



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

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**PROF. ORLANDO
QUILAMBO**
AAU President

Message from the President

The COVID-19 pandemic gave the Association of African Universities (AAU) the opportunity to re-affirm its strategic role as the voice for higher education in Africa. The AAU Secretariat acted quickly to recommend solutions for African Universities and continued to support African Universities through online capacity building initiatives. The Association actively engaged the higher education community by sharing pertinent information on how to cope with the COVID-19 related disruptions, as well as advocated for African Governments to support African Higher Education Institutions and to use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to strengthen our educational institutions by making them much more resilient to unforeseen crises.

Through a survey sent to AAU members, we learned more about the kind of support the AAU members expected from the Association and we responded accordingly. Many universities required support in the areas of staff training, developing digital content and deploying e-learning infrastructure.

The successes recorded by the Association, despite the period being a challenging one, can be attributed to the many unique partnerships that the AAU has with our members, government agencies, development partners, higher education commissions and bodies, industry players and several other stakeholders. We therefore appreciate all our stakeholders, most sincerely, for their enormous contributions to the Association's achievements which were registered within the reporting period.

As we look forward to implementing the new strategic plan – we will certainly do so with confidence, a renewed hope and the knowledge that we have a strong support system – our cherished stakeholders.

We will continue to strengthen networking and collaboration, and work towards ensuring that higher education institutions in Africa are much more resilient and deliver on their key mandates

of teaching/ learning, research, and community engagement to a high-quality standard for the benefit of the continent.

At the AAU, we will ensure that our unique programmes and projects continue to reach more Higher Education Institutions on the continent and create a lasting impact for our stakeholders.



AAU President and some Board Members at COREVIP 2019



**PROF. ETIENNE
EHOUAN EHILE**
Secretary General

Message from the Secretary General

The period under review was one of progress on various fronts for the AAU. We successfully hosted the 20th Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and Presidents of African Universities (COREVIP), inaugurated the AAU North America Office, undertook a wide stakeholder engagement to help finalise the 2020 -2025 Strategic Plan, among other key achievements.

The period was also not without challenges, especially with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic which created major disruptions to every aspect of our society, including higher education. That notwithstanding, the secretariat rolled out various interventions to support our members and the Higher Education community in Africa to manage the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Generally, in our bid to fulfil our responsibilities to AAU members and stakeholders, the Secretariat dutifully implemented planned activities in its annual work plan within the reporting period.

Update on these activities, as well as on other non-programme activities that contributed towards achieving the AAU's goal of promoting higher education in Africa are provided in this report. The Financial performance of Association is also presented for the information of our members and stakeholders.

I express the AAU's gratitude to its members, development partners, policy makers, secretariat staff and all stakeholders who supported the implementation of activities within the year and contributed to the Association's success.

We know we can count on you all, as we work on activities under our Key Results Areas in the next calendar year (July 2020 – June 2021)

Who We Are



The Association of African Universities is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization created by African Universities to promote cooperation among them on the one hand, and between them and the international academic community on the other. Created in 1967, the AAU is the voice of higher education in Africa.

AAU aims to improve the quality of African higher education, and to strengthen its contribution to Africa's development by supporting the core functions of higher education institutions and facilitating critical reflection and consensus building on issues affecting higher education.

It is headquartered in Accra, Ghana, has a membership of more than 400 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and has

three regional offices: North Africa Regional Office (NARO) in Cairo, Egypt; East Africa Regional Office (EARO) in Khartoum, Sudan; and North America Office (NAMO) in Washington DC, USA.

The Association is the technical implementing arm of the African Union in higher education – with coverage and mandate across the language divide of Africa. We have influence in the francophone, anglophone, lusophone and arabophone regions. The AAU is the coordinating agency of the Higher Education Cluster of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) of the African Union Commission (AUC). Through our guidance, our member universities are responsible for implementing the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) of the AUC



Vision

To be the leading advocate for higher education in Africa, with the capacity to provide support for its member institutions in meeting national, continental and global needs.



Mission



To enhance the quality and relevance of higher education in Africa and strengthen its contribution to Africa's development by:



Supporting the core functions of higher education institutions (HEIs)



Facilitating and fostering collaboration with and between African HEIs



Providing a platform for discussions on emerging issues



Our Objectives

Promote interchange, contact and cooperation among universities and other institutions of higher education in Africa;

Collect, classify and disseminate information on higher education and research, particularly in Africa;

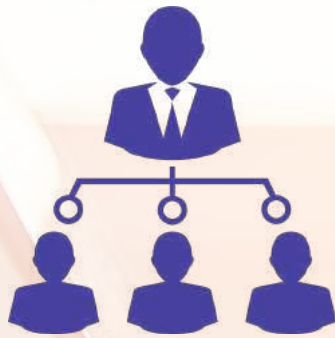
Promote cooperation among African higher education institutions in curriculum development, post graduate training, research, quality assurance, recognition of qualifications, the determination of equivalence of degrees, and other matters of special policy or practical interest to African higher education;

Encourage and empower members of the Association to address developmental challenges and become an effective voice in national, regional and global higher education discourse;

Study and make known the educational and related needs of African universities and other institutions of higher education and, as far as practicable, co-ordinate the means whereby those needs may be met;

Contribute to the improvement of leadership, institutional management and the policy environment of African higher education; and

Organise, encourage and support public for a for information dissemination and exchange and policy dialogue on issues of higher education.



Our Management Team



Prof. Etienne Ehouan Ehile
Secretary General




Prof. Jonathan Mba
Director, Directorate of
Research and Academic
Planning



Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini
Director, Directorate of ICT,
Communications and
Knowledge Management



Mr. Maxwell Amo Hoyte
Director, Directorate of Finance



Our Work in 2019/2020

This section of the report presents the various activities and programmes implemented by the AAU within the reporting period. **Key Events, Capacity Building Workshops hosted, as well as Reports from our Regional Offices (East Africa Regional Office, North Africa Regional Office, and North America Office)** are featured here for the information of our valued stakeholders.

Key Events

2019/2020

20th Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and Presidents (COREVIP) of African Universities brings over 1,400 Higher Education Stakeholders together





The 20th COREVIP was successfully organized by the AAU in collaboration with the Arab Republic of Egypt and Al-Azhar University from July 8-11, 2019. Over 1,400 participants gathered for the opening ceremony which took place at the Al-Azhar International Conference Center in Egypt.

Participants of this conference included rectors, vice chancellors, and presidents of African universities, as well as ministers of education, development partners, student associations, service providers of higher education and industry players.

Representatives from sub-regional, regional and international organisations also attended the event.

The theme for the 20th COREVIP was **“The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Promoting the Continental Education for Strategy for Africa (CESA 16 -25).”**

The seven subthemes of the conference, which reflected the strategic objectives of CESA 16-25 are listed below:

- 
Sub-Theme 1: Focus on the science and mathematics curricula in youth training and disseminate scientific knowledge and culture in society
- 
Sub-Theme 2: Expand TVET opportunities at tertiary levels and strengthen linkages between the world of work and education and training systems
- 
Sub-Theme 3: Revitalize and expand tertiary education, research and innovation to address continental challenges and promote competitiveness.
- 
Sub-Theme 4: Promote peace education and conflict prevention and resolution at all levels of education and for all age groups.
- 
Sub-Theme 5: Improve management of education systems as well as build and enhance capacity for data collection, management, harness the capacity of ICT to improve access, quality and management of education and training systems.
- 
Sub-Theme 6: Promoting mobility through harmonization of quality assurance and accreditation systems.
- 
Sub-Theme 7: Identifying new directions in improving management of education through enhanced capacity for data collection and management, research and scholarship and efficient governance of HEIs in Africa.

The Conference provided an excellent opportunity for leaders of African higher education institutions, particularly the current member institutions of the AAU, to exchange experiences and draw on the lessons and discussions of the conference themes.

Strategic Plan for 2020 -2025 which was being drafted at the time. An interactive consultative session was hosted at COREVIP, where AAU stakeholders shared their contribution and ideas on what the key priority areas should be for the AAU in the next five years.

It also provided the platform for AAU to engage its stakeholders to input into the



The 77th Governing Board Meeting

Prior to the Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and Presidents (COREVIP) of African Universities, the AAU held its 77th Governing Board Meeting from 4-5 July 2019 at the Al-Azhar International Conference Center in Cairo, Egypt. Board members reviewed the programmes and report of the AAU under its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan and made suggestions to improve its activities.



Year 2019 Africa Universities' Week Celebration focuses on creating a peaceful Africa through Quality Education

Another key statutory event hosted by the AAU within the reporting period was the Africa Universities' Week (AU Week).

This is a special period (the week of November 12th) on the calendar of the Association of African Universities (AAU) when higher education institutions across Africa commemorate the establishment of AAU.

The week has been celebrated over the years to put the spotlight on the achievement of the African Higher Education sector – with a view to reflect on progress, challenges and opportunities faced by the sector.

The celebrations are also aimed at attracting increased support for African Higher Education, as well as bringing together stakeholders across Africa to discuss thematic issues pertinent to the improvement of quality higher education in Africa.

The theme for the 2019 Africa Universities' Week celebration was **"Towards a Peaceful Africa through Quality Higher Education"**.

It sought to bring together the entire higher education community and major stakeholders in Africa to map out strategies

and methodologies, as well as the place of quality higher education in the promotion of peace and security towards Africa's unity and renaissance in line with the 4th Aspiration of Agenda 2063: A peaceful and secure Africa.



Specifically, the week-long celebration was dedicated to addressing cross-cutting issues such as:

- A. The quality and relevance of higher education towards peace building
- B. The intentional role higher education institutions should play towards peace building
- C. The need to strengthen African higher education and research institutions to come out with policies and recommendations that addresses current peace and security concerns on the continent
- D. How higher education can engage all key stakeholders – including government in the peace building efforts

The 2019 celebration was very innovative, and for the first time, involved all the AAU regional offices in planning and rolling out the week-long events. Unlike the previous years, where the secretariat hosted events on each day during the Africa Universities' week, we deliberately invested efforts in ensuring that, the entire continent actively participated in the celebrations.

