



THE REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRE FOR AFRICA (RSCA)

A snapshot of 2021

FOREWORD

One Platform, One Team

The Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) is far larger than the sum of its structural parts - the sub-regional and thematic Hubs in Addis Ababa, Dakar, Nairobi, and Pretoria; the Africa Regional Programme and its flagships including the Africa Borderlands Centre; the RSCA-based Country Office Support team (RSCA-COST); the RBM & Evaluation team; and the eight (8) GPN policy and programme teams and units. And we have a foothold in another regional center - Istanbul - where the Africa HHD team is based.

As an integrated regional support platform, we strive daily to achieve the vision outlined by the UNDP Africa Director - to become, and remain a quality, premier, technical, policy, programmatic and knowledge resource for the region's UNDP Country Offices and regional institutions. With one overriding goal in mind - contribute effectively and efficiently, through our COs and the relevant regional institutions, to the development needs of our region from the UNDP perspective outlined in the 2022-2025 UNDP Strategic Plan and being translated into action through the UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa, and in full alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063.

Challenged, but mainly buoyed, by our unique structure among UNDP RSCs, we have come a long way towards achieving the Regional Director's vision, with measurable effectiveness indicators: an ever-increasing number of cross-practice, cross-team, and cross-Hub CO support initiatives across all signature solutions; great strides in achieving and strengthening

cross-team knowledge, not just within the RSCA, but across other units of RBA, and in close coordination with the RBA Strategy Analysis and Research Team (SART); building the permanent cross-Hub and cross-practice coordination mechanisms needed to ensure that cross-team synergies become second nature across all teams; and achieving all this while enabling individual teams to leverage their specific technical expertise to keep doing what they do best. It is past time to showcase such progress through regular communication of the highlights of our work.

This first Annual (2021) RSCA Snapshot sets us on that path. It shares 2021 highlights from across the RSCA with our ultimate clients - our Country Offices and partner regional institutions - to celebrate what we have achieved together. Not everything we have done during the year, which would be too much for any single brochure-type snapshot to contain. Just a few highlights worth showcasing to remind us all of how far we have come, how we are doing, and the enormous potential of what we can still achieve, and learn, together.

My sincere thanks to the RSCA Communications Working Group, to all RSCA teams and individual colleagues for their contributions to this first annual Snapshot, and to our CO clients and regional partners for the co-creation efforts that have enabled the highlights portrayed in the document.

To our Country Office clients and regional partners, please keep telling us how we are doing, and we promise to keep raising our standards to remain worthy of your trust.

Stan Nkwain, Director a.i.
Regional Service Center for Africa (RSCA)

A snapshot of 2021 at the RSCA

Africa has made significant efforts toward attaining the sustainable development for all, with governments across the continent incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 into national strategies and development plans. Africa's overall economic trajectory has seen tremendous growth, with increasing macroeconomic stability and steady expansion of the private sector, spurred by policy reforms, infrastructure improvements and investments.

Africa's development landscape is at a tipping point that requires informed and contextualised policy choices where its resources, both money and human, must work to avert the widening inequalities, lack of opportunities and setbacks. The emerging space for innovation and technology can potentially foster structural and macroeconomic reforms and pave the way for increased inclusive growth of women, youth, and men across the continent. The digital landscape of the continent is also predicted to increase, paving for the innovation-led socioeconomic revolution that can reach the furthest left behind.

Likewise, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is expected to boost intra-African trade by approximately 25 per cent by 2040 and trigger an estimated \$6.7 trillion in consumer and business spending. AfCFTA positions Africa as a major production hub and a global trading bloc. If effectively implemented, the AfCFTA can be the game-changer that delivers economic independence for the 1.2 billion Africans.

Africa's abundant natural and human resources are largely untapped. The continent hosts 60 per cent of the world's uncultivated arable landmass, the second largest and longest rivers (the Nile and the Congo), and the second-largest tropical forest, the Congo Basin. With Africa's current population expected to double by 2050, the anticipated increase of 20 million each year until 2030 could provide the necessary human capital required for the

growth of underdeveloped sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing and services. However, development complexities, shifting development dynamics, investment and risks confronting Africa's transformation are intricately linked and require a new development thinking. Fragile contexts and conflict remain pervasive, driven mainly by competition for natural resources, exclusion, migration, violent extremism, and inequality.

While no community is immune to the aggravated effects of climate change, Africa faces disproportionate impacts. Over the past two years, adverse weather phenomenon and climate-induced disasters such have increasingly affected African populations, jeopardising livelihoods and food security; causing new displacements and eroding community resilience capacity. In response to climate change, African countries have expressed commitment to the Paris agreement, with member states identifying with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) measures and other climate actions. African countries are integrating NDC measures and strategies into the national recovery plans and projects, including establishment or use of carbon pricing for NDC implementation.

The COVID-19 crisis is another critical evolving challenge that has significantly stalled Africa's growth. According to reports, at least 50 million people have been pushed back into extreme poverty; the continent's new debt burden stands at \$702 billion. Vaccine inequity

further complicates Africa's recovery, with a little over 10% of its population vaccinated - further exposing the deep fault lines of inequality that run throughout our societies.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the continent, the pandemic provides a unique opportunity to re-imagine development models that are people-centred and hold the potential of yielding tangible dividends for all Africans regardless of gender or religion, ethnicity, or

political affiliation. Getting ahead of development complexities requires leaping forward into new opportunities, working together with others across mandates and deepening our collective approaches. While a lot remains to be achieved, the story of Africa's growth and human development is one of remarkable progress as more African countries have graduated from low-income status in the last ten years, than experienced over the preceding half century.



