



UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre - Overview of Research, Policy, Data and Analysis Work

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01 Borderlands Literature Review and Concepts Overview

The "Borderlands-Mapping-and-Literature-Overview" offers an in-depth analysis of African borderlands, emphasizing their unique economic, political, and social dynamics. It discusses how borderlands, being at the margins of states, present distinct challenges and opportunities. The report provides a historical context of African borderlands, shaped significantly by colonial legacies and current geopolitical factors. It delves into the complexities of borderland politics, the role of borders as resources, and the impact of limited state authority in these regions. Also highlighted are the patterns of violence, trade, and governance in borderlands, stressing how these areas are often overlooked in mainstream development policies.

The report calls for a nuanced understanding of borderlands, advocating for tailored approaches to development and governance that recognize their specific characteristics and needs.

02 African Borderlands in the Context of COVID-19

The report, developed by the UNDP Africa Borderlands Development Programme, focuses on the unique challenges African borderlands face in managing COVID-19. It emphasises the vulnerabilities of these regions due to weak governance, underfunded healthcare systems, and unreliable supply chains. The report highlights how COVID-19 exacerbates existing issues such as insecurity, economic instability, and misinformation. It urges for inclusive, tailored responses that consider the borderlands' distinct characteristics and needs, aiming to build resilient healthcare systems, foster community engagement, and bridge gaps between borderland communities and centralised authorities.



03 Boko Haram and Conflict Dynamics in the Chad Basin - Policy Brief

The report "Boko Haram and the Conflict Dynamics in the Chad Basin" examines the impact and growth of Boko Haram and ISWAP in the Lake Chad basin. It details how these groups have escalated violence since 2009, resulting in significant loss of life, displacement, and humanitarian crises. The report analyzes how various factors like climate change, cross-border migration, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbate the conflict. It discusses the challenges in coordinating regional military and non-military responses and emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive approach that includes addressing underlying issues like poverty, governance, and climate change. The report also highlights the unique vulnerabilities and roles of women and children in this conflict.

04 Informal Cross-border Trade in DRC/Uganda Policy Brief

Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT) plays a critical role for Borderlands communities in Africa. It acts as an essential source of livelihood for traders and their families on both sides of the border. Moreover it is a crucial source of foreign exchange and is a source of employment creation and income. Most importantly, trade is a source of food security and the supply of other products in the border region by linking up various markets across the border. This analytical research focused on the role of and recent developments in informal cross-border trade (ICBT) on the Uganda DRC border in 2020. The policy brief presents key characteristics, findings, and key policy considerations relating to ICBT.

05 Mobility and Migration in Karamoja - Policy Brief

Migration and mobility are key features of the Karamoja Cluster that straddles the borders of Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia. This mobility constitutes seasonal migration in search of pasture, trading, or labor opportunities across the borders. The focus of the brief, considerations, and recommendations, encompass a broad range of issues including promoting mobile pastoralism, labor mobility, cross-border trade, improving on the legal/regulatory frameworks at the country and regional level for cross-border movements, and addressing the additional drivers of migration/displacement.

06 Informal Social Protection in Borderlands – Policy Brief

Multiple, interconnected systems affect marginalized individuals, households, and communities living along borderlands across Africa. The cross-border areas between Kenya and Tanzania are not an exception. The challenging mix of human and natural catastrophes associated with extreme climatic change, economic decline, and the socio-economic upshot of the coronavirus pandemic drove these groups of people into a deepening phase of extreme poverty, disproportionately affecting women and youth. Informal social protection has been an important engine for social and economic growth opportunities for communities in Africa. However, contemporary social protection systems show insignificant efforts to integrate borderland communities into national development policies and programmes. This spotlight brief provides insight into the contributions of informal social protection structures in the lives of populations residing in cross-border areas of Kenya and Tanzania. It identifies promising opportunities that can impact the lives and livelihoods of these populations and offers policy recommendations for strengthening informal social protection in these border regions.

