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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRE FOR AFRICA

**RENEWED GOVERNANCE AND PEACEBUILDING
FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA 2022-2025**

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United Nations Development Programme

Regional Bureau for Africa
Regional Service Centre for Africa
Main Bole Road, Olympia Roundabout, DRC Street
P.O Box 60130
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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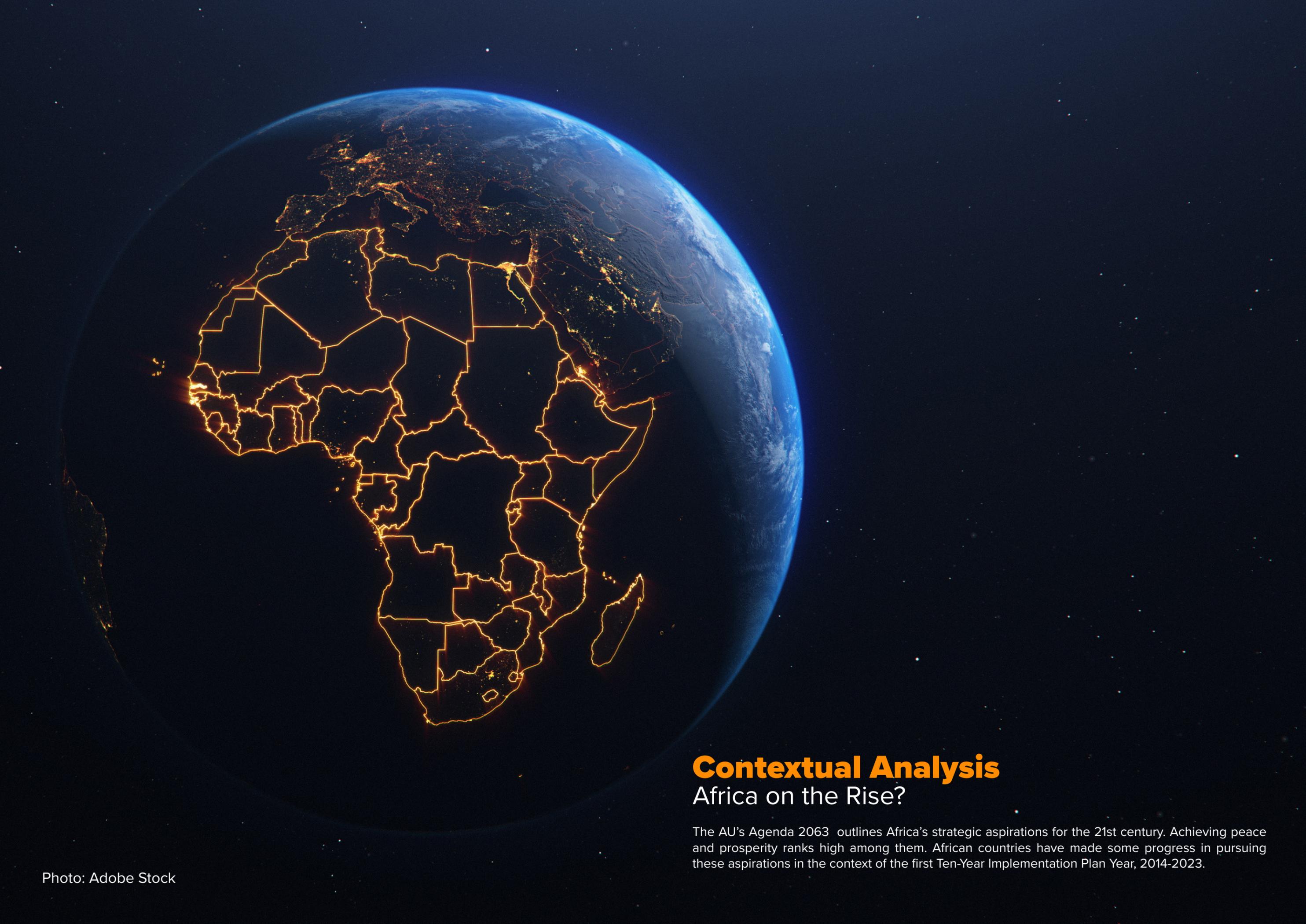
Our Intent

