



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
SUB-REGIONAL HUB FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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**United Nations Development Programme**  
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa  
Point E, Complex Citamil, Immeuble E  
Dakar - Senegal

## FOREWORD

# BUILDING BACK BETTER

The ebb and flow of development and stability in the Sahel and broader West and Central Africa (WACA) region has primarily been influenced by persistent challenges on one end of the scale and interventions for sustained development and peacebuilding on the other. Yet, in the midst of this, a story of resilience sits on the horizon.

The past year sparked an urgency to respond to the challenges exacerbated by COVID-19 and build a transformed and sustainable Post-COVID West and Central Africa. This urgency paved the way for curating strategic areas of intervention that serve as a development blueprint for the region and cuts across diverse thematic areas that address the root causes of protracted instability and underdevelopment.

These interventions, drawn from the six impact areas outlined in the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa, have birthed multiple initiatives already recording milestones in hard to reach parts of the region. For example, in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) – Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, where millions are affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, large scale stabilization is underway to restore normalcy in affected parts of the region. This stabilization framework is being scaled up in Liptako-Gourma – Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, where non-state actors continue to fuel instability and cripple development efforts.

As a sub-component of the Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA), the West and Central Africa Hub works closely with 24 Country Offices (COs) and other sub-regional hubs in Addis Ababa, Pretoria and Nairobi, including the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre. We contribute to advancing development in Africa under the framework of the Regional Programme for Africa and its strategic priorities and are also engaged in consultations with the Regional Programme Team to develop its next Regional Programme Document (2022 – 2025).

Our work in the region is not a solo effort but one that counts on the support of several actors (including UN Offices, Agencies, Funds and Programmes) with a shared goal – a transformed continent.

We have deepened partnerships with key stakeholders who play a crucial role in extending the reach of our work and its felt impact on the ground. With the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, we strengthen disaster risk reduction and adaptation for resilience capacities in the Sahel Region, fostering risk-informed solutions for sustainable development. Additionally, we support the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) projects, building community cohesion, and providing social services in exchange for the voluntary surrender of over 40,000 arms and ammunition in West Africa over the past six years.

With the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), and in collaboration with other key stakeholders, we support the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS). As a framework for interventions in the region, this strategy (also in line with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), guides all partners' work in supporting peacebuilding and stability.

In the Liptako-Gourma Region, we work closely with the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) to roll out transformative initiatives. Successes and best practices from the Lake Chad Basin inform our stabilization work in the region, which is being upscaled to respond to the crucial needs of people in conflict-affected parts of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In addition, we enhance cross-border cooperation, promote equitable growth and economic activities and support peacebuilding efforts.

In Central Africa, which plays host to the continent's most significant forest area and the world's second-largest after the Amazon, the Congo Basin remains vulnerable to external pressures which threaten its rich biodiversity. Through our engagement with partners like the Congo Basin Forest Initiative (CAFI), we support resilience building against climate shocks. We are also developing a Congo Basin Offer to promote development and preserve the region's unique and fragile ecosystem.

As we advance, this annual report illustrates our hope for the region. In a short period, we have established mechanisms to facilitate the impact of initiatives conceived from our interventions in Governance, Youth, Renewable Energy, Livelihoods and Climate Action. In 2021, we will launch the Sahel Development Solutions Laboratory (SaheLab), which will act as an incubator for innovative solutions for and by the Sahelians. We are scaling up our investment in the region to encompass human capital, renewable energy solutions, youth empowerment, strengthening local governance and peacebuilding while leveraging on digitalization.

While we recognize the immense challenges of the past year and those that lie ahead of us, we acknowledge UNDP's tremendous willpower and ability in the region to meet these challenges in equal measure. Special thanks to our technical and financial partners who make this vision a reality. I hope more are encouraged to join us to eradicate poverty and sustain peace and development.

My sincere gratitude also goes to the unrelenting UNDP WACA team across Dakar, Abuja, N'Djamena, Ouagadougou, Addis Ababa, New York, and the 24 country offices, working tirelessly under complex situations to deliver on our promise for the region.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Njoya Tikum', is written over a faint grid pattern.

**Njoya Tikum**  
Manager

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



# UNDP IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA



**\$690 MILLION**  
IN INVESTMENTS



DEDICATED COUNTRY  
OFFICE SUPPORT TO  
**24 COUNTRIES**



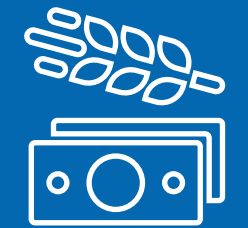
**OVER 1,800**  
WATER LINES, SHOPS &  
HOUSES CONSTRUCTED



**OVER 30,000**  
PROVIDED WITH  
HEALTHCARE ACCESS



**THOUSANDS BENEFITTED**  
FROM THE CONSTRUCTION  
OF NEW SCHOOLS IN THE  
LAKE CHAD BASIN



**OVER 30,000**  
LIVELIHOOD  
OPPORTUNITIES  
CREATED



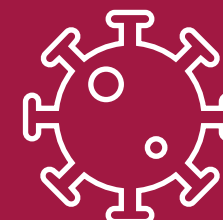
**EXTENDED  
STABILIZATION**  
TO LIPTAKO-GOURMA  
REGION



**CAPACITY BUILDING  
SUPPORT**  
PROVIDED TO 400  
TRADITIONAL LEADERS,  
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
REPRESENTATIVES



**5 FLAGSHIP OFFERS**  
TO TRANSFORM THE  
REGION



**COVID-19 RECOVERY**  
SUPPORT  
PROVIDED TO  
COUNTRIES



**SMALL ARMS AND  
LIGHT WEAPONS**  
INITIATIVE SCALED UP  
TO SEVEN COUNTRIES



**STRENGTHENED  
SOCIAL CONTRACT**  
IN THE LAKE CHAD  
BASIN



# COUNTRY INDEX

**SOURCES**

Population - World Population Review  
 HDI - UNDP Human Development Report  
 Population with Access to Electricity: Tracking SDG 7  
 Fragility Index: Fund For Peace  
 Terrorism Index - Institute of Economics and Peace  
 Global Peace Index - Institute of Economics and Peace  
 GDP - International Monetary Fund



**BENIN**  
 Population (2021): 12,379,185  
 HDI (2019): 0.545  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 40%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 72.5  
 Terrorism Index: 0.663  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.182  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 17.327



**BURKINA FASO**  
 Population (2021): 21,497,096  
 HDI (2019): 0.452  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 18%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 85.9  
 Terrorism Index: 6.755  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.316  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 18.853



**CAMEROON**  
 Population (2021): 27,744,989  
 HDI (2019): 0.563  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 63%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 97.9  
 Terrorism Index: 6.627  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.65  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 44.893



