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[AFRODAD marks 30 years](#) of advancing debt justice and accountable governance across Africa!

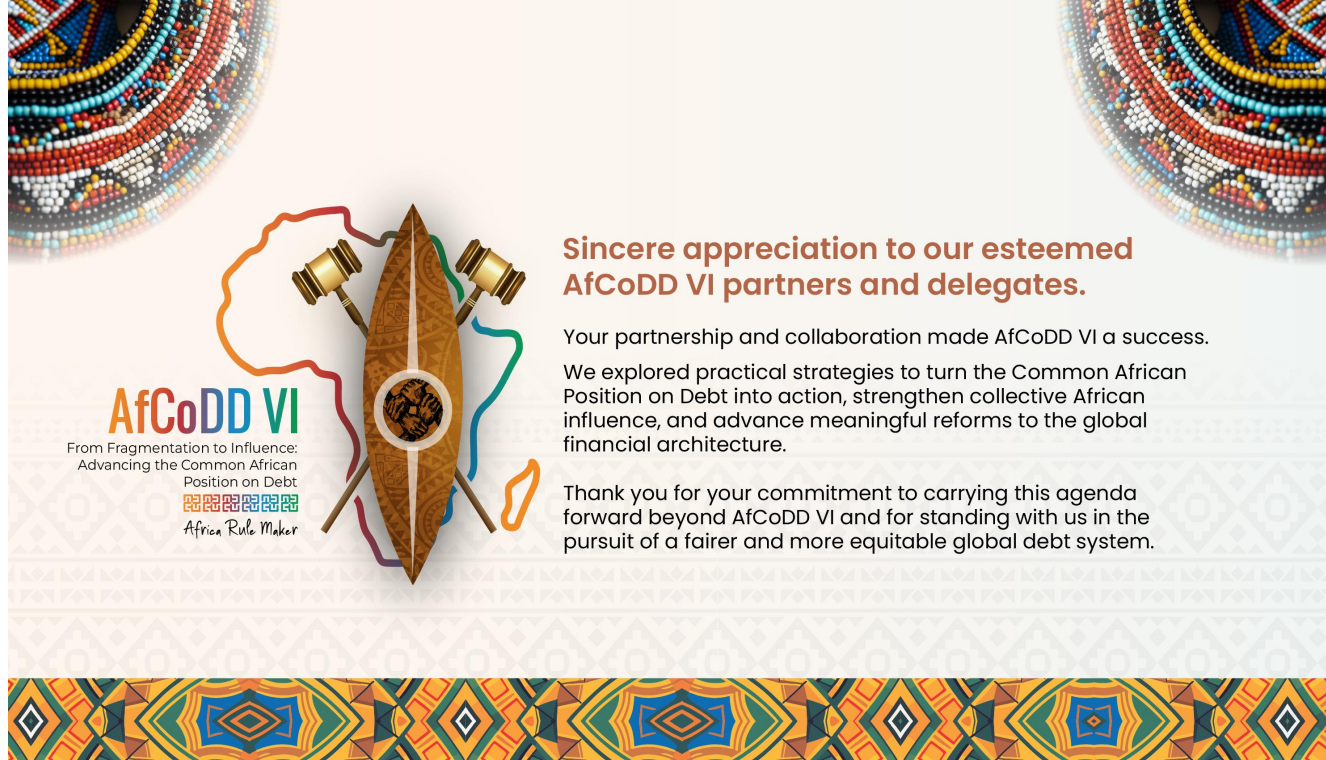
We have spent the last 30 years amplifying Africa's voice and building momentum. Now is the time for Africa and its civil society to move beyond speaking up and start shaping the rules. We must break away from yet another cycle of debt and chart a new development trajectory that responds to the needs and aspirations of our people.

Barbara Kalima-Phiri,  
Chairperson, AFRODAD Board of Trustees

This is what I call the AFRODAD moment, a pivotal opportunity to build on that legacy and shape the next 30 years. We must take a long-term, forward-looking approach to debt and its interconnected challenges. At this critical juncture in Africa's debt crisis, we need to ask ourselves: 'what impact do we want to make, and how do we shape the future?'

