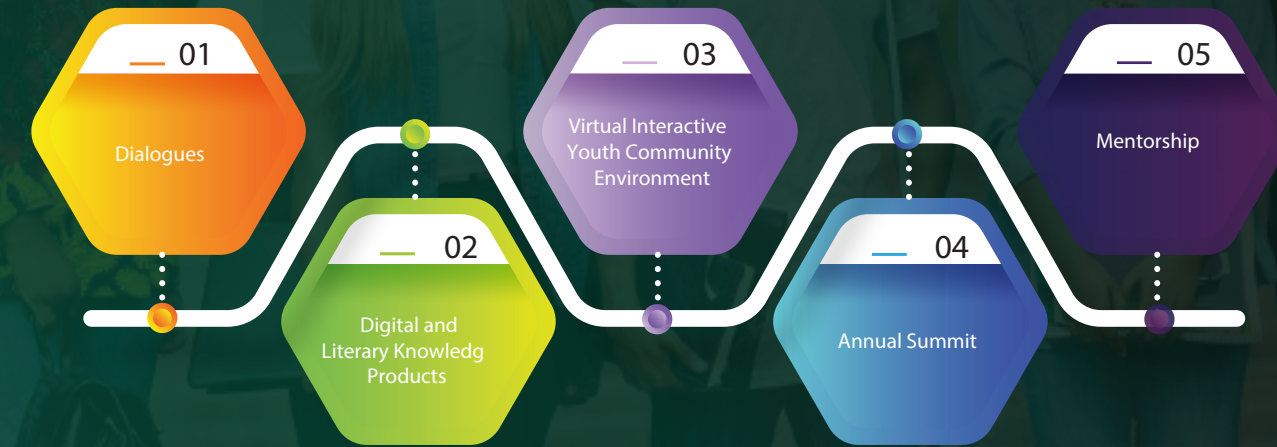


KEY ACTIVITIES

The Youth Community of Practice will be supported by various types of activities and knowledge products that appeal to the youth, such as podcasts and bit-sized learnings, an active virtual youth community that keeps youth active on development issues through the VCDA and various social media. A continental youth summit involving young people from across the continent and the world could be held once a year, possibly during the annual meetings of the African Development Bank.



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Strategic Insights and Guidance:** Youth-focused briefs and knowledge products to be disseminated on youth platforms, social media and through the African Development Bank's Youth Community of Practice, providing strategic guidance to those interested in pursuing opportunities in a particular development area.
- **Cultivate "One Africa" Youth Network:** Foster a pan-African youth spirit that shares a common understanding of historical issues and innovative solutions, promoting unity.
- **Develop Future Workforce and Leadership:** Engage young Africans in meaningful discussions and leadership roles within the CoP to boost confidence, personal growth, and active participation in decision-making.
- **Enable Cross-Cultural Dialogue:** Cultivate a global network of young leaders, equipping them to spearhead Africa's future through cross-continental collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- **AFDB Strategic Outlook:** Capture and store valuable insights from the Community of Practice to guide implementation of the Bank's new TYS.
- **Policy-Informing Role:** Influence key policies to be adopted by policymakers across the continent and shared with various African and international organizations.
- **Strengthen ADB's Position:** Position the Bank as the premier facilitator of youth empowerment in Africa by creating and nurturing a dynamic, continent-wide youth network
- **Thought Leadership, Knowledge Aggregation and brokerage:** Synergizing and coalescing knowledge from other Bank and Africa youth initiatives by rallying them to the dialogue table to discuss in an integrative manner the Africa Youth participation in the continent's development.

CONTACTS

The Y-CoP sits under the Global Community of Practice and is administered by the African Development Institute, spearheaded by members of the Young Professionals of the African Development Bank.

