

**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**



**Joint COMESA -AGA Project on Youth Engagement in Democratic Governance
and Socio-economic Development Processes in Africa**

Project Title	Joint COMESA -AGA Project on Youth Engagement in Democratic Governance and Socio-economic Development Processes in Africa
Duration	2 years (Pilot phase)
Main Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ African Union- African Governance Architecture (as a political umbrella) ▪ COMESA Secretariat: as an implementing Partner ▪ Swiss Development Cooperation Agency: Financial support
Geographic coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COMESA Member States (21) ▪ Tanzania ▪ Mozambique
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth empowerment and increased participation in entrenching democratic values and culture towards the promotion of accountable governance in African Union (AU) member states, and COMESA region, in particular, including Tanzania and Mozambique
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced capacity of youth to participate in democratic governance and socio-economic development ▪ Increased youth participation and engagement in policy formulation and implementation ▪ Improved Knowledge management, documentation and sharing of comparable lessons and experiences on youth participation in democratic governance and socio-economic development in Africa
Key outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth capacities to participate in political and state-building processes strengthened
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Platforms for youth participation in electoral processes, decision-making at local, national, regional and continental levels of governance created and/or strengthened
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home-grown youth solutions and innovations towards enhanced youth participation in democratic governance and socio-economic development incubated

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National and regional consultations with youth on democratic governance and socio-economic development policy formulation and implementation institutionalized
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National youth policy dialogues institutionalized
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Youth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Platforms for sharing comparable lessons and experiences on youth participation in democratic governance and socio-economic development created and institutionalized
Intervention strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promoting ownership from the start: by embedding activities in COMESA and AGA's plans of actions, integrating them in existing departments and involving the resource mobilization unit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promoting the parity in participation: to get both young men and women benefit from the project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing platforms for high level policy dialogue with Heads of states, government institutions and other stakeholders for making Youth key actors in policy and decision-making
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitating Youth's access to knowledge hubs particularly Youth from rural areas by providing enabling environment for innovation and encouraging solutions-driven creativity on participatory processes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promoting dialogue among stakeholders (state institutions, political parties, CSOs, media, etc) on governance topics and explore niches for effectively engaging the private sector;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote governance principles in concrete trans-border out of fragility-poverty initiatives to link governance with economic dimensions of poverty through the COMESA trade for peace Programme.
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A total of 250'000 direct and indirect beneficiaries of the programme will be mainly Young people from 21 countries, COMESA member states adding Tanzania and Mozambique. ▪ The target groups will mainly be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) national Youth councils who are the most legitimate groups to bridge youth voice and state actors (ii) Civil society organizations dealing with Youth issues and their constituencies with at least 50% of women (iii) states governance institutions in charge implementing national youth policies (iv) Members of Youth labs which are hubs for creativity and entrepreneurship on innovative approaches (v) political parties in relation to electoral processes.

Project Activities:

Activities for outcome 1: Enhanced capacity of Youth to participate in Democratic Governance and Socio-economic Development

1. Convene targeted residential training boot camps in select COMESA Member States to strengthen their capacities in policy linkages, formulation and implementation on democratic governance and interphase with policy makers (COMESA Led)
2. Recruit and train young people from select COMESA Member States to participate in the AGA led emerging young leaders programme.
3. Develop model/manual youth engagement strategies on electoral processes in Africa
4. Undertake trainings of Youth in electoral processes participation.
5. Strengthen youth participation and engagement in political parties' – youth councils, conduct training and facilitation through voluntarism opportunities for young people in 4 selected countries (COMESA Led)
6. Strengthen and scale up the COMESA Youth volunteerism and internship programme at regional and national level. (COMESA Led)
7. Promote and support launch of youth labs and incubation centres on democratic governance at Member State Level. And Convene lessons learnt and experience sharing events with youth labs and innovations hubs in select COMESA Member States
8. Launch and support an incentives and awards scheme on innovations on youth in democratic governance.
9. Support and promote experience sharing in COMESA Member States on youth participation and engagement in cross border trade for peace initiatives (COMESA Led)

Outcome 2 Activities: Increased youth participation and engagement in Policy formulation and implementation

1. Convene an annual regional consultation on youth on migration and regional integration (Refugees and Freedom of Movement) - Integration – COMESA led (. AGA)
2. Establish a platform for regular dialogue between youth and COMESA policy organs by setting up and operationalising the AGA Youth Advisory Panel. (AGA)
3. Operationalize the COMESA youth programme at regional, and promote its institutionalization at national level including convening policy dialogues in select COMESA Member States (COMESA)

Outcome 3 Activities: Improved Knowledge Management, Documentation and sharing of comparable lessons on youth participation in democratic governance and socio-economic

1. Undertake baseline surveys, studies and country assessments on youth policy engagement in COMESA Member States (COM)
2. Employ digital/ virtual social media to improve interactions and engagement between youth and policy makers (AGA)
3. Research and publish on youth empowerment issues in democratic governance (COM)