AHGC2 Retrospective Technical Report 2019
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2019 was a crucial one for the African Development Bank (the Bank) Civil Society and Community Engagement Division (AHGC2) in terms of realizations. Indeed, as 2018 was dedicated to completing the creation of the Division through the recruitment of a Manager in March and fully staffing the Division by the end of the year, 2019 was dedicated to continuing laying the groundwork for mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement (CSE) in Bank operations and policies.

On 22-25 January 2019, AHGC2 held a three-day staff retreat in the town of Assinie, Côte d’Ivoire, which aimed at enabling members of the new Division to get to know each other better and discover each individual’s expertise. Above all, the objective was to build a common vision for the team. Therefore, the team defined its mission, strategy, functioning and refined its five operational objectives including: 1) Mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement in Policy Dialogue and Operations; 2) Building Capacity on Civil Society Engagement; 3) Communication and Outreach; 4) Strategic Partnership and Social Mobilization; 5) Social Innovation. A clear division of tasks and responsibilities were made. The retreat resulted in the design of the AHGC2 work plan for 2019.

This Annual Report presents for each of the above-mentioned objectives the conducted activities and achievements made this year. Best practices and lessons learned are highlighted throughout the report for optimal 2020 preparation.
1. **Strengthening the institutional capacity on Civil Society Engagement**

   o **Staffing the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division:**

   In order to efficiently mainstream Civil Society Engagement in Bank projects and operations and to support the delivery of the High 5s, the recruitment of 5 staff had been finalized as of December 2018. 2019 aimed at continuing to reinforce this team with the hiring of 3 consultants and 1 Young Professional. The 4 new hires were/are based in the Bank’s Headquarters. They are the following:

   - Database assistant: October 2018
   - Communications consultant: December 2018
   - Social innovation consultant: December 2018

   In March 2019, the Young Professional joined the Division, in support to the team.

   o **Bank-Civil Society Committee:**

   This collaborative Committee made up of civil society organizations (CSOs) and Bank staff members, serves as an advisory body for the Bank and holds it accountable for the implementation of the Bank-Civil Society Engagement. The mandate of the Bank-Civil Society Committee is to build stronger partnerships with the African civil society community by strengthening the communication and awareness on the Bank’s work in their respective regions. In addition, the Committee serves as a bridge between the Bank and the broader civil society community, whereby the committee members commit to frequently consult and report to constituents in their respective regions and/or sectors of focus.

   Following the launch of the Committee in May 2018, the first statutory meeting was held on 15-16 January 2019. The focus was to set the rules, elect the Vice Chair of the Committee among the CSO representatives and adopt an action plan. The second Statutory Meeting organized on 5 May served as an opportunity to prepare the 10th anniversary of the Bank-Civil Society Forum and the advocacy and social mobilization campaign in support to the 15th replenishment of the African Development Fund (ADF-15).

   The third statutory meeting organized on 5-6 November 2019 was an opportunity for the advisory group to take stock of the actions of the Committee conducted so far but also to present a number of initiatives undertaken by the Bank. In that
sense, a special window was opened around discussions on the contribution of civil society organizations to the implementation of the Bank’s Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative.

Throughout these meetings, committee members engaged in strategic and operational discussions with their counterparts representing different Departments of the Bank, on their respective contribution to mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement in the Bank’s policies, operations and projects. During the different sessions, committee members explored further their role in advocating and voicing the priorities of African citizens in the Bank’s work, specifically in the Country Strategy Papers and the Bank’s strategies. Committee members have henceforth been able to contribute successfully to the ADF-15 replenishment and participate in country dialogues and reviewing important documents together with the Division. They have also identified key challenges and opportunities they shall address together in the coming months:

• The importance of formulating a concept note/business case for a financing mechanism to implement the mainstreaming of the Civil Society in the Bank’s strategic priorities;

• The institutionalization of a country Civil Society Profile/Marker system to contribute in confirming Civil Society as a key stakeholder in the Bank’s policies, operations and projects;

• The setting up of a working group to reflect further on entry points for civil society organizations in the implementation of AFAWA;

• Revamping the design of the Bank-Civil Society Forum. The next Forum scheduled in May 2020 should reflect the knowledge gathered from the capitalization report (see section below);

