

APR 2013

Project closing date and expected date of Phase 1 of Institute establishment

JAN 2013

Statute of the AIR to be finalized and submitted to the Heads of State Summit for final endorsement

SEP-DEC 2012

AUC to complete review of Organizational Structure report and of offers received against AUC hosting criteria, and submit to the AU Permanent Representative Committee (PRC)

NOV 2012

Tentative fact finding mission visits planned to countries who have submitted offers to host the Institute.

JUL 2012

Establishment of AIR is endorsed/approved by the 19th Heads of State and Governments Summit 15-16 July 2012 Addis Ababa.

MAR 2012

Resolution on the establishment and overall structure of the institute discussed and acknowledged at the 5th Joint AU-ECA Annual Meeting of the AU Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning in Addis Ababa

JAN 2012

Report of the AUC on the establishment of AIR presented at the 18th AU Heads of State Summit and acknowledged the decision on AIR by the Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.683(XX))

JUL 2011

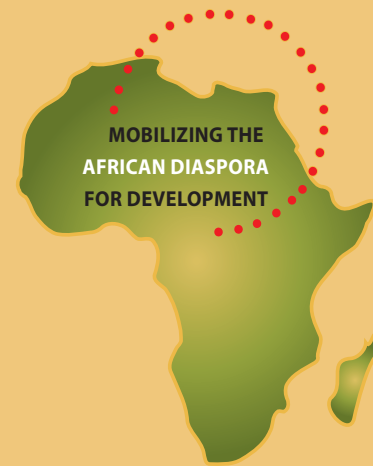
Report prepared on the recommendations on the overall organizational structure of AIR, drawing on best practices and institutional arrangements in other regions for addressing Diaspora remittance needs in other regions

MAY 2011 - JUL 2011

Ongoing program of online consultations held with various stakeholders from the private sector, Diaspora senders and recipients, and others on the organization of AIR. A report of the findings was submitted to the AUC Consultative and Experience Sharing Forum of July 2011.

DEC 2009

Project signed



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September 2012



AIR

African Institute for Remittances Project

The World Bank Group



FACILITATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR REMITTANCES (AIR)

TENTATIVE

MAR 2013

AUC 6th Joint AU-ECA Annual Meeting of the AU conference of Minister of Economy and Finance expected to approve the structure and location of the Institute

SEP-DEC 2012

Two two-day workshops in Europe and Africa to be jointly organized by IOM and WB to gather inputs from Diaspora organizations regarding remittances

AUG-NOV 2012

A business plan for AIR to be developed

IMPLEMENTED

MAY 2012

Mini FAQ document on AIR developed

AIR declared as one of five AU legacy projects at the Global Diaspora Summit of May 25, 2012 in South Africa.

JAN 2012

Report prepared by AUC on the final recommendations on the overall organizational structure of AIR

JUL 2011

A two-day Consultative and Experience Sharing conference on the establishment of AIR held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Recommendations for further action presented at the conclusion of Forum.

JUN 2011

A one day online consultation held with various stakeholders from the private sector, Diaspora, remittance senders and recipients, and others on the organization of AIR

JUN 2010

Project launched

The African Institute for Remittances Project (“Project”) is an initiative in which the World Bank (WB) and selected development partners i.e. the European Commission (EC), African Development Bank (AfDB), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are collaborating to facilitate the African Union Commission (AUC) and its Member States in establishing the African Institute for Remittances (AIR). The AIR will be anchored within the AUC.

The Project is funded by a grant from the EC for Euro 1.6m (US \$2.4m equivalent) to the World Bank which is responsible for overall implementation. The project was signed in December 2009, launched in June 2010, and due to close in April 2013.

OBJECTIVES

The core objectives of the Project are to:

- **FACILITATE THE PROCESS** leading to the creation of the Institute; and
- **DEVELOP THE CAPACITY** of the Member States of the African Union (AU), remittance senders and recipients, and other stakeholders to implement concrete strategies and operational instruments to use remittances as development tools for poverty reduction.