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The Regional Service Center, Africa (RSCA) is one of five UNDP Regional Service Centres in the world, developing high-quality knowledge and policy for UNDP in Africa. It is the organization's main interface with regional and continental bodies such as the African Union and Regional Economic Communities.

Against this backdrop, the RSCA provides programmatic leadership and support for UNDP in Africa, covering 46 programme countries.

Through the RSCA, UNDP in Africa develops high-quality knowledge and policy, strengthening partnership and collaboration with regional and continental bodies, while positioning UNDP as Africa's premier enabler, integrator, and partner for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the 2063 Agenda. The RSCA is attuned thematically and regionally through decentralised capacities, complementing country presence support that ensures the delivery of responsive development solutions,

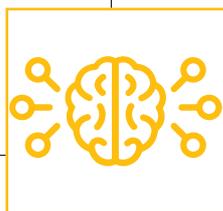
The Future Smart Regional Service Center for Africa

Integrated management and delivery of demand-driven support services to country offices and regional institutions by hub-based teams of experts.



Strategic positioning of UNDP thought leadership in the region, and designing of strategies that contextualise the implementation of the UNDP strategy and the strategic offer for Africa.

Scale-up and implementation of new corporate policy, advocacy and programme initiatives.



Serve as a knowledge hub for COs and regional institutions, curating, amplifying and sharing good practices.

Building and promoting partnership opportunities with regional institutions.



Strengthening UNDP's reputation across the region for innovation, programme delivery, strategic communication and relevance.

Regional Programme for Africa: As a strategic programmatic thought leadership, the Regional Programme for Africa operates as an integrated continental mechanism that coordinates regional, sub-regional and country development planning for greater effectiveness and results. With almost 200 partners from the private sector, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academia, sub-regional institutions and donors, the Regional Program supports more than 30 projects across Africa. Against the backdrop of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 the Regional Programme (2022 – 2025) acts as a regional catalyst and incubator for people, prosperity, planet and peace, in alignment with the UNDP's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and RBA's Strategic Offer for Africa 2022-2025.

Resilience Hub for Africa: With a mandate on integrated resilience, the hub envisions itself as providing thought leadership on and cutting-edge support for resilience building in Africa. Its goal is to make UNDP's work not only future-ready, but also shockproof by turning resilience-informed programming into reality. The Hub supports UNDP country offices in mainstreaming resilience throughout their programme cycle and provides technical policy and programme support to country offices to apply a resilience building approach at the national and local level. It also delivers resilience at the margins by leading and supporting the development of regional initiatives to reach the

most vulnerable in geographical hotspots and in particularly fragile contexts.

Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (ASFH)

The current financial system is driving the world towards an unsustainable future. To meet the challenges of the financial gap, the Africa Sustainable Finance Hub works to align African Finance Systems with the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Through Africa SDG Finance Platform/Facility the ASFH supports countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa region to implement the Financing for Development Agenda (through the implementation of the recommendations of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) to align public and private financing with national priorities through its inclusive and participatory country-led platform that provides demand-driven thought leadership and advocacy, advisory services and capacity development and promotes south-south peer-to-peer learning and regional dialogues.

Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa:

As a sub-component of the RSCA, the Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa works closely with 24 Country Offices and other subregional hubs. The hub contributes to advancing development in Africa under the framework of the Regional Programme for Africa and its strategic priorities in close collaboration with several actors including UN agencies, funds and programmes through a shared goal – a transformed sub region and continent.



HIV, Health and Development

The COVID-19 crisis has brought along development regression unseen in modern times but on the other hand, a development promise that can emerge at great proportion. UNDP as Africa's premier development agency must act with sharp collective intentional focus and be fit for purpose to walk shoulder to shoulder with the continent not only in the post pandemic recovery, but to also accelerate and revolutionise development for a future smart Africa.

Our work on HIV and health in sub-Saharan Africa, is guided by the 2030 Agenda, the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022–2025 and the Strategic Offer for Africa - informed by and complementary to the strategies and plans of key partners such as WHO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), and Malaria, UNICEF, UN Women and UNAIDS as well as the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being. UNDP in Africa contributes to the African Union's 'Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Malaria,' the Maputo Protocol and ACHPR's Resolutions 260, 275 and 350. Our work at the regional level contributes to UNDP's strategic directions of change: leaving no one behind, building resilience, and policy and structural transformation under the following:

- Support to Vaccine Equity Beyond recovery towards 2030 in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNDP's advocacy for vaccine equity as the integrator and technical lead of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 prioritizes governance, social protection, green economy, and digital disruption.
- The Southern Africa Young Key Population Inclusion Initiative (YKP Project) supports young vulnerable people to have improved quality of life, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and

HIV outcomes. YKP project further promotes, a strong sense of agency, freedom and the safety to make choices within an enabling environment at local, national and regional levels.

- The Inclusive Governance Initiative supports countries in the region to become increasingly accountable to, and inclusive of, their entire populations, including sexual and gender minorities.
- Addressing HIV/TB and Malaria epidemics through the UNAIDS-UBRAF mechanism of Country Envelops to UNDP Africa Countries. In 2022-23, 12 East and Southern Africa countries and 16 West and Central Africa countries will be supported through this mechanism to deliver on Leave No One Behind principles in the context of HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Support the Africa CDC in implementing the Partnership for Vaccines Manufacture (PAVM) by strengthening continental, national and regional laws, the African Medicines Agency, and relevant policies to enable countries ready to roll out vaccines, pharmaceuticals and medical devices for African and global markets.



