



UN  
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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
SUB-REGIONAL HUB FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

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**United Nations Development Programme**  
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa  
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Dakar - Senegal

# Foreword

## The Seeds for a Regenerated Sahel

Early forecasts played out 2021 to be a year of recovery. While in some ways that held true, the year was unfortunately marred by several events. COVID-19 mutations kept the region on its toes, tested our tolerance levels and pushed countries on the fringes of poverty to the brink – exposing what little resilience was left, ultimately leaving millions vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic coupled with conflict and instability.

Also threatening regional stability have been the recent waves of unconstitutional government changes – transforming what once was “a relic of the past” into a trend of today, leaving an incalculable effect on the region’s political and socio-economic landscape. Within the past year alone, 4 of the 10 target countries of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Guinea – have all fared with uncertain political transitions.

These changes have placed immense pressure on democratic systems, probed the legitimacy of political institutions and brought about a tectonic upheaval that has reverberated throughout the region and regrettably landed heavily on vulnerable populations.

Amidst these hurdles were the successes of 2021 birthed, and this UNDP WACA Annual Report captures just that. It illustrates our achievements over 12 arduous months on several fronts, detailing our work with partners in promoting economic recovery, supporting efforts to stabilize parts of the Sahel deep in crisis, and creating conditions for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the AU’s Agenda 2063.

Our work in 2021 focused on the big issues of our time, such as crisis prevention and response, climate change, extreme poverty, and economic development.

We introduced a suite of bold ideas to lift the ambition of global policy responses. We hoped that by offering new thinking on how to build a better future, we could inspire people to come together around the shared goal of building a better world.

These ideas are reflected in our global and regional strategic frameworks for the next four years, such as the UNDP Strategic Plan, the Renewed Strategic Offer for Africa, the Regional Programme for Africa, and “A Regeneration” – UNDP’s Sahel Offer.

These frameworks serve as the meeting point between our ambitions and the needs of our time and guided our thinking and actions over the year.

Allow me to share with you examples of this.

First, we believe in the urgency of alleviating pressures on the planet and addressing conflict triggers in the region. Our economies in the Sahel will need to shift to clean and sustainable energy – as it holds the key to unlocking the region’s development potential and numerous opportunities for millions living in the Sahel. To that end, we developed a regional project on sustainable energy for the Sahel - #Energy4Sahel - that will increase energy access in the Sahel, spur catalytic investments, advance human development, ensure structural economic transformation, and power Sahelian men and women’s entrepreneurial and innovative spirit.

Second, we are in a critical moment that recognizes the growing importance of young people as development partners, more so in the Sahel, where more than 65% of the region’s 350 million people are under 25. Our recognition of this is backed by how we accompany young Sahelians in realizing their ambitions. Through the YouthConnekt Sahel and Youth Ecobrigade initiatives, we supported more than 1,000 young people with empowerment opportunities and spaces for active participation.

Our recently launched innovation flagship, Sahel Innovate Challenge, welcomed more than 300 Sahelian applicants with existing solutions cutting across Digital Transformation, COVID-19 Response and Recovery, Health, Education, Peace and Security, Cultural and Creative Arts, Agroforestry and Climate Action. Through the challenge, finalists were awarded seed funding ranging from \$20,000 - \$1,000.

Third, with violent extremism and armed conflict exposing millions to a world of danger, we saw the need for a step-change in our development response. Accordingly, we adopted a people-centred approach in fostering foundations for peacebuilding and development tailored to the needs of affected communities. In the borderlands between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger – a place we call the Liptako-Gourma region – we launched a Stabilization Facility that we hope will make a world of difference in the lives of 2.8 million

people from 60 communities in the region. This significant commitment signals possibility as the initiative is built on our experience in the Lake Chad Basin, where we have established a strong proof of concept in stabilizing the region.

In less than three years, through the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization Facility, we accompanied thousands in their journey towards recovery and sustainable peace. In the past year alone, more than 57,000 people benefited from livelihood opportunities. More than 4,000 essential infrastructures were rehabilitated, including hospitals, schools, homes, water pumps, customs and security offices, and more, benefiting approximately 1,000,000 people and contributing to the voluntary return of more than 400,000 IDPs.

Results from initiatives like this and the ideas throughout this report show what we can do when working together. They show that we can build a Sahel that lifts everyone. A Sahel fit for the future. We have the know-how and we will continue to invest in the future of nations, working closely with governments and partners to build resilient societies that can achieve their aspirations.

With the final curtain of 2021 long past us, now is the time to look forward to the future, and it is in these pages that we set the course.

**Join Us!**



**Njoya Tikum**  
Manager  
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa  
United Nations Development Programme



# 2021

IN NUMBERS



**\$534 Million**  
in investments in West and  
Central Africa



**24 Countries**  
benefitted from dedicated  
country office support



**1 Million People**  
benefitted from improved  
security and essential  
services through the Lake  
Chad Stabilization Facility



**Over 1 Million**  
benefitted from civic  
education through the  
regional small arms and  
light weapons Initiative



**3,366 UN Volunteers**  
mobilized and deployed  
to the West and Central  
Africa region



**Over 7,000 People**  
benefitted from livelihood  
opportunities through the  
Trade for Peace project in  
the Liptako-Gourma



