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MISSION

The African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) is a charity with the mission “to expand and enhance the contribution Africans in the diaspora make to African development”.

FIRST DECADE

For the first 10 years of its existence, AFFORD focused on the dual tasks of: UK and international policy advocacy; and capacity-building for diaspora organisations and individuals. The charity became a pioneer and innovator in the field of policy and practice of ‘diaspora and development’. Today, it continues to act as a catalyst and exemplar in the sector. AFFORD’s advocacy work contributed to UK and international recognition of the role of the diaspora in African and international development, and in the subsequent initiation of new policies, programmes, funds and schemes.

CURRENT WORK

AFFORD’s mission is pursued through programmes, projects and activities undertaken solely by the charity or in collaboration with AFFORD Europe (Belgium), AFFORD Ghana, AFFORD Nigeria, partners in Africa, the United Kingdom, European Union and other parts of the world. The projects and activities fall within the following overlapping programme themes:

- Investment, Enterprise & Employment in Africa
- Diaspora Engagement, Network Building & Training Services
- Learning & Policy Advocacy

STRATEGY

AFFORD’s current priority projects and activities are on **diaspora contributions to job creation through enterprise development in Africa**. The charity is playing a pioneering role in this area, through its range of innovative schemes.

NETWORKS

AFFORD has a wide network of partners and has collaborated with diaspora groups, think tanks, universities, international organisations, funding agencies, banks, trade associations, governments, political parties, civil society and community groups, NGOs and other institutions, agencies and organisations across the world.





FEATURED AFFORD PROJECTS

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Our innovative approach mobilises the financial, intellectual, and political assets of the African diaspora and channels them to drive economic growth and social development in Africa. We also enhance the capacity of actual and potential investors and actively influence international policies to ensure that they address the real needs and root causes of underdevelopment and poverty on the continent. See below our programmes and projects.

AFFORD BUSINESS CENTRE (ABC)

ABC aims to stimulate and harness diaspora investment to create jobs and enhance the African social economy. It incorporates a business club/community which provides the space to connect with entrepreneurs in Europe and in Africa with shared value systems, ambitions and experiences, and offers benefits and services for its members to assist in making 'doing business' easier and more effective. AFFORD has embedded the ABC approach in large programmes - including our £2.9m Comic Relief-funded Diaspora Finance Initiative (DFI, 2016 – 2020) - creating more than 1000 jobs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and attracting more than £500,000 in matched investment from the diaspora. Businesses supported by AFFORD and ABC are innovative and solution-focused. In Zimbabwe, our diaspora partner Global Native provided low-cost market access for 10,000 farmers. Setota Care pioneered an affordable home healthcare system in Ethiopia.

In our latest project in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal (2021 – 2025), ABC will build on a 2020 pilot in Benin, to examine the investment potential of the diaspora in small- and medium-sized enterprises in the four target countries, with the aim of strengthening entrepreneurship and creating sustainable jobs. Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the programme's main objective will be to harness and maximise diaspora contributions to stimulate wealth, job creation, and social development in rural and urban areas. We plan to scale up this work beyond 2024 to incorporate also Côte d'Ivoire and the Gambia. AFFORD is looking to expand the ABC programme and is seeking partners, collaborators and funders in Europe and Africa. For more information <https://www.afford-uk.org/abc-west-africa/>.

AFFORD INSTITUTE (AI)

The AFFORD Institute brings together AFFORD's policy elaboration and implementation work, focused on providing the evidence base to understand the impact of diaspora development interventions; as well as settling out policy recommendations that create an enabling environment which result in greater efficiency and impact for those contributions. AFFORD Institute's work is advanced through a combination of Action research and peer reviewed publications, organised the annual African Diaspora and Development Day (AD3); and Diaspora Investment and Policy Forums (DIPFs), secretariat support for All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG). Also through participation in high-level conferences, seminars and roundtables involving the UK government, African governments, the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations, and other international forums such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). AFFORD's advocacy models aim to improve understanding, raise awareness and establish collaboration for action in order to effect policy changes.

PEM WECCO

The Project for Entrepreneurial Mobility (PEM) - WECCO contributes to the dialogue on migration governance between Senegal and Belgium by testing an innovative approach to the temporary mobility of entrepreneurs from Senegal and Belgium. This programme aims to increase the performance of Senegalese companies by offering innovative, concrete and solid temporary mobility opportunities to entrepreneurs and/or one of their employees and by promoting learning and partnership opportunities with companies based in Belgium. By capitalising on this pilot experience, the project will contribute to the development of sustainable partnerships between Senegalese and Belgian actors involved in migration and mobility. AFFORD Europe is a delivery partner for PEM WECCO with a focus on engaging Belgium-based African diaspora businesses with business interests in Senegal and matching them with local Senegalese entrepreneurs.