Drive Transformative Change in the Space of Governance and Peacebuilding

Africa is shaping the world, changing the face of development world-wide. The continent carries the most fundamental promise of why the UN exists, solidarity and caring about others not in a patronizing way, but through being partners to one another's journeys – the chemistry that inspires development thinking

Achim Steiner
UNDP Administrator





Contextual Analysis Africa on the Rise?

The AU's Agenda 2063 outlines Africa's strategic aspirations for the 21st century. Achieving peace and prosperity ranks high among them. African countries have made some progress in pursuing these aspirations in the context of the first Ten-Year Implementation Plan Year, 2014-2023.



Photo: UNDP WACA

However, major challenges remain, highlighting the gap between normative aspirations and implementation of regional commitments. Growing democratic recession, seen in an increasing number of coups d'état, extension of presidential term limits and disputed elections, is a disturbing trend.

Between 2000 and 2021, 21 coups d'état have occurred in 14 African countries. Meanwhile, a growing trend towards constitutional revisionism has led 16 African countries to eliminate or modify presidential term limits (13 of them did so in the past six years). Increased human rights violations, disregard for the rule of law, and a rise in disinformation, misinformation and hate speech further fray the social contract and constrict civic space.

Inadequate representation of women and youth in decision-making is a key feature of Africa's governance context. Very few women have served as heads of the executive branch of African governments or heads of private sector corporations. **Only five African countries have elected female presidents.** Although women have done better in terms of parliamentary representation, they hold more than 30 percent of seats in only 11 African countries. Moreover, women and girls with disabilities are among the most marginalized and disempowered groups in the world, exposed to both gender and disability-based discrimination. Last, although youth under 24 represent approximately 60 percent of the population, they are barely represented in policymaking or decision-making structures in African countries.

The broader peacebuilding challenges confronting the region are reflected in persistent fragility and conflict and rising terrorism and violent extremism, all resulting in the decline in peacefulness of the region. The Global Terrorism Index 2020 shows that 10 African nations rank among the top 20 nations in the world impacted by terrorism. African countries are also increasingly suffering the adverse impacts of climate change, further exacerbating conflicts in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and parts of Southern Africa.

The regional context is further complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. An analysis of the impact of African countries' COVID-19 containment measures adopted in 2020 at the initial outbreak showed that they imposed operational constraints on institutions across the public and private sectors and further marginalized citizens in their engagement with government, fraying the social fabric. Security agents' excessive use of force to enforce lockdowns and curfews led to violations of human rights and freedoms and, even worse, death in some instances, and eroded public trust in government. Restrictive measures curtailed freedom of assembly and had a disproportionate impact on poor and vulnerable groups, including women and youth, who work in the informal sector. This exacerbated existing grievances against government and increased economic inequalities. Persons with disabilities (PWD) often faced violence in situations of isolation, with women and girls with disabilities at even higher risk. Reporting domestic violence and accessing services and assistance are particularly challenging in this regard, as they generally do not cover PWD. Several countries continued to hold elections, albeit with restrictions. In the few countries where elections were postponed, tensions mounted based on perceptions that decisions had been made without consultation.

Despite these development challenges, there are also positive trends that can be leveraged upon to address these challenges, including enabling policy frameworks and treaties; a large youth population; opportunities for economic growth; decrease in conflict-related deaths; the digital revolution, and the recent establishment of the AfCFTA among others, all of which demand for good governance to accelerate Africa's structural and socio-economic transformation.