**CAPE VERDE**  
 Population (2021): 555,897  
 HDI (2019): 0.665  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 96%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 64.8  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index (2020): N/A  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: N/A



**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**  
 Population (2021): 4,919,981  
 HDI (2019): 0.394  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 14%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 107.5  
 Terrorism Index: 6.241  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 3.237  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 2.718



**CHAD**  
 Population (2021): 16,914,985  
 HDI (2019): 0.398  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 8%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 106.4  
 Terrorism Index: 4.829  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.538  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 12.531



**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**  
 Population (2021): 27,053,629  
 HDI (2019): 0.538  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 69%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 89.7  
 Terrorism Index: 1.945  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.169  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 70.991



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
 Population (2021): 92,377,993  
 HDI (2019): 0.480  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 19%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 109.4  
 Terrorism Index: 7.178  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 3.243  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 55.088



**EQUATORIAL GUINEA**  
 Population (2021): 2,159,079  
 HDI (2019): 0.592  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 67%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 83.0  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 1.891  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 11.726



**GABON**  
 Population (2021): 2,278,825  
 HDI (2019): 0.703  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 91%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 69.1  
 Terrorism Index: 1.43  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.116  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 18.362



**THE GAMBIA**  
 Population (2021): 2,486,945  
 HDI (2019): 0.496  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 60%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 82.2  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 1.891  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 2.078



**GHANA**  
 Population (2021): 31,732,129  
 HDI (2019): 0.611  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 84%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 64.2  
 Terrorism Index: 1.743  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 1.776  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 74.260



**GUINEA**  
 Population (2021): 16,914,985  
 HDI (2019): 0.477  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 42%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 97.2  
 Terrorism Index: 0.41  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.082  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 16.339



**GUINEA-BISSAU**  
 Population (2021): 2,015,494  
 HDI (2019): 0.480  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 31%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 92.9  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.157  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 1.647



**LIBERIA**  
 Population (2021): 5,180,203  
 HDI (2019): 0.480  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 28%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 90.0  
 Terrorism Index: 0.191  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 1.877  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 3.370



**MALI**  
 Population (2021): 20,855,735  
 HDI (2019): 0.434  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 48%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 96.0  
 Terrorism Index: 7.049  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.729  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 19.912



**MAURITANIA**  
 Population (2021): 4,775,119  
 HDI (2019): 0.546  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 46%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 88.7  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.287  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 9.239



**NIGER**  
 Population (2021): 25,130,817  
 HDI (2019): 0.394  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 19%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 95.3  
 Terrorism Index: 5.617  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.608  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 15.899



**NIGERIA**  
 Population (2021): 211,400,708  
 HDI (2019): 0.539  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 55%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 97.3  
 Terrorism Index: 8.314  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.865  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 514.049



**REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
 Population (2021): 5,657,013  
 HDI (2019): 0.539  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 48%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 92.1  
 Terrorism Index: 2.043  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.343  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 12.022



**SAO TOME & PRINCIPE**  
 Population (2021): 7,813  
 HDI (2019): 0.625  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 75%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 70.3  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index (2020): N/A  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 0.485



**SENEGAL**  
 Population (2021): 17,196,301  
 HDI (2019): 0.512  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 70%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 74.6  
 Terrorism Index: 0.391  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 1.824  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 27.927



**SIERRA LEONE**  
 Population (2021): 8,141,343  
 HDI (2019): 0.452  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 23%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 84.4  
 Terrorism Index: 0.229  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 1.82  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 4.420



**TOGO**  
 Population (2021): 8,478,250  
 HDI (2019): 0.515  
 Population with Access to Electricity: 52%  
 Fragility Index (Fund For Peace): 85.8  
 Terrorism Index: N/A  
 Global Peace Index (2020): 2.201  
 GDP (Billion \$) 2021: 8.627



FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

## THE SUB-REGIONAL HUB FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

With a renewed offer, strategic partnerships, and growing capacities, the hub champions good governance, youth empowerment, resilience building, and renewable energy solutions.

The UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa, situated in Dakar – Senegal, operates as a sub-regional component of the Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA). It provides 24 Country Offices (COs) or 52% of the RBA's Country Office footprint in West and Central Africa with dedicated management support and policy and programming advisory services in crucial RBA priority areas, bringing this expertise closer to UNDP's operational needs in the field.

Its mandate is at the centre of both geopolitics and crisis/fragility management in the sub-region, making its core functions attuned to addressing complex and rapidly evolving development challenges mainly through the combination of humanitarian-development-peace and security nexus.

In broad terms, the core functions of the hub comprise of Strategic Regional Functions and Representation, Support to Country Offices and Regional Institutions, Programmes for the Sahel Region, and Implementation of UNDP/UN Regional Initiatives and Regional Projects.

### Strategic Regional Functions and Representation

Consistent with UNDP's global and regional mandates, including in the implementation of Africa's Promise, the hub's strategic partnerships and representation are shaped by ongoing development contexts of the West and Central Africa region. Critical to this is the particular focus on the Sahel region, comprising of hotspots such as the Lake Chad Basin and the Liptako-Gourma region. In this regard, the implementation of the UNISS/UNSP objectives for the Sahel constituted a core component of the Hub's interventions in the region during the period under review.

### Support to Country Offices and Regional Institutions

The Hub's support to country offices encompasses a wide range of services, including strategic analysis and programme development, programme implementation oversight, policy services. Support to regional institutions includes internalising treaties/regional intergovernmental policies, strengthening institutional norms, and functional capacities.

### UNDP Programmes and Strategic Areas of Intervention for the Sahel Region

To contribute to the effective implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), RBA, the integrator and leader of the United Nations Development Group System (UNDG) in the Sahel region, recently launched the 'UNDP Offer for Regeneration in the Sahel. It responds to the evolving and dynamic socio-economic, political and security landscapes and outlines UNDP's contribution to regenerate the Sahel and change the narrative from crisis to hope.

The Dakar Hub leads the operationalisation of the RBA Sahel Offer on the ground. Effectively, this is done through the: Governance and Peacebuilding Offer, Regional Programme for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel, Renewable Energy Offer for the Sahel, UN Joint Programme on Cross Border Cooperation and Resilience Building in the Liptako-Gourma Region, UNDP Regional Stabilization Facility for the Lake Chad Basin, and the UNDP Regional Stabilization Facility for the Liptako-Gourma.

### Implementation of UNDP/UN Regional Initiatives and Regional Projects

These comprise of initiatives implemented as part of the Regional Programme for Africa and in collaboration with the Global Policy Network (GPN). They include: the Regional Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme (SALW) and the Regional Programme on Climate Resilience and Risk Reduction.



