



AUDA - NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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FOOTPRINT REPORT

**RE-IMAGINING YOUTH
SKILLS AND LIVELIHOODS:
POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**FINDING WAYS TO MAKE
DIGITAL AND REMOTE LEARNING
A REALITY: AUDA-NEPAD'S
ACTION PLAN**

**LIVELIHOOD SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH
IN AFRICA: APPROACHES TO
REMOTE & DIGITAL LEARNING
DURING THE PANDEMIC**

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
IN THE POST COVID-19 ERA**



“ Our children may learn about the heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves architects of the future ”

Jomo Kenyatta

Former President of the Republic of Kenya



Table of Content

- 04 Youth Employment**
Livelihood Skills Development for Youth in Africa: approaches to remote & digital learning during the pandemic
- 06** Finding ways to make digital and remote learning a reality: AUDA-NEPAD's action plan
- 09 Infrastructure**
AUDA-NEPAD and Arab Maghreb Union workshop on tolls and operating systems at the highways of the UMA countries
- 13 Health**
Community participation in primary health care in the post COVID-19 era
- 15** Updated Lists of COVID-19 In vitro diagnostic tests, medical devices, PPEs and domestic manufacturers



Youth Employment

**Livelihood Skills Development for Youth
in Africa: approaches to remote & digital
learning during the pandemic**

**Re-imagining youth skills and livelihoods:
policy implications**

**Finding ways to make digital and remote learning
a reality: AUDA-NEPAD's action plan**



Livelihood Skills Development for Youth in Africa: approaches to remote & digital learning during the pandemic

Between May and June 2020, African Union Development Agency – NEPAD hosted four pan-African webinars in English and French to discuss youth experiences with skills development under COVID-19 lockdown conditions and beyond. These webinars were accompanied by surveys and interviews on good practice. The most salient ideas, challenges, strategies and, national and regional policy implications were captured. Among the challenges identified, issues related to leadership, pedagogy, technology and community participation were identified.

COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted youth education, training, apprenticeship, employment and employability, youths have encountered income losses due to retrenchments, reduced working hours and difficulties in finding decent jobs during the pandemic. The burden has been even greater for women especially the younger generation. Young women face the double burden to manage both paid and unpaid care and household work due to widespread school closures. Also, youths with disabilities, in rural communities, young refugees and displaced persons, confront additional burdens to access learning and decent work opportunities among other things. Confronting these challenges at the level of Member States has so far, required and, still require a strong commitment.

Equally, pedagogy was identified as one of the challenges viewed from the perspective of opening up possibilities for learning beyond the physical classroom when lecturers lack the requisite competencies & content. Even though there existed many distance learning and blended learning



Photo credit: Youth for Technology Foundation

programmes provided by African TVET colleges and open schools, the vast majority of youth skills development programmes still relied and continue to rely on face to face delivery in classrooms or workshops. With the realities of COVID-19, this had to change and, many institutions reported on challenges with delivering training in practical hands-on vocational skills, soft skills, entrepreneurship, and basic employability skills. Some reported struggles to sustain remote learning even when digital access was available. Many also highlighted widespread challenges with lecturer/teacher technological competencies to support their teaching practice.

Above all, tackling food insecurity & psychosocial challenges were identified at the level of communities as a major challenge. COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing drivers of food insecurity in Africa, threatening the real prospect of mass starvation, considered to be deadlier than the effects of the coronavirus on the continent. Webinar participants reported on challenges with food security, health and mental well-being among their

students. The AUDA-NEPAD COVID-19 response in the domain of nutrition is currently addressing this. See more on the subject in our previous issues. (<https://www.nepad.org/publication/auda-nepad-impact-report-volume-2-october-2020>)

Re-imagining youth skills and livelihoods: policy implications

After identifying the challenges, the webinars called for bold and decisive African leadership at regional, national and institutional levels to confront the devastating social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls for the reimagining of youth skill formation, youth livelihoods and economic development were equally made. To address the issues, the following recommendations were made:

To commence with, a shift away from narrow supply and demand labour market-centred approaches by focusing on institutional building and systems-strengthening was considered a major way to address nutrition and other livelihood related challenges resulting from the pandemic. This approach is important because, a narrow labour market-centred approach loses sight of the multi-faceted nature of skills development, and places pressure on weak institutional systems to adapt. On the other hand, a focus on strengthening institutional capacity would be better placed to respond to youth vulnerability and build sustainable youth livelihoods.