Janet Zhou,  
Executive Director, AFRODAD





The sixth edition of the African Conference on Debt and Development (AfCoDD VI) came at a defining moment following the adoption of the Common African Position (CAP) on Debt. Under the theme 'From Fragmentation to Influence: Advancing the Common African Position on Debt,' the conference explored how Africa can strengthen solidarity, translate the CAP on Debt into action, and build the collective influence needed to reshape the global financial architecture. The central question was (and is) no longer, what Africa wants to change, but how Africa can organise, mobilise, and exercise influence to make that change happen. AfCoDD VI was convened in partnership with the [Institute for Social Accountability](#) (TISA), [Transparency International Kenya](#), the [Institute of Public Finance](#) (IPF), [Christian Aid](#), [Oxfam Kenya](#), and the Stop the Bleeding Campaign.

Key highlights of AfCoDD VI were the launch of several landmark resources:

- **Delegates adopted the AfCoDD VI Outcome Document**, consolidating AfCoDD VI's deliberations into concrete recommendations and commitments to advance the CAP on Debt, building on the momentum of the Lomé Declaration and its call for structural reforms to the global debt architecture.
- **AFRODAD's Research Compendium**: marking AFRODAD's accumulated work and thought leadership on Africa's debt and development finance agenda.
- **The Black Paper**, which documents the scale and structural drivers of Africa's debt crisis to strengthen the case for a fairer global financial system.

 [AfCoDD VI Plenaries & Breakout Session Videos!](#)



**ADVOCACY & INFLUENCE**

## **Financing Africa's Future: AFRODAD Welcomes Launch of Africa Credit Rating Agency**

The Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) was officially launched on 7th October in Port Louis, Mauritius, marking an important milestone in Africa's efforts to strengthen its financial architecture, advance financial sovereignty and address structural inequalities in the global financial system. After years of policy development, technical work, and consultations led by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), AfCRA is intended to complement, rather than replace, existing global credit rating agencies by providing independent, transparent, and locally informed assessments of African economies.

Following many years of championing the same, "AFRODAD welcomes the launch of the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) as an important step towards strengthening Africa's financial sovereignty and addressing structural inequalities in the global financial system. However, AfCRA's credibility will depend on its independence, transparent methodologies, technical rigour, strong governance and protection from political interference. It must provide ratings that are trusted because they are rigorous, not simply because they are African," said Janet Zhou, the AFRODAD Executive Director.

*8th October 2026 | Port Louis, Mauritius | [Read more](#)*

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## **Advancing Debt Justice and Tax Sovereignty at the African Climate Reparations symposium**

AFRODAD contributed to a rich, engaging discussion at the 2026 African Climate Reparations symposium in Mombasa, Kenya, through the presentation: 'Reparative Finance: Debt Justice & Tax Sovereignty.' The discussion explored the interconnected challenges of debt justice, illicit financial flows, tax sovereignty, and climate finance, highlighting recommendations towards a fairer and more equitable global financial system. AFRODAD led the conversation on debt justice, drawing attention to the mounting debt burden facing African countries and the urgent need for reforms that expand fiscal space for climate action and sustainable development.

Representing AFRODAD, Policy Officer John Oduk led the conversation on debt justice, drawing attention to the mounting debt burdens facing African countries and the urgent need for reforms that expand fiscal space for climate action and sustainable development.

*1st October 2026 | Mombasa, Kenya | [Read more](#)*

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## **Advancing Debt Justice and Economic Sovereignty at the Pan-African Conference on Tax and Illicit Financial Flows in Dakar**

AFRODAD reinforced its advocacy for debt justice, tax justice, and Africa's economic sovereignty at the 14th Pan-African Conference on Tax and Illicit Financial Flows, held from 30 September to 2 October 2026 in Dakar, Senegal. Through a dedicated side session on 'The Revolving Door of Odious Debt, Illicit Financial Flows and Africa's Tax Justice Agenda', AFRODAD convened a timely and engaging discussion examining the interconnected challenges of unsustainable debt, illicit financial flows and tax injustice, and their implications for Africa's development.

## **AFRODAD Advances Debt Justice and Legal Accountability at the 2026 PALU Conference**

Afshin Nazir, Legal Analysis and Advocacy Policy Officer, represented AFRODAD at the 16th Annual Conference of the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), held in Cairo, Egypt, from August 31 to September 2, 2026, under the theme 'The African Lawyer in the Age of AI: Leveraging Technology to Achieve a Just and Prosperous Africa.' The conference brought together legal professionals and development stakeholders to discuss law, governance, justice, and Africa's development agenda.