• In the perspective of the end of term of the current committee, consultants shall propose a modus operandi for the renewal of the Committee.
This year, the Civil Society Forum celebrated its tenth anniversary under the theme “Engaging Civil Society in Regional Integration for Africa’s Economic Prosperity”, at the African Development Bank headquarters in Abidjan. For three days, the meeting served as an enabling platform for a dialogue where one common objective was defined: Accelerate efforts to voice the priorities of citizens in the African Development Bank’s work. The Forum enabled over 300 development stakeholders – namely, AfDB, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social entrepreneurs – to voice the priorities of citizens and to discuss civil society’s role in implementing the “Integrate Africa” priority of the High-5 Strategy.

Innovation marked this year’s Forum: the number of CSO-led sessions was increased so as to have specific sessions led and managed by CSOs to provide a space for grassroots innovative ideas as well as enhanced partnership with CSOs through a greater ownership of the sessions. New actors were also invited to take part in the event, like digital influencers who during a networking lunch-also an innovation-brought up the perspective of their peers and discussed how digital communications have allowed a new form of engagement and commitment from the youth.

The Forum was available on live streaming and highlights of the event were simultaneously reported through social media (Twitter, Facebook and Flickr). For the first time, the Civil Society Forum had an important social media impact, with 132,033 persons reached, 800 tweets and 6159.60 contributors.

The 10th edition of the Civil Society Forum truly served as a milestone for the relationship between institutional and civil society stakeholders of African development and the promotion of their common agenda.
**Capitalizing experience on Bank-Civil Society Forum:**

After 10 years of organizing the Bank-Civil Society Forum, the Division thought valuable for memory, knowledge management and with the aim of revamping its rationale, to capitalize this experience. The capitalization purpose was to draw up the historical profile of the civil society forum, map the actors in the Forum’s implementation chain, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Forum and draw conclusions and lessons for better inclusion of civil society in Bank operations.

To achieve this capitalization, the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division staff and the associated external experts have adopted an inclusive approach and a methodology based on stakeholder involvement: experienced CSOs, members of the Bank-Civil Society Committee, staff of the Division in charge of the implementation of the activities of the Forum, technical departments of the Bank carrying priority themes and services in charge of the administration and governance of the Bank.

The report presents the main achievements of this capitalization and is organized in four parts.

- It tells the story of the cooperation between the Bank and CSOs.
- It then presents the Bank-Civil Society cooperation process, focusing on the organization of the forum, the clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders and the views and analyzes of the stakeholders involved in the Forum.
- It draws lessons of cooperation by highlighting the appropriate lessons, best practices and main challenges of this journey;
- In the recommendations, the reports suggest improvements in strengthening the role of the Bank-Civil Society Committee and strategic steering of the Forum, the development of an interactive digital platform, the development of a youth and women's agenda ....

With the 2020-2021 roadmap, guidelines for an innovation of the Bank-Civil Society Forum will be put forward and initiatives to strengthen the Bank's strategy for the inclusion of African civil society shall be proposed.
3. **ADF-15 Social Mobilization and Advocacy Campaign**

During the second day of the Forum, on May 7, 2019, under the leadership of the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, a social mobilization and advocacy campaign was launched by civil society organizations active throughout Africa to support the 15th replenishment of the African Development Fund (ADF-15). Actions were therefore conducted in support to ADF-15:

- Community leaders and dignitaries such as Yacouba Savadogo, 2018 Alternative Nobel Price; Salif Traoré, aka A’salfo Founder of the Magic System Foundation; Patricia Yao, Founder of Quick Cash & Agribusiness-Canaan Land; Fatma Ben Rejeb, Executive Director of the Pan-African Farmers’ Organization and member of the AfDB-Civil Society Committee; Oulie Keita, Director for Francophone West Africa, ONE Campaign, called on technical and financial partners to contribute to the massive and inclusive replenishment of ADF-15. Drawing from their experience and relying on their renown, they recalled the concrete, tangible and transformational impacts of the previous African Development Funds.

- Participants of the 10th Bank-Civil Society Forum adopted and issued an official statement to support the replenishment.

- The African Development Bank – Civil Society Committee engaged civil society organizations in regions to disseminate impact stories of investment by ADF as well.

