

## **Foreword**

### Sustaining Development in West and Central Africa

As we entered 2023, the world was filled with echoes of optimism, a sentiment shared by many at the start of any new year. Yet, the global landscape we navigate today has dramatically shifted. Global solidarity is seemingly waning, geopolitics are in heavy flux, traditional power structures are being questioned, and new voices are emerging from corners once silent. Our world is interacting, innovating, and even conflicting in unprecedented ways.

In West and Central Africa, we saw a familiar face on the ascendency once more, one with footprints all over recent history. The complex situation of unconstitutional transitions and the development disruption it leaves behind have placed us at a time when the past and the present are in conflict with each other.

The events in Niger, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, and Burkina Faso, among others, aren't mere isolated events. They signify a deeper, more seismic shift in the political and developmental fabric of the region, reflecting a growing desire among these countries for a new direction and renewed governance.

Amidst this complex context, UNDP found itself in an intricate web of both challenge and opportunity. Our support is now more crucial than ever, and the implementation of our mandate faces increasing complexities.

Throughout 2023, in collaboration with our technical and financial partners, we launched several initiatives aimed at fostering development through policy support and direct interventions. Our efforts in governance and peacebuilding have significantly enhanced social cohesion, resilience, and good governance while addressing economic disparities amid intricate security, environmental, political, and socio-economic challenges.

For instance, through our governance portfolio, we partnered with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) to assess the current state of corruption and illicit financial flows in Africa, offering solid recommendations to address these issues. Through the Regional Stabilization Facility, our collaborative efforts have helped reach close to 1.7 million people, more than half of whom were women, significantly contributing to the stabilization and recovery of target areas affected by violent extremism. Our efforts in building and rehabilitating essential infrastructure, enhancing security, and supporting local economies underscore our holistic approach to stabilization and long-term development.

Significant milestones were also achieved in our youth portfolio where we launched a new cybersecurity workstream in collaboration with Give1 Project. The initiative, focused on enhancing the digital skills

and cybersecurity knowledge of young people in the region, and opening new avenues for economic participation and innovation, built a network of 8,611 cybersecurity enthusiasts, including 24 youth who benefited from a three-month training programme in preparation for the internationally recognized CompTIA Certification in Cybersecurity.

Additionally, our efforts extended to climate security and resilience, where we convened over 150 stakeholders for the first-ever Sahel Climate, Peace and Security Forum. Here, the landmark Bamako Declaration was adopted, outlining the commitment of Sahelian countries to advancing climate, peace and security in the region. Through the Sahel Resilience Project, we reached 1,851 people with Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation activities, empowering regional institutions and national governments to adopt risk-informed development planning and investments. Our efforts also culminated in the development of the Sahel Integrated Risk Information Platform and the Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System for Africa, which help strengthen policy frameworks, harmonize data collection tools and support decision-making in disaster risk management and planning across the region.

These efforts were supported throughout the year by the remarkable dedication of 3,052 UN Volunteers, who, through their diverse expertise and commitment, played a pivotal role in our interventions, reaching nearly 685,000 people across the region.

The lessons and milestones recorded over the past year provide a solid foundation for 2024 and together with our partners, we are committed to deepening our impact and embracing bold aspirations that seek out the greatest benefit for millions across the region.



Njoya Tikum
Director, UNDP SubRegional Hub for
West and Central
Africa and Resident
Representative, UNDP
Senegal

Join us!





24 Countries

Provided with dedicated technical expertise and country office support



4,866

Women and youth enrolled in cash for work opportunities through the Regional Stabilization Facility in 2023 alone



1.36 Million

People benefitted from stabilization interventions in the Lake Chad Basin Region



1,851

People reached through disaster risk reduction initiatives under the Sahel Resilience Project



293,639

the Liptako-Gourma Region



700

Community members, traditional leaders and local authorities engaged in a dialogue series to improve social cohesion in Burkina Faso



**685,000** 

People reached by 3,052 UN Volunteers mobilized and deployed to the West and Central Africa region



90,000

People in Mali and Burkina Faso voluntarily returned to their communities thanks to stabilization interventions



Young cybersecurity enthusiasts from West and Central Africa form new network in partnership with Give1 Project



2,000

Security providers with improved knowledge in human rights, gender-based violence and related criminal procedures.