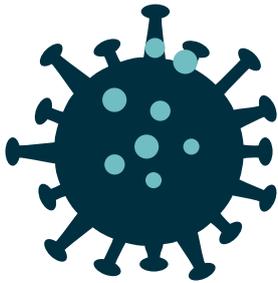
In 2021, in sub-Saharan Africa, UNDP Africa HIV and Health team supported 15 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea (Conakry), Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo) in West and Central Africa and 16 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Uganda and Zimbabwe). In addition, UNDP provided technical support to regional UN entities (e.g. UNAIDS Regional Support Teams) and African continental and

regional entities, focusing on three main areas:

- Reducing inequalities and social exclusion that drive HIV and poor health.
- Promoting effective and inclusive governance for health.
- Building resilient and sustainable systems for health.

The implemented activities through regional projects were funded by the Governments of the Netherlands and Sweden, the Japanese Supplementary Budget (JSB), the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), the Japanese Government funded Access and Delivery Project and the UN Joint AIDS Programme (UNAIDS).

COVID-19 Response and recovery



US \$63 million from Japan Supplementary Budget (JSB) for COVID-19 emergency response and prevention, supported eight countries in Africa* out of 29 countries worldwide to set up and implement digital systems that enhanced and strengthened crisis management, social cohesion, and entrepreneurship, especially among women and other disadvantaged populations.

* Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Africa



Supported 14 African countries* to apply for funding from the JSB at a value of US \$57 million. 14 applications and 8 countries** to develop country proposals on vaccine equity (\$500,000 per country).

* Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Tanzania and Uganda

** Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tome, and South Africa



In Mali, developed digital solutions for healthcare and crisis monitoring.



In Kenya and Rwanda supported implementation of Smart Anti Epidemic Robotic Solutions.



13 countries addressed Healthcare Waste Management through policy guidance and development, establishment of logistical processes for separation and transportation of waste and procurement of equipment (autoclaves and incinerators) for the safe disposal of waste.

Sustaining HIV services during the COVID-19 pandemic

In Angola, UNDP provided support to the government to sustain HIV and AIDS related services as well as developing government and community capacity in responding to the pandemic, including community engagement strategy and adaptation of the comprehensive package of HIV prevention services to include COVID-19 prevention sensitisation.



1,714 HIV+ pregnant women identified within the community, where 99% were referred to health facilities and initiated on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services.



49,512 adolescents and young women reached with HIV prevention messages. 13,331 tested for HIV and 309 referred to health facilities for follow up.



8,736 female sex workers received HIV prevention services. 7,173 tested for HIV and 319 referred to health facilities to start Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ARTs).



180,455 people sensitised on prevention of COVID-19.

Angola mobilised \$30million from the Global Fund to fight COVID-19 with support from UNDP



Removing legal and policy barriers for equitable access to HIV services.

Supported African countries to strengthen their legal and policy environment and ensure equitable access to services for all, including key and vulnerable populations. As a result countries are either putting in place new policies and strategies that promote and protect rights or remove punitive provisions which limit access to services.



Youth Leadership Development Program organized by the Linking Policy to Programming project with **over 60 members of the young key population community from Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe representing seven (7) key population raised awareness and advocated SADAC Regional leadership, stakeholders and the AU for improved security, accountability, inclusivity and, demanded urgent action and investment to address increasing rate of HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths among key populations, particularly among youth and adolescent key populations.**

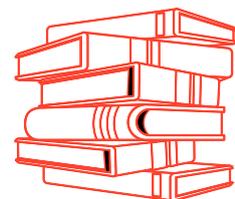
In **Malawi**, UNDP worked with the Malawi Human Rights Commission to review the Commission's complaints handling system to investigate, document and address complaints related to stigma and discrimination related to HIV and AIDS.



In **Benin**, supported the review process of Law No. 2005-31 of 10 April 2006 on the prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS, and organized training and information sessions for the various HIV stakeholders on the issues and reforms inherent in the age of consent to HIV testing, the criminalisation of HIV transmission, and integration of specific needs of key populations.



In **Mozambique**, supported young people to develop and submit a shadow report, to the country's report on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The report, published on the ICCPR Committee website, identified violence and arbitrary arrests of key populations, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, demand for recognition of gender identity, access to lifesaving medical treatment for young vulnerable people, and implementation of comprehensive sexuality education in schools as areas to be addressed by the government's plan of action.



In **Ghana**, UNDP provided technical assistance to the UNCT on responding to a co-sponsored bill in Parliament that further criminalizes LGBTI+ behavior and a wide range of associated actions – including advocating for LGBTI+ rights, organizing LGBTI+ people in civil society groups, etc. UNDP provided Africa specific LGBTI expertise and supported CSOs to produce an analysis of the proposed bill and a 'harm reduction' critique and develop a common position. UNDP continues to provide technical assistance as the process is ongoing and the bill has neither been rejected nor passed into law.

In 2021 learning from the successes of the African Regional Judges Forum IGI/WBA working in collaboration with the Parliamentarian for Global Action (PGA) UNDP convened an initial discussion group with three Parliamentarians from **Kenya** and **Zimbabwe** to solicit buy-in and secure leadership for the establishment of Parliamentary Community of Practice. This birthed the first "Parliamentarian Forum on Gender and Sexual Diversity in Africa" attended by 11 Parliamentarians from 9 countries with a wide range of experience of working with key populations and with LGBTI rights. The meeting, structured as a dialogue between LGBTI civil society representatives and Members of Parliament, discussed several issues and strategies of engagement and how parliamentarians can make a difference in the different country contexts.