07 Promise, Peril, and Resilience: Voices of Agropastoralists in Africa's Borderland Regions

The UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre conducted this research to provide evidence-based recommendations for developing policy and programmatic interventions in Africa that leverage the sources of borderland agropastoralists' resilience. The study took place in borderland regions across eight countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda in the Eastern Horn, and Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso in West Sahel Africa. The study is unique- involving direct, in-person, in-depth conversations in local languages, with over 1,042 agropastoralists, in hard-to-reach borderland communities in East and West Africa. The study challenges oversimplified notions of borderlands as lawless, backward, and developmentally peripheral places to live. It validates the point that agropastoralists have a strong attachment to their homelands; they demonstrate remarkable adaptability to living in rugged terrains and enduring vulnerabilities- and they take responsibility for their own development journey. The research proffers development solutions to build the resilience of farmers and herders against multiple vulnerabilities in Africa's borderlands. This unique research fills a critical knowledge gap and provides deep insights into the dynamics in Africa's borderland regions.

08 Peace and Security in Africa's Borderlands” IPSTC Special Edition

Africa's borderlands are sites of enormous innovation, creativity, and economic potential, containing human and natural resources to support thriving communities and fast-growing local economies. Yet these areas tend to be underserved by national institutions and too often suffer from conflict, instability, and endemic poverty. This has caused many difficulties for local communities by limiting cross-border trade, infrastructure investment, and socio-economic development.



09

Analysis Report on Trends And Patterns in Resilience and Innovation by Informal Cross Border Traders in East Africa: Case Study of Youth and Female-Owned Businesses Before & Post-Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic brought new challenges for cross-border in Africa. To prevent the spread of the virus countries in the East African countries (EAC) imposed restrictions including border closures, lockdowns, curfews, and travel bans. As a result, cross-border supply chains were significantly disrupted, and the livelihoods, safety, and well-being of informal cross-border traders mostly women and youth were placed at risk. The analytical report on Trends and Patterns in Resilience and Innovation by Informal Cross Border Traders in East Africa: Case Study of Youth and Female-owned Businesses Before & Post-Covid-19 sought to develop a comprehensive understanding of current and future trends and patterns in resilience and innovation by informal cross-border trade in East Africa. The knowledge curated will be utilized to stimulate the development of policies at national and regional levels, development practitioners, and other key stakeholders interested in borderland development. Moreover, the report aims to strengthen and maximize ICBTs' opportunities to participate African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

10

UNDP Africa Borderlands Encyclopaedia:

Africa's borderlands are home to some of the continent's most creative and resilient populations. However, inadequate curation of data about the sources of their resilience, and socio-economic livelihoods is a significant gap in the development and policy ecosystem. In 2021, the Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC) embarked on wide-ranging activities including the commissioning of the Borderlands Encyclopaedia, to enhance evidence and knowledge-based programming, elevate the voices of stakeholders, and deepen practitioners' understanding of the borderlands' strengths and development trajectories. In an effort to bridge the data gaps in African borderlands, the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre conceptualized and developed a first-of-its-kind Borderlands Encyclopaedia which aims to aggregate secondary data from 106 terrestrial border pairs/trios in Africa on borderlands demography, economy, security, basic infrastructure, conflict situation and mobility. The Encyclopaedia concept was refined through consultations with borderland stakeholders, UN and UNDP Data Experts, and development practitioners. The vision is to position and elevate the Encyclopaedia as the 'one-stop shop' for accessing authoritative borderlands data for evidence-based policy, research, innovation, and development programming.

11

Can Groundwater Act as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Africa's borderlands?

The article "Can Groundwater Act as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Africa's Borderlands?" discusses the potential of groundwater in alleviating drought impacts in Africa's Horn region. It emphasizes the vast, untapped groundwater resources available and how their utilization could support socio-economic development, especially in arid regions. The article highlights the need for innovative water management solutions, including groundwater exploration, to address water scarcity and enhance resilience against climate change, particularly in borderland areas.



12 Mandera Triangle Context Analysis (available upon request)

ABC, in partnership with LPI and the UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn conducted the Mandera Triangle Context Analysis which highlights the geopolitical and socio-economic complexities of the Mandera Triangle, an area bordering Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. It underscores the region's vulnerability to climate change, political marginalization, and security challenges, including violent extremism and inter-clan conflicts. The analysis emphasizes the importance of cross-border cooperation and integrated approaches to address these issues. It also identifies opportunities for socio-economic development, environmental management, and peacebuilding, advocating for a mix of short-term humanitarian aid and long-term development strategies to improve the lives of the residents in this strategically significant region.



