



**CAFOR**  
The Coalition on Media  
and Education for  
Development Africa  
Forum



# CAPABILITY STATEMENT








## COALITION ON MEDIA AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AFRICA FORUM (CAFOR)































**Popularization of:**

- AGENDA 2063
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)
- CONTINENTAL EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (CESA 16-25)
- SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION STRATEGY FOR AFRICA (STISA) 2024 AND
- TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) CONTINENTAL STRATEGY

**Advocacy**

- Youth Skills Development
- Innovative Education System
- Building Human Capital Capacity
- Strengthening Coalition owned by its Members.
- Supporting Stakeholder Mobilization and Sensitization
- Provide Platform for Multi-stakeholder Partnership for the Achievement of Education Goals
- Promote Communication use for Education for Young People
- Promote African Union Education and other Policy Instruments
- Give new Impetus to Media Training
- Promote Networking
- Support to Youth in Emergency and Post Conflict Situations






















Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR) is partner to the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission.

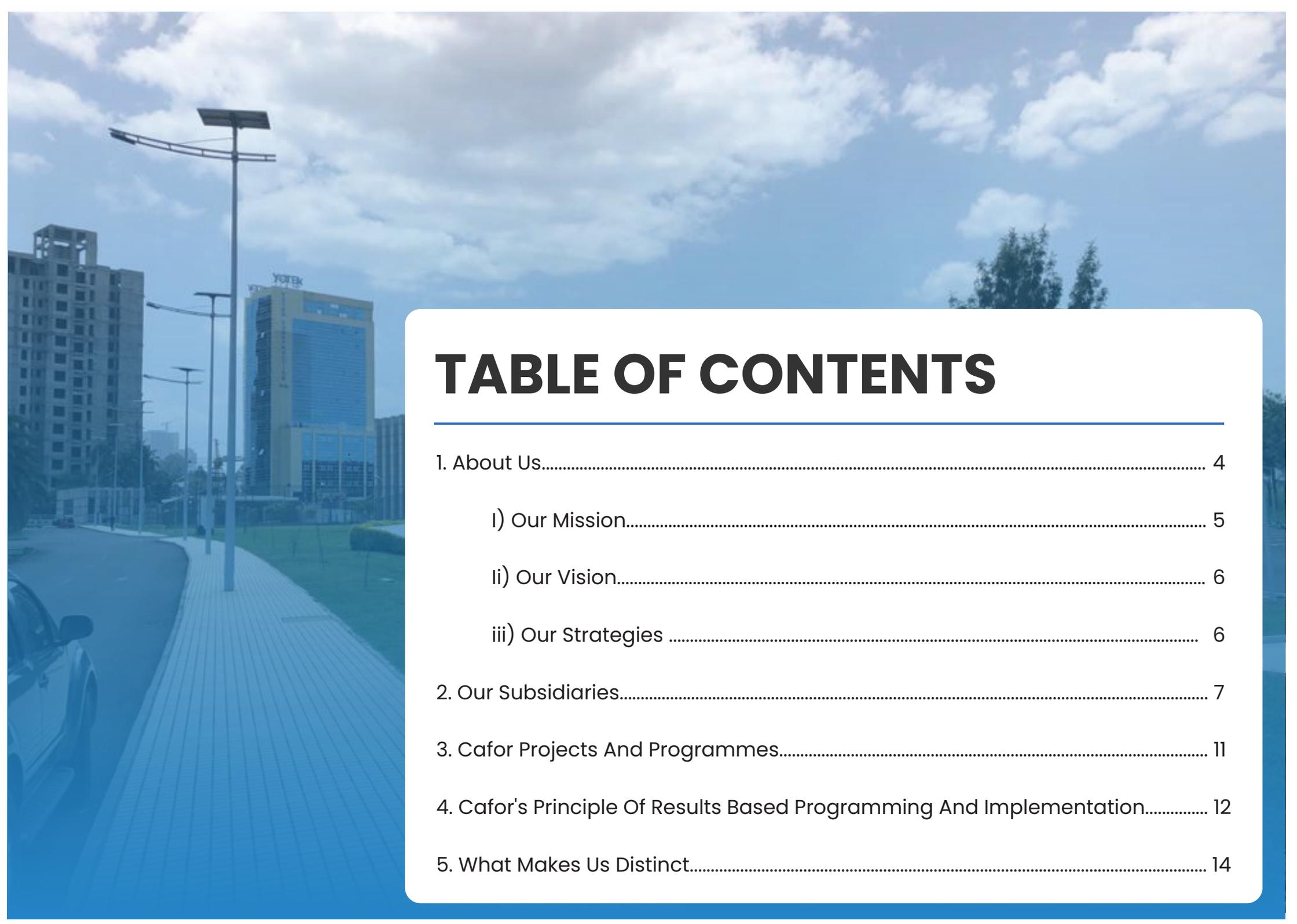
To learn more about CAFOR visit Website: [www.cafor.org](http://www.cafor.org)











