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Foreword
The Fragility Exchange

The years leading up to 2022 taught us of our connectedness, proving that despite the things that separate us from each other, we all feel the same, and are the same.

The past year was no different. Together, we saw several threats engulf the continent and place the fabric of many communities at risk. But what caught our attention most, was witnessing challenges from other parts of the world – which many deemed distant – hit the continent just as hard.

While contending with the lasting effects of COVID-19, we welcomed a new threat — the Russia-Ukraine war — which has left in its wake thousands of casualties and forced displacements across Eastern Europe with ripple effects that have reverberated across the globe and ignored national boundaries in the process.

Beneath these are the cascading effects set in motion globally, particularly in parts of West and Central Africa. Economic regression, food insecurity, inflation, dysfunctional political structures, inequality, and more have compounded into an inclined march towards regression, cast a blanket of uncertainty and dimmed regional development prospects – placing the next seven years of implementing the SDGs in jeopardy. Today, more than 130 million people, live in acute multi-dimensional poverty and are in need of urgent development assistance in the Sahel alone.

Amidst this fragility lies the hopes and dreams we shared with millions who call the sub-region home, as we witnessed their incredible resilience and sheer will to navigate unprecedented storms.

Throughout these pages, we take a moment to explore our joint efforts with communities, and partners’ actions that shaped the past year for us and counted towards sustainable development.

In 2022, we recognized the role of regional institutions in unifying member states in today’s highly polarised geopolitical environment which is why entities such as the African Union remain valued partners in driving policy responses and promoting development interventions across the sub-region. This can be seen through our support of the development of the Accra Declaration, which we hope will turn the tide against the worrying trend of coup d’états in West and Central Africa where there have been 6 attempts in the past 12 months alone.

We also deepened our engagement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to support countries rebuilding from conflict, put in place mechanisms that anticipate, respond, and recover from disaster, and support their overall development ambitions. In Liberia, for example, through the UNDP implemented ECOWAS OCWAR-T Project, we witnessed the destruction of more than 105,400 arms, ammunition and explosives retrieved from the Liberian justice system signalling the country’s intention to move on from conflict following years of advocacy on the dangers of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Our efforts in the region helped reach more than 1 million people, including traditional leaders, youth, and women groups.

In Central Africa, we began consultations on a partnership journey with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on areas of collaboration that can help address the multiple crises that have gripped the region while ensuring no one is left behind. Through our new Congo Basin Offer, we support preserving the basin’s ecosystem and enhancing socio-economic development for millions in the region through nature-based solutions.

Our work also evolved as we learned to find ways to help people living in conflict settings and regenerate trust between state and citizens. For example, through our Regional Stabilization Facilities – one of our key flagships to regenerate the Sahel – we helped more than 1.5 million people (including 817,631 women) rebuild their lives in the six countries that comprise the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma regions. Through the economic revitalisation of local communities, capacity building of state security and the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure, our interventions contributed to the return of about 500,000 formerly internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The continuous centrality of the agency of young people remained vital to our work. Throughout the year, we spent time collaborating with youth from 24 West and Central African countries to advance causes related to entrepreneurship, innovation and digitalization, agriculture, and climate change. In Benin for example, we implemented innovation and agricultural boot camps to give young people a head start in their professional and entrepreneurial journeys. We also saw Nigerian youth come together to protect the environment and support local security efforts in monitoring the illicit movement of arms and ammunition, and partnered with a young animation studio to train the region’s next generation of animation industry leaders.

These results, along with others detailed in this report, are evidence of our commitment to the sub-region, and I hope they inspire you to join us in 2023 as we work to effect lasting change in the communities and countries we support.

Njoya Tikum
Director, UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa and Resident Representative, UNDP Senegal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022 IN NUMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>24 Countries</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.3 Million</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>105,400</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.8 Million</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>181,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Benefitted from dedicated country office support
- People benefitted from improved security and essential services through the Lake Chad Stabilization Facility
- Arms, ammunition and weapons recovered and destroyed in Liberia alone
- People reached by 3,064 UN Volunteers mobilized and deployed to the West and Central Africa region
- People benefitted from stabilization interventions in the Liptako-Gourma Region
- People benefitted from advocacy and other interventions through the Small Arms and Light Weapons Initiative
- 3,600
- 2,500
- 51,300
- 1,543
- 500,000
- 800,000

- People supported with livelihood opportunities such as cash for work through the Liptako-Gourma Regional Stabilization Facility
- Seedlings planted by volunteers in two border communities along the Nigeria-Niger border under the ECO Brigade Initiative
- Livelihood opportunities created in the Lake Chad through the Regional Stabilization Facility
- People reached through disaster risk reduction initiatives under the Sahel Resilience Project
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) voluntarily returned to stabilization sites in the Lake Chad Basin
- Beneficiaries from 20 communities in the Liptako-Gourma reached through the UN Joint Programme
The 7-Year Countdown
A Race for the SDGs

The clock is ticking, and we have a race on our hands. With just seven years left to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where exactly do we stand?

In recent years humanity has made significant progress in our march towards sustainable development. Some of our societies are now better off than they were in 2015 thanks to breakthroughs that cut across the SDGs, several cultural milestones, political upheavals that restored hope to the hearts and minds of many, advances in gender equality, and increased access to electricity and clean energy.

