

# ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCIES



**AAHEFA**

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN HIGHER  
EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCIES

“Transforming Africa Through Higher Education Financing”

## CORPORATE PROFILE



## Presentation Outline.

1. Who are we?
2. Our Location
3. Our vision and mission
4. AAHEFA Programs
5. AAHEFA value addition to loan schemes in Africa
6. Governance structure
7. AAHEFA member states
8. AAHEFA member organizations.
9. AAHEFA members mandate
10. AAHEFA regional penetration - Ongoing engagement missions.
11. Membership recruitment in 2025
12. AAHEFA's past conferences.
13. AAHEFA membership - How to join the association.

# Who Are We?

## History

AAHEFA is an apex body of Higher Education Financing institutions in Africa.

Formed in 2008, and formally registered in Tanzania where the headquarters are currently located.

AAHEFA was formed with initial membership of three agencies; Higher Education Student's Loan Board (HESLB) Tanzania, Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) Kenya and Students Financing Agency for Rwanda, currently - Higher Education Students Loans Department (HESLD).

A continental association that brings together institutions responsible for financing higher education through;

- Student loans
- Scholarships
- Grants
- Bursaries.

# Our Location

## DERM COMPLEX

7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot No. 11, Block 45A Bagamoyo Road Kijitonyama Area  
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Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

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 Website: [www.aahefa.org](http://www.aahefa.org)

# Our Vision and Mission

## Vision

To Transform Africa Through Higher Education Financing.

## Mission

To Be An Association of Excellence for Higher Education Financing Agencies in Africa through Resource Mobilization & Capacity Building.

## Core Values

- Diversity
- Accountability and Transparency
- Innovation and Excellence
- Integrity and professionalism
- Teamwork

# AAHEFA Programs

**1**

Assisting governments to formulate Higher Education Policies.

**2**

Assisting in establishing new Higher Education loan schemes.

**3**

Policy dialogues.

**4**

Capacity building initiatives with members.

**5**

Developing best practices in the sector.

**6**

Monitoring and evaluating higher education index.

**7**

Exchanging information on Higher Education developments.

**8**

Organizing Higher Education conferences and symposium.

**9**

Innovation of higher education financing models and emerging technologies.