For this reason, several other events, including Arts Competition for University Students, Exhibitions, Lectures on the theme, Symbolic Marathon for university students among other key events were planned by the AAU Regional Offices and higher education institutions in Sudan, Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Botswana and other countries.

The AAU Secretariat partnered the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre to host a high-level Forum on the theme.

The event in Accra brought together over 400 higher education stakeholders and featured presentations from distinguished persons such as Professor Kwaku Osei-Hwedie, Dean, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Accra, Ghana; Madam Karen A. Duca, International Development Advisor, US Agency for International Development; Dr. Assibi Napoe, Chief Regional Coordinator, Education International, Africa Regional Office among others.

Various events which were organised across the continent in line with the Africa Universities' Week celebrations are presented below:

11 November 2019

AAU North Africa Regional Office, Al-Azhar University, Cairo Egypt

- Announcement of Opening of Week Celebration by Prof. El Mahrasawy, Al-Azhar University President and AAU Board member for North Africa
- Celebration at Al-Azhar University
- Art Competition for University Students
- Visit to Faculty of Education, Al-Azhar University

12 November 2019

Cairo University, Egypt

- Celebration at Cairo University

12 November 2019

AAU Secretariat, Trinity Avenue, East Legon, Accra, Ghana

- Keynote Speech and High-Level Panel on the theme

12 November 2019

University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

- Celebrations included exhibitions, lectures on the theme and other overarching Higher Education (HE) issues, lightning talks and Panel discussions on the theme.

13 November 2019

Helwan University, Egypt

- Celebration at Helwan University

14 November 2019

AAU North Africa Regional Office Al-Azhar University, Cairo Egypt

- African Forum on the topic "Education for peace and a secured Africa"
- African Culture Fair dubbed "Our Familiarization is peace"
- Art Exhibition
- Partners Exhibition

14 November 2019

Stellenbosch University

- Organised an event which involved early career researchers and academics, focusing on presentations by postdoctoral fellows and PhD students

15 November 2019

AAU North Africa Regional Office, Al-Azhar University, Cairo Egypt

- Symbolic Marathon for University Students to call for peace and secure Africa
- Closing of week-long activities

18 November 2019

AAU East Africa Regional Office University of Khartoum, Sudan

Celebrations by the East African Members of AAU

Other HE institutions that organized events to mark the African Universities Week

- Rivers State University, Nigeria
- University of Ilorin, Nigeria
- University of Jos, Nigeria
- Institut Universitaire du Golfe de Guinée, Cameroon
- University of Botswana

Recognition of the 2019 African Universities Week

Inauguration and establishment of AAU's North America Office to advance Africa - Diaspora academic relations



The AAU North America Office (AAU-NAMO) was inaugurated on October 1, 2019 in collaboration with the African Union Permanent Mission to the United States of America. The ceremony was held at the African Union Mission, located at 1640 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington DC, United States of America. This colorful event witnessed the participation of high-profile persons from Academic and Professional Associations, African Diplomatic Missions and other Government Institutions-including Ministries, Industry, Development Partner Organisations, among others. Also present were Her Excellency Arikana Chihombori Quao, the then African

Union Ambassador to the USA; Her Excellency Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang, the Commissioner for Human Resource, Science and Technology, AUC; and members of the Governing Board of the AAU. The inauguration ceremony took place under the theme – Strengthening North America-Africa Academic Relations.

The establishment of AAU-NAMO forms part of the decentralization strategy adopted by the AAU since the year 2018 to help improve our impact and bring AAU and its programmes closer to its members and key stakeholders. This decentralization is also expected to help improve the visibility of the AAU and the quality of higher education in Africa through working closely with all key stakeholders.

Specifically, AAU NAMO is targeted at bringing AAU closer to Africans in the Diaspora and advancing Africa -Diaspora academic relations. Through this office, the AAU aims to strengthen US-Africa relations and broker international partnerships to implement projects that will help raise the profile of African Universities. Forging strategic partnerships among key stakeholders in academia, professional associations, and research institutions were all key to the reasons for establishing AAU-NAMO.

The establishment and operationalization of the AAU-NAMO started generating an increased engagement between the AAU and Africans in the diaspora, as witnessed in the participation and contribution of Diasporans in AAU activities which were implemented within the reporting period.



Successful hosting of the third (3rd) International Conference for Women in Leadership Positions in Higher Education (WOLPHE)



The AAU collaborated with the African University of Science and Technology (AUST) in hosting the WOLPHE conference in Abuja, Nigeria, under the theme 'Women's Participation in Science Programmes in Africa'.

The conference subthemes included

- A. Current Developments on Women Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in Africa;
- B. Key Challenges Faced by Women in Science;
- C. Gender Mainstreaming in STEM programmes in Africa;
- D. Resource Mobilization Strategies to support STEM research and
- E. Policies, Strategies and Mechanisms to support Women in STEM.

This event was organized with the financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

As the apex organization and forum for consultation, exchange of information and co-operation among institutions of Higher Education in Africa, AAU has been leading the campaign on gender inclusiveness in its various initiatives and projects.

The promotion of gender equality is firmly rooted in the AAU's Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020) where reference is made to expanding gender programmes to facilitate the attainment of objectives spelt out in the African Women's Decade (2010 -2020) Plan of Action.

The International Conference for Women in Leadership Positions in Higher Education (WOLPHE) is one of such key platforms provided by AAU for the discussion of innovative and creative ways of empowering women, especially young women in higher education to reach their full potential and aspire to the topmost leadership positions in their chosen fields.

The maiden edition was held in Accra, Ghana whilst the second was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Both events were highly successful and featured key stakeholders in women empowerment, such as the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE).

Project Steering Committee Meetings and Regional Workshops organised by the Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) Project



Since the launch of the ACE Impact project in Djibouti, February 2019, a total of two Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings and Regional Workshops were hosted within the reporting period - one in Senegal, September 2019 and another in Nigeria, February 2020.

These PSC Meetings aimed to review and discuss the implementation readiness progress for the First and Second Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (First and Second ACE Impact) Projects, including steps needed for project effectiveness for the Second ACE Impact Project. The status of results required for the first disbursement of both sets of ACE Impact centers; and the French Development Agency's (AFD)

“Partner” initiative which is supporting strengthening of ACE Impact thematic networks, were also reviewed.

The Second set of events were the Regional Workshops which were organized to provide participating centers, their host institutions and governments with the necessary tools to ensure timely Second ACE Impact project effectiveness and strong implementation for both projects. Key focus areas included:

- Providing centers the opportunity for networking and collaboration and for sharing among themselves best practices on higher education excellence and relevance;

- Taking stock of status of progress and next steps towards achieving project effectiveness for each country and institution;
- Finalizing review and approval of the centers' Implementation Plans and Institutional readiness Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI);
- Sharing global best practice on revenue generation, accreditation, internships, Entrepreneurship and Innovation in higher education;
- Providing networking opportunities between centers and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) private sector partners;
- Providing clear guidance on requirements for the first disbursement, fiduciary and safeguards requirements; and
- Sharing global best practice with a focus on implementation of the Institutional Impact aspects of the ACE Impact projects.





Capacity Building Workshops

AAU Built the Capacity of over 1,000 Stakeholders in Face-to-Face Workshops hosted in 11 Countries

During this reporting period, the AAU Secretariat organized **28** physical capacity building workshops in **11** countries, training a total of **1,156** higher education stakeholders. Six (6) workshops were hosted in East Africa, six (6) in Southern Africa and thirteen (13) in West Africa – with Ghana hosting the highest number of eight workshops. One workshop was hosted in a francophone country while two workshops were held in North Africa. Females made up **33%** of the 1,156 trainees, which was an increase of 2.9% from the 30.1% recorded in the last reporting period.

79% percent of the trainees were AAU members while Non-member universities made up **21%** of the total trainees up from **9.6%** from the last reporting period. Again, **39%** of the workshops held were in Quality Assurance, which had the highest number of trained personnel. The Secretariat continued to make efforts to increase the number of female trainees, host workshops in countries that had not hosted AAU workshops and increase the number of workshops in Francophone, Lusophone and Arabic speaking countries.

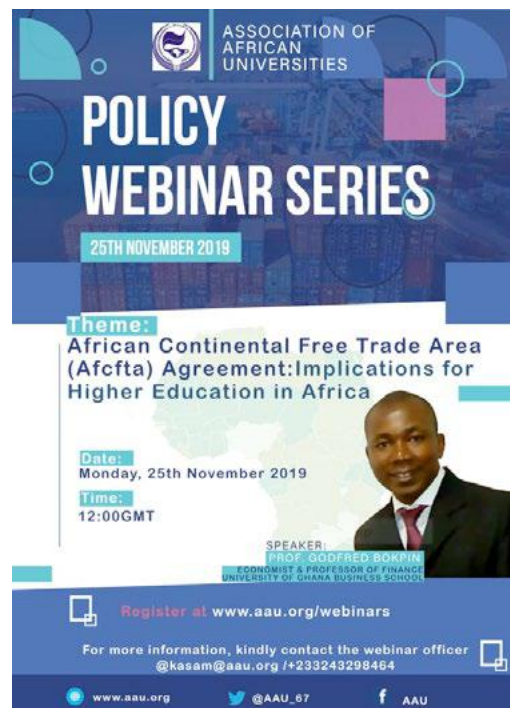
Generally, the AAU Capacity Building Workshops covered the following broad thematic areas: Teaching and Learning; Leadership and Management (Vice Chancellors, Deans, Administrators, Registrars, Students); Scientific Writing Skills and Proposal Writing; Resource Mobilization and Financial Management; Research Leadership and Research Methods; Quality Assurance; Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning; Library Management Systems and Knowledge Management; Legal Issues in Higher Education; Laboratory Management; Data Ethics; Communication Skills and Coding Skills. New capacity building workshops were also introduced during this period. These included **Project Planning and Proposal Development, Best Practices in Donor Fund Management, Online Teaching and Learning Management, Advanced Diplomacy, Protocol and Etiquette capacity building workshops**. The number of trained personnel was greatly affected by the unprecedented outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Mid-March 2020 to the end of the calendar year, no face-to-face workshops were hosted.