We contributed to core discussions on public debt governance by presenting key insights from the Stop the Bleeding (STB) paper, which addresses structural drains on African financial resources. We also presented on resource-backed loan (RBL) contracts, highlighting the legal and financial risks of securing public finance with natural resources. Through these presentations, we underscored the legal community's vital role in advancing debt accountability and sustainable development. By connecting technology and legal innovation to public debt oversight, we advocated for stronger legal frameworks that scrutinise complex financial deals, promote transparent and responsible borrowing, and ensure sovereign financing arrangements serve the long-term interests of Africans.

*31st August – 2nd September | Cairo, Egypt | [Read more](#)*

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## **Advocacy at the African Union Specialised Technical Committee Meeting in Abidjan**

AFRODAD added value to the African Union Specialised Technical Committee (AU STC) meeting in Abidjan, contributing to discussions on financing Africa's industrialisation, debt sustainability, and creating fiscal space. We also hosted a side session on the future of debt restructuring in Africa, calling for an automatic debt standstill when restructuring negotiations begin. The session also advocated for establishing an independent African Credit Rating Agency to address systemic biases in credit assessments, while strengthening Africa's economic sovereignty. Through these dual platforms, we reinforced the commitment to shifting African countries away from debt distress and toward self-determined, industrialised sustainable growth.

*22nd–27th July 2026 | Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire | [Read more](#)*

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## **Advancing Sovereign Debt Solutions: Briefing Workshop on the Common African Position on Debt**

AFRODAD, in partnership with the [Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung](#) (FES), convened a high-level briefing workshop with government officials, parliamentarians, and civil society organisations to build support for the CAP on Debt. The workshop promoted dialogue on economic justice, debt sustainability, and the alignment of national policies with Africa's continental priorities. We also highlighted the role of civil society in advancing debt reform, guided by AFRODAD's [Harare Declaration](#), which calls for global debt governance systems that uphold African sovereignty, development, and social welfare.

*27th July 2026 | Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire | [Read more](#)*

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### **Stronger Partnership with the Southern African Development Community Organisation of Public Accounts Committees (SADCOPAC) to Advance Parliamentary Oversight, Debt Accountability and Africa's Common Position on Debt**

During [SADCOPAC's conference](#), AFRODAD made a presentation on 'Detecting Hidden Debt,' outlining how Public Accounts Committees, Supreme Audit Institutions, and investigative agencies can prevent fiscal collapse through effective oversight of debt contracted by state-owned entities.

The major outcome was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SADCOPAC to strengthen our shared commitment to support African legislatures in enhancing oversight of prudent debt management and effective public financial management.

Watch [AFRODAD's partnership message](#) |

Read the [Solidarity Statement](#) (SADCOPAC), the [Press Release](#), [the Legal Foundations of Public Debt](#) and the [Africa Borrowing Charter](#).

16th September 2026 | Manzini, Eswatini

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### **Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI)**

At the 2026 Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI), held on 15 September, AFRODAD partnered with the [Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development](#) (ZIMCODD) to amplify women's voices in resource governance and advance feminist perspectives on debt justice. AFRODAD joined feminist advocates and civil society counterparts to co-create a unified manifesto outlining shared positions and policy commitments ahead of Zimbabwe's 2027 National Budget.

15th September 2026 | Harare, Zimbabwe | [Read more](#)

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### **8th Zimbabwe Annual Debt Conference**

AFRODAD joined ZIMCODD and civil society partners at the Zimbabwe Annual Debt Conference to examine weaknesses in the global financial architecture and to advance African-led solutions to debt distress. AFRODAD highlighted the need to reform rigid lending practices, unfair credit-rating systems, and unsustainable debt structures that constrain African economies. The conference reaffirmed the need to turn existing commitments into practical tools for economic justice and structural reform.

15th & 16th July 2026 | Harare, Zimbabwe | [Read more](#)

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### **The African Union Dialogue on Debt Sustainability and Reform**

AFRODAD added value to the African Union Dialogue on Debt Sustainability and Reform, moderating a session on integrating the CAP on Debt into national development planning frameworks. The dialogue called for a shift from crisis response to sustainable financing, including reforms to global credit-rating systems, stronger data sovereignty through the [African Debt Monitoring Mechanism](#), and a transparent financial architecture that prioritises Africa's development and economic sovereignty.

