

“Creating opportunities for youth and women in Africa”

A renewed alliance between the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN



AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Spain has maintained a strong partnership with the African Union, the continent's main integration organization, and its development agency, AUDA-NEPAD. This commitment is reinforced through **the new Spain-Africa Strategy 2025-2028 and the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2024-2027.**

Since 2009, this cooperation has supported African women through the **NEPAD-Spain Fund**, which has invested 20 million euros in economic empowerment projects across 38 countries, benefiting over one million people. A total of 77 projects have been funded, focusing on training, access to financing, and job creation. In addition, AECID has contributed 30 million euros in support of the AU Commission and its Center for Disease Control.

RENEWED ALLIANCE “CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AFRICA”

In May 2022, Spain and the African Union signed a **new Memorandum of Understanding** covering key areas such as peace, security, Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063, and resource mobilization. In line with the 2023 Law on International Cooperation for Sustainable Development, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation announced a contribution of **70 million euros: 20 million for AUDA-NEPAD and 50 million for the AU Commission.**





The joint efforts of AECID and AUDA-NEPAD teams have identified the priorities, objectives, and mechanisms for coordinating and evaluating the new programme **"Creating opportunities for youth and women in Africa."** The programme aims to build on the excellent results of the previous programme, continuing to support African women, while also focusing on youth, who will be key drivers of change on the continent. The programme is endowed with 20 million euros, and its strategic pillars and priority areas align with the goals of both institutions.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of the programme is to improve the living conditions of African women and youth, creating opportunities for future generations. This will be achieved through their economic and social empowerment, with access to institutional representation, employment, and the reduction of gender-based violence. The programme's key areas include training, job creation, inclusion, gender equality, and human rights.

COMPONENTS AND INSTRUMENTS:

1. Training Programmes:

- Online and in-person training sessions.
- Creation of an "AUDA-NEPAD Hub" in Nairobi.

2. Support for Socioeconomic Inclusion:

- Open calls for proposals from women and youth associations.
- Microcredit and entrepreneurship funding.

3. Business Incubators (BIAYWE Programme):

- Development of incubators in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities.
- Access to credit guarantees and training programmes.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY:

The programme will include a Management Unit at AUDA-NEPAD, overseen by Steering and Technical Committees composed of AECID and AUDA-NEPAD teams to ensure ongoing support for beneficiaries during and after the interventions, guaranteeing true empowerment and labor market integration.



Catálogo General de Publicaciones Oficiales: <https://cpage.mpr.gob.es>

Esta publicación ha sido posible gracias a la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID).

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NIPO: 109-25-047-6

NIPO en línea: 109-25-048-1