Online Capacity Building Workshops /Webinars

The period under review brought to light the relevance of AAU’s advocacy and vision of engaging the African Higher Education Community and Stakeholders through virtual resources. Since 2016, the AAU had been engaging higher education stakeholders on topical issues pertinent to African higher education through webinars and online capacity building workshops.

As most institutions struggled to engage their constituents during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAU through its webinar series was already in the lead, providing support and engaging the Higher Education Community on strategic

interventions to keep African Universities’ learning doors open. The AAU hosted 15 high level webinars within this reporting period; four (4) prior to COVID-19 and eight (11) during COVID-19. The webinars were designed to address the specific needs of key stakeholders and personnel at various levels of management in the universities such as the Vice Chancellors, Presidents, Rectors and Heads of Higher Education Institutions, Deans of Student Affairs, Librarians, Students, Faculty, Quality Assurance and the National Higher Education Regulatory Agencies. Despite the challenges with internet connectivity on the continent, the webinars were highly subscribed and patronized compared to previous years.



Updates from AAU Regional Offices

East Africa Regional Office (EARO)

The East Africa Regional Office focused on specific areas during the current reporting period and these were 1) Entrepreneurship and Innovations; 2) Information and Communication Technology and 3) Peace and Security. For example, under the Global Peace initiative, 68 leaders drawn from different sectors of industry were hosted. The event brought participants from 60 cities across 55 countries together at the first Global Peace Conveners meeting held virtually.

EARO was also involved in establishing platforms for networking and joint initiatives, as well as engaged in the celebration of the 2019 African Universities Week. EARO also established partnerships with UNEDO for the organization and participation in entrepreneurial and

innovations activities, and the Ministry of Health in Sudan for building joint strategies in research and innovation in east Africa. The period recorded joint activities with the Ministry of Health and the establishment of the East African News Portal.

In summary the key achievements of EARO included partnering organizations in the fields of entrepreneurship and innovations to train, build incubators and support youth employability. EARO focused on disseminating information related to Information Technology knowledge and performance improvement. The regional office further initiated the building of think tanks and other regional initiatives. Most importantly, EARO worked closely with the AAU Secretariat to support its activities and liaise between the Secretariat and AAU members in the East Africa Region.

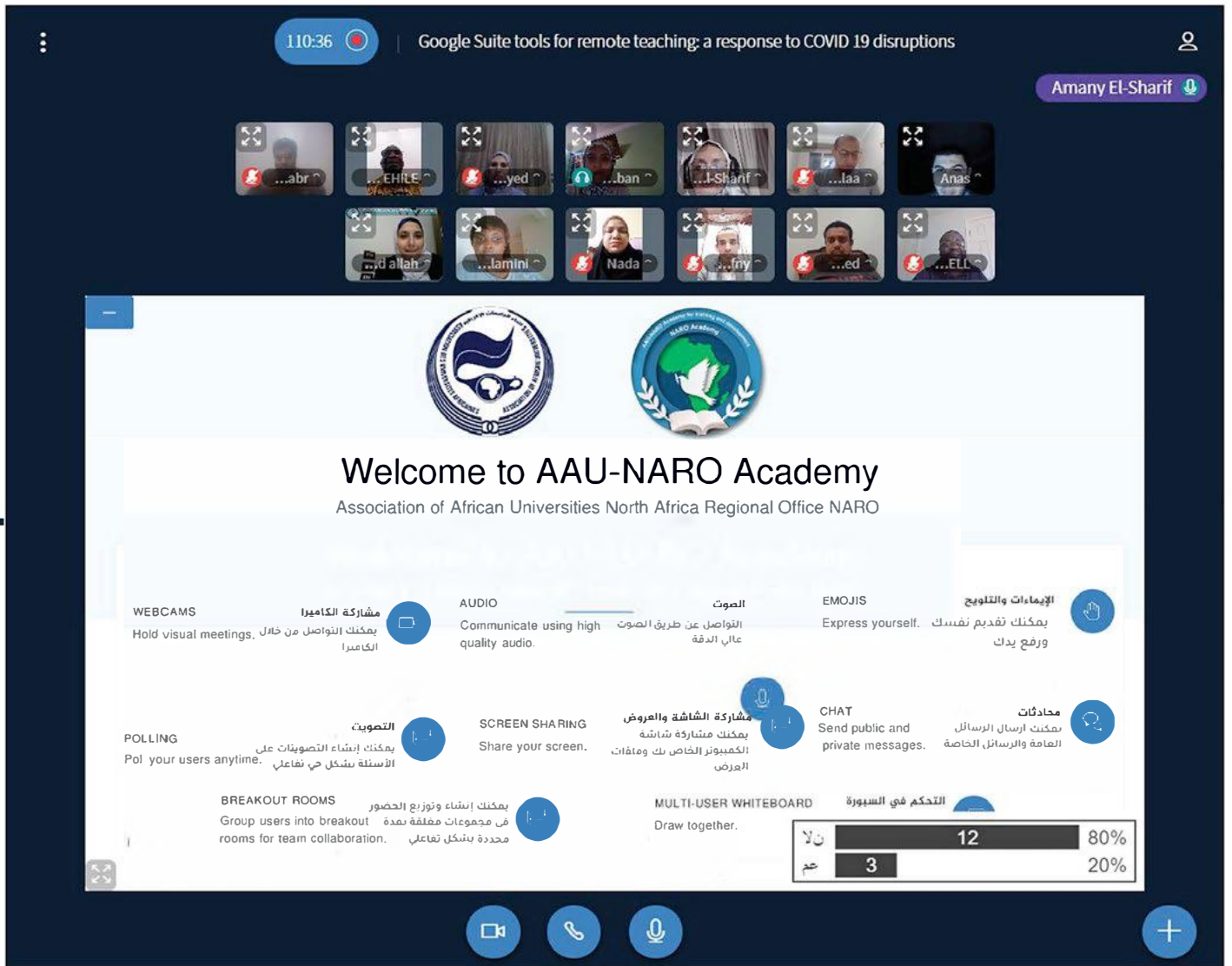


North Africa Regional Office (NARO)

The North Africa Regional Office (NARO), of the AAU aims to promote networking with North Africa higher education institutions and to energize their participation in AAU activities. In line with this, NARO hosted and participated in a series of events and visits within the period. NARO succeeded in creating good relationships with Higher Education institutions in north Africa – and even created a Professional WhatsApp Group which includes coordinators of AAU member Egyptian institutions. NARO also mailed and visited North Africa embassies to facilitate its communication with North Africa Higher Education Institutions. NARO organized a visit for the AAU Secretary General to North Africa embassies to explore avenues of collaboration.

During this reporting period NARO was involved in organizing and hosting the Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors & Presidents of African Universities (COREViP 2019) and the inaugural marathon for African youth. In total NARO organized and participated in 10 other events ranging from workshops, conferences, African Universities Week Celebrations, inauguration of the AAU North America Office and celebrating the first anniversary of the NARO.





The AAU's North Africa Regional Office continued to be active and supported the Secretariate in its COVID-19 response activities for the benefit of African Higher Education Institutions. Specifically, the NARO team translated AAU's COVID-19 related communications, established the NARO online academy, implemented workshops on how to use Google classrooms and Microsoft Teams among others. NARO also participated in the global event to pray for humanity.

The key achievements of NARO within the period is summarized as 1) collaboration with the Cairo innovation team to host the African Research and Innovation Summit (ARIS), which aimed at encouraging innovation in environmental pollution field; 2) establishment of the NARO academy for online training and development; 3) acquisition of a NARO Vehicle (Van) to facilitate transport by the office among Egypt's different governorates and 4) working on the NARO Newsletter to provide more visibility

North America Office (NAMO)

The AAU North America Office (NAMO) was incorporated in July 2019. The office focused on the following within the reporting period:

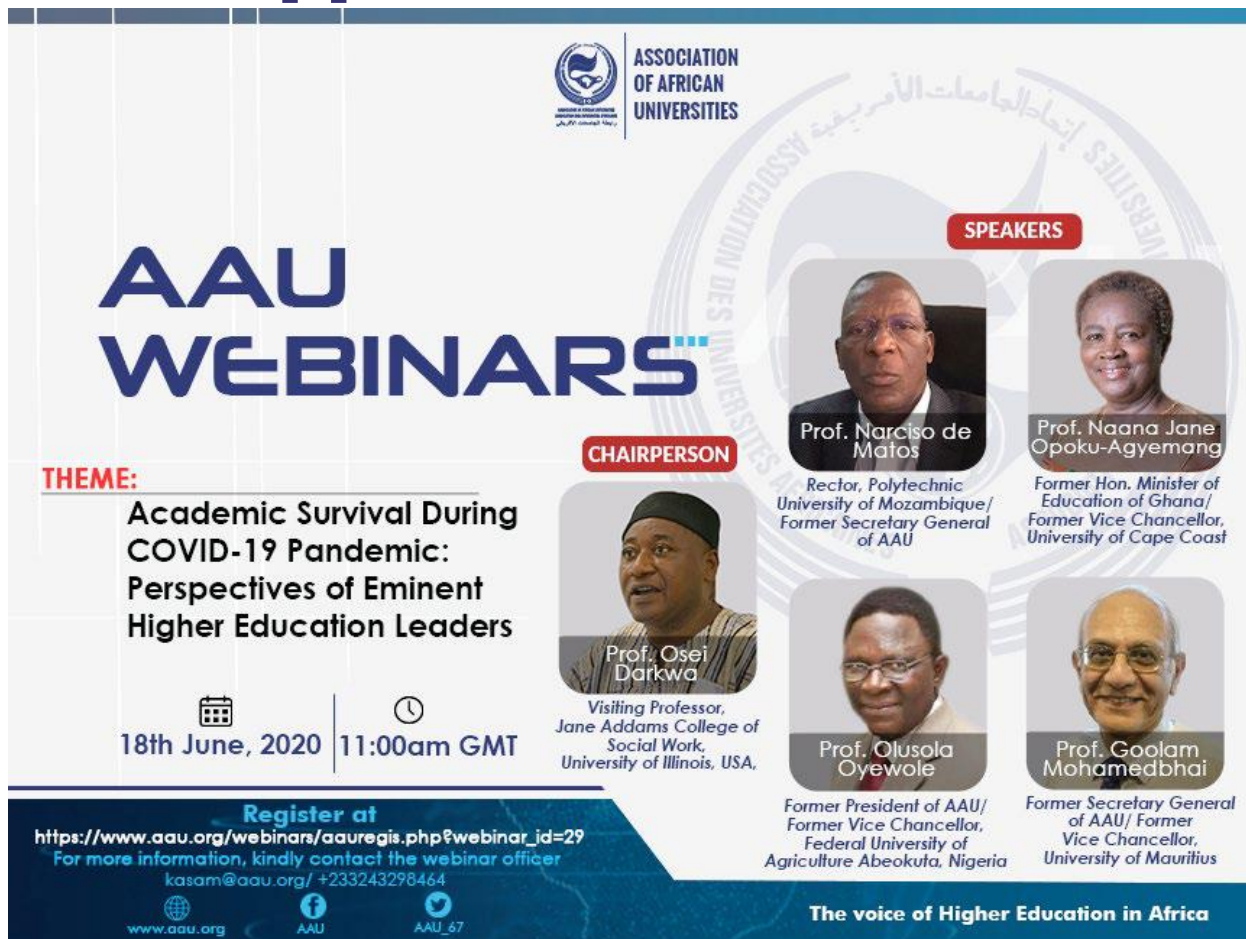
1. Undertaking preliminary programmes and outreach activities - With the objectives to advocate for the broad interests of AAU in North America and to promote and advance relations among African Academic Diaspora and African Higher Education Institutions. The target audience was the Higher Education Community and Diasporans. During this reporting period, NAMO participated in the Black History and Women's weeks, undertook outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and started preparations for AAU's first Homecoming event. The office was also active in the meeting of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and was engaged in the USAID Higher Education Working group. Further to this, NAMO issued Newsletters, and actively engaged in resource mobilization.

2. Developing strong partnerships with institutions: NAMO engaged in strengthening US-Africa Government's academic diplomacy and brokering international partnerships, resulting in working closely with key stakeholders in academia. NAMO also developed partnerships with the National Association for Equal Opportunities in Education (NAFEO), American Congress on Black Women (ACBW), Historical Black Towns and Settlements Alliance/ American Congress of Mayors, TIS Foundation, University of Maine, USAID, White House Initiative on Black Colleges and Universities and the Institute of International Education

3. Supporting African Higher Education Institutions to minimize disruption to their activities, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. NAMO assisted with expertise to help the Secretariat provide the needed interventions for African HEIs, building the needed capacity for them to transition swiftly to online teaching and learning. Additionally, NAMO provided advisory services to the Secretariat to intervene in the area of virtual education by providing Faculty Online Training to staff of African Higher Education Institutions.



AAU's Covid-19 Response and Support to Members



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

AAU WEBINARS

THEME:
Academic Survival During COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives of Eminent Higher Education Leaders

CHAIRPERSON
Prof. Osei Darkwa
 Visiting Professor, Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois, USA.

SPEAKERS

Prof. Narciso de Matos
 Rector, Polytechnic University of Mozambique / Former Secretary General of AAU

Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang
 Former Hon. Minister of Education of Ghana / Former Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast

Prof. Olusola Oyewole
 Former President of AAU / Former Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria

Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai
 Former Secretary General of AAU / Former Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius

18th June, 2020 | 11:00am GMT

Register at
https://www.aau.org/webinars/aauregis.php?webinar_id=29
 For more information, kindly contact the webinar officer
kasam@aau.org / +233243298464

www.aau.org | [AAU](#) | [AAU_67](#)

The voice of Higher Education in Africa

As the world battles the Coronavirus pandemic which has created major disruption to every aspect of our society, including higher education, the AAU took a number of steps towards helping our members and the general African Higher Education to manage the impact posed to HE by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The following support initiatives indicate how the AAU contributed towards ensuring that COVID-19's impact on education is minimal:

Mapping out universities' urgent needs:

Through a survey, we conducted an assessment on the preparedness of African universities to adjust to the COVID-19 safety measures introduced by African governments. This survey helped the AAU understand the urgent needs of the HE community and respond with relevant programmes to meet those needs.

Partnering with key institutions to support African universities:

We partnered eLearn Africa and Wiley Education Services to quickly support African Universities migrate their teaching and learning activities to online platforms. This partnership was targeted at responding to the challenges that member universities reported in coping with the COVID-19 disruptions, through the survey. Some of the top challenges reported included 'limited preparedness for online courses', the 'digital divide' that is affecting students living in unconnected areas, broad 'infrastructure' challenges, 'lack of e-learning platforms' and 'handling large numbers of students online'. In addition to eLearn Africa and Wiley Education Services, we also partnered other institutions, such the OER Africa, and The Think Modular – Digital Solutions GmbH

(Austria), in delivering some of the webinars and virtual capacity building for the HE community.

Advocacy and Communications:

The AAU made a special appeal to African Governments to support African Higher Education Institutions and to use this COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to strengthen our educational institutions by making them much more resilient to unforeseen crises.

Networks issued a statement concerning the need to develop strong campus networks infrastructure to facilitate high speed communications and all types of digital learning services.

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES | **NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE**

FACULTY ONLINE MODULAR TRAINING

Cohort	Module	Topic	Date
JUNE COHORT	MODULE 1	HOW TO MANAGE YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE	04/06/20
	MODULE 2	HOW TO TEACH ONLINE	11/06/20
	MODULE 3	HOW TO WELCOME STUDENTS TO THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT	18/06/20
	MODULE 4	HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR ONLINE COURSE	25/06/20
JULY COHORT	MODULE 5	PLANNING AND FACILITATING ONLINE DISCUSSION	02/07/20
	MODULE 6	SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS	09/07/20
	MODULE 7	PRESENTATION TOOLS IN THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT	16/07/20
	MODULE 8	UNDERSTANDING LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	23/07/20
AUGUST COHORT	MODULE 9	ONLINE ASSESSMENT TOOLS	06/08/20
	MODULE 10	FILE SHARING TOOLS	13/08/20
	MODULE 11	SCREEN CASTING TOOLS	20/08/20
	MODULE 12	SOCIAL BOOKMARKING TOOLS	27/08/20

For more information, kindly contact the webinar officer
kasam@aau.org/ +233243298464

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Register at https://www.aau.org/webinars/aauregis.php?webinar_id=27

The voice of Higher Education in Africa

A strong campus network is important for effectively implementing eLearning and providing other administrative support to students and faculty. Again, at the initial stages of the Coronavirus pandemic, the AAU issued a press statement which touched on the disruption on education activities and proposed some responses and recommended resources.

The Association continued to share regular communication with our stakeholders via the mailing lists, newsletters, social media and other communication platforms. Additionally, a resource page was created on the AAU website on COVID-19 which provided relevant information, including resources to help our members stay in touch with their students and key stakeholders. The link is available here: <https://www.aau.org/covid-19/>. Again, the AAU TV section contributed to the literary works on the pandemic by writing various articles which were published by other media institutions such as the University World News, Ghana Web and Modern Ghana. The TV also produced special features and videos on the pandemic which were broadcasted on its own channel.

Finally, the Secretary General gave a solidarity message in English and French to the African Higher Education stakeholders.

Webinars and online trainings on topical issues:

AAU postponed all its face-to-face capacity building initiatives that were scheduled from March 2020 and resorted to webinars and online trainings to build the capacities of HEI stakeholders to support them cope in the face of the pandemic.

While some targeted Academics, others focused on students and other HE players such as the African National Higher Education Regulatory Agencies. Webinars hosted covered topics such as: Effective Integration of Online Education in African Universities; Online Teaching & Learning; Emergency Remote Teaching ; Supporting Academic Libraries in the COVID-19 Era; Emerging Issues and Rapid Response to Students Needs and Support Services; Google Suite Tools for remote teaching: a response to COVID 19 disruptions and several others. This link can be followed to view recorded versions of webinars implemented by the secretariat <https://www.aau.org/webinars/aau.php>.

The AAU regional offices were also heavily involved in implementing various online sessions and trainings customized to suit the needs of the stakeholders in those regions.

Response to COVID-19 by the ACE

Impact Project: The Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact), responded to the crisis in various ways. The 53 centres across the continent continued to put in place measures to manage the pandemic in their respective countries. In this regard, the centers intervened through the production of face shields, sanitizers, ventilators, nose masks, among others.

The Centres of Excellence further engaged in various ground-breaking research in managing the virus within the sub region. AAU and the World Bank teams continued to hold various e-meetings with the centers and provided them the necessary support.

Engagement with Stakeholders and participation in events organized by them:

The AAU recognizes the need to work with its stakeholders in reducing the negative impact of COVID-19 on higher education and life in general. The AAU thus actively participated in various events, including webinars and other online sessions organized by its stakeholders. Additionally, the AAU participated in a

global prayers for humanity event hosted on the 14th of May 2020. Among those who participated were the Archbishop of Canterbury, His Eminence Prof. Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the Center for Interreligious Dialogue in Iran, the Islam Adyan Foundation, the World Jewish Congress, the Institute of Jainology, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the World Council of Churches, as well as Buddhist representatives, and Hindu spiritual leaders.

