

Education

Education is a fundamental human right and plays a key enabler for sustainable socio-economic development through driving poverty reduction, improving health outcomes, supporting social cohesion, as well as promoting gender equality, peace, and stability. Furthermore, it fosters long-term economic growth and innovation by enriching productive knowledge (technical knowhow), as well as teaching skills and competencies. In order for nations to reach their full economic potential, there is a need to promote societies and individuals' worldviews, knowledge, skills and competencies, conducive to their ability to recognize, seize, and multiply opportunities that exist. In recent years, there has been growing concerns regarding the "one-size-fits-all" traditional approach to educational programs whereby passive absorption of information becomes the norm. Additionally, traditional learning conventionally does not make provision for persons with disabilities or persons on the neurodiversity spectrum, posing challenges to the attainment of inclusive quality and appropriate education for all. Moreover, limited resources, lack of innovative teaching methods, poor teachers training, and inappropriate existing curriculum impede the successful delivery of quality education. Within an ever-evolving education

environment, multidisciplinary and smart approaches to education have gained traction as novel and innovative strategies to enhance the learning experience and education outcomes for all.

Sub-Saharan Africa has committed to human capital development, prioritizing universal access to early childhood development and basic education. However, disparities persist between and within communities whereby persons from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds experience vastly lower education participations rates and lower learning achievements. Despite global enrolment rates doubling, disabled and neurodiverse persons are frequently prevented from attending school due to societal barriers. Within SSA, these individuals will face numerous challenges, including higher poverty and unemployment due to never enrolling or dropping out school, unaffordability, social stigma, inadequate curriculum, and poorly equipped teachers. This lack of inclusive educational programs and institutions only further exacerbates their vulnerabilities.

Additionally, despite significant strides in expanding educational access across SSA, the quality and relevance of education often fall short of adequately preparing youth for the job market.

This disconnects between the curriculum, educational resources, and labor market demands has resulted in substantial skills mismatches resulting in high youth unemployment across the region. To effectively address gaps in education and employability, deliberate interventions surrounding the delivery of innovative, appropriate, and inclusive education for all.

Focus Areas:	Objectives <small>(thematic area specific impacts)</small>
Multidisciplinary learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create access to alternative and supplementary learning materials for multidisciplinary skills development.• Stimulate innovative thinking, creative, problem solving & reasoning skills in the early & later stages of education.
Market-Driven Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-integrate early school leavers into the market through (vocational) skills development.• Develop in demand labour market skills for students & unemployed graduates.
Forward-Thinking Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen the capacity of teachers/caregivers to foster forward looking teaching methods & skills.• Promote safe & stimulating teaching environments
Disabilities & Neurodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through tailoring educational resources, improve the learning experience and outcomes for disabled and neurodiverse persons.• Through tailoring upskilling programs, improve productivity and employability among disabled and neurodiverse persons.