Also, to overcome the challenges, it was recommended that efforts be redoubled in support of digital inclusion for all. To achieve this, decisive leadership is needed for national and pan African policy commitments on universal, quality, affordable digital access for all. Some helpful measures will include redoubling efforts to lower the cost of data and devices and making the internet a safe, secure affordable space for learning and skills development. Early this year, the African Union adopted a Digital Transformation Strategy which aims to 'erase the digital divide' and 'narrow the gender digital divide'. This

strategy, it was recommended, can become the basis for tackling the above-mentioned challenge.

Equally, a commitment to policy and improved practice on Open Education Resources (OERs) was strongly recommended. The webinars made clear calls for commitment to policy and improved practice on open education resources that are also vetted and zero-rated.

Finding ways to make digital and remote learning a reality: AUDA-NEPAD's action plan

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of life in the global community. In the area of skills development, educational institutions have had to respond rapidly to the realities of lockdown regulations to ensure that learning continues for the thousands of students who have not been able to attend classes on campuses. The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, through its project, Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA), documented the learning experiences of training/learning institutions from a few countries in Africa that have implemented good practice and innovation in response to the pandemic. This resulted in a lesson brief that brings to light the agile responses of training institutions in Africa and, highlight the common challenges encountered on the continent.

The brief further looks into sustainability measures and provides insight into the future of learning. Due to the pandemic, economies all over the world were forced into lockdown, most educational institutions on the continent were in the midst of their first teaching semester. Their immediate response was to ensure that, their institutions could survive, and that learning could continue for students. Hence, management and staff had to rapidly adjust thinking and deliberate on ways of utilising whatever resources they had at their disposal. In the ensuing weeks, as institutions came to grips with the impact of COVID-19 on their operations, new and innovative ways of using technology to re-shape curricula began to emerge. Amongst others, some of the new and innovative strategies included prioritising learning that could be done by students in lockdown. Another was, reviewing and adjusting curricula, contacting students to conduct surveys and establishing the efficacy of using Technology Enabled Learning (TEL) to reach the marginalised disadvantaged youth. In addition to these, putting plans in place to ensure that all students could access the learning despite difficulties with

smart devices and data access was equally adopted as a strategy. More so, identifying social media platforms that could be used for learning, e.g. Zoom, WhatsApp, Google Classroom and putting them to best use were some of the key action areas identified and acted upon. After identifying these focus areas, measures had to be taken to implement them especially, when it became evident that, going back to the way things were prior to COVID-19 outbreak was no longer an option. The Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), implemented by AUDA-NEPAD supported by the German Government and the European Union (EU) then came into the picture. The main purpose was to provide a reflection on the COVID-19 experiences on youth skills development and employment through observations, insights and lessons for the future. To obtain more targeted results, Kenya and South Africa were selected for a comparative study at the end of which, a couple of recommendations were made.



Photo credit: Pexels

Recommending the path forward to COVID-19-readiness and transformation

The recommendations included; sustained collaborative problem-solving, financing and accountability, scaling up public service delivery and social protection for all formal and informal workers, re-thinking youth skills and employment by reducing the digital divide, promoting continuous demand driven skills development, encouraging youth innovation and entrepreneurship and finally, making MSMEs and informal workers resilient by providing access to skills, finance and markets. These recommendations further formed the basis of action plans taken by AUDA-NEPAD in response to

the pandemic. Some examples of these action plans include the 100,000 SMEs initiative (details of which can be found on previous editions of the Footprint Report), the Livelihood Skills Development for Youth in Africa initiative (refer to the previous article), closing the nutrition gap: Cost of Hunger in Africa Study (COHA) initiative (details of which can be found on previous editions of the Footprint Report) among others.



