



Implemented by



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Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa Newsletter



News from the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa

A service of the project Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa

Dear KCOA partners,

The second half of 2023 has started with a strong focus on creating and attending events where all Knowledge Hubs expand their networks and awareness of organic agriculture and agroecology in their communities and internationally. This edition includes many activities highlighting the engagements of all Hubs in disseminating organic knowledge and in constantly improving trainings and offers to multipliers and farmers.

As October progresses, all of KCOA is in the process of collaborating to co-create the annual Networking Meeting, scheduled to take place at the end of the month. The event will bring the hubs together to exchange and learn about relevant topics for the project's implementation. During the event, the KCOA website will be launched to the public after many adjustments, such as the creation of a Blog Group which you can read more about in this edition.

All Knowledge Hubs continue to create and upload knowledge products to the KCOA database. **So far 580 knowledge products have been uploaded, 355 have already been validated.** We are excited to see these validated knowledge products being used and disseminated.

Enjoy the read!

Your KCOA team at GIZ

Current activities & achievements

Knowledge Hub Southern Africa (KHSa)

Zambia

Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival

PELUM Zambia is preparing for the annual Traditional Seed and Food Festival on 13. and 14. October 2023. This year's festival is themed: Celebrating traditional seed and food for healthy, safe and nutritious food for people, planet and the economy. Farmers from 10 provinces will come together to celebrate their traditional seeds and foods.



Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival
- October 2023. Photo: PELUM Zambia



#ChooseOrganic campaign post. Photo:
SAOSO

South Africa

#ChooseOrganic campaign

The South African Organic Sector Organisation and PGS South Africa launched their #ChooseOrganic campaign in September to champion the benefits of organic living. Follow the campaign on social media or read more about it on www.saoso.org/choose-organic

Namibia

NOA Public lecture series

The Namibian Organic Association launched its public lecture series on organic-agroecological farming in September. The series will run until early December 2023 and will feature expert speakers from Namibia and surrounding countries on topics ranging from Why Organic? to Can Organic Feed the World. Email noa@nnf.org.na for more information.



NOA Public lecture series - Organic Agriculture 2023. Photo: NOA

Knowledge Hub North Africa (KHNA)

Egypt

35th Session of the Sahara International Exhibition



Opening of Egypt's first vital fertilizer distribution centre. Photo: SEKEM

From September 10. to 12., 2023, KHNA participated in the 35th session of the Sahara International Exhibition. The exhibition included more than 200 exhibiting companies from 22 countries and is the largest agricultural exhibition in Africa. The exhibition was visited by more than 20,000 people

including many organic farmers and farmers' service centres for organic agriculture that provided information for farmers.

Tunisia

Participation in the IFOAM Organics Asia's International Conference on Organic Agriculture in Deserts and Drylands in China 2-7. September 2023



KHNA Tunisian delegation. Photo: KHNA Tunisia

During this conference, held in the Chinese province of Bavanur in Inner Mongolia, the Tunisian KHNA coordinator presented the intervention on the sustainable management of organic oasis ecosystems in Tunisia. On the same occasion, he was chosen as a member of the steering committee of the Network of Organic Agriculture in Deserts and Arid Regions (DOAN) following the signing of a MoU for the establishment of a network between the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - Asia (IFOAM- Asia) and the Chinese company Shengmu Organic Milk.

Morocco

Phase 2 of KHNA: 25 people attending ToT trainings in northern and central Morocco



ToT Participants in Morocco. Photo: KHNA Morocco

The ToT trainings in northern and central Morocco addressed the vision, objectives and means around implementing KHNA and continuing to promote sustainable organic agriculture in Morocco. Based on participatory themes and practical group work, participants were invited to define innovative micro-interventions and reflect on the contributions they can make to their communities by evaluating knowledge products to be integrated on the KHNA platform. During a networking activity, KHNA Morocco also established a new partnership with the Aljizr association, which is a non-profit organization working to reintegrate children who have dropped out of school, particularly in rural areas.