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# ABOUT US

## WHO WE ARE

### The Coalition on Media and Education for Development Africa Forum (CAFOR)

is a non-profit membership organization comprising institutions, organizations, experts, and individuals who are committed to ensuring that education systems in Africa are relevant to young Africans with newly acquired skills that correspond with what obtains in the labour market within the African continent.

The primary reason for forming, joining, or building this Coalition is to gain maximum influence and potential that an individual organization would otherwise not be able to have. The African Union Commission hosts CAFOR in its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

CAFOR will achieve the impression as mentioned above through the following means:-

1. Having the Coalition owned by its members.
2. Combining resources and working together, and having groups or parties accomplish more along than they would on their own.
3. Leadership becomes a shared activity.
4. Accountability shifts from strictly individual to both individual and collective.
5. The team develops its purpose and mission
6. Problem-solving becomes a way of life, not a part-time exercise and
7. Measure effectiveness through the group's combined outcomes and products

# OUR MISSION

Is to promote communication as a Core Element of Education and Youth Development that will focus on Youth Labour Force Participation, focusing on reform in the agricultural sector in Africa as a start. CAFOR will place communication at the heart of education and youth development in Africa by:

1. Providing a continent-wide platform for exchanging information, experience, and practices about new technologies and innovations involving youths, especially in agriculture and other vocations, will help curb internal and external migration.
2. Advocating the importance of good communication practices among key stakeholders.
3. Building capacity to stimulate robust public debate.
4. Promoting policy measures to create an enabling environment for young people to engage in innovation in Africa. Such changes will include access to funding, public access to ICT, skills development, and technology infrastructure.
5. Pooling and exchanging knowledge and experiences of successful practices among experts in government ministries, CSOs, NGOs, the media, and communities.
6. Translating ideas into action on the ground by testing technological innovations and institutionalizing what works; and
7. Promoting relationships of trust and meaningful multi-stakeholder partnerships among them.



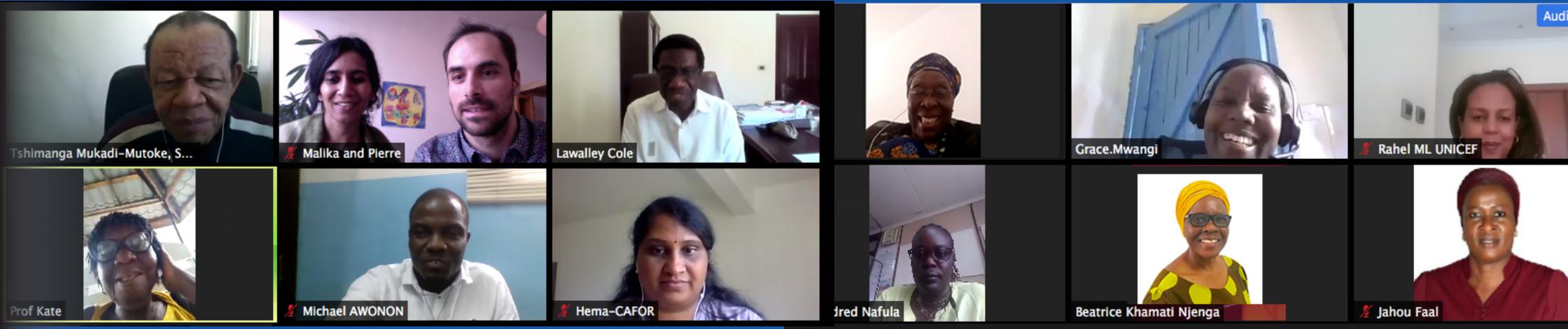
## OUR VISION

The Vision of CAFOR is to place communication at the centre of education, focusing on youth skills development and the labour market in Africa. CAFOR will become the Leading African Centre of Excellence for Communication in Youth Skills Development and will be the sustainable independent, continental reference and facilitating agency for excellent communication practices in education for development.

