



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF AFFORD AND DIASPORA ACTION IN AFRICA

PEOPLE - POLICY - PRACTICE - PROGRAMMES



PEOPLE

THREE DECADES
AT THE HEART OF
DIASPORA
ACTION



POLICY

THREE MOMENTOUS
DECADES OF
DIASPORA ACTIVISM



PRACTICE

A YEAR-LONG
CELEBRATION OF
AFFORD'S VITAL
ROLE AND IMPACT



PROGRAMMES

CELEBRATING THE
PAST AND PRESENT.
ANTICIPATING THE
FUTURE

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In December 1993, Nicholas Atampugre wrote an article in the journal, *Africa World Review*, describing the irony of NGOs professing their concern for capacity building in Africa while ignoring the Africans living in their headquarter cities who were separately, yet simultaneously mobilising to support development in their regions of origin—the same places of focus for the NGOs.

When Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie read the article, it struck a chord with him, so he called upon the author to meet for a discussion. The meeting took place early in 1994 in which the two agreed that there was a strong need to take action by forming an organisation that would provide a different approach—an African approach—to development in Africa.

The African Foundation For Development (AFFORD) founders shared opinions that fuelled a passion and a mission for change: most mainstream development organisations assumed that Africans had no interest in development issues, therefore they only targeted the white, liberal, middle class audience. Being that the founders were both African and highly involved in development, they were acutely aware that the image portrayed in the media—that of the Western saviour riding to Africa's rescue—was a distortion of reality.

Sharing these opinions, a mission was born: to expand and enhance the contribution Africans in the diaspora make to Africa's development. Through this mission AFFORD was unique; in 1994, there was no other organisation that properly recognized the aspirations of Africans in the UK to contribute to Africa's development. Atampugre was highly active in the development field around the time of AFFORD's establishment. He was working for both an African NGO and as an academic highly involved in his northern Ghanaian community. In addition, Atampugre sat as a chair on the Comic Relief grant committee. AFFORD therefore had automatic access to a wide pool of development professionals and activists who formed the original AFFORD board of trustees. In 1995 AFFORD was formally incorporated as a charity, and a grant from the Trust for London was awarded shortly thereafter. This first grant was monumental for the organisation, because it allowed the organisation to properly undertake research and open a small office. AFFORD drove into participatory action-research to provide the evidence base and legitimacy to act in ways consistent with the wishes and needs of other Africans.

The results from the research, published as *A Survey of African Organisations in London: An Action Agenda for AFFORD*, formulated an action plan for future interventions that would transform and impact People, Policy, Practice and Programmes. See below for highlights of the journey so far.

1994 - 2004

AFFORD pilots development conference - Target Africa 2015. Later rebranded, and now known as African Diaspora and Development Day (AD3)

The first AD3 conference on Shaping Africa's Future: Do young Africans in the diaspora share the dreams of NEPAD/AU?

AFFORD hosts Minister Sally Keeble who announces major DFID diaspora policy - AFFORD plays crucial role in establishing the platforms Connections for Development & African Diaspora Voices for African Development (ADVAD)

The Supporting Entrepreneurs and Enterprise Development (SEEDA) volunteering programme is launched (later rebranded as RemitSkills). The SEEDA project was originally piloted in 2004-5 in partnership with VSO and DFID and ran until 2010. AFFORD recruits and inducts volunteer diaspora professionals (known as resource persons) who are sent on short term trips to work with the SMEs and business support agencies in Africa.

2004 - 2014

AFFORD launched its jobs focused direct development work in Africa at AD3 2005, supported by Keynote Speaker - Kenyan Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai

SCORE4AFRICA is a social enterprise aimed at extending and enhancing the linkages between football and African development. AFFORD hosts SCORE4Africa awards to celebrate the contributions of diaspora footballers to African development

AFFORD becomes the Global Enterprise Week (GEW) national partner in Sierra Leone, coordinating a 'festival' of enterprise events in mid-November every year

AFRICA-EUROPE Platform (AEP) connects African diaspora organisations across Europe, with a view to setting up a Europe-wide African Diaspora platform for development. AFFORD is a key player in creating this project alongside implementing partners ADPC, CGMD, FORIM and ICMPD.. Activities include: mapping of the African diaspora organisations in the EU that are involved in development projects in Africa; developing frameworks for alliance and partnership building; compilation and sharing of Africa diaspora best practices; knowledge management and capacity-building. The first phase of the project is funded initially by the EU, GIZ and SDC, for a 3 year period 2011-2014.