# UNDP FOR THE SDGS



UPCOMING

# FRONTIERS

Building on the past year's successes, the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa in 2021 has mapped out priorities for significant impact in the region, anchored on cross-cutting issues that unleash the Sub-Region's potential.

Here's what to look out for:

**Climate Security:** UNDP will mitigate the impact of climate-related security risks while preserving the environment and biodiversity, diversifying and improving access to sustainable livelihoods, strengthening social cohesion and preventing violent conflicts in the region. The project will adopt a dual approach that aims to enhance climate resilience and sustain peace in fragile and conflict-affected parts of the Sahel region.

**Renewable Energy:** Under the umbrella of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), UNDP will lead the conceptualisation process of the UN Renewable Energy Offer in collaboration with 16 other agencies under the Resilience Pillar. This comes at a crucial time where over 168 million people have no access to electricity, and close to 300 million, have no access to clean cooking technologies.



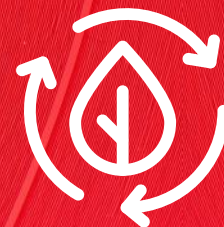
### Renewable Energy Solutions

The Regional Project on Renewable Energy for the Sahel will improve access to renewable energy solutions



### A Region of Innovation

Upcoming initiatives particularly the SaheLab will leverage on the creativity in the region to birth innovative solutions across multiple sectors



### Clean Cooking Technology

With only 11% of people in the Sahel having access to clean cooking technology, the project will promote clean cooking solutions



### Scaling Up Country Level Support

Provide dedicated support to the work of country offices - connecting them to available expertise at the hub and across the region

**Youth:** A youth offer has been developed this year and will be rolled out in the coming year, leaning heavily on our strategic partnerships with several stakeholders in the region like Youth Connekt Africa and the Tony Elumelu Foundation. We are working closely with the secretariat to develop a Sahel Youth Connekt Chapter that responds to youth unemployment and entrepreneurship challenges in the region.

**Sahel Development Solutions Laboratory:** In the coming year, the Hub will launch the Sahel Development Solutions Laboratory (SAHELAB) as a pathway to reinvent development in the Sahel. It is built around a digital platform that supports and coordinates the actions of Accelerator Labs in Sahelian countries and strengthens the synergy of expertise and interventions among development actors. The initiative will leverage new technologies to generate innovative ideas by enabling learning, experience sharing, co-creation, rapid iteration and experimentation of development solutions, thus allowing the testing and scaling up of solutions in the region.



Revitalization of Natural Ecosystems, Food and Nutritional Security and Promotion of Ecologically Sound Agriculture



Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth - Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities



Water Retention for Farmers and Herders; and Water Sanitation Services



Consolidation of Peace & Crisis Prevention; De-Radicalization of Youth Against Violent Extremism; and Reintegration of Forcibly Displaced Persons



Renewable Energy Solutions, Waste Management and Recycling



## RECOVERY IN FRAGILE SETTINGS

Over the past year, our work was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as activities moved primarily online, placing an immense amount of strain on the region's limited digital infrastructure. This unexpected change compounded already existing challenges in the Sahel, leaving many vulnerable.

“The Lake Chad Basin, like the rest of the world, has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic's impact forces us to adjust and adapt to a new way of working to ensure that we continue to serve the population in the region. The majority of the population in the LCB region already faces significant challenges emanating from environmental degradation due to climate change, inadequate development, and lack of access to basic and essential social services, and the twin challenges of violent conflict and insurgency.” – **Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary LCBC and Head of Mission MNJTF.**

As a result, We launched large scale public awareness-raising campaigns and supported government institutions in their COVID-19 response. We also deployed surge capacity to conflict-prone areas to adequately support communities affected by the crisis and the multiple effects it had on other aspects of their lives and expanded

the scale of our response to tackling access to social services, livelihoods and communal dialogue as a facilitator of peace.

For example, in the Liptako-Gourma Region, the Trade for Peace Project was launched to support the region's socio-economic recovery from COVID-19 and foster peace and social cohesion. This will be done by deepening economic integration through increased cross-border trade, fostering mutual understanding between border communities strengthening food security, improving livelihoods, and rising income opportunities, particularly for women and youth.

“In the border area of Liptako-Gourma, the populations of the three countries of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have suffered enough from insecurity. Despite their attachment to their land, many of them have had to face forced displacement, resulting in hardships, such as food insecurity, school closures, difficulties in accessing clean water resources, etc.” – **Minister of Commerce in Burkina Faso, Seydou Ilboulo.**

As the region transitions from crisis to recovery, the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa is well-positioned to transform the narrative of those living in the Sahel.

“

Working with partners such as UNDP, African Union's COVID-19 recovery efforts aim to create the preconditions for building resilient societies in the continent, including through developing a relevant framework to guide resilient recovery efforts by members states from multi-risk and multi-sectoral perspectives.

