



African Continental  
Qualifications Framework

## QCP TRAINING PROGRAM

### Onboarding Webinar #1 Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP) - Contact Persons

26 November 2024



# 01

## Introduction & Context

# Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP)

Objective of today's training



Provide you with **foundational understanding** of the QCP, focusing on essential knowledge for managing qualifications data and support the integration and effective use of the QCP within your national qualifications' frameworks.

## What is the ACQF?

- The African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) aims to harmonise qualifications frameworks across African nations.
- Supports transparency, comparability, and mutual recognition of qualifications across borders.
- Facilitates mobility for students, professionals, and lifelong learners.

## Why the ACQF Matters

- **Regional Integration:** Aligns with the African Union's agenda for economic and educational cooperation.
- **Skills Development:** Addresses skills gaps and enhances workforce readiness.
- **Global Interoperability:** Builds bridges between African and global qualifications frameworks.

## Key Activities of ACQF

1. Development of national and regional qualifications frameworks.
2. Capacity building and technical support for member states.
3. Establishment of the **Qualifications and Credentials Platform (QCP)** as a digital tool for data integration and exchange.

# 02

## QCP Functionalities

# Introduction to QCP development

**Project Timeline: 2024–2026 (3y)**

## **Key activities:**

- 2024: Baseline Analysis & Proof of Concept – initial technical development and definition of Data Model
- 2025: Continuous Platform Development and Operationalisation
- 2026: Handover – transition to African stakeholders



# Approach QCP development



## Technical development

- **Centralised Platform:** developing the ACQF QCP to harmonise qualifications data across Africa
- **Phased Implementation:** Focusing on core features while gearing for scalability for future improvements
- **Standards-Based Design:** Employing global standards to ensure interoperability



## Training

- **Capacity Building:** Equipping stakeholders to manage and use the QCP effectively
- **Scalable Learning:** Delivering manuals, videos, and workshops to support integration
- **Practical Focus:** Highlighting concrete application in the various national and regional contexts

# Purpose of Qualification Databases (QDBs)



## Purpose

- Central repository for storing and managing qualification information
- Facilitates recognition and comparison of qualifications
- Supports educational and workforce planning



## Functions

- Storing qualifications data
- Providing access to reliable and up-to-date information
- Enabling data analysis for policy making

## National Qualifications Database (QDB) Models

Understanding the Evolution and Benefits of QDB Models



### Model A: Paper Listings

Traditional method involving physical documents and paper listings of qualifications.

**Pros:** Simple to maintain for small-scale needs

**Cons:** Difficult to update, limited accessibility, and prone to errors



### Model B: Repositories of Information on Qualifications

Online repositories containing PDFs and static documents accessible through a website.

**Pros:** More accessible than paper listings, easier to update

**Cons:** Limited searchability, no interoperability, and static information



### Model C: Searchable Qualifications Databases

Databases that allow users to search for qualifications using various criteria.

**Pros:** Improved accessibility and searchability, dynamic updates

**Cons:** Requires more resources to develop and maintain, limited interoperability



### Model D: Interoperable Open Data QDB

Advanced databases using open data standards and ensuring interoperability with other systems.

**Pros:** High accessibility, real-time updates, supports data exchange and integration

**Cons:** Requires significant investment and technical expertise to implement and maintain

# Benefits of advanced QDBs such as the QCP



- Easy access to **reliable and up-to-date information** for learners, employers, and policymakers
- Streamlines the process of **verifying and validating** qualifications
- Enables **data-driven decision-making** through comprehensive data analytics
- Supports the **mobility** of learners and professionals by providing transparent and comparable qualifications data
- Enhances the integration of national qualifications frameworks **with regional and international standards**