**Over 57,000**  
livelihood opportunities  
created in the Lake Chad  
through the Stabilization  
Facility



**Over 3,000**  
illicit arms and ammunitions  
recovered in 9 West African  
Countries



**\$8 Million**  
to be invested in clean  
energy solutions for the  
Sahel



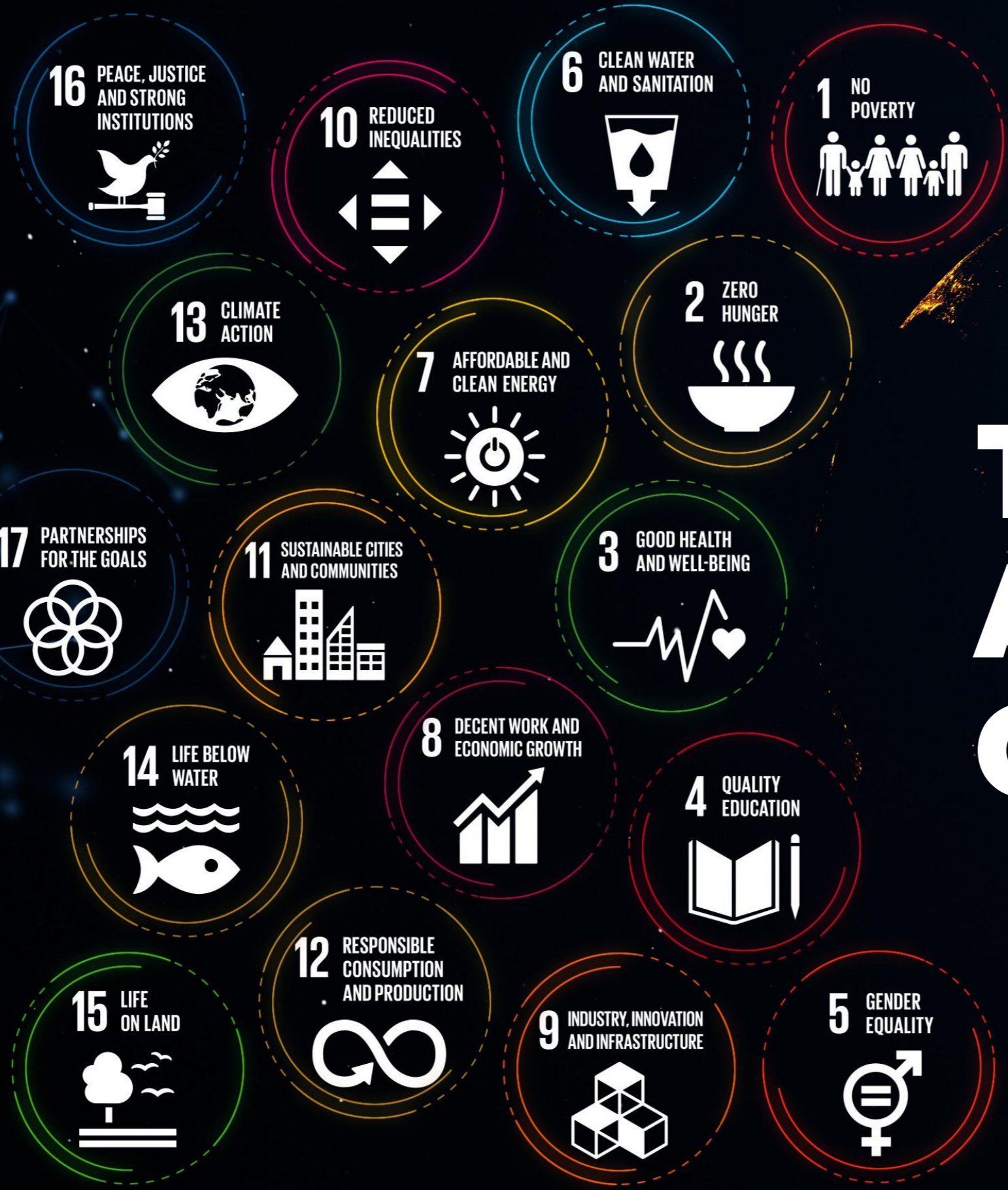
**Over 1,000 Youth**  
empowered through  
the YouthConnekt Sahel  
Initiative



**900,000 Beneficiaries**  
from 30 communities directly  
and indirectly benefitted from  
livelihood opportunities created  
through the UN Joint Programme



**COVID-19 Recovery**  
Framework for Africa  
adopted by the African  
Union member states



# THE SDGS AT THE CENTRE

# Our Regional Footprint

West and Central Africa (WACA)



**24**   
**COUNTRIES**



The WACA region spans 24 countries - Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte D'ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

# The Expanse of our Team

## Our Ecosystem of Expertise

Housed within the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa and the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) mothership lies UNDP WACA, covering 24 countries, ranging from high and middle-income economies to least developed countries and countries in crisis and post-crisis situations. UNDP WACA situates itself at the heart of UNDP's response to instability and the rapidly evolving political and socio-economic climate of the sub-region.

UNDP WACA possesses strong on-the-ground expertise spread out across 6 key cities - New York, N'Djamena, Ouagadougou, Abuja, Addis Ababa and **Dakar - its base**. UNDP WACA also counts on the expertise of other hubs and teams that include: The **Regional Programme for Africa** based in Addis Ababa, the **UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa** and the **Africa Borderlands Centre** based in Nairobi and the **UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub** based in Pretoria. This ecosystem of expertise enables it to steer the implementation of key frameworks and lay the groundwork for delivery of development ambitions at country and sub-regional levels including the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

In collaboration with regional entities like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), UNDP WACA builds strategic alliances and partnerships that drive lasting and positive change through joint interventions in areas like Governance and Peacebuilding, Youth, Resilience Building, Renewable Energy, Stabilization and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.



# WACA Country Index

West and Central Africa

## Sources

Population: United Nations Population Fund  
 HDI: UNDP Human Development Report  
 Fragility Index: Fund For Peace

Terrorism Index: Institute of Economics and Peace  
 Global Peace Index: Institute of Economics and Peace  
 GDP: International Monetary Fund  
 Poverty Rate: World Bank



**Benin**  
 Population: 12,784,726  
 HDI: 0.545  
 Fragility Index: 72.8  
 Terrorism Index: 3.1614  
 Global Peace Index: 2.125  
 GDP (Billion \$): 17.45  
 Poverty Rate: 38.50%



**Burkina Faso**  
 Population: 22,102,838  
 HDI: 0.452  
 Fragility Index: 87.1  
 Terrorism Index: 8.270  
 Global Peace Index: 2.786  
 GDP (Billion \$): 19.1  
 Poverty Rate: 41.40%



**Cameroon**  
 Population: 27,911,548  
 HDI: 0.563  
 Fragility Index: 97.9  
 Terrorism Index: 7.432  
 Global Peace Index: 2.709  
 GDP (Billion \$): 45.05  
 Poverty Rate: 37.50%



**Cape Verde**  
 Population: 567,678  
 HDI: 0.665  
 Fragility Index: 64.2  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: N/A  
 GDP (Billion \$): N/A  
 Poverty Rate: 41.30%



**Central African Republic**  
 Population: 5,016,678  
 HDI: 0.397  
 Fragility Index: 107.0  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 3.021  
 GDP (Billion \$): 2.58  
 Poverty Rate: 62.0%



**Chad**  
 Population: 17,413,580  
 HDI: 0.398  
 Fragility Index: 105.8  
 Terrorism Index: 6.379  
 Global Peace Index: 2.591  
 GDP (Billion \$): 11.8  
 Poverty Rate: 42.30%



**Côte d'Ivoire**  
 Population: 27,742,298  
 HDI: 0.538  
 Fragility Index: 90.7  
 Terrorism Index: 4.310  
 Global Peace Index: 2.144  
 GDP (Billion \$): 69.75  
 Poverty Rate: 39.50%



**Democratic Republic of Congo**  
 Population: 95,240,792  
 HDI: 0.480  
 Fragility Index: 108.4  
 Terrorism Index: 6.733  
 Global Peace Index: 3.166  
 GDP (Billion \$): 57.09  
 Poverty Rate: 73.0%



**Equatorial Guinea**  
 Population: 1,496,662  
 HDI: 0.592  
 Fragility Index: 84.1  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 1.863  
 GDP (Billion \$): 12.7  
 Poverty Rate: 76.80%



**Gabon**  
 Population: 2,331,533  
 HDI: 0.703  
 Fragility Index: 67.4  
 Terrorism Index: 0.291  
 Global Peace Index: 1.973  
 GDP (Billion \$): 19.16  
 Poverty Rate: 33.40%



