THE NORDIC AFRICA INSTITUTE
NORDISKA AFRIKAINSTITUTET

Driving progress across the 2030 Agenda

How the Nordic Africa Institute Library works with the sustainable development goals

The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI)

Research and policy advice on Africa

- Analysing development on the African continent.
- Research intersects with policy dialogue and a full-service library in a unique setting for Africa studies in the Nordics.
- Current thematic focus areas:
  - Inclusive growth, poverty and inequality
  - Climate change and sustainable development
  - Conflict, security and democratic transformation
  - Mobility and migration
  - Gender equality

South ↔ North Dialogue

For our shared future

- Libraries drive progress across the entire 2030 Agenda.
- The Nordic Africa institute Library is part of the infrastructure for research and studies on Africa in the Nordic countries.
- Providing both local and global perspectives, the library facilitates for students, researchers and policy-makers to analyze SDG challenges on the African continent.

South ↔ North Dialogue

For our shared future

- Exchanging and co-creating knowledge is central to development.
- Local knowledge enables local solutions.
- The library facilitates partnership by providing research originating from the African continent.
- One third of the NAI Library collection is from the African continent – and it is constantly growing.

Quality Education

Supporting the education goal

- The NAI Library collection supports the education goal by providing litera-ture for teachers and students.
- Education sciences and pedagogy has a long tradition within the African studies field and the NAI Library has a large collection in this disciplin.
- Although mainly focused on Academia, the NAI Library is also open for schools and the general public, providing space for both formal and informal learning.

Cultural Heritage

Sharing and increasing visibility

- Due to the colonial history and the history of the liberation movements, the cultural heritage of many African countries is to a large extent located in other countries.
- As a result of the support from the Nordic countries, many documents from the Southern African liberation movements have ended up in the NAI Library collection.

Cultural Heritage

Showcase Example: Digitisation

- From 2017 to 2019, an archive with more than 20,000 documents were partly digitised and made searchable in a collaboration project between the NAI Library, Unesco and Tanzania's national archive.
- The project opens up for future collaborations with African partners to share historical documents.

Heritage in the Making

The Africa Street Lit Project

- New forms of literature are emerging in African cities, outside the established publishing industry and library distribution channels.
- The NAI Library collects and makes available emerging literary forms such as spoken word poetry, blog fiction, street theatre and graphic novels.
- The project promotes the dissemination of new voices on the literary scene.

Government Documents

Access to official documents

- The NAI Library collects and makes available official documents from African governments and their bodies, both digitally and in print.
- Access to these documents facilitates research on how to promote and build peace, justice and strong institutions.
- Access to these documents in their countries of origin can be challenging due to authoritarian regimes, surveillance, restrictions, lack of resources or conflicts.

Thank you!

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