However, several factors have introduced a cloud of doubt over the next seven years.

Extreme weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires, and floods continue to wreak havoc in many parts of the world due to climate change. Efforts to reduce carbon emissions and transition to renewable energy sources have gained momentum, but there is still a long way to go to address this looming threat. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War, though very different, have had very costly and lasting implications for the entire world.

Events such as these call to question any statement of progress, as what once was palpable, has lost its weight in the grand scheme of things.

Today, the world remains at a turning point. A point of responsibility - One that falls on each of us, as our homes, communities, families, and very lives are affected by our decisions.

The time to act is now!
### 2022 Country Index

#### West and Central Africa (WACA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>GDP (Billion $)</th>
<th>Innovation Index</th>
<th>Global Peace Index</th>
<th>Terrorism Index</th>
<th>Fragility Index</th>
<th>HDI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>12.8 Million</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>2.725</td>
<td>8.233</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td>0.535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>221 Million</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.709</td>
<td>45.05</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>27.9 Million</td>
<td>441.54</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.786</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Verde</td>
<td>0.6 Million</td>
<td>0.662</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>2.709</td>
<td>45.05</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>5 Million</td>
<td>17.61</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>2.332</td>
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<td>99.6</td>
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<td>17.41</td>
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<td>72.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>22.7 Million</td>
<td>69.75</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>2.144</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>0.525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>95.2 Million</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>3.166</td>
<td>57.09</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>0.525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>1.5 Million</td>
<td>84.1</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>0.465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>2.3 Million</td>
<td>0.706</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>1.973</td>
<td>19.16</td>
<td>89.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Gambia</td>
<td>2.6 Million</td>
<td>0.632</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>1.973</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>0.465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>13.9 Million</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>3.166</td>
<td>57.09</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>2.1 Million</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>3.166</td>
<td>1.863</td>
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<td>89.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>2.3 Million</td>
<td>0.706</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>1.973</td>
<td>19.16</td>
<td>89.6</td>
<td>0.465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>21.5 Million</td>
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<td>19.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>261 Million</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>107.3</td>
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<td>57.09</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>0.525</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>216.7 Million</td>
<td>8.233</td>
<td>2.725</td>
<td>1.984</td>
<td>12.85</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.445</td>
</tr>
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<td>Republic of Congo</td>
<td>5.8 Million</td>
<td>0.571</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</td>
<td>0.2 Million</td>
<td>0.618</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>0.477</td>
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<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.535</td>
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<td>Togo</td>
<td>8.7 Million</td>
<td>0.539</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>0.535</td>
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**Sources**
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- GDP: International Monetary Fund
- Global Peace Index: Institute of Economics and Peace
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Our Development Offer
UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025

8 billion people, 8 billion voices and 8 billion opportunities. This is the world we live in today – a rapidly changing one. However, as the world evolves, so do our challenges. Amidst this is a growing sense of unity, as the once invisible thread that binds us has become more visible, reminding us that we are all in this together.

This is the crux of the new UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025. We believe real and meaningful change can only be achieved by working together, which is why the Strategic Plan is born out of an extensive co-creation process that unites partners around eradicating poverty, promoting equity and inclusion, addressing systemic inequalities, improving energy access, promoting good governance and supporting countries and communities in achieving the SDGs.

These ambitions are framed around a 3x6x3 model - an approach that combines 3 directions of systemic change, 6 signature solutions and 3 enablers for development impact.

We have already begun to see a glimmer of optimism springing up across several communities through some of our combined efforts. From the bell pepper gardens in Diffa, Niger, where we see farmers in large red-smudged fields engaged in trading activities, to communities in Borno State, Nigeria, like Ngarranam, where hope is returning after Boko Haram attacks had swept it up.

Senegal is seeing a rise in agriculture and industrialization, Mauritania is adopting clean energy solutions, and in Chad, more than 7 million people came together in an inclusive national dialogue process.

There are many more indicators that point toward substantial development. Yet, we need to step up our collaborative efforts with countries to:

- Help 100 million people escape multidimensional poverty
- Support 800 million people to participate in elections many for the first time
- Promote Over US$1 trillion worth of investment in the SDGs
- Support 500 million people to gain access to clean energy
Our Architecture for Delivery
Driving Meaningful Change

The UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa (UNDP WACA) is one of three hubs couched in the Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA), UNDP’s dedicated programmatic and knowledge centre for 46 Country Offices in Sub-Saharan Africa. The RSCA acts as the main interface between UNDP and regional entities such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

In close collaboration with the Regional Programme for Africa (Addis Ababa), the UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa and the Africa Borderlands Centre (Nairobi) and the UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (Pretoria), UNDP WACA supports 24 countries in varying stages of development and fluid security conditions. UNDP WACA also counts on outposts in N’Djamen, Ouagadougou and New York for strategic oversight, partnership opportunities and on-ground capacity support.

Through our regional initiatives along themes such as Governance and Peacebuilding, Youth, Resilience Building, Renewable Energy, Stabilization and Climate Security, we help usher in structural transformation and build resilient people and communities.