**The Gambia**  
 Population: 2,558,482  
 HDI: 0.496  
 Fragility Index: 80.5  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 1.792  
 GDP (Billion \$): 2.03  
 Poverty Rate: 48.60%



**Ghana**  
 Population: 32,395,450  
 HDI: 0.611  
 Fragility Index: 63.9  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 1.759  
 GDP (Billion \$): 76.36  
 Poverty Rate: 23.40%



**Guinea**  
 Population: 13,865,691  
 HDI: 0.477  
 Fragility Index: 97.4  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 2.332  
 GDP (Billion \$): 17.61  
 Poverty Rate: 43.70%



**Guinea-Bissau**  
 Population: 2,063,367  
 HDI: 0.480  
 Fragility Index: 92.0  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 2.156  
 GDP (Billion \$): 1.63  
 Poverty Rate: 69.30%



**Liberia**  
 Population: 5,305,117  
 HDI: 0.480  
 Fragility Index: 89.5  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 1.973  
 GDP (Billion \$): 3.48  
 Poverty Rate: 50.90%



**Mali**  
 Population: 21,473,764  
 HDI: 0.434  
 Fragility Index: 96.6  
 Terrorism Index: 8.152  
 Global Peace Index: 2.911  
 GDP (Billion \$): 19.19  
 Poverty Rate: 42.10%



**Mauritania**  
 Population: 4,901,981  
 HDI: 0.546  
 Fragility Index: 89.1  
 Terrorism Index: 0.509  
 Global Peace Index: 2.193  
 GDP (Billion \$): 9.13  
 Poverty Rate: 31.0%



**Niger**  
 Population: 26,083,660  
 HDI: 0.394  
 Fragility Index: 96.0  
 Terrorism Index: 7.856  
 Global Peace Index: 2.655  
 GDP (Billion \$): 14.96  
 Poverty Rate: 40.8%



**Nigeria**  
 Population: 226,746,934  
 HDI: 0.539  
 Fragility Index: 98.0  
 Terrorism Index: 8.233  
 Global Peace Index: 2.725  
 GDP (Billion \$): 441.54  
 Poverty Rate: 40.10%



**Republic Of Congo**  
 Population: 5,797,805  
 HDI: 0.574  
 Fragility Index: 92.4  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 2.184  
 GDP (Billion \$): 12.85  
 Poverty Rate: 40.9%



**Sao Tome & Principe**  
 Population: 227,679  
 HDI: 0.625  
 Fragility Index: 71.5  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: N/A  
 GDP (Billion \$): 0.52  
 Poverty Rate: 67.70%



**Senegal**  
 Population: 17,653,671  
 HDI: 0.512  
 Fragility Index: 73.4  
 Terrorism Index: 1.580  
 Global Peace Index: 1.824  
 GDP (Billion \$): 27.64  
 Poverty Rate: 46.70%



**Sierra Leone**  
 Population: 8,306,436  
 HDI: 0.452  
 Fragility Index: 83.4  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 1.803  
 GDP (Billion \$): 4.24  
 Poverty Rate: 56.80%



**Togo**  
 Population: 8,680,837  
 HDI: 0.515  
 Fragility Index: 85.1  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index: 2.094  
 GDP (Billion \$): 8.42  
 Poverty Rate: 55.10%

# Advancing with Ambition

## A Leader in Human Development

UNDP has been a leader in human development for many decades. Each year, we help millions of people live resilient and productive lives. At the centre of our work lie four strategic frameworks that respond to the complex and ever-evolving development landscape.

### UNDP Strategic Plan (2022 - 2025)

The Strategic Plan complements efforts of countries in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It envisions:



Helping  
**100 million people**  
escape multidimensional poverty



Supporting  
**800 million people**  
to participate in elections many for the first time



Supporting  
**500 million people**  
to gain access to clean energy



Promoting  
**Over US\$1 trillion**  
worth of investment in the SDGs



Lifting  
**50 million Africans**  
out of extreme poverty



Supporting  
**100 thousand Africans**  
to kick-start youth-led businesses



Providing  
**100 million Africans**  
with access to affordable clean energy



Supporting  
**300 million Africans**  
in conflict-prone areas through stabilization efforts

# Our Blueprint for Africa

## Africa's Promise

The UNDP Strategic Offer for Africa (2022 - 2025) represents UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa's interpretation of the UNDP Strategic Plan in the African context. It allows leaders, policymakers and African citizens to better understand how our range of programmes, interventions and engagements will foster an economic recovery that puts people first, leaves no one behind, protects the environment, builds inter-generational wealth and rebuilds a social contract that bolsters peace and security.

The offer envisages:





# The Quest for Realizing Africa's Promise

## The Regional Programme for Africa 2022-2025

Africa's development trajectory remains uncertain. The continent has witnessed remarkable progress in economic growth and human development. However, the inequality gap remains troubling, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has reversed many gains. With the prevailing nature of vaccine inequality, more African countries will experience difficulties in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

As a strategic instrument of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), the Regional Programme facilitates the attainment of a more resilient and prosperous Africa, one empowered to reach its full potential.

The new Regional Programme Document for 2022-2025 operates as an integrated continental mechanism that coordinates regional, sub-regional and country development planning for greater effectiveness and results.

**Four key priorities or 4Ps** underpin the Regional Programme:



**People**



**Prosperity**



**Planet**



**Peace**

**Priority 1 – People.** In a context of reinvigorated social contracts, African citizens have a stronger voice and influence in African Union, regional economic communities, and regional mechanisms policymaking and implementation processes.

**Priority 2 – Prosperity.** African citizens benefit from a regionally integrated, structurally transformed, and inclusive economy.

**Priority 3 – Planet.** African citizens, supported by the African Union and Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, build a resilient Africa.

**Priority 4 – Peace.** African citizens, especially women and youth, supported by the African Union and regional economic communities and regional mechanisms, achieve measurable progress towards sustainable peace.



# A Regeneration

UNDP's Contribution to Implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)

A Regeneration is the translation of our development approach to support Sahelians deliver on their own agenda to transform the region. The vision of A Regeneration is captured under three core pillars:

**Governance:** For a sustainable Sahel, governments and governance at central and local levels must work for the people.

**Renewable Energy:** For a greener future, tapping the immense renewable energy potential of the Sahel is vital for inclusive economic growth.

**Youth:** For inclusive societies, solutions for the Sahel must involve the 65% of the population who are under 25 and driving the region's growth.

