



Social and human development

The working objectives of this cluster are based on the African Union and NEPAD priority areas and are consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS and the 2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related diseases.

It has six subclusters:

- Health, HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, coordinated by UNAIDS and the African Union Commission (AUC)
- Education and human resources, coordinated by UNESCO and AUC
- Gender, youth and development, coordinated by UN Women and AUC
- Social welfare, protection and human trafficking, coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and AUC
- Labour and employment, coordinated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and AUC
- Sports and culture coordinated by AUC

Cluster members:

ILO, AUC, UNESCO, UNFPA, IOM, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), UNAIDS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, UNIDO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), FAO, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA), UN Women, the World Food Programme (WFP), the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), WHO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Bank.

Cluster governance:

The cluster coordinators are Pierre M'pele-Kilebou of WHO and Dr. Mustapha S. Kaloko of AUC.

Cluster priorities:

- The establishment of the AIDS Watch Africa secretariat within the African Union's Department of Social Affairs, together with technical and financial support for the secretariat, is a clear indication of the capacity-building efforts of the health subcluster. In its capacity as a fully staffed continental secretariat, AIDS Watch Africa has been able to organize a consultative meeting, the outcomes of which have been ratified by Heads of State. The main outcome, the African Union roadmap for shared responsibility and global solidarity, now allows the Union to have a streamlined and prioritized set of directions and guidelines for partners working on AIDS response in Africa. The AIDS Watch Africa secretariat has also established a regional representation to work with the regional economic communities, with the Southern African Development Community having already started the process.
- AUC and the Department of Social Affairs held an expert meeting on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) from 24 to 26 April 2013, on the margins of the sixth Conference of Ministers of Health, in Addis Ababa. The meeting brought together close to 60 experts from AUC, United Nations bodies, African Union member States, independent experts and the media, to review the key frameworks and initiatives on MNCH and recommend actions for reducing maternal and child deaths in Africa. The meeting reviewed, among others: (a) the 2013 Annual status report on maternal, newborn and child health in Africa; (b) the regional assessment of maternal death audit systems in Africa; (c) the draft agenda for a proposed international conference on MNCH as well as a concept note and the next steps for the institution of MNCH laureate awards.
- AUC and the Department of Social Affairs also undertook an assessment of maternal death audit systems, in line with the decision of the African Union Assembly, which called for the institutionalization of a strong and functional monitoring and evaluation framework at country level. This would provide accurate, reliable and timely maternal, newborn and child data to monitor progress against agreed indicators and targets, measure health performance and assist in taking informed decisions and actions, including making maternal deaths notifiable and instituting maternal death reviews. The findings of the assessment were further reviewed by experts at the international conference on MNCH held in South Africa from 1 to 3 August 2013. The assessment study was published in 2014.
- The MNCH conference also witnessed collaboration between United Nations agencies, AUC and the African Union's Department of Social Affairs within the subcluster mechanism. The collaboration included the sponsorship of civil society organizations and expert participation, technical support for the preparation of policy briefs, papers and parallel sessions, technical support for the preparation of the 50 years of health document, financial support for the organization of the conference, and logistical support and coordination of the overall conference. This resulted in the conference issuing a final joint multi-agency plan of action, to be implemented by 2015.
- Coordinated support to the African Union's Department of Social Affairs for Abuja +12 started with the hiring of a consultant to produce a monitoring and evaluation report. The report was presented to Heads of State at the Abuja +12 Summit in July 2013. Agencies also sponsored the regional economic communities and Pan-African Parliament representatives to enrich the dialogue and ensure follow-up and implementation of the

outcomes. Members of the health subcluster supported and influenced the outcome declaration through the various levels of engagement at the Summit, which included; (a) civil society organization consultations; (b) expert meetings; (c) a peer review committee; (d) an executive council; and (e) an assembly of Heads of State and Government. The process comprised support towards sponsoring civil society organizations and experts and providing technical inputs for policy briefs and financial support. The Summit endorsed a declaration on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