#IAMSAHEL
Celebrating Sahelian Resilience and Ingenuity

The Sahel is regenerating itself, and UNDP is pleased to accompany the region in its historic journey to sustainable transformation. Throughout the region, stories of strength and revitalization are giving breath to renewed hope, progress and prosperity.

Through the #IAMSAHEL campaign, UNDP WACA seeks to spotlight these stories, ignite progress that lifts and empowers millions and ultimately allow Sahelians to take ownership of their destinies.

The campaign will be launched in the second quarter of 2023 using the hashtags #IAMSAHEL and #ThrivingSahel across various media platforms.

Join the campaign and tell us about the Sahel of your Dreams.

JANKEY JASSEY
Solar Engineer
The Gambia
WACA Investment Analysis

Overview of UNDP Interventions in the WACA Region

The UNDP Signature Solutions continue to guide UNDP interventions in the region. These solutions comprise of Poverty and Inequality, Governance, Resilience, Environment, Energy and Gender Equality.

Findings revealed governance (39%) and poverty and inequality (34%) were the primary areas of focus for the majority of UNDP projects between 2017 and 2021. Together, these solutions accounted for 73% of the thematic priorities of the reviewed UNDP projects. Sustainable environment and resilience were targeted by 12% and 9% of projects, respectively.

Between 2017 and 2021, UNDP projects in the WACA region primarily targeted people living in rural areas (43%). This is followed by people living in urban areas (30%) and peri-urban areas (23%). However, only a small percentage (5%) of projects were aimed at improving the lives of people living in slums, highlighting the need for a more distinct approach to urban and slum interventions to address the needs of people living in slums effectively.

This is of particular relevance, given the high percentage of slum populations in urban parts of many countries in the WACA region (e.g., 87% in Chad). By targeting slums more effectively, UNDP projects can have a significant impact on improving the lives of the most vulnerable populations in the region. For example, to help address plastic pollution and improve livelihoods in slum areas in Sierra Leone, UNDP mobilized $400,000 to provide waste recycling training to 120 women and 30 men. The project also worked with local women’s organizations to establish waste management communities and provide tools to participants in cleaning operations. The project also allowed youth to engage in upcycling initiatives, where plastic waste was transformed in bags, mats and hats.

The main donors of the reviewed 899 ongoing UNDP projects in West and Central Africa were the United Nations system (via. UNDP core contributions at 51%), followed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) countries (17%), Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTFs) and Joint Programmes (14%), vertical funds (9%) and other sources which include national governments (9%).

Between 2017 and 2021, UNDP projects in the WACA region primarily targeted people living in rural areas (43%). This is followed by people living in urban areas (30%) and peri-urban areas (23%). However, only a small percentage (5%) of projects were aimed at improving the lives of people living in slums, highlighting the need for a more distinct approach to urban and slum interventions to address the needs of people living in slums effectively.

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A Regeneration at a Glance
UNDP's Contribution to Implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)

- **20.8 MILLION** people provided with access to clean and affordable energy
- **600,000 PEOPLE** provided with improved infrastructure for recovery in crisis settings
- **1.3 MILLION PEOPLE** provided with access to finance
- **5 MILLION JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS** created in crisis settings and 1 million jobs in informal sectors
- **13.8 MILLION PEOPLE** gained access to justice
- **15.3 MILLION PEOPLE** benefitted from access to basic services
- **6.3 MILLION PEOPLE** benefitted from mechanisms for biodiversity solutions
- **58 MILLION PEOPLE** supported to participate in elections
- **13.7 MILLION ARE** of degraded land in protected areas recovered
- **4.8 MILLION IDPS** supported with integrated targeted interventions, including social cohesion
- **OVER 5 MILLION YOUTH** supported and more than 30,000 SMEs created
- **OVER 100 KEY GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS** strengthened at national and local levels
- **58 MILLION PEOPLE** supported to participate in elections
- **10.3 MILLION PEOPLE** provided with improved infrastructure for recovery in crisis settings

UNDP WACA • Annual Report 2022
UNDP Regional Director for Africa in Senegal 🌐

Mission Highlights

In November 2022, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator, and Regional Director for Africa, Ahunna Eziakonwa, embarked on a four-day visit to Dakar, Senegal. During her trip, she met with senior government and UN officials and partners, including the Prime Minister of Senegal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, the UN Resident Coordinator, and the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel.

Throughout her visit, the Regional Director addressed complex issues such as peacebuilding and stabilization, gender equality, climate change, and the need to attain sustainable development for historically underserved parts of Senegal and the Sahel.

One of the highlights of her trip was meeting with partners to explore the Stabilization Model as a Development Solution to Peace and Security in the Sahel and advance coordination and collaboration among humanitarian and stabilization actors. She also co-chaired the Regional Coordination Platform (RCP), where the urgency of rescuing, upscaling, and accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa was discussed.

Another highlight was a field trip to the Sandiara Industrial Zone, where she witnessed the positive impact of UNDP-supported initiatives helping to promote socio-economic transformation and women and youth empowerment.

As her trip drew to a close, the Regional Director also took the time to meet with the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub and Country Office Team in Senegal, reminding staff of the critical importance of their work. Her statement was clear: to ensure that millions in the region are lifted from poverty, gain entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, and access critical and life-saving services.
Our Work
In recent years, socio-economic challenges have plagued nations around the world, fueling instability and eroding public trust in democratic institutions. In West and Central Africa, this has led to a rise in military coups, with many countries struggling to establish stable and democratic governance. For example, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, and Mali have all experienced coups since 2021, with countries like Burkina Faso and Chad facing multiple attempts.

