



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITÉS EN AFRIQUE

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Shaping a
More Resilient
Africa**

A photograph of two men, one in a light blue shirt and the other in a light beige shirt, both smiling and looking down at something in their hands. They are standing in a large enclosure filled with many white chickens. In the background, there are several large, arched structures that look like greenhouses or covered walkways. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) is not just witnessing Africa's transformation - *we are actively driving it!* Through our innovative **Special Programs**, we tackle critical challenges head-on, empowering African institutions to drive their development. Special Programs go beyond traditional grant-making and focus on strengthening the institutional muscle of organizations, equipping them with the expertise and resources to fulfill their mandates effectively.

Catalyzing Change

Our initiatives target specific areas. This is what we do and how we do it:



Tobacco Control

We empower African institutions to lead tobacco consumption reduction efforts through skills and resource development



Public health advocacy through capacity-building has demonstrably increased awareness of the dangers of tobacco use for a healthier Africa.



Biomedical Research

We enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and long-term sustainability of leading African research institutions



Scientific progress strengthens biomedical research institutions, enhance drug discovery and generate research outputs, propelling the continent's global health advancements.



Animal Health

We support the African Network of the World Association for Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP-AN) in strengthening research capacity to control animal parasitic diseases.



Empowering local organizations with skills and resources to develop impactful programs to improve animal health and livelihoods across the continent.



Cultivating Change: A Story of Impact in Tobacco Control

Tobacco use remains a significant public health threat in Africa, posing a risk of becoming a leading cause of mortality. ACBF's Tobacco Control (TC) program tackles this challenge by empowering local actors to implement effective solutions.

The Challenge

Inadequate institutional and human capacity have hindered the adoption of evidence-based tobacco control policies and strategies across Africa. Without intervention, this gap could lead to severe public health consequences.

The intervention

We strategically partner with 12 CSOs in 10 African countries*, aligning with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. We prioritize flexibility, planning, and robust oversight to ensure program effectiveness. Our focus goes beyond funding; we build long-term sustainability by strengthening project management, leadership and governance, and financial systems, empowering these institutions to independently drive tobacco control initiatives in the future.

* Benin, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia; Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda

Building Capacity for Success

Phase 1: Measuring and Documenting Outcomes

ACBF boasts a 10-year track record, focusing on countries disproportionately affected by tobacco use



Rigorous evaluations assess program outcomes, policy impact, and behavioral changes



Transparency and knowledge exchange are fostered through data-driven reports shared with funders and partners.

Phase 2: Sustainable Impact and Advocacy

The program focuses on long-term effectiveness by empowering partner CSOs and TC actors to diversify funding sources and operate independently



Success stories include CSOs in Gambia, Ethiopia, and Gabon leveraging ACBF support to influence and implement critical tobacco control policies.

Phase 3: Building Institutional Capacity

Beyond policy change, the program strengthens partner institutions through project management and financial governance




This empowers organizations like the University of Cape Town and the International Institute for Legislative Affairs (IILA) in Kenya to secure grants from major funding partners, demonstrating newfound independence and sustainability



One organization has transitioned from sub-grantee to direct grantee.

Impact: This program goes beyond project evaluations and fosters a culture of data-driven communication, building institutional capacity, and nurturing policy advocacy for positive change. Betina Edziwa, Head of Special Programs stated, ***“Our programs ignite a ripple effect. We empower local institutions with the knowledge and tools they need to tackle Africa’s most pressing challenges to cultivate lasting change.”***



ACBF's SPIA Program: Empowering African Biomedical Research Institutions

Unlocking Potential

Africa boasts a wealth of scientific talent. The ACBF's "Strengthening Capacity of Strategic Partner Institutions in Africa" (SPIA) program addresses a critical need – strengthening the institutional capacity of leading biomedical research institutions prioritizing vaccine development in Africa. This program is supported by the Gates Foundation, ensuring that African institutions are at the forefront of global health progress.

Building a Strong Foundation

SPIA provides targeted support to five key biomedical research institutions. The program employs a data-driven approach, conducting thorough needs assessments to identify each institution's specific gaps. These assessments inform customized improvement plans to address inefficiencies and unlock their full potential.