13 Karamoja Gender and Conflict Analysis (available upon request)

ABC conducted a 2022 "Karamoja Cluster Gender and Conflict Analysis" which examines the complex interplay of gender, conflict, and socio-economic factors in the Karamoja region, spanning Kenya and Uganda. It highlights the prevalence of cattle rustling and competition for scarce natural resources like water and pasture as key conflict drivers. The analysis reveals that cultural practices, particularly cattle rustling for wealth and marriage, significantly influence the region's security dynamics. The report underscores the need for gender-sensitive approaches in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, recognizing the distinct roles and impacts of these conflicts on men and women in the Karamoja cluster.

14 Spotlight Briefing: Guinea-Bissau Cross-border Illicit Economies with Guinea-Conakry and Senegal (available upon request)

The UNDP ABC "Spotlight Briefing: Guinea-Bissau Cross-border Illicit Economies with Guinea-Conakry and Senegal" examines the dynamics of illicit economies in the borderlands of Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, and Guinea. It focuses on how these economies impact local communities and governance. The briefing delves into various forms of illicit trade, including illegal goods, cattle rustling, and drug trafficking, highlighting their influence on political stability and community life. It emphasizes the need for comprehensive policies that address the unique challenges of borderlands, integrating the perspectives of local communities and authorities in tackling these complex issues.

15

Guidance Note on Area-Based Borderlands Programming (available upon request)

The UNDP ABC 2023 "Area-Based Portfolio Guidance Note" outlines a comprehensive approach for development programming in Africa's borderlands. It emphasizes the importance of area-based, integrated interventions that address the unique socio-economic, environmental, and security challenges of borderland communities. The note underscores the necessity of engaging local communities, leveraging regional integrations, and utilizing innovative technologies and practices. It aims to enhance sustainable development, resilience, and peacebuilding in these marginalized areas through a coordinated, multi-sectoral strategy that acknowledges the distinct needs and potentials of borderland regions.

16

Strategic Options for UN-UNDP Engagement with AU-SADC in Cabo Delgado (available upon request)

The "Strategic Options for UN-UNDP Engagement with AU-SADC in Cabo Delgado" report assesses the crisis in Cabo Delgado, Northern Mozambique, and neighboring states. It details the violent extremism and insurgency challenges, examining regional conflict dynamics, legal frameworks, and stakeholder interventions. The report advocates for a comprehensive approach beyond military strategies, emphasizing the importance of economic empowerment, human rights, and gender mainstreaming. It suggests leveraging UNDP's capacities for data collection, research, and programmatic interventions in borderland communities to address these crises holistically, aiming for stabilization, recovery, peacebuilding, and sustainable development in the region.

17

Programme Report Trade for Peace in the Sahel (available upon request)

The "Building Community Resilience through Trade for Peace for COVID-19 Response and Recovery" project focused on enhancing community resilience and socio-economic recovery in the Liptako-Gourma Region's borderland communities. Aiming to address food and economic insecurity, which are key conflict drivers, the project sought to promote peacebuilding and social cohesion by fostering economic integration through increased cross-border trade. Key activities included improving conditions for cross-border trade, enhancing income-generating activities, food security, livelihoods, and promoting conflict prevention and peacebuilding between communities. Special emphasis was placed on empowering women and youth, who are vital for sustainable economic recovery.

18

Goats of Home – A Manga Story

The UNDP ABC Manga, titled "A Story about Liptako-Gourma: Hope and Resilience," is a graphic novel that illustrates the challenges and resilience of communities in the Liptako-Gourma region of West Africa. It depicts the struggles of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to conflicts, climate change, and structural poverty. The manga follows the experiences of a Japanese university student, Nozomi, who learns about the region's issues through interactions with local residents and UNDP staff. It highlights the importance of community cooperation, sustainable development, and the UNDP's role in supporting these communities to build a resilient society. The narrative aims to raise awareness about the interconnectedness of global issues and the power of resilience and hope in overcoming adversity.