Knowledge Hub Eastern Africa (KHEA)

Uganda

PELUM Uganda holds the 7th #LandAwarenessWeek23



The official launch of LAW 2023 and participants marching through the streets of Lira. Photo: PELUM Uganda

PELUM Uganda held the 7th Land Awareness Week (LAW) 2023, in partnership with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), 7 District Local Governments, and other partners, from 28th August – 1st September in Lango region. This year's theme was "Promoting Land Rights and Inclusion for Enhanced Production and Sustainable Development" and comprised a series of community dialogues, mobile legal aid clinics, radio and TV talk shows, a music exhibition on land matters, youth debates and poems, and social media engagements. The event trended four times throughout the week on social media with over 3 million people reached.



Poster LAW 2023

Kenya

PELUM Kenya's participation in the National Agriculture Show in Machakos



Presenting the chairman's commendation trophy. Photo: PELUM Kenya

PELUM Kenya participated in the Machakos county agricultural show from the 6th to the 10th of June 2023. The theme of the agriculture show was promoting climate smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable economic growth. PELUM Kenya mobilized different member organisations to come and showcase different agroecology practices as well as exhibit different organic products. The show offered an opportunity for KHEA trained farmers to showcase innovations and advancements in organic farming. During the event, PELUM Kenya was awarded the chairman's commendation trophy – a prestigious award that is given to the organisation that exhibits exceptional talent, leadership, and dedication in their field of work.

Rwanda

Strategic partnerships and alliances: Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources Rwanda came together to disseminate organic agriculture knowledge



From left to right: KHEA Master Trainer - Jean Marie Irakabaho, Mr. Olivier Kamana-Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources Rwanda, ROAM CEO-Ms. Lisa Chantal Dusabe, ROAM Head of Programs -Dieudonne Sindikubwaho. Photo: ROAM

On the 27th of June, Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda came together to discuss the data collection of the new EOA/AE indicators to achieve the country's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) objectives ([read more about it here](#)). This occurred in tandem with the knowledge product collection of KCOA-KHEA and the efforts of KHEA and ROAM to build strategic alliances with important stakeholders strengthening their work towards the development of resilient and sustainable food systems.

Tanzania

KHEA Refresher Training for master trainers from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda held in Tanzania by IFOAM-Organics International



KHEA Project team poses for a group photo at Protea Hotel in Tanzania ahead of the Refresher training for the KHEA Master Trainers. Photo: TOAM

Master Trainers from PELUM Uganda, PELUM Kenya, ROAM and TOAM undertook a refresher training in Dar-es-Salam Tanzania between the 19th to the 21st of July 2023. The three-day event was centred around the best organic farming practices and delivering training to selected multipliers. The refresher was meant to re-equip participants with organic agriculture skills, discuss issues of quality assurance and facilitate knowledge exchange between different countries.

Madagascar

IFOAM Organics International Graduates 8 Master Trainers in Madagascar



KHEA Project team poses for a group photo with the new Master Trainers in Madagascar under GSDM and SYMABIO. Photo: KHEA

A KHEA training was held in Madagascar for 8 master trainers from Madagascar and Tanzania from 31st July – 5th August 2023. During the training, the master trainers demonstrated how to use different methodologies to train multipliers and participants shared their different learning journeys. The overarching purpose of these trainings was to ensure the development of a hands-on practice where multipliers and farmers can put their skills to the test. Participants were encouraged to identify the areas where they can improve, creating a culture of growth with constructive feedback and coaching.

Knowledge Hub West Africa (KHWA)

Benin

Capacity building workshops and exchange visits for multipliers in Natitingou



Participants of the capacity building workshop in Natitingou, Benin. Photo: Serge Gansou

The Multiplier Capacity Building Workshop, held on June 9th and 10th, 2023 in Natitingou, Benin, was an opportunity to further train multipliers in ecological and organic agriculture. Over two days, 15 multipliers exchanged knowledge on soil fertility management, pest, disease and weed management, organic farm management, as well as marketing of organic products. After the trainings, ten other multipliers joined for exchange visits that aimed to strengthen their skills in ecological organic agriculture, agroecological farm management and integrated farm systems. These visits helped to broaden their horizons and establish links between sustainable farming practices and local needs.