A Story of Progress

Now in its third year, the program is well on its way towards developing well-run institutions and fostering sustainable progress. Half of the initial implementation plan is complete, focusing on leadership coaching and enhanced operational systems.

Measurable Impact

Rigorous evaluation is a cornerstone of SPIA. The program assesses participating institutions across four key areas: efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability.

Early results are promising, especially for the main institution currently being supported. Enhanced control measures have led to consistently clean audits, while operational efficiency has improved. Furthermore, the Science for Africa Foundation (SFA), a key recipient, has diversified its funding base and continues to produce impactful research.

Building a Sustainable Future

SPIA recognizes the importance of gender equity and strong leadership. The program has demonstrably fostered a more gender-responsive culture within SFA, with women holding a significant share of leadership positions. Additionally, SPIA has provided leadership training and mentorship, ensuring a solid pipeline of future leaders.

Collaboration is Key

This program exemplifies the power of collaboration. The Ghana drug discovery project serves as a prime example. SPIA facilitated a visioning exercise involving six universities, leading to the establishment of a collaborative research consortium. This spirit of collaboration extends beyond individual projects, fostering a network of strong African research institutions poised to make groundbreaking contributions to global health.

The SPIA program goes beyond empowering institutions; it empowers Africa to lead the way in solving global health challenges. This, in turn, translates to better healthcare for all!

Building a Bulwark Against Animal Parasites through the WAAVP-AN Partnership



A Silent Threat

Hidden enemies - parasitic diseases - plague African livestock.



These diseases threaten animal health and hinder production, endangering farmers' livelihoods across the continent. Recognizing this critical challenge, ACBF joined forces with the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) to establish the African Network (WAAVP-AN). This initiative addresses a critical gap in veterinary research and practice.

Laying the Foundation for Success



Building a solid foundation is essential for any endeavor. ACBF's support focused on establishing a legal entity for WAAVP-AN, complete with clear governance structures, sound financial management practices, and a robust five-year strategic plan (2022-2026) that outlines ambitious yet achievable goals for the network's future.

Empowering Collaboration



Knowledge is power, and collaboration is key. ACBF understands this and has created a central network Secretariat. This central hub fosters communication and collaboration among WAAVP-AN members, creating a platform for sharing best practices and promoting research collaboration across Africa.

From Seed to Success



ACBF's impact goes beyond administrative support. They recognized the need for resources and equipped WAAVP-AN to develop compelling project proposals. This enhanced capacity to secure funding has resulted in the launch of US\$3 million in research and capacity-building grants, demonstrating the program's potential for significant impact. The partnership has yielded tangible results within a short timeframe. WAAVP-AN was officially launched in Benin and is currently undergoing registration in Kenya.

A Model for Collaborative Action



The ACBF-WAAVP-AN partnership exemplifies collaborative action. By strengthening veterinary parasitology research and practice in Africa, this initiative has already demonstrated tangible progress in safeguarding animal health and strengthening livelihoods, offering a blueprint for addressing other critical challenges facing the continent.

A Call to Action: Building a Stronger Africa

Building a Stronger Future

ACBF's Special Programs represent a powerful model for sustainable development across Africa. We do not just provide funding; we build capacity. By strengthening institutions with robust governance, financial management, and strategic planning, we empower local actors to drive positive change in public health, research, and economic development.

Partnerships for progress

While challenges exist, so do immense opportunities. We recognize that time constraints and external factors can impact timelines. However, by leveraging partnerships and networks like the African Union, ACBF will continue to amplify its impact across the continent.

Evolving with Africa

ACBF is committed to adapting alongside Africa's development needs. Special Programs will continue strengthening institutions and fostering partnerships, tackling critical areas like data management, gender equality, and youth empowerment.

Unlocking Potential

This strategic approach, coupled with continued support from partners like the Gates Foundation, holds the key to unlocking Africa's full potential.



Join the Movement

Become a partner in progress. Explore how you can contribute to building a healthier, more prosperous Africa.



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