# Users of QDBs

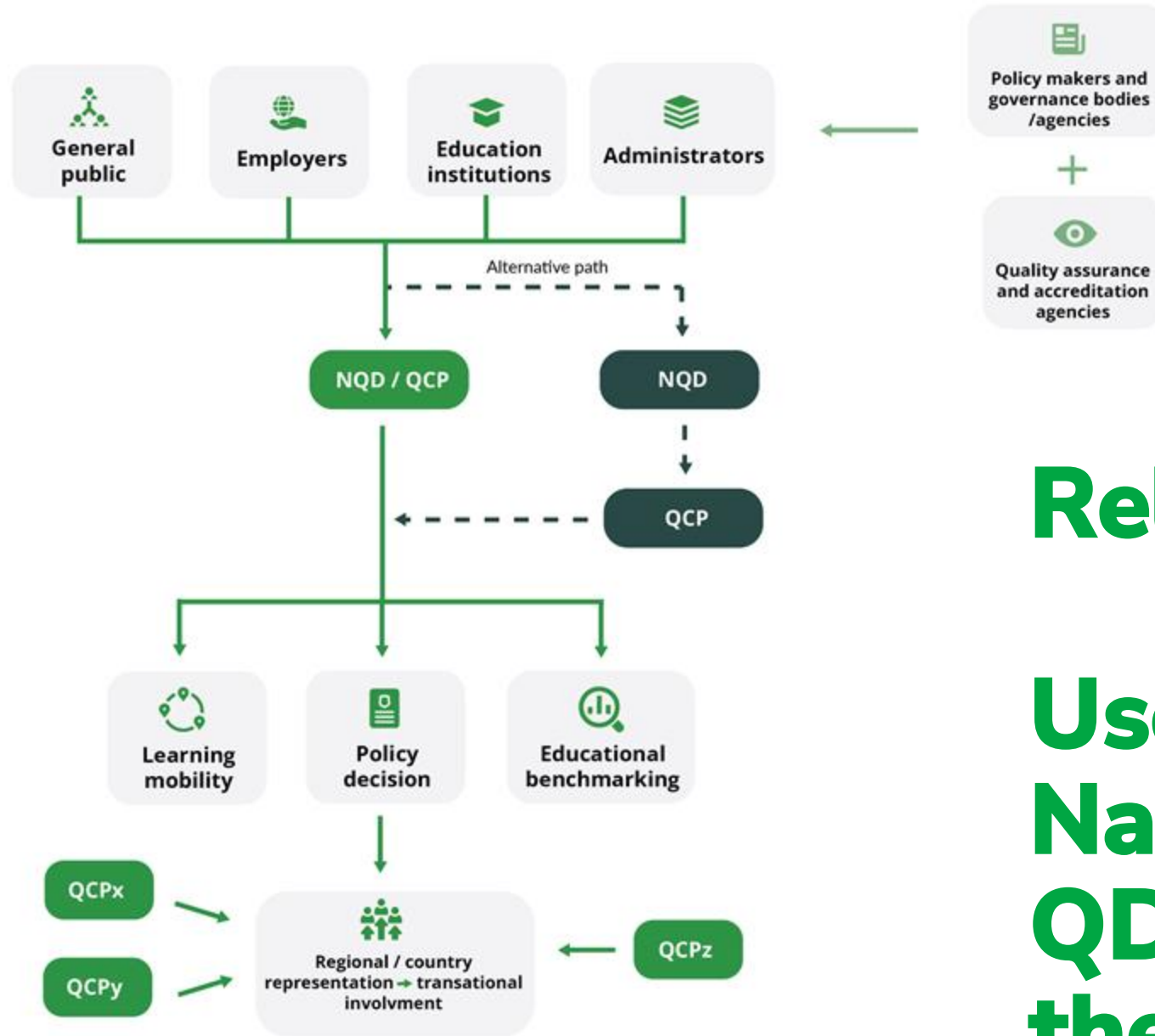
## User groups

1. **General Public (Job Seekers and Learners)** - Find and verify qualifications for educational and career planning.
2. **Employers and Industry** - Verify the credentials of potential employees and ensure they meet industry standards.
3. **Education Institutions (e.g. Schools and Universities)** - Design curriculum and align educational programs with industry standards.

4. **Administrators** - Manage and update national qualifications databases and QCP.
5. **Policy-Makers and Governance Bodies/Agencies** - Develop and implement educational policies based on reliable qualifications data.
6. **Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agencies** - Ensure qualifications meet established standards and maintain quality assurance.