Jointly with the Africa Key Population Experts Group (AKPEG) convened a series of webinars on the "Renewed Key Populations Advocacy Agenda for Africa". 121 participants drawn from regional civil society organizations, key population organizations, development partners including UN agencies and academia attended the sessions. The exercise generated a set of communication messages and joint advocacy strategy for key populations and their allies to influence major donors such as Global fund and PEPFAR for inclusion of sexual and gender minorities as a strategic focus in their plans.

Gender equality and empowerment of Women

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are central to the global goals 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda of the African Union. Gender equality is, therefore, a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Africa. Closing the gender gaps creates a multiplier effect and accelerates Africa's development trajectory. It also guarantees the empowerment of every woman and girl on the continent where there are no legal, social, or economic barriers.

In Africa, like many other parts around the world, despite well-articulated regional and national policies, persisting gender-based inequalities continue to hinder the participation and representation of women in economic, social and political decision-making processes. Reports indicate that women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa remain significantly marginalised and vulnerable to gender-based violence. The impacts of climate change exacerbate their vulnerabilities and further threaten to reverse the gains made for women and girls on the continent. Additionally, the emerging complexities of the socio-economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 crisis indicate that women and girls, particularly those in crises and conflict-affected countries, are disproportionately affected by the pandemic and falling further into extreme poverty. As Africa continues to scale up its response and recovery strategies, it is critical to ensure a gendered perspective in the analysis, designing and implementation of recovery frameworks. Robust and gendered intervention mechanisms will reduce inequalities and ensure that the most vulnerable are not left further behind, improving the overall post-recovery outcomes for women and girls.

Cognizant of the challenges facing women and girls, UNDP Africa, is committed to confronting the socio-economic and structural obstacles that deny women and girls their full potential of charting their development pathways.

- Through governance, peacebuilding and women's economic empowerment, UNDP

at the regional level enhances the capacities of regional bodies and institutions, including civil society, to advocate for gender equality and women empowerment, and support member states to fulfil their commitments in the realisation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

- UNDP Africa advocates for the domestication and implementation of internationally and regionally agreed on legal instruments through national gender-sensitive development policies and programs by providing continuous assistance to member states. UNDP also supports the enforcement and enhancement of the regional and sub-regional governance and legal frameworks that guarantee the advancement of women's political participation, representation, and leadership across all sectors.
- Through the Spotlight Initiative, UNDP supports the implementation of Legislative and Policy Frameworks aimed at addressing all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls and Harmful Practices.
- UNDP Africa promotes institutional effectiveness by implementing the Internal GES Programme. This quality assurance initiative tracks, measures, and certifies the competence and achievements in advancing women's rights and corporate gender equality goals. The Gender Team supports 30 RBA Country Offices to implement the internal Gender Equality Seal programme 2021/2023 round.

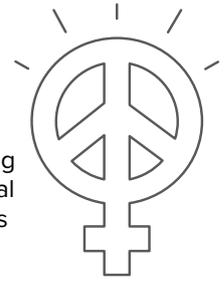


Photo: Alan Gichigi/UNDP Kenya



In collaboration with the African Union (AU) Department of Political Affairs (DPA), developed and launched a 3-Year Programme on “Women in Governance and Political Participation (WGPP)” (2020-2022) to increase participation of women in the governance ecosystem; ensure gender parity in political parties; increase the number of women in politics (including young women) and in COVID-19 response and recovery decision making processes, and participation of women observers in elections.

Contributed to strengthening institutional capacity of the African Union, Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, on the roll out, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the continental Result Framework by members states on Women, Peace and Security and promoting participation in politics and decision making.



Gender Equality Seal

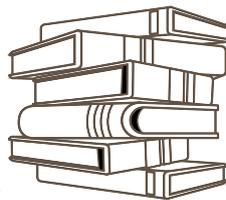
initiated and rolled out in the Public Sector in four RECs (IGAD, ECOWAS, SADC, ECOWAS) as an acknowledgement of the gender responsive results achieved by public institutions and to ensure that they continue to address inequality and tackle institutional discrimination.



Provided technical and financial support to ECCAS Commission in the development and adoption of the **Kinshasa Declaration on Women Peace and Security** - a comprehensive regional roadmap that identifies gaps and recommendations that can enhance women’s participation in prevention, resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding in the region including creation of Network of Women Mediators (REFEMAC) in the ECCAS Region made up by women’s civil society organizations, the private sector, and young people alongside respective governments.

UNSCR 1325

As part of the implementation of the AUC-Continental Results Framework in the ECCAS, IGAD, and ECOWAS regions, UNDP initiated support to **Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Ethiopia** to develop and implement their National Action Plans (NAPs) on UNSCR1325 that will promote women participation in all peacebuilding and conflict prevention at all levels in their respective countries.



In partnership with Equality Now/SOAWR, conducted a regional mapping and assessment study on the status of ratification, domestication, implementation of human right instrument in the ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC region covering 49 member states to assess the status, gaps, challenges and provide possible recommendations on how to accelerate the ratification, domestication, and implementation of human rights instruments in the region including (CE-DAW, Maputo Protocol, ILO Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100) across the following four themes: Harmful Practices; Violence Against Women and Girls; Economic Rights; and Political Participation, Women, Peace and Security.