By 2025, A Regeneration seeks to achieve the following across the 10 UNISS Sahel Countries:



**150 Million**

people from the Sahel with access to clean and affordable energy



**10 Million**

young people from the Sahel mobilized



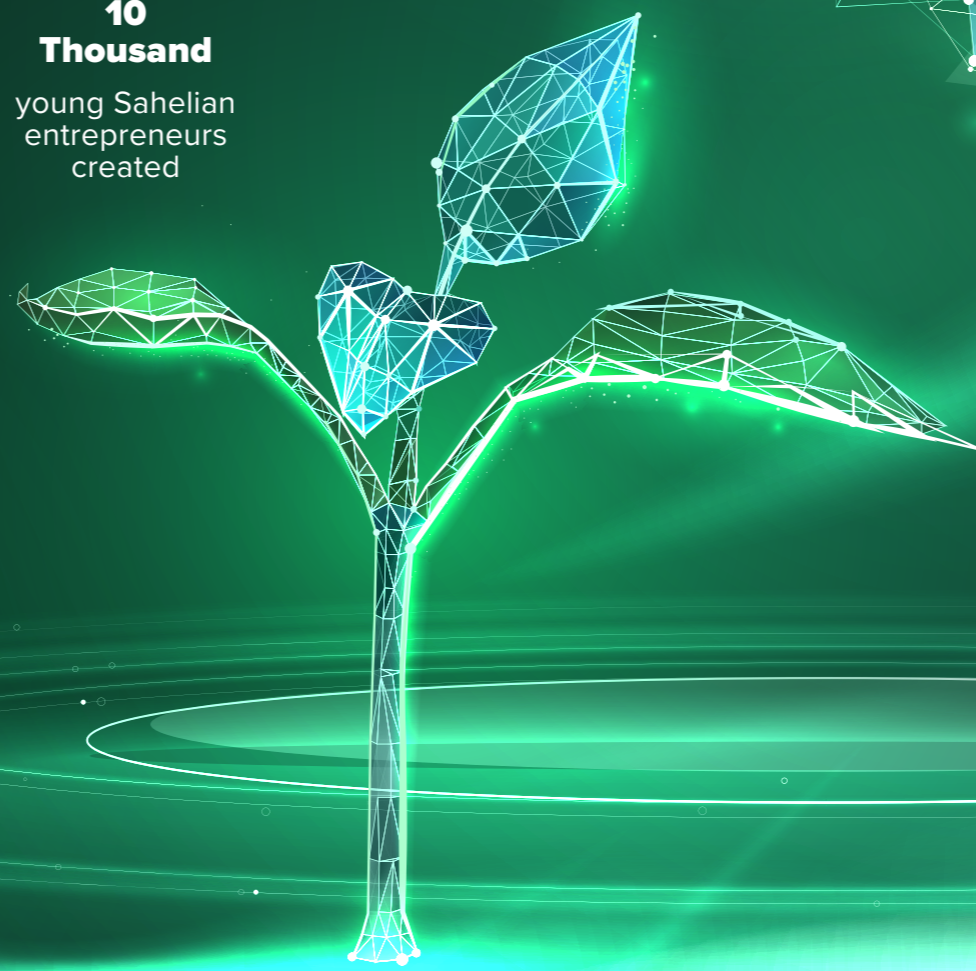
**10 Billion**

trees planted and regenerated in the Sahel



**10 Thousand**

young Sahelian entrepreneurs created





## A Word from the Regional Director: Ahunna Eziakonwa

It is hard to believe that the Sahel, once a beacon of civilization and a land of history, has succumbed to the ascendant waves of instability that have left the region in a decade long conflict.

How do we get back to the Sahel of many firsts?

To the Sahel that gave us governance models – like the world’s first constitution. The Sahel that birthed the Timbuktu manuscripts – humanity’s first knowledge in science, medicine, arts and philosophy. To the Sahel that was home to the world’s richest man – Mansa Musa – whose caravan trade across the Sahara and beyond determined global gold prices for decades.

A Sahel of Renewed Hope and Wonder!

Through the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and together with the UN System in the region, we are bringing our best joint efforts – to work for “A Regeneration”.

Our vision focuses on 3 areas that are a collective of what we believe will transform and sustain prosperity in the Sahel – Governance, Renewable Energy and Youth.

We believe **governance** is the critical engine to drive inclusive and resilient development. We will invest in transformative livelihood actions and political governance – at state and local levels to create an environment for opportunities in the Sahel to be tapped.

**Renewable Energy** is at the heart of socioeconomic transformation and is foundational and catalytic for realizing the SDGs. If we invest in it correctly, we can help lift over 150 million out of poverty through clean energy access and the Sahel is well positioned on this.

**Youth** is the other area of focus. It is now evident that youth need to be the spine of our interventions in the Sahel. It is young Sahelian women and men – that can and will shape the leadership and renewable energy revolutions of the future. Specifically with the youth, we are finding that going to them directly and investing in entrepreneurship is the right move.

We are invested in the promise and potential of the region and its people.

This is what we see as “A Regeneration”, and we are confident it will work. Join us to invest in the pioneering efforts of Sahelians, the United Nations and our partners as we work towards a regeneration of the Sahel: for peaceful, more inclusive, and more sustainable societies for the millions of people who call the Sahel home.

**Ahunna Eziakonwa**

UN Assistant Secretary-General

UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa

# The Impact of Our Work





## Stabilizing and Restoring Hope in the Lake Chad Basin



1,000,000  
Beneficiaries



57,000 Livelihood  
Beneficiaries



Over 400,000  
IDP returnees

In Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, countries affected by the Boko Haram conflict, UNDP through its Stabilization Facility worked with local, national, and regional partners to give agency back to local populations.

Formerly lost economic opportunities have been restored for over 57,000 people. The capacities of over 3,000 security and law enforcement personnel were strengthened, and more than 4,100 essential infrastructures rehabilitated in the past year alone, including hospitals, schools, homes, customs and security offices, and perimeter walls. Trade has resumed in the border regions between Cameroon and Nigeria, following closer security coordination; there is an overall improved sense of security; and early warning systems are now in place in 21 intervention sites. These results benefit approximately 1,000,000 people, and have allowed communities to move from humanitarian needs to recovery and longer-term development and peace.

At regional level, the facility supports the implementation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) through the RSS Secretariat and mechanisms

such as the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) Governors' Forum which supports regional cooperation in the LCB region.

### The 3rd LCB Governors Forum

The Governor's Forum is a regional platform that provides space for constructive engagement, dialogue, exchange of ideas and best practices, and identification of critical cross-border interventions that would help restore stability to the region.

At the 3rd edition in Yaounde, the forum hosted more than 500 participants from governments, LCBC, MNJTF, the AU, UN, Regional Economic Communities, multilateral and bilateral institutions, donor governments, the armed forces, the private sector, civil society organizations and the media.

Some recommendations to emerge from the forum include:

- Strengthening military and MNJTF efforts to provide protection to civilian populations in the LCB region.
- Boosting cross-border economic activities including through the rehabilitation of trade routes and other public infrastructure;
- Enhancing collaboration and information-sharing mechanisms.