6 I UNDP WACA 2023 Annual Report

# **2023 Country Index**

West and Central Africa (WACA)



#### Benin

Population: 13.7 Million HDI: 0.504 Fragility Index: 73.3 Terrorism Index: 3.1614 Global Peace Index: 2.177 GDP (Billion \$): 21.79 Innovation Index: 120



#### Côte d'Ivoire

Population: 28.9 Million HDI: 0.534 Fragility Index: 87.1 Terrorism Index: 2.06 Global Peace Index: 2.053 GDP (Billion \$): 86.89 Innovation Index: 112



### Guinea

Population: 14.2 Million HDI: 0.471 Fragility Index: 98.5 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 2.359 GDP (Billion \$): 25.33 Innovation Index: 128



### Nigeria

Population: 223.8 Million HDI: 0.548 Fragility Index: 98.0 Terrorism Index: 7.575 Global Peace Index: 2.713 GDP (Billion \$): 394.94 Innovation Index: 109



#### **Burkina Faso**

Population: 23.3 Million HDI: 0.438 Fragility Index: 94.0 Terrorism Index: 8.571 Global Peace Index: 2.868 GDP (Billion \$): 22.92 Innovation Index: 124



### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Population: 102.3 Million HDI: 0.481 Fragility Index: 107.2 Terrorism Index: 6.514 Global Peace Index: 3.214 GDP (Billion \$): 73.29 Innovation Index: N/A



### Guinea-Bissau

Population: 2.2 Million HDI: 0.483 Fragility Index: 89.9 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 2.045 GDP (Billion \$): 2.18 Innovation Index: N/A



### Republic of Congo

Population: 6.1 Million HDI: 0.593 Fragility Index: 90.7 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 2.210 GDP (Billion \$): 15.42 Innovation Index: N/A



#### Cameroor

Population: 28.6 Million HDI: 0.587 Fragility Index: 94.0 Terrorism Index: 6.98 Global Peace Index: 2.660 GDP (Billion \$): 52.98 Innovation Index: 123



### **Equatorial Guinea**

Population: 1.7 Million HDI: 0.650 Fragility Index: 84.4 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 2.013 GDP (Billion \$): 10.34 Innovation Index: N/A



### Liberia

Population: 5.4 Million HDI: 0.487 Fragility Index: 88.9 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 1.946 GDP (Billion \$): 4.59 Innovation Index: N/A



### Sao Tome & Principe

Population: 0.2 Million HDI: 0.613 Fragility Index: 69.7 Terrorism Index: N/A Global Peace Index: N/A GDP (Billion \$): 0.76 Innovation Index: N/A



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





#### Cape Verde

Population: 0.6 Million HDI: 0.661 Fragility Index: 60.1 Terrorism Index: N/A Global Peace Index: N/A GDP (Billion \$): 2.8 Innovation Index: 91



#### Gabon

Population: 2.4 Million HDI: 0.693 Fragility Index: 65.5 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 2.068 GDP (Billion \$): 19.85 Innovation Index: N/A



### Mal

Population: 23.3 Million HDI: 0.410 Fragility Index: 99.5 Terrorism Index: 7.998 Global Peace Index: 2.963 GDP (Billion \$): 23.07 Innovation Index: 129



### Senegal

Population: 17.8 Million HDI: 0.517 Fragility Index: 71.5 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 1.827 GDP (Billion \$): 35.19 Innovation Index: 93



### **Central African Republic**

Population: 5.7 Million HDI: 0.387 Fragility Index: 105.7 Terrorism Index: 1.445 Global Peace Index: 2.934 GDP (Billion \$): 3 Innovation Index: N/A



### The Gambia

Population: 2.8 Million HDI: 0.495 Fragility Index: 76.1 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 1.888 GDP (Billion \$): 2.68 Innovation Index: N/A



### Mauritania

Population: 4.9 Million HDI: 0.540 Fragility Index: 87.0 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 2.228 GDP (Billion \$): 10.91 Innovation Index: 127



### Sierra Leone

Population: 8.8 Million HDI: 0.458 Fragility Index: 81.4 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 1.792 GDP (Billion \$): 3.61 Innovation Index: N/A



### Chac

Population: 18.3 Million HDI: 0.394 Fragility Index: 104.6 Terrorism Index: 4.987 Global Peace Index: 2.699 GDP (Billion \$): 13.19 Innovation Index: N/A



### Ghana

Population: 34.1 Million HDI: 0.602 Fragility Index: 62.3 Terrorism Index: 0.000 Global Peace Index: 1.799 GDP (Billion \$): 75.65 Innovation Index: 99



### Nige

Population: 27.2 Million HDI: 0.394 Fragility Index: 93.4 Terrorism Index: 7.274 Global Peace Index: 2.625 GDP (Billion \$): 19.54 Innovation Index: 131