Photo: Serge Gansou

Nigeria

The power of social media for multipliers

On August 28th, NOAN hosted the virtual event "Leveraging Social Media to Promote Organic Agriculture". The event aimed to educate multipliers within the NOAN-KCOA network and practitioners of organic agriculture on the power of social media. The event emphasized the importance of social media for organic agriculture visibility and an expert panel discussion stressed the importance of authentic content creation and collaborations in shaping the future of organic agriculture advocacy on digital platforms.

Knowledge Hub Central Africa (KHCA)

Cameroun

Information workshops on PGS in Yaoundé and Bafoussam



Workshop on PGS. Photo: KHCA

In order to encourage the nationwide adoption of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), KHCA, through GADD, organized two information workshops on PGS in Yaoundé and Bafoussam. The aim was to initiate exchanges on the development of PGS and to raise awareness of the economic potential of organic farming and agroecology. The workshops also highlighted participants' needs and expectations in terms of organic certification and explored ways of contextualizing them.

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I)

Inclusion of EOA indicators, preparation, and support work for the 4th CAADP Biennial Review



Group photo during the final CAADP Biennial Review Writeshop, in Lagos, Nigeria, 18-22 September 2023. Photo: Peace Mutuwa, AUC

BvAT as the EOA-I Secretariat was involved in supporting countries in data collection and in validation at the regional and continental levels following the successful inclusion of the three EOA indicators into the 4th BvAT, as the EOA-I Secretariat, was involved in supporting countries in data collection and in validation at the regional and continental levels following the successful inclusion of the three EOA indicators into the 4th CAADP Biennial Review (BR) cycle. From the preparation phases onwards, the EOA Secretariat team of Dr David Amudavi, Mr. Alex Mutungi and Ms. Venancia Wambua participated in the EAC, ECOWAS, and SADC regional data validation workshops in August and September, in the continental validation workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and in the final CAADP Biennial Review in Lagos, Nigeria, 18-22 September 2023.

Overall, 49 countries provided data on the seven commitments in the Malabo Declaration and on several indicators in the CAADP. From all countries, **65%** reported improvements and/or activities on 3 EOA indicators.

The issues addressed included: organic fertilizer use as part of total fertilizer consumption, the status of Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) in national seed policy instruments and institutional arrangements, and the improvement of agricultural area under organic agriculture practices.

A report of the events that took place will be finalized by the CAADP BR technical team, translated into the five official AU languages, and presented to the Specialized Technical Committee of Ministers on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment for endorsement. The final 4th BR report will be released to the AU Heads of State and Governments in February 2024 for adoption.

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

The CAADP is an African Union **policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security, nutrition security and economic growth.**

Under the CAADP, the BvAT - EOA-I Secretariat is committed to the African Heads of State Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Growth and Transformation in Africa (June 2014). The goals of the Malabo Declaration include reducing levels of poverty, ending hunger on the continent, and tripling intra-African trade in agricultural goods, among others by 2025.

BvAT is proud of these milestones and the support it received from development partners in the execution of the EOA initiative on the continent.

GIZ

The Blog Group and the development of the KCOA Multiplier Network website



The KCOA Multiplier Network website will feature a blog section that with success stories from multipliers. Photo: GIZ

Throughout the past few months, representatives from the Knowledge Hubs, GIZ and Akryl have been working intensively to refine every detail on the Multiplier Network website. Preparation for the official launch included many improvements that are now up and running on the Multiplier Network website during the test phase.

An important part of the website will be a KCOA Blog section that will highlight success stories and stories from multipliers. This part of the website was requested and developed by our partners, with the main goal of disseminating knowledge and inspiring readers through stories from the field. To further develop this section, a group of communicators from all hubs decided to create the “KCOA Blog Group.” This working group meets once a week to exchange experiences on writing blog posts, to learn how to navigate the platform and to identify possible improvements for users.

