

PAN-AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAM

Africa, the fastest growing continent in the last decade, has experienced strong economic and social progress. The continent has also made some advances on regional integration and collaboration. This is essential for the development of the continent. Its economies are small, it has a number of landlocked countries and transboundary issues are important, including those exacerbated by climate change.

However, Africa faces huge challenges. African countries often still rank among the lowest in many areas of human development. Africa's development challenges are worsened by the continent's vulnerability to climate change. This is due to its high susceptibility to dramatic environmental shifts (drought, storms and temperature), poor infrastructure (including water infrastructure) and low adaptive capacity. This worsens food insecurity and increases poverty.

Women and girls often suffer the most in Africa. There are unacceptably high rates of gender-based violence. Almost one out of every two African women have experienced some kind of sexual or physical violence in their lifetime. Women are also often in vulnerable, low-paid jobs, and unable to actively and productively participate in trade at the national and regional level.

Global Affairs Canada's Pan-Africa Regional Program supports African-wide poverty reduction and development objectives through regional integration and collaboration. As a regional program, the program looks to the priorities of the African Union to help develop programming that is relevant for the continent.



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