Sharing Best  
Practice  
Experiences

Avoiding  
Past  
Mistakes

Legislation

Advocacy

Engaging  
Multilateral  
Development  
Partners

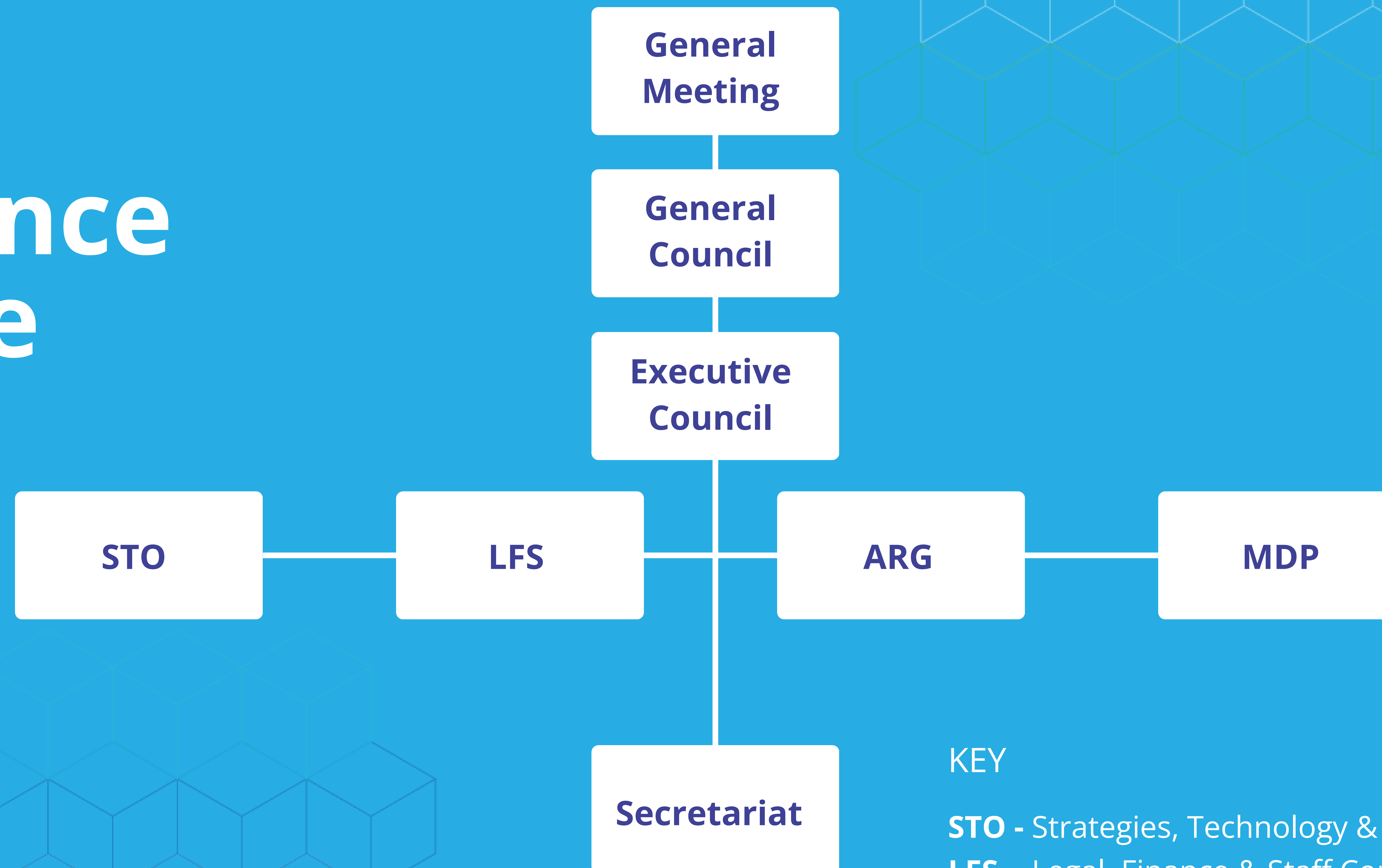
Globalizing  
Loan  
Recovery

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# AAHEFA Value Addition To Loan Schemes In Africa