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FEATURED AFFORD PROJECTS

RETURN OF THE ICONS (ROI)

AFFORD's Return of the Icons programme is exploring and taking forward key conversations around cultural artefacts – and human remains – held by UK museums and other institutions, their preservation and campaigns for their eventual return to their countries of origin. British museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions hold unique collections of art, artefacts, and historical treasures from around the world as a result of Britain's colonial past. Now, as UK foreign policy goals shift towards a vision of a Global Britain, how controversial issues around cultural patrimony and heritage are handled will increasingly come under the spotlight.

The first phase of AFFORD's Return of the Icons programme focused on an initial mapping, which sought to assess and identify, among other objectives, best practice in restitution and preservation of African cultural artefacts and human remains among curators, experts, and practitioners in UK museums, libraries, educational and cultural institutions. Full report available [here](#). Return of the Icons is part of a wider \$15 million initiative supported by Open Society Foundations to strengthen efforts to restore cultural objects looted from the African continent and to ensure their preservation. AFFORD is looking to expand the ROI programme and is seeking partners, collaborators and funders in Europe and Africa. For more information, join the [Facebook community](#).

LEVERAGING DIASPORA INVESTMENT INTO SMEs IN AFRICA

AFFORD's crowdfunding capacity building programme under the [European Union Global Diaspora Facility \(EUDiF\)](#) mechanism implemented by the [International Centre for Migration Policy Development \(ICMPD\)](#) aims to develop the capacity of diaspora investors to raise and invest funds and financially support SMEs in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal by offering skills, mentoring support and training in crowdfunding campaigns (donations, equity, debt). Under EUDiF, ICMPD is providing technical support under the Capacity Development Lab', focused on fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships in diaspora engagement action. The specific objectives are to: Mobilise diaspora investors, produce a pipeline of eligible SMEs and assess their current online fundraising and investing capacity; Create a training curriculum (including a training of trainers) on crowdfunding campaigns; Support investors through mentoring and provision of communication materials, to deliver initial crowdfunding and crowdlending actions to meet specific financial goals.

PROJECT FOR DIASPORA MOBILIZATION MECHANISMS FOR A SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEA'S DEVELOPMENT (PAMMOD GUINEA) PAMMOD GUINEA

The Project for Diaspora Mobilization Mechanisms for a Sustainable Contribution to Guinea's Development (PAMMOD Guinea) aims to facilitate the contribution of the Guinean Diaspora in Africa (Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire) and Europe (France and Belgium) to the socioeconomic development of Guinea, through the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate their participation in sharing their skills, providing support, learning and exchanges with local Guinean entrepreneurs. This project is carried out by the Grdr Migration-Citoyennete-Developpement in partnership with the Coordination des Associations Guineennes de France (CAGF), and the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), with funding from ENABEL.





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FEATURED AFFORD PROJECTS

THE AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL FREE MOVEMENT PROTOCOL (AU - FMP) WEBINAR SERIES

Economic Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC) an organ of the African Union is organising a five-part webinar series focused on Mobilising Africa: Promoting Free Movement for Growth and Development to promote dialogue on key aspects of the protocol and the key policy impacts of the implementation of the AU-FMP. The conversation brings together key subject matter experts, Member States, and stakeholders to interact on some of the myths and varied perspectives on the AU-FMP where solutions on free movement can be unpacked and explored with a wider audience and civil society, while underscoring the significance and linkages between the AU Free Movement Protocol (FMP) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Mobilising Africa: Promoting Free Movement for Growth and Development will also discuss concerns and challenges at Member State level.

The webinar series focuses on generating awareness on the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment, popularly known as the African Union Free Movement Protocol (AU-FMP) building on discussions and regional consultations led by AU -ECOSOCC since 2021 with policy makers and civil society organizations. This webinar series is organised in partnership with a consortium made up of the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC), the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) UK, and IRPAD Afrique. The series is being supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH i.e. the German Agency for International Cooperation.

AFRICA DIASPORA & DEVELOPMENT DAY (AD3)

AD3 is an annual diaspora development event aimed at awareness-raising, networking, knowledge-sharing and exploration of new themes on diaspora contributions to African development. AFFORD piloted the project in 2000 and it has been held annually on the first Friday and/or Saturday of July since 2003. AD3 events have attracted international guests such as the late Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai and have been organised in collaboration with institutions such as SOAS, University of London, University of East London and London Metropolitan University. Since 2012 it has been held in partnership with Chatham House. AFFORD begins its 30th year anniversary at AD3 2023 on 7 July.

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