19 Assessing the Intensity and Concentration of Conflict in Africa's Borderlands (available upon request)

"Assessing the Intensity and Concentration of Conflict in Africa's Borderlands" is a comprehensive UNDP study focusing on conflict dynamics in East Africa's borderlands over the past three years. The study uses advanced geographical information systems to analyze shifts in conflict intensity and concentration. It reveals a significant escalation in conflict, with 2022 being the most fatal year. The research found that borderlands experience higher conflict events and fatalities, especially within 20 kilometers of the border. The study suggests a need for more inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms and increased funding for research on borderland dynamics, aiming to enhance policy-making and conflict resolution strategies.

20 Food security in Africa's borderlands (available upon request)

UNDP ABC's "Food Security Analysis Paper" examines food insecurity in Rwanda's borderlands. It identifies factors influencing food insecurity among 5,505 households across 17 border districts, primarily composed of rural smallholder farmers. The study uses the Food Consumption Score for evaluation. Key findings reveal that income increase significantly reduces food insecurity, with a \$1 rise in monthly income decreasing the likelihood of food insecurity by 1.11%. Land ownership and access to agricultural loans are negatively correlated with food insecurity, while funds allocated to education increase it. The analysis highlights the critical role of agricultural income, asset ownership, and diversification in improving food security in these regions.

21 "Gender Disparity in Income and Labor Force Participation: A Consequence of Unpaid Work"

The paper "Gender Disparity in Income and Labor Force Participation: A Consequence of Unpaid Work" examines the impact of unpaid household work on gender disparities in income and labor force participation in Africa's borderlands. It highlights that women contribute significantly more hours to unpaid work compared to men, deepening gender wage gaps and reducing women's participation in the labor force. The study finds that income increase and education reduce unpaid work hours, whereas marital status influences it. Policy recommendations include investing in infrastructure, education, and recognizing the value of unpaid work to address these disparities and support women's economic empowerment.

22 Coffee Book: Africa's Borderlands at a Glance

To better understand the true picture and opportunities in borderlands, the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre undertook a targeted mapping of data and stories from Africa's borderlands. The Centre tapped into the power of pictures and illustrations to create a coffee book which elevates the voices of borderland communities.

Building on a database of 106 border pairs in Africa and a repository of stories and pictures from these borderland regions, the book puts a face to the quantitative data contained within the Borderlands Encyclopedia Dashboard. This first edition focuses on 8 countries where primary data was collected as part of the Borderland Centre's flagship research into sources of resilience of agro-pastoralists in borderlands.

23 Assessing the Vulnerability of Citizens in the Delivery of Healthcare and Education Services in the Borderlands of Africa (available upon request)

The paper titled "Assessing the Vulnerability of Citizens in the Delivery of Healthcare and Education Services in the Borderlands of Africa" investigates the challenges faced by people in African borderlands in accessing education and healthcare. It utilizes survey data to examine factors affecting service delivery. Key findings include significant infrastructural gaps, with 14.3% of individuals lacking access to educational institutions and 38.7% facing difficulties in accessing healthcare facilities. Discrimination based on economic status, ethnicity, and religion is a major barrier. Government legitimacy and citizen participation are crucial for improving service delivery, and corruption and bribery further hinder access. The study emphasizes the urgent need for policy interventions to bridge these gaps and enhance service accessibility in African borderlands.

24 Investigating the effect of Conflict and Climate Change on the livelihoods of Agro-Pastoralists in the borderlands of East and West Africa"(available upon request)

The paper titled "Investigating the effect of Conflict and Climate Change on the livelihoods of Agro-Pastoralists in the borderlands of East and West Africa" explores how conflict and climate change impact the income of farmers and pastoralists. Using a sample of 1042 respondents from eight African countries, it utilizes a multivariate linear regression model to analyze weekly income. Key findings include the significant negative impact of living in certain borderlands on income, with Uganda being the most affected. Gender differences are notable, with males earning significantly more. The study emphasizes the urgent need for policy interventions to address these challenges and improve livelihoods in these regions.

