

WHO WE ARE

A Thought Leader for Africa

The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) is a pan-African economic policy institute supporting Africa's long-term growth through transformation.

We produce research, offer policy advice, and convene key stakeholders so that African countries are better positioned for smart, inclusive, and sustainable development. Until the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the average annual rate of growth in Africa over the previous 15 years had been relatively strong. But in many countries, growth has not been supported by policy measures to ensure gains are lasting and inclusive.

In our view, growth is not enough. Africa must also transform.

- **Vision:** Our vision is an economically transformed Africa within a generation.
- **Mission:** Our mission is to help government and business deliver economic transformation that improves lives.

Based on our research, **we are able to define economic transformation for Africa** in distinctly African terms. **We call it Growth with DEPTH**, a framework characterized by a set of key attributes that turns transformation from a concept into a practical policy agenda:

D	Diversification – While pursuing improvements in the macroeconomic and business environments, countries have to diversify their production and exports...
E	Export competitiveness – ...and become more competitive in global markets...
P	Productivity increases – ...and increase the productivity, especially labor...
T	Technology upgrades – ...and modernize their processes through technology.
H	Human well-being – Ultimately, growth should improve livelihoods by providing more productive jobs and higher incomes.

Using this framework, we help Africa's public and private sectors address the policy and institutional barriers that hamper sustained growth. Based in Accra, Ghana, we have worked in nearly two dozen African countries since our founding in 2008.

ACET advances African-led solutions to Africa's most pressing development challenges.

HOW WE WORK

An Integrated Approach

We focus on the “how-to” of policy reform, going beyond the traditional role of a think tank to ensure our research is accessed by the right people at the right time to accelerate the transformation agenda.

We follow a unique, integrated approach where **analysis**, **advice**, and **advocacy** go hand in hand, underpinned by a commitment to collaborative **partnerships**.

- **We inform transformation policy through rigorous research and analysis.** We study the drivers of transformation, examine country prospects for transformation, and identify the most promising pathways to transformation.
- **We support policymakers by offering advice through peer learning and best practice.** We draw insights and make recommendations from our own analyses, often in collaboration with our partners, to provide sound strategies for transformation.
- **We galvanize action through advocacy, outreach, and convening for impact.** We engage and influence African leaders, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders across the development spectrum—including the private sector, civil society, and academia.

Throughout our process, **we engage a global network of partners and sponsors** to ensure we’re capturing knowledge broadly. We work with the Mastercard Foundation, World Bank, GIZ, Hewlett Foundation, and Open Society Foundations, among others, as well as the governments of Ghana, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK. As a result, ACET is uniquely able to help countries create transformation programs and to advise on their implementation and follow through.

WHAT WE DO

Program Areas & Core Products

We support Africa’s growth with DEPTH by providing analysis, advice, and advocacy across five program areas.

Our belief is that African countries will strengthen their long-term transformation agendas—and enjoy a more robust post-COVID-19 recovery—by taking smart policy action in these areas. We will work to help inform and support that policy action.

- **Economic Management & Governance.** We support governments to develop and implement transformation policies in key sectors—particularly industry, agriculture, and infrastructure—to enhance resource mobilization, and improve public expenditure.
- **Youth Employment and Skills.** We support governments to equip Africa’s growing population with the education and skills needed for decent jobs. We also strive to engage African youth and policymakers on increased, collaborative dialogue.
- **Private Sector Development.** We support governments to create an enabling environment to attract private investment. We also support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to build their capacity, create jobs, and become bankable.

- **Regional Integration.** We support Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in identifying regional public goods for development. We also support governments in working across borders to finance the development of those regional public goods.
- **Gender Equality.** We support governments to incorporate gender in all aspects of economic policy making. We also strive to improve the levels of gender representation in government and business.

ACET's core products and activities cut across all aspects of our program areas.

- **African Transformation Report (ATR).** Our flagship publication produced every three years. The 2021 ATR focuses on the need for stronger economic and policy integration to transform. The 2024 ATR will focus on gender equality for transformation.
- **African Transformation Forum (ATF).** Our flagship event, which convenes every 2-3 years and brings together highly influential leaders to collectively strategize on actions to accelerate transformation. The 2021 ATF will be a virtual event and webinar series.
- **African Transformation Index (ATI).** Our flagship tool to help African policymakers see how their countries are transforming and where they stand in relation to their neighbors on growing with DEPTH. The ATI is updated and expanded for 2021.
- **Transformation Leadership Panel (TLP).** A body of eminent global experts in the public and private sectors that works with political, business, and civil society leaders to support Africa's transformation agenda. ACET is the TLP secretariat.
- **Comparative country studies and issue-driven research.** Our core analytic work at the national and regional levels, carried out in collaboration with local partners, think tanks, and policy stakeholders.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

A Stronger Advocate for Africa

ACET is an established organization, but we continue to grow alongside the demand for our analysis, advice, and advocacy work.

Since our founding, we have successfully transitioned from a small startup to a globally engaged organization with more than 40 highly experienced core staff and a network of policy experts working. ACET has consistently delivered high-quality work with the support of our partners. But our work is far from finished. Our mission is ongoing.

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