



A word from the Director

As African countries take action on recovery from the socio-economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are now confronted with the direct and indirect impacts of new economic shocks caused by the war in Ukraine including soaring food and fuel prices, imported inflation and fiscal pressures amongst others. Inclusivity, solidarity and multilateralism are the only ways for global solutions. In

Africa, it is also a stark reminder of the urgency to invest in transformative pillars – like agriculture, industry, digital and renewable energy to future-proof development on the continent.

In this edition of our monthly digest, we highlight some of UNDP Africa's key actions conducted to promote green solutions ([Gabon](#), [Madagascar](#), [Eswatini](#), [Guinea Bissau](#)), local food production, intra-African trade, climate action ([Ethiopia](#), [Guinea Bissau](#), [Mali](#), [Niger](#), [South Africa](#)), [digitalization](#) ([Congo](#), [Guinea Bissau](#), [Lesotho](#), [Seychelles](#)), innovation ([Gabon](#), [Mauritius](#), [Ghana](#), [Mali](#)), inclusion ([RDC](#), [Ethiopia](#), [The Gambia](#), [Liberia](#)) and creativity.

Finally, we unveil a story of true impact: with Ms. Efe Ukala, a Nigerian woman, founder and CEO of ImpactHER. She has mobilized \$1.3 billion in support of African women entrepreneurs. Discover her story in our second in-depth conversation from our new series "Big Ideas Transforming Africa."

Ahunna Eziakonwa

[Read the Regional Director's op-ed on Africa's food crisis in the wake of the war in Ukraine](#)

Women driving impact

Women entrepreneurs are essential to [building resilience](#) and speeding up recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the new economic shocks caused by the war in Ukraine. Our Accelerator Labs across the continent are [improving access to formal markets for small businesses, as highlighted in this blog from Eswatini](#). Partnerships with key influencers will also scale up our efforts to support women entrepreneurs adapt to fast changing realities and seize the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

ImpactHER, for example, is a key initiative presented in our [Futures Report 2021](#) developed in collaboration with the AfCFTA Secretariat. ImpactHER addresses inequalities for women entrepreneurs in Africa and helps them access capital and reach international markets.

[Watch the full in-depth conversation with Ms. Efe Ukala, Founder and CEO of ImpactHER in our series "Big Ideas Transforming Africa".](#)

Bringing preventable diseases to an end

The double-whammy of the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic brings to the fore critical questions of equity in terms of access to vaccines and treatment of [preventable diseases](#), such as HIV or [TB](#). While many countries in the western hemisphere have seemingly

returned to business as usual, Africa still looks isolated. Initiatives like [Africa & Australia's interoperability of Digital Vaccine Certificates](#) are contributing to [more inclusive responses](#). Building [strong health systems](#) is a major step to ensure we leave no one behind.

Reinforcing peace and stability at a time of polarization

Rising food and energy prices could lead to violent demonstrations in a context where governments have shrinking means to introduce measures to shield their people from the effects of a global inflation. Our efforts in [understanding](#) and [addressing](#) the [complex triggers](#) of instability, in [rebuilding trust](#) in the [justice systems](#) and [magistrates](#) ([Lesotho](#), [Guinea Bissau](#), [Liberia](#)), and in restoring [social contracts](#), will need to be reinforced in the coming weeks and months. Fostering greater participation of Africa's youth, [media](#) ([Guinea Bissau](#)) and [civil society](#) in [building economic opportunities](#) and preserving peace is amongst our key priorities and our actions in [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), [Madagascar](#), [Mali](#), [Nigeria](#) and at regional level are showing the way.



[Read the Bujumbura declaration.](#)