### Tog

Population: 9.1 Million HDI: 0.547 Fragility Index: 82.1 Terrorism Index: 4.670 Global Peace Index: 2.130 GDP (Billion \$): 9.86 Innovation Index: 114

# **A Regeneration**

### UNDP's Contribution to Implementing UNISS

In 2013, the UN Security Council adopted the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) to help address the root causes of the crisis in the region, and empower the Sahelian people. The strategy, which carves out ten countries and focuses on governance, resilience and security, was followed by the elaboration of the UNISS Support Plan in 2018 to accelerate results on the ground. The support plan is framed around 6 priority areas whose effective implementation is sparking transformation in the Sahel: cross border and regional cooperation; preventing and resolving conflicts; inclusive and equitable growth; resilience to climate change; access to renewable energy, and women and youth empowerment.

Together, the UNISS and Support Plan, as guiding frameworks, target 10 countries of the Sahel: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. These frameworks are implemented by UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) in the region, with the involvement of regional entities, national governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), international finance and development partners, donors and other stakeholders.

To support the implementation of UNISS, UNDP launched "A Regeneration" in 2021 as its development offer for advancing peace and sustainable development in the region. Since its launch, UNDP has supported the region in the critical development areas of governance, renewable energy, and youth. These efforts have been geared towards unlocking the region's socioeconomic promise via three key areas of development: governance, renewable energy, and youth.

The upcoming "A Regeneration" Implementation Report takes a look at how UNDP, as the leading development agency has galvanized support at international, continental, national, and local levels to support the development aspirations of Sahelians. It highlights how crises can be transformed into opportunities through collaboration with national governments and local communities under a steadfast vision for future prosperity.



# **Introducing the Transitions Facility**

### The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT)

In response to the rising trend of unconstitutional changes of government (UCG) and attempted coups across the continent, UNDP in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) launched the new Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT). This facility aims to provide integrated programmatic support to countries in Africa undergoing complex political transitions.

AFSIT was launched in mid-2023 in response to a call by AU Heads of State and Government at the 16th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, held on 28 May 2022 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The facility works to:



### Restore and Deepen Constitutional Order

Support the implementation of a legitimate and inclusive national transitional roadmap towards the restoration and deepening of constitutional order



# Promote Regional and Cross-Regional Exchanges

Enhance regional and crossregional exchanges to foster understanding and learning about complex political transitions



## Enhance the Role of Regional Institutions

Enable the role of regional institutions through capacity building and technical assistance to assert greater leadership in addressing complex transitions



# **3rd High-Level Conference**

# On the Lake Chad Region

For decades, the Lake Chad Basin region has grappled with various forms of insecurity including banditry, abduction, highway robbery, and cattle rustling among other challenges. Moreover, the persistent conflict instigated by Boko Haram has severely undermined state functionality, diminishing the government's ability to provide essential human security and profoundly affecting millions of lives across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.

To tackle the multidimensional challenges in the region, riparian governments and the international community initially gathered at high-level conferences in Oslo (2017) and Berlin (2018). These meetings aimed to harmonize efforts across the region and secure commitments to mitigate the crisis. Continuing this critical dialogue, the 3rd High-Level Conference, hosted by Niger and co-organized by Germany, Norway, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), brought together over 30 countries, international organizations and more than 100 civil society organizations from January 23-24, 2023, in Niamey, Niger. The conference fostered essential international, regional and cross-border consensus on strategic adjustments necessary to effectively address the complex issues plaguing the region.

The conference underscored the urgent need to respond to escalating humanitarian demands and the necessity to address the root causes of the crisis. It highlighted the positive strides made in parts of the region where security improvements, driven by concerted efforts from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and partners have allowed for the resumption of essential social services, the strengthening of the social contract and the revitalization of local economies.

Through the UNDP Regional Stabilization Facility for example, joint efforts have helped improve the lives of millions through access to livelihoods, healthcare, education, electricity, and other critical services. Cross-border trade and economic activities have also resumed in areas like Amchidé (Cameroon) and Banki (Nigeria) with revenue in customs growing from \$0 between 2015 – 2019 to \$1.4m in 2021 alone. The economic growth, return of critical infrastructure and enhanced security have also contributed to the voluntary return of hundreds of thousands of formerly internally displaced persons.

As the conference concluded, partners reaffirmed their dedication to bolstering coordinated actions and fostering collaboration among communities, local and national governments, regional bodies, and a spectrum of actors engaged in humanitarian, stabilization, peace, and development efforts. This commitment was marked by pledges from Member States and institutional donors who announced contributions exceeding \$500 million, aiming to support a comprehensive, integrated, and cohesive response to the crisis in the Lake Chad region.