Although women have done better in terms of parliamentary representation, **they hold more than 30% of seats in only 11 African countries.**



Very few women have served as heads of the executive branch of African governments. **Only 5 African countries have elected female presidents.**

Objectives

The Governance and Peacebuilding Framework for Africa 2022-2025

The overall goal of the Framework is to achieve transformative change characterized by people-centred, human rights based inclusive and participatory governance and peacebuilding systems and strengthened trust and social contract between state and citizens that will contribute to change Africa's narrative to one of promise, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

- The renewed framework applies two key signature solutions from UNDP's Strategic Plan: governance and resilience. With a focus on integration, its implementation will also contribute to achieving gender equality and reducing poverty and inequality. In addition, it will leverage new opportunities and innovation and enhance the focus on applying digital technologies.

- In furtherance of the UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer for Africa: Africa's Promise; using the governance of things as an enabler to attain the 6 core pillars: natural resource governance, sustainable energy, women and youth, structural economic transformation, peace and security and climate change. Rooted in the UN Charter, and contribute towards the realisation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the SDGs 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels); and SDG 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).

- The renewed framework also seeks to contribute to the delivery of the prevention and governance offers of the UNDP Global Policy Network (GPN).

- The renewed framework will support implementation of the Regional Programme for Africa within the following Regional Programme priority areas:

Priority Area 1 – People: African citizens (especially women & youth), in a context of reinvigorated social contracts, have a stronger voice and influence in AU and RECs'/RMs' policymaking and implementation processes.

Priority Area 2 – Prosperity: African citizens (especially women and youth) benefit from a regionally integrated, structurally transformed, and inclusive economy

Priority Area 4 – Peace: African citizens (especially women and youth), supported by the AU and RECs/RMs, make measurable progress towards sustainable peace.



PEOPLE



PROSPERITY



PEACE



Photo: UNDP WACA

The Framework takes a regional approach, while providing tools for adaptive responses to governance and peacebuilding at the country level.

The Framework takes a flexible, adaptable and fully integrated portfolio and systems approach to its implementation, leveraging opportunities, partnerships and capacities across the Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) while harnessing advisory assets within RBA. Based on context analysis, review and evaluation of regional and national projects, including an extensive consultative process reaching 1,285 people through UNDP's Reimagining Governance and Peacebuilding, it focuses on the implementation of six key pillars through an integrated systems approach: **prevention and early action; investing in Africa's youth; economic governance; democratic governance and civic participation; promoting the rule of law, justice and human rights; and, local governance and delivery of public services.**


Six Pillars of Implementation



Prevention and Early Action

Investing in Africa's Youth

Economic Governance

Democratic Governance and Civic Participation

Promoting the Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights

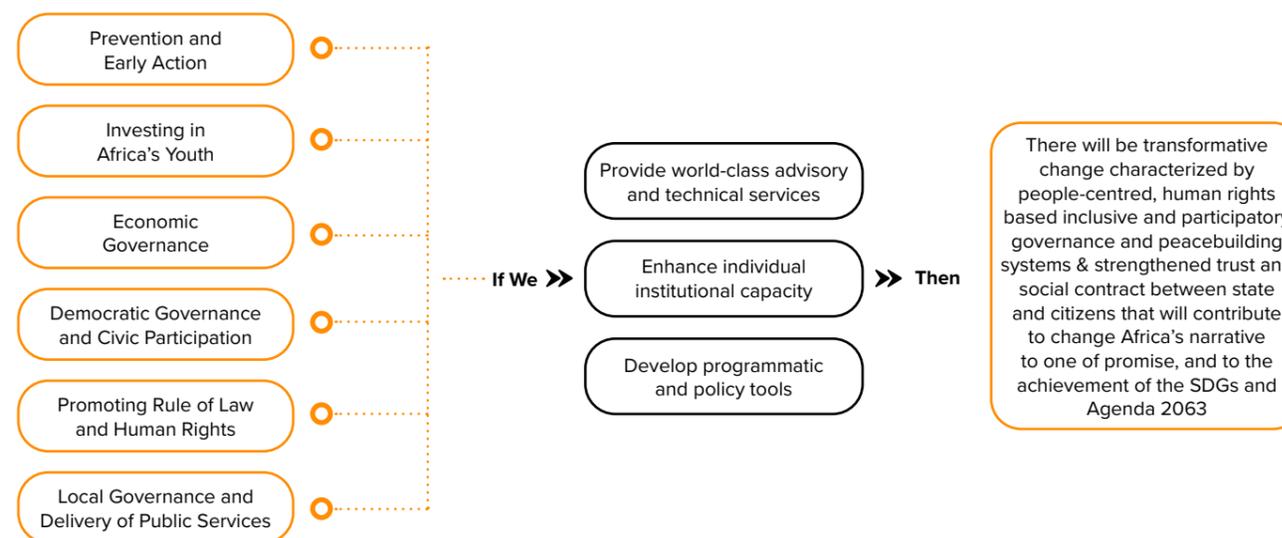
Local Governance and Delivery of Public Services