25 Borderlands Development in the Karamoja – Programme Report (Available upon request)

The "Borderlands Development Project Report Karamoja" focuses on socio-economic development and peace in Africa's borderlands, specifically in the Karamoja region. Key activities include enhancing civil society contributions, improving resilience through livelihood support, climate change impact mitigation, and promoting social cohesion. The project engages women and youth-led civil society organizations (CSOs) to influence policy and improve human security. It includes infrastructure improvements, such as school and borehole construction, conflict analysis, and gender assessments. Challenges include environmental stressors, conflict, poverty, and marginalization. The project aims for sustainable peace, resource management, and socio-economic development in border communities.

26 Digital Financial Inclusion for African Borderlands

The report titled "Digital Financial Inclusion for African Borderlands" discusses the challenges and opportunities in promoting financial inclusion through digital means in African borderlands. It emphasizes the role of community credit unions and village savings and loan associations in facilitating access to financial services in these regions. The report highlights the importance of integrating these community-based financial institutions with innovative financial technology (fintech) platforms to make financial services more accessible, cost-effective, and convenient. Key challenges include limited financial literacy, inadequate financial infrastructure, and regulatory obstacles.

The report also delves into various aspects of digital financial inclusion, such as the use of ICT in community credit unions, challenges and opportunities for interoperability in cross-border payments, financial modeling and analytics, and regulatory frameworks. It underscores the potential of digital technologies in reshaping the traditional banking landscape and extending financial services to previously unbanked populations. The report also presents recommendations for policymakers, financial institutions, and other stakeholders to foster financial inclusion in these regions.

27 Borderlands Innovation Challenge Report

The "Innovation Challenge Report 2021-2022," led by the Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC), focused on fostering sustainable economic development in Africa's border regions. The challenge, under the theme "Improving Livelihoods for Informal Cross Border Traders and Trading Communities," aimed to identify, nurture, and amplify local innovations within borderland regions of Africa, crucial drivers of entrepreneurial activity supporting Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT). The project spanned from June 2021 to December 2023, with a goal to scale up successful innovations.

Key aspects included local sensing, innovation design, solution exploration, prototyping, testing, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. The challenge addressed challenges like COVID-19's impact on cross-border trade and worked towards scalable ideas with proof of concept. The involvement of Accelerator Laboratories in ten locations was significant, focusing on areas like digital literacy, financial inclusion, and market intelligence. The report underscores the importance of digital financial services in enhancing cross-border trade efficiency, entrepreneurship, and economic growth, aligning with various Sustainable Development Goals.



28

The Milk Value Chain in the Sahel (available upon request)