For questions or additional information, contact:

Dr. Eric K. Ogunleye | Director, ECAD, E.OGUNLEYE@AFDB.ORG
 Dr. Namawu Alhassan Aloo | Division Manager, ECAD, N.ALOOALHASSAN@AFDB.ORG
 African Development Institute | ADIGCOP@AFDB.ORG



Salim Ahmed, Jasma
Project Lead
J.SALIMAHMED@AFDB.ORG



Ibrahim, Tahlil
T.ABDI@AFDB.ORG



Kabell, Henriette
H.CHRISTENSEN@AFDB.ORG



Kamara, Andara
A.D.KAMARA@AFDB.ORG



Karekezi, Grace
G.KAREKEZI@AFDB.ORG



Moussa, Fatima
F.MOUSSAS@AFDB.ORG



Vakunta, Delphine
D.VAKUNTA@AFDB.ORG



The African Development Bank Group
YOUTH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (Y-COP)
UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF AFRICAN YOUTH TO DRIVE A PROSPEROUS CONTINENT



BACKGROUND

Youth: The Driving Force Behind Africa's Future

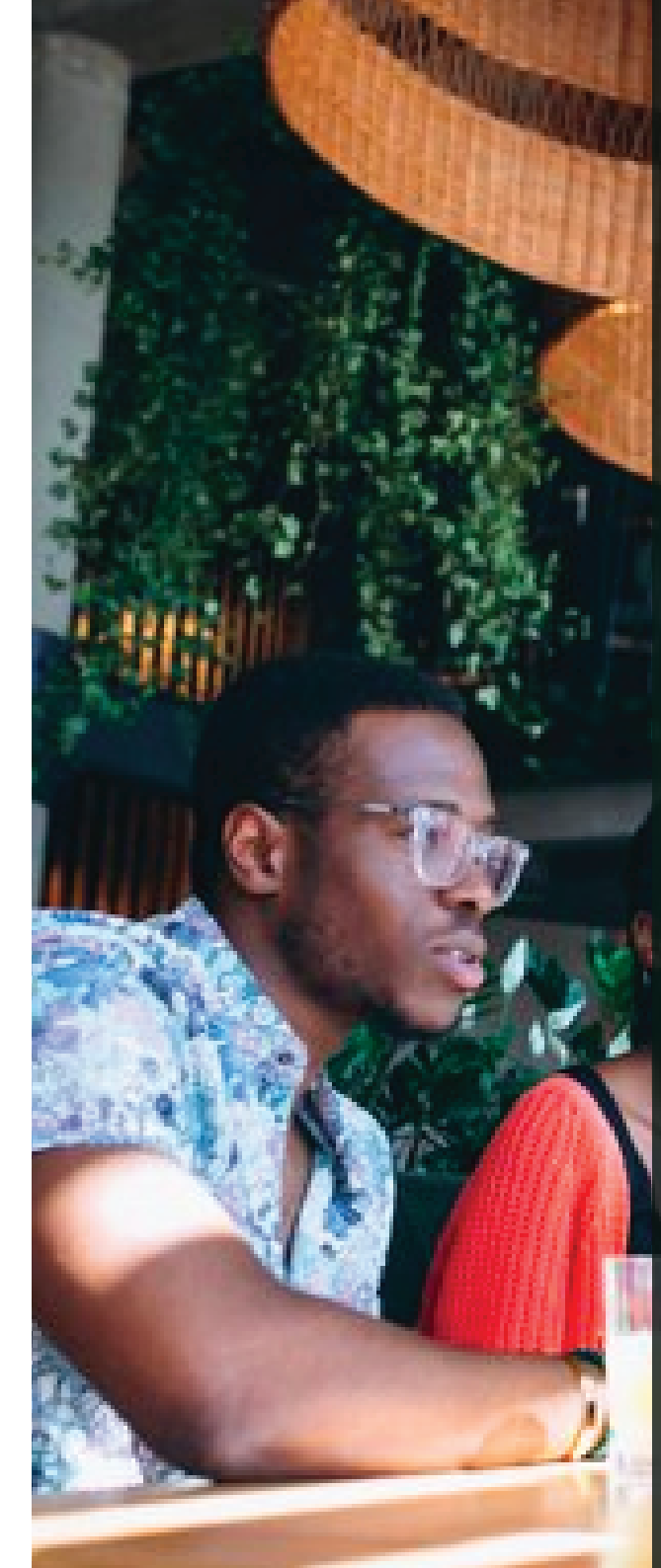
Africa has a young population, with 60% of its people being youth – a number expected to reach 850 million by 2050. This demographic dividend holds the key to unlocking Africa’s boundless potential and brings both opportunities and challenges for inclusive and sustainable development.