Adding to these challenges, the region is also grappling with insecurity primarily driven by violent extremism, with around 9,000 conflict-related fatalities recorded in 2022. Extremist groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS affiliates continue to carry out numerous attacks, making it difficult for governments to establish effective governance, resulting in weak institutions, corruption, ethnic and religious tensions, and poverty in the region.

Overall, the state of governance in the Sahel remains a significant challenge, and efforts are needed to understand and address the root causes of instability and insecurity in the region. This includes strengthening institutions, addressing corruption, promoting economic development, and promoting dialogue between different groups.

To help address these challenges, UNDP joined hands with partners to organize a Colloquium on the Enhancement of Democracy and Good Governance in West Africa and a Roundtable on the State of Governance in the Sahel. These events provided an opportunity to examine the state of governance in the region and provide recommendations for legal frameworks and procedures that could contribute to a holistic and context-driven revision of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Governance. Additionally, two commissioned studies on the “Impact of Geopolitics on Peace and Prosperity in the Sahel” and “The State of Governance in the Sahel” were discussed and published.

To ensure that addressing peace and security issues in Central Africa remains a top priority in our efforts, UNDP also re-established a partnership with ECCAS and supported the first high-level regional dialogue on the African Peace Architecture in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The meeting discussed the contributions of the APSA in Central Africa and provided recommendations to strengthen peace and security strategies and tools in the region.

By consolidating such initiatives with our development interventions in governance and peacebuilding, we can contribute to a more stable and prosperous future for the Sahel region.

Partner Organizations
ECCAS, ECOWAS, International IDEA, OSIWA, Koffi Annan Foundation, UNOWAS, UN Office of the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, NDI
Democracy is always a work in progress. Strengthening democratic institutions and promoting truly democratic institutions and democratic governance processes such as elections is central to overcoming democratic deficits and fostering the link between democracy and human development.
Positioning Youth for Peace and Prosperity

West and Central Africa is home to an estimated half a billion people and more than 64% under 25, making young people one of its greatest assets.

Yet, gender inequality, limited access to education and unemployment hinder the socio-economic prospects of young people across the region. Amidst this, countries are experiencing a fast rate of digital transformation and growing demand for digital skills - an opportunity for countries in the region to capitalize on.

Recognizing this, UNDP is working hand in hand with young people in the region through several initiatives that touch on digitalization and innovation, business and agriculture. In Cotonou, Benin, we launched an Innovation Bootcamp bringing together 39 young people from the region and equipping them with skills that place them in the driving seat of their development. The programme’s second phase, which took place at the Songhai Center in Porto-Novo, Benin, included practical sessions on agri-business, energy and digital innovation.

Our work also touched upon the global creative and animation industry which has established itself as a significant part of the global economy and countries like Nigeria and Senegal are beginning to reap its benefits, but a lot more opportunity lies in this industry, especially for young people.

According to data from Precedence Research, the animation industry alone reached a market size of US$391.10 billion in 2022 and is projected to reach over US$587.1 billion by 2030. To help young people tap into this industry, we teamed up with Magic Carpet Studios in Lagos, Nigeria, for a visual animation training of 30 young innovators who gained hands-on experience in 2D/3D animation, motion graphics, and traditional and cut-out animation and provided the theoretical, technical, and business knowledge needed to build thriving careers in the creative industry.

Through the “Yes to Greening, No to Illicit Arms Trafficking Campaign,” 60 young volunteers were mobilized from two border communities in Sokoto State - Illela and Jibia along the border with the Republic of Niger to plant 2,500 trees while supporting security agencies with intelligence gathering on illicit arms movement across the borders.

Partner Organizations
Magic Carpet Studios, Songhai Center, UNICEF, UN Office of the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel
We are excited to work with talented people from the region. Our intention, through this partnership, is to expand opportunities for young people and ensure that through digital skills, the unemployment rate in the region can be reduced significantly.

Ferdinand Adimefe
Chief Executive Officer, Magic Carpet Studios
Rural Electrification in the Liptako-Gourma Region

Affordable and clean energy is crucial to speeding up development and eliminating conflict drivers, making its access essential for the Liptako-Gourma region. Given its interconnectedness with other fields, renewable energy supply has the potential to significantly advance human well-being in areas as varied as environmental protection, health care, education, gender equality, and economic growth. Women and girls are given more opportunities to learn new skills, young people are given chances to start businesses and gain employment, and local authorities and institutions are bolstered due to clean energy access.

The “Support for rural electrification by renewable energy systems in the Liptako-Gourma region” project is a 3-year initiative funded by SIDA to provide more than 300,000 people with access to clean and sustainable energy and bring clean cooking possibilities closer to those most left behind in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.

To understand the risks the private sector faces in solar PV mini-grid investments and support the improvement of the regulatory frameworks that address these risks, De-risking Renewable Energy Investments (DREI) studies were undertaken to establish enabling conditions for private investments in rural access to clean energy. Baseline studies on clean cooking and an intervention strategy for promoting clean cooking solutions in Liptako-Gourma were developed.