# **UNDP Deputy Directors' Visit**

Joint Mission to the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub

In May 2023, Noura Hamladji, UNDP Deputy Director for Africa, alongside George Conway, former Deputy Director for the Crisis Bureau, embarked on a three-day visit to Senegal. Their mission was focused on assessing and exploring prospects for sustainable development in the region.

During their trip, the Deputy Directors engaged in discussions with senior government officials, UN counterparts, partners and other stakeholders. These conversations aimed to deepen existing partnerships and explore new avenues for amplifying UNDP's ongoing support particularly in areas such as governance, climate change and economic development, which are critical to Senegal and the broader region.

A significant highlight of their visit was the tour of the UN House in Diamniadio. The visit provided an opportunity to interact directly with the teams on the ground, gaining insights into the impact on UN Staff and the potential opportunities a common UN house presents to UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs).

Another key component of their visit was the launch of the Accelerator Lab in Senegal. This initiative is part of a global learning network of 91 labs established in 115 countries, designed to rethink development for the 21st century. The Senegal Accelerator Lab is designed as a hub for innovation, leveraging local insights and cutting-edge technologies to address development challenges efficiently and effectively. By fostering a culture of experimentation and adaptability, the lab is poised to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.







As their visit drew to a close, the Deputy Directors also met with the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub and Country Office Team in Senegal. These discussions delved into the strategic role of the Global Policy Network (GPN) in equipping UNDP with the tools to deliver integrated responses to the complex challenges in the region.











14 I UNDP WACA 2023 Annual Report UNDP WACA 2023 Annual Report I 15

## The 4th LCB Governors' Forum

### Fostering Early Recovery and Development

The 4th Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum, held in N'Djamena from July 5-7, 2023, convened political leaders from the four Boko Haram-affected areas — Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria representatives of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations (UN), other multilateral and bilateral institutions, donor governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the media. The forum, organized by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in collaboration with the AUC and UNDP, focused on ongoing challenges and the next steps for the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience (RS-SRR). It addressed necessary enhancements to the strategy to tackle evolving security, humanitarian, and developmental needs in Boko Haram-affected areas.

The forum provided a platform for sharing progress and lessons learned and strategizing on the RS-SRR's implementation as it nears a pivotal transition phase with discussions highlighting the need for robust cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation, particularly in improving security measures against insurgent groups and enhancing community resilience. This was highlighted by the successes of the Regional Stabilization Facility, demonstrating the RS-SRR's effectiveness. By providing targeted interventions, the Facility has directly contributed to enhancing security measures and bolstering community resilience, thereby showcasing progress within the broader RS-SRR framework.

Furthermore, the forum explored community-based approaches for the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-Boko Haram members, emphasizing the importance of aligning these efforts with broader community needs and ensuring they are inclusive of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. The forum called for innovative solutions to support these initiatives, stressing the need for sustained funding and international cooperation.

As the RS-SRR moves into its next phase, the upcoming forum in Nigeria in 2024 will be a critical moment to consolidate these discussions and advance the strategy. The commitment to a unified regional approach and the continuous adaptation of the strategy were clear outcomes of this meeting, reflecting a shared dedication to restoring peace and promoting sustainable development across the Lake Chad















