



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITÉS EN AFRIQUE

Economic and Social Governance Program: Catalyzing Fiscal Change for a Prosperous Africa



Africa's future prosperity depends on effective economic and social governance. The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) is committed to empowering Member States to achieve this through its Economic and Social Governance (ESG) Unit. By enhancing transparency, efficiency, and service delivery, this program enhances the capacity of central and decentralized institutions across the continent to optimize domestic resource mobilization, public financial management (PFM), and economic policy and regulatory reforms.

The ESG unit is fostering sustainable and inclusive development by equipping Member States with the tools and knowledge and technical skills to effectively manage public finances and govern their economies. Our focus is on building resilient institutions capable of implementing effective reforms and delivering quality public services. Aligned with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and African Union Agenda 2063, we are forging a path towards protecting public finances and promoting fiscal sustainability.

“The ESG unit is committed to strengthening PFM systems and increasing domestic revenue mobilization across Africa. We are not merely building institutions; we are cultivating ecosystems of excellence. By building a fiscal responsibility and accountability culture, we aim to reduce reliance on external aid and create sustainable economies” – ACBF.



The ESG foundational pillars are:



**Evidence-based
Policymaking**

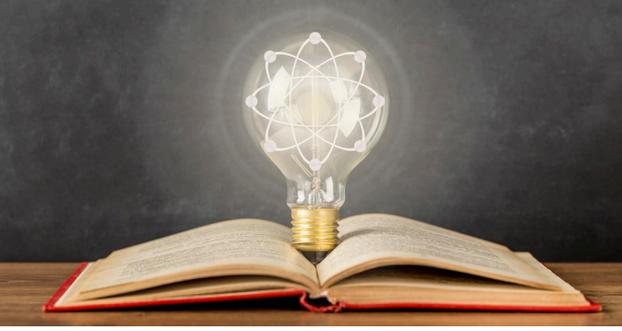


**Domestic Resource
Mobilization**



**Efficient Public
Financial Management**





Enhancing Evidence-Based Policymaking

To inform sound policy decisions, we partner with the capacity knowledge hub to transform data into actionable insights, cultivating a culture of evidence-based policymaking to drive sustainable development across Africa. Our flagship initiatives, the annual African Think Tank Summit and the African Think Tank Platform (in collaboration with the African Union Commission) empower think tanks to collaborate, share knowledge, and shape impactful regional policies addressing Africa's most pressing challenges.



Increasing Domestic Resource Mobilization

Sustainable financing for Africa's development is a priority for African countries. We aim to unlock Africa's economic potential by strengthening tax systems and revenue generation. Our flagship initiative, the African-Finnish Partnership on Taxation Capacity in Africa, enhances tax policy through research, training, and education. This partnership focuses on leadership development, alongside technical skills, to build capacity within tax administrations, tax policy units and tax training institutes. We are building a tax-compliant Africa by addressing challenges like good governance, digital taxation, improved services for citizens, accountability, and transparency through engagement with partners such as the African Tax Administration Forum, UNDP, and Tax Justice Network Africa. The upcoming African Capacity Building Academy will further strengthen and consolidate these efforts.



Improving PFM Systems through Efficiency and Accountability

Strengthening PFM senior officials' leadership and institutions is critical for effective service delivery to citizens. Our current focus is building PFM leadership capacity in six African countries: Kenya, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe. Through customized leadership development, peer-to-peer learning, and strengthened oversight, we aim to drive transformative change through engagement with the PFM system including Parliamentary committees in charge of budgets and audits and Offices of the auditor-general. Informed by tailored needs assessments and capacity improvement plans, curricula design is underway for six-month training programs for senior officials to commence in October 2024. We will launch a PFM peer learning platform by year-end to foster collaboration and peer to peer learning between African countries, knowledge sharing and innovation. This collaborative hub will enable countries to exchange best practices, learn from each other's experiences, and collectively strengthen their PFM systems.

We will strengthen capacity through continent-wide policy dialogues, emphasizing inclusive participation as the cornerstone of effective governance. These platforms will bring together government, civil society, and the private sector to address critical accountability and oversight issues, co-creating solutions for tangible improvements. A recent experience during a country needs assessment, the lack of coordination between the control body of PFM underscored the urgent need for collaborative platforms among PFM control bodies as one local official stated: ***“Our PFM control body which include internal and external control institutions do not have coordination meeting to ensure alignment, coherence and complementary. We are so attached to our independency that we forget that we are serving a greater common goal: PFM to improve citizen lives”.*** The ESG unit will facilitate these critical conversations and provide essential training to enhance operational efficiency within the next six months.





A Public Sector Collaboration Hub is under establishment to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building. This digital platform will be a central repository for information sharing, peer learning, collaboration, and best practices in public sector governance. The hub will foster a vibrant community of practice by connecting professionals across Africa and globally. It will serve as a gateway to the training and educational resources offered through the *UBORA Academy*, ensuring access to the latest knowledge and skills.



A PFM Hub is also under development to drive innovation and evidence-based solutions. This innovative initiative will generate groundbreaking research, develop practical knowledge products, and create innovative tools to address complex PFM challenges in Africa. Scheduled for launch in 2025, in partnership with leading institutions, the PFM Hub is set to catalyze transformative change in the sector.



Delivering Public Value Through Strong PFM

Strengthening PFM systems is not just about compliance but also unlocking public value. We aim to equip governments for effective service delivery by fostering leadership and institutional excellence. A strategic advisory panel comprising former finance ministers from different countries, an auditor general, a leadership expert, a PFM expert, and a former technical advisor serve as coaches and mentors, providing regular strategic advices and guidances on program activities and findings. Scoping missions and country assessments have since been undertaken to identify countries needs. The official program launch was on 31 May 2024 as a side event to the AfDB Annual Meeting, guided by its mission to enhance PFM in African countries through leadership development and institutional strengthening.

A cornerstone of this effort is the **UBORA Academy**, scheduled to launch in **October 2024**. The academy's e-learning platform will foster collaboration, provide technical assistance, and support PFM reforms across Africa. Offering hybrid training to 45 senior officials per country, coaching support and concurrent policy dialogues on PFM issues, the academy will catalyze transformative change, prioritizing developing essential soft skills for effective leadership and management. A dedicated technology platform will support the delivery of e-learning courses. Through strategic partnerships and resource mobilization, the program will enhance PFM systems by developing data analytics capacities, digital PFM and supporting climate finance integration.



Collectively investing in Africa

ACBF envisions a future where Africa can drive its development. As the continent's leading capacity-building partner, we aim to empower governments to achieve their full potential through good governance and effective public service delivery. By fostering knowledge-sharing and innovation, optimizing resources, and delivering impactful programs, we will accelerate Africa's economic growth and build a sustainable future for all.

Efficient resource management is essential to maximizing the impact of our ESG initiative. We invite governments, development partners, and the private sector to collaborate with us in improving public policy and service delivery across Africa. By strategically investing resources and building strong partnerships, we will empower communities, foster self-sufficiency, and drive sustainable development for millions of Africans.

Further reading:

[Ghana Business News](#) article: ACBF and partners working to build capacity of Africa tax officials through digital training. [B&FT Online](#) article: Africa faces an annual \$30-\$60b economic drain from illicit financial flows



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