

AFRICAN UNION
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
RESEARCH COMMISSION



UNION AFRICAINE
COMMISSION SCIENTIFIQUE,
TECHNIQUE ET DE LA RECHERCHE

(DRAFT)

Science, Technology and Innovation for Post-Conflict Recovery in Africa:

Integrating Young Arms to Their Societies

Under the Framework of

Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024)

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AU Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy

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The African Youth Charter

And

AU Agenda 2063

Abuja 2015

I. BACKGROUND:

Conflict remains the greatest challenge in most of the African Union Member States and has caused devastation in livelihoods, loss of life, property and health. The cumulative effect of conflict has hindered economic prosperity in most of these countries. The youth have particularly been caught in the web of consequences of wars and post-wars. Their importance as both victims and agents is not far-fetched. It is estimated that over 300,000 children under the age of 18 are involved in more than 30 conflicts worldwide (UNICEF Fact sheet). In Uganda more than 60,000 children have been kidnaped by both the armed forces and rebel factions. Similarly, it is estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 children served as child soldiers during the Liberian civil war. In Sierra Leone, about 5,400 children were abducted between 1992 and 1996 and forced to fight on both sides. The demography of most of the post-war countries in Africa points to the fact that over 50% of the population of those countries were under the age of 18 at the time of conflict, which makes them the most vulnerable group that suffers the pain unleashed upon.

Against this backdrop, any rebuilding effort must include building their capacities to augment the weakened human capital caused by the war; and to ensure that they are re-integrated into their communities without discrimination and stigmatization. This is affirmed by article 15 and 17 of the African Youth Charter, where the right of youth to gainful employment, protection from economic exploitation, and the important role of youth in promoting peace and non-violence were underscored. The Charter also called for the development of macroeconomic policies on job creation for youth; promoting entrepreneurship; strengthen the capacity of youth and their organizations in peace building, conflict prevention and resolution; and mobilizing youth for reconstruction of the areas devastated by war. To ensure these, youth must be given skills through mentorship, apprenticeship and where possible for those who can still go to school be given education; this will unleash the potentials of the youth to build peaceful and secured Africa as one of the aspirations under Agenda 2063.

Several studies on conflict and economic development show a negative correlation, as an aftermath of wars or conflicts is characterized by confusion, poverty, poor health and weakens even the minimum resilience the community had. This is because most state capacity and institutions are weakened, physical infrastructure and human capital destroyed and unemployment increased i.e. the backbone of the economy is practically non-existing in most instances. Other issues are the depletion of natural resources by the leaders of warring factions for their weapon purchase and other expenses leaves virtually the community in poverty, misery and environmental degradation. In this situation, the only way out is a comprehensive reconstruction and rebuilding of the nation, particularly the human capital/resources.

Post-conflict economic recovery comes in handy, according to the UNDP report on crisis prevention and recovery 2008 that examined the challenges of recovery from three points of view: indigenous drivers, macroeconomic policies that post-conflict countries can adopt and the role of the state in the economic recovery process. The AU Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy adopted in 2006 was hinged on five core principles, namely: African leadership; national and local ownership; inclusiveness; equity and non-discrimination; cooperation and cohesion; and lastly capacity building for sustainability. Clearly both considered local content, national ownership and capacity building as an integral part of rebuilding.

The African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 recognizes peace and harmony as an integral part of economic recovery and prosperity in Africa included live together-build

the society and wealth creation as part of its six priority areas. This underscores the relevance of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) towards quick and sustainable economic recovery in post-conflict areas. Promoting STIs initiatives in post-war countries through capacity building of ex-young soldiers will not only be a driver to propel these countries towards economic recovery, but it will also prevent them from going back to barbarous acts and guard the volatile countries from going back to war.