# **Joint Sahel Multi-Country Visit**

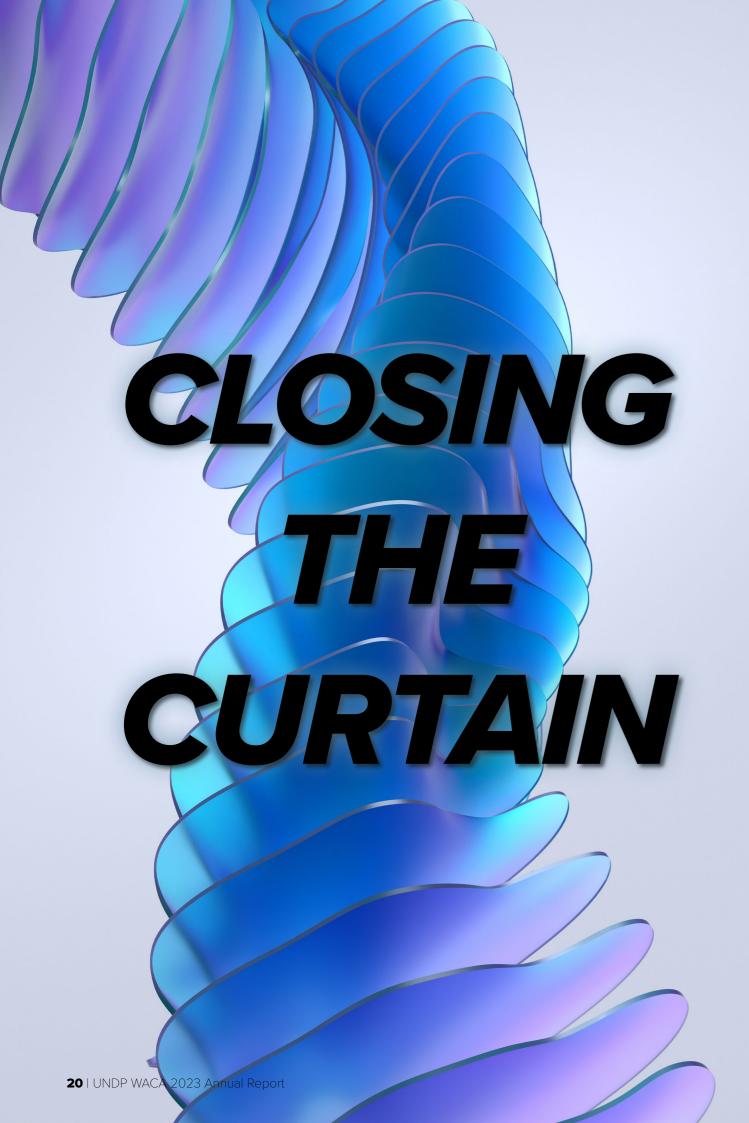
### UN Mission to the Sahel

UN Under-Secretary-General, **Abdoulaye Mar Dieye** and UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, **Ahunna Eziakonwa**, led a joint UN multicountry mission across **Mauritania**, **Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea**. It was a concerted effort to dissect the region's multifaceted issues, particularly those pertaining to security and humanitarian crises, and explore possibilities for fostering sustainable development.

The mission sought to engage with the leadership, people, and partners in these countries to understand their perspectives on the emerging aspirations of Sahelians. Through in-depth discussions and engagements with stakeholders at various levels, the mission aimed to provide a snapshot of the Sahel's current state and a roadmap for future action and intervention. Some of the key findings include:

- The situation in these countries is fluid. However, this should not obscure the desire of these countries for a new direction. Such transitional phases should serve as a catalyst for engagement with these states to promote growth and stability. Therefore, the UN must double down on its commitment to listen differently, adjust its approaches, stay engaged, deliver results, and reinforce needed capacities in these contexts.
- There is a strong desire to uphold dignity, and reclaim agency among the people and its emerging leadership. There is also a strong commitment to prioritizing development during the transition, focusing on community empowerment and a participatory approach to governance and reconstruction, including vigilance on economic justice and diplomacy.
- IFIs have almost fully resumed engagement by providing concessionary loans and grants. Additionally, some funding partners have advocated for increased flexibility in processes and rules to enhance their commitments. IFIs credit this to an improved reform environment. However, not all partners have exhibited similar re-engagement levels, revealing disparities in their approaches and readiness to support the region's development endeavours.
- The countries are eager to enhance economic governance, despite the challenge of low loan absorption rates (e.g. Burkina Faso utilizing only 24% of its \$2.4 billion World Bank loans). They are seeking UN collaboration and support to improve loan utilization for faster development. This effort includes setting up rapid delivery mechanisms, controlling assets, expanding fiscal space, addressing financial inefficiencies and promoting economic stability and inclusion to benefit the entire population. The UN can help nurture a governance architecture and facilitate a reset of democratic culture.
- ECOWAS member states expressed their willingness to collaborate with the technical arm in managing the transition timeline and plan. However, there still seems to be a trust deficit and political vacuum between ECOWAS and the countries concerned. This situation allows the UN to take on a more central role in guiding and supporting the transition efforts, promoting alignment between the states and regional bodies.
- There is a strong desire for direct engagement with the UN through their acknowledgement of and trust in the pivotal role played by UNCTs in their growth trajectory. To this end, and as raised by some partners, the absence of Resident Coordinators in Guinea and Burkina Faso poses a leadership gap with significant implications. The lack of such leadership in Guinea and Burkina Faso at such a sensitive time will hinder the clear and strategic positioning of the UN, affecting the UN's unified approach to address their specific needs.





