Africa(s) in Transition(s): Investing in Youth’s Human Capital

Africa in the midst of multiple transitions ....

... That could spur growth but also a vicious cycle of inequality

Breaking this cycle requires HC investments that are both synergistic and equitable

Parfait M. Eloundou-Enyegue (Cornell University)
Multiple Transitions

- **Economy**
  - (digital & service economy)

- **Cultural**
  - (globalization)

- **Demographic**
  - (fertility & family formation)

- **Political**
  - (democratic governance)
A Vicious Cycle of Inequality

7 of top 10 most unequal countries are in SSA

Adult Inequality

Uneven fertility
Assortative marriage
Maternal empowerment

Youth Inequality

Average births per woman
Top vs Bottom Quintile
Investing in Human Capital

Young adults as an entry point

Transition from School to Work
Many NEETs

High fertility (4.4)

Early Childhood

Stunting (34%)

Low secondary enrollment (35%)

School Years

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School Years

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Principle 1: Synergy

Early Childhood:
- "Family and life planning"

School Years:
- "Parenting; First aid"
- "Tutoring industry; School governance"

Transition from School to Work:
- "complementary job market skills"
Pple #2: Combine Equity with Payoffs

Early Childhood

School Years

Transition from School to Work

Meritocracy

Equity
Principle #3: Institutional Partnerships