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Infrastructure

**AUDA-NEPAD and Arab Maghreb Union workshop
on tolls and operating systems at the highways of
the UMA countries**



AUDA-NEPAD and Arab Maghreb Union workshop on tolls and operating systems at the highways of the UMA countries

The virtual workshop which took place on the 12th of October 2020 was, jointly organised by The General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (Department of Infrastructure), in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency, under the theme “Toll and operating systems at the highways of the Maghreb countries “. It was attended by representatives of the ministries of transport and public works and institutions responsible for highways in the Maghreb countries as well as representatives of AUDA-NEPAD..

During the occasion, Mr. Omar Al-Mukhtar Abu Al-Eid, Acting Director of the Department of Infrastructure thanked AUDA-NEPAD for its continued support to the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union in the field of technical assistance as well as the provision of necessary funds to implement its programs and projects in the infrastructural sector. He also stressed the importance of developing cooperation and exchanging experiences between Maghreb countries in the field of highways as they are a tributary of regional integration.



Taïeb Baccouche, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union

He equally used the opportunity to reiterate the importance of encouraging investments in highways and engaging the private sector as a key development actor.

representatives of the Maghreb countries made presentations on the completed highway networks and the plans related to the scheduled projects. They further discussed the importance of the toll systems in the highways, insisting on their role in the collection of revenues that can contribute to finance maintenance work on highway and provide them with the means of surveillance and equipment necessary to secure and ensure the safety of users.

The in-depth deliberation that ensued resulted in the following recommendations:

1. The appointment of contact points for the Member States to follow the highways of the Maghreb countries
2. Uniformization of legislation in the field of road traffic and work to ensure the compatibility and interoperability of the systems used in the Maghreb countries.
3. Exchange of information and experiences in the field of highway toll systems between the Maghreb countries.
4. Exchange of field visits, experiences and information in the field of highway between the Member States.
5. Creation of a regional database for management, maintenance and road safety on highways.
6. Creation and development of border posts to facilitate the passage of vehicles between the Maghreb countries.
7. Cooperation in the field of the fight against fraud in the system of free movement.
8. The conclusion of a Maghrebian protocol to ensure permanent coordination between the authorities responsible for highways.
9. Encourage investment in highways and involve the private sector.
10. Organization of a workshop on fundraising for highways.
11. Training of technical executives in the fields of toll stations, highway maintenance and its service installations.

If successfully implemented, these recommendations will be a gate way to facilitating the attainment of Agenda 2063 of the African Union under its flagship program-

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). AUDA-NEPAD today more than ever, is committed to accompanying Member States as they strive towards the attainment of development objectives.

To reiterate the Agency's commitment, Mr. Idriss Amin Adoum, Director of the Programme Delivery and Coordination Directorate (PDCD), speaking on behalf of the agency during the occasion expressed the willingness of AUDA-NEPAD to provide all support and assistance to the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union in order to carry out its programs. He further underlined the importance of the completion of highways and the development of the transport sector which contributes to regional economic integration and the importance that the African Union attaches to the development of this sector.



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AUDA - NEPAD GUIDLINES FOR HARMONISING FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS AND LEGISLATIONS:

Technical Review Webinar Series

To Register for the event, visit https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ny6Jk8fURke9YZkWUSduyg

To download the Continental Guide for Harmonizing Food Safety Standards and Legislation, visit:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eg5PGzD61D8_y3h0A1Gdlzi407vIDRmsUpBiAdLFT-g/edit



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Health

**Community participation in primary health care
in the post COVID-19 era**

**Updated Lists of COVID-19 In vitro diagnostic
tests, medical devices, PPEs and domestic
manufacturers**

SATBHSS Research and Publication Training

Community participation in primary health care in the post COVID-19 era



Photo credit: NextGen

This is the theme of a high-level meeting organised by AUDA-NEPAD in line with its COVID-19 response strategy. The meeting, which will be held on 23 November 2020 presents an opportunity for African leaders, partners, funders and civil society organisations to assess, dialogue, and galvanise efforts towards improving community participation in delivery of equitable and quality primary health care in Africa. It will provide a platform for learning and sharing on innovative policy measures and models to attract community participation in provision of primary health care. It has the following expected outcomes:

Primarily, it intends to increased awareness among stakeholders, partners and funders about the importance of community participation in primary health care.