In what proved to be a challenging year for the region, we focused our efforts on advancing thinking on development issues, fostering strategic partnerships and being adaptable. Here are some of our key moments and milestones over the past year:

# START

### -JANUARY

3rd High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region



### FEBRUARY

14th UNISS Steering Committee Meeting



### MARCH

Launch of Sahel Governance Non-Papers





GIZ Stabilize Platform Demo and Training

-APRIL -



Visit of UNDP Deputy Directors' to Dakar

-MAY



Launch of WACA-Wide Youth Campaign

JUNE-

### JULY-

4th Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum



### AUGUST

2023 EITI Global Conference



### SEPTEMBER

Future of Governance in the Sahel: Inception Workshop





Joint UN Executive Board Visit to Senegal

OCTOBER-



Sahel Climate, Peace and Security Forum

**NOVEMBER** 



UNDP x GIVE1 Project CyberSecurity Training

DECEMBER





# FROM CRISES TO OPPORTUNITY: REGENERATING GOVERNANCE



700 Community
Members Reached



WAEMU Partnership Initiated



3 Regional Studies Commissioned

In the past year, UNDP made substantial advancements in governance across several critical areas, reflecting a comprehensive approach to addressing the multidimensional challenges faced in the region.

In partnership with Dialogue Sans Frontières, UNDP launched a community dialogue series in Burkina Faso. This initiative helped improve social cohesion and strengthen coexistence among more than 700 community members, traditional leaders, and local authorities in hotspots and at-risk parts of the country. A study was also commissioned to analyze the state of e-governance in the Sahel and offer recommendations for strengthening local e-governance systems through digital technology. The focus on innovative and digital governance solutions is critical, as it not only improves service delivery but also plays a crucial role in rebuilding trust between citizens and state institutions.

Within the Renewed Governance and Peacebuilding Framework, UNDP launched its Economic Governance portfolio, focusing on enhancing member states' abilities to manage natural resources, combat corruption, and address economic disparities. Through a partnership with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), UNDP initiated two regional studies on: "Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs)" and "An Overview of Corruption in African Private Sectors" to assess the current state of corruption and illicit financial flows in Africa whilst providing possible solutions.

Our efforts extended to strengthening the rule of law, justice, human rights, and security, with significant technical assistance provided to Chad for implementing its women, peace, and security agenda and enhancing access to legal identity. By developing an intervention map for the human rights, justice, and security sectors, UNDP supported facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices among country offices, furthering our commitment to promoting human rights and access to justice across West and Central Africa.

Amidst political, economic, and social instability, our initiatives also aimed to support inclusive political processes, prevent violent extremism, and enhance civic engagement, particularly among women and youth. Through capacity-building efforts, including the Prevention Academy's online training and technical advisory missions, UNDP supported countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sao Tomé and Principe in governance reforms and peacebuilding measures.

Throughout these endeavors, UNDP's strategic partnership with regional organizations, civil society, and research institutions has been instrumental in amplifying our efforts and ensuring that our initiatives align with the overarching development agendas of the communities we serve.