### Partner Organizations

LCBC, Institute for International Studies, Radio Ndarason Internationale

### Financial Partners

European Union, African Development Bank, Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom (Conflict, Stability and Security Fund)

**THE**  
**LAKE CHAD BASIN**  
**REGIONAL STABILIZATION**  
**FACILITY**





# Stabilizing and Advancing Social Cohesion in Liptako-Gourma



2.8 Million Expected Beneficiaries



Stabilization Strategy Roadmap Developed

Since 2015 armed conflicts borne out of a complex combination of political differences, Jihadi movements, and disputes over ownership of natural resources have characterized the tri-border region of Burkina-Faso, Mali and Niger—the Liptako-Gourma (LG) Region. This has continuously left negative, multi-faceted and devastating impacts on inhabitants of those areas and an extension to surrounding areas is considered possible if this situation is not contained in a timely, systematic and strategic manner.

Stabilization objectives at national level are supported through strengthened regional and cross-border cooperation with a strong involvement of the Liptako-Gourma Authority and the relevant national Ministries from the three countries, which creates momentum, brings coherence, and ensures the inclusion of cross-border issues. During the pilot phase of the Regional Stabilization Facility for the Liptako-Gourma, stabilization objectives and efforts were accelerated and scaled-

up in response to the Sahel Coalition's call for a civilian surge. Substantive progress has been made in 2021 in setting up the governance structure in each of the 3 countries and at the regional level, and in identifying intervention regions and sites through close collaboration with the Governments. The goal in the Liptako-Gourma area is to target 60 communities over the next three years, reaching 2.8 million expected beneficiaries with activities expected to kick off in early 2022.

At the regional level, the Roadmap for the development of the LGR Regional Strategy for Stabilization was elaborated in Ouagadougou and foresees the endorsement of the final strategy in 2022. The development of the LGR Stabilization strategy is done through a consultative, participatory approach with donor partners and other UN agencies and is based on the experience of the LCBC Stabilization Secretariat and UNDP in the Lake Chad Basin.

## Partner Organizations

Liptako-Gourma Authority, G5 Sahel

## Financial Partners

Germany, European Union, Netherlands, Japan, Czech Republic, Denmark

# Renewable Energy Systems in the Liptako-Gourma Region



\$8 Million to be Invested



Capacities Strengthened



Enhanced Partnerships

While the Sahel is endowed with a remarkable renewable energy potential, over 50% of the population (175 million people) currently lack access to electricity and 79% do not have access to clean cooking solutions. UNDP conceives that increasing access to renewable energy services in the Sahel has the potential to secure equitable and sustainable socio-economic development.

In this context, UNDP and UNOPS are implementing, with funding from the Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (SIDA) and under the institutional anchorage of the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA), the “Rural Electrification by Renewable Energy Systems Project in the Liptako-Gourma Region - Pilot Phase”. The project, implemented in partnership with the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECEEEE) will last for three years (2021-2023) to provide access to sustainable energy for vulnerable populations in the region.

The project aims to:

(i) provide institutional support for rural electrification and the revision of the regulatory frameworks to promote renewable energy investments;

(ii) install six photovoltaic mini-grids with batteries in the Liptako-Gourma region; (iii) support the private sector engaged in the development of mini-grids; and (iv) promote the creation of income-generating activities through the use of energy services brought to the communities by the project, including clean cooking solutions.

The project started in 2021 and progress has been made to establish multi-stakeholders coordination platforms in the three countries, and to foster South-South exchange. In this scope, a study tour was organized by ECEEEE in Praia with the national agencies in charge of renewable energies and rural electrification of several ECOWAS countries, as well as LGA. The event allowed the different actors of the 3 countries to benefit from Senegal's experience and exchange to facilitate the operationalization of the platforms in their respective countries. Towards the end of the year, Derisking Renewable Energy Investment (DREI) studies were launched in the three countries to assess in details the risks and barriers faced by the private sector in the renewable energy sector in each country, and to design adequate risk mitigation measures.

## Partner Organizations

Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA), The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECEEEE)

## Financial Partners

Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (SIDA)





# Fostering a Resilient Sahel



DRR Sendai  
Framework



COVID-19 Recovery  
Framework



Early Warning  
Frameworks

Climate and disaster risks know no borders. UNDP provides solutions to Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal) thanks to the support of Sweden and through African regional institutions - the African Union and ECOWAS Commissions - to safeguard sustainable development gains and thus achieve Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want. In doing so, the Sahel Resilience Project gets to the heart of risk governance with particular emphasis on strengthening systematic collection, analysis and application of disaster risk and impact data for decision-making.

In 2021, UNDP supported a comprehensive analysis for the African Union of progress in domesticating the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Africa Programme of Action (2015-2030).

With ECOWAS, important research on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the role of disaster risk governance was conducted to understand how to cope with the pandemic. UNDP worked with the African Union on a COVID-19 Recovery Framework, which all 55 member states have adopted. The framework integrates the core functions of health risk management into disaster risk management to better guard against similar crises.

A partnership with UN-Habitat has operationalized, for the first time in Africa, the framework for global collaboration between the two agencies to capture the cross-border dynamics of urbanization adequately and the implications for urban resilience in the Sahel cities.

Early warning saves lives and preserves livelihoods. The sooner people prepare for disasters, the sooner they recover their homes and livelihoods and return to prosperity. UNDP supported a framework for multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) in Africa, which AU member states have adopted. The African Union Commission is currently pursuing the establishment of regional situation rooms. Climate and disaster risks affect women and men differently due to discrimination and unequal access to opportunities, natural resources, and other productive assets. UNDP worked day in and day out with UN Women to ensure that the voices of women and girls are heard to reduce disaster risk and meet their basic needs and those of all vulnerable groups.

The Sahel Resilience Project builds on partnerships with national disaster management and gender affairs agencies in Sahelian countries\* and cities to better prevent and recover from shocks and crises.

## Partner Organizations

African Union Commission, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), UN-Habitat, UN Women, AGRHYMET/CILSS, PeriPeri U/Stellenbosch University, LCBC

## Financial Partners

Sweden

# Silencing the Guns across West and Central Africa



1,000,000  
Beneficiaries



Over 3000 SALW  
Recovered



1000 Peace  
Ambassadors

The subregion has porous borders and management control systems that have contributed to the free flow of illicit arms trafficked into the region. Heavy demand and supply of arms and explosives have been recorded on the West illegal African market due to trafficking and local production.

In 9 countries earmarked for interventions by UNDP in partnership with ECOWAS and the German Government, sensitization and outreach programs were carried out for over 1 million people ranging from traditional leaders, legitimate hunters, youth, and women's organizations who were informed about the dangers of the proliferation, possession and illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

Cross-border beneficiaries and security agencies were trained on various themes related to the possession and illegal trafficking of arms, the voluntary deposit of weapons, identification, collection, profiling, tracing, marking, storage, and destruction of firearms. Local communities received development and livelihood responses in return for arms voluntarily surrendered. National television and radio sensitization campaigns on SALW were carried out in local dialects in several regions across the 9 countries.

To strengthen institutional capacities, National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) agencies were supported in decentralizing their operations by providing equipment and training to enhance their capacity for effective arms management. Over 3000 local arms and ammunitions have been recovered, and observatory platforms for cataloguing and monitoring armed violence are set up in several countries.