This domain will include advocacy, capacity building, analysis, research, and documenting best practices. CAFOR will mainly focus on the concept of work and training in those areas that equip young people with exceptional skills to meet modern-day challenges.

## OUR STRATEGIES

CAFOR seeks to achieve its objectives through a **6- pronged programme strategy** with the following strategic activities related to education and skills development for youths in Africa: (i) Facilitating research; (ii) strengthening **stakeholder mobilization and sensitization**; (iii) supporting **capacity building initiatives**; (iv) undertaking and strengthening **advocacy and lobbying**; and (v) promoting **partnership and networking** (vi) Support **skills development for youths** in emergency and post-conflict situations. The critical elements of these strategic activities are explained below.



# OUR SUBSIDIARIES

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CAFOR already has an energetic African professional corps of more than 50 members that would support programmes within member states of the African Union.

This corps, considered to be among the best and brightest in the African continent, consists of professionals from various walks of life and include scientists, technologists, social science researchers, education specialists, journalists, business managers, lawyers, youth leaders, teachers, university professors, diplomats and project and programme managers serving various institutions.

CAFOR members are highly trained individuals, with the vast majority of them having obtained training in highly reputable universities and other institutions of higher learning around the

world that include Harvard, London, Oxford, the Sorbonne or their equivalent in Africa and having graduated with Master and PhD degrees in diverse fields in the sciences, technology, social sciences, education and journalism to name a few of the disciplines.

Many of the members have been editor or chief editor of influential journals in Africa. They have worked as staff members and international consultants with several major agencies, including the World Bank, the United Nations, African governments, and international Non-Governmental Organizations.

CAFOR also has politicians and diplomats who want to ensure that AU policies and programmes on human resource development matter. They also want to make sure that

science and technology are appropriately coordinated at the continental level.

Many of them have been encouraging and providing technical support to the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in implementing continental strategies such as CESA 16-24, STISA 2024 and the TVET strategy.

We also have environmental and natural scientists with many years of leading work in education, environment, and development, as teachers, university professors, researchers, lobbyists, and policy development agents.



# OUR

# SUBSIDIARIES

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CAFOR has many youth leaders and youth development consultants with a particular interest in governance, participation, and youth empowerment to better demand commitment on global and continental agendas such as Agenda 2030 and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Many of these youth leaders have links with AU organs, RECs, governments, civil societies, and academia to enhance, empower and strengthen the position of young people, to support our continental initiatives.

Many of our members are lead specialists in their competencies with a long track record in using ICT for massive developmental impact. We also have winners of several awards and accolades in diverse fields. Some members are

committed to putting a spotlight on startup development, innovation, emerging technologies, technology transfer, gender inclusion, stakeholder engagement and intercontinental collaboration.

One of CAFOR's prominent members has trained and mentored many great innovators on the continent and helped in the digital transformation of larger organizations.

CAFOR will establish regional offices in each sub-region of the continent and work in all the 55 Member States of the African Union to ensure that information exchange and communication between partners are essential to achieving well-managed, efficient education systems and education of good quality for all.

As a membership organization, CAFOR is constantly soliciting its members to strengthen cooperation and partnerships worldwide to achieve adequate investments in education, particularly to enhance human capital while ensuring that Africa's youthful population acquire the right skills relevant to the continent's economic and social development.

CAFOR now has a broad spectrum of partners with which it is still holding dialogue regularly, despite the COVID-19 pandemic situation, which has slowed down many of CAFOR's activities in the recent past. CAFOR will deploy multi-faceted strategies to ensure the youth in Africa are skilled and become more employable. The core tenants of the strategic framework are:

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Africa Union:** CAFOR has signed a strategic MOU with the AU at the beginning of 2019 for five years.