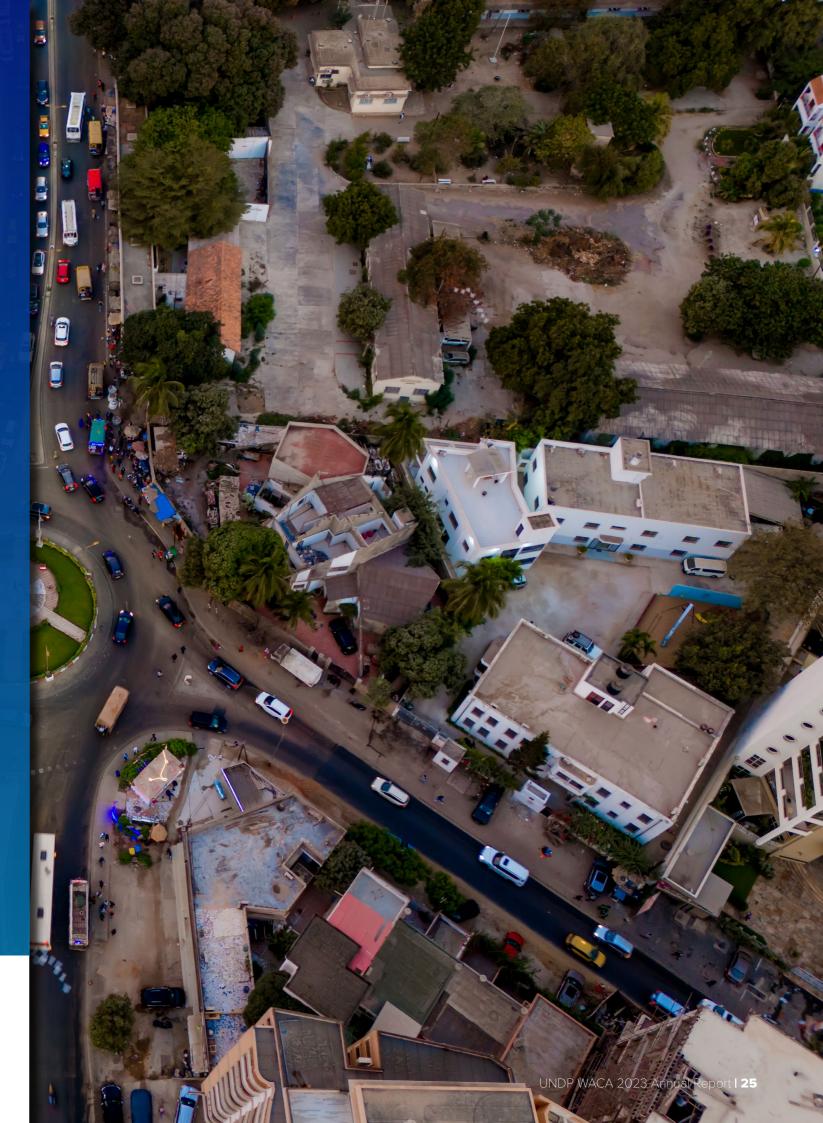












By fostering effective local governance structures and enhancing state-society relations, UNDP is directly addressing the root causes of conflict and underdevelopment. UNDP WACA 2023 Annual Report | 27



# MAXIMIZING THE YOUTH BULGE: YOUTH AS CATALYSTS







24 Young people with Improved Knowledge and Skills in Cybersecurity



326 People Reached
Through Viable Alternatives
to Migration

UNDP recognizes the pivotal role young people play in shaping a sustainable future and remains committed to empowering youth across West and Central Africa. Over the past year, our efforts centred on addressing three critical areas: employment, entrepreneurship, arts and culture; energy, environment, climate change; and youth, peace, and security.

In 2023, UNDP placed a strong emphasis on youth empowerment by facilitating access to decent work, entrepreneurship opportunities, and digital knowledge, and skills. Initiatives like the "UNDP x Give1 Project Cybersecurity Regional Training" were launched to boost digital skills and cybersecurity knowledge among youth, thereby creating new opportunities for economic participation, innovation and employment. This initiative created a network of 8,611 young cybersecurity enthusiasts. The first cohort, comprising 24 individuals, benefited from three months of online training and were prepared for the internationally recognized CompTIA Cybersecurity Certification during a two-week practical training session in Senegal. So far, the training is creating a multiplier effect as one trainee formed a company with partnerships in Kenya and Canada, to address the increasing rate of attacks in Africa while another received a government contract to shore up their cybersecurity defences.

These efforts were complemented by our collaboration with LVIA through the "Personal Fulfillment as an Alternative to Migration" initiative in three countries - Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger - where viable alternatives to migration were offered through training and socio-economic integration opportunities. Efforts under this programme reached 326 young people both physically and virtually while a mapping exercise that explored capacity building and socio-economic opportunities for young people in the region was successfully conducted resulting in 206 actors being identified.

In the past year, UNDP also joined hands with UNICEF to launch a flagship youth initiative designed to upskill young people and reduce youth unemployment in the region. The initiative offers an opportunity for UNDP and UNICEF to build on ongoing collaborative initiatives in the field of youth entrepreneurship in order to strengthen their ability to deliver on productive transitions for young people.

UNDP has also been actively supporting youth to build resilience against conflict and violence. Our efforts to involve youth in peacebuilding activities not only contribute to stability but also to long-term peace prospects. As we continue to expand our efforts in 2024, UNDP remains committed to deepening its engagement with youth across these key areas.









# FROM CRISES TO OPPORTUNITY: THE ENERGY TRANSITION



Burkina Faso Energy Stakeholders Platform



Action Plan Validated



National Off-Grid Renewable Platform Created

In the Liptako-Gourma Region, the pilot phase of the "UNOPS-UNDP Joint Project to Support Rural Electrification through Renewable Energy Systems" supported by the Government of Sweden, works to

The project adopts a dual strategy: delivering direct benefits to communities, led by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and spearheading institutional and regulatory transformations under UNDP's guidance. These efforts have yielded notable achievements, including the establishment of the Burkina Faso Energy Stakeholders Platform through the adoption of a decree and the validation of action plans for solar photovoltaic mini-grids, thereby fostering an environment conducive to private sector investment in renewable energy.

In partnership with the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and UNOPS, UNDP facilitated the creation of a national off-grid renewable energy coordination platform in Burkina Faso. This initiative paves the way for addressing various energy access challenges, from rural electrification to environmental and social considerations, through a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach.