The Youth SALW/Eco Brigade, an innovative flagship initiative that seeks to preserve the environment by capitalizing on youth's ability to contribute to greening the Sahel through volunteerism, serving as ambassadors against SALW proliferation and promoting peacebuilding, took off across 2 Sahelian borders areas. Through this pilot project, identified youth "ECO Brigade Ambassadors" have participated in planting trees, peer exchange on the dangers of illicit trafficking of SALW for a peaceful society and improved their livelihoods through modest resources provided to sustain the initiative. The project has promoted self-worth among the selected youth, generated income and livelihood opportunities and reduced the potential of radicalization and violent extremism among the youth, particularly in these cross-border areas.

## Partner Organizations

AU, ECOWAS, GIZ, NATCOM

## Financial Partners

Germany, EU





# The Governance Promise in West and Central Africa



8 Countries Reached



Joint Human Rights Research

## Piloting Crisis Prevention and Recovery Activity Mali+5

Governance processes — how it is exercised and by whom — may be just as important as the outcomes. For governance to be effective, UNDP recognizes it must be aligned with peacebuilding and state-building aspirations forged by the affected governments and people.

The Mali+5 project is an initiative funded by the GPN Crisis Bureau (CB), supporting six countries in the sub-region: Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Niger, and Mauritania. It adopts a regional approach to addressing urgent needs in political, economic, and social governance, peacebuilding, and security, as well as strengthening resilience and social cohesion at different levels. The Pilot phase enhances the preparedness of target countries to prevent and mitigate shocks and risks while responding to the consequences of conflict.

Promoting inclusive political processes is essential to realigning the rules of political negotiation in countries marred by conflict and crisis. By broadening opportunities for conflict management and state-society dialogue, inclusive processes integrate multiple voices in politics and encourage the consolidation of stable political settlements.

## Standing Up For Human Rights

Policies that encourage good governance

## Partner Organizations

OHCHR and UN Women

are designed to empower individuals with dignity and freedom and create an environment of accountability. Hence, human rights cannot be respected and protected suitably without good governance and without a conducive environment for human rights defenders who speak out for fundamental rights. As part of reinforcing commitments to the Generation Equality Forum, a regional civil society-centred gathering was organized for human rights and gender equality defenders to evaluate their capacities in a Post-COVID 19 context and establish a networking platform. UNDP joined forces with OHCHR and UN Women in a research initiative to examine the contributions of women and youth human rights defenders in today's context. An inception workshop was held in November 2021 to launch the research, focusing on challenges faced by women and youth human rights defenders. The main highlight of the discussions was the need for an increased understanding of African and international human rights protection mechanisms and their applications today. Key recommendations will be implemented through an upcoming joint project.

A strengthened network for women and youth human rights defenders in West Africa has been supported, contributing to their empowerment and ability to advocate for human rights in their respective countries effectively.



# Connecting Youth for Peace and Prosperity



1,000 Youth Empowered



50 Youth for Greening the Sahel



Innovation Platform

## YouthConnekt Sahel (YCS)

YouthConnekt Sahel is an essential UNDP contribution to GenUSahel, a collaboration between Generation Unlimited and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) – a global partnership steered by UNICEF. At the launch on November 1st 2021, UNDP's Administrator Achim Steiner emphasized the centrality of youth - a key pillar of 'A Regeneration' - for transformative peace and development in the Sahel. The global initiative aims to maximize opportunities in the 10 UNISS countries, equipping 100 million young people with the skills needed to thrive in the digital and green economy by 2030.

Housed within this initiative is the YouthConnekt Sahel Forum, a platform designed to inspire, connect, engage and empower young people in the region to change the Sahel narrative into a land of opportunities, investment and prosperity.

The inaugural edition allowed youth to exchange innovative ideas for peace, prosperity and resilience. Solutions that respond to challenges in the region were pitched, inspiring many to engage in fields such as governance, art, healthcare, agriculture, entrepreneurship etc.

## Partner Organizations

YouthConnekt Africa, GenU, UNFPA, FAO, UNICEF, UNCDF, UNV, UNAIDS, IOM, OCHA, ONUSIDA, Orange, BCIS, Planete Tour Voyages, Relax Voyages, Satguru Voyages, Ezone Electronics, 2A Services, Global Négoces

## Financial Partners

EcoBank Senegal

## Mobilizing Youth for a Greener Sahel

The Sahel is a climate change hotspot, with increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, frequent droughts, and floods. Climate resilience is key to achieving sustainable peace and development in the Sahel region. The ambitious Great Green Belt initiative signifies the importance of greening the Sahel. While conflict remains a significant threat in the region, solutions for afforestation, land and water resources management, and renewable energy to build a greener Sahel have seen several pragmatic initiatives, including youth engagement.

UNDP supported 50 youth volunteers from the Ilela and Jibia communities with training on the basic tenets of volunteerism, climate resilience, afforestation, and reforestation, through the Greening the Sahel Initiative. This involved tree planting exercises while sensitizing the dangers of illicit trafficking of SALW and its control processes in cross-border areas.

Over 1000 tree seedlings have been planted at selected Ilela and Jibia LGA locations. The activity also encouraged the youth to participate in the local governance of things and community security.





## Enhancing Resilience through Trade for Peace



7,000  
Beneficiaries



Enhanced  
Social Cohesion



180 IDPs  
Supported

**Belem Balkissa** is a mother of three, who received sheep in support of her trade and livelihood activities as part of the “Trade for Peace in the Liptako-Gourma region” project.

“I was displaced from Tétessiro, a village in THIOU in the Nord region of Burkina Faso, after armed men attacked my village. They took our goods, livestock, food and destroyed houses when they arrived. They even kidnapped my father-in-law and sister-in-law, who were released 3 days later. Before the forced displacement, I sold pharmaceutical medicines in the village dispensary, and my husband was a transporter. Since we arrived in Ouahigouya, we have not carried out any activity. We rely on handouts.”

With this initiative, the Belem family received three (03) rams, cattle feed, and troughs for feed and water. She is happy for the help received and looks forward to selling the sheep to enable her to buy more young rams for breeding. Such an

opportunity will yield good income for the family’s livelihood.

The borderland communities in the Liptako-Gourma region have long faced complex challenges related to structural poverty and inequality, protracted conflict and disasters from climate change. This is now aggravated by the COVID-19. The Trade for Peace project contributed to strengthened resilience of vulnerable groups through enhanced trade infrastructure, capacity development of local trade actors, and provision of productive assets, material, and equipment to help target beneficiaries generate income and improve employability, particularly of youths, women, and IDPs. Also, improved social cohesion in the Liptako-Gourma region has been achieved between host communities and internally displaced populations, farmers and herders, local authorities and citizens through the rehabilitation of peace infrastructures (e.g., regional markets) and dialogues between various stakeholders.