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AAU at a Glance

(Our Achievements in Figures)

We **trained**

1,156

Stakeholders in Face-to-Face workshops hosted in **11 Countries**

79%

percent of workshop participants were from AAU member institutions while

21%

were from non-AAU member institutions

Over

1,400

Higher Education Stakeholders participated in the AAU's **20th COREVIP**

Our YouTube Subscription increased from

1000 to 2,900

within the period

The AAU hosted

15

high level webinars within the year

194,197

watched the **AAU YouTube channel**

We recorded

127,100

of content on our **Facebook page**

10

branded programmes were broadcasted by the AAU TV within the period

The new Strategic Plan for **(2020-2025)** AAU was finalized

Membership of the Association increased by

32

4 new capacity building workshops were introduced. (These were - Project Planning and Proposal Development; Best Practices in Donor Fund Management; Online Teaching and Learning Management; Advanced Diplomacy, Protocol and Etiquette)

Update on Membership

Our Membership continued to increase - **32** Higher Education Institutions were admitted to AAU's Membership

The Association of African Universities admitted 32 higher education institutions into its membership – 31 from the African Higher Education Community and one Associate member from Asia. These Institutions went through the strict admission process of the AAU and were successfully admitted either as associate or full members of the AAU. The new admissions brought the total number of admitted AAU members to **451**.

The new institutions that joined Africa's apex continental higher education body, the AAU, are listed below:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Alexandria Higher Institute of Engineering & Technology (AIET),
Egypt |  King Ceasor University,
Uganda |  Nigerian Army University Biu,
Nigeria |
|  African University of Science and Technology,
Nigeria |  Chreso University,
Zambia |  Federal University of Petroleum Resources,
Nigeria |
|  Kebri Dehar University,
Ethiopia |  Ecole Normale Supérieure Assis Djebar of Constantine,
Algeria |  Jamhuriya University of Science and Technology (JUST),
Somalia |
|  Salale University,
Ethiopia |  International University of Equator, Burundi |  Zamzam University of Science & Technology,
Somalia |
|  Data Link Institute of Business and Technology,
Ghana |  Badr University in Cairo,
Egypt |  Merowe University of Technology,
Sudan |
|  Takoradi Technical University,
Ghana |  University of Sadat City,
Egypt |  National Institute of Public Administration (Nipa),
Zambia |
|  Lincoln University College,
Malaysia |  Dominion University College,
Ghana |  Pharos University in Alexandria,
Egypt |
|  Lens Polytechnic Offa,
Nigeria |  Islamic University College,
Ghana |  The Egyptian E-Learning University,
Egypt |
|  University of Medical Sciences, Ondo,
Nigeria |  Sabratha University,
Libya |  Academic City University College,
Ghana |
|  Durban University of Technology,
South Africa |  Federal University Wukari,
Nigeria |  Mountain Top University,
Nigeria |
| |  Ignatius Ajuru University of Education,
Nigeria | |

Whilst the AAU warmly welcomed these new members on board, it promised to continue to innovate and work towards increasing its reach and impact for the good of its members and the African continent at large. The AAU assured its members that it will continue to provide the continental platform for them to network, share knowledge and experiences, broker partnerships and collaborate with each other in their areas of specialization and research interests.

Update on On-going AAU Programmes

2019/2020

AAU/Sida Research Cooperation Project (Sida Phase II)



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES



AFRICAN WOMEN IN STEM:
**PARADIGMS AND
LIMITATIONS**

Under this cooperation, the AAU undertook a number of activities and chalked some successes which generally had a great impact on higher education stakeholders for the benefit of the continent.

Specifically, the AAU partnered and supported the organisation of the International Conference on Private Higher Education, and the publication of the Conference Proceedings. Again, through funding from this cooperation a Study on Proximate Determinants of Female Participation in Science Programmes in Africa was completed within the reporting period, and the finding presented at the International Conference for Women in Leadership Positions in Higher Education (WoLPHE), which was organized in Abuja, Nigeria on 26-29 November 2019.

The research study is accessible via:

[-https://aau.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Women-in-Science-October-2019-final-2.pdf](https://aau.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Women-in-Science-October-2019-final-2.pdf)

WoLPHE was attended by 62 participants from 7 countries, namely - Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Cameroun, UK and USA. Again, under the ICT and DATAD (database of African Theses, Dissertations and Research) component, two (2) African Research and Education Network meetings were held within the period – One in Madagascar and another in Abu Dhabi. The AAU also participated in the SPARC Africa meeting which was held in South Africa in December 2019.

Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact)



As the Regional Facilitating Unit (RFU) of the First and Second Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact Projects (ACE Impact), the AAU played its role through project preparation and continued to support the implementation of the project within the period. The RFU (AAU) activities during the reporting period focused on:

(i) Providing technical assistance to the centers in developing their implementation plans and overall project implementation readiness (DLI 1 which entails a center having approved Implementation Plan, Functional Website, Project Management team in place, Finance and Procurement Manuals, Scholarship and Sexual Harassment Policy, Student Handbook)

(ii) Collating and verifying information for student enrollment and research publication results.

(iii) Organizing successful Project Steering Committee and Regional Workshops in Dakar and Abuja in September 2019 and February 2020, respectively

(iv) Developing a digital M&E system to support project data collection.

(v) Enhancing and promoting the visibility of the ACE Impact centers

Among the notable achievements, all countries from First ACE Impact (Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea and Senegal), became effective and met the conditions for their first disbursement. For the Second ACE Impact, all countries (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo) worked on meeting the effectiveness conditions by June 2020. The Gambia and Togo also attained effectiveness.

In addition to this, the RFU (AAU secretariat) made significant progress on the implementation of the ACE Impact digital system to support Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. In relation to enhancing the visibility of the ACEs several interventions were put in place.

These included, regular sharing of news, achievements, and scholarship advertisement from the centers every two weeks, through an ACE Newsletter.

A functional website was also developed for the project while an ACE factsheet was compiled to enable quick and easy access of information on the centres.

During the reporting period, the ACEs were impacted by the global COVID 19 pandemic, as declared by the WHO on 11th March 2020.

Accordingly, the Association of African Universities, worked closely with the World Bank and other partners to introduce measures that could support continued project implementation at the 53 centers. A survey was administered to all ACE Impact institutions to understand the status of teaching, the expectations by the universities, measures to engage students during the lockdown and availability of infrastructure to support eLearning.

Following up on this, AAU and World Bank, organized a virtual meeting to validate the findings of the survey and draw possible recommendations for moving forward. Five (5) Key Taskforces were constituted (**Capacity Building, Support for Connectivity, Learning Management Systems and Content, Financing Options and Communication**) and action plans developed for both immediate/short term (priority) and medium-long term interventions to support the Centers, their universities and ultimately the entire higher education community in Africa.



ACE Project Missions

Project Steering Committee Meetings and Regional Workshops

Two Project Steering Committee Meetings and Regional Workshops were hosted – one in Senegal (September 2019) and another in Nigeria, (Feb 2020). These events, organized by the AAU and the World Bank teams were successful and aimed to review and discuss the implementation readiness progress for the First and Second Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence for Development Impact (First and Second ACE Impact) Projects, among others.

The Regional workshops were specifically organized to provide participating centers, their host institutions, and governments with the necessary tools to ensure timely Second ACE Impact project effectiveness and strong implementation for both projects. Support sessions were also

organized a day prior to the workshop by the subject-matter experts to help fast track the progress of a select number of centers. By the end of the workshop, several centers had made significant progress in the development of their IPs. Specifically, 52 out of the 53 Centers submitted their IPs to AAU for review and approval. Out of the 52 IPs submitted, 49 were cleared by the subject-matter experts and received final no objection from the World Bank task team.



Supervision site visits (July 2019 – February 2020)

The AAU and the World Bank coordinated a team of subject matter experts to assist the centers with the finalization of IPs as part of DLI 1 requirements. The main objective of their engagements (both virtually and in-person missions) was to provide special technical guidance to the centers to accelerate their progress towards submission of their IPs for verification and subsequently approval by the World Bank. Staff from the AAU secretariat and subject matter experts embarked on some of these supervision missions.

The Demographics of African Faculty (DAF I) Project / Jobs Board

The Demographics of African Faculty (DAF) I, seeks to improve the management of faculty resources within the tertiary education system by building and enhancing the capacity for collection, management, analysis, communication, and use of data, as well as to lay the ground for a continental roll-out of the Project. The Project consortium planned for the DAF second phase during this period. The DAF II was targeted to be implemented focusing on East Africa. Similarly, in line with efforts to improve recruitment systems for African Higher Education Institutions, the Association of African Universities (AAU) collaborated with Education Sub Saharan Africa (ESSA) and the University of Warwick's Warwick Employment Group (WEG) towards launching the African Jobs Board. This project aims to increase academic mobility within Africa and support the recruitment process of African Higher

Education institutions.

The African Jobs Board is a reliable, cost-efficient online platform which allows recruiters to promote job vacancies in the tertiary education sector. The platform addresses recruitment challenges in the education sector, such as high advertising costs, coupled with limited audience reach on institutional websites.

Key tasks accomplished was the generation of insights into the academic jobs market in Africa. A market survey was also planned to be undertaken to inform strategies for launching the scheme.

africa.edujobs.com





Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI)

The first phase of this project, which had been running over a three-year period, came to an end within the reporting period (May 2020). The SGCI seeks to strengthen the capacity of Science Granting Councils to: manage research; design and monitor research programmes based on the use of robust science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators; support knowledge exchange with the private sector; and establish partnerships among Science Granting Councils. The SGCI Phase I was implemented under four broad themes.

