

Background

The UNESCO-Shenzhen Project on Strengthening Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa represents UNESCO's commitments to the realization of target 4.3 of Sustainable Development Goals to “ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education” and the Education 2030 agenda.

The development of higher education in Africa hinges on the enhancement of quality assurance systems at national, sub-regional and regional levels. The project aims to contribute to this process by channelling resources and technical expertise to conducting quality assurance activities for evaluation, accreditation, and recognition of higher education programmes and institutions.

UNESCO Education Sector

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation on which to build peace and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education and the Education Sector provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens national education systems and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with a special focus on gender equality and Africa.



The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to “*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*.” The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Strengthening quality assurance

in higher education in Africa

UNESCO-Shenzhen Funds-in-Trust Project

The UNESCO-Shenzhen Project on Strengthening Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa is a 3-year project implemented since 2017, with an aim to strengthen higher education systems by developing quality assurance mechanisms in 10 African countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, The Gambia, Togo, and Zambia.

Stay in touch

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2232_18 - ED-2018/WS/66



About the project

The UNESCO-Shenzhen Project on **Strengthening Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa** was established with support from the People's of Republic of China and contribution from the Shenzhen Municipal Government. The overall objective is to strengthen higher education systems at national and regional levels in African countries by developing quality assurance mechanisms.

The project also complements UNESCO's efforts to facilitate the internationalization of higher education and the implementation of the *Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (Addis Convention)*.



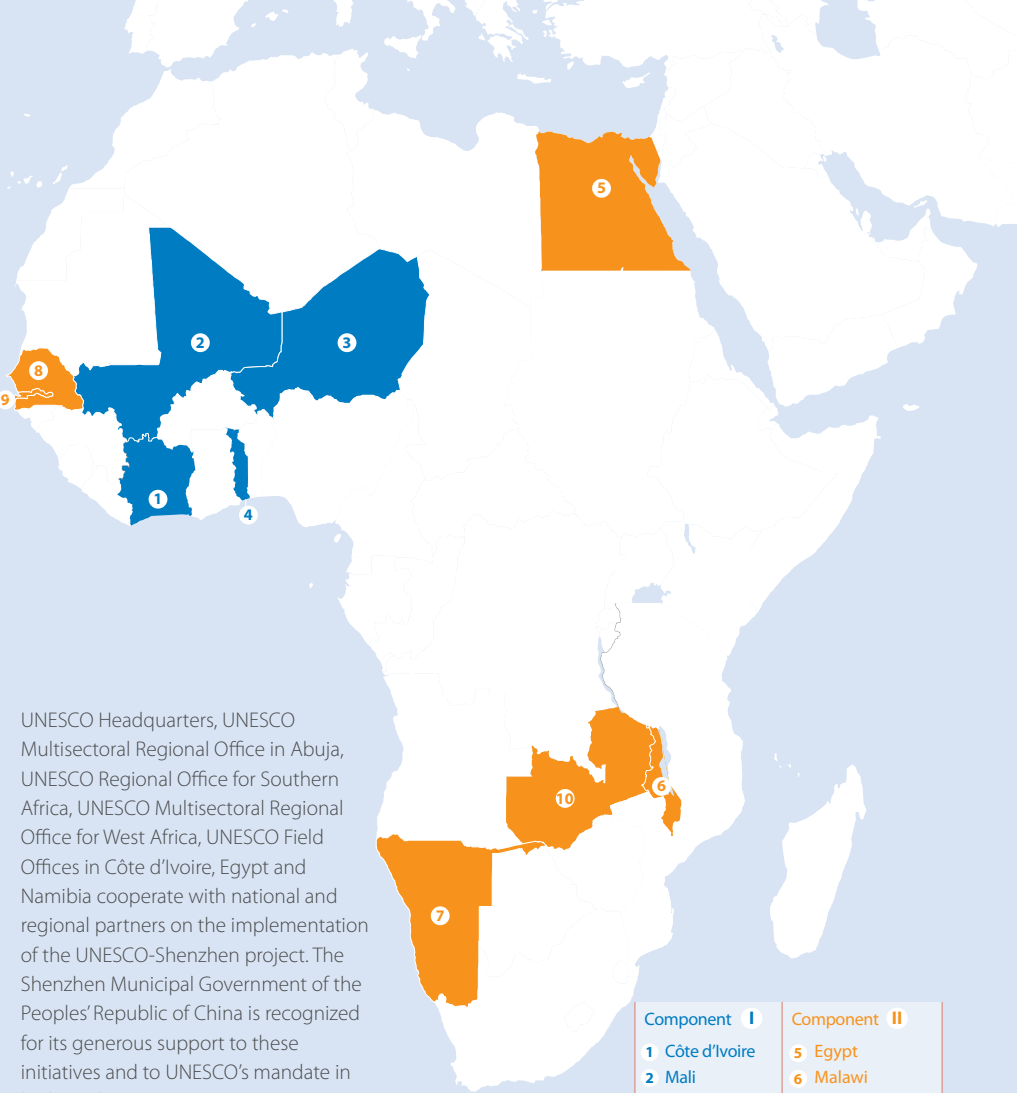
The overall objective is achieved through:

- Strengthening institutional capacities for quality assurance agencies;
- Supporting the establishment and reforms in national quality assurance systems;
- Raising awareness on the significance of quality assurance in higher education;
- Promoting sharing of best practices in quality assurance and in the recognition of qualifications;
- Facilitating networking of quality assurance agencies and networks in Africa.

Main areas of action

The project supports the establishment of external quality assurance (QA) agencies, strengthens capacity for quality assurance professionals in the 10 beneficiary countries, and reinforces networking in quality assurance on the African Continent with the following three components:

	I Establishment of quality assurance agencies in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, and Togo by facilitating access to good practices, developing capacities and supporting networking with existing QA agencies.
	II Institutional capacity building of established QA agencies in Egypt, Malawi, Namibia, Senegal, The Gambia, and Zambia by reinforcing capacities of QA professionals, knowledge sharing and development of QA tools.
	III Consolidating quality assurance networks in Africa, through cross-fertilization of ideas, sharing of best practices and development of mutual recognition tools in quality assurance.



UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Abuja, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for West Africa, UNESCO Field Offices in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt and Namibia cooperate with national and regional partners on the implementation of the UNESCO-Shenzhen project. The Shenzhen Municipal Government of the Peoples' Republic of China is recognized for its generous support to these initiatives and to UNESCO's mandate in higher education.

Component I	Component II
1 Côte d'Ivoire	5 Egypt
2 Mali	6 Malawi
3 Niger	7 Namibia
4 Togo	8 Senegal
	9 The Gambia
	10 Zambia