The Blog Group is now working on creating a guide to support the hubs and multipliers in finding suitable formats for blogging, writing catchy stories and engaging our network. The group is open to all interested in becoming a new member and soon members will have access to input sessions on online journalistic writing.

With the official and public launch of the platform approaching, soon all users will be able to discover the work of the hubs and multipliers through their amazing stories. Stay tuned!

Did you know that?

Number of Professional Fairs and Events

...that Knowledge Hubs and member organisations contribute to at national, regional and/or international level.



84 fairs and events in total

West Africa

14

Central Africa

3

North Africa

34

Eastern Africa

19

Southern Africa

14

The Knowledge Hubs currently count 84 fairs and events in total. Photo: GIZ/Caro Kadaz

3 questions to a colleague

In every newsletter, we ask three questions to one colleague from every Knowledge Hub (KH). This time we asked the following questions:

1. If you had to give your KH one compliment, what would it be?
2. If your KH were an object/animal/plant, which would it be and why?
3. What personal goals do you have that KCOA helps you achieve?

Mathieu Foka | CIPCRE Focal Point and Regional Knowledge Manager | CIPCRE | Cameroon | joined the project in March 2021

1. The KHCA is a very supportive, accommodating and dynamic hub. In fact, despite the fact that activities started very late compared with other hubs, KHCA has managed to catch up. What's more, despite its unique structure (5 organisations), KHCA has managed to evolve in a well-constructed harmony.

2. The termite: it's tiny, but manages to build a termite mound as huge and solid as a rock.

3. A better understanding of the organic value chain; Mastery of national and international issues relating to organic farming; Development of advocacy skills to promote organic farming; Development of knowledge management skills.



Mathieu Foka from KHCA. Photo: KHCA

Dr. Nehemiah Mihindo | Master trainer | Kenya | Effective IPM Association (EIPMA) Kenya | joined the project in June 2019

1. The East Africa Knowledge Hub has been very instrumental in targeting rural communities with practical knowledge on organic agriculture. For example, in Kenya my organization has reached over 1000 farmers through this program.
2. I would liken the project to a dairy cow which gives multiple benefits to the owner including milk, manure and aesthetic satisfaction. The project has helped multiple stakeholders in different parts of the region including employment and gaining practical skills.
3. We are a research and training organisation and the knowledge acquired through the project has boosted our capability in handling different issues in agroecology, particularly on integrated pest management. Our mission is to provide leadership on integrated pest management and other sustainable development interventions.



Dr. Nehemiah Mihindo from KHEA. Photo: KHEA

Bilikisu Omowunmi Omitoogun | Administrative and Finance Manager/ Accountant | Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) | Nigeria| joined the project August 2021

1. One compliment to our KH is their attention to details - the hub pays adequate attention to proper documentation of every activity that took place within the project.
2. Our Knowledge Hub could be related to a Lion. The hub is courageous, tenacious, strong and decisive in carrying out the KCOA mandate.
3. One of my personal goals is to practice my profession in the international business environment. KCOA has enabled me to identify and implement best practices in the key areas of Financial Planning, Budgeting, and General Administration and Compliance to Regulatory and Corporate Laws through execution of GIZ sponsored projects of organic Agriculture in West Africa.



Bilikisu Omowunmi Omitoogun. Photo: NOAN

Isaac Mafuel | Communications Officer | Soils Food and Healthy Communities | Malawi | joined the project in December 2022

1. KHSa is a vibrant, engaged community of farmers, practitioners and researchers passionate about knowledge sharing and collaboration. I am always impressed by the depth of expertise and willingness to share that is present in the group.

2. It would be a bee, key for pollination and ecosystem health. Similarly, KHSa is essential for the knowledge ecosystem providing a platform for practitioners and researchers to share knowledge, improving quality of knowledge available.

3. To help develop a strong, sustainable knowledge ecosystem. KCOA enables me to network with communication practitioners and researchers, learn new approaches to knowledge sharing, and develop knowledge resources.



Isaac Mafuel. Photo: KHSa

Jamila Loukili | Coordinator | KHNA Morocco | Morocco | October 2020

1. KHNA provides a key and the beginnings of a solution to the fundamental problems that mankind has been facing. I would also say: change at grassroots level, starting with primary needs that lead to socio-economic and environmental balance.