Equally, it hopes to attend renewed commitment by governments, stakeholders, partners and funders to establish, finance and/or support primary health care programmes.

Again, it expects to achieves renewed commitment of governments to rethink public policy design by combining top down and bottom up processes.

So far, African countries are making significant positive strides in the fight against COVID-19. Primary health care has provided a critical first line of defence and response to keep people safe and healthy during the pandemic. The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention indicated that, as from 14 September 2020 Africa recorded 1 353 283 positive cases with 80% recovery rate. Primary healthcare providers have played a fundamental role on most Africa countries to support community education and awareness on COVID-19 and measures for reducing

transmission. They have also supported efforts on contact tracing, screening of community members and referral of suspected cases for testing. These interventions have been implemented at community level cognisant of the social and economic dynamics hence improving community participation, understanding and vigilance in the fight against COVID-19. It is evident that, strengthening community participation in primary health care does not only reduce the impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of millions. It also limits susceptibility to other pandemic or disease burdens while ensuring the continent still stays on track to fulfil the Agenda 2063 goal of healthy and well-nourished citizens.

Notwithstanding the progress made on COVID-19, the continent continues to face several challenges in tackling the scourge of communicable diseases as well as emerging non-communicable diseases presenting a double burden. The emergence of COVID-19 underscored the inequalities and limited access to health services in many African countries, especially in the rural areas, and this is compounded by limited investments in primary health care. This has thus skewed health systems in most countries towards curative than health promotion and prevention of diseases. Limited human resources for health also remains a major challenge in many African countries. Though most countries have adopted policies to improve availability of skilled human resource for health, there are still notable gaps in the production, distribution and retention of health care workers. Other challenges include inadequate infrastructure, poor distribution of health facilities, and shortage of quality and safe medical products due to weak regulatory systems.

As the world gradually moves post the COVID-19 era, strong community participation in primary health care is paramount to meeting people's health needs through comprehensive promotive, protective, preventive, curative and rehabilitative care. In order to achieve this, a collective effort is required to improve equitable access to quality health services using innovative approach and sustainable strategies to strengthen primary health care. Partnership with the community is a central pillar in delivery of people-centred primary health care and maximizes opportunities for preventive care and health promotion while reducing unnecessary reliance on specialized or hospital care.

Thus, participation of communities in delivery of health care ensures wider reach to inaccessible areas and maximise limited resources allocated to primary health care.

Several countries have embraced the need for community participation in primary health care through legislation, policies, health education materials and recruitment of Community Health Workers (CHW). However, the number of CHW is low in proportion to the population they serve. CHW also have inadequate pre-service training, inappropriate skills-mix, unsatisfactory clinical support and incentives to retain or attract them. More details on registration and outcomes will be available in the next edition of the Footprint Report.

Updated Lists of COVID-19 In vitro diagnostic tests, medical devices, PPEs and domestic manufacturers

The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Joint Secretariat has been working with the African Medical Devices Forum (AMDF) Technical Committee to update the list of COVID-19 diagnostic tests and medical devices including personal protective equipment (PPEs). This is a list of products which have been authorized/listed by WHO EUL and other institutions to inform National Regulatory Authorities (NRA) decisions on authorization/registration of the listed products for clinical diagnosis of COVID-19 and research. The list is submitted to the AMRH Steering Committee for endorsement and subsequently to be shared with all NRA in the African countries.

This was prepared in response to the challenges faced by Member States in accessing information and guidance on regulation of medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics required in the diagnosis and management of COVID-19. It falls under the AFRICA Medical Devices Forum (AMDF) – Technical Committee under the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Initiative. It contains the number of COVID-19 in vitro diagnostics which have been authorized during the month of August and September 2020 by various jurisdiction for Emergency use during the current epidemic.