This project seeks to empower youth from former conflict areas by harnessing their innate skills and use of basic scientific/technological skills to solve pressing development/environmental challenges in their respective communities. This initiative must learn and build on the success stories from and out of Africa, mainly in Asia (Japan and Korea), and in Africa, such as Rwanda as a reference case for similar conditions.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Youth in STI for Post-Conflict recovery in Africa is to build the capacities of youth in post-conflict countries in Africa through the use of STI for self-development and community prosperity. The programme will establish micro businesses, and/or similar institutions that are based on technology transfer, adoption, and diffusion in the post conflict areas as stipulated in the STISA 2024 priority areas ‘Live Together-Build the Society’ and ‘Wealth Creation’. It will also expose communities to environmental friendly technologies that address their daily challenges such as Water and Sanitation, Healthcare, Energy, Food, Agriculture & Environment, Housing and Construction, Waste & Recycling, and ICT.

III. TIMEFRAME

Estimated Duration: Five (5) years
Planned to Start: As soon as the funds are available
 1st two (2) years is a preparatory phase that is to conduct activities from 1-6 (see v of this document)

IV. OBJECTIVES

a) Overall objective:

The overall objective of the project is to leverage/build the individual experience and capacities of Young Arms to utilize basic technologies for their economic sustainability, integration and community development.

b) Specific Objectives

No.	Description of the objectives
1	Providing hands on experience of technologies that are needed in the post conflict areas
2	Introducing the participants to business skills and availing opportunities and mechanisms for wealth creation and integration.
3	Drying out sources of recruitment for future conflicts
4	Creating jobs and community development

V. ACTIVITIES AND ESTIMATED COST

No.	Activity	Description	Deliverable	Priority	Estimated Cost
1	Project Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC (representatives of STRC, Youth Div., PS, SA, EA), • Targeted Member State (representative of the Government relevant institutions, Civil Societies) , and • Partners (including donors) 	guidelines for project implementation and steering	1	295,000 (cost for : one meeting/ year + field visits + project publicity)
2	Establishment of the Programme Management Unit (PMU)	<p>PMU to be set in place in the targeted Member State which will be composed of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Expert on technology transfer and acquisition (P4); 2- Socio-economist (P3); 3- Finance officer (P2); 4- Secretary (GSA5). <p>The PMU will provide overall sighting of the project including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Development of the business models and counselling services; 2- Monitoring, evaluation, mitigation and reviewing processes; 3- Sensitize committees at all levels on STI issues; among others 	Fully functional PMU to support and measure the success of the project	1	2,200,000 (Staff salaries accounts for 1,218,459. While utilities, Office space rent, Furniture, Equipment, Vehicle, Consultancy, field visits, M&E and project publicity accounts for the rest). This cost could be reduced if the host country provides an office space. N.B. the salaries are calculated on the base of local recruitment.
	Need analysis	Preliminary/complementary surveys will be conducted in the targeted Member States to ascertain the needs, but also for buy-in and have ownership of the initiative by national governments and entities	<p>Identification of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- the needed technologies that are environmental friendly and help to reduce the pressure on the ecosystems; 2- local partners (governmental and financial institutions, NGOs and civil societies those that have the same objectives and common interest; and 3- Target groups. 	1	150,000

4	Technology acquisition	Sourcing the technologies needed that may include: Water and Sanitation, Healthcare, Energy, Food, Agriculture & Environment, Housing and Construction, Waste & Recycling, and ICT. (This activity will be clarified further after conducting the need analysis)	Specific technologies identified and acquired as per the community needs	1	1,250,000 Cost for technology procurement and handing out to 35 Micro business (this will be in soft loan bases)
5	Development of training modules	Development of training modules and translating it to local languages.	Training modules on: 1- technical capacity building (handling the pre-defined technologies); 2- administrating micro businesses, and/or similar institutions; 3- rehabilitation, communication skills and re-integration.	1	110,000
6	Training session and hands on	Professional training for technology transfer, acquisition and adoption on the pre-identified technologies	Young Arms are trained and ready to start their own businesses	1	194,400 Two session for two weeks attended by 40 trainees (payment of trainers + accommodation and catering+ transportation+ 20 USD allowance/trainee/day)
7	Incubation of the small businesses	Incubating the small businesses that are successfully graduated from activity 5 by: 1- Granting soft loans to the selected candidates to support running their businesses; 2- In kind contribution by introducing the needed technologies (goods, products and/or equipment's ; 3- Development/review of business models 4- Business counselling services	1-small businesses are well established and functional ; 2-local job market size increased; 3-the communities are benefiting from basic technologies for sustainable development; 4-Young Arms are recognized as a pillar in post conflict reconstruction	1	This activity is funded partially from activity 4. Rather 100,000 USD is needed for Development/review of business models business counselling services