# Introduction to QCP Functionalities

- Definition, Vision and Purpose



# Relation: Users, National QDBs and the QCP

# 03

## Data Governance and Working with Data

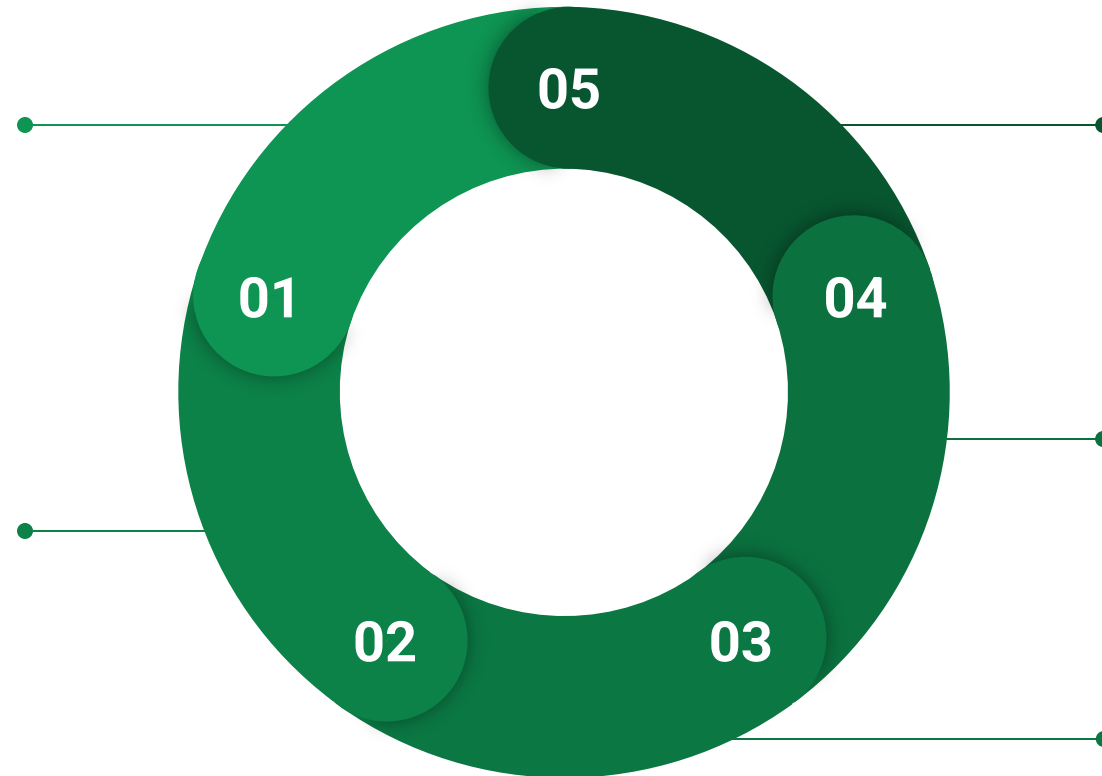


## Locate Data

Find all Qualifications Data in your National Jurisdiction.

## Set up Transformations

Create processes to convert your national data into the ACQF Data Format.



## Publish

Do a final check, and release the data to the public via the ACQF Qualifications Platform

## Upload

Introduce your data to the ACQF Qualifications Platform

## Quality Assure

Check data for clarity, correctness and completeness.

# Locate Data



## Purpose

- Do you already have a single source of data for all qualifications?
- Do you have several databases which are divided:
  - regionally?
  - by sector of education?
  - formal vs non-formal education?

