

Africa Debt Campaign

STOP THE
BLEEDING



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Africa is bleeding!

Africa's efforts to consolidate its domestic resources mobilisation and chart a sustainable development path are being severely undermined by the growing debt burden which has been further accelerated by several factors, including COVID-19, conflicts, natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

This situation is further accelerated by the high incidence of illicit financial flows that see revenue leakages of up to USD80 billion leave the African continent annually largely through commercial activities of multinational corporations. Illicit financial flows bleed Africa of domestic financial resources for investment in development resulting in countries borrowing to finance their development projects. The continent's debt position is worsening as it continues to borrow its way out of the multiple crises amidst declining tax revenues, rising debt service, and continued illicit financial flows in all forms.

This intersectionality tends to find its way into the taxation system, with regressive taxes as the preferred policy choice for countries to plug resource gaps and often tends to worsen inequality in Africa.

In the light of these challenges, there is a need for a 'New Debt movement' and new outlook to issues of domestic resource mobilisation and international development finance mechanisms in the African continent. This is due to the evolving context of several global crises and other unexpected shocks that have exposed the weaknesses of the international financial system and increased the vulnerabilities of African countries to unsustainable resource mobilisation to cope with current challenges.

The African Debt Campaign

'Stop the Bleeding (STB)'

The African Debt Campaign 'Stop the Bleeding' (STB Campaign) is a CSO-founded movement bound by a shared vision of African citizens living with dignity in a just, integrated and prosperous Africa that equitably and sustainably harnesses its resources and is underpinned by strong and effective institutions that work to ensure economies are fair, just and inclusive for all.

The campaign's long-term objective is to 'Stop the Bleeding of Africa through illicit outflows and realise human rights for all; promoting tax justice, reducing inequality, and enhancing sustainable social contracts'. The STB campaign is about redressing global power imbalances not just for governments but also citizens who are often marginalised and disproportionately impacted by the decisions of a few, especially women.



Collectively, we have been championing for fair taxes that require:

- Multinational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes,
- Cubing illicit financial flows,
- Fairer debt service arrangements,
- Enhancement in domestic revenue mobilisation.

The STB Campaign Pillars

 Citizen Action	 Structural Shift in Narrative	 Negotiation Strategies	 Intellectual Alternatives
to win the hearts and minds of the populous, win back the conversation on the social contract and the democratisation and humanisation of the debt crisis that connects to the real day-to-day struggles of African citizens.	within the political, economic and social contexts in order to champion progressive socio-economic development that is people-centred.	in order to address power imbalances that exist in different ecosystems such as Citizen-State, Developing Country, Debtor-Creditor and Africa-Global Financial Architecture.	to win the minds and intellect of the population.

Campaign strategy

The STB Campaign is a broad movement of citizens from civil society, trade unions, women rights activists, and youth activists. Its success is hinged on the principle of inclusiveness that convenes multi-disciplinary advocacy agendas at regional and national platforms. To achieve this, the campaign is built on three pillars:



Political Engagement

The campaign is about making Africa a rule maker and not a rule taker. This involves political engagement from global to national processes with a common position and message on public debt and tax-related illicit financial flows.



Civic mobilisation

This entails democratising the debt and illicit financial flows discourse through civic education, participation, and humanisation of these issues and how they interlink with the wider economic, social and political systems.



Legal Advocacy

The campaign also seeks to reform and redress the power imbalances in the global financial ecosystem through disruptive litigation to force legal, policy and institutional reforms.

The Stop the Bleeding Consortium (STBC) is a collective of seven Pan-African civil society organisations (CSOs)



The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network



Pan African
Lawyers Union



TAX JUSTICE
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How to participate

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