, which ranks the performance of policy institutes worldwide. These top ranked institutes are the ‘go-to’ centers for “sound policy proposals that address the complex policy issues” according to the TTCSP.

The recently released 2014 report which lists 65 Think Tanks from sub-Saharan Africa confirms the Foundation’s role as the leader in capacity development for African institutes. On top of the

leading centre's list in sub-Saharan- Africa is the ACBF-supported Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, (KIPPRA) .

The remaining 22 African organizations supported by ACBF are:

- Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) (Senegal) (No.4)
- Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) (Botswana) (No. 5)
- Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) (Ghana) (No. 10)
- African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) (Kenya) (No. 11)
- Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) (South Africa) (No. 13)
- Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) (Ethiopia) (No. 15)
- Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) (Uganda) (No. 16)
- Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) (Ethiopia) (No. 17)
- Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES) (Cote d'Ivoire) (No. 28)
- Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) (Ghana) (No.34)
- Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) (Tanzania) (No.42)
- Strategic Transformation and Policy Centre (STPC) (Cabo Verde) (No. 45)
- Centre d'Études de Politiques pour le Développement (CEPOD) (Senegal) (No. 46)
- Programme de Troisième Cycle Inter-universitaire en Économie (PTCI) (Burkina Faso) (No.48)
- Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) (Kenya) (No. 54)
- Centre de Recherches, d'Études et d'Appui à l'Analyse Économique à Madagascar (CREAM) (Madagascar) (No. 55)
- Centre Autonome d'Études et de

Renforcement des Capacités pour le Développement au Togo (CADERDT) (Togo) (No.56)

- Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER) (Nigeria) (No.57)
- Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI) (Zimbabwe) (No. 58)
- Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) (South Africa) (No. 59)
- Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) (Swaziland) (No. 62)
- Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) (Rwanda) (No.63)

African economies have been growing at respectable levels for over a decade, avering an annual growth rate of 5%. However, many countries still record high levels of poverty. Consequently, growth has not significantly contributed to job creation and has not reduced poverty and inequality across the continent. It is therefore important for African countries to pay attention to the levels of growth, the sources of growth and the quality of growth as well as the inclusivity of growth.

More importantly, they need to design, implement and monitor strategies and policies that will lead to economic transformation. Structural transformation through industrialization and increased productivity in the agricultural sector and value addition in the primary commodity sector will help African countries grow sustainably, create jobs and reduce inequality and poverty. Yet, putting the right strategies, policies and programmes in place requires translating research into policy. This is where the think tanks come into the picture.

Africa's think tanks are critical as they provide a dynamic space of intellectual inquiry that helps refine ideas and translate academic arguments into policy-relevant recommendations; promote exchange of lessons and experiences among experts and decision-makers passionate about

issues of policy; improve society's grasp of the capacity needs associated with policy formulation; strengthen strategic partnerships to support key national/regional initiatives and empower decision-makers and practitioners to leverage information for the effective interrogation of policy work.

The successes of these institutions reaffirm ACBF's commitment to supporting evidence-based research and policy formulation in Africa. To date, most of the policy institutes supported by ACBF have directly contributed to national development through core research for the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, Parliaments in the respective countries and Regional Economic Communities. In addition, the think tanks have produced national poverty reduction strategies, working papers, policy briefs, and national blueprints or sector specific research.

Since inception in 1991, ACBF has pioneered in the development of, and support to, think tanks across Africa. Today, the Foundation is supporting 33 think tanks, which have become the first point of call for policy research products and technical advisory services by key stakeholders in the continent.

However, despite the successes of these think tanks over the years, there is still an expressed need to support the creation of think tanks and the strengthening of their capacities so that they can conduct quality policy research that will shape the policy directions and positively impact the life of African people.

OUR RESOURCES

2015 marks the fourth year of the African Capacity Building Foundation's third Strategic Medium Term Plan. The Foundation has decided to use the early months of the year 2015 to conduct a thorough re-engagement of all its partners. In this vein, the Secretariat has successively engaged the World Bank, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and African member countries.

The World Bank

The Foundation is working closely with the Africa Region of the World Bank to finalize the one-year progress report requested by the Bank's Executive Directors as they approved the first tranche of the Bank's support to ACBF's third Strategic Medium Term Plan. The report is due to be submitted by end of March 2015 and is expected to describe progress made by ACBF to become more efficient and more effective in delivering its capacity development mandate in Africa.

Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

SIDA manages the support of the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden to ACBF. On the margins of the January 2015 Summit of the African Union, ACBF re-engaged SIDA on 26 January 2015 on the way the Foundation would like to use Sweden's support to the third Strategic Medium Term Plan. Discussions are at an advanced level and both parties are keen on making decisive strides to conclude an agreement and agree on a way forward as soon as possible.

The African Development Bank

The Executive Secretary led an ACBF mission to the African Development Bank Group's headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 19-23 February to discuss with the President and Senior Management of the Bank Group the cooperation between ACBF and the Bank, including the final disbursement of the support already approved by the Bank to ACBF's third Strategic Medium Term Plan as well as the approval of the second tranche of this support. The ACBF mission also discussed with the Senior Management of the Bank Group how ACBF could, through targeted capacity development programs, support the achievement of the Bank Group's mission in its Regional Member Countries. The African Development Bank is the second largest contributor to ACBF after the World Bank and the disbursement of its support is critical to the achievement of the objectives of ACBF's third Strategic Medium Term Plan.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) In February 2015, ACBF has submitted to UNDP the first of its progress reports on the utilization of UNDP's contribution to ACBF's third Strategic

Medium Term Plan. The report is being reviewed by technical staff on both sides to learn lessons that will inform the future implementation of the funded projects. It is worth noting in this regard that UNPD's contribution is utilized in the following areas: Continued Support to the South Sudan Capacity Building Project; Support to the publication of the fourth edition of the Africa Capacity Indicators Report to focus on regional integration; Support to the 2013 Survey of the Capacity Needs of Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Institutional support to ACBF, through enhancing ICT and training.

African Member Countries

African member countries made unprecedented pledges to ACBF's third Strategic Medium Term Plan. These pledges, to be disbursed over the duration of the Plan should have already been paid at the level of 60% by the end of the year 2014. Unfortunately, actual payments were at the level of 43% (17% below target) as of 31 December 2014. Early February 2015, ACBF sent the first of its quarterly follow-up letters to all pledging member countries. The Foundation also intends to further mobilize its African member countries on the margins of the 8th Joint Annual Meeting of the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to be held in Addis Ababa on 25-31 March 2015. African contribution to ACBF is critical as the Foundation leverages this contribution to attract resources from other partners.



EVENTS

04-05 March

Partnership meeting with African Evaluation Association: Harare, Zimbabwe

10-13 March

Monitoring and Evaluation Information Management System (IMS) Training Workshop for Projects

22-31 March

18th COMESA Summit and Policy Organ Meetings: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

25-31 March

2015 Conference of Ministers: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, including 2 ACBF side

events:

- Special Meeting of ACBF Governors to discuss the Foundation's sustainability issues
- Panel Discussion on the Capacity Imperatives of Agenda 2063

26 March

ACBF Side Event on Capacity Imperatives for the African Union Agenda 2063 at COM-2015

31 March

Special Meeting of the ACBF Board of Governors on the margins of COM-2015

06-08 April

Think Tanks Summit 2015: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

08-10 April

54th Regular Meeting of the Executive Board: Harare, Zimbabwe