- A meeting of the African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development was held from 29 to 30 July 2013 in Lesotho, to review the implementation of nutrition initiatives in Africa. The continental initiatives reviewed and the recommendations developed included the ARISE 2025 initiative, the Africa Nutrition Security Partnership, the Cost of Hunger in Africa study, the African Day for Food and Nutrition Security, the Africa Nutrition Champion and the African Regional Nutrition Strategy. The task force agreed to scale up the implementation of nutrition initiatives in Africa, in support of the efforts of AUC and the Department of Social Affairs.
- UNESCO held an exhibition on the general history of Africa for Heads of State, followed by an expert meeting on the same topic, from 20 to 22 May 2013. African experts in history and culture exchanged ideas and views on reviving African cultural values. The higher leadership of AUC also demonstrated their strong support and commitment to the pedagogical use of African history and books written by African scholars, from an African perspective.
- The Fourth African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture was held in Kinshasa in October 2012. Participating ministers showed their commitment to ratifying and implementing the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. They also called for: the strengthening of the fight against illicit trafficking and increased repatriation efforts; the improvement of inventories of cultural goods; better management capacity of cultural institutions, with a focus on archaeological museums; and increased support for the organization of cultural events.
- In 2013, the gender and development subcluster committed itself to supporting a gender audit of the agriculture, food security and rural development cluster, which had volunteered to undergo a participatory gender audit process. The participatory gender audit process is designed to build the capacity of the agriculture, food security and rural development cluster and its key member institutions (AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and NPCA) to effectively mainstream gender within their programmes and activities, buttressed by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). To that end, a five-day training course on the participatory gender audit process was held from 21 to 25 October 2013 and an onsite gender audit process took place from 28 October to 1 November 2013. The ensuing recommendations will inform the inter-cluster partnership for engendering the roll-out of CAADP in African Union member States.
- In terms of supporting advocacy for enhanced commitment to implement the Africa UNiTE campaign to end violence against women and girls, the gender and development subcluster acts as an inter-agency technical working group that provides technical and financial support to the campaign. In 2013, the Africa UNiTE campaign secretariat received financial and technical support from UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund, including the secondment of a technical expert to support the roll-out of

the campaign initiatives. The campaign secretariat also provided capacity-building training to members of the security sector from 36 African countries, with a view to enhancing the response to violence against women.

- In recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and the ensuing 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, the subcluster supported the launch of the UNiTE campaign in Ethiopia.
- On 14 and 15 August 2013, the subcluster, through five of its members (the AUC Women, Gender and Development Directorate, the International Labour Organization, the World Food Programme, the ECA African Centre for Gender and Development and UN Women), provided technical and financial support and participated in the high-level UN Women–African Union joint ministerial meeting on the implementation of the African Women’s Decade at the national level and the regional commemoration of the 10th anniversaries of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. The events resulted in increased visibility and awareness of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa and the adoption of a roadmap for the implementation of the African Women’s Decade at the national level.
- The subcluster provided technical and financial support to AUC to coordinate a regional stakeholders meeting on women, pan-Africanism and renaissance held from 12 to 13 May 2013 in Addis Ababa. The consultative conference was held under the theme “pan-Africanism, African renaissance and Agenda 2063”, and was attended by women from African Union member States, civil society organizations, pan-African movements, women’s rights organizations, academics, diaspora organizations, the regional economic communities, the private sector and United Nations agencies. The discussions and the declaration adopted at the conference fed into the discussions of the Heads of State summit, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. In addition, under the leadership of the AUC directorate for women, gender and development, UN Women and ECA, the subcluster supported the participation of over 100 gender equality experts operating at regional, subregional and national levels.
- The subcluster helped coordinate the marking of International Women’s Day on 8 March 2013. The high level commemoration, which was attended by the AUC Chair, unequivocally reaffirmed the need to fully empower women to enable them to contribute to the continent’s development. Under the leadership of UN Women, the subcluster affirmed the commitment of the United Nations to support the roll-out of the African renaissance agenda through partnerships that support the development and implementation of regional policy and legal frameworks that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment at the national, subregional and regional levels.
- The subcluster helped ensure the effective integration of labour migration into the outcome statement of the Regional Experts’ Meeting on International Migration in Africa, held in July 2013 in Addis Ababa. A concept note on the “Elaboration of a Trilateral Project on Labour Migration” was produced and a regional migration programme between AUC, ECA, ILO and IOM is being finalized.
- The regional economic communities have been engaged with support to the SADC labour migration policy. The needs of the regional economic communities have also been identified within the regional labour migration programme. Labour migration has been integrated into the Ouagadougou 2004+10 process.

- The Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers (SPIREWORK) has been mainstreamed into CAADP.
- The capacity of the members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child has been enhanced. Coherence on child labour reporting and monitoring between the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations has been initiated.

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Reference: <http://www.uneca.org/nepad/pages/regional-coordination-mechanism>