

Fostering Entrepreneurship and Building Peace Among Youth in Côte d'Ivoire

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Student preference for government or private sector jobs, and the most important reason for that choice.

In sum, in a country where two thirds of the youth are either unemployed or inactive, the ministry of education and other policymakers should make it a goal to educate youth to thrive outside the public sector and become job creators. However, this requires universities, government, businesses, and other stakeholders to help rebrand entrepreneurship, mainstream entrepreneurship education, and create entrepreneurship ecosystems. The following policy options would help foster entrepreneurship as a solution to the ills of unemployment in Côte d'Ivoire and in West African countries in general. African governments, universities, the private sector, and the Africa and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES), a continent-wide accreditation body for higher education, all have a role to play.

Policy Options and Recommendations

1. For African governments, the private sector, and African policymakers:

- a. **Involve governments, universities, and enterprises in education curricula:** The triple helix—government, universities, and businesses—need to be involved in the design of education curricula. So far, education has been mostly supply-driven. Education curricula are designed without the contributions of the private sector, leading to a skills mismatch for graduates. The private sector, which has become the primary employer of graduating students, could be consulted for the appropriate design, implementation, and evaluation to play.

The Africa Program works to address the most critical issues facing Africa and U.S.-Africa relations, build