

PRESS RELEASE

Japan Assists UNESCO IICBA Project on “Silencing the Guns in Africa through Investing in Youth Education”

On 26 February 2020, H.E. Mr. Daisuke Matsunaga, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia, and Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki, Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), signed a project agreement on “Silencing the Guns in Africa through Investing in Youth Education”. The signing took place in the presence of Dr. Catherine Sozi, UN Resident Coordinator and UN Humanitarian Coordinator. The Government of Japan has committed USD \$454,545.00 to the project.

The African Union's campaign on “Silencing the Guns by 2020” aims to achieve a conflict-free Africa, prevent genocide, make peace a reality for all and rid the continent of wars, violent conflicts, human rights violations and humanitarian disasters. In Africa, a continent with a massive youth population, the first victims of war are youth. Therefore, education, specifically teachers and schools, at all levels, has a vital role to play in addressing these issues and promoting peace.

The main objective of the project is to empower youth for peace, resilience building and prevention of violent extremism through advocacy and educational interventions that target teacher development in higher education. The project is aimed at teachers and youth in 54 African countries, through collaboration with the African Union Commission's Human Resources, Science and Technology, Social Affairs, and Peace/Security Departments and Regional Economic Communities in Africa.

This project builds upon lessons learned from the “Teacher Training and Development for Peace Building” projects implemented in the Horn of Africa in 2017 (1st year), in the Sahel region in 2018 (2nd year) and the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions in 2019 (3rd year), with support from the Government of Japan. This fourth-year project will focus on scaling up good practices in past project countries and sharing them with the rest of the continent as well as work towards fulfilling the aim of Silencing the Guns in Africa.

For additional information about the project please contact:

Ms. Eyerusalem Azmeraw, Project Officer, UNESCO IICBA, a.eyerusalem@unesco.org

For media relations:

Ms. Beth Roseman, Consultant, UNESCO IICBA, b.roseman@unesco.org