- A digital campaign was held alongside the process in partnership with One Campaign to mobilize Member States, Donors such as G7 countries and civil society organizations.

- The Bank commended this support from civil society organizations echoing the social mobilization and advocacy campaign in dedicated newsletters, flyers, videos, social media and reports on the ADF impact.

This social mobilization and advocacy campaign led to impactful results as the African Development Bank Group announced on December 6 2019 that Donors of the African Development Fund agreed to commit $7.6 billion to speed up growth in
Africa’s poorest nations and help lift millions out of poverty. This 32% increase from the previous cycle was achieved thanks to African civil society significant contribution together with Member States, the Board and various stakeholders.

4. **Mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement in the Bank’s operations and policies**

Civil Society Engagement in Bank policies and programmes calls for change that resonates with the Bank’s Development Business Delivery Model (DBDM), which takes into account the voice, and views of ordinary citizens. Since the early 90’s civil society engagement by the Bank has made significant progress outreaching and paving the way for more interactions with social actors culminating in the 2012 Framework and the subsequent creation of the Civil Society Division in 2016. Despite this progress, the information and awareness gaps on the work of the Bank remain wide among its development constituents and beneficiaries thereby underlying the need for an increased engagement with social partners. Task and project managers need to grasp the importance and relevance of civil society engagement mainstreaming that will henceforth be reflected in Bank policy documents and implementation guidelines. This requires commitment from senior management as well as relevant and enough resources, incentives and accountability mechanisms. For that to happen, the Division has embarked on the following activities:

- **Elaborating an Action Plan for Mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement in Bank Operations:**

  The Action Plan was developed by the Division through a collaborative and participatory process with inputs from a Task team comprised of key departments. The plan outlines the status of the implementation of the 2012 framework, the case for refreshing the framework and the way forward for CSE engagement in Bank policies, procedures and operations and outlines 5 key pillars that include strengthening Institutional Capacity; mainstreaming CSE into Bank policies and operations; building capacity on civil society engagement; dialogue, partnerships and policy influence and communication and outreach achievements on the preparation of the Action Plan include peer review and integration of inputs into the final version.

- **Drafting Guidelines for Civil Society Engagement in Country Strategy Papers (CSP)/ Regional Integration Papers (RISP):**

  During the reporting year, the Division has moved forward to develop tools that help institutionalize civil society engagement in its work. Mainstreaming CSE into Bank policies, operations and strategies requires practical tools. The Guidelines for CSE
in CSP/RISP is one of these various tools currently under development. They aim to provide staff with very clear guidance on engaging Civil Society in CSP and RISP processes. Drafting such a document has necessitated a collaborative work through a multidisciplinary representational reference group and peer review approach to ensure institutional legitimacy and integrity. A concept note was developed and guided the guidelines design. This Concept Note aims to provide step-by-step guidance developing a tool that will guide Bank staff and partners on the most effective ways of ensuring CSO engagement and participation in country level project cycles within the RMCs in achieving the High 5s. At this stage, there is a draft core guidelines document still under review by reference group members and a first public usable document shall be available by end of January 2020.

- **Organizing Civil Society Open Days in Regional Member Countries:**

  ![Mauritius CSO Open Day](image)

  The overall goal of the Open Day is to share information and obtain feedback on existing Bank funded projects from civil society organisations, as key stakeholders in the achievement of development objectives of the country. To ensure effective involvement of civil society stakeholders and other non-state actors in the follow up of Bank operations and interventions and in the monitoring of progress achieved in the realization of the High 5s, the following Open Days were organized in 2019:

  - Burkina Faso CSO Open Day – 27 March 2019
  - Kingdom of Eswatini CSO Open Day – May 21, 2019
  - Mozambique CSO Open Day – 17 July 2019
  - Liberia CSO Open Day – 30 August 2019
  - Mauritius CSO Open Day – 31 October 2019

  These events contributed to strengthen Bank relations with civil society in these countries and enhanced the countries’ policy dialogue, now extended to citizens through civil society. A key outcome result of the Open Days was reported from Burkina Faso, where the Bank successfully addressed a complaint from a community affected by a Bank funded project in Ouagadougou. A successful dialogue with the Bank, Civil Society and the Community opened doors for peaceful negotiations and to improve the quality of project implementation.
Conducting Country Strategy Paper and Regional Integration Strategy Paper Consultations with Civil Society in Regional Member Countries:

- **CSP Consultations**

  Civil Society Officers accompanied Regional Mission Teams and supported Countries with their Country Strategy Paper Development by organizing CSO Consultative Workshops. The idea is to encourage a local ownership of Bank projects by ensuring the voices of civil society are reflected in CSPs. The following Countries were supported:

  - Lesotho – 28 March 2019
  - Zambia (Mid-Term Review) – 29 April 2019
  - Namibia – 29 May 2019
  - Liberia – 11-12 July 2019
  - Mali – 15 – 19 October 2019

  These consultations were conducted with government officials, development partners and civil society organizations. Findings of the consultations were drafted into a sectoral note and fed in the Aide-Memoire needed to develop the CSP. In addition, the Division provided sectoral notes to country diagnostic notes for The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Senegal and the portfolio review of Côte d’Ivoire.

- **RISP Consultations**

  The Division also supported the elaboration of RISPs in the West and Southern Region. Regarding the RISP for the Southern Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office (RDGs), the Civil Society Section of the RISP Diagnostic Note was edited. The draft RISP is now undergoing peer review and there will be a CSO Consultation workshop in the First Quarter of 2020. The Division also contributed to the West Africa Regional Department’s (RDGW) RISP development by organizing a CSO consultative workshop with regional based civil society entities and participating to high level meetings with ECOWAS.
officials in Abuja, Nigeria. Invaluable inputs were provided to the Aide Memoire and sectoral note that were consolidated to feed into the RDGW RISP (2020 – 2025).

- **Mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement in the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative:**

  This year, the African Development Bank organized the fourth edition of the Global Gender Summit in close collaboration with the Multilateral Development Banks’ (MDB) Working Group on Gender. The Summit was hosted by the Government of Rwanda and took place at the Kigali Convention Center, in Rwanda, from 25-27 November 2019.

  Under the theme of “Unpacking constraints to gender equality”, the 2019 Global Gender Summit focused on three key dimensions to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment: scaling up innovative financing; fostering an enabling environment (legal, regulatory and institutional); and ensuring women’s participation and voices.

  The 2019 Global Gender Summit was the occasion for civil society organizations from across Africa to reunite during a meeting. The meeting, that took place on 24 November, was led by the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division and conducted under the topic “Identifying Innovative Solutions for Women’s Access to Finance for their Economic Empowerment: Entry Points for Civil Society Engagement in the Implementation of AFAWA”. AFAWA is a pan-African initiative to bridge the $42 billion financing gap facing women in Africa. On 25 August 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron and G7 leaders approved a package totalling $251 million in support of the initiative to support women entrepreneurs in Africa. As the upcoming months will be dedicated to implementing activities thanks to this fund, the African Development Bank deemed necessary to gather those most directly concerned by the initiative-civil society-in order to discuss its implementation.

  Civil society organizations agreed that it was important to start building on the already existing structures and initiatives in the countries in which AFAWA will be implemented. For this purpose, it was recommended to conduct a mapping exercise of relevant civil society organizations at the national level and to strengthen national dialogue to ensure that the right policies and laws that support women’s economic empowerment are in place and are being implemented.
5. **Building Capacity for Civil Society Engagement**

Following internal and external consultations of Bank staff and civil society respectively, feedback was obtained on the potential bottlenecks that could impede the mainstreaming of civil society engagement in Bank policies and operations with the lack of capacity both within the Bank and amongst CSOs standing out clearly. Participation by civil society in Bank activities and their contribution to the delivery of the High 5s therefore necessitates capacity building on the development agenda of the Bank as well as engagement through relevant outreach activities. Capacity building on civil society engagement in Bank policies and processes shall contribute to the overall goals of the Capacity Building Strategy of the Bank by strengthening the capacities of Bank Staff and of civil society in the formulation and implementation of policies, programs and projects that are more inclusive and people-centered. To this end, in terms of capacity building, the following was achieved:

- **Civil Society Database:**
  
  The Civil Society and Community Engagement Division is in the final stages of process to update and revamp the CSO database of the Bank which has been organized according to countries, regions, sector of activities and levels of intervention. The process began in October 2018 and 2019 was dedicated to restructuring and updating the database by including new CSOs, updating contact addresses and redesigning its outlook. The new database isn’t only a directory of African civil society organizations but also a communication and capacity building tool though which the Bank shall easily identify partner CSOs within the framework of its operations. The database is currently being tested with selected Country Offices and relevant Bank Departments for feedback that shall be taken into consideration in its finalization.