The AAU participated in Theme 3, which was on ‘Strengthening Partnerships among Africa’s Science Granting Councils and the Private Sector’. The Consortium for the theme 3 component of the SGCI was led by ACTS (African Centre for Technology Studies). Other members were the AAU; the Scinnovent Centre; and the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO). The funding agency was the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

During the period under review a total of nine (9) missions were undertaken which included the following; Science Granting

Council Book Chapter Writeshop (October 7th -9th 2019, Kenya); SGCI Annual Forum and International Research for Development Funders Forum (November 11th -15th 2019, Tanzania); SGCI Monitoring and Evaluation Systems Support Activities (October, November & December 2019 – Kenya, Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal & Malawi); SGCI Close Out Workshop (11th -15th February 2020, Senegal).

The project team also focused on the finalization and submission of the Project Completion Report.



The second phase of this project also begun within this period -(April 2020 – February 2023). AAU applied with the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) as consortium partners and the team was successfully selected in February 2020 to implement the Research Management Project. The key goal of this project is to fortify the capability of Science Granting Councils in explicit areas of research

management, namely research excellence (particularly the knowledge and use of tools such as Research Quality Plus framework), research ethics, emerging scientific practices (especially open data, open access and citizen science) and development of online grant management systems (including databases of peer reviewers).

Key project activities include:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1. Trainings in research excellence, research quality assessments, research ethics and other emerging areas (citizen science, open data, open access, etc);</p> | <p>2. Technical Support and Coaching for research excellence, research ethics and other emerging areas;</p> | <p>3. Technical Support and Coaching for digitizing grants management systems;</p> |
| <p>4. Staff Exchange & Learning Visits;</p> | <p>5. Undertaking National and regional studies;</p> | <p>6. Development of frameworks, manuals and procedures;</p> |
| <p>7. Conducting Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.</p> | | |



The EU-funded Harmonization of African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Initiative (HAQAA Initiative) aims to improve the quality and harmonisation of African higher education and support students' employability and mobility across the continent.

The Project partners are OBREAL Global, AAU, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Its specific objectives include - Enhancing Quality Assurance (QA) culture in HEIs, Strengthening the capacity of Quality Assurance Agencies to implement the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) ; Strengthening the capacity of AU to implement the PAQAF

Key focus areas under HAQAA 2 include:

01 Promotion of uptake and usage of the ASG-QA in Higher Education amongst Quality Assurance Agencies (QAA) and systems in Africa, via agency reviews.

02 Promotion of uptake and usage of the ASG-QA (Part A) amongst higher education institutions (HEI) via dedicated HAQAA Training Courses.

03 Promotion and assessment of the impact of the African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM), in conjunction with the ASG-QA, as an African tool for institutional quality assessment and institutional quality improvement.

04 Provision of a feasibility study for the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency ('Continental Agency') and taking important steps towards its set up (consulting stakeholders, defining mandate, drafting statutes, in collaboration with and on behalf of the AUC).

Mainly, two webinars on AQRM as well as the development of AQRM Tutorials were accomplished within the period. Again, a meeting for the Advisory Board was hosted on 23 -24 June 2020. Finally, the testing of the AQRM online system was undertaken during the reporting period.

AAU Public Broadcasting Initiative

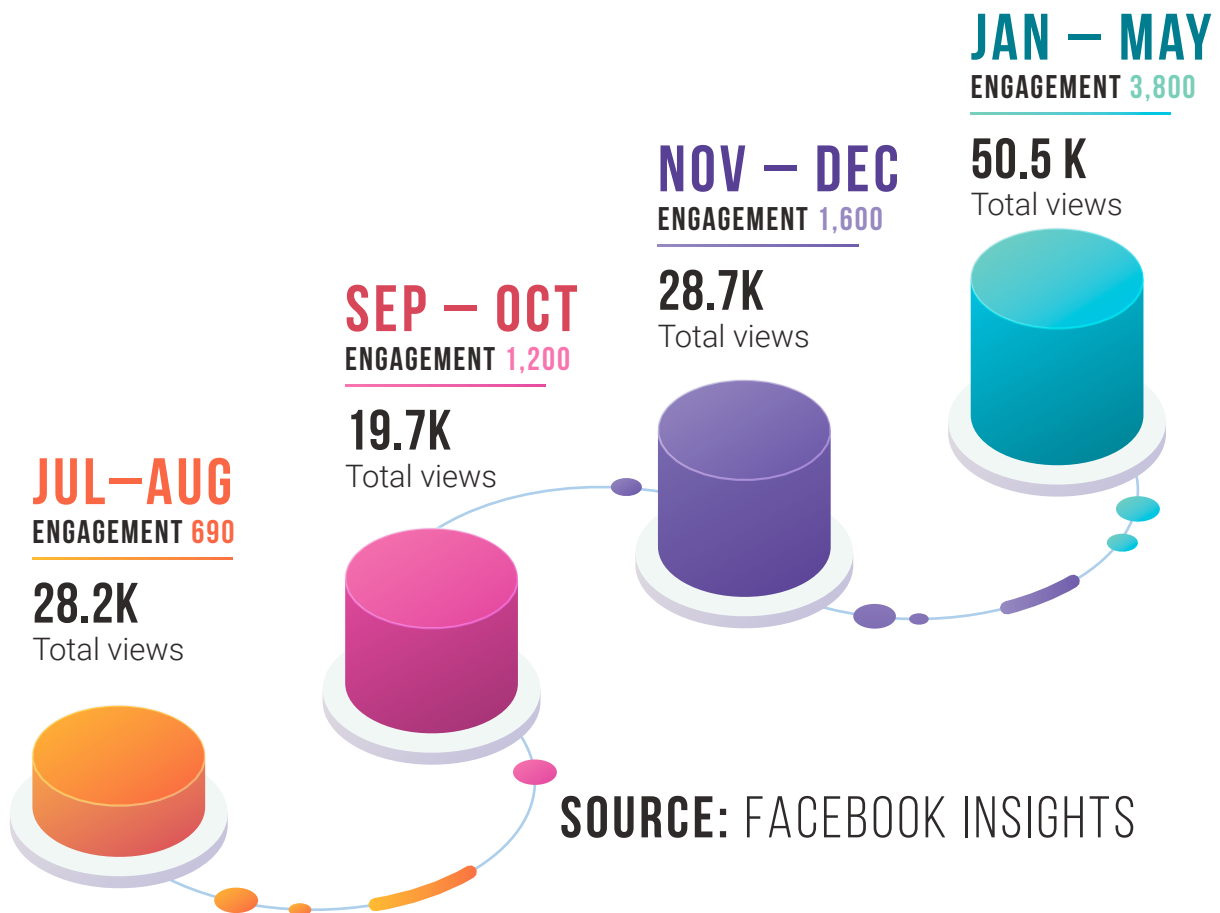


The AAU Public Broadcasting initiative provides the platform to create visibility for Africa’s higher education community and their scholarly works. Within the reporting period, the viewership of the AAU TV increased substantially. The YouTube subscription had risen from about 1,000 as of 31st December 2019 to over 2,900 as of 31st May 2020. In the month of May 2020 alone, 607 new subscribers were added to the existing figure.

Likewise, a total of 194,197 watched the AAU YouTube channel between 1st July 2019 and 31st May 2020. Indeed, the AAU YouTube channel got 42,094 views in the

month of May 2020 alone. The highest number of views on YouTube, in descending order, were from: United States of America (27,000+); Kenya (19,000+); Ghana (16,000+); South Africa (15,000+); and United Kingdom (11,000+).

This astronomical rise of subscription and viewership may possibly be due to the personalities who were interviewed or interest of viewers in particular programmes.





The main 10 branded programmes broadcasted by the AAU TV within the period were the News Update, AAU Talks, Diaspora~Connect, Impact Stories, Agrolink, Ladies Digest, Agenda 2.0.63, African Students' Voices, HealthAfrik and the Events Update Programme. Special slots were also allowed for AAU Membership Promotions, Coverage of Membership Events and events hosted at the Secretariat as well as replaying of Webinars organized by the AAU. Again, to ensure a continuous 24-hour broadcast on the TV, content was sourced from YouTube and other sources after seeking the necessary permissions from the producers.

As regards partnerships, the AAU TV leveraged on its informal partnership arrangements with the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) to help beef up its programme content.

This saw the TV crew being sponsored by PASGR on 5 different missions (Accra, Ghana; Ibadan, Nigeria (twice); Egerton, Kenya; and Mombasa, Kenya) to cover their pedagogical leadership training programmes for African universities. Two hundred and five (205) videos were produced from these missions.

The TV unit also partnered with RUFORUM to cover its 15th Annual General Meeting held at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana in December 2019. Twenty-three (23) videos were produced from this event.

Additionally, the AAU signed an MOU with StarTimes Development Ghana limited, a subsidiary of StarTimes International for the two organizations to enhance access to higher education programs in Africa. Under the MOU, AAU TV provided educational videos for free upload on the StarTimes ON streaming app, and this helped in generating visibility for AAU and AAU TV across the continent.

The first upload of 50 videos received an average viewership of 4,000.

In terms of donor partnership, the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) financially supported AAU TV to train its staff to improve their efficiency and to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for the TV.

The Strategic Plan was developed within the period and operationalize within the period. It comes to an end in 2024.

A survey conducted to elicit stakeholders/viewers feedback revealed that overall, reception of the AAU TV by the higher education community was strong and feedback from the viewers were also very positive and encouraging.

Missions by the AAU TV Crew

The AAU TV Crew undertook several missions to member universities and other stakeholders for the purpose of documenting stories to enhance the content of the AAU Television initiative. A total 240 videos were produced out of these missions.

These missions included;

- 01** Production of Institutional documentaries, University of Mines and Technology, Ghana
- 02** Coverage of the Library Week celebrations, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- 03** Coverage of PASGR's Pedagogical Leadership Workshops and Trainings (Nigeria, Kenya & Ghana) institutional quality improvement.
- 04** Coverage of Entrepreneurship event in the Kingdom of Bahrain (co-organised by the AAU East Africa Regional Office and the collaboration with and on behalf of the AUC).
- 05** United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO))
- 06** Coverage of the RUFORUM AGM, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- 07** Coverage of the University of Cape Coast Research Awards and Grants Ceremony, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Our Engagement with Strategic Partners

The AAU continued to partner with key institutions in delivering on our key results areas and mandate.

