A lot of young people are waiting for opportunities to come to them, instead of going after the opportunities. I make use of whatever I have at the time. Young people should go for their dreams despite the challenges they face, because if they want to have an impact, they have to make the opportunity.

This is a partnership of the willing. While we encourage more countries to join the partnership to stop illicit finance flows, it is important for current members to finalize their national plans so that we embark on implementation.

This Bank-sponsored media training really helped to enhance my capabilities to cover climate change. I applied because I was eager to improve my knowledge about the way Africa is adapting to the impacts of extreme weather events in Africa.

Governments should be part of the regime of power pools. They should be involved in setting rules and providing a level-playing field.

It's Energy and it's Civil Society that can make the difference in Africa.

Nobody wants to be poor. I grew out of poverty. Poverty is not pretty. Don't be afraid of wealth – rather, let's be afraid of poverty. Africa is impatient for change. The revolution is right here, in terms of the ideas you all have. And so you are the ones that are really going to bring about the revolution. So let's, together, light up and power Africa, and give ourselves the opportunity to develop as a continent with dignity.
Follow the stories, photos and videos as they are posted on www.afdb.org and www.afdb.org/am
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Sundry images, 26/05/16

Tweet of the day #AfDBAM2016

“Accountability for energy. Accountability for jobs. Accountability for everything.” - @akin_adesina wraps up #CSOForumLusaka #AfDBAM2016
INTEGRATE AFRICA

The High 5s

The High 5 agenda – five priority actions for the African Development Bank and for Africa – is the AfDB’s channel for focusing and scaling up its 2013-2022 Ten Year Strategy, to bring about the social and economic transformation of Africa. The High 5s are designed to deliver the twin objectives of the Ten Year Strategy: inclusive growth that is shared by all; and the gradual transition to green growth.

A REGIONAL MARKET

Building regional infrastructure
Booster intra-African trade & investment
Facilitating movement of people across borders

AFRICA’s regional integration challenges are well known. Intra-African trade is the lowest globally – approximately 15 percent compared to 54 percent in the North America Free Trade Area, 70 percent within the European Union and 60 percent in Asia. The continent’s difficult physical landscape makes connection between countries, communities, and even entire regions challenging.

“Regional integration is critical for expanding the size of our markets. We must integrate Africa – grow together, and develop together. Our collective destiny is tied to breaking down the barriers separating us.”

AFDB President, Akinwumi Adesina

There is also very limited integration of regional markets for infrastructure services, particularly in power, energy, water, and sanitation. This is further complicated by weak regional economic communities (RECs) that lack capacity and are poorly structured to make or even attract necessary regional investments. This is especially significant for fragile countries, as they stand the most to gain from greater integration. Many of their governments have also not worked enough with the private sector and others to develop and upgrade regional infrastructure; improve policies for industries that fit the productive capabilities of countries in Africa (for example, in agriculture and food security); and fully implement protocols of the RECs that governments have signed.

In line with the TYS, the Bank’s Group Regional Integration Policy and Strategy, approved by the Board in 2014, acknowledges the opportunities provided by regional integration in boosting infrastructure, trade, industrialization and the movement of people. As part of its mandate, the Bank Group continues to lead in several continental wide initiatives targeting both “hard” and “soft” infrastructure (e.g. trade and services facilitation policies and instruments). These initiatives are, among others: i) the Continental Free Trade Area, (ii) CAAPD, (iii) PIDA, and (iv) the Boosting Intra-African Trade agenda.

The Integrate Africa priority will be mainstreamed across the other High 5s and the Bank will fast-track the regional integration continental agenda for which several of the agreed programs are already in place. The Bank will scale up its investments in infrastructure development, as expressed in the PIDA blueprint and at the 2015 Addis Ababa Conference on Infrastructure. The Bank will work with other stakeholders to assist in strengthening RECs and national authorities to encourage and support regional ‘soft’ infrastructure sector integration, cross-border investments, elimination of non-tariff trade barriers, the harmonization of investment and engineering codes, and quality assurance and certification standards.