- **Deep Dive Mission to the West African Civil Society Institute (WACSI):**

  A deep Dive Mission was organized to the West African Civil Society Institute in Accra, Ghana that has a Capacity Development Unit whose goal is to enhance the effectiveness and performance of organized and organic civil society groups
with the aim of strengthening their legitimacy, transparency, accountability and resilience. A MOU is being prepared to strengthen engagement with civil society, increase knowledge of civil society in the Bank’s policies, strategies, projects and operations as well as build the capacity of the Bank staff on civil society engagement.

- **Design Thinking Workshop on CSE Capacity Building:**

The Division is currently formulating a capacity building programme that shall provide guidance on how to strengthen capacity on CSE by the Bank. This shall include strengthening internal capacity on CSE as well as building the capacity of civil society organisations and actors to engage with the Bank on its development agenda. It is against this background that the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division in collaboration with the African Development Institute (ECAD) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) convened a Design-Thinking Workshop of practitioners, experts and civil society organizations in Africa to identify strategic approaches to strengthen capacity on civil society engagement in development effectiveness for inclusive growth in Africa. The workshop took place on 7 November 2019 in Abidjan Cote d’Ivoire. It came up with main action points of the CSE capacity-building programme including its articulation and operationalisation.

Achievements with regards to capacity building design process include:

- A workshop report addressing the key objectives specified prepared
- A list of anchor institutions and experts to facilitate CSE capacity development for inclusive growth in Africa outlined
- CSE Capacity Building action points, key milestones and programme implementation protocols determined.
6. Engaging In Advocacy and Partnerships on Civil Society Engagement

The African Development Bank recognizes the ability of CSOs to place the interest of its citizens at the center of development interventions making them pivotal actors in ensuring participatory, transparent, accountable and sustainable development. Taking into consideration this vital role of civil society and in line with its new vision, the African Development Bank regularly enters in partnerships with CSOs through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Letters of Intent (LoI) taking into consideration the added value of each partnership will bring to the work of the Bank in the delivery of the High 5s. This year, the following partnerships were realized:

- **Empowering Civil Society for Poverty Reduction-Islamic Development Bank-African Development Bank Partnership:**

In order to provide through joint efforts coordinated and harmonized services to Regional Member Countries in cost effective and efficient manner, the Bank and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11 July, 2017. Drawing on their respective mandates, resources and capabilities, acknowledging that the pursuit of sustainable growth and the reduction of poverty and inequality across Africa constitutes a virtuous enterprise and cognizant of the complex nature of the situations to be addressed including fragility assessment, the Bank and IsDB acknowledge the need and pertinence for greater collaboration in their engagement with civil society.

They committed several meetings in Abidjan, Istanbul and Jeddah, to strengthen their ongoing partnership on engaging with civil society. Under the “IsDB NGOs Empowerment for Poverty Reduction” program, the two institutions will develop joint initiatives on civil society engagement mainstreaming and capacity building and explore collaborative partnership, policy dialogue initiatives and joint funding opportunities. This ambitious program aims at empowering civil society organizations to improve the socio-economic well-being of hard-to-reach communities through better identification of impactful
Both institutions agreed that the pursuit of sustainable growth and the reduction of poverty and inequality across Africa would be better addressed with the Bank and IsDB gathering their respective resources and capabilities. Both are working to finalize an Aide-Mémoire dedicated to strengthening their cooperation on engagement with Civil Society which shall be formalized in the first quarter of 2020 during a steering committee in Jeddah, under this prospective content:

- **Mainstreaming Civil Society Engagement in Bank policies, operations and projects:** The Bank and IsDB will develop joint initiatives e.g. gathering best practices, tools, guidelines to mainstream civil society engagement in policies, programs and strategies.
- **Building Capacity on Civil Society Engagement:** The Bank and IsDB will develop joint capacity building initiatives to respond to the needs of the Member Countries in Africa (internally and externally i.e. Bank’s departments and CSOs). The aim of this collaboration is to empower respective Bank departments on how to engage with CSOs and to strengthen CSOs in Africa to be able to play an important role in the implementation of sector projects to contribute to improving the operational efficiency and effectiveness on the Parties strategic objectives.
- **Exploring collaborative partnership, policy dialogue initiatives and joint funding opportunities:** The Bank and IsDB will develop joint initiatives to support the CSOs to have strong institutional capacity to raise funds, manage, implement, monitor and evaluate projects; to participate in prospective aggregated and crowdfunding platform for sustainable financing.

- **Partnering with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC):**

  A Letter of Intent was prepared with the International Committee of the Red Cross and signed on 19 January 2019. Meanwhile an MoU signed with the International Federation of the Red Cross in November 2013 was reactivated following a one-day workshop with relevant Bank Departments in July 2019. Both the ICR and IFRC shall be key partners of the Bank in especially in humanitarian and emergency situations as well as in the implementation of the Bank’s Strategy on Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience.
7. **Enhancing Outreach and Communication around Civil Society Engagement**

2019 was dedicated to elaborating communication tools to effectively communicate to CSOs and a wider audience on the Bank’s work in terms of Civil Society Engagement but also to enable CSOs to communicate on their activities. Establishing a two-way communication was therefore necessary.

This has resulted in setting up a number of communication tools to provide CSOs, but also Bank staff and an external wider audience with information on the Bank’s work in terms of CSE, and to receive information from CSOs activities on the field.

During 2019 the Division has:

- Regularly updated the AfDB Civil Society webpage with any document related to or produced by the Division: reports but also articles and press releases on the activities conducted by the Division.
- Developed a flyer on AHGC2 work and activities with matching folders;
- Launched the African Development Bank Civil Society Engagement Newsletter “Voices of Citizens in Africa”: On a quarterly basis, the Newsletter serves as a platform through which news related to the civil society landscape in general, the civil society actors and their activities across the continent, and the Bank’s work in terms of CSE are shared. The newsletter is shared via the Civil Society Database, the Bank’s mailing list and through the Bank-Civil Society Committee’s networks, in both French and English. This newsletter is not only the essential point of reference for the Bank’s engagement framework with civil society, but also a space for sharing experiences and good practices;
- Realized a 4 minute institutional video “Civil Society and the African Development Bank: A Key Partnership”: This short video aims at presenting the Bank’s work in terms of Civil Society Engagement showcasing the activities that are being conducted, the tools used and the different actors taking part in civil society engagement mainstreaming;
- Drafted a communication plan to create greater visibility on the Division’s work;
- Drafted a concept note to produce a short video documenting success stories of CSE in Bank’s operations;
- Developed a standard PowerPoint presentation on the Division’s work and mandate;
- Developed roll-ups for event visibility

This year, a new strategy was adopted with the use of social media and digital actors. The Division regularly twitted and posted on its activities through Ms. Zéneb Touré’s Twitter and Facebook accounts, reaching out to a new public. The digital campaign for the ADF-15 replenishment conducted to the creation of digital content: digital posters with quotes for each of
the ADF-15 ambassadors and Twitter-adapted videos of the pitches of each ambassador. This content was widely spread and reposted/retweeted through Social Media, with for example retweets were made by community leaders such as lead singer of Magic System, A’salfo, with 248 000 followers.

Additionally to using traditional media via journalists to communicate on events, the Division engaged with bloggers and digital influencers during events such as the Civil Society Forum or the Mali Civil Society Open Day.

In this era of digital communication and its powerful impact, this is an approach the Division tends to move towards to increasingly.