Photo credit: Pexels

List of COVID-19 In vitro diagnostic tests

JURISDICTION	NAT ASSAYS	COVID-19 ANTIBODY ASSAY	COVID-19 ANTIGEN ASSAY
WHO Prequalification Programme	4	None	None
South Africa Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA)	6	12	None
Japan Ministry of Health	5	1	2
United States FDA	25	9	2
Health Canada	2	3	None
Australia TGA	8	2	2
Singapore	9	7	5

Medical devices and manufacturers

Apart from the list of COVID-19 In vitro diagnostic tests, a list of registered medical devices in African countries, IMDRF countries and African (local) manufacturers of COVID-19 medical devices have been updated to include the following information:

COVID-19 related medical devices authorized by NRAs of Zimbabwe and South Africa

Here, we have names of devices like Iv Giving Sets for Pediatric Measures Volume, Resuscitator, King Vision Video Laryngoscope and Display Video Adapter, Ventilator, Suction Apparatus, Pulse Oximeter, Endotracheal Tube, Oxygen Mask among others.

List of domestic manufacturers of COVID-19: Ethiopia, Botswana and Kenya and South Africa.

Here we have companies like Healthcare Direct (K) Ltd, Dream Medical Company Ltd Revitalhealthcare (Epz) Ltd, Pristine Manufacturing Company Ltd, Everest Apparel (Ethiopia) S.C Biniam Mengistu Meskela Legetafo, Eben Global Resources Limited, Transerve Disc Technologies Limited, David Pharmaceuticals Tlokweg. (Eagle Medical Industries (Pty) Ltd.), Dichaba consumer electronics, Alcon Laboratories (Covid), Bring my South Africa etc.

List of COVID19 medical devices approved by IMDRF Member States and links to N95 masks, Respirators, and surgical masks authorized by the US FDA.

Among these medical devices we have:

VG70 ventilator, Critical Care Ventilator, Stellar 150, Ventway Sparrow, Emergency Ventilator, Emergency Transport Ventilator, Face Mask etc.

SATBHSS Research and Publication Training

The Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health Systems Support (SATBHSS) project aims at (i) improving the coverage and quality of TB control and occupational lung disease services; (ii) strengthening the regional capacity to manage the burden of TB and occupational lung diseases; and (iii) strengthening country-level and cross-border preparedness and response to disease outbreaks. The project, which is being implemented in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, has placed emphasis on rolling out a standardised package of occupational health services and mining safety standards across the four countries. For this to be effectively achieved, investment has been made to support regional learning and innovation. Project countries have in this regard spearheaded studies in different areas of occupational health and safety, with the view to create and share regional knowledge and support evidence-based policies and interventions.

For more details on the project, visit <https://www.satbhss.org/satbhss-research-and-publication-training-14-18-november-2020>

Publication of study results in peer-reviewed journals is an important step for communicating findings while providing an opportunity for the findings to be evaluated by the research community. Furthermore, development and dissemination of policy briefs communicates research findings to a diverse group of stakeholders for better translation of research into improvement of OHS policies and services. This has been identified as a major gap in the region and in the project countries. It is hence fundamental that focus is given on improving research and publication writing skills for increased knowledge exchange and utilization to address OHS challenges in the project countries. This will increase project scalability and influence OHS and TB policy landscape not only in Southern Africa but in the continent and worldwide.

A series of training sessions are therefore being organised to equip OHS practitioners from project countries with knowledge on research and publishing results. The training sessions which will take place from 14 to 19 November 2020, will use a practical approach and it is expected that countries will use their existing research topics to develop them further based on the knowledge obtained during the training.

COVID-19 Digest: Taking it up a Gear!

“How AUDA-NEPAD is supporting Member States with global and continental level health information to curb the pandemic.”

See more in our biweekly COVID-19 Digest!