2. Hummingbird, doing his part of the job for a better future.

3. KHNA helps me to awaken certain consciences that are close to change, and to give them the tools to initiate change in agricultural and social practices.



Jamila Loukili from KHNA. Photo: Nadia Loukili

Success story

From Cancer Grief to Discovering Organic Agriculture

The journey of Olusola Sowemimo into organic farming in Nigeria



Olusola Sowemimo in her farm. Photo: Ope Farms

Olusola Sowemimo started her journey with organic farming sadly after the loss of her mother to cancer in 2011. In her search for answers, Olusola attended a Cancer Control Conference in 2013 in California. At that conference, she learned that eating organic food helped many patients survive cancer. It was also important to these patients to be able to trace the food they were consuming to the farms where the food was organically grown, hence supporting either organic food stores or organic farmers. After this realisation, Olusola decided to start her own organic farm and to support healthy eating. By 2014, Ope Farms had begun trials for organic farming.

The trajectory from an idea to seeing the farm become a reality was very challenging at the beginning. Their limited knowledge on organic practices and a pest incident that destroyed over 600 stands of tomatoes made this early transition very harsh. After losing all the initial production and the seed money invested, Olusola started attending trainings and conferences on organic agriculture. After some time, she got in touch with the Association of Organic Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) who helped her go further in her journey. NOAN connected her with a farmer in Ibadan, Nigeria. There, she learned, for example, about the use of marigold flower on vegetable farms which she was deeply impressed by (read more about it [here](#)).

Olusola Sowemimo shared that aside from the initial challenges they faced due to a knowledge deficit, their organic farming processes and production outputs have greatly improved. Ope Farms recorded remarkable increases in their yield and the quality of their crops like tomatoes, sweetcorn and others. They also grow salad vegetables, indigenous vegetables, fruits, tree crops, as well as poultry. In addition to these products, they have their own honey apiary. And it doesn't stop there,

she says:

“My passion for seeing more people eat organically grown foods has led me to train well over a thousand (1,000) people on how to grow food at home organically. Today production has increased and improved by up to 70%. With a database of over 1,000 customers, we supply juice bars, restaurants and homes weekly from our organic farm. Overall, the heartbeat of our production system is the quality of our soil.”

They currently work closely with Naturopaths who care for cancer patients, providing them with various medicinal plants, vegetables and herbs all organically grown. With the support of KCOA and NOAN, Ope Farms is now organically certified and Olusola is a member of the steering committee of NOAN-KCOA.

“I am glad to be impacting the lives of very many people by providing them with healthy foods. I encourage other organic farmers to continue on the organic path although it seems daunting at first, but it's rewarding in the long run, just make sure to keep searching for knowledge.”

Contact: Olusola Sowemimo - founder.opefarms@gmail.com

Resource tips

FiBL Manual: [Strengthening training on organic farming in Africa](#)

All African Continent | Publication date: 2023 | Language: English, Swahili and French

The African Organic Agriculture Training Manuals consist of several modules with content and materials for farmer training. The materials are an intermediate step towards a comprehensive collection of training materials to promote organic and other sustainable farming practices in Africa. [Link to manual»](#)

Document: [Identification of plants used as ethno-veterinary practice for the control of pest and diseases in cattle](#)

Country: Nigeria | Publication date: 2023 | Language: English

The use of plants as ethno-veterinary is an efficient practice for the control of pest and diseases in cattle. [Link to document»](#)

Dictionary: [Food and Farming Jargon Dictionary](#)

Country: Malawi, but relevant elsewhere | Publication date: September 2023 | Language: English and Chichewa (Malawi)

A dictionary of user-friendly explanations of jargon terms, including climate change terms. [Link to dictionary»](#)

Upcoming events

**Event title & content****Where & when?****Organised by****Event Highlight:****5th African Organic Conference (AOC)**

The African Organic Network (AfrONet), in collaboration with the organic agriculture actors in Africa, the African Union Commission and other strategic organisations outside Africa is organizing the 5th AOC in Kigali, Rwanda under the theme “**Strengthening Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa through Organic Agriculture**”.

