



ACCA's development activities in Africa

About ACCA

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) is the global body for professional accountants. We aim to offer business-relevant, first-choice qualifications to people around the world who seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.

Globally, we support our 122,000 members and 325,000 students throughout their careers, providing services through a network of 80 offices and centres around the world. We feel that it is important that our qualifications and the related opportunities are available to students in developing nations as they are to other students around the world. We use our expertise and experience in areas such as tax and finance to work with governments, development agencies and professional bodies to develop the accountancy profession and to advance the public interest. By promoting our global standards, and supporting our members wherever they work, we aim to meet the current and future needs of international business.

Accountancy and developing countries

Organisations such as the World Bank and the UN report that there is a lack of trained accounting professionals in developing countries. These agencies are primarily concerned about the sustainability of development and other projects in the absence of structured accountancy processes.

Accountancy plays a crucial role in the economics of developing countries by providing them with the information they need to implement their planning processes. The success of economic development is, in fact, tied to the way in which accounting systems, at both the micro and macro levels, are developed and used.

Accountants also play a role in promoting good governance in their societies. ACCA's core activity of qualifying and supporting professional accountants makes a direct contribution to elevating individuals and whole societies. Benefits of adequate levels of skilled accounting professionals include greater transparency and accountability, which improve the investment climate and promote better stewardship of donor funds.

ACCA in Africa

- We have more than 30 years experience of working to develop the profession in Africa.

- The total number of ACCA members and students in Africa stands at over 60,000, having roughly doubled in the last five years. Students and members are supported by our branches and staffed offices throughout the continent, as well as by providers such as academic institutions and employers in their role as workplace training providers.
- Growth rate in terms of new student registrations is around 15% per year and we are achieving milestones of more than 5,000 students and members in countries such as Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia.
- We have shared our expertise, experience and knowledge with national bodies. Our members and students have also benefited from our close working relationship with national bodies across the continent. ACCA has also undertaken important projects on behalf of many national bodies in Africa to strengthen the accountancy profession and to help it develop sustainable structures and procedures.
- ACCA employs over seventy staff across Africa, all nationals of the 11 countries in which our offices are situated: Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe,

ACCA works in partnership with various stakeholders in Africa (such as national accountancy professional bodies, public sector and private sector employers, and international development agencies) with respect to the delivery of education and training and projects to develop the profession:

- ACCA was appointed to manage a project, funded by the EU and the Irish Government, to develop a regional accountancy training programme for the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This led to the establishment of the Zambia College of Accountancy Studies (ZCAS), which has grown to deliver tuition to several thousand students. ZCAS is registered at the highest level of ACCA's Accredited Learning Providers Scheme, which gives formal recognition to leading tuition providers for the quality of tuition and support they offer ACCA students. ZCAS now boasts pass rates on a par with the best colleges worldwide, across developing as well developed countries. Similar colleges were established in Botswana and Lesotho. Work continues to develop local tuition provision throughout the continent.
- Sierra Leone: ACCA recently completed a project funded by the World Bank to build capacity in the accountancy profession in Sierra Leone. We worked with the national professional body to develop a strategy and regulatory framework that would accelerate the adoption of international accounting and auditing standards.

- Gambia: ACCA delivered a World Bank funded project in 2003 aimed at development of the accountancy profession. It included - strengthening the structures of the national professional body; updating/reviewing company & tax laws; introducing national accounting and auditing standards; developing professional curriculum and training materials.
- ACCA provides an audit quality review service to the regulatory bodies for the accounting profession in Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland and Malawi. This service was initiated by a World Bank funded project in 2005.

ACCA has participated in many other such development initiatives over the last 30 years.

Our work in developing nations

At the core of ACCA's work is our desire to make our qualification available to people everywhere in the world who wish to acquire an international professional accounting qualification – ensuring we maintain consistent global standards.

ACCA's success in delivering an international qualification has also promoted the development of national professional bodies as ACCA members in Africa invariably also belong to the national professional body. The membership levels of national professional bodies have grown through this cooperation and members of ACCA and national bodies benefit from the services and professional knowledge and support which both organisations can provide. Having dual membership enables accountants from these countries to not only travel to further their career by having an internationally recognised qualification, but to also forge a successful career in their homeland. ACCA is also active in providing support for members of national bodies who find themselves abroad in areas where ACCA has a strong local presence.

What MPs can do

- When you go to Africa, ask questions about the fiscal literacy of the country you're visiting. Financial literacy is a significant issue for developing nations' economies.
- If you are visiting Africa, please get in touch with us so that we can introduce you to some of the key players involved in the accountancy profession and related sectors.

For further Information, please contact:

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