UNDP will apply adaptive responses to supporting governance and peacebuilding based on various country contexts. In the contexts of transitions, UNDP will draw from the newly established Transitions Facility. Implementation of the Framework will also include a Regional Governance Forum for Africa, a women's governance and peacebuilding forum, a youth governance and peacebuilding forum; an advisory group on transformational leadership, and a standby team of governance experts for rapid expert support, especially in transition contexts.

Building upon past UNDP work on governance and peacebuilding, and based on the consultations and reviews held with various stakeholders, the renewed Framework:

- Broadens the focus and narrative on governance from the political elite to a people-centred approach that pays much more attention to economic governance, local governance and delivery of public services. In this way, it is centred on the thematic of the 'governance of things' as encapsulated in the UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa.

- Builds productive synergies between UNDP's regional and country presence to fully harness African regional institutions and policy instruments.
- Advocates for investment in Africa's women and youth to ensure that they are well positioned to maximize opportunities in the One African Market (AfCFTA) as a vehicle to spur economic development and strengthen social cohesion.
- Incorporates lessons learned from adaptations to COVID-19 especially on digitalization, innovation.
- Adopts a developmental approach to democratic governance to rebuild trust in elections.
- Recognizes the strategic importance of inclusive and participatory political transitions for reviving and sustaining governance institutions in conflict settings.
- Promotes early action, inclusiveness, capacity strengthening and continuous political economy analysis.
- Expands the range of stakeholders and partnerships to include the Diaspora, the private sector and traditional leaders.
- Adopts integrated and whole-of-UNDP approaches that bring together all relevant parts of RBA and the GPN for more effective implementation and results.
- Identifies new areas and defines strategies for generating, curating and applying hitherto unavailable or ignored data to the design, implementation of, and reporting on GPB initiatives.



“

Africa represents by far the most exciting frontier for sustainable development heading into the first quarter of the 21st century and beyond... **The future of sustainable development will be invented in Africa.**

”

Ahunna Eziakonwa
UN Assistant Secretary-General
UNDP Assistant Administrator and
Regional Director for Africa