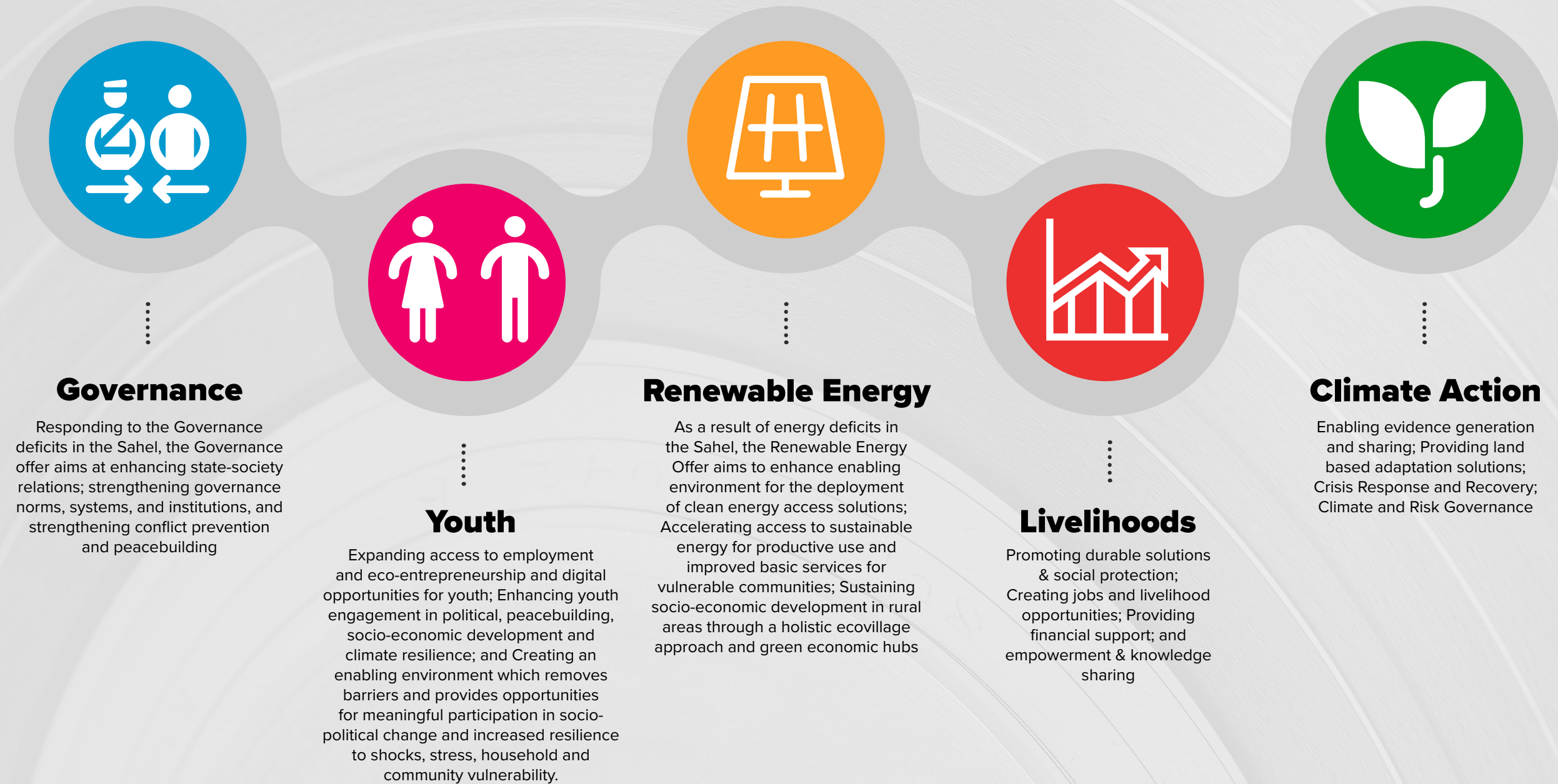
**H.E. Josefa Sacko**

African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment.

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# UNDP'S STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION FOR THE REGION



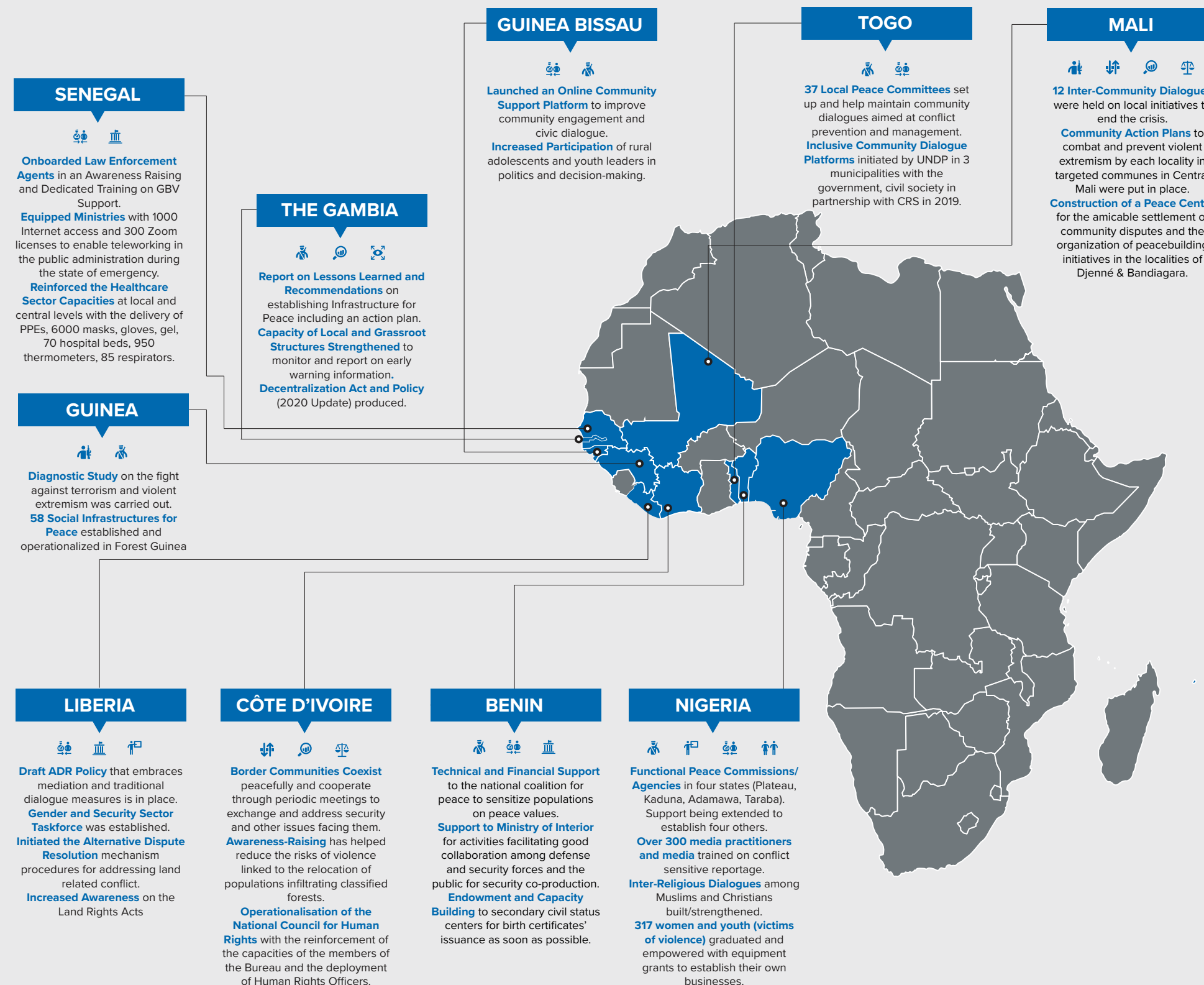


# UNDP SUPPORT TO CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING IN WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

Consolidated Contributions as Received from UNDP COs in Africa

## WHERE WE OPERATE

- BENIN
- BURKINA FASO
- CAMEROON
- CAPE VERDE
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
- CHAD
- COTE D'IVOIRE
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- EQUATORIAL GUINEA
- GABON
- THE GAMBIA
- GHANA
- GUINEA
- GUINEA-BISSAU
- LIBERIA
- MALI
- MAURITANIA
- NIGER
- NIGERIA
- REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
- SIERRA LEONE
- SENEGAL
- TOGO



## KEY INTERVENTION AREAS





# AFRICA'S PROMISE

The Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa supports Africa's people, governments, and institutions to consolidate recent gains and effectively address the challenges that remain. These include persistent inequalities, weak governance institutions, climate change, rapid population growth, stalled industrialization and rising violence.