Developed a draft training manual to tailor capacity building for RECs, human rights and treaty practitioners to enhance their capacity in treaty making, reporting and domestication process, and monitor and fast-track member states compliance on ratification, domestication, and implementation of Human Rights instruments.

Together with the African Union Commission, initiated the development of the first-ever evidence-based Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Africa with a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) including Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Harmful Practices (SGBV/HP) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRH&RR).



AfCFTA

Through national consultations in 26 Sub-Saharan countries, facilitated the consolidation of women’s voices, experiences, and challenges on the development of the AfCFTA Women in Trade Protocol in partnership with UN Women and the AfCFTA Secretariat



In partnership with Equality Now/SOAWR supported regional CSOs from 21 countries on drafting and submission of a periodic/alternative reporting about the rights of women and girls in Africa. A partnership was initiated with two CSOs (Nigeria and Tanzania) to mobilize other CSOs in preparation of shadow reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR).



Inclusive Growth and sustainability

Lingering impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have compounded the development context in sub-Saharan Africa. An intensified rethink and efforts around the priorities of eradication of poverty, reduction of inequalities, building communities' resilience to crises and shocks including accelerated economic structural transformation is crucial for the continent to leapfrog and revolutionise its development trajectory, in the global goals Decade of Action.

Africa's population is expected to double by 2050 and with an anticipated increase by 20 million each year until 2030, could provide the necessary human capital for growth in under-developed sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing and services. The digital landscape of the continent – anticipated to increase unique mobile subscriptions from 456 million to 623 million between 2018 and 2025, represents 50% of the region's population and opens the way for innovation – led socioeconomic activity that can reach those furthest behind.

It is precisely this optimism that UNDP is seizing to the opportunity to walk with Africa in its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, tackling inequality, and finding ways to manage and strengthen resilience that helps to address mega trends like climate change, the rapid population growth, migration and urbanization.

The evolving development context in Africa therefore and the acceleration of economic structural transformation. UNDP Africa sees the expansion of youth-led and women's led entrepreneurship, employment, empowerment,

participation and fostering enabling spaces that supports catalytic and forward looking interventions as the pivot to Africa's socio-economic transformation and prosperity.

In order to support a future smart Africa, UNDP provides an integrated support that includes research, advocacy, policy advice, technical assistance, capacity development and project implementation to African countries to:

- Integrate SDGs and the AU's Agenda2063 into their National Development Plan
- Strengthen social protection systems to increase resilience in the era of heightened vulnerabilities and shocks.
- Improve livelihoods and generate employment with a particular focus on youth and women.
- Intercept socio-economic, environmental and governance challenges that make some of the regions in sub-Saharan Africa extremely volatile.
- Enhance the governance of extractives industries.





The rationale for UNDP's work on African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) premises on the evidence that African marketplaces are not functioning adequately for small scale businesses, especially women and youth and those, at present entrenched in the informal economies; yet they are the backbone of production, trade and employment in Africa. UNDP invests in interventions that can enhance competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and bridge the connectivity gaps to markets, especially for businesses that are led or dominated by women and youth.



Collaborated with the Informal Cross Border Trade project of the African Borderlands Centre and created the opportunity to observe the nuances of small-scale trade led by women along the borders of **Zambia/Zimbabwe, Ghana/Togo/Benin, Mali/Burkina Faso/ Niger and Sudan/South Sudan.**



UNDP Accelerator labs supported creation of tailor-made technology driven solutions to respond to challenges identified by borderland traders.

Carried out regional and country level dialogues, regulatory and policy convergence and compliance, AfCFTA sectoral assessments.



Supported RECs and countries to operationalize their AfCFTA action plans, ensuring inclusive implementation of the AfCFTA at all levels.



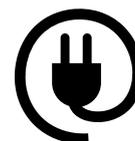
The demand for minerals is increasing, driven by rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development, post-disaster reconstruction and industrialisation. Extraction is likely to continue to meet this demand. However, the resource-rich countries remain highly indebted, with little economic structural transformation and serious environmental degradation and social instability.

UNDP's regional "Africa Mining Governance Project" strengthened the capacity of the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC), to support implementation of the African Union Mining Vision Action Plan and the transition of the AMDC into a fully-fledged AUC specialized agency. In addition supported the signing agreement between the AUC and the Republic of Guinea for hosting the AMDC in Conakry.



€ 2.5 million funding secured from EU through UNDP's flagship project the "African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States-European Union Development Minerals Programme" to provide further support to the AMDC.

In 2022, UNDP will work on a guideline on the use of new energy efficient production, processing and recycling of minerals and continue supporting the updating of the African Mining Vision (AMV) in light of the global commitments to net-zero carbon emissions.

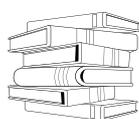


UNDP uses Development Planning as a lever to integrate and accelerate SDGs, AU agenda 2063, and the agendas of the RECs. In addition, UNDP fosters good economic governance as a critical enabler and accelerate SDGs, A2063 and RECs agendas. While the AU and the RECs play an role to strengthen regional integration, enhance their capacities, UNDP enables the advancement of their priorities.