2nd July 2026 | Harare, Zimbabwe | [Read more](#)



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### **New Leadership: Welcoming Executive Director Janet Zhou**

In June, we announced the appointment of Ms. Janet Zhou as AFRODAD's new Executive Director. She officially joined us in August, bringing with her a strong commitment to debt justice and Africa's development agenda, a collaborative leadership style, a strong sense of purpose, and the courage to advance Africa's voice on the national, continental, and global stages. With her experience and vision, we look forward to working together to strengthen AFRODAD's impact and advance our pursuit of a fairer and more accountable global financial system.

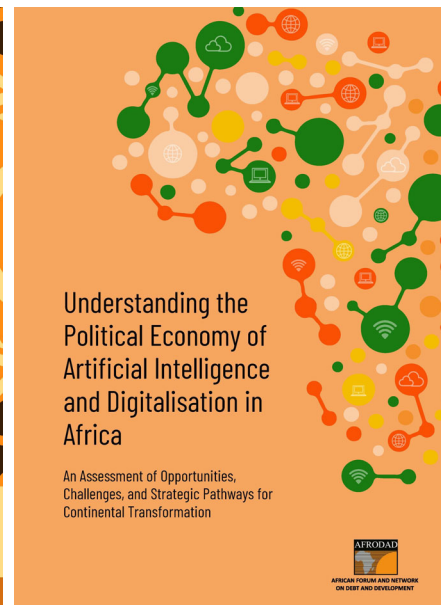




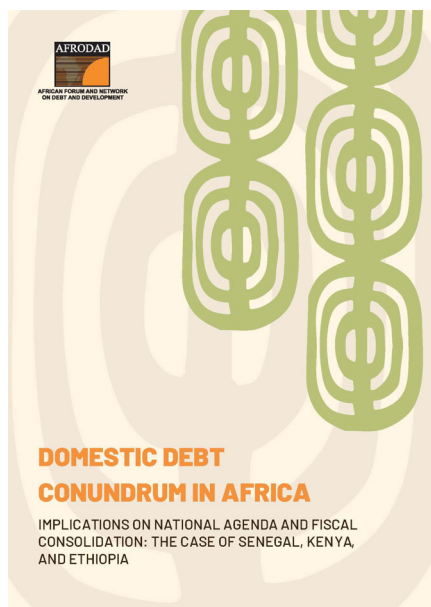
[AFRODAD Research Compendium  
2025 - First Edition](#)



[The Political Economy of Debt and  
Reparation in Africa](#)



[The Political Economy of Artificial  
Intelligence and Digitalisation in  
Africa](#)



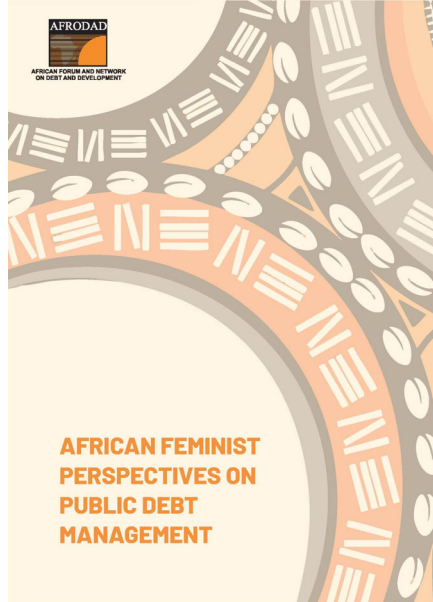
[Domestic Debt Conundrum in Africa  
– Implications on National Agenda  
and Fiscal Consolidation \(The Case  
of Senegal, Kenya and Ethiopia\)](#)



[Environmental Taxation and its  
Implications on Domestic Resource  
Mobilisation](#)