The offer flows from UNDP's signature solutions to - Keep people out of poverty; Strengthen

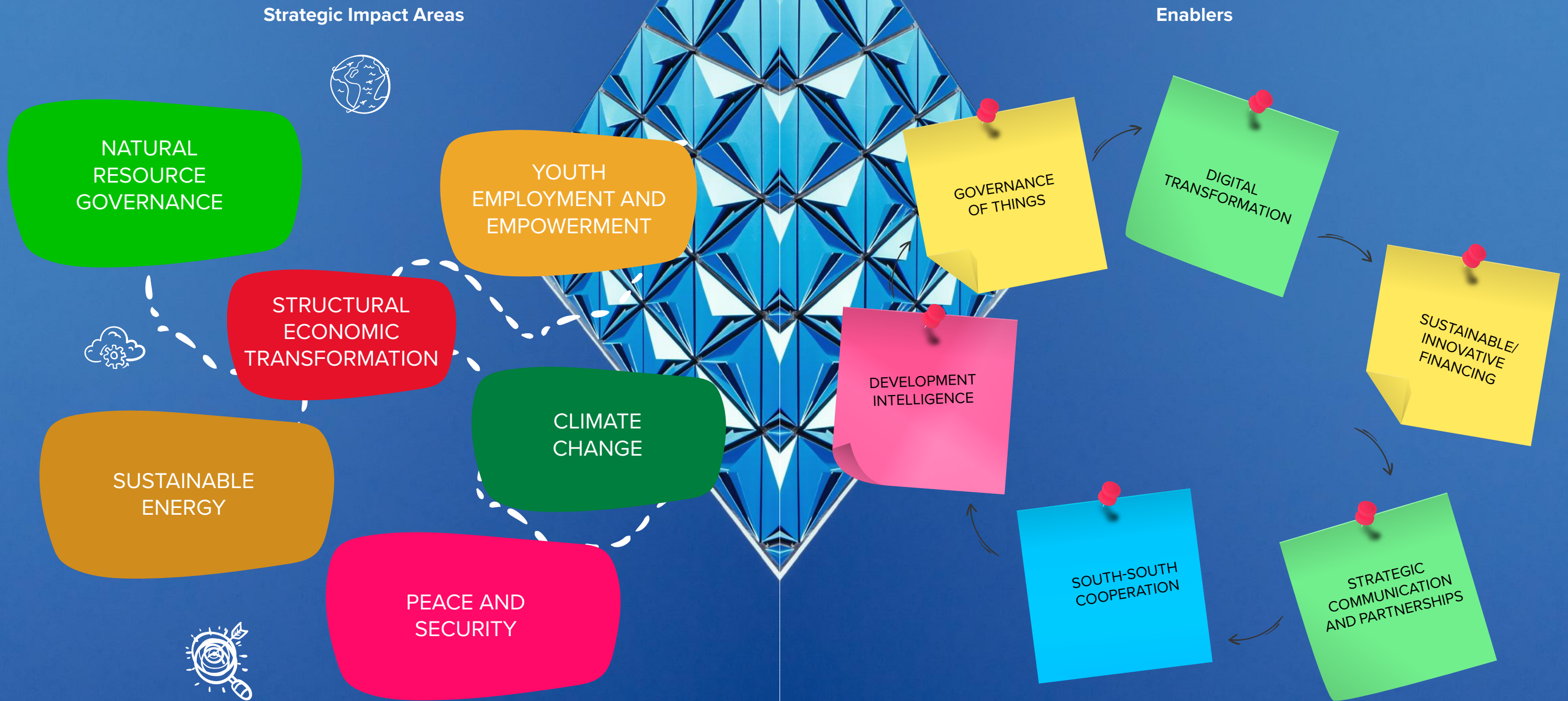
effective, inclusive and accountable governance; Enhance national prevention and recovery capacities for resilient societies; Promote Nature-Based Solutions for a Sustainable Planet; Close the Energy Gap; Strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. These solutions serve as a framework for the Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa, which is organized around six strategic impact areas highlighted in the diagram below.

This offer is a renewed approach that engages countries as valued hosts and development agents with inherent strengths and assets that can be strategically leveraged towards shared goals.

The mission of the UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa is to enable the acceleration of Sustainable

Development Goals in Africa in the Decade of Action. It builds upon the strategic impact areas to identify foundational enablers which will drive the realization of The UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa or "Africa's Promise."

These six enablers are highlighted below:







# STABILIZATION IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

\$100 MILLION      8 TERRITORIES      900K PEOPLE

The four border states Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, face recurrent violent attacks by Boko Haram. Consequently, weak governmental institutions, poverty, and youth radicalisation resulting from unemployment aggregate the Lake Chad Basin regions' ongoing fragility amidst climate issues and COVID-19. And as a commitment to the SDGs 2030 and the African Agenda 2063, the Africa Union (AU) and then Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) actualised the Regional Stabilization Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS). The Strategy hinged on nine pillars of stabilization provides a roadmap for time-bound interventions for the affected communities by the conflict. UNDP supports the RSS as a funding mechanism to achieve regional and national level stabilization outcomes through the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF). Drawing from UNDPs stabilization blueprints from Iraq, however, in hindsight of the specificity of each context, the RSF became a pivot stabilization project in the sub-region.

The RSF focused on specific territories freed from the control of Boko Haram and other violent extremist groups to enhance community safety, strengthen the social contract, build essential infrastructure, provide basic services and livelihood opportunities. Targeting a population of over 900,000 cumulatively, RSF investments in the region have led to the provision of agricultural equipment, water lines, and the construction and rehabilitation of about 750 infrastructures such as schools, market stalls, peace centres, hospitals and roads. Over 26,791 individuals have either been provided with several livelihood opportunities

or receiving vocational training to enhance their capacities for employment through the cash for work programme.

The RSS Secretariat supported the LCBC Civil Military Cell (CIMIC) establishment to facilitate the coordination of security and political dialogues envisaged by the African Union (AU). In November, a workshop was organised with the MNJTF J9 officers in close collaboration with the LCBC Military Advisor and the AU to jointly revise the Terms of Reference for the RSS Civil-Military Coordination Cell and to discuss the multifunctional and integrated civil-military operations in the LCB for better coordination and sharing of responsibilities. The ToRs were discussed once more with a larger audience in December during a workshop with MNJTF Staff Officers, AU, LCBC, RSS Team, Tchad National Window representatives. The newly established cell will focus on planning and monitoring activities for extending humanitarian access and reinforcing engagement with communities in the Lake Chad Basin area. This is a real breakthrough for strengthening the application of the Humanitarian-Development throughout the implementation of the stabilization actions.