Partnered with the AU, AfDB, and UNECA to articulate a Guide for Integrated Planning in Africa that examines the extent to which countries have integrated SDGs, A2063 and the RECs agendas in **Kenya, Lesotho, Eswatini, and Eritrea.**



UNDP produces knowledge, tools, policy solutions and invests in partnerships that promote an integrated approach and support greater inclusion, productivity and trade of informal economy workers and enterprises throughout value chains. UNDP equally advocates for the extension of social protection and economic opportunities to informal workers and those in non-standard employment. In **Botswana, Eswatini, South Africa, Togo or Zimbabwe**, UNDP supported comprehensive reforms towards greater access to social protection by informal economy workers and is researching on the role of local communities, including those in the borderlands, in the provision of 'informal' social protection with the aim of improving their risk management abilities.



In collaboration with ILO launched the **Informality and Social Protection in African Countries: A Forwardlooking Assessment of Contributory Schemes** report at the global and regional level.

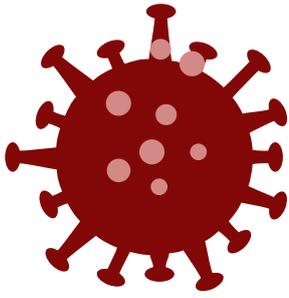


Finalized two case studies (Zimbabwe and Ghana) as part of the Community based social protection project.



Updated Social Assistance in Africa Database and platform profiling over 100 social assistance programmes in Africa.

TRANSFORM a UNDP inter-agency training initiative trained 44 persons (23 male, 21 female) from African governments and UNDP country offices.



At the 2021 UN General Assembly, UNDP offered African leaders innovative ideas on how to stimulate African economies post the COVID 19 pandemic. The model offers pathways such as favorable export costs as an impetus to post-pandemic recovery and committing to creating enabling environments for intra-African trade. It also includes targeted action like improving access to finance and creating conducive business environments, such as expediting export/import documentation at borders and avoiding prohibitive trade charges.

In collaboration with Africa Investor UNDP developed a model and an implementation plan and continues to seize political opportunities to promote this model targeting heads of Regional Economic Community Secretariats, Heads of State and key policymakers.



Photo: Rejoice Emmanuel/UNDP Nigeria

Nature, Climate and Energy

The rapid acceleration of climate change presents the biggest existential threat to humanity with people living in lower income countries, many in Africa, facing disproportionate consequences. To meet the ambitious goals set out in Agendas 2063 and 2030, including the Paris Agreement Africa must effectively respond to climate change and environmental degradation by promoting climate resilience across sectors, ensuring sustainable utilization of environmental resources and reduction of vulnerability in climate sensitive livelihoods.

Extreme weather and climate-related disasters are increasingly affecting African populations, jeopardizing livelihoods, causing new displacements, eroding resilience capacity, and pushing millions into extreme poverty. Landslides, flash floods, droughts, cyclones, and other climate-change-induced disasters have profoundly impacted the African continent over the past two years. As Africa continues to address the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine, the continent has the immense opportunity to leapfrog climate-resilient development pathways and to move towards a sustainable, equitable and green recovery; making sure no one is left behind. With inadequate electrification in Sub-Saharan Africa, access to clean and affordable energy is key to Africa's inclusive and sustainable transformation. Managing the transition towards greater use of renewable energies while massively expanding access to energy for productive and domestic use is vital for attaining the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

As part of the Global Policy Network in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, the Nature, Climate Change, and Energy (NCE) Team at RBA promote integrated whole-of-governance approaches that leverage nature-based solutions to reduce poverty and inequalities, strengthen livelihoods and inclusive growth, mitigate conflict, forced migration and displacement, enable resilient governance systems to advance peace and security agendas. UNDP in Africa works with African governments, civil society, and the private sector to integrate natural capital, environment

and climate concerns into national and sector planning and inclusive growth policies; support African country obligations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements; and implementation of in-country programming on the environment, climate change, and energy. The diverse portfolio encompasses Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including forests; Sustainable Land Management and Desertification, including food and commodity systems; Water and Ocean Governance, including SIDS; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Renewable Energy; Chemicals and Waste Management; Environmental Governance and Green/Circular Economy. This work advances crosscutting themes on innovative finance, digital transformation, capacity development, human rights, gender equality, health, technology, and South-South learning.

UNDP as an accredited multilateral implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Multilateral Fund (MLF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which includes the GEF Trust Fund; the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund; the Least Developed Countries Fund; and the Special Climate Change Fund, provides countries with specialized integrated technical services for eligibility assessment, programme formulation, capacity development, policy advice, technical assistance, training and technology transfer, mobilization of co-financing, implementation oversight, results in management and evaluation, performance-based payments and knowledge management services.



Photo: Rejoice Emmanuel/UNDP, Nigeria



Measuring resilience in the Horn of Africa:

UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Team (DRT), together with FAO and WFP, supported the IGAD's Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU) to strengthen and apply 13 indicators mainly focusing on drought and food security in drafting a state of resilience report. To be reviewed for a substantive testing in 2022.



Building capability for forecasting:

In partnership with NORCAP, supported IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in drafting an IBF manual, approach and framework with the view of testing and adapting it in 2022 and, creating a PostGIS (spatial) database of climate-related disasters covering over 2,000 records of climate related events.

Integrated approaches to early warning:

UNDP through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Team (DRT) and Governance and Peace Building teams, and with IGAD (ICPAC and the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism-CEWARN teams) advocated and designed a more integrated approach for detecting future crisis with a climate security lens to boost internal capabilities within IGAD in 2022.



Provided Kenya with financial and technical support to develop a Synthesis Report and Climate Finance Program focusing on Budgetary and fiscal Reform for Building Local Level Resilience through Mainstreaming of Planning and Budgeting Processes at National and County Levels. The climate financing strategy is being used to downscale integration of climate financing into County and Sub-County planning and budgeting processes.