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# Governance Structure



## KEY

**STO** - Strategies, Technology & Operations Committees.

**LFS** - Legal, Finance & Staff Committees

**ARG** - Audit, Risk & Governance Committees

**MDP** - Membership Drive & Partnership Committees

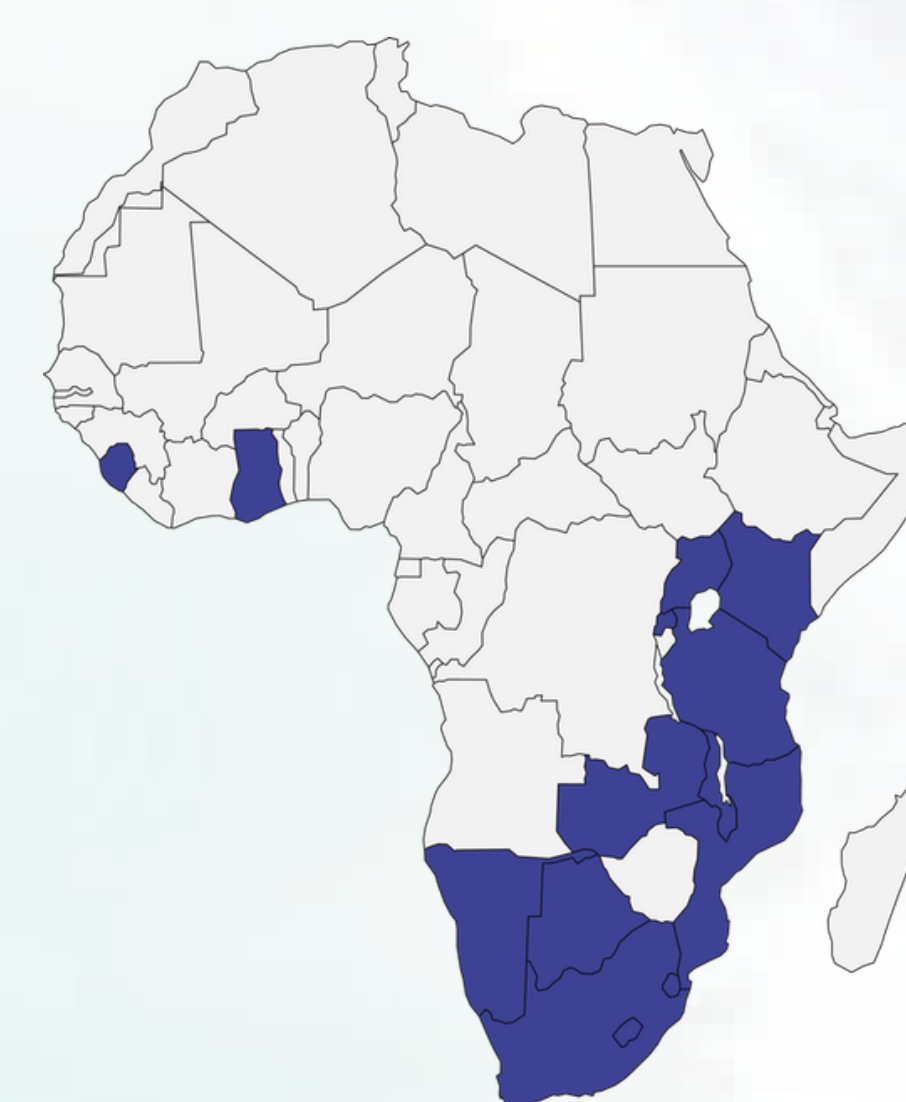
# AAHEFA Member States



Kenya  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Rwanda  
Ghana  
Sierra Leone  
Botswana

South Africa  
Lesotho  
Namibia  
Zambia  
Malawi  
Eswatini  
Mozambique

# AAHEFA Member Organizations



**Uganda** - Higher education Student Financing Board (**HEFSB**)  
**Kenya** - Higher Education Loans Board (**HELB**)  
**Tanzania** - Higher Education's Students' Loan Board (**HESLB**)  
**Ghana** - Students Loan Trust Fund (**SLTF**)  
**Malawi** - Higher Education Students' Loans & Grants Board (**HESLGB**)  
**Lesotho** - National Manpower Development Secretariat (**NMDS**)  
**Namibia** - Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (**NSFAF**)

**South Africa** - National Student Financial Aid Scheme(**NSFAF**)  
**Zambia** - Higher Education Loans and Scholarship Board (**HELSB**)  
**Botswana** - Human Resource Development Council (**HRDC**)  
**Rwanda** - Development Bank of Rwanda (**BRD**)  
**Sierra Leone** - Sierra Leone Students' Loan Scheme (**SLOAN - SL**)  
**Eswatini** - Pre-Service Tertiary Education and Training (**PTET**)  
**Mozambique** - Instituto de Bolsas de Estudos (**IBE**)

## AAHEFA Members Mandate

| Member Country(s)                                                   | Mandate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Uganda.</b> Higher Education Student Financing Board (HESFB). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by an act of Parliament No 2 of 2014 as a corporate, semi autonomous body mandated</li> <li>To provide loans and scholarships to students intending to pursue higher education</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2. <b>Kenya.</b> Higher Education Loans Board. (HELB)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 1995 as statutory body by an Act of Parliament 'Higher Education Loans Board Act' Cap 213 A</li> <li>To manage fund to be used for granting loans to assist Kenyan students in obtaining higher education at recognized institutions within and outside Kenya</li> <li>HELB is also mandated to recover all mature loans issued since 1974</li> </ul>               |
| 3. <b>Tanzania.</b> Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by an act of parliament in 2005</li> <li>To formulate the mechanism for determining eligible students for payment of loans under the Act</li> <li>To administer and supervise the whole process of granting, repayment and recovery of loans issued to students</li> </ul>                                                                                             |
| 4. <b>Ghana.</b> Students Loan Trust Fund (SLTF)                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in December 2005</li> <li>It was restructured under the Students Loan Trust Fund Act, 2011 (Act 820) to provide financial support to students in accredited tertiary institutions in Ghana.</li> <li>It promotes equal access to higher education, in line with the *1992 Constitution*, by offering student loans, allowances, and loan recovery services.</li> </ul> |

## AAHEFA Members Mandate

| Member Country(s)                                                     | Mandate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5. <b>Lesotho.</b> National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS).  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 1978 through the Loan Bursary Fund ( Regulations No 20 of 1978</li> <li>To provide loan bursaries to academically eligible Lesotho citizens in order to study priority programs of study in the tertiary education institutions locally and abroad</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6. <b>Namibia.</b> Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established in 2000 through an Act of the Parliament, Act No 26 of 2000</li> <li>To provide financial assistance to eligible students (at both public and private institutions) and recover from those given as loans</li> <li>Aimed at providing 99 in form of LOANS and 1 merit based GRANTS</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 7. <b>Rwanda.</b> Development Bank of Rwanda. (BRD)                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before 2003 the higher education financing scheme was being managed by the Ministry of Education</li> <li>In 2003 a new institution called the Student Financing Agency of Rwanda ( under the Ministry of Education was created to manage the scheme</li> <li>In 2011 SFAR with other agencies for the Ministry of Education were merged to form the Rwanda Education Board ( which took over all the responsibilities of SFAR</li> <li>For more efficiencies in loan disbursements and resolving, issues of delays and a lot of complaints from students in 2016 the disbursement and recovery components of the scheme were transferred to the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD).</li> </ul> |