Yet, persistent challenges hinder progress. High youth unemployment, skills gaps, lack of access to quality education and healthcare services, and barriers to political representation impede the development of this vital human capital.

Achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa requires innovative solutions and collaborative efforts involving both the youth and older generations. The dynamic youth in Africa possess a deep understanding of the continent’s realities and a determination to build an equitable, prosperous future. From diaspora entrepreneurs investing in local innovations to young climate activists and policy shapers, this generation is pioneering sustainable solutions rooted in local contexts. Their vision should inform policymaking and government actions and promote the establishment of a network dedicated to enriching skills and knowledge on the continent’s challenges and opportunities.

Creating a platform for collaboration, learning, and engagement between young people and experienced professionals is essential to drive positive change in Africa. The African Development Bank recognizes the transformative impact of investing and empowering one billion Africans while enhancing workforce competitiveness and productivity. The Bank’s new Ten-Year Strategy (TYS 2024-2033) highlights the importance of Africa’s youth in development processes and creating decent jobs to seize Africa’s demographic opportunity. Providing young people with the right education/skills, creating enough decent jobs for them and providing them with the right platforms to be part of Africa’s development efforts will enable them to transform their societies and contribute to the global economy.

The launch of the Youth Community of Practice (Y-CoP), therefore, creates a platform for African and the global youth to engage in critical thinking, peer-to-peer learning, and identify youth-centered solutions to Africa’s development challenges. It is also intended to create spaces for knowledge exchange, innovation, and direct dialogue between the Bank and the African youth.



OBJECTIVE

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is committed to unlocking the immense potential of Africa’s youth through transformative programs like the Young Professionals Programme, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Lab, the Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks (YEIBs) and youth-focused agricultural and climate initiatives. As part of this mission, the Bank is launching the Youth Community of Practice (Y-CoP) under its Global Community of Practice (G-CoP), hosted under the Virtual Capacity Development Academy (VCDA) implemented by the African Development Institute.

The primary objectives of the Y-CoP are:

- To facilitate vital knowledge exchanges among diverse African youth from varying organizations, communities, and regions.
- To equip Africa's next generation of leaders with practical solutions through high-level dialogues, knowledge products, and capacity-building activities aligned with the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy, the African Union's



Agenda 2063, and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are grounded in historical context, scalability, innovation, and a globalized world-view.

- To empower young Africans to spearhead the continent's sustainable transformation as policymakers, entrepreneurs, and change agents, being at the forefront of inclusive and green growth efforts. Thus, a significant contribution towards delivering on the Bank’s vision under its Capacity Development Strategy.



RATIONALE

Youth inclusivity is crucial for transformative development in Africa. The Y-CoP facilitates the establishment of a pan-African network dedicated to enriching skills, sharing knowledge, and co-creating youth-centric solutions to urgent challenges. This inclusive approach harnesses the unique dynamism, digital fluency, and innovative mindsets of Africa’s youth population - the region’s present and future majority.

Through the Y-CoP, diverse young voices across communities, disciplines, and backgrounds unite to craft realistic policies and initiatives grounded in their lived realities as the inheritors of today's decisions. This cross-pollination amplifies the impact of the youth while ensuring intergenerational equity. The Y-CoP will position Africa’s dynamic youth at the forefront of sculpting the continent's trajectory on a global stage over the coming decades. Ultimately, this paradigm shift will empower marginalized yet vital changemakers to co-own Africa's destiny.

The African Development Institute (ECAD) further catalyzes this future-facing initiatives through its capacity-building activities for policymakers and emerging youth leaders. The younger generation's digital-first approach in their behaviours, habits, and lifestyles positions the continent favourably in embracing digitalization and artificial intelligence. This orientation ensures that Africa remains at the forefront of technological advancements, particularly in the development of sustainable solutions to society’s development challenges by policymakers.

KEY ACTIVITIES

The Y-COP activities include, but are not limited to incremental implementation of policy dialogues, digital and literary knowledge products, youth-led research and policy papers, a youth virtual community environment, an annual Youth Summit, and a mentorship program. These will all be hosted under the Bank’s Virtual Capacity Development Academy (VCDA)