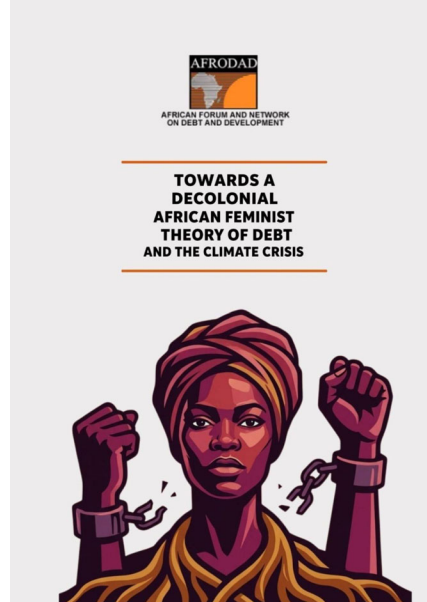
[Africa's Sustainable Finance  
\(Strategic Policy Considerations for  
the International Development  
Association\)](#)



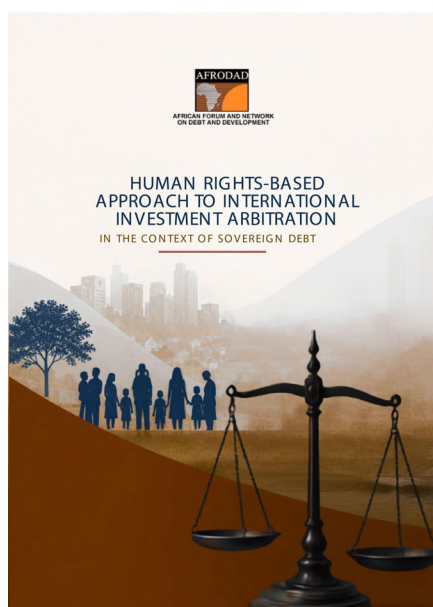
[African Feminist Perspectives on Public Debt Management](#)



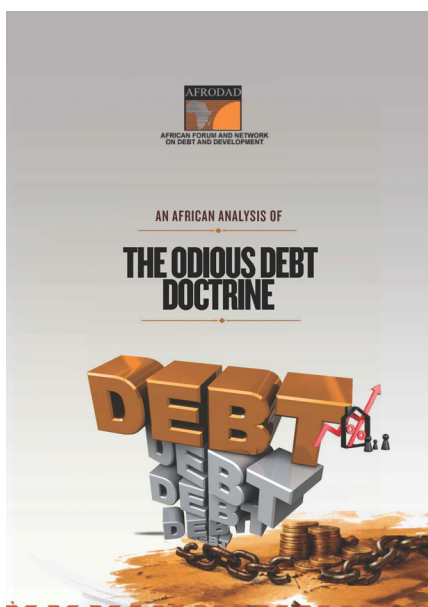
[African Feminist Resistance and Sovereign Debt Justice - Transnational Pathways for Economic Transformation](#)



[Towards a Decolonial African Feminist Theory of Debt and the Climate Crisis](#)



[Human Rights-Based Approach to International Investment Arbitration \(in the context of sovereign debt\)](#)



[An African Analysis of the Odious Debt Doctrine](#)



## New Podcast Series: Decolonising Africa's Debt and Reclaiming Her Future

Launched during AfCoDD VI in partnership with [African Futures Lab](#) (AFALAB), this podcast series brings together activists, scholars and frontline voices to examine the historical and structural roots of Africa's debt challenges.

### Episode 1: Understanding the Historical Foundations of Systemic Extraction

AFRODAD's Catherine Mithia and international economic lawyer Dr. Marie Louise Aren trace 500+ years of extraction, from the Transatlantic

### Episode 2: Human Rights-Based Approach to International Investment Arbitration in the Context of Sovereign Debt

In this episode, Prof. Grieve Chelwa joins the conversation to unpack Zambia's copper history, IMF

### Episode 3: Who should pay for Africa's climate losses and how should that responsibility be enforced?

In this episode, Nciko wa Nciko joins the conversation to examine climate debt and Africa's unequal burden in

Slave Trade and the 1884/85 Berlin Conference to today's Eurobonds and resource-backed loans, while unpacking the 'De-Colonial Political Economy Framework.' The episode traces how the Slave Trade and colonial partition built Africa's extractive economic systems, and how Structural Adjustment Programs later modernised those same dependencies. It lays out the four pillars of the De-Colonial Political Economy Framework and explains why the UN's 2026 resolution and the AU's Decade of Reparations matter now.



[Stream Episode 1](#)

austerity, and why debt cancellation is reparatory justice, not charity. Building on Episode 1's historical framing, this installment turns to a specific case study- Zambia's copper wealth- to examine how decades of IMF-prescribed austerity shaped the country's development, and what genuine reparative justice would look like in practice, rather than debt relief offered as charity.