Within the period, a total of 44 missions (i.e., non-workshop missions) to different countries were undertaken, in line with the Association representing HEIs on the continent, making our voice heard on issues of critical importance and generally contributing to the discussion on topical issues for the benefit of African Higher Education Institutions. For these missions, the AAU was invited or partnered with institutions such as the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research

(PASGR), the World Bank, the ACTs Consortium under the Science Granting Council Initiative, African Union Commission, European Union Commission, Al-Azhar University (Egypt), SPARC Africa, UNESCO, Forum for Africa Women Educationalists (FAWE), Namibia Council for HE, University of Turku

(Finland), University of Cape Coast (Ghana) British Council and the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) among others. Some selected key missions are presented below:

Innovating Education in Africa Expo

(20 -22 August 2019, Botswana)



The AAU was invited by the African Union Commission to participate and contribute to the discussions and key outcomes of this event.

Dignitaries at this event included the Minister of Basic Education of Botswana, H.E. Mr. Bagalatia Arone, and the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, H.E Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor.

The expo created the platform for education practitioners, policy makers, business sector players and other partners to exchange experiences in enhancing education and learning outcomes through ICT based education innovation in Africa.

It also created the avenue to profile and showcase ICT based innovative education solutions from across the continent for possible support including further development and replication.

Inaugural Workshop on Developing the African Continental Qualification Framework (2-4 September 2019, Ethiopia)



The African Union, in partnership with the European Union, GIZ and European Training Foundation (ETF) convened the African Continental Qualification Framework (ACQF) inaugural Workshop at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The event gathered approximately 100 participants who represented Regional Economic Communities, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, the ACQF Advisory Group, relevant Ministries of all AU member states, the ACQF project Management team, among others.

The AAU was represented by the Secretary General. The ACQF, which the AU aspires to develop and support, will be a policy instrument contributing to:

enhancing comparability, quality and transparency of qualifications from all sub-sectors of education and training; facilitating recognition of diplomas and certificates; facilitating portability of skills; promoting an African education space, and supporting people's learning outcomes acquired throughout life.

The initiative of the African Union (AU) to establish the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) is underpinned by Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and the continental strategies in the domain of education, science and technology, and youth. The outcome of this workshop was to be presented to Ministers at the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science and Technology which was to be held in Addis Abba in October 2019



Africa-Europe Conference on Higher Education Cooperation (25 October 2019, Belgium)

As Africa's apex higher education institution, the AAU was invited to participate in this high-level conference on Africa-Europe collaboration in Higher Education. This conference was a joint initiative of the European Commission, the African Union Commission and four European partner organisations which have a long-history of cooperation with the African continent – British Council, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Campus France and Nuffic Netherlands.

The conference was structured around a series of workshops in which more than 400 policy-

makers and representatives of the higher education sector from Africa and Europe discussed different aspects of collaboration in higher education between the two continents, and the challenges and opportunities stemming from higher education.

The event also provided sector-specific policy recommendations on how to further develop the charter "Investing in people by investing in education and skills" of the Africa-Europe Alliance.

UNESCO Expert Meeting on 'Universities' Contributions to Lifelong Learning (4-5 February 2020, Germany)

The Association of African Universities was invited by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) to participate in its expert meeting on universities' contributions to lifelong learning' from 4-5 February 2020.

The event, which brought together experts from universities and university associations was aimed at developing a knowledge base on how and to what extent universities contribute to the implementation of lifelong learning as well as the development of lifelong learning as a research field.

Participants addressed the role of higher education in shaping and adapting to environmental, scientific and technological transformation and in supporting people and communities in making critical sense of global trends and challenges facing the world today.

The meeting constituted one of the first major activities in a comprehensive research project on universities and lifelong learning that was to be coordinated throughout 2020 by UIL, in collaboration with Shanghai Open University and the International Association of Universities.





Finland Africa Platform for SDG 9 (26 -27 August 2019, Finland)

AAU participated and made a presentation at a seminar of the Finland-Africa Platform for SDG9 (Innovation). The platform is an initiative of the University of Turku and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Over 100 participants from Finish Universities and Ministries, Universities and Private Sector stakeholders from 15 African Countries, UN Agencies and Business Organisations in Finland gathered at the University of Turku, Finland from August 26 -27, 2019 to deliberate on the effective implementation and functioning of the Finland – Africa Platform for Sustainable Development Goal 9 (innovation). The meeting sought to come up with practical steps on how the parties involved can strategically work together towards the achievement of this SDG before the end of 2030.

The two-day event featured high level panel discussions, and over 20 plenary and parallel

session presentations to showcase potential projects and existing initiatives which can be boosted or adopted to contribute to the enhancement of the economic, scientific, and technological transformation of Africa.

AAU's presentation, titled 'North-South Partnership of the AAU and the potential role of Finland' focused on introducing the Association to the over 100 participants, discussing the current programmes being implemented by the Association, key partners of the Association, challenges faced by African Universities and where Finland can partner with the association in dealing with these issues towards the achievement of SDG9. Aside the AAU, other African Institutions that made presentations at the event included the Next Einstein Forum (Rwanda), the University of Cape-Coast (Ghana), the Scinnovent Center (Kenya) and Sahara Ventures (Tanzania) among others.

SPARC Africa Open Access Symposium (2 - 6 December 2019, South Africa)

The AAU was represented at this event by the Director of ICT, Communications, and Knowledge Management. The theme for this symposium was - Open access and social justice driving African development.

It was organized by the University of Cape-Town Libraries and SPARC Africa, in collaboration with other sister institution libraries in the Western Cape, ASSAf, WACREN, Library Publishing Coalition, the Public Knowledge Project, the National Research Foundation and the IFLA Special Interest Group: Library Publishing.

New AAU Secretariate Staff Members

During this reporting period, the Secretariat recruited the following staff who successfully reported for duty:



Dr. Sylvia Mkandawire
the ACE Impact Project Manager
from 1st August, 2019



Mr Emmanuel Bamfo Ansong was identified to join the ACE Impact Project team as the Procurement Specialist before end of June 2020

Annex 1: FACE -TO-FACE WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY AAU (1st July 2019 to 31st May 2020)



Quality Assurance for Higher Education Personnel Workshop

6 Jul 2019 - 8 Jul 2019
Egypt

AAU Members: 10 Non-Members:1



Research Leadership, Transparency, Communication, Partnerships and Collaboration

15 Jul 2019 - 18 Jul 2019
Egypt

AAU Members: 15 Non-Members:3



Innovative & Quality Research for the 21st Century

15 Jul 2019 - 19 Jul 2019
Ghana

AAU Members: 3 Non-Members:9



Learner-Centred Skills Workshop for the 21st Century HE Personnel Workshop

29 July 2019 - 1 Aug 2019
Ghana

AAU Members: 5 Non-Members:1



Educational Technologies

30 Jul 2019 - 2 Aug 2019
Tanzania

AAU Members: 31 Non-Members:0



Quality Assurance & Learner-Centred Higher Education Teaching Skills Workshop

3 Aug 2019 - 9 Aug 2019
Zambia

AAU Members: 11 Non-Members:10



Good Assessment Practices

6 Aug 2019 - 9 Aug 2019
Kenya

AAU Members: 18 Non-Members:0



Project Management Workshop

19 Aug 2019 - 30 Aug 2019
Ghana

AAU Members: 26 Non-Members: 2



Quality Assurance for Higher Education Personnel Workshop

21 Sep 2019 - 27 Sept 2019
Botswana

AAU Members: 45 Non-Members:0



Management Development Workshop

25 Sept 2019 - 27 Sept 2019
Ghana

AAU Members: 16 Non-Members: 0



International Conference on Quality Assurance for Higher Education in Africa(ICQAHEA) and Annual AfriQAN

7 Oct 2019 - 11 Oct 2019
Nigeria

AAU Members: 135 Non-Members:29



Annual Conference for Student Affairs Practitioners in African Universities

15 Oct 2019 - 18 Oct 2019
Rwanda

AAU Members: 22 Non-Members:0



Quality Assurance for Higher Education Personnel Workshop

21 Oct 2019 - 26 Oct 2019
Namibia

10 FEMALES
12 MALES

AAU Members: 0 Non-Members:22



International Quality Assurance Workshop for the 21st Century HE Personnel

29 Oct 2019 - 31 Oct 2019
Nigeria

11 FEMALES
19 MALES

AAU Members: 23 Non-Members: 7



3rd International Conference for Women in Leadership Positions in Higher Education (WOLPHE)

26 Nov 2019 - 29 Nov 2019
Nigeria

61 FEMALES
9 MALES

AAU Members: 62 Non-Members:8



5th Regional Workshop on Koha

26 Nov 2019 - 29 Dec 2019
Namibia

8 FEMALES
10 MALES

AAU Members: 12 Non-Members: 6



University Advancement

2 Dec 2019 - 6 Dec 2019
Nigeria

4 FEMALES
13 MALES

AAU Members: 14 Non-Members: 3



Online Teaching and Learning Management Workshop

3 Dec 2019 - 6 Dec 2019
Ghana

6 FEMALES
9 MALES

AAU Members: 11 Non-Members: 4



Advanced Diplomacy, Protocol and Etiquette

9 Dec 2020 - 13 Dec 2020
Kenya

7 FEMALES
11 MALES

AAU Members: 12 Non-Members: 6



Institutional Quality Assurance Workshop for the 21st Century HE Personnel

20 Jan 2020- 24 Jan 2020
Tanzania

40 FEMALES
83 MALES

AAU Members: 123 Non-Members: 0



Institutional Quality Assurance Workshop for the 21st Century HE Personnel

27 Jan- 2020- 31 Jan 2020
Botswana

32 FEMALES
43 MALES

AAU Members: 75 Non-Members:0



QA/BHETS/Research workshops

10 Feb 2020 -14 Feb 2020
Ghana

33 FEMALES
149 MALES

AAU Members: 182 Non-Members:0



Best Practices in Donor Fund Management

17 Feb 2020 - 21 Feb 2020
Rwanda

5 FEMALES
10 MALES

AAU Members: 13 Non-Members:2



Quality Assurance for Higher Education Leaders (QAHEL)