In late 2020, in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB)'s CSO Engagement Unit and the AU ECOSOCC, the Secretariat initiated the LCBC Consultative CSO Workshop series - four virtual national consultations and one virtual regional consultation. The CSO platform, gathering all civil society organisations operating in Lake Chad Basin, has been established in each country in the region.

## Partner Organisations

Lake Chad Basin Commission, Institute for International Studies, Radio Ndarason Internationale

## Financial Partners

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





# UPSCALING STABILIZATION IN LIPTAKO GOURMA

PILOT INITIATION PLAN (PIP) STABILIZATION  
PROGRAMME - LIPTAKO GOURMA REGION

\$7.8

3

18

MILLION COUNTRIES MONTHS

The security situation in the Sahel, and especially the Liptako-Gourma (LG) region, continues to present a significant challenge to peace and stability efforts in the area. Despite substantial investments into security, peacebuilding, recovery, and development during the past seven years, the conflict continues to expand into new areas. If this situation cannot be reversed, there is a risk of a prolonged crisis which creates a conducive environment for large-scale displacements and violent extremism recruitments.

As a result, a Project Initiation Plan (PIP) was developed to kickstart stabilization interventions in the region. The objective of the pilot phase is to develop new strategic policy and programme frameworks for the Liptako-Gourma region to facilitate ongoing efforts by member states and the international community to stem violence, protect civilians, address humanitarian needs, and create the conditions necessary for a return to peaceful governance and sustainable development.

Leveraging on the successes of stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin with lessons learned and knowledge sharing, the PIP stabilization programme in the LG region has received approval from the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA), the G5 Sahel, and government institutions in the region through consultative meetings organised by UNDP.

The PIP which is for 18 months aims to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a full-scale Stabilization Mechanism in the region. The main outcomes of the PIP among other things are:

- Improve civil-military coordination and strengthen the state presence in border areas
- Improve livelihoods for local households, with the overall objective of reducing or eliminating violence
- Establish and/or strengthen formal consultative frameworks to consolidate cross-border

UNDP's approach to stabilization, which has been proven to be effective in Iraq, Libya, and the Lake Chad Basin, delivers immediate peace benefits to build the confidence between population and national and local authorities. UNDP proposes bringing to scale the existing stabilization facility established to support interventions at the right pace and measuring scale. The German Embassy in Niger, LGA member states (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali), and Heads of key Ministries in Niger, including Defence, Humanitarian Action, and others unanimously selected Goroul and Téra in the Tilaberi region of Niger as prioritized zones for the pilot phase of the programme.

#### Partner Organisations

Liptako-Gourma Authority, G5 Sahel

#### Financial Partners

Germany





# THE JOINT SAHEL PROGRAMME

THE JOINT UN-LGA REGIONAL PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES IN THE LIPTAKO-GOURMA REGION

\$8

3

8

MILLION COUNTRIES AGENCIES

Poor governance and security problems have weakened the capacity of states to deal with intra and inter-communal conflicts, rising human and drug trafficking, organized crime, and persistent mass poverty. Added to this is the presence of various jihadist groups and arms traffickers. This situation has prevented the population from accessing basic social services, limiting economic opportunities, especially for women and youth. Therefore, the Joint Programme has sought to alleviate these various challenges to development in the region through working collaboratively with other UN actors, governments, regional and sub-regional structures as well as the private sector, pooling resources, and directing expertise to assist the most vulnerable communities in the Liptako-Gourma Region.

The Joint Programme thus far has installed four multifunctional platforms in four communes, provided four lots of solar equipment, installed four water points, and provided livestock and pastoral integration opportunities for women into the local value chains allowing them to produce various products enhancing livelihoods in the region. Along with providing the equipment and tools necessary for women

and youth to develop their own income generating opportunities, trainings were held for over 100 women related to natural resource prevention, management, social cohesion, pastoral and another 100 women trained in agricultural socioeconomic ventures. The programme has also organized the training of over 60 mediators to provide skills related to providing psychosocial support to victims of Gender Based Violence, and another training to mediators in the areas of peace, conflict prevention, and management of community conflicts.

The Joint Program has been working with the Liptako Gourma Authority to strengthen judicial institutions and this has resulted in greater capacity and efficiency of those institutions to implement their mandates, increasing access to justice in the region for community members, implementing conflict mitigation strategies by training volunteer mediators, and providing socioeconomic reports and tools for cross border community management. Two Security Advisory Committees were established to serve as a framework of exchange between security forces and populations to restore trust and improve their effectiveness.

#### Partner Organisations

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

#### Financial Partners

Sweden





# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND ADAPTATION FOR RESILIENCE IN THE SAHEL

\$7.5 MILLION 7 COUNTRIES 300M PEOPLE

The Sahel Resilience Project fosters risk-informed development solutions for building resilience through climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Western Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin region, leaning on the comparative advantages of regional and national partners.

Funded by Sweden and UNDP with an overall budget of \$7.5 million US dollars over three years (2019-2022), it leverages the mandate and convening power of regional organisations – the African Union Commission (AUC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

By supporting seven West Sahel countries home to 300 million people – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal – to meet their Sendai Framework commitments in improving the analysis of disaster and climate data and applying it to decision making, UNDP aims to create pathways to a risk-informed development trajectory.

The Sahel Resilience Project builds on strong partnerships with regional bodies and institutions, including UN agencies: UN Women, Lake Chad Basin Commission, PeriPeri U network at Stellenbosch University, AGRHYMET Regional Centre & National disaster management agencies.

Dialogue with other key institutions in the field of climate risk - UNDRR, FAO, UN-Habitat, Africa Risk Capacity, the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group - continues. Flagship studies are underway on regulatory, policy and budgetary frameworks for disaster

risk governance, gender-sensitive policies at regional and national levels to promote recovery processes that take into account the underlying risks of disaster and climate change, as well as urban risk management.

The project supports the African Union in establishing a framework for multi-hazard early warning systems. This is a key step that highlights the importance of having adequate warning to save lives when a disaster strikes, as the continent is also affected by COVID-19.

The pandemic has been putting to test the strength and adaptability of existing disaster risk management systems and governance mechanisms to guide COVID-19 recovery as well as their ability to manage ongoing and future concurrent disasters.

For the first time in Africa, the project introduced the recovery needs assessment (CRNA) methodology\* to some 80 lecturers and government officials from Sahelian countries, AU and ECOWAS personnel, as well as members of the African Youth Advisory Board (AYAB) for Disaster Risk Reduction. In doing so, UNDP and the PeriPeri U network at Stellenbosch University hope to lay the foundations for a cadre of practitioners in post-pandemic socio-economic recovery planning. The project is now engaged in supporting the African Union to develop a COVID-19 recovery framework for Africa, from a multi-hazard and multi-sectoral perspective, aiming to create the preconditions for building resilient societies in fragile areas of the Sahel and elsewhere.