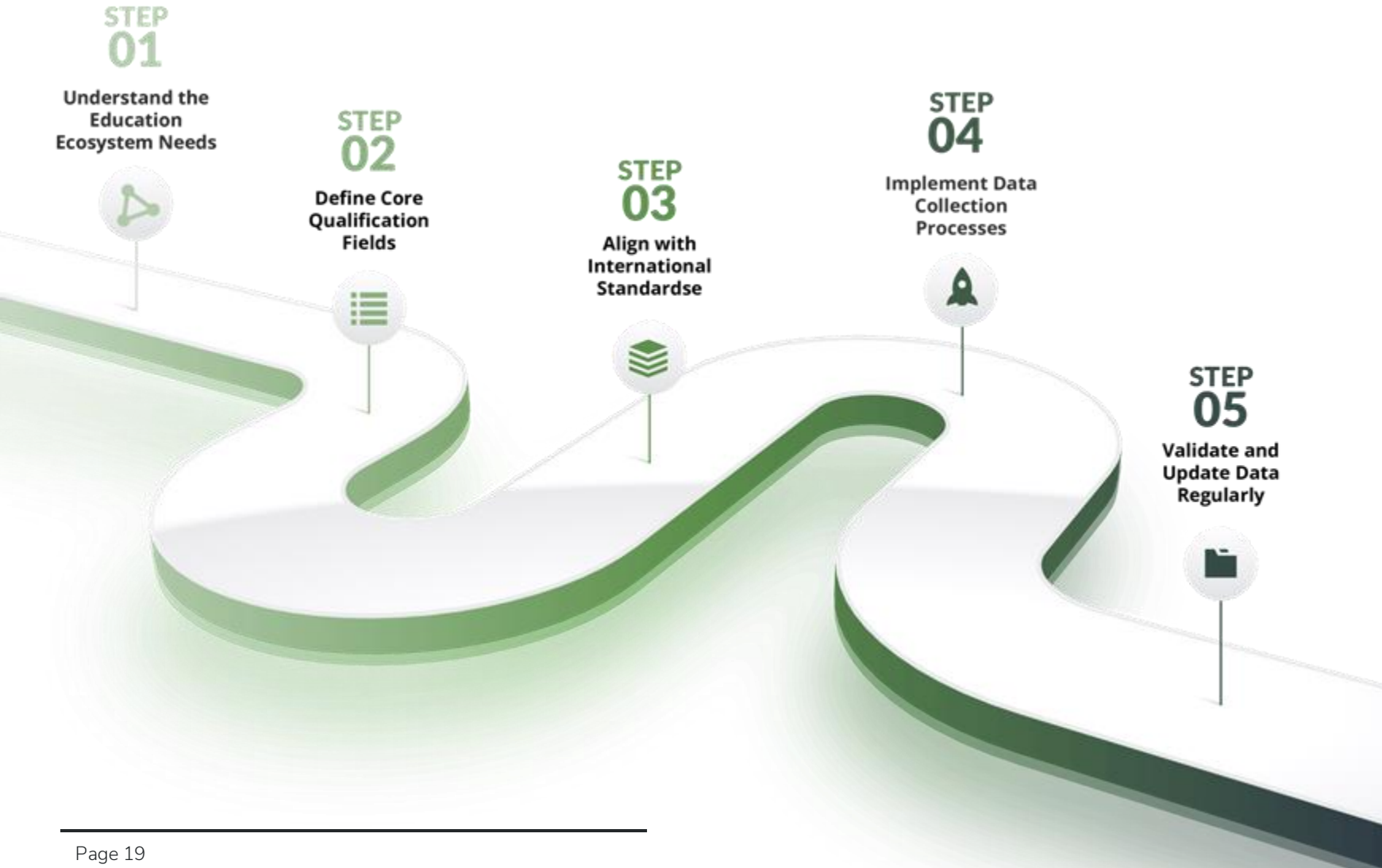


## Organisation

- Single data supplier
- Administrator with multiple data suppliers

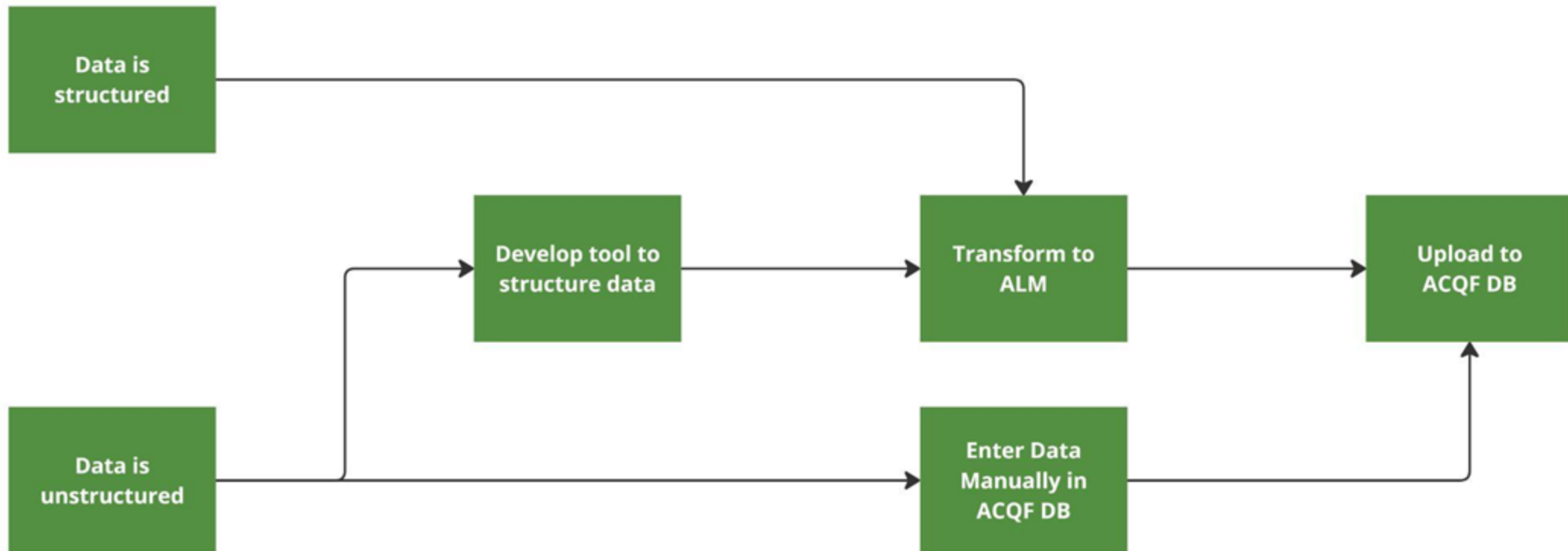
**Ensure coverage  
of entire NQF**

# Transform Data



**Pre-Requisite:  
Mapped and  
Standardised  
Qualifications  
Data**

# Transform Data



# Tools to Structure Data



## Stop using Unstructured

- Stop saving structured data as unstructured
- Use PDFs as 'auditing' evidence not as data retrieval source
- Most efficient and cost-effective option



## Template Based Extraction

- Useful if data is structured in forms that always have same headings
- Automated tool to extract data from those forms, turn into searchable text, and save into a database
- High Degree of reliability



## Semantic Based Extraction

- Useful if Qualifications Data forms tend to be different
- AI and other tools used to extract meaning and populate database
- Quite experimental and not fully reliable.

# 04

## Mapping and Standardising Qualifications Data

# Mapping and Standardising Qualifications Data

## Example

Field Name	Description	Example
Qualification Title	The official name of the qualification	Bachelor's Degree in Engineering
Qualification Level	The level of the qualification	QF Level 6
Field of Study	The specific area or discipline of the qualification	Mechanical Engineering
Awarding Body	Institution that issues the qualification	University of Nairobi
Date of Award	The date when the qualification was awarded	June 2020
Learning Outcomes	Skills and competencies gained	Ability to design mechanical systems
Duration	The time taken to complete the qualification	4 years
Credits	The credit value of the qualification	240 ECTS
Mode of Study	The mode in which the qualification was delivered	Full-time, Part-time, Online
Others	Any other relevant information	Accreditation details, Language of instruction