In addition to building a strong knowledge and investment environment, the project is also helping to facilitate increased internet and digital technology access and is establishing six solar PV mini-grids, two in each country, that would help provide electricity to previously unconnected households, hospitals, schools, and borderland communities.

Partner Organizations
LGA, The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, UNOPS

Financial Partners
Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (SIDA)
The Sahel region has a large endowment of natural resources, including solar and other renewable energy sources, that are ripe for a green energy revolution.
The Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS) is a 5-year, multi-level strategy comprising of nine strategic pillars:

- Enhancing political cooperation
- Providing security and protecting human rights
- Disarming, demobilizing, rehabilitating, reinserting, and reintegrating
- Providing humanitarian assistance
- Ensuring good governance and the social contract is respected
- Promoting socio-economic recovery and environmental sustainability
- Providing education, learning, and skills
- Preventing violent extremism and building peace
- Women and youth empowerment

To drive its implementation, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) counts on the efforts of the RSS Secretariat and partners to mobilize support for millions of affected people, and deploy humanitarian, development, and security interventions to end the insurgency.

In 2022, the RSS Secretariat, with support from UNDP, developed and launched a Knowledge Management Platform for the LCBC as a go-to source of information on joint efforts in the region and a tool for enhancing networking, stakeholder interaction, and coordination.

The Secretariat also worked closely with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to enhance Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) and advance regional security. This included capacity support to the MNJTF on CIMIC principles and the development of a clear framework between the MNJTF and stabilization actors. Quick impact projects were undertaken via CIMIC to help communities and build confidence between civilians and the MNJTF by increasing access to water, promoting health, rehabilitating key infrastructure, and enhancing service delivery.

To better identify emerging patterns and improve cross-border coordination and collaboration across humanitarian, development, and security actors, the Secretariat commissioned several research and policy papers and other information products last year.

These efforts and more reflect the collaborative nature of the work done by RSS Secretariat, UN agencies in the region, regional bodies and other stakeholders, IFIs, Think Tanks, the Private Sector, Media, and international organizations to drive the implementation of the strategy.

**Partners**
LCBC, AU, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria

**Financial Partners**
Germany, Sweden, The United Kingdom, EU, The Netherlands, African Development Bank
#RebuildingTogether in the Lake Chad Basin

The Boko Haram crisis in the Lake Chad Basin is one of the region’s most devastating conflicts in recent history. For more than a decade, the extremist group has wreaked havoc in the region, causing widespread destruction, displacement, and loss of lives and livelihoods.

Today, more than 11 million people need assistance, over 1,000 schools are non-functional and nearly 3 million people are displaced due to the conflict. The impact of the crisis is felt in many lives and communities across the affected countries – Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

Through the Regional Stabilization Facility, we help rebuild communities impacted by the conflict. Our joint efforts with national and international actors helped more than 1.3 million people including more than 700,000 women, in 2022 alone. Our livelihood interventions in the form of cash-for-work programmes, business grants, and other employment opportunities directly supported more than 51,000 people, thus contributing to the revitalization of several communities in the region.

The project also helped strengthen security in target locations through capacity development to more than 3,400 security providers and the construction and rehabilitation of 139 security and justice infrastructure. These interventions contributed to the voluntary surrender of more than 100,000 people formerly associated with Boko Haram to Nigerian security outfits and an improved perception of access to safety, security, and justice. In target locations in Nigeria and Chad, for example, 60.4% reported having improved access to justice, while 84% of people in target locations across Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria reported feeling safe and secure, an increase of 48% compared to 2020.

To help restore normalcy for communities and families, our joint efforts also included constructing and rehabilitating 442 social services infrastructures such as hospitals and schools, 2,260 streetlights, and productivity centres such as markets and shops.

Interventions like these helped bring hope back to communities and contributed to returning about 500,000 formerly displaced people to their homes after years of displacement.

**Beneficiaries**

- 1,357,713 Beneficiaries
- 51,300 Livelihood Beneficiaries
- About 500,000 IDPs returned

**Partners**

LCBC, AU, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria

**Financial Partners**

African Development Bank, EU, France, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Sweden, UN Women and The United Kingdom
I am delighted to be returning to fishing. I have a dozen fish that I was able to catch this morning, and one sells for CFA 2,500. I can’t wait to get back on the water to get more fish. Thanks to fishing, now we can eat, we can trade, and I can send my children to school again.

Zara Abdullahi, Chad
Regional Stabilization Facility for the Liptako-Gourma Region

Similar to the Lake Chad Basin, the Liptako-Gourma region (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) also faces a swathe of issues consisting of violent extremism perpetuated by jihadist groups, weak institutions, unconstitutional political transitions, economic relapse and much more that have taken a heavy toll on the region, forcing many to flee their homes in search of safety and security and better opportunities.

Our experience in the Lake Chad Basin and other fragile settings have taught us that military interventions alone cannot address these challenges. Long-term regional transformation must be driven by development interventions that are both complementary and integrated, helping to address the root causes of conflict and building community cohesion.

Together with the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) and national governments, UNDP, through the Stabilization Facility for the Liptako-Gourma Region, reached more than 181,000 people, including over 91,000 women, amidst sometimes volatile security conditions and challenging community dynamics in the project’s first year of implementation.