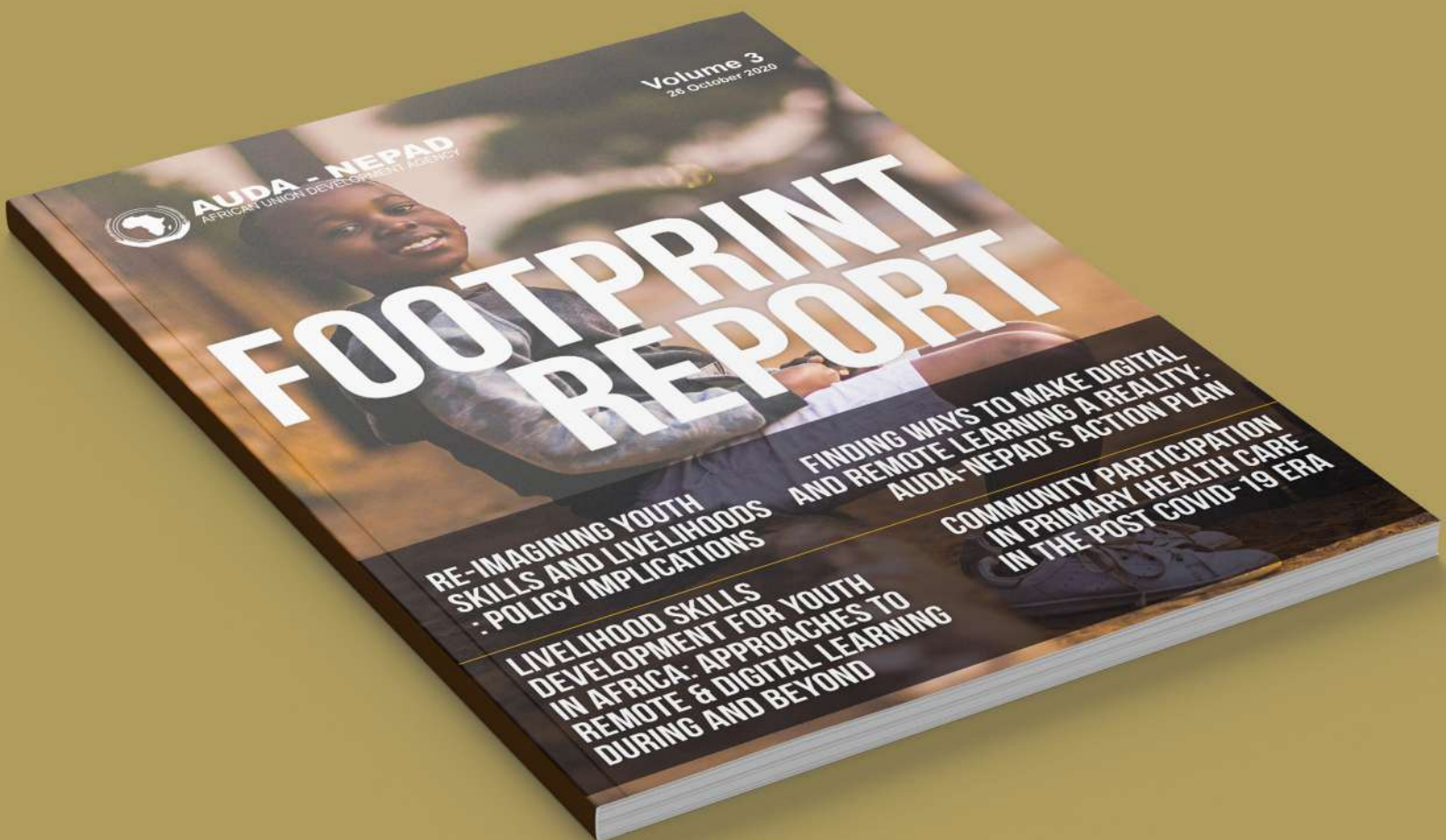
<https://www.nepad.org/publication/auda-nepad-covid-19-digest-october-issue-002-2020>



For clarifications, technical support or specific capacity building in any of the areas listed, AU Member States Officials are welcome to contact the AUDA-NEPAD COVID-19 Task Force using this email address : COVID19@nepad.org.



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AUDA-NEPAD Agency, 230 15th Road, Midrand, South Africa.
Tel: +27 11 256 3600 -Email: info@nepad.org
<https://www.nepad.org/>