8	Monitoring and Evaluation	Field visits to project site and activities; conducting mid-term and final evaluations	Reports and recommendations	1	(budget under this activity is covered under activity 2)
Total:					4,299,400 USD
Contingency : 5%					214,950 USD
Total cost of the project:					4,513,950* USD

* Budget flow and annual disbursement could be developed if the need be.

VI. EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1- Young Arms are contributing to the community reconstruction and development; and are fully reconciled and integrated to the society;
- 2- Expanded job market size in local communities and opportunities for wealth creation;
- 3- Sources of recruitment for future conflict are dried out and more secured community; and
- 4- Community well informed and utilizing basic technologies that are needed for better life and environmental friendly.

VII. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators are defined as factors that are to help in measuring the success of the project:

a) Indicator 1:

Assessment of the outcome capacities/capabilities of the participants at the capacity building programme on handling technologies and businesses

b) Indicator 2:

Number of micro businesses that have successfully started and their self-reliance and survival abilities ;
Number of micro businesses pay back the instalment of the soft loans

c) Indicator 3:

Funds that are generated/ mobilized from local financial institutions/international partners to kick-start the second batch of the project

d) Indicator 4:

Local communities are using technologies that are environmental friendly that are to reduce the pressure on the national ecosystems.

VIII. RISK FACTORS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

a) Long term sustainability

Risk related to the long term sustainability of the programme; which could be related to number of elements including but not limited to:
Financial resources; beneficiaries' turnoff; regular update of the courses to cover different technological gaps and needs.

Risk: Medium

The projects under this batch will be in a position to sustain themselves after the 1st three years of its life-time (incubation period) and will be in position to extend their business. The World Bank and UNCTAD studies affirm "SMEs that survived the first three years of its life-span will be capable to sustain itself and grow in the near future".

Funds for the second batch will be generated from the soft loans payback from the first batch beneficiaries; support from local financial entities/institutions and partners.

Considering the beneficiaries' turnoff; number of candidates selected to the capacity building need to be more than available opportunities for funding by 10% not only to respond to the turnoff but also to ensure competitiveness when granting the funds.

In the aspect of regular update of the courses, the PMU will be in close contact with the national authorities, update regularly the needs assessment exercises, in close contact and consultation with the beneficiaries to anticipate the needed changes/updates to be captured in the curriculum.

b) Selection of qualified participants

Risk related to recruitment of qualified participants (Young Arms) and ensuring their commitment to the programme.

Risk: Low

Throughout the process of the programme promotion; support of Local Authorities, Civil Society Organizations (NGOs) and community leaders in the designated areas in the targeted Member State; and finally by setting out a clear and fair selection criteria and process this risk will be eliminated.

c) National context of implementation of the project

Post conflict countries are characterised by weakened national systems, which can result in lack of conducive environment and community buy-in.

Risk: Medium

To minimize this risk a well-balanced Steering Committee that composed of competent institutions and personal, strong base-line study, along with comprehensive communication strategy are needed.

IX. PARTNERS

TBD (after consultation with expected potential ones which include; UNEVOC; UNDP; ILO etc.)

X. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- a) African Union Commission internal control systems that are clearly stated in the procurement manual; granting manual and financial/Auditing controls will be implemented. The STRC is open for additional proposals that may come from partners.
- b) The PMU is to develop Monitoring and Evaluation systems and measures in accordance with item (a) above to ensure successful implementation of the project by the beneficiaries.