The Bank will also work to deepen Africa’s financial system including operations to promote robust market-based monetary systems. The Bank will continue to promote initiatives to improve Africa’s financial infrastructure including collateral registries, credit bureaus, credit ratings, and payment and settlement systems, all of which are necessary to foster financial stability and the successful operation of modern integrated financial markets. Helping countries lift market access barriers, formalizing women’s participation in cross-border trade and other regional initiatives, and scaling up intra-African trade, supporting regional agricultural value chains, and promoting the movement of people through changes in the visa regime will all contribute towards increased productivity and economic activity.

AFDB to invest about USD 3.5 billion per year from 2016 to develop high quality regional infrastructure

“AFRICA, the continent that – scandalously – does only 15% of its business with itself. And yet the continent which – with the right cross-border ‘hardware’ and, just as important, the right legal and procedural ‘software’ for regional integration – could add 2 percentage points to its GDP growth rate.”
The African Development Fund

The African Development Fund is a great instrument of hope. It makes concessional loans to poorer African countries. In over 40 years it has granted and loaned over $40 billion in almost 40 countries. In 2016, it is going through its 14th Replenishment.

Sector – Water & sanitation

Water for a better life: Niassa provincial town water supply and sanitation project in Mozambique

Context

The inadequate water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Cuamba and Lichinga in northern Mozambique accounts for the majority of incidences of water-borne diseases and environmental degradation in Niassa Province.

In order to address this situation, the Mozambican Government requested financial and technical assistance. The African Development Bank’s response was to provide an African Development Fund loan of US $27.7 million to rehabilitate and expand the water and sanitation infrastructure in both cities for the benefit of more than 250,000 people. The project positively impacted multiple areas such as health, quality of life and local industry enhancing the attractiveness of the province. It has demonstrated complementarity among donors (World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Netherlands) in the urban water sector where the AfDB plays the role of the lead donor partner.

Objectives

To improve the access, quality, availability and sustainability of water supply and sanitation services in Cuamba and Lichinga, through:

1. Water supply and sanitation rehabilitation and expansion of water supply systems
2. Rehabilitation/construction of sanitation infrastructure for schools and health centres
3. Support for solid waste management of the municipal councils
4. Community mobilization, hygiene education and environmental awareness creation
5. Support to the water supply and sanitation regulator to develop customer relations and systems

Impacts

- Extended coverage from 10% to 70% of the population.
- Improved quality of water, meeting WHO quality guidelines.
- Reduced time for fetching water, from average 1.5 hours/day in 2009 to 0.5 hours/day.
- Lower water losses (leaks, theft, etc.) from over 50% in 2009 to 25%.
- Increased daily hours of water supply from 1.5 hours/day in 2009 to 24 hours per day.
- Reduced incidences of diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera by 30%, lowering high maternal mortality and infant mortality.

ADF, 2008-2013

Testimony

Maria Semoko
46, housewife
resident of Cuamba

“Our situation is difficult. My sister and I fetch water 3 times a day. Walking 2 kilometres with more than 8 litres is tiring… In one month’s time, we will have tapwater! Our life will be easier and our children will be cleaner.”

Key facts

Approval
2009
Funding
US $30.8 million
Beneficiaries
250,000 inhabitants

African Development Fund loan of US $27.7 million to rehabilitate and expand the water and sanitation infrastructure in both cities for the benefit of more than 250,000 people.
The Bank and Zambia

The Bank has supported Zambia since 1971, to the tune of over USD 1 billion. It walks alongside Zambia on the country’s journey of development.

Investing in the Private Sector to alleviate poverty

The Private Sector is central to the lives of poor people and has the power to make their lives better, the AfDB has made private sector development a priority both to reduce poverty and support sustainable growth in Africa.