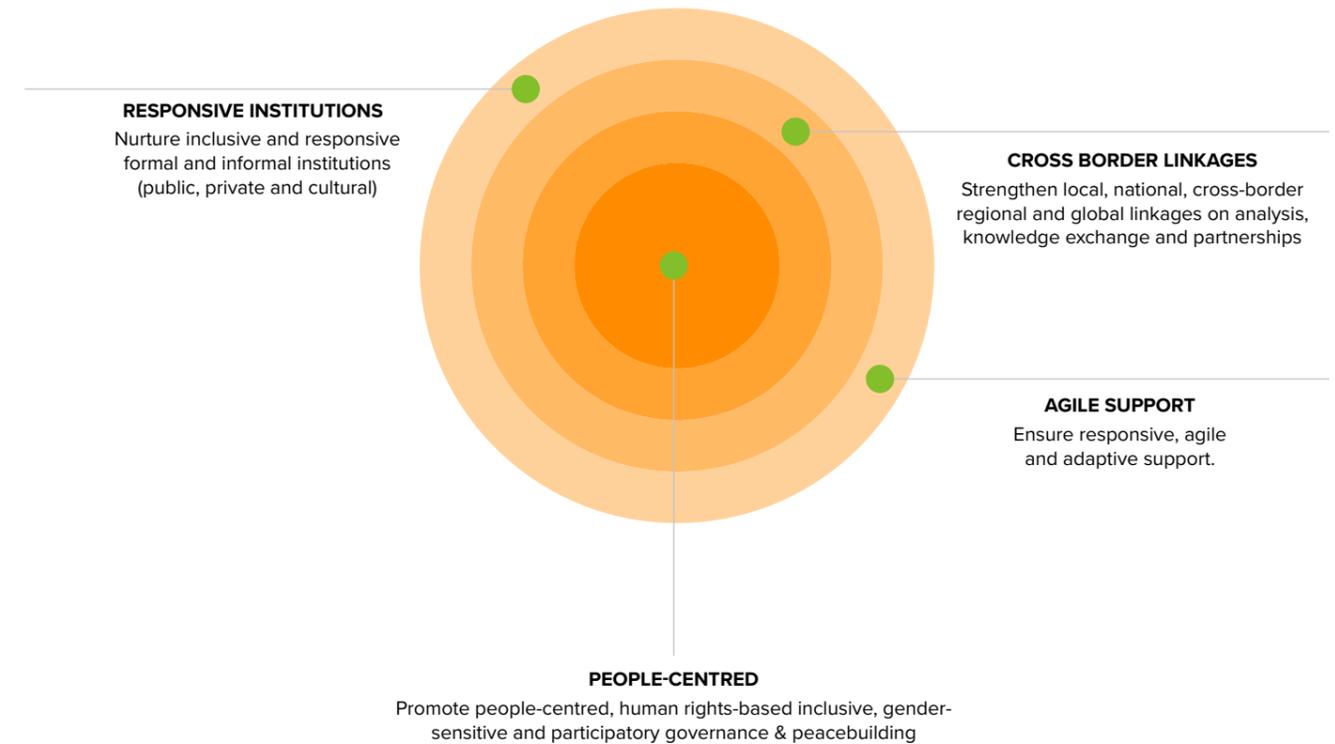


OUR APPROACH

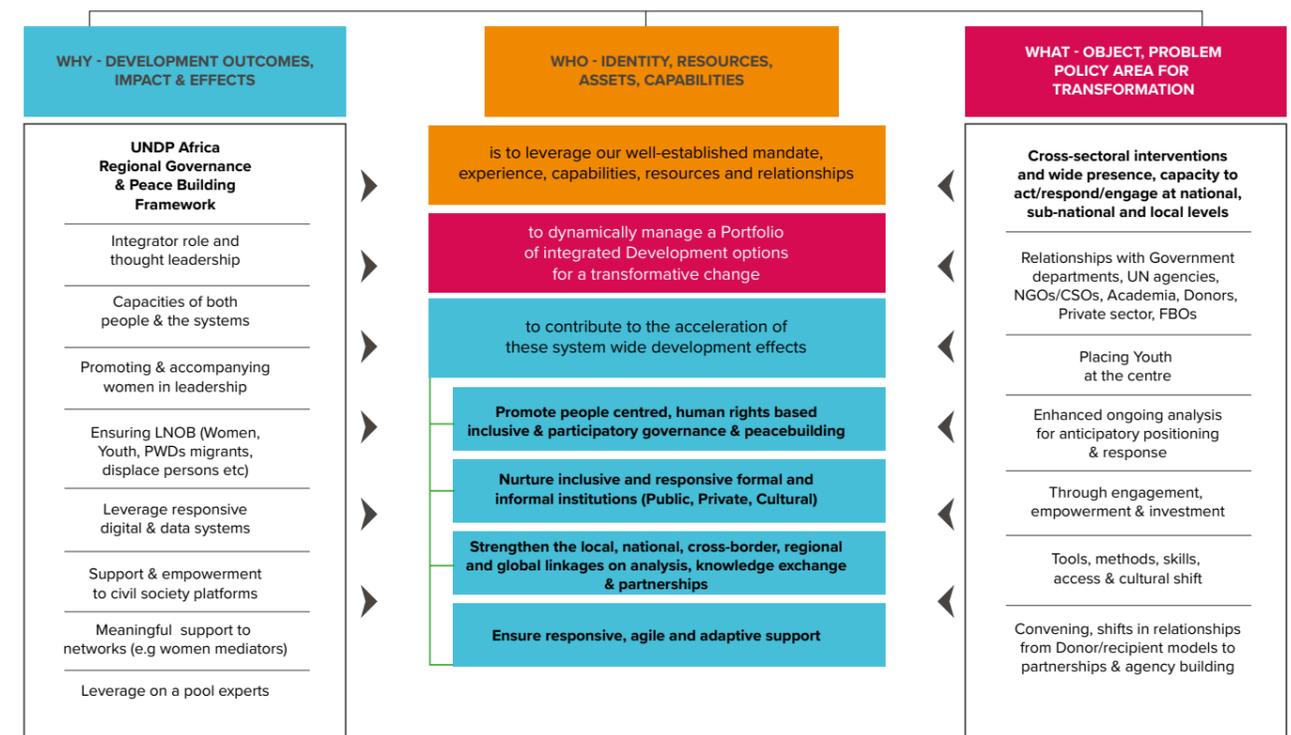
What's Different?