8. **Developing the Bank’s approach on Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

   The Bank has in recent years been playing a lead role in social innovation in Africa and this has been demonstrated through the ongoing process to develop a number of tools such as the social innovation framework for the Bank, the Social Impact Fund for Africa and on-going investment in green energy. The Civil Society and Community Engagement Division comprises a Social Innovation segment conducted by a Consultant who took part in/contributed to the following initiatives and events this year:
   
   - **Social Innovation Fund:**

   The Board approved the Social Impact Investment Program for Africa (SIIPA), which is a fund to support social innovation in Africa. The $300M fund aims to provide technical assistance and investment to on lending Impact Funds to social enterprises in Africa. These enterprises, delivering health, education, renewable energy, agriculture value chain or (inclusive) financial services to underserved communities, can do so efficiently and thus, in an affordable manner, leveraging innovative digital and technological means currently available on the continent. This fund is led by the Financial Sector Development Department (PIFD). AHGC2 is providing technical input in the design of the fund and process of providing technical support to beneficiaries.
2nd Impact!Africa Social Entrepreneurship Summit:

Liaising with key partners such as the Ashoka Foundation reflects the Bank’s ongoing work towards building sustainable partnerships to grow the social innovation ecosystem in Africa. The Division’s engagement with the foundation, which is a key player in the social innovation space in Africa aligns with the efforts to unlock critical financing through innovative financial products for the social enterprise ecosystem in Africa.

In this line, from 4-5 December, the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division attended the annual Social Innovation Summit – Impact Africa Summit focusing on ‘Financing Social Innovation in Africa’ organized by Ashoka Foundation and partners.

There is common agreement amongst various actors in the impact investment ecosystem that there is need to strengthen the current ecosystem in the African continent. Moreover, there is need for the dialogue to move from impact investment to impact ecosystem, to create a political framework to enable impact investment and need for assistance in post-acceleration period for innovation entrepreneurs. Overall, it was agreed that, for there to be a systems’ change there is need to streamline the different stakeholders and allow for an environment where the different parts work together.

The Bank’s effort to explore possible areas of collaboration on Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship across the continent led to the following meetings:

- **Meeting with Ashoka Foundation**

  This meeting was an opportunity to come up with a clear understanding of the collaboration between the Bank and Ashoka Foundation in the year of 2020. One point of entry for this partnership is the Technical Assistance funding that is being proposed to the Japanese fund (FAPA), which is currently being developed by the Bank. The goal of this partnership is to promote social innovation and social entrepreneurship within two crucial sectors of the Bank’s vision, these being in the agriculture and youth empowerment. It tackles to provide technical assistance for the promotion of social innovation across the continent. It was then decided that the collaboration would be in the following components of the FAPA proposal:

  - Capacity building;
  - Knowledge product development; and
  - Africa Policy Dialogue and Conferences.
• Meeting with Ashoka and British Council

It aimed at exploring the possible partnership between the Bank and the ongoing partnership that Ashoka and the British Council have on social innovation and entrepreneurship. The latter aims to leverage their comparative advantage on incubation and acceleration, as well as to engage in the post-acceleration stage of the social innovation ecosystem. For this, they partnered with EcoBank. Feasibility studies have been conducted and they believe the Bank is a good strategic partner to scale up their initiative. The Bank saw this opportunity to fit into the focus of the Social Impact Fund for Africa, given that it was recently approved by the Board and a pipeline needs to be built for it.

CONCLUSION

Overall, 2019 has been, for the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, a successful and innovative year with the ADF-15 Social Mobilization and Advocacy campaign, the Bank-Civil Society Forum, the Civil Society Open Days, the CSP/RISP consultations with civil society, the implementation of capacity building activities and the concretization of different partnerships. Despite challenges faced to mainstream civil society engagement in the Bank, more and more regional and country offices are opening their doors to civil society organizations. In 2020, the Division shall focus on internal communication to continue showing Bank Departments and Country Offices the added value of exchanging and engaging with civil society for a positive impact in projects.

The Independent Development Evaluation of the African Development Bank has started working with the Division in 2019 so as to produce the Evaluation of the Bank’s Engagement with Civil Society. The evaluation is expected to inform the revision of the Civil Society Engagement Strategy, which is planned for 2020. This shall be of significant support to the Division as it will explore the nature of civil society, their needs and capacities. Above all, it will generate strategic and operational lessons learned with civil society organizations, which will provide clarity for the Division on how to best mainstream Civil Society Engagement in Bank projects and operations.
ANNEX:

For any document mentioned in this report, kindly refer to our webpage: https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/topics/civil-society