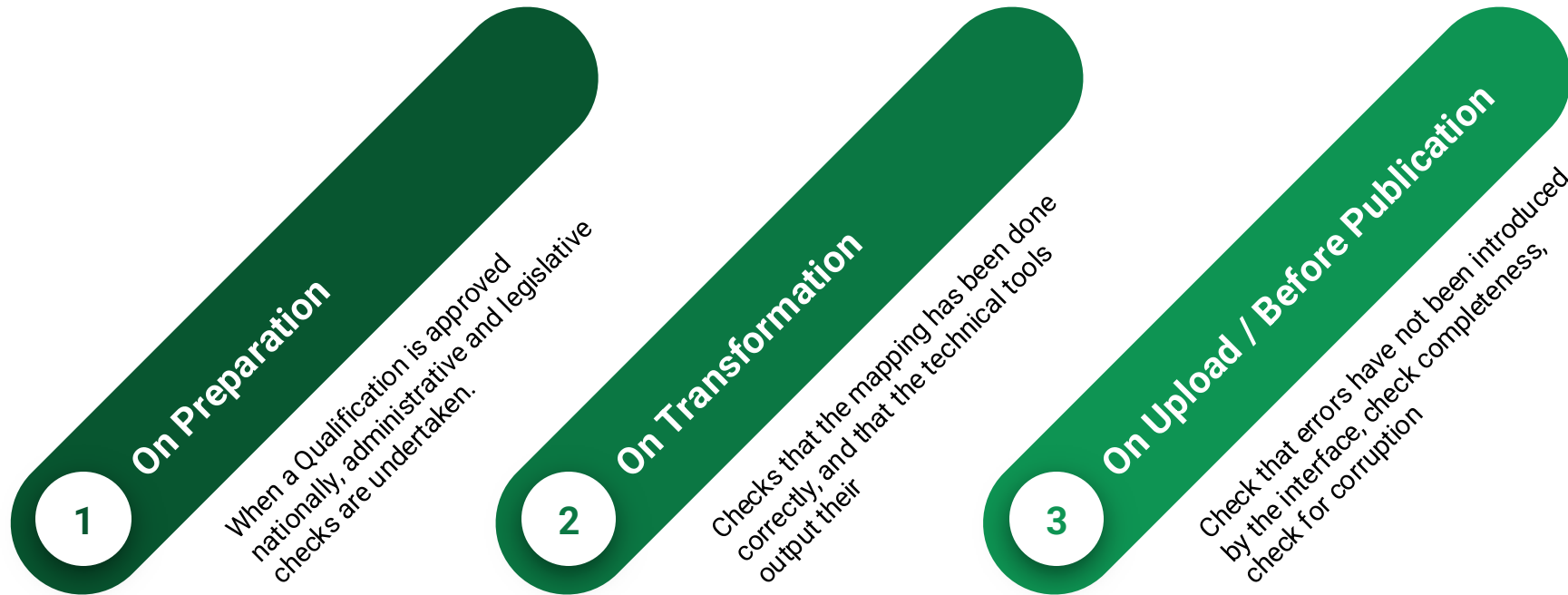
# Overview of data properties

Class	Property	Expected value
Qualification	awarding information	Awarding Opportunity
	education level	ACQF levels
	learning outcome	Learning Outcome
	publisher	Organisation
	thematic area	ISCED-F
	title	String with language
Awarding Opportunity	awarding body or note	Organisation or Note
Learning Opportunity	default language	Language
	provided by	Organisation
	qualification	Qualification
	title	String with language
Learning Outcome	title	String with language
	related skill or note	Skill or Note
Location	spatial code	Location code
Organisation	location	Location
	name	String with language



# Quality Assure Data (Clean Data)

Before Publication, all qualifications inserted in the QCP **must** be quality assured.



# Typical Effort Distribution of a Data Science Project

**20%** Locating & Entering Data

**60%** **Cleaning/QA of Data**

**20%** Extracting Insights

# The “7 sins of data quality”

**01** The Description Dumper

**02** The Learning Outcome Avoider

**03** The Data Model Hacker

**04** The Know it All

**05** The Dummy Data Provider

**06** The Worshiper of old Gods

**07** The Minimalist

# The Description Dumper



The description dumper just copies all properties to the description field, and doesn't map their data to the properties.



Instead of rich data we can process, we receive a paragraph of text that is far less useful.



# The Learning Outcome avoider



No learning outcomes in data at all



All learning outcomes jumbled into one textbox



Learning outcomes not linked to ESCO or other frameworks



# The Data Model Hacker



Use of custom properties to avoid matching to data model



Using properties for purposes which they are not intended



## The know it all



Does not quality assure data before posting



Assumes data is correct without any basis



# The Dummy Data Provider



Using Dummy data to fill required fields



Forgetting to remove test data from the datasets

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# The Worshiper of Old Gods



Using the old data formats



No plan to migrate to newer formats



# The Minimalist



Populating only the required data fields



Limited information provided per data field



# Uploading & Publishing Data

**Demo Part 2: Uploading and Publishing Data in the ACQF Platform**



# Updating Data



## Push

- The database administrators are notified each time a modification is made to a qualification, and it is immediately updated in the ACQF
- Notification can happen automatically, or via a business process



## Pull

- There is no automatic notification.
- Database administrator locates updates, checks them for completeness and uploads
- Process is done several times per year (3-12)

# Typical QCP Roles

## Qualification Author

- Determine Learning Requirements
- Write Qualification Documentation

## Qualification Approver

- Determine compliance with legislative and administrative requirements
- Approve qualifications for provision

## Qualification Curator

- Collects Qualifications which have been approved
- Checks documentation for compatibility with QCP Standards and
- Transforms Data to QCP formats
- Manages QCP Data Upload