STEERING COMMITTEE: chaired by the AUC and comprises representatives from the WB, EC, AfDB, and IOM. Its role is to provide overall strategic guidance to the Project and facilitate the establishment of AIR.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: chaired by the WB and comprises representatives from the AUC, EC, AfDB, and IOM. Its role is to provide a forum for consultation on technical issues related to the Project.

The **TARGET GROUPS** of the Project are Member States of the AU, in particular Ministries of Finance, central banks, financial and non-financial institutions.

The key **BENEFICIARIES** of the Project are remittance senders and recipients, the broader African Diaspora and their families and communities in home countries.

ACTIVITIES

The Project activities are:

- Providing **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** to government institutions (central banks, ministries, financial and non-financial institutions) on putting in place the necessary regulatory frameworks;
- Carrying out **TRAINING** and **CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS** of relevant institutions and organizations (e.g., national statistical services departments);
- **STUDYING REMITTANCES FLOWS** within Africa, which includes North Africa;
- Conducting **POLICY RESEARCH** and **DIALOGUE** and sharing information on how remittances can contribute to the development of African countries;
- Developing **CONTENT** and **TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS** for country-based payment and settlement systems for remittances;
- Developing **PARTNERSHIPS** between African central banks and remittance service providers and non-bank correspondent agencies to improve financial access;
- Disseminating **DATA** and **RESEARCH** findings; and
- Preparing **ANNUAL REPORTS**, conferences and meetings of policy makers.

ACTIVITIES UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

- **STUDY OF REMITTANCE FLOWS WITHIN AFRICA:** A comprehensive report on Remittances in Africa, cataloguing studies and technical assistance by the World Bank, Development Agencies and Government in Africa has been completed and will be regularly updated.
- **ON-LINE CONSULTATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS:** A Social Media consultancy based in Ethiopia supported the AUC in their on-line consultations with stakeholders - African Diaspora, Central Banks, Ministry of Finance, Financial Institutions, Money Transfer Operators, etc. - regarding the proposed organization, setup and results framework of the AIR project. The online consultations were launched in May 2011 and concluded in July 2011
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS FOR COUNTRY-BASED PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS FOR REMITTANCES:** Four assessment missions based on the General Principles for International Remittance Services were undertaken in Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Tanzania between September 2011 – March 2012, with the objective of supporting these countries to improve their national markets for remittances. Reports detailing recommendations have been delivered to the respective Central Bank authorities.
- **AFRICA REMITTANCE PRICES DATABASE:** The Send Money Africa Database was launched in July 2011 and it will both enhance the transparency in the market, as well as provide migrants with reliable data on the cost of transferring money. It analyses the cost of remittances in 50 select country corridors, and covers at least 60% of total remittance flows to the continent. The database is updated monthly and can be viewed at <http://sendmoneyafrica.worldbank.org>. A preliminary analysis of the data is available on the African Diaspora Program website. The database will run up to April 30, 2013.

- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR POSTAL OPERATORS AND THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU):** Technical assistance is being provided to post offices in several countries to implement the remittance system provided by UPU – a service that will enable them to enter remittance markets without having to rely on money transfer operators or banks. Risk assessments have been completed in Kenya, Gabon, Ethiopia, with plans to expand to North Africa. Financial inclusion and remittance training workshops have been completed in Senegal, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mali, Burkina Faso, with plans for future workshops in East Africa.

- **AFRICAN DIASPORA IN BRAZIL:** A report containing baseline information on African Diaspora in Brazil, including estimates of remittances from Brazil to sub-Saharan Africa was completed in May 2012.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Results which can be attributed to the project are:

- AIR creation would be facilitated;
- A selected number of AU Member Governments in remittance receiving countries would have sharpened the development impact of remittances through the application of appropriate policies;
- Remittance transaction costs in a selected number of countries reduced; and
- The dissemination of data on remittance fees in major corridors would have improved.