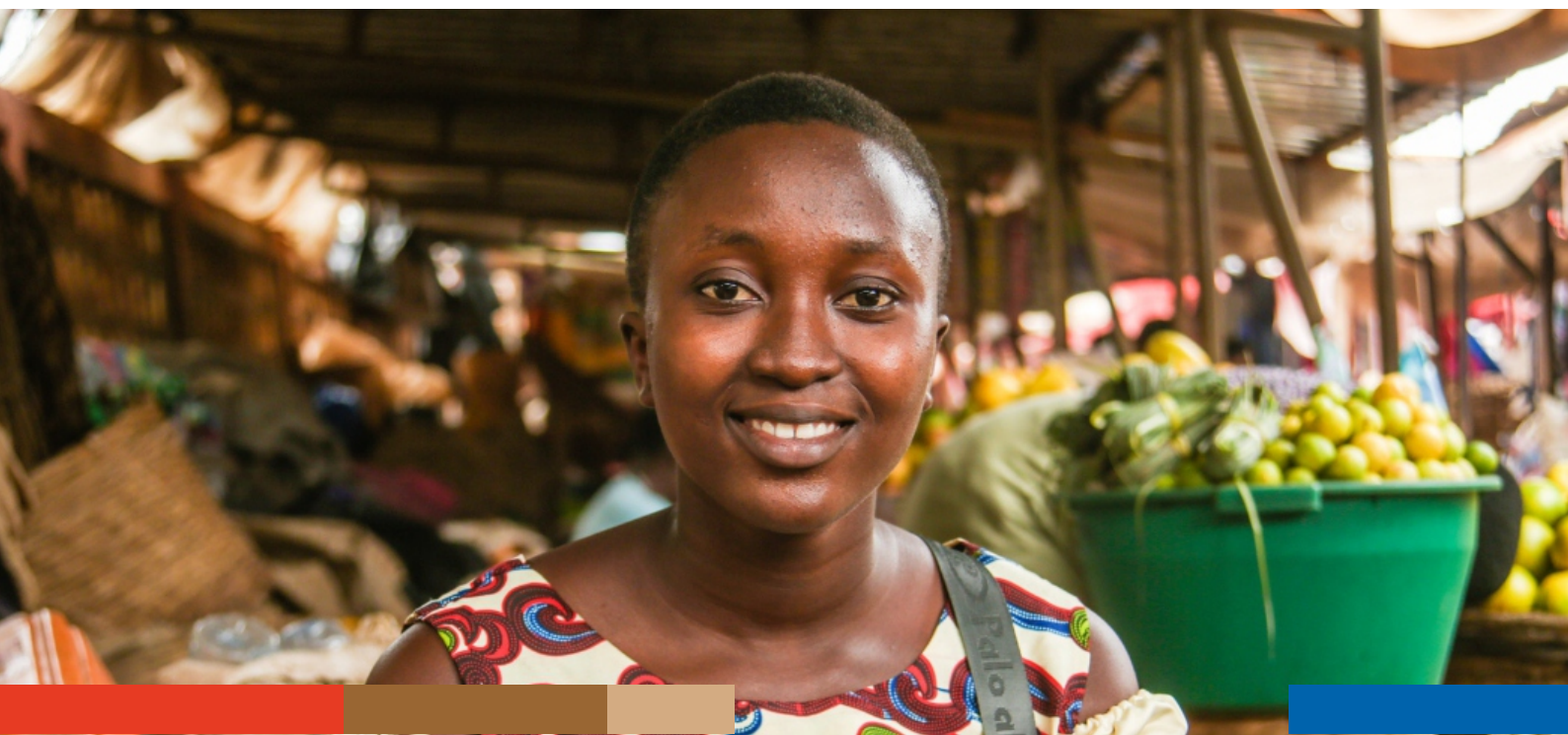
The report focuses on the milk value chain in the Liptako-Gourma region of the three-border area encompassing Burkina-Faso, Mali, and Niger. It discusses the vital role of milk in the local economy, emphasizing its cultural and economic importance, particularly for women who are key in milking, processing, packaging, and selling milk products. The report details the challenges facing the sector, including climate change impacts, security issues, and lack of infrastructure, which affect milk production, collection, and distribution. The document proposes solutions to improve the milk value chain, such as strengthening organizational structures, introducing innovative production methods, and enhancing equipment and infrastructure. It underscores the need for collaborative efforts among stakeholders to support and develop the dairy sector in this region



29

Africa Borderlands Centre Data Forum

The report details the outcomes of a forum organized by the Africa Borderlands Centre in Nairobi, March 2023, focusing on data collection, analysis, and dissemination for policymaking in Africa's borderlands. The forum addressed the lack of accessible data in these regions and launched the Borderlands Encyclopaedia, a comprehensive data portal. Key discussions included innovative data sources and methodologies suited to border regions, the importance of partnerships, and engaging communities in data processes. The report emphasizes the need for sustainable, inclusive data ecosystems, highlighting challenges like data scarcity, inconsistent methodologies, and the need for capacity building in data analysis.



30 Community-based social protection mechanisms in Africa's borderlands – Liberia and Sierra Leone case study.

The report on “Community-based social protection mechanisms in Africa's borderlands – Liberia and Sierra Leone case study” is the outcome of case studies undertaken in Liberia and Sierra Leone that are part of a larger sub-Saharan Africa regional study that includes Ghana, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. This study focuses on the borderland regions in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The borderland regions of both countries face complex development challenges that intersect with peacebuilding and humanitarian action. Despite these challenges, these borderlands have immense opportunities for transformation. In a context of low state-based social protection coverage and scant government services and physical and social infrastructure that characterize many borderland regions in Africa, community-based social protection organizations (CBSPOs) have been playing a crucial role in bridging gaps in basic needs and access to services. In particular, this study focuses on understanding the non-state community-based mechanisms of social protection in the Liberia and Sierra Leone border regions. The recommendations shared in this report offer pathways that will enhance UNDP social protection work in Africa.