The Government of Zambia recognises that wealth creation through sustained economic growth constitutes the most important element in poverty reduction and, consequently, a very high premium is being placed on growth-stimulating interventions, and empowering the poor to earn a decent living income. In support of the Government’s poverty reduction strategy, ADB’s private sector enhancement programme aims to help the Zambian economy transform and provide opportunities for growth, job creation, and wealth generation, through its different partnerships and operations within the market. In Zambia the Bank has multiple initiatives to spur private sector development, through financial systems, strengthening institutions, and through the promotion of regional integration and trade.

In 2015, the Bank approved operations in excess of USD 50 million to financial institutions to provide lines of credit to their clients. By providing Line of Credit Agreements to Financial institutions ADB is increasing access to finance to stimulate the growth of high trans-border businesses and domestic companies that are contributing to poverty alleviation by increasing employment and creating opportunities for local SMEs through business linkages. Through these operations ADB is unleashing the power of Zambian entrepreneurs to reduce poverty in their communities, and the nation as a whole. ADB and FirstRand Bank (South Africa) finalized a deal in 2012, that would involve all nine of FirstRand’s subsidiaries across Africa with a USD 300 million loan to provide term financing to its clients.

In fact I’ve even been able to increase my rentals by 25% because people want to be where there are toilets, and now my family and I have moved out of Ipusukilo.

Steven Mundela – Moving Up the Sanitation Ladder

At the other end of the spectrum, the line of credit for Madison Finance was USD 3 million to support its SME portfolio. Madison Finance is a microfinance institution (MFI) that covers eight of the provinces in Zambia. Currently it is one of the top three SME-focused MFIs in Zambia, with 18% of its total loan portfolio going to SMEs. In addition to offering loans ranging from USD 3,000 to USD 80,000, Madison Finance has also expanded its SME products to meet the needs of its customers, with products such as leasing and invoice discounting.

“The Madison Finance board of directors had the vision for us to become an SME bank by 2017, and so we listen to our customers to identify what products to create for them. And we believe that our partnership with ADB will grow this fund to even USD 6 million,” stated Titus N, Waithaka, MD for Madison Finance.

The impact of the work on the ground

The benefits of this approach are clear

At the end of it all, this project has a filter down effect, so the economy will grow, more people will be employed and hopefully it will create sustainable employment,” marce adds. “for the economy to grow we need something that is sustainable, and not just one-offs, and that’s the beauty of this project.” says marce “we’ve already started seeing the fruits of this facility, because we started disbursing funds last year and we’re already seeing business growth, which is the key objective. the growth is seeing either new jobs created directly, or through supporting the other businesses that are generated to feed into the business, so there is trickle down through this funding. the facility also allows us to do more longer term financing for our clients, which previously we might not have been able to do,” says kapumpe chola kaunda, head of corporate and investment banking fnb. “this fund from afdb will not only help our business but also help us reach about 20,000 smes. currently we’re only reaching about 3,000,” says waithaka.
The way we were

The 1990s

1990
Babacar N’Diaye re-elected for a second term. During the 1990s, the AfDB diversified its mission and focused on new challenges.

1991
First Bank projects in Micro-Finance

1992
Appointment of Bodour Abu-Affan (Sudan) as first woman Vice President
First Bank projects in Environment sector

1994
Bank loans/grants: US$ 1.4 billion

1995
Omar Kabbaj (Morocco) elected 6th President. He established country teams, aligned the Bank’s interventions with the development priorities of the countries, improved the quality-at-entry of projects, and the monitoring and evaluation of projects.

1997
South Africa and Botswana first African countries to contribute to ADF. Agriculture, private sector development and human capital development identified as new strategic sectors for Bank lending.

1999
Bank adopts new vision to promote economic growth with equity and poverty reduction as central goals. Bank resources to target four operational areas: agricultural and rural development; human resources development; private sector development; and good governance.

At the helm

Babacar Ndiaye
President, 1985-1995

Omar Kabbaj (Morocco)
President, 1995-2005

Where we met

1990 Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
1991 Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
1992 Dakar, Senegal
1993 Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
1994 Nairobi, Kenya
1995 Abuja, Nigeria
1996 Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire (Extraordinary meeting of the Board of Governors)
1997 Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
1998 Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
1999 Cairo, Egypt

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