## AAHEFA Members Mandate

| Member Country(s)                                                           | Mandate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. <b>Botswana.</b> Human Resource Development Council (HRDC).              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established by an Act of Parliament the HRDC Act No 17 of 2013 which became effective on the 8 th November 2013</li> <li>• It act as Government's advisor on human resource development,</li> <li>• The HRDC provides a platform for the Public Sector, Private Sector and Civil Society to act in concert to drive the National Human Resource Development Strategy (NHRDS)</li> <li>• Prepare the National Human Resource Development Plans</li> <li>• Plan and advice on tertiary education financing and workplace learning</li> </ul> |
| 9. <b>South Africa.</b> National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established IN 1999 an act of the Parliament, the NSFAS Act (Act 56 of 1999</li> <li>• To provide financial support to students from poor and working class households who wish to further their studies at public Universities or TVET colleges</li> <li>• Operated as a loan scheme till 2018 then converted to a bursary scheme following the president's pronouncement</li> <li>• There is intention to revert to loans scheme upon realization that the bursary scheme is not sustainable</li> </ul>                                  |
| 10. <b>Malawi.</b> Higher Education Students' Loans & Grants Board (HESLGB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established in 2015 by the Malawi Government through an Act of Parliament.</li> <li>• Providing loans to needy and deserving students</li> <li>• Providing grants to deserving students</li> <li>• To Recover loans from former loan beneficiaries</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## AAHEFA Members Mandate

| Member Country(s)                                                                                   | Mandate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11. <b>Zambia.</b> Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board (HELSB).                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established through an Act of Parliament, Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Act No. 31 of 2016 as a body corporate, capable of suing and being sued.</li> <li>• Administration, granting, payment, recovery of loans and investment,</li> <li>• Administration and granting of scholarships.</li> <li>• To Mobilize financial resources for loans and scholarships.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     |
| 12. <b>Sierra Leone.</b> Represented in AAHEFA by the Students' Loan Scheme Sierra Leone (SLOAN SL) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established in 2021 by House of Parliament of Sierra Leone, through the Sierra Leone Students' Loan Scheme Fund Act as a statutory instrument.</li> <li>• To provide Financial Assistance to Students of Tertiary Institution in Sierra Leone.</li> <li>• To provide funds to increase the number of students/graduates accessing technical and higher education</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                              |
| 13. <b>Eswatini.</b> Pre Service Tertiary Education and Training (PTET)                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established by the Kingdom Government of Eswatini in 2018.</li> <li>• To provide financial assistance, in the form of study loans, to Emaswati students pursuing tertiary education.</li> <li>• To promote Higher Education, the program ensures that deserving students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, can access tertiary education.</li> <li>• To support priority fields PTET focuses on funding students in government prioritized fields that align with national development goals.</li> </ul> |

## AAHEFA Members Mandate

| Member Country(s)                                           | Mandate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14. <b>Mozambique.</b> Instituto de Bolsas de Estudos (IBE) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IBE stands for Instituto de Bolsas de Estudos (Scholarship Institute) in Mozambique.</li><li>• It is a government established institute aimed at promoting access to secondary, TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training), and higher education by providing scholarships and possibly other forms of educational financing.</li><li>• The institute is involved in international cooperation in the education sector.</li><li>• Scholarship provision : IBE offers financial support to Mozambican students to access education.</li><li>• IBE is conducting feasibility studies and discussions about student loan programmes and other means of improving access to education.</li></ul> |

## AAHEFA Regional Penetration Ongoing Engagement Mission

### NORTHERN AFRICA

The Association is conducting strategic partnership missions to Morocco and Egypt These efforts are being led by the AAHEFA Secretariat in collaboration with the foreign missions of AAHEFA member states in the respective countries

### MOROCCO

#### **Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI)** **AMCI), Kingdom of Morocco**

Engagement Focus:

- Entry point for North Africa engagement
- Scholarship programmes and bilateral cooperation
- Gateway for partnerships with Moroccan higher education institutions

### EGYPT

#### **Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research , Arab Republic of Egypt**

Engagement Focus:

- Policy dialogue and institutional collaboration
- Expansion into North Africa and the Arab region
- Strategic link to large scale public higher education financing systems

## AAHEFA Regional Penetration Ongoing Engagement Mission

### **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

AAHEFA has successfully onboarded nearly all countries in the Southern African region. Mozambique joined in 2025 , and engagements are ongoing with Zimbabwe and Angola to finalize membership.