AFRICA-UK engages individuals and organisations from the African diaspora on how to influence international development policy. Initiated in 2011, AFFORD works in partnership with the Royal African Society, providing policy and advocacy training and engagement opportunities with parliamentarians, policymakers, African ambassadors, academics and media personalities who work in international development. The project is funded by Comic Relief and DFID under the Common Ground initiative.

Groundbreaking Impact Funding through the Diaspora, a one day conference, is held, aimed at enabling funders and the diaspora to jointly explore innovative and effective ways of enhancing development funding.

AFFORD Chair, Gibril Faal OBE addresses UN General Assembly at the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development on the importance of diasporas and migrants at the post-2015 MDG framework.

2014 - 2024

Unlocking diaspora finances: a case study - discussing alternative investment models for diaspora matched investment, including diaspora bonds, and developing ideas on diaspora finance initiatives that leverage diaspora resources for development and job creation

AFFORD hosts Minister for Africa Harriet Baldwin MP

AFFORD awarded an honorary TAD Community Engagement Award

ABC Learn and Lunches (L&L): The Learn and Lunches program will be used as a platform to facilitate hours of Resource Persons time and skills for local and diaspora entrepreneurs and to provide digestible learning tools to entrepreneurs. The objective is one L&L every two weeks producing each a 1 hour video recorded training session that can be shared on YouTube and other platforms for education purposes.

ABC West Africa programme in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal, supporting over 60 diaspora and local entrepreneurs

AFFORD Europe based in Brussels is launched - European work consolidated through an initial partnership with Belgium Government development Agency, Enabel

ABC Webinar: Doing Business with Social impact in Africa with Albert Tucker - calling African diaspora entrepreneurs interested in creating and growing or investing in an African based business with a social environmental purpose.

Deputy Director Stella Opoku-Owusu at AFFORD UK is a panellist at the @unitednations Network on Migration 4th Annual Meeting 2022, Geneva – 18th – 19th October, sharing insights on country and regional implementation of the Global Compact of Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Co-Executive Director, Onyekachi Wambu raised issues about the critical need to create jobs for the growing youth population in Africa at the The Africa Centre which hosted a roundtable discussion with His Majesty King Charles on the role of the African diaspora in the U.K, the effects of climate change in Africa and how the impact can be mitigated.

AFFORD co-organises the launch of civil society Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2023 process Abuja, Nigeria - The forum is significant as the first diaspora-African collaboration at this level of its kind.

1994 - 2004

AFFORD and others advocacy led to the sentence "We will seek to build on the skills and talents of migrants,...ethnic minorities...to promote the development of their countries of origin' in the White Paper that set up DFID 'Eliminating World Poverty: A challenge for the 21st century'

A £5,000 grant from the City Parochial Funds leads to the publication of the groundbreaking 'Survey of African organisations in London'

AFFORD advocacy in 1999 leads to Comic Relief funding diaspora programmes

Africa Without Borders (AWB) programme was developed in 2001 and has included, amongst other things; accredited course ran in conjunction with University of London (Birkbeck College); email alerts for development-related jobs , online networking forum for UK based African Civil Society Organisations, online discussion forum for policy and practice of African diaspora development, maintenance of databases of African diaspora development organisations

2004 - 2014

AFFORD and others advocacy is instrumental in DFID and VSO launching a £3 million Diaspora Volunteering Initiative (DVI).

The FA and the Premier League provide support for the SCORE4AFRICA initiative.

2014 - 2024

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Diaspora, Development and Migration (APPG-DDM) is created with AFFORD acting as the secretariat

DEMAC diaspora humanitarian action and coordination project launched - a partnership between the Berghof Foundation, the Danish Refugee Council and AFFORD

AFFORD held its First Diaspora Investment & Policy Forum in Kigali, Rwanda on affordable housing

AFFORD launched the Return of the Icons (ROI) programme in 2020 with the publication of two landmark publications, which identified four pathways for restitution and made 22 recommendations. Policy briefs and other publications continue to be a crucial part of building the evidence for restitution, particularly on the impact of culture and heritage on jobs and prosperity in African countries. Relationships are built with museums and cultural institutions in Benin, Ghana and Nigeria

As part of the policy work for ROI, AFFORD together with the African Union and the United Nations Population Fund hosted a panel discussion to commemorate International Day of Remembrance of Slavery victims and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on March 25th.

Through 2021 and 2022 AFFORD also worked in partnership with the Pitt Rivers Museum on its Devolving Restitution programme which engaged with regional museums around restitution issues.