Through livelihood initiatives such as cash-for-work and other employment opportunities designed to support the region’s economic revitalization, we directly supported more than 3,600 people and constructed and rehabilitated 11 income-generating centres, such as market stalls and shops for affected communities.

To strengthen local security, we provided 264 security providers with capacity-building opportunities and constructed and rehabilitated three infrastructures for police, the judiciary, and other security and justice institutions. Such efforts create conditions for improved security and economic opportunities and help reduce the incentives for violent extremism.

Additionally, UNDP provided 678 streetlights and 19 social services infrastructures, such as schools and hospitals, that help promote access to essential services and restore normalcy to affected communities in the region.

These interventions complement cross-border dialogue mechanisms and a stabilization strategy being developed for the LGA to help create a better future for many in the region.

Partners
LGA, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

Financial Partners
Czech Republic, Denmark, EU, Germany, Japan and Netherlands
Through transformative interventions, UNDP supports efforts to rebuild ravaged towns, promote income generation and equip security structures to help prevent further relapse into conflict.
Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDP, through its Sahel Resilience Project, embarked on strengthening policy and institutional capacities at regional and national levels to understand the multi-dimensional risks facing the region and devise mechanisms that anticipate and respond to these challenges while integrating risk reduction in development planning and investment decisions to promote risk-informed development in the seven target countries in the region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal).

Through five areas of action – data for decision-making, risk governance, recovery preparedness, resilient urban areas, and regional engagement on risk-informed development, the project was able to reach 1,543 representatives (including 373 women) from national institutions and agencies, international and regional entities, partner universities, and government agencies.

To help countries build back better from COVID-19 and reinforce political commitments to DRR, UNDP launched two flagship studies in partnership with ECOWAS. Two continental frameworks for enhancing disaster resilience in Africa were also published in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and endorsed at the Heads of State Summit in 2022, providing a comprehensive review of existing structures, policies, and practices and addressing the vulnerabilities in the Sahel and the continent.

The project also supported national governments and the AGRHYMET regional climate centre in establishing disaster risk information management systems through harmonizing disaster risk data and developing platforms and tools for data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

UNDP also developed various tools and best practice models for risk-informed sustainable development available to national governments and regional economic communities. These tools are being adopted to improve policy, regulatory and budgetary frameworks for socio-economic sectoral investments, development planning, and resource mobilization.

In response to the growing number of disasters in urban settings, UNDP, in partnership with UN-Habitat, supported the development of the Spatial Development Strategy for the Sahel – a territorial approach for building safe, inclusive, and resilient human settlements in the Sahel – that can allow for investment decisions for sustainable development including in fragile contexts.

Partner Organizations
AU, ECOWAS, UN-Habitat, UN Women, AGRHYMET, PeriPeri U/Stellenbosch University, LCBC

Financial Partners
Sweden

1,543 People Reached
2 Frameworks Launched
2 Studies Published
The increasing frequency of disasters, whether natural or man-made, highlights fragilities and inequalities; it underlines the urgency of acting in a united manner.

H.E. Prof. Fatou Sow Sarr
ECOWAS Commissioner for Human Development and Social Affairs
Silencing the Guns across West and Central Africa

In several parts of West and Central Africa, porous borders have created a breeding ground for extremist and terrorist groups, thus increasing security challenges in the region. Governance and development deficits, unresolved communal conflicts, and a lack of opportunities for young people and women have further added to the region’s fragility. The result has been increased circulation and illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

To tackle this issue, UNDP’s regional programme on SALW, undertook several interventions in the nine countries across the Sahel and Mano River region. Through targeted sensitization and outreach activities, over 1 million traditional leaders, legitimate hunters, youth, and women’s organizations were reached across the region on the dangers associated with the proliferation, possession, and illicit trafficking of SALW.

The program also deepened partnerships with the AU and ECCAS. For example, UNDP supported the first ECCAS high-level regional meeting on the African Peace Architecture for Africa to devise strategies that enhance peacebuilding and prevention efforts in Central Africa.

A ground-breaking study was also conducted to understand the contributions of illicit small arms and light weapons to cross-border disputes in the Sahel. The study highlighted the importance of stockpile management practices, human rights issues and the growing trend of locally manufactured SALW in mining areas.

UNDP, through the Organized Crime and West Africa against Trafficking project, also supported arms collection and destruction across the region. In Liberia, for example, more than 105,400 arms, ammunition, and explosives were collected and destroyed, making it the first time the judiciary granted access to seized illicit arms in the custody of the Police Service and courts after cases had been resolved.

UNDP also supported Government agencies and National Commissions of Small Arms with review exercises of SALW management frameworks and provided equipment and training for effective arms management. This included the handover of a fully equipped border management facility at the entry seaport in Ghana, a primary route for goods to Burkina Faso and Cote d’Ivoire. Additionally, UNDP engaged youth volunteers as “ECO Brigade SALW Ambassadors” along the Nigeria-Niger border to plant trees and educate their communities on the dangers of illicit trafficking of SALW.