- Implementation of the renewed framework will consider the SDG pledge to “leave no one behind” and apply the principles as reflected in the 2030 Agenda and grounded in the UN Charter and international treaties and norms: human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment; sustainability and resilience; and accountability. Informed by the context, the Framework’s implementation will establish the humanitarian-peace-development nexus - essential to ensure that UNDP’s support on the ground is effective and coherent.
- In addition to regional, sub-regional engagement and country-level support, the renewed framework will also prioritize support at local levels, particularly in borderlands areas, complementing the work of the Africa Borderlands Centre. To enhance ongoing analytic capacities, the Framework will leverage existing tools such as the Crisis Risk Dashboard, particularly on a subregional basis. The Framework will prioritize political economy analysis, including reflecting the impact of the diaspora, remittances and returnees in Africa’s development.
- The framework will apply a people-centred and gender-sensitive approach to addressing the justice needs and rights of the disadvantaged, excluded and marginalized and those experiencing inequality and discrimination. Disenfranchised groups, such as women and girls, people in conflict situations, youth and children, refugees and migrants, detainees, PWD, and indigenous peoples will receive special emphasis. Thus, support for justice and security institutions will focus on the needs of the persons those institutions were established to serve.
- The framework will also prioritise provision of technical expertise and tools to UNDP COs so that they can effectively mainstream human rights, conflict sensitivity, political economy, violent extremism and gender within their programming and analyse the dimensions of inequality, including through intersectional frameworks.
- UNDP will integrate outcomes-based monitoring, evaluation and learning tools and processes so that quality can be collected and analysed, thus improving the measure of impacts and generating learning, new knowledge and good practices that can inform improved programming in concrete ways. UNDP will support the country- and regional-level exchange of related knowledge, learning, tools and expertise, including by engaging South-South cooperation and similar frameworks.
- The UNDP Regional Governance and Peacebuilding Team will provide advisory services, thought leadership, applied research and support to implementation of initiatives at both national and regional levels. Key enablers are gender mainstreaming; prioritizing Africa’s youth (which also has a dedicated pillar), governance and embracing digital technologies and innovation for governance and peacebuilding.

The Framework outlines the transformative development effects intended to be achieved, and distinct enabling resources and capabilities – to be reviewed periodically given the adaptive and responsive approach. Leveraging on UNDP’s well-established mandate, experience, capabilities, resources, and relationships to dynamically manage a portfolio of integrated development options for transformative change in the governance and peacebuilding space and contribute to the acceleration of system wide development effects, the renewed framework will:



OUR INTENT



The Framework takes a flexible approach to its implementation, leveraging opportunities, partnerships and capacities across the Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) while harnessing advisory assets within RBA.





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