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**Summary of ACBF’s Activities**

**2016**

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES ON ACBF-SUPPORTED TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN THE AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION,**

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**BUILDING CAPACITY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

1. **Introduction**

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Harare, Zimbabwe, is mandated to strengthen the capacity of African countries and institutions for development. As early as 1992, ACBF’s support for the higher education sector has been growing steadily over the years. ACBF believes that if tertiary institutions are strengthened and encouraged to generate graduate level trainees, both the institution and the national public sector will be strengthened.

Specifically, the Foundation supports:

* The establishment and strengthening of universities and training institutions including development of relevant educational policies and programs, development of curricula as well as building capacities in the critical skills sector of Science, engineering and maths by proving support to training institutions in science and technology like African universities of Science and Technology (AUST), 2iE; training of academic and management staff as well as equipping and tooling of training facilities, etc.
* Support to training of subject matter experts and specialist as well as middle level managers and decisions makers from the public private and civil society organisations across Africa through Masters Degrees and PhDs) and tailor-made short term training programs like Economic Policy Management (EPM) ), Banking and Finance (BF), Agriculture, and Public Sector Management Training Program (PSMTP).

1. **ACBF-Supported Training Programs -** A major part of the Foundation’s activities are on creating and supporting training programs across Africa. To date, the Foundation has established seven (7) EPM programs that produce an average of 35 graduates every year. The Foundation has also established three (3) PSMTP clusters (GIMPA-Ghana, Libreville and Mutare, Zimbabwe) across the continent. ACBF has committed over US$150 million to higher education since 1992. Between January and June 2016, the Foundation portfolio comprised a total of 50 active projects and out of these, sixteen (16) were regional training projects. A total of 506 students benefited from ACBF supported long-term training programs to pursue bachelors, masters or PhD courses during the first half of 2016. Of these, 192 students graduated during the period, whilst 314 of them continue to pursue their studies. The degree programs cover areas such as Gender and Peace Building, Science and Technology, Banking and Finance, Economic Policy Management and, Public Sector Management.
2. **Partnerships with Universities -** ACBF also partners with the Association of African Universities (AAU) to strengthen the institutional structures to effectively deliver on their mandates thereby enhancing the effectiveness of their members. It also supports specific programs and activities in leadership and management training and database development and management.
3. **Other Activities - Knowledge Management Products on STEM**

* ACBF is currently in the process of producing its 2016 Africa Capacity Report with the theme “Building Capacity in Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa’s Transformation”. A draft report is undergoing review and the final report should be ready by mid-October.
* Upcoming High-Level Tripartite Meeting on Critical Skills planned for the government, private sector and the Academia. The tripartite dialogue is being planned to hold very soon.