\* Developed by the European Union-funded UNDP's Roll Out II PDNA

## Partner Organisations

African Union Commission (AUC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), UN Women, AGRHYMET, PeriPeri U/Stellenbosch University, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

## Financial Partners

Sweden





# REGIONAL SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS PROJECT

\$7 9 2  
MILLION COUNTRIES PROJECTS

In 2020, UNDP maintained strong collaboration with ECOWAS and implemented projects to address Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) challenges in the region. The two ongoing Regional SALW projects; Organized Crime: West African Response to Trafficking (OCWAR-T), co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office, and the Cross Border Engagement project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) under the 11th EDF - Regional Indicative Programme (RIP 2014 – 2020) mandate for West Africa, span across ECOWAS Member States including Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. The interventions supported the reduction of illicit trafficking of small arms by strengthening regional and cross-border cooperation; improving national and community structures and capacities in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control; effectively reducing the availability and proliferation of SALW, especially across border communities and enhancing livelihoods for voluntary surrender of weapons.

Given the impact of the global pandemic, the SALW project supported NATCOMs with personal protective equipment, including nose masks, hand sanitisers, handwashing kits to curtail the spread of the pandemic. In Liberia, the project produced and aired jingles on national media to sensitise people, mainly security actors, on the COVID-19 pandemic and measures to mitigate the further spread of the virus, given the resultant effect on livelihood, which could result in increased crime.

Over 5,000 community members, especially women and youth across nine (9) target countries, were sensitised through community

awareness campaigns and inter-community dialogue, increasing their knowledge on the dangers of illicit circulation of SALW. This has resulted in attitudinal change among the target population and led to an interest in voluntarily arms disarmament for development projects. As a result of the massive sensitisation campaign, 1,598 arms and 1,229 ammunition were recovered and destroyed from these communities.

Furthermore, UNDP set up 15 decentralised offices to establish the presence of NATCOMs and security forces at selected borders, thereby reducing the free flow of illicit arms at the border areas. Consequently, the offices were equipped with computers, motorcycles, printers, office furniture (table, chairs, cupboard and communication equipment, to curb the illicit flow of SALW at the border areas.

Finally, the UNDP SALW regional project has successfully contributed to peaceful society in its programming against electoral violence by coordinating an innovative "Ballot without Bullets" sensitisation campaign in Ghana. This initiative mapped out conflict hotspots in the country and embarked on both high level and targeted community campaigns, advocacy programmes targeting the political actors, traditional leaders, youth, and women groups at flashpoints to prevent community conflicts. This intervention resulted in the recording of almost zero armed incidences in some of the critical flashpoints before, during and after the elections in Ghana. The 'Ballot without Bullets' campaigns have been earmarked as a novelty replicated in other countries against violence in future elections in the ECOWAS and ECCAS regions.

**Partner Organisations**  
AU, ECOWAS, GIZ, NATCOM

**Financial Partners**  
Germany, EU





# STRENGTHENING HUMAN SECURITY

\$3 MILLION      4 COUNTRIES      1,500 FAMILIES

The partnership between UNDP and Luxembourg is strengthened by annual consultations with a strategic focus on Africa in general and the Sahel region to support initiatives to alleviate poverty, armed conflicts, good governance, and the growing demographic. The Luxembourg programme borne out of this partnership has, over the years, improved access to public services in crisis-stricken cross-border areas in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, and Niger.

## Community Social Cohesion (Crisis Prevention/Governance)

- Training and capacity support was provided to 400 traditional leaders, including Imams, women and youth groups, farmers, pastoralists, and local government representatives to utilise local means of conflict prevention and negotiations to promote community security and social cohesion in their localities. Traditional leaders who benefited from the training were instrumental in brokering the recent peace deal between Fulani and Dagon ethnic groups representatives, which resolved the sporadic clashes between farmers and pastoralists in the Central Mopti border region of Mali.
- In Burkina Faso, various training programmes were organised for individuals and interreligious groups to ensure dialogue and exchange between

the state and civil society. A draft programme of activities from 2018 -2019 was made available. Some members of the Operational Capacities of the National Observatory of Religious Facts (ONAFAR) and 11 women were trained and equipped on the practice of religious freedom and conflict prevention.

- Advocacy meetings were held to promote interreligious dialogue and establish government presence. Through the project, individuals, locally elected officials, traditional leaders, and other local committees in Niger have also benefitted from increased government presence and more access to public services through development training programs and financial education on savings, budgeting, debt management, as well as financial services.

## Livelihoods, Women And Youth Economic Empowerment

- About 60 women and youth benefited from technical and vocational skills training to start small businesses in dressmaking, pottery, and agri-business value chains. Over 1,500 households gained access to livelihood options through small venture capital grants and capacity-building programmes to operate small-scale enterprises, thus enhancing their resilience to crisis.

## Partner Organisations

ONAFAR

## Financial Partners

Luxembourg



# THE UN VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In 2020, the UN Volunteers Regional Office for West and Central Africa (UNV ROWCA) focused its partnership engagement on joint regional and cross-border initiatives. As a result, UNV was successfully integrated in UNDP Regional Governance and Youth Programming and provided critical support throughout the conceptualization process. In addition, UNV ROWCA also contributed to the UNISS Flagship Programmes under the three pillars of governance, youth, and security.



## COVID 19 RESPONSE

To support UN entities and national crisis response programmes, 321 UN Volunteers were recruited in 19 countries of the region. In Mali, 60 UN Volunteers deployed to UNDP raised awareness on COVID-19 transmission and protective measures at community levels in Mopti and Bamako regions. They reached 700 000 direct beneficiaries in nine months. In Liberia, 50 Community volunteers participated in a joint UNDP/IOM and UNHCR Border Surveillance COVID-19 Response Project. Engaged as contact tracers and case finders, they helped prevent cross border transmission and ensure community engagement during the pandemic.

## PEACE & SECURITY

19 UN Volunteers contributed to preventing and resolving conflicts supporting the PBF cross border project “Combating Violent Extremism” in Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo. They mainly focused on early warning and M&E, with UNDP/ IOM and the “Building local capacity for conflict prevention in the Moughataa of Bassiknou” project in Mauritania with UNDP.

## GOVERNANCE

In electoral support, 129 UN Volunteers were deployed within UNDP in West and Central Africa. In Burkina Faso, 60 UN Community Volunteers and 52 national UN Volunteers were mobilized to support the 45 provinces during the combined elections in November 2020. In the meantime, in Niger, 60 national UN Volunteers provided technical support to the CENI. In addition, UN Volunteers contributed to essential tasks, including logistics organization, recruitment, and training of voting members.