**2. Policy and regulatory support:** CAFOR will provide technical, strategic and advocacy support to establish a system to address the regulatory environment on educational reforms for youth to ensure more employability.

**3. Setting up a continent-wide forum:** CAFOR will function as a broker of ideas and set up a continent-wide platform for knowledge sharing.

**4. Multi-stakeholder partnerships:** CAFOR will assist by promoting such alliances to work on:

**a) Multidisciplinary model:** Partnership between academicians and researchers, and between different universities, and between various training institutions to develop better curriculum and pedagogy methods.

**b) PPP model:** Partnership between public and private institutions to provide better access to facilities.

**c) A partnership between industries and firms** with educational institutions and universities to map the demands and supply.

**5. Donor collaboration:** CAFOR will prepare a sector strategic report covering challenges, reforms undertaken, collaboration needed, and best practices from different countries and required funding.

**6. Support to the African Union's Agenda 2063:** CAFOR and its networks will work closely

with the various departments of the African Union Commission to popularize Agenda 2063 at the regional and country levels and will encourage the African Union to work with African institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) to strengthen scientific research and innovation through African networks of excellence.

**7. Support in implementing key continent-wide education strategy:** CAFOR will provide technical, financial and advocacy support to implement the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**9. Support to its members:** CAFOR has a strong network of 30 participating countries with an additional 25 countries to be registered by the end of 2021, thus covering all the 55 member states of the African Union.

CAFOR also has an extensive network of more than 1800 members comprising the media. It intends to disseminate all the initiatives to other experts and professionals who work mainly in the development sector.

Strategically, members of CAFOR can support the implementation of various policies through their active membership of the organization.

CAFOR also independently supports all its members on multiple initiatives, including policy, regulatory issues, capacity building,

advocacy, developing and communication strategies to increase employment to the youth.

## 10. Support implementation of SDGs:

By implementing its strategy, CAFOR will contribute to directly achieving the SDG 4 – quality education and indirectly assist in fulfilling other **key SDGs, including:-**

- o **SDG 1** – No Poverty,
- o **SDG 2** – Zero Hunger
- o **SDG 3** – Good Health & Well Being
- o **SDG 5** – Gender equality  
*(CESA Objective)*
- o **SDG 8** – Decent work & Economic Growth *(another CESA objective)*
- o **SDG 10** – Reduced Inequality

## 10. Testing Technological Innovations:

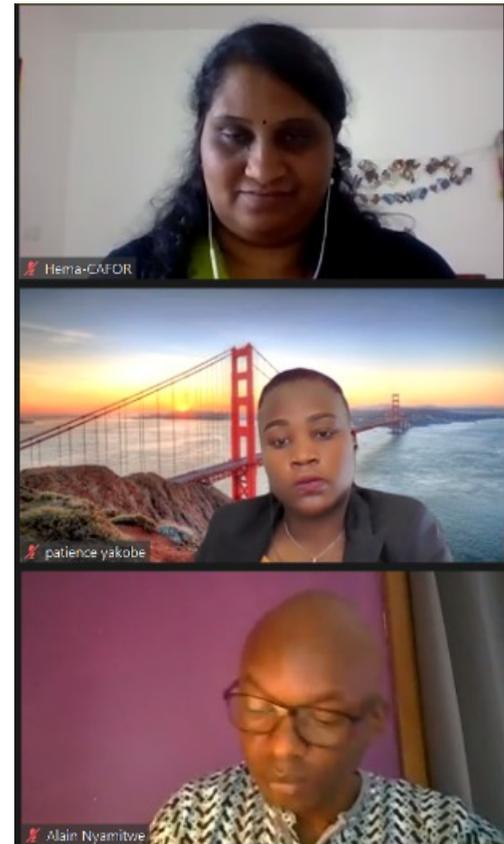
CAFOR will promote new technological innovations that will assist teachers and students in exploring more research.