Regular engagements with energy stakeholders in the region, conducted in accordance with UNDSS security guidelines, demonstrate the project's adaptability and proactive risk management, and underscores its commitment to flexibility and strategic planning.

The synergy with the Africa Mini-Grids Programme further enhances the project's capacity to sustain and expand upon its efforts. Moreover, the commitment to clean cooking technologies—demonstrated through community training and the setup of production centres in the three countries—underscores a holistic approach to renewable energy access.

As the project advances towards completion in June 2024, strategic planning and stakeholder engagement are crucial, particularly in response to shifting ECOWAS dynamics. UNDP is poised to continue working hand in hand with partners to further drive the transformation of energy access in the region, laying a solid foundation for a resilient and sustainable energy future.

















# **ADVANCING CLIMATE SECURITY** IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA







150 Stakeholders Convened for Climate Security Forum

Landmark Bamako **Declaration on Climate** Security Adopted

Lake Chad Basin Policy Note Developed

In recent years, climate security has surged to the forefront of global discourse, highlighting the intricate linkage between climate, peace, and security. In West and Central Africa, the growing effects of the climate crisis, marked by floods, droughts, and rising sea levels, continue to intensify the struggle for resources, displace communities and exacerbate conflict and communal tensions.

Amidst this, the need for comprehensive climate and security solutions that help secure stability, bolster resilience against the adverse effects of climate change, and prevent further escalation of conflict in affected communities has become more pressing than ever. In response, UNDP launched a regional Climate Security Project to roll out interventions in this critical domain and support conflict prevention through climate action in the region.

UNDP also worked closely with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to integrate climate security into peacebuilding efforts and deepened partnerships with key strategic entities such as the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and various bilateral donors like Sweden, Denmark and Canada, promising further advancements in climate security.

These efforts were complemented by the organization of the first-ever Sahel Climate, Peace, and Security Forum in Bamako, Mali, a significant political milestone that secured firm commitments from Sahelian countries and organizations towards advancing climate security in the region. The forum brought together over 150 stakeholders for critical climate security dialogue and collaboration, focused on exploring innovative solutions and funding mechanisms to address climate, peace and security issues, culminating in the adoption of the "Bamako Declaration on Climate Security".

On a granular level, strategic efforts have been undertaken to weave climate security more deeply into UNDP's programming across Sub-Saharan Africa. This includes the creation of the Programmatic Offer on Climate Security and a policy note for the Lake Chad Basin, aimed at enhancing understanding and operationalizing climate security concepts.

UNDP is poised to continue its critical work in climate, peace and security, an increasingly vital area. Our efforts will focus on implementing the Bamako Declaration on climate security, mobilizing regional action towards addressing the interlinkages between climate change, peace, and security, enhancing knowledge management around UNDP's climate security initiatives, and bolstering support and programme development in West and Central Africa.





















# LAKE CHAD BASIN AND LIPTAKO-GOURMA REGIONAL STABILIZATION FACILITY



1.7 Million People Benefitted from Interventions Including 872,000 Women



4,866 People Enrolled in Cash for Work Activities



90,000 People Voluntarily Returned to their Communities in Mali and Burkina Faso

The Liptako-Gourma and Lake Chad Basin regions remain at the epicentre of multifaceted challenges, where complex webs of security, environmental, political, economic, and demographic factors significantly impact peace and stability. In this context, the Regional Stabilization Facility has played a crucial role in fostering social cohesion and counteracting the impacts of insurgency and conflict. By supporting approximately 1.7 million people, including nearly 872,000 women, the facility significantly contributed to restoring normalcy in several parts of the region. It also contributed to the voluntary return of 435,000 formerly internally displaced persons in the Lake Chad Basin and 90,000 in Liptako-Gourma.

Through our concerted efforts, the facility constructed and rehabilitated 32 security and justice infrastructure such as police stations and gendarmeries, across the targeted areas, thus contributing to an improved sense of security in communities. Training initiatives on human rights and gender-based violence-related issues aimed at enhancing the technical capacities of 2,000 security providers have further solidified this sense of security. Furthermore, the installation of 2,245 street lights and the construction of 127 water points have helped to improve daily communal living.

The facility also made significant strides in supporting economic empowerment, particularly among 3,192 women and youth, through business grants and productive assets. A further 4,866 people, including 3,455 women, benefitted from cash-for-work programmes, while 2,639 people (including 2,531 women) received training in business management. This multifaceted support enabled beneficiaries to initiate or expand their businesses, thus contributing to stabilizing livelihoods and bolstering local economies.