### Partner Organizations

Liptako-Gourma Authority

### Financial Partners

The Government of Japan



# A Trail of Impact Through the UN Joint Sahel Programme



900,000  
Beneficiaries



30 Communities  
Reached



600,000 Women  
Impacted

In collaboration with 8 UN agencies, UNDP continues joint programming to address the fundamental causes of poverty, inequality, and conflicts in the Liptako-Gourma Region by increasing access to basic services, livelihoods, and job creation. This has contributed to conflict prevention, stabilization of local communities, improved social cohesion, and made strides towards sustainable development through cross border cooperation. The legal authority of the LGA is in concert with these UN agencies across their respective mandates.

In 2021, over 30 communities with a total population of 900,000 livelihoods (including 600,000 women and 300,000 youth) had been impacted directly or indirectly through initiatives including setting up of 21 schools, electricity, water and sanitation; 150 women and youth cooperatives have been empowered with the production and trade of meat, milk, moringa and vegetables; vocational life skills for job creation for youth; social cohesion and reintegration initiatives; destruction of small arms and light weapons; installation in communities of value-added agro-processing machines

and multifunctional platforms for rural electricity.

As a survivor of GBV, through the activities of UNWOMEN under the JP, women can escape or re-emerge from terrible and violent situations. They are now on a path toward financial and psychological independence. The empowerment of these women has also had an effect on the communities around them and their families, allowing JP interventions to have multiplied impact. Women are also empowered to be at the frontiers of these conflicts as mediators, and here is a testimony from a community leader of their presence:

“Since the advent of the women mediators, they have sensitized us on the promotion and protection of women’s rights; they contribute significantly to the resolution of conflicts and social cohesion within the community. We are no longer solicited as we used to be for conflict resolution; as soon as these women are aware of a dispute, they take steps to end it and notify us. They do a lot of work for the perpetuation of peace.”

## Partner Organizations

Liptako-Gourma Authority, ILO, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNECA, UNCDF, OSCDS

## Financial Partners

Sweden





## Promoting Livelihood and Economic Recovery



16 Countries Supported



10 Million in Secured Funding

2021 revealed gross inequalities across West and Central Africa that signalled the need for economic recovery. Through the livelihood and economic recovery team, UNDP WACA supported Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea Bissau and Cameroon and four non-WACA countries (Botswana, Mozambique, Comoros, Zimbabwe) with country programme formulation. These programmes prioritized job creation and economic recovery.

At the regional level, a livelihood project was designed with 10 million in secured funding from the Islamic Development Bank to reach four countries: Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. This project, to be launched in 2022, will strengthen women's entrepreneurship in the rice value chain, one of the most consumed cereal crops in West Africa and whose cultivation is widely practised in rural areas.

UNDP is also designing a project on livestock production to strengthen exchanges between different WACA

countries, promote job creation and contribute to the development of the circular economy and harmonious rapprochement between farmers and breeders.

Together with partners, we extend the reach of our interventions. In 2021, we deepened our partnership with UNHCR and IOM on human mobility. Following technical exchanges at regional and country levels, we conducted pilot financing in 3 new countries: Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Uganda, to promote joint and harmonized planning.

Collaboratively with UNHCR, UNDP developed a joint action plan on human mobility with representatives of two of the six target Sahel countries (Mali and Burkina Faso).

Furthermore, UNDP worked with FAO and other implementing agencies of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel to develop a note on the farmer-herder conflict in the Sahel to mobilize support and guide development activities.

### Partner Organizations

UNHCR, IOM, FAO, ECA, ECOWAS

### Financial Partners

Islamic Development Bank



# Inclusive Development through Volunteerism



3,366 UNVs  
Mobilized



414 Online UNVs  
Supported UNDP



38,296,258  
Beneficiaries

Increasingly volunteers are being recognized for their efforts to address urgent development challenges, from climate change to ecosystem and biodiversity loss to COVID-19.

The UN Volunteers (UNV) Programme supports the ambitions of the UN System through the mobilization of on-site and online, national and international UNVs.

In 2021, the UNV Regional Office for West and Central Africa focused its partnership engagement on regional and cross-border initiatives by mobilizing 3,366 on-site UNVs, 797 (40.53% female) of whom served with UNDP in the WACA region. According to 2021 Annual Volunteer Reports, UNVs in the region reached over 38 million direct and indirect beneficiaries, mainly youth, the elderly and IDPs/refugees. Furthermore, 454 online volunteers provided editorial, reporting, and IT-related support to UNDP, thus contributing to UNDP's core priorities - Governance, Youth and Energy, and the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

Throughout the region, powerful stories have emerged of UNVs making a difference. In Benin, UNVs are instrumental in protecting the rights of prisoners. "I

am accountable for the health of more than 1,300 detainees and the proper functioning of the infirmary. The prisoners cannot change caregivers as they used to due to COVID-19. So, I do my best to serve them properly." -- **Dr Edouard Kpahe, UN Volunteer.**

In Burkina Faso, UN Volunteers support democratic electoral processes. "UN Community Volunteers did a remarkable job during logistics deployment. We appreciate their commitment to democratic and successful elections in Burkina Faso." -- **Salif Thiombiano, Logistics Director of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).**

In Senegal, UN Volunteers support small business owners in Ndiaffate, Monrolland, Ndiob, Bargny and Sandiara to ensure they benefit from sustainable business practices. "I work with entrepreneurs to develop their business in pastry, local cereal and fishery products processing. I monitor and ensure compliance with the fund utilization plans that have been established for each small and medium enterprise." -- **Fatoumata Gaam, UN Community Volunteer.**

## Partner Organizations

33 UN Agencies, VIO, National Volunteer Programmes in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mauritania, Mali, National Volunteers Committee in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Chad, Niger

## Financial Partners

Donors such as France, Sweden, Spain, Japan, and Korea supported UNDP WACA through 17 fully funded UNV assignments





# Country Office Support Team

## 2021 Key Highlights

Over 2021, the Country Office Support Team (COST) provided regional strategic oversight and advice in line with corporate strategies and related frameworks, its interface for support on all programmatic and operational aspects in coordination with global and regional hubs and advisors. These include:



### Programmatic Oversight and Support

- Technical and coordinated support for project and Country Programme Documents (CPD) formulation, extension and revision leading to the approval of 1 CPD for Cameroon and 3 extensions for Gambia, Niger and Sao Tome & Principe at the 2021 September Session of the UNDP Executive Board.
- Outreach and partnership support to Country Offices with traditional & non-traditional partners as well as coordination of the Japan Supplementary Budget.

### Global and Regional Engagement & Representation

- Oversight support to the launch and implementation of “A Regeneration” UNDP’s contribution to the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

### Capacity Building

- Development and delivery of customized training on Project and Portfolio Management (PPM), ATLAS, project management and procurement, private sector due diligence and capacity building missions.

### Operations oversight and support

- Oversight support to Global Environment Facility (GEF) due diligence, systematization of audits and compliance mechanisms and Country Office performance tracking.