Prof. Chelwa serves as Chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Associate Professor of Political Economy at The Africa Institute (Global Studies University, Sharjah). He is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.



[Stream Episode 2](#)

the wake of global climate disasters. Despite contributing little to global emissions, African countries, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, bear the greatest costs through economic losses, destroyed livelihoods, and loss of life. Repeated climate disasters drive governments into debt to rebuild, diverting resources from healthcare, education, and infrastructure. The episode challenges current climate finance models, questioning whether loan-based relief packages deliver genuine justice or simply repeat historical inequalities.



[Stream Episode 3](#)



## UPCOMING



### **Afrotellers 2026 - AFRODAD to Champion Narrative Sovereignty and Economic Justice**

Following a successful AfCoDD, AFRODAD is heading to the Afrotellers Conference 2026 in Mombasa, Kenya, this October. We will contribute to Session 5, 'Who Shapes the Story? Building an Ecosystem Where Practice and Policy Reinforce Each Other,' highlighting the need to reclaim Africa's narratives for economic justice and agency. Reclaiming narrative sovereignty requires redesigning the policy frameworks that shape our continent's future. Stay tuned for updates!



### **2026 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings - AFRODAD Championing Africa's Economic Justice**

As AFRODAD heads to Bangkok, Thailand, for the 2026 IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings (October 12–18), our goal is clear: demand systemic financial reforms that serve Africa's sustainable development rather than deepening its debt burden. Held under the theme 'Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience,' the meetings will test whether the Bretton Woods institutions are prepared to pursue meaningful systemic reform.

Alongside our Global South partners, we are bringing an action-oriented agenda centered on three core pillars:

- **Debt Accountability**
- **Fair Development Finance**
- **Feminist & Climate Justice**



[Read More](#)



To conduct a research study on Tax Expenditures, Illicit Financial Flows, and Revenue Losses in Africa, assessing their impact on domestic resource mobilisation and rising public debt.

We invite Expressions of Interest for a consultancy to conduct a research study on Tax Expenditures, Illicit Financial Flows, and Revenue Losses in Africa, assessing their impact on domestic resource mobilisation and rising public debt. The study will deliver a comparative analysis to highlight best practices for curbing fiscal leakages.

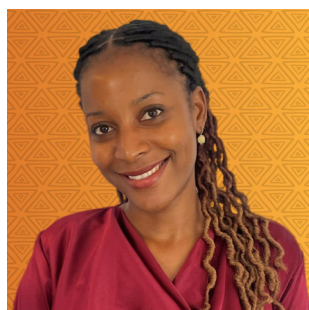
 [Find more information and application details here!](#)



## OUR COHORT 11 INTERNS



**Lucas Kasosi**  
International, Public &  
Private Finance (IPPF)



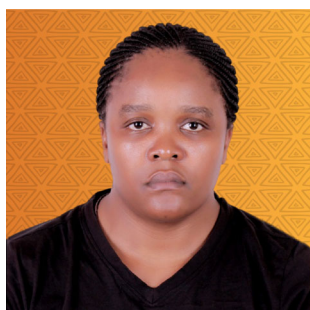
**Mitchell Jonathan**  
Executive Director's  
Office



**Bhekumuzi Moyo**  
Finance



**Tawonga Genga**  
Monitoring, Evaluation &  
Learning



**Jenice Ishimiimana**  
Campaigns &  
Communication



**Eric Gwanmesia**  
Domestic Resource  
Mobilisation



**Angeline Bumhira**  
Human Resources &  
Administration



**Pasca Mushaike**  
Sovereign Debt  
Management



**Hiltruda Nyokabi**  
Legal, Advocacy &  
Analysis on Debt

## On a Lighter Note: Our Team Building



The AFRODAD team stepped away from the office for an exciting team-building excursion. The day provided us with an opportunity to unwind, connect, and strengthen relationships while embracing adventure in the great outdoors. More than just an excursion, the experience reinforced the importance of collaboration, trust, and collective effort. Navigating the trails together reminded us that, just like in the workplace, achieving shared goals requires communication, mutual support, and a willingness to move forward together. The experience also created space for relaxed interaction to appreciate each other's uniqueness and playful side, while recharging away from the demands of daily work.

## Our Strategic & Funding Partners



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