## Qualification Administrator

- Manages Access to the QCP for various Qualification Curators

Existing Roles

New Roles Required

# Updating Data

**Large Updates** = New Qualification

**Minor Updates** = Minor Update to existing Qualification



## Versioning

- Each National Authority needs to determine the versioning policy for themselves
- The ACQF DB merely implements the versioning policy requested

# Data Collection Activity



## Build a Unified Database:

Integrate qualifications data across African countries, while ensuring data standardisation, integrity and validation

- Coordination with national partners
- Understand data state(s) and planned approaches of data insertion
- Gathering and standardising qualifications data
- Quality assurance and support
- Data upload

# Data Collection Activity Timeline

## 2024

- Preparatory steps
- Workshop
- Data collection protocol
- Framework set-up, communication with stakeholders
- Quality assurance system

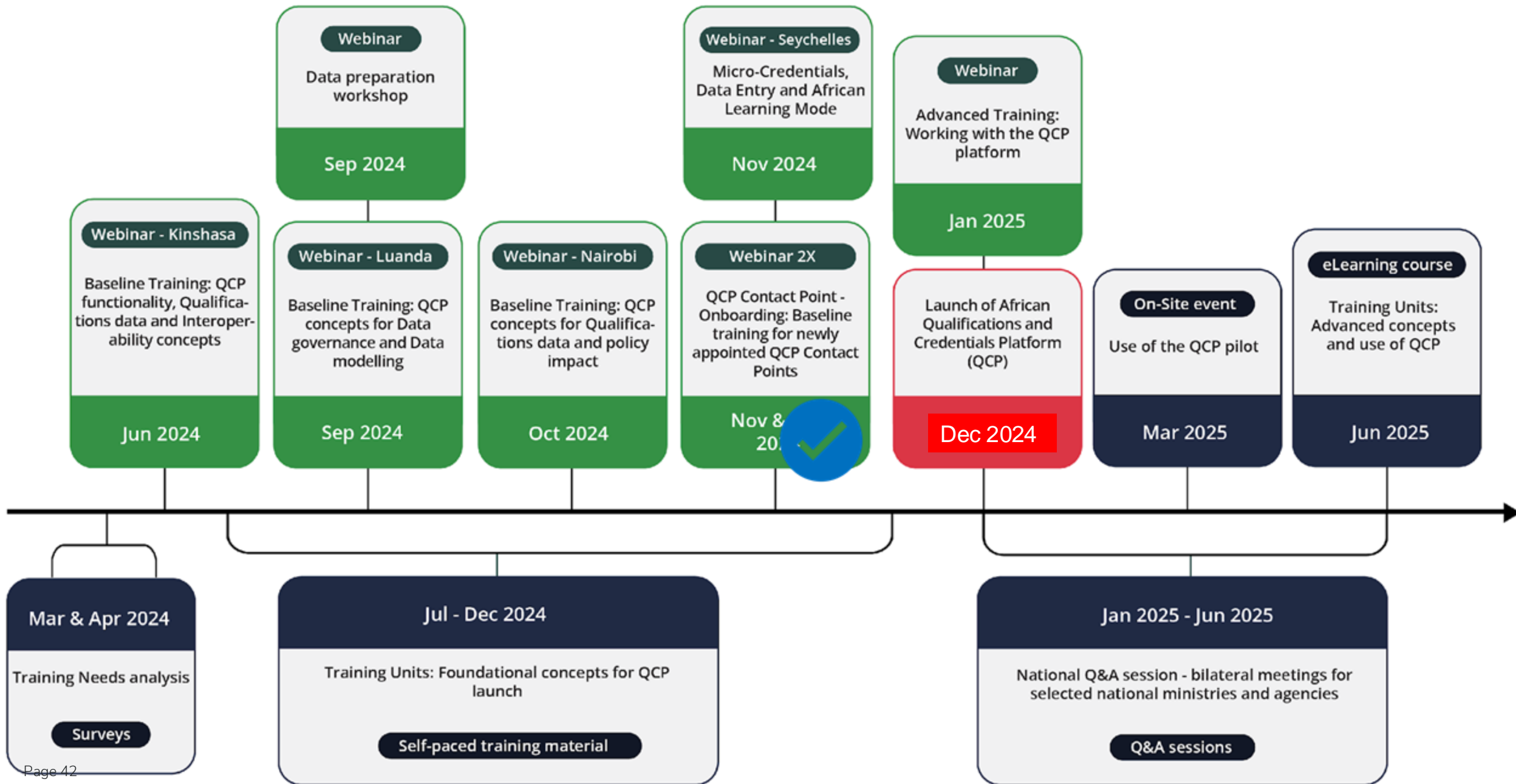
## 2025

- Ongoing (bilateral) support
- Ongoing data collection, initial upload (Q1)
- Monitoring of KPIs: Data collection reports (Q1)
- Data validation (Q2)