Provided technical support to mainstream climate finance into national and sub-national budgeting and planning processes. **Eswatini** mainstreamed and integrated climate change into the Implementation Master Plan for Economic Recovery and Transformation (2019-2023); and, **Nigeria** integrated the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement into the National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan as well as its implementation plan and budget.

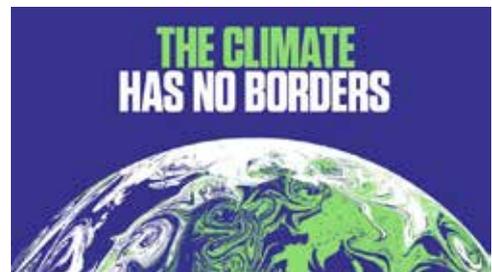
Provided Ghana technical and financial support towards the development of a Second CPEIR aimed at increasing national capacity for integrating climate finance in public finance systems and direct access to global climate finance. In addition, a Climate Budget Tagging operations manual and associated guideline for the Government was developed to provide step-by-step guidance on the climate finance reporting system at the various Divisions at Ministry of Finance.



44 African countries

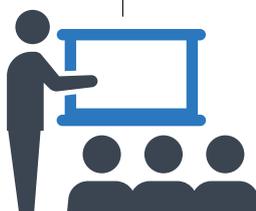
supported to revise/update or enhance their national climate plans commonly referred to as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – the largest undertaking globally. 38 countries have completed the process and submitted their NDCs positioning UNDP in Africa as the “go to” partner for NDC implementation. The process involved broad consultation with key stakeholders including private sector and crafting of NDC financing and investment strategies including at sector level such as agriculture, health, transport and others in the context of green and resilient COVID19 recovery.

Technical and financial support was provided to Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) preparatory meetings in 2021. At the COP26 UNDP supported the attendance of 3 African delegates (2 women and 1 man) to ensure Africa's voice is heard at the negotiation table; and, in collaboration with civil society partners - International Institute for Environment and Development IIED, UK, Collaborative Africa Budget Reform, and International Budget Partnership IBP organised 2 side events at COP 26.



Facilitated the integration of gender in the NDC revision processes by allocation of a separate budget. The Public climate Finance project promoted gender mainstreaming in a double mainstreaming strategy that promotes Country Actions to Integrate Gender and Climate into Budget and Finance and ensuring that climate and gender are mainstreamed into national budgeting.

Under the GEF project, a value chain greening training manual was produced, an e-training course was prepared to complement face-to-face training, two project facilitation platforms organized, and two catalytic grants provided to sub regional (East and West African) organizations



In partnership with AGRA organised two online regional training sessions, the first covering 12 target countries (**Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Swaziland, Senegal, Uganda and Tanzania**) on resilience and greening food value chains. In country physical training and technical assistance conducted in **Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Nigeria**. A total of 97 value chain greening participants were trained.



Photo: Rejoice Emmanuel/UJNDP, Nigeria

Governance and Peacebuilding

Africa represents by far the most exciting frontier for sustainable development, achieving peace and prosperity, and 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 SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Cognizant that Governance and peacebuilding are fundamental pillars for sustainable development, UNDP in Africa through the RSCA takes a regional approach, while providing tools for adaptive responses to governance and peacebuilding at the country level. The Governance and Peacebuilding team, focus six key pillars through an integrated systems approach:

- **Prevention of conflict and early action;** Conflict prevention is the core of the UN's mandate. The Regional Bureau through the RSCA contributes towards UNDP's prevention and peacebuilding ambition and promote a strong development lens that calls for acting early and at scale in conflict and crisis prevention and peacebuilding. Within this context, the pillar focuses on: Strengthening continuous analysis using available tools, such as the Crisis Risk Dashboard and emerging digital technologies; investing in research to further enhance thought leadership and adaptive approaches; supporting implementation of regional frameworks; and building support for transitions and stabilization efforts.
- **Investing in Africa's youth;** Africa has the world's youngest population with more than 60 percent of its population under the age of 24. The African Union Youth Charter recognizes youth as assets and effective and capable partners who can make a unique contribution to ongoing development and their involvement is a prerequisite for peace and prosperity. However, many young people remain unemployed and marginalized and, face challenges in accessing public resources and quality social services. Their contributions to policy formulation, programme development and decision-making has been limited, fragmented and, often, ad hoc. Including young people effectively in peacebuilding processes and infrastructures remains critical to maintaining peace and promoting economic development, given their innovation and digital technology capacities.
- **Economic governance -** The risks related to governance issues, such as acquiring licenses, uncertain taxation, and failure to acquire the social license to operate, have contributed to preventing African countries from transforming resource wealth to production and revenues and, sustainable development. UNDP seeks to support the use of data and evidence-based policies to promote economic governance and strengthen capacities for economic and natural resource/environmental governance through designing, updating, and upgrading policies, institutions and regulatory arrangements, among other key areas.
- **Democratic governance and civic participation -** Achieving meaningful citizen participation in decision-making through genuine elections thus requires a broader approach. On a continent where more than 60 percent of the population is under 24 years of



age, loss of trust in democratic governance could have longer-term impacts on peace, security and development. Building upon existing national contexts, UNDP contributes to the strengthening of democracy in Africa by promoting inclusive participation, strengthening electoral institutions and processes, and creating space for engagement between institutions and civil society.