Partner Organizations
AU, ECOWAS, GIZ, NATCOM

Financial Partners
Germany, EU
Every bullet fired from an illicit weapon threatens the peace and stability of communities. We must put an end to the unchecked proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the region.
The UN Joint Programme for the Liptako-Gourma Region

Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable and often inaccessible borderland communities of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, which are facing extreme poverty due to ongoing security and climatic variability, is a primary goal of the UN Joint Programme for Liptako-Gourma.

Launched in 2018, the programme is a collaborative effort between 8 UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNWOMEN, OHCHR, UNODC, UNESCO, ILO, and ECA), Member States of the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Our joint interventions have helped reach more than 800,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries in 20 communes in the region, more than half of whom were women. By working with local communities, farmer and herder groups, youth groups, women’s groups, and relevant local authorities, we helped promote social cohesion and enhance conflict prevention and management in cross-border communities. For example, in Koro and Douentza (Mali) and Bankiliaré and Téra (Niger), the UN Joint Programme built two peace centres and empowered 100 female peace mediators to support conflict resolution, promote dialogue and address women’s issues such as gender-based violence. 100 women who had experienced gender-based violence were also given the resources they needed to start their own agricultural enterprises.

The programme’s collaborative efforts also aided in developing new economic opportunities for local populations. Around 330 people in Burkina Faso learned heap composting techniques and how to build Zai, half-moons, and stone bunds. 89 Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) members in Burkina Faso were given training and resources to manage facilities and tools contributed to their communities.

UN Joint Programme efforts also provided training sessions for prison officers to support early warning and rapid response mechanisms in cross-border communities and strengthened relations between National Early Warning Centres, the National Centre for Strategic and Security Studies, and civil society organizations. Furthermore, the programme helped promote the establishment of national steering committees for mapping initiatives in the fight against violent extremism and raised awareness among actors on the need to strengthen gender considerations and the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda.

Partner Organizations:
- Liptako-Gourma Authority, ILO, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNECA, UNODC, UN Office of the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel

Financial Partners:
- Sweden, South Korea
The UN Joint Programme contributes to ending the spiral of insecurity, forced displacement and strengthening social cohesion in cross border areas of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.
Promoting Peace and Stability through the UNV Programme

The upward trend of governance deficits, inequality, conflict, and climate change in West and Central Africa has put achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at risk. The UN Volunteers (UNV) Programme, in collaboration with the UN system in the region, has been working to address these challenges by mobilizing a diverse range of international, national and community volunteers to work with local communities, governments, and other stakeholders to create positive change.

In 2022, UN Volunteers reported contributing most to SDG 16, which focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, has seen the highest contribution at 50.2%, indicating that UN Volunteers have been actively involved in various initiatives aimed at promoting justice, reducing violence, and ensuring access to legal institutions for all. Other SDGs UN Volunteers also reported to have contributed to include SDG 5 (21.6%), SDG 3 (18.9%), SDG 17 (14.4%), and SDG 10 (11.8%).

Over the past year, the UNV Programme mobilized 3,064 onsite UN Volunteers across the region to support development, humanitarian, and peace interventions reaching 4,819,096 people, mainly youth, older adults, IDPs, and Refugees. Additionally, 766 volunteers from 59 different nationalities were deployed to support UNDP’s regional and country-level development initiatives, reaching 416,720 people in the region.

In Cameroon, for example, 37 onsite and online volunteers supported people living with disabilities in Boko Haram affected communities with capacity-building opportunities helping to return peace, dignity, and hope to the lives of many in the region.

In Maradi, Niamey, and Zinder (Niger), 60 UN Community Volunteers are transforming the justice system by making it more accessible, efficient, and inclusive through the power of digital technology, creating a digital justice system that works for everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from.

Overall, the UNV programme in West and Central Africa is a crucial partner in the region’s efforts to achieve sustainable development and promote peace and stability.

Partner Organizations
33 UN Agencies, VIO, National Volunteer Programmes and CSOs

Financial Partners
97 Fully Funded UN Volunteer Assignments were mobilized from donor partners in West and Central Africa and 23 of them were deployed to support UNDP in the West and Central Africa region, representing a contribution of $1,541,000.
UN Volunteers come with experience, commitment and a desire to innovate which is very welcome to us and quite refreshing.

Gordon Jonathan Lewis
UNICEF Gambia Representative
Livelihoods, Economic Recovery and Human Mobility

Global challenges continue to be ever-evolving, just like our world. However, with the right interventions, we can sow the seeds that help people and communities scale beyond them.

Through the livelihood, economic recovery, and human mobility programme, UNDP helps countries in the sub-region recover from crises economically and provides opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. Throughout the year, we worked with 24 Country Offices and established a Community of Practice (CoP) and a dedicated pool of livelihood experts to support countries with policy and programmatic support.

To ensure livelihood and economic recovery focal points from the region have a shared understanding of approaches and tools for community interventions, the programme also provided capacity-building opportunities. These measures helped guarantee that livelihood initiatives are thoughtfully planned with consideration for the immediate, intermediate, and long-term effects on beneficiaries and vulnerable populations like IDPs and refugees. A best practices report was also compiled from the region’s Country Offices’ approaches to implementing the programme and the difficulties they encountered.