# 05

## Wrap-up and Next Steps



# Onboarding Webinar #2

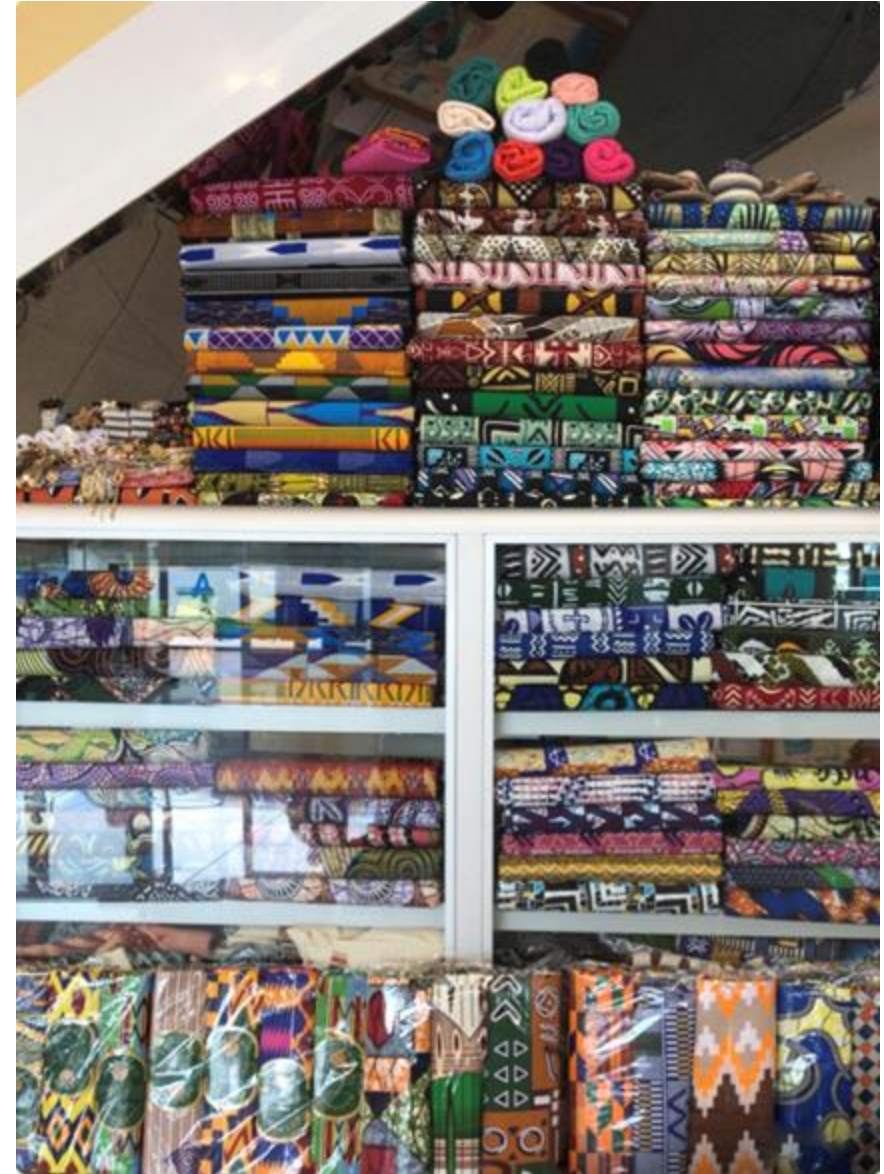
## 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

1. **Interoperability Standards:** Learn about the QCP Data Model and the ALM
2. **Learning Outcomes Integration:** Techniques for linking outcomes to qualifications databases
3. **QCP Interface:** Explore platform functionalities with a live demonstration
4. **Quality Assurance:** Best practices for maintaining data accuracy and integrity

Thank you

Obrigado

Merci



Credit: Eduarda Castel Branco