# OUR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

CAFOR has elaborated ten project concepts for the next five years until the end of the CESA implementation period. This notion is consistent with the implementation of the MOU signed between CAFOR and the African Union. All ten projects are spanning over these five years at a total cost of more than USD 300,000,000. The ten projects are as follows:

- (a) Quality Education.
- (b) Popularizing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).
- (c) Digital Schools Initiative.
- (d) Promoting CAFOR in the member states of the African Union.
- (e) Strengthening Institutional Capacity for the operationalization of CAFOR.
- (f) African Digital Library.
- (g) Education in Emergencies and Conflict Situations.
- (h) Street Children Pilot Project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- (i) Innovative Skills for Africa's Youth.
- (j) Training of Journalists and Communication Officers in Ministries of Education in Africa. These projects each take a different dimension in terms of implementation, and each of them has its unique characteristics.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and its negative impact on Africa's education systems call on all education stakeholders at the regional and continental levels to act with speed and scale up to implement innovative initiatives that improve Africa's education resilience system and ensure continuous learning.



# OUR PRINCIPLE OF RESULTS BASED PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION

All of CAFOR's approach to programming and their implementation is results-based. The goal is to guide coordinated and efficient collection, analysis, use, and provision of information to track the progress made in implementing the strategy and enhancing informed and sound decision-making and lesson learning.

The entire CAFOR monitoring and evaluation strategy would focus on impact. The significant rise in the number of players in the African Youth Skills Development and Employment framework brought about immense competition for resources.

As CAFOR would remain relevant in this increasingly competitive landscape, the Secretariat would deliver high-quality services and assistance in a timely and appropriate manner. It is equally essential to deliver on promises made and be accountable for results and impact through rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts.



Let's invest in Education, donate to CAFOR to build the Africa of the future and to bring the African Union closer to the grassroots.



Nelson Mandela (South Africa)

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”***

# WHAT MAKES US DISTINCT

CAFOR was born out of several forums of reflections by ordinary African citizens who have been successful in their various fields of competency nationally and internationally and who felt that the continent had not moved well enough in the right direction to achieve sustainable development when compared with places like South Korea, Singapore and other countries in Asia and different continents which were at the same level of growth in the 1960s when most African countries were attaining their independence.

The narrative advanced at the time centred around the demographic transition happening in Africa. Advances in healthcare and well-being have led to increased life expectancy and improvements in infant and child mortality rates.

The result is an interim period of rapid population growth, characterized as a 'youth bulge'. Despite the relatively rapid economic growth, inadequate job creation for a 'youth bulge' of Africans with few skills relevant to the labour market and an underperforming educational system has failed to prepare young people for existing jobs.

Also, the significant gender discrepancy emerging as young women tend to enter marriage early and withdraw from the labour force and focus on rearing a family was an actual cause for concern. Overall, ordinary African citizens felt that Africa's widespread youth unemployment threatens to undermine social and political stability and means that young people are particularly vulnerable to radicalization.

What makes CAFOR distinct is that many ordinary African citizens felt that Africans must address these issues. They must not leave donors and external partners alone to handle them in their specific ways, as was usually the case.





“ IF WE WANT TO REAP THE HARVEST OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL HAVE TO SOW SEEDS OF NON VIOLENCE, HERE AND NOW, IN THE PRESENT

**Mairead Corrigan**

**2020**  
**SILENCING THE GUNS:**

Creating Conducive  
Conditions for Africa's  
Development

Many felt that although making up the lion's share of national budgets, education is not sufficiently prioritized with many education systems continuing to suffer several challenges such as shortage of human resources (qualified and motivated teachers), teaching and learning materials, inadequate infrastructures such as classrooms, harmful cultural practices, emergencies, and conflict situations.

African citizens who now form the core membership of CAFOR saw that most of these challenges would require adequate political will and financing. Business, as usual, will lead to failure for African countries to yield maximum results as envisaged in the global and continental development and education plan.

For this reason, the African Union's CESA call for the establishment of a Coalition of Stakeholders as a strategy to amplify the case for prioritizing and investing in education and ensure better coordination and networking on matters related to education in Africa.

The formation of CAFOR is mainly a response to this call by the African Union to mobilize stakeholders to support CESA implementation. CAFOR will add value by focusing on the communication dimension, which is its leverage point.

CAFOR believes that communication must be at the core of the business of planning education on the continent, ensuring that it is comprehensive and inclusive and that its style and content enhances dialogue in promoting all facets of education.

Information exchange and communication between partners are essential to achieving well-managed, efficient education systems and education of good quality for all.



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SKYLIGHT HOTEL



EBU European Business University  
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PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
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