AFFORD becomes one of the secretariats, responsible for restitution of artefacts and ancestral remains, for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Afrikan Reparations (APPG-AR) launched in 2022. Chaired by Bell Ribeiro-Addy and Sir Peter Bottomley, APPG-AR facilitates discussion, hearings and briefing notes, on the restitution of African artefacts held in the UK heritage collections.

AFFORD was thanked by the Horniman Museum in London, for the part it played, in the latter signing a historic agreement transferring the legal title of 72 looted Benin Bronzes back to the Nigerian government. The return of the bronzes is unconditional and also includes all documentation and museum catalogue records, analogue and digital.

AFFORD becomes the co-secretariat for the APPG-Nigeria with Chatham House

1994 - 2004

AFFORD receives first funds from Comic Relief for 'Hello Africa' to scope out diaspora development collaborations with African partners.

AFFORD engages with Comic Relief as it develops its practice and models for support of diaspora interventions

RemitAid is developed with the aim of mitigating the structural imperfections and negative effects of remittances, while improving the economic impacts of remittances at household, community, national and regional levels. The project activities includes a campaign for Remittance Community Tax Relief (RCTR) for international development

2004 - 2014

RemitPlus, More for your money, offers FREE financial Literacy training to both senders and recipients to Sierra Leone. Linking remittances to better financial literacy, investments and savings, business advice and support and enterprise development in Sierra Leone

Business Bomba Competition (BBC) started in 2009 as the first national business planning competition in Sierra Leone. Winners receive both cash investment and a package business support, helping them start, develop and grow their businesses - AFFORD-Sierra Leone delivers the project on behalf of the Ministry of Trade and industry and is funded by Soros Economic Development Fund, DFID, GIZ, IFC

Africa Gives provides a platform, network and support for young Africans (18-35) in the diaspora. Africa-Gives offers guidance on how to capitalise on the growing opportunities in a fast-changing African continent. It also challenges young people to innovate and activate new and effective ways of enhancing how African give to Africa - Africa Gives launched to enable young diaspora to give time, skills and money to Africa

2014 - 2024

Acting as the secretariat, AFFORD spearheads consolidation of the €3.56 million Africa-Europe Development Platform - ADEPT, with its headquarters in Brussels.

AFFORD becomes grant maker as Noel Buxton Trust approves a small grants fund

AFFORD won contract to deliver £3 million diaspora finance programme as part of the Common Ground Initiative (CGI). It launched the AFFORD BUSINESS CLUB (ABC) £600,000 match funding scheme to disburse finance to diaspora entrepreneurs working in Africa.

Begins work on RemitPlus Diaspora Bond to finance affordable housing units in Rwanda and Ghana

12004 - 2014

AFFORD pilots SEEDA with VSO for 155 diaspora volunteers to support 800 businesses in Sierra Leone and Ghana in business planning, finance and marketing

AFFORD Sierra Leone is established with local board and staff, providing approx \$500,000 to SMEs as part of a business planning Business Bomba competition

REMADE was developed in 2008, helping diaspora entrepreneurs set up businesses in Ghana. Clients work with AFFORD advisers in the UK to produce business plans, before undertaking market research trips. Whilst in Ghana, they access legal and business support provided by our local partners. The Project was funded by the EU and Hivos.

2014 - 2024

AFFORD has teamed up with Comic Relief to implement an AFFORD Business Centre project in Sierra Leone under the common ground initiative enterprise theme until 31st March 2016 - support packages include finance and accounting services, ICT specialists and trainers, Legal and personnel specialists, workshops and lectures, bespoke and specialist events

Pharo Foundation funds AFFORD to provide grants for diaspora organisations to contribute to job creation and economic growth of Ethiopia. The programme targeted Ethiopian diaspora SMEs, supporting them with an 80% matched grant of £25,000 and business knowledge. All SMEs addressed socio-economic challenges in target areas and worked with partners to develop innovative solutions with demonstrable social impact

AFFORD Europe established in Brussels

ABC West Africa opens call from diaspora entrepreneurs interested in investing in Senegal and Benin. ABC programme in Senegal run with partner organisation Concree and Benin partners MDF has been designed to strengthen the investment potential of diaspora in the SME Sector

The ABC Senegal Diaspora Accelerator is one of several business accelerators and support programmes within the AFFORD Business Centre (ABC) Diaspora Finance project in West Africa.

AFFORD Ghana office is established

AFFORD Nigeria is registered