Kigali, Rwanda
12-15 December

Francis Nsanga
– KHEA Project Manager
fnsanga@biovisionsafrica.org
and
Lise Dusabe
Chantal
CEO-ROAM
lisechantal@roam.org.rw

Community Socialization/ Validation Workshops on Endogenous Knowledge

This is a 2-day workshop that aims to facilitate the sharing, discussion, recognition and verification of local or community-based knowledge systems and practices in organic agriculture. Also, to confirm community endorsement by signing the intellectual property rights document.

Ogun state/ Nigeria
Oyo state/ Nigeria
Anambra state/ Nigeria
October

Mr Fidelis Ezegbogu
chuksfidelis2k9@yahoo.com

National Workshops for the selection of multipliers

The workshop aims to identify and choose qualified and capable individuals or entities who can effectively disseminate knowledge, skills and resources provided by the hub.

Nigeria
October

Dr Olatunji Marcus
ola_marcus@yahoo.com

Exchange visits to agroecological zones

Field visits to farms, demonstrations of sustainable farming practices, knowledge sharing sessions and discussions with local farmers and experts.

Nigeria
October

Dr Olatunji Marcus
ola_marcus@yahoo.com

DIAF delegation visit to SEKEM

A team of the German - Moroccan Expert Dialogue on Agriculture and Forestry will visit SEKEM/KHNA in Egypt to learn, exchange and network.

Egypt
October

Christine.arlt@sekem-freunde.de

Egypt International Date Palm Festival

The festival is a key step to advance the date sector and boost its competitiveness on international markets.
<https://www.siwafestival.com/introduction>

Egypt
October

info@siwafestival.com

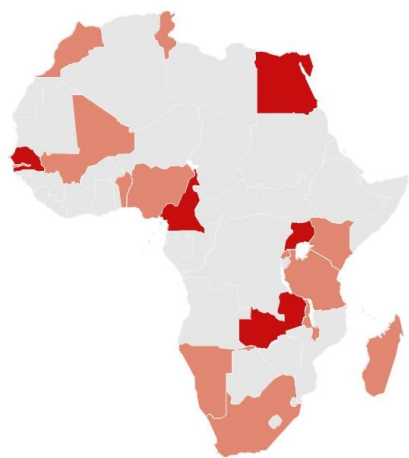
The 1st "Dialogues en humanité" in Casablanca

Morocco
November 17-19

henounj@yahoo.fr

In co-collaboration with the local authorities of Greater Casablanca, and sustainable human development, Dialogue in humanity, will hold exhibitions and workshops. KHNA will participate to this event with a booth and advocacy actions during the conferences.		
ToT “Marketing of organic products” Training session on marketing principles, value chains analysis, sustainable marketing for 25 new multipliers, as part of the knowledge dissemination activities in the KHNA.	Tunisia October 26-27	ineesamamou@gmail.com
PELUM Uganda Agroecology Week of Action (5th NAAS, 13th IFF, 2nd AMASE) Every year PELUM Uganda holds an agroecology week of action packed with brand events.	Uganda October 23-27	Ezra Kalule - KHEA Project Officer – PELUM Uganda
National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference This event is being organised by TOAM with other partners and the objectives including to assess the implementation progress of the 2021 NAEOA conference's deliberations and significantly contribute to address key policy issues including developing a framework for operationalising the NAEOAC strategy under development.	Tanzania November 8-9	Anatory Gabriel-KHEA Communication s officer - TOAM anatory.gabriel@kilimohai.org

About the project



The hub bases (dark red) and the current project countries (light red). © GIZ

Legal disclaimer: This geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions.

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) aims to scale up adoption of organic/agroecological farming practices through a network of five Knowledge Hubs in Africa. The Knowledge Hubs are set up as collaborative country-led partnerships.

KCOA is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and currently 30 non-governmental organisations in 17 countries across Africa. The project runs from 2019 to 2026.



[Contact](#)

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