# Partnerships for Development

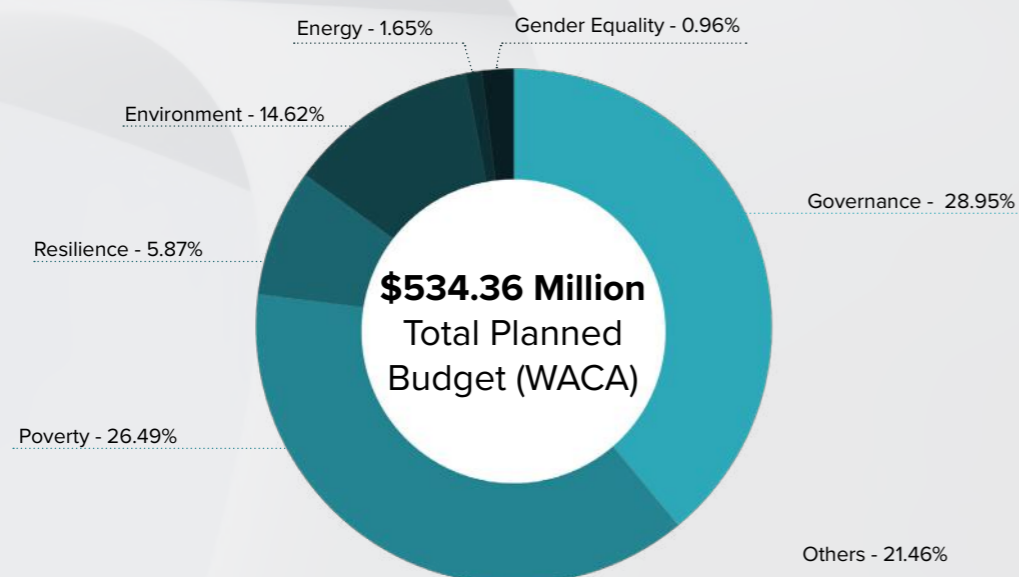
## Who We Work With

We strengthened partnerships with regional and sub-regional institutions, private sector, and other international organizations that made a difference in our programming. Some of these include:



## Funding our Work

Partner contributions translated into funding **the six signature solutions**: governance, poverty and inequality, gender inequality, energy, environment and resilience. Some key partners include:



# Investing in a Thriving Sahel

## Unlocking the Sahel's Potential

9th December 2021 saw the global launch of **'A Regeneration', UNDP's new programmatic offer for the Sahel** which is designed to help unlock the region's massive socio-economic promise.

A Regeneration is a \$3.6 billion programme, which focuses on three main areas Governance, Energy and Youth, which are the collective of what will transform and sustain prosperity in the Sahel.



Governance



Renewable Energy



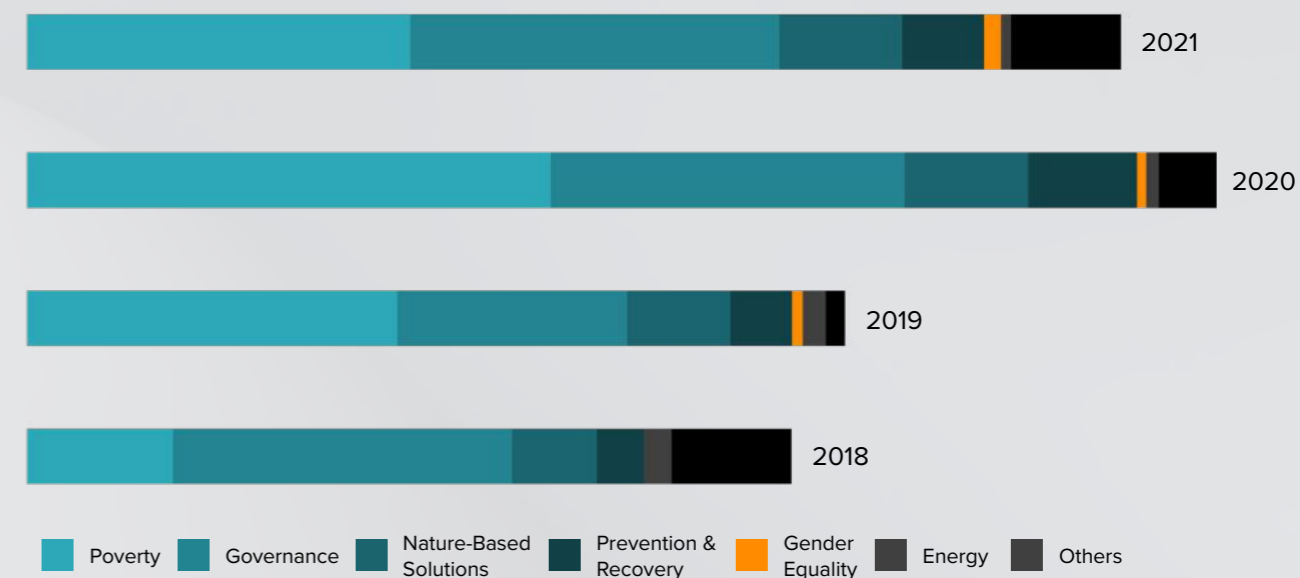
Youth

In partnership with UN sister agencies and with Sahelians in the lead, investing in these transformative interventions will break the cycle of need.

Hosted by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner on 9 December under the aegis of the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, Abdoulaye Mar Diye, the online global launch was the culmination of a series of local events across the region, showcasing the region as a land of opportunities as a basis for UNDP's scaled up action.

**Generation Unlimited Sahel (GenU Sahel)**, an initiative steered by UNICEF, was launched to empower and connect 100 million young people in the Sahel with new opportunities to contribute to peace, security, and economic growth. UNDP is a key contributor to GenU Sahel through the deployment of youth empowerment initiatives including the YouthConnekt Sahel Forum, the largest youth conference in the region to connect young Sahelians to opportunities for skills development, greater employability and promotion of local solutions.

## 4-Year Sahel Investment Trend



# Class of 2021

We bring together the best minds to solve the region's most complex challenges.



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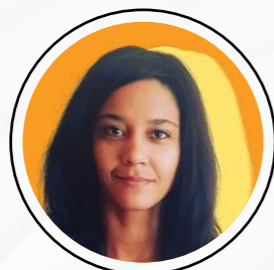
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Agile. Dynamic. Responsive.



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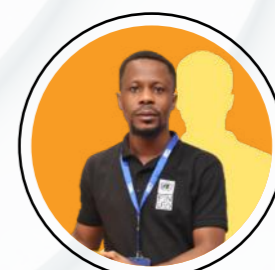
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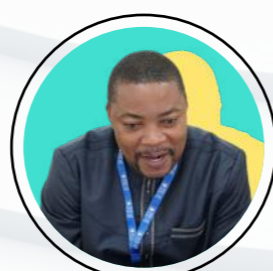
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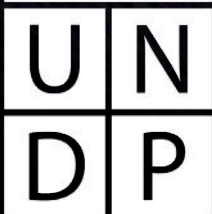
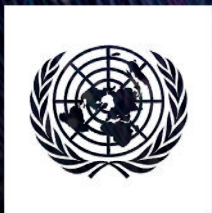
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