- Promoting the rule of law, justice and human rights - Society's resilience in the face of crisis, conflict, natural disasters, and climate, and social and economic shocks is strongest when justice and security institutions are accountable and effective, when citizens and human rights actors are empowered and able to claim rights and accountability, and where civic space is protected and inclusive. The RSCA governance and peacebuilding team supports country offices and the respective national and regional counterparts to ensure that people, particularly women, youth, people with alternative gender identities, homosexuals and People Living with Disability (PLWDs), have the knowledge and tools to claim their rights and seek accountability if they are violated. Additionally, UNDP

supports initiatives that ensure that justice and security institutions have the resources, competencies and technical capacities needed to better serve the public and instill public trust in the rule of law.

- Local governance and delivery of public services - Strengthening responsive, accountable and inclusive core governance functions is an important vehicle for ensuring service delivery, build social capital (horizontal) and strengthen the social contract (vertical), and ensure the basic functionality of state governance. Buttressing states' core governance functions is an important investment in both public administration and service delivery and in enhancing resilience, reinforcing the social contract, and building peaceful and resilient societies. UNDP's programming on strengthening the centre of government include the subnational level and on building strong public service sectors for service delivery. Emerging digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, have the potential to improve economic planning and resource management and ensure efficient delivery of services.

Snapshot of governance and peacebuilding in 2021

Through a consultative process with the AU, RECs, IGAD, WANEP, and the Governments of Kenya and Burkina Faso facilitated the finalisation of the Early Warning/ Early Response and PVE toolkit.



In Partnership with IGAD – ICEPCVE, conducted research on COVID-19 and PVE nexus and a study on EWER system in IGAD region and Tanzania to inform the development and update/revisions of the national and sub-regional PVE strategies and EWER system respectively.



Conducted regional and sub-regional Evidence-based research on violent extremism: **The Journey to Extremism in Africa 2.0** covering 8 countries* and **Southern Libya Borderlands Violent Extremism Threats Assessment** covering 5 countries** to inform the strategies and plans of targeted member states, sub-regional and regional organizations, and the design of programmatic interventions by the UN and development partners.



In collaboration with IGAD, women and youth networks developed the EWER and PVE Toolkit. **The Czech Embassy in Ethiopia (USD 470,000)**, supported the pilot roll out of the toolkit.



* (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan)
 ** (Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, and Sudan)

Enhanced support for youth empowerment in Africa to promote the positive role of youth in peacebuilding, economic development, civic engagement, climate action.



In Mali, together with UNICEF and UNCDF improved skills and capacity of women and youth to better engage in entrepreneurship and innovation through the Tony Elumelu Foundation that provided training to 2,194 entrepreneurs and 1,862 start-ups, 30% of which were women led.





UNDP supported the ratification, domestication, and implementation of African Union (AU) normative frameworks for advancing the achievement of development-related goals across the continent.



In **Kenya and Senegal**, facilitated the finalisation and digitisation of treaties registers, to enhance access of the ratified treaties by the two countries and enable citizens monitor compliance.



Facilitated the implementation of the AU governance and human rights treaties to provide the normative and legal mechanism, through which Member States can foster greater political and economic integration, while simultaneously catalyzing enhanced peace and security, poverty reduction and SDGs.



Assisted the African Union Office of the Legal Counsel with the translation and alignment of four legal instruments: Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights establishing an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL); AU Policy on Business and Human Rights; and, Statute of the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Center (AIMEC).



Enhanced public awareness on the AU treaties, using animated explainer videos on six governance and human rights treaties produced and disseminated in four languages: English, Arabic, French and Portuguese.



In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Senegalese Human Rights Committee (CSDH) launched the establishment and operationalisation of the National Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Unit to monitor of the implementation of the ratified AU treaties.



Support a study on Gap Analysis of the AU Convention against Corruption in Tunisia and how the AU Convention responds to the efforts of combatting corruption.



Supported the development of a draft Legal Drafting Training Manual on "Rules and Practices of International Treaties" to ensure quality content based on good practice international standards in developing course materials.

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ratifications of the Maputo Protocol

Supported the implementation of the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) that ensures rights of women.



In collaboration with Government of Ghana, Youth Connekt Africa, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and other stakeholders organised the **2021 Youth Connekt Summit in Accra**, under the theme "**Africa Beyond Aid: Positioning the Youth for the Post COVID Economy and AfCFTA Opportunities.**" Brought together over **2,000 in person and 1,500 virtual participants** from government, civil society, private sector, academia, and youth networks. 25 Ministers and Deputy Ministers from across Africa, UNDP regional and country leadership and country youth focal points also participated.

Facilitated and organised the **YouthConnekt Sahel forum**, to interrogate and enhance the role of youth in the peace and prosperity of the region. Approximately **1,000 in person delegates** and over **2,000 virtual participants from across the 10 Sahel countries.**

In partnership with the AU Youth Division launched a podcast series within the framework of the AU "1 million by 2021" initiative to facilitate dialogue between young people and a wide range of stakeholders involved in youth development and leverage exchange of ideas on how to effectively and harness Africa's economic potential of the youth.



Held an extensive consultations with 1,285 individuals across the continent and diaspora, including: representatives of African regional organizations; African think tanks and research organizations; regional professional, civil society, youth, women's, religious and traditional leaders' organizations; refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs); People Living with Disability, (PWDs); private sector; technocrats and experts; political leaders to inform the reimagination of UNDP's Governance and Peacebuilding offer for Africa.





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