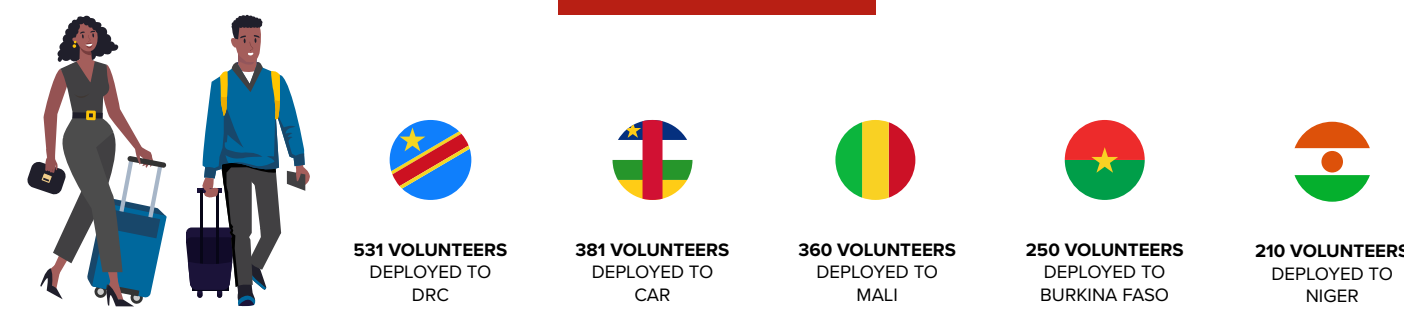
## YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

35 UN Volunteers specialized in Finance, ICT, IMO, Engineering, Social Affairs, Arts and Culture supported the implementation of the PBF project: “Youth and Peace” in Mali and Burkina Faso and the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization Strategy, in partnership with UNDP and UNFPA. To further enhance partners inclusivity and support gender equality and women’s empowerment initiatives, 34 female UN Volunteers and gender specialists were recruited to strengthen gender programming for peace and development in the Sahel.

## CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS

According to the 2020 VRA, UN Volunteers reached 4,984,371 beneficiaries, mainly Youth, Elderly and IDPs/Refugees.

### KEY 2020 FIGURES



2,873 VOLUNTEERS DEPLOYED TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA



CONTRIBUTION OF UN VOLUNTEERS TO THE SDGS

TOP 5 HOST ENTITIES



# COUNTRY OVERSIGHT AND SUPPORT TEAM

## 1 24 COUNTRIES SUPPORTED

Twenty-four countries supported in the region from Dakar and New York.

## 2 COVID-19 RESPONSE

Support in coordinating technical expertise for the development and approval of 21 Rapid Response Facility (RRF) proposals mobilizing a total of \$4.8 million for COVID-19 response.

## 3 COVID-19 RECOVERY

For COVID-19 recovery, \$28.7 million was mobilized to support the coordination of technical expertise to develop and approve 24 Rapid Financing Facility (RFF) proposals.

## 4 COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT ROLLOUT

Sound programming support to 2 CPD development and 4 CPD roll out and quality assurance of 17 Japan Supplementary Budget (JSB) proposals totalling \$32.8 million.

## 5 ADVISORY SUPPORT

COST closely monitored the political situation related to elections in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ghana, CAR, and Niger, linking with different actors to provide advisory support to country offices when needed

## 6 MALI SURGE PLAN

A surge plan was developed to support the evolving instability in Mali

The Country Oversight and Support Team (COST) provides regional strategic oversight and advice in line with corporate strategies and related frameworks. The team is the first interface supporting all programmatic and operational aspects in coordination with global and regional hubs and teams.

In 2020, COST, including the collaboration of the RBM team, supported the design of the programme for Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon country offices with a solid theory of change and solid expected results. COST came in support and co-facilitated a theory of change workshop supporting the new CPD in Guinea Bissau. COST accompanied country offices in the required steps to extend CPDs in 2020 for Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Niger and Sao Tome & Principe. COST, in close collaboration with RBM, conducted 4 CPD operationalization and rollout workshops in Burundi, Congo, Mali and Sierra Leone to enable country offices to prepare for effective and efficient implementation of their new CPD commitment and provide guidance on options for implementation with a follow up on the rollout action plan. Capacity building training was provided, especially on ATLAS for The Gambia and project management related rules and procedures for Burkina Faso and Gabon. As COVID-19 hit, COST mobilized and coordinated the technical expertise from across the regional

hub and globally to strengthen the quality of proposals developed by country offices to respond to and recover from the crisis during the remainder of 2020. This enabled country offices from the region to mobilize a total of \$4.8 million for COVID-19 response through 21 approved RRFs spent by the end of the year and \$28.7 million for COVID-19 recovery through 24 RFF approved projects currently being implemented. COST engaged with GPN experts, coordinated the technical review and ensured the quality assurance of 17 Japan Supplementary Budget proposals for a total of \$32.8 million. COST closely monitored the political situation related to elections in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ghana, CAR, and Niger, linking with different actors to provide advisory support to country offices when needed. The coup d'Etat in Mali threw the country into a multidimensional crisis with spillover effects in the sub-region. As part of the crisis response and support to the country office, Mali plus Crisis Board meetings were held encompassing Sahel countries in the support coverage. A core team led by COST New York and Crisis Bureau in close collaboration with the Dakar Regional Hub, RSCA and BPPS, engaged through an integrated cross-unit solution approach to develop a surge plan for Mali, follow up on the board decisions, including surge deployments and allocations.



# HUB LEADERSHIP

To successfully achieve its mandates, the Hub Manager counts on support from team leaders handling a broad range of portfolios in West and Central Africa.



**Njoya Tikum**  
Hub Manager



**Sevenais Sterling**  
Deputy Resident  
Representative (Operations)



**Fredrick Ampiah**  
Regional Project Coordinator  
SALW



**Reshmi Theckethil**  
Resilience Project  
Manager



**Thomas Pitoad**  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
Programme Specialist



**Chika Charles Aniekwe**  
Head of Stabilization  
RSS Secretariat



**Waly Ndiaye**  
Governance and  
Peacebuilding Advisor



**Armand-Michel Broux**  
Conflict Prevention and  
Peacebuilding Specialist



**Christelle Odongo**  
Energy and Climate  
Change Specialist



**Kwaku Asante Darko**  
Regional Programme  
Specialist



**Stephane Amani**  
Regional Livelihood  
Specialist



**Ishmael Dodoo**  
Programme Manager



**Pepe Ayele, Wansi Satchivi**  
Team Leader, RBA COST



**Jean De Dieu Sibomana**  
Regional Youth Analyst



**Hawa AW**  
Stabilization Manager  
LGA Secretariat



**Mohamed Mediouf Diop**  
Head of Finance and  
Administration





**United Nations Development Programme**  
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa  
Point E, Complex Citamil, Immeuble E  
Dakar - Senegal

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