





Africa

In 2015, the UNDP Innovation Facility promoted 12 country initiatives across sub-Saharan Africa. As the region gears up to deliver on the SDGs, there is recognition of the need for a new model of development that links end-user aspirations with the Goals and resources of non-traditional partners. Of the 14 SDGs directly addressed by these initiatives, seed funding was primarily provided to local innovators to: fight gender-based violence (Benin); stimulate entrepreneurship in marginalized groups (Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Zimbabwe); and foster a culture of good governance, peace, and social justice (Botswana, Ghana), while driving sustainable growth. A number of the initiatives also focused on programmatic effectiveness by employing improved monitoring and evaluation strategies as well as data capture. These initiatives addressed issues such as disaster preparedness, renewable energy and mitigating climate change.

Efforts were enriched by the strategic partnerships involving a diverse set of actors throughout the process. In 2015, the teams tried out new

partnerships with innovation hubs, youth groups, private sector, academia and civil society, all the while linking them with traditional government partners. For example in Zimbabwe, as detailed earlier, UNDP helped strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship capacities for young women and men by working with the Zimbabwe Farmers Union, the Harare Institute of Technology, Microsoft 4Afrika, Barclays Bank, Oxfam GB; University of Zimbabwe and several other incredible partners.

Effective solutions tend to involve local perspectives. Thus, popular innovation approaches in the region focused on testing either human-centered design or innovation labs/camps. These attracted two-thirds of the region's funding. Other popular innovative approaches in the region include foresight, data visualization and innovation Challenges. Looking forward, UNDP Country Teams in the region are excited to continue testing these approaches, particularly the acceleration programmes and incubation labs, and begin scaling their efforts nationwide-- and beyond.

 Early Stage	 Testing & Evidence Collection	 Scaling Up
Cabo Verde- Data Integration & Visual Analytics for Climate Change	Benin- Leveraging Technology to Report and Reduce Gender-based Violence	Burkina Faso- Capacity Building and Scaling of <i>Solar Grandmothers</i>
Comoros- Exploring Eco-friendly Essential Oil Production by Women	Botswana- Mobile Access to Justice and Social Empowerment Lab	Democratic Republic of Congo- Innovative, Programmatic and Operational Strategic ICT Tools
Ghana- Visualisation Governance and Peace Tracking Poll	Zimbabwe- Accelerating Entrepreneurship and Employment through Innovation Labs	Mauritius- Foresight for Building an Innovative Civil Service
Malawi- Malawi Resilience Innovation Lab		Rwanda- YouthConnekt for Employment
Nigeria- Special Target Enterprises for Persons with Disabilities		