2 Mar 2020 - 4 Mar 2020
Nigeria

2 FEMALES
12 MALES

AAU Members: 10 Non-Members:4



Quality Assurance Workshop

9 Mar 2020 -13 Mar 2020
Ghana

15 FEMALES
59 MALES

AAU Members: 0 Non-Members:74



Project Planning and Proposal Development

10 Mar 2020 - 13 Mar 2020
Ghana

1 FEMALES
10 MALES

AAU Members: 11 Non-Members:0



Finance Training Workshop Mauritius

19 Nov 2020 - 22 Nov 2020
Mauritius

13 FEMALES
20 MALES

AAU Members: 33 Non-Members:0

TOTALS





















377 FEMALES
779 MALES







AAU Members: 918 Non-Members:238





Annex 2: Webinars/online capacity building events

<https://www.aau.org/webinars/aau.php>

Webinar Title	Date	Partners Involved	Resource Persons	Aim/Objective	Target Group	No. of Participants
African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) Agreement: Implication for Higher Education in Africa	25th November 2019	SIDA	Prof. Godfred Bokpin: Head of Department, School of Economics, University of Ghana	Discuss and Disseminate the AfCTA Agreement and its implication on higher education	General: All stakeholders	 31 MALES  17 FEMALES
Transforming Teaching, Learning, Research and Community Engagement in African Universities	5th December 2020	SIDA	Dr. Beatrice Muganda: Director of Higher Education, Partnership for Social and Governance Research	Engage academics in new methods of teaching, learning, research and community engagement using technology	Faculty and students	 28 MALES  15 FEMALES
Research Proposal and Grant Writing	16th December 2020	SIDA	Dr. Daniel Doh: University of Sydney-Australia	Equip students and academics with skills and knowledge in writing excellent and winning research grants and proposals	Academics, researchers and students	 135 MALES  69 FEMALES
Effective Integration of Online Education in African Universities	30th March 2020	SIDA	Prof. Safary Wa-Mbaleka: Director, Adventist University of Africa Online	Equip African Universities with skills to migrate to online teaching and learning as a response to COVID-19	University Managers and Academics	 204 MALES  82 FEMALES
Vice Chancellors Dialogue: Keeping African Universities' Learning Doors Open	14th April 2020	SIDA	Prof. Angela Owusu-Ansah: Provost, Ashesi University-Ghana. Prof. Ahmed Legrouri: Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs International University Grand-Bassam Côte d'Ivoire. Prof. Maged Ngem: President, Helwan University-Egypt.	Create a common platform for Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, Rectors and Heads of African Institutions to share knowledge, experience and strategies to respond effectively to COVID-19 Pandemics	Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, Rectors, Heads of African Institutions and other stakeholders	 115 MALES  45 FEMALES
African Quality Rating Mechanism: Rationale, Benefits and the Way Forward for African Universities	7th May 2020	SIDA	Dr. Violet Makuku: Quality Assurance Expert, AAU. Dr. Rita Makumbi: Quality Assurance Director-Ndejje University, Uganda. Mrs Abigail Dzama Anderson: Assistant Registrar, Quality Assurance and Planning Unit, KNUST	Disseminate the AQRM tool among stakeholders in African Universities for adoptions	Quality Assurance Directors and University Managers	 103 MALES  87 FEMALES

Emerging Issues and Rapid Response to Students Needs and Support Services	14th May 2020	SIDA	<p>Dr. Candace M. Moore: Associate Clinical Professor, Counseling, Higher Education and Special Education Department, University of Maryland, College Park, USA.</p> <p>Dr. Michael Boakye -Yiadom: Research Fellow, Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, University of Cape Coast.</p>	Create a platform for Deans of Students Affairs and Practitioners to share experience, knowledge and strategies in supporting students and faculty throughout the pandemic	Deans of Student Affairs and Student Affairs Practitioners	<p> 140 MALES</p> <p> 90 FEMALES</p>
Supporting Academic Libraries in COVID-19 Era	19th May 2020	SIDA	Dr. Oluwaseun David Adepoju, Africa Leadership Universities	Support librarians with strategies to effectively run libraries during the pandemic	University libraries and Academics	<p> 138 MALES</p> <p> 78 FEMALES</p>
Response of the National Higher Education Regulatory Agencies in Africa to COVID-19: Opportunities and Challenges.	21st May 2020	SIDA	<p>Dr. Beatrice Njenga: Development Strategist, and International Higher Education Consultant.</p> <p>Prof. Youhansen Y. Eid: National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education Cairo Egypt.</p> <p>Prof. Mohammed Salifu: Executive Secretary, National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE), Ghana.</p> <p>Prof. Ana Maria Nhampule: President, National Council on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (CNAQ), Mozambique.</p> <p>Prof. Kuzvinesta Peter Dzvimo: CEO, Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE), Zimbabwe and President of Southern African Quality Assurance Network (SAQAN).</p> <p>Dr. Juma Mukhana: Director General & CEO, Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA), Kenya.</p>	Consolidate and benchmark interventions and strategies adopted by the National Regulatory Agencies in response to COVID-19	University Managers and National Higher Education Regulatory Agencies	<p> 91 MALES</p> <p> 53 FEMALES</p>

Mécanisme Africain de Notation de la Qualité: Logique, Avantages et Prochaines étapes pour les Universités Africaines	28th May 2020	SIDA	<p>Pr. Etienne Ehouan Ehile: Secrétaire Général Association des Universités Africaines (AUA), Accra, Ghana.</p> <p>Pr. Hortense ATTA DIALLO: Experte en Assurance Qualité Vice-Présidente, Université NANGUI ABROGOUA (UNA), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.</p> <p>Pr. Samir El Jaafari: Vice-président chargé de la coopération et des relations internationales Université Moulay Ismail, Maroc.</p> <p>Pr. Benoît Dheda Djailo: Recteur de l'Université de Kisangani RDC, Congo</p>	Disseminate the AQRM tool among stakeholders in African Universities for adoptions (French Universities)	Quality Assurance Directors and University Mangers (Francophone Universities)	<p> 52 MALES</p> <p> 31 FEMALES</p>
Faculty Online Modular Training	4th June 2020, 27th August 2020.	SIDA	Prof. Osei Kofi Darkwa: Associate Professor, University of Illinois	Train and equip University academics with skills in teaching online	Academics and Students	<p> 206 MALES</p> <p> 92 FEMALES</p>
Academic Survival During COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives of Eminent Higher Education Leaders (GMT)	18th June 2020	SIDA	<p>Programme Chairperson/Moderator:</p> <p>Nana Prof. Osei Darkwa (Foundation Vice Chancellor/President, Ghana Telecom University)</p> <p>1. Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang (Former Hon. Minister of Education of Ghana / Former Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast)</p> <p>2. Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai (Former Secretary General of AAU/ Former Vice Chancellor, University of Mauritius).</p> <p>3. Prof. Olusola Oyewole (Former President of AAU/ Former Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria).</p> <p>4. Prof. Narciso de Matos (Rector, Polytechnic University of Mozambique / Former Secretary General of AAU).</p>	To hear the voices of eminent Higher Education Leaders in relation to Academic Survival During COVID-19 Pandemic:	All African and global Higher Education Stakeholders	<p> 70 MALES</p> <p> FEMALES</p>

Anglophone ACE Capacity Building Webinar	June 24, 2020	WB ACE II	Dr Graham Harrison (Moderator) Dr Dimitrios Noukakis	To support university instructors to integrate quality digital resources into their lessons and actively practice online teaching	University leadership, IT staff and university teaching staff	 164 MALES  FEMALES
Francophone ACE Capacity Building Webinar	June 24, 2020	SIDA	Dr Graham Harrison (Moderator) Dr. Abdourahmane MBENGUE	To support university instructors to integrate quality digital resources into their lessons and actively practice online teaching	University leadership, IT staff and university teaching staff	 65 MALES  FEMALES

Financial Report

Performance Report



TOTAL INCOME

\$ 3,845,527 2019/2020

\$ 3,433,581 2018/2019



EXPENDITURE

\$ 3,874,603 2019/2020

\$ 3,213,986 2018/2019



PROGRAMMES

2019/2020

\$ 2,153,852.00

2018/2019

\$ 1,356,814.00



ADMINISTRATION

2019/2020

\$ 1,385,220.00

2018/2019

\$ 1,379,170.00



COMM SERVE

2019/2020

\$ 191,035.00

2018/2019

\$ 198,881.00



OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

2019/2020

\$ 144,496.00

2018/2019

\$ 279,121.00

Grants from Donors








TOTAL FUNDS

2019/2020 ▾

2,981,234

2018/2019 ▾

2,196,965

 WORLD BANK WORLD BANK - ACE	2019/2020 \$ 2,330,752.00 2018/2019 \$ 1,499,980.00	 Sida SIDA	2019/2020 \$ 106,496.00 2018/2019 \$ 631,350.00	 THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION ACBF	2019/2020 -- 2018/2019 --
 HAQAA INITIATIVE HAQAA INITIATIVE HUMANISATION OF AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION	2019/2020 \$ 365,076.00 2018/2019 --	 AFRIQAN AFRIQAN	2019/2020 \$ 28,043.00 2018/2019 --	 ACTS ACTS AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TECHNICAL SKILLS ACQUISITION	2019/2020 -- 2018/2019 \$ 65,635.00
 IDRC CRDI IDRC	2019/2020 \$ 150,867.00 2018/2019 --				



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