### **EAST AFRICA**

Most East African countries are already AAHEFA members. Efforts are underway to bring Burundi, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on board.

### **WEST AFRICA**

Current members include Ghana and Sierra Leone . Engagement efforts are progressing with Nigeria, The Gambia, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) with outreach also being expanded further.

### **Portuguese Speaking Countries**

The Secretariat has developed a dedicated engagement strategy for PALOP countries, the five Portuguese speaking African nations: Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, and São Tomé & Príncipe. These countries share historical and linguistic ties and are also linked to Timor Leste and Equatorial Guinea under the CPLP community.

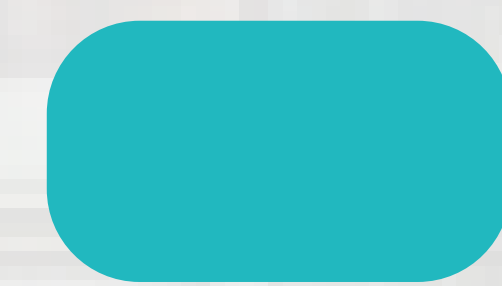
### **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Countries**

Engagements have begun with Mauritius , and a focal contact has been established. Through Mauritius and the SADC Secretariat, AAHEFA is extending engagement to Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Réunion

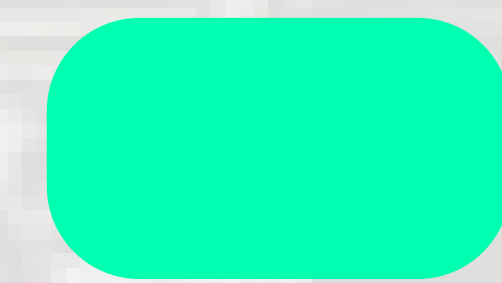
# AAHEFA Partnerships Map



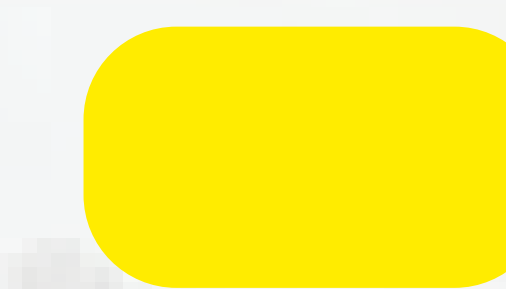
**AAHEFA Current Members**  
• Kenya , Tanzania , Uganda , Rwanda , Zambia , Malawi ,  
Lesotho , Botswana , South Africa , Ghana , Eswatini ,  
Mozambique , Sierra Leone , Namibia



**Prospective West Africa Members**  
• Nigeria , Ghana , The Gambia , Liberia , Sierra Leone ,  
Côte d'Ivoire , Benin , Togo , Burkina Faso , Senegal



**Prospective PALOP Members**  
• Angola , Guinea Bissau , Cabo Verde , São Tomé &  
Príncipe



**Prospective Indian Ocean Countries Members**  
• Seychelles , Madagascar , Comoros , Mauritius , Réunion



**Prospective North Africa Strategic Partners**  
• Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI) Kingdom of  
Morocco  
• Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Arab Republic of  
Egypt



- Strategic Global Partners**
1. Korea Student Aid Foundation (KOSAF) Republic of  
Korea
  2. Asociación Panamericana de Instituciones de Crédito  
Educativo ( Colombia, Latin America and the  
Caribbean
  3. Perbadanan Tabung Pendidikan Tinggi Nasional  
(PTPTN) Malaysia

## Strategic Approach

AAHEFA's expansion is being systematically strengthened through partnerships with regional economic communities and intergovernmental bodies including:

- i. SADC
- ii. African Union (AU)
- iii. East African Community (EAC)
- iv. Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- v. COMESA

In addition, country to country engagement is being leveraged, especially for neighboring and border sharing countries, to accelerate membership growth and regional representation.

## AAHEFA Past Conferences



## AAHEFA Membership | How to Join The Association

1

Expression of interest, in writing.

2

Invitation as observers to  
Conferences & AGMs prior to  
joining.

3

Payment of annual membership  
subscription fee.

4

Certificate of membership.

Policy dialogues.

Monitoring and evaluating  
higher education index.



# THANK YOU



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