Furthermore, the programme kicked off the initiation phase of the Empowering West African Women Small & Medium Enterprises in Rice Value Chain (EWASME) project with baseline studies and documentation, governance mechanisms, and team structuring currently ongoing. Once complete, the project will help enhance the post-production capacity of at least 1000 Women-owned or led Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Very Small Enterprises (VSEs) in selected areas of Guinea, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. It will also work to improve business practices, increase access to finance, increase market access, and create an enabling environment for developing women-owned/led SMEs and VSEs.

Partnering and working with governments and local communities is essential in fragile settings and will help guarantee that everyone has a chance to rebuild their lives and their communities.

Partner Organizations
UNOWAS, ECA, ECOWAS

Financial Partners
Islamic Development Bank
We can sow the seeds that help people and communities scale beyond ever-evolving challenges.
Global Shared Services Centre

2022 Key Highlights

Operating out of eight locations, including Dakar, The Bureau for Management Services Global Shared Services Centre (BMS/GSSC) provides transactional human resources, and finance services to UNDP Country Offices and Headquarter Units in 170+ countries/territories as well as to over 80 UN partner agencies and entities and 42,500 personnel in the UN System.

Core Support Areas

- Financial Services
- Human Resource Management
- Efficient All-Round Service
- Dedicated Contact Centre

- In 2022, BMS/GSSC completed over 660,000 finance transactions, over 26% of them from the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA).
- Since inception of clustered recruitment services in 2021, close to 3,000 recruitments, covering Personnel Services Agreement (PSA) and Staff positions, were completed on behalf of business units across UNDP and UN agencies – RBA accounted for close to 20% of all recruitments.
- More than half a million pay slips were produced by BMS/GSSC. Additionally, close to $2bn worth of payments towards staff costs were made in 2022 alone.
- The Contact Centre, completed over 5,000 first tier support requests with 90% Service Level Agreement (SLA) achievement in 2022 alone.

GSSC strives to ensure that these services are delivered on time, with high quality, within the corporate regulatory framework, and to the satisfaction of the clients.

Country Office Support Team

2022 Key Highlights

Throughout 2022, the UNDP WACA Country Office Support Team (COST) was integral in providing strategic oversight and programmatic and operational advisory services to Country Offices. Its core areas of support includes:

- Programmatic Oversight and Support
- Global and Regional Engagement and Representation
- Policy and Operations Oversight and Support
- Capacity Building

Programmatic Oversight and Support
Quality assurance and specialized capacity support were provided to country offices leading to the formulation and approval of 7 Country Programme Documents (CPDs), and electoral monitoring support was provided in Benin, Cabo Verde, Congo, Chad, the Gambia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe.

Global and Regional Engagement & Representation
Advisory support was provided for High-Level Senior Management engagements such as the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly and the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8).

Policy and Operations Oversight and Support
9 Country Offices provided with support related to Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) compliance, private sector due diligence, audit preparations and Integrated Work Plan (IWP), and Results-Oriented Annual Reporting (ROAR) quality assurance.

Capacity Building
Dedicated programme and policy expertise provided to Country Offices through the System for Tracking Advisory Requests and Services (STARS). Furthermore, COST supported migration and rollout exercises of critical institutional platforms such as Quantum at Country Office level.
Rethinking Partnerships
Expanding our Reach and Impact

Traditional models of partnerships for development are struggling to meet the growing needs in West and Central Africa. As development evolves, so too must the way in which we collaborate to help millions in the region.

To achieve sustainable development outcomes, partnerships must be more inclusive and equitable, placing those we serve front and centre of our interventions. This requires a shift away from traditional top-down approaches towards more participatory and locally-led models of partnership.

By prioritizing the voices and needs of local communities and leveraging the unique strengths of diverse actors such as continental bodies, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions and specialized technical agencies, we are able to tackle complex development challenges and achieve the sustainable development goals.

Throughout the year, we deepened partnerships with entities such as:

- African Union
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
- Uplands-Goauma Authority (UGA)
- GS Sahel
- Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll)

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:

- Global Environment Facility
- European Union
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- Japan
- UN Peacebuilding Fund
- Multi-Partner Trust Fund
- Czech Republic
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Department of Peace Operations
- Green Climate Fund
- The Global Fund
- South Korea
- Denmark
- France

Financing for Climate Security
Addressing Climate Change in West and Central Africa

Although countries in West and Central Africa (WACA) have contributed less than 1 percent of greenhouse gases responsible for climate change, the impact of climate change has not spared the region. Often manifested through destructive floods, famine, rising temperatures, and droughts, the impact of climate change significantly affects human life, property, food security, and livelihood sources such as agriculture.

These alarming trends signal the need for significant investment in climate security to the tune of US$354 billion in addition to sustainable climate financing models across West and Central Africa to help prevent ecological disasters from creating new humanitarian and peace crises and undermining development efforts.

In response, UNDP has already invested over US$5 billion in the region and is also focusing on the potential of carbon markets, which, if tapped into, can yield substantial climate benefits. For example, trees in the Congo Basin soak up about 1.2 billion tons of CO2 each year, while some of Africa’s highest mountain forests can store more carbon per hectare than even the Amazon.

UNDP also supports energy transitions, agricultural techniques, natural resource management, and climate-security interventions. However, for efforts to be largely successful, climate financing is essential and would allow for an even greater diversity and volume of financing to de-risk and underpin future interventions.
Our Team


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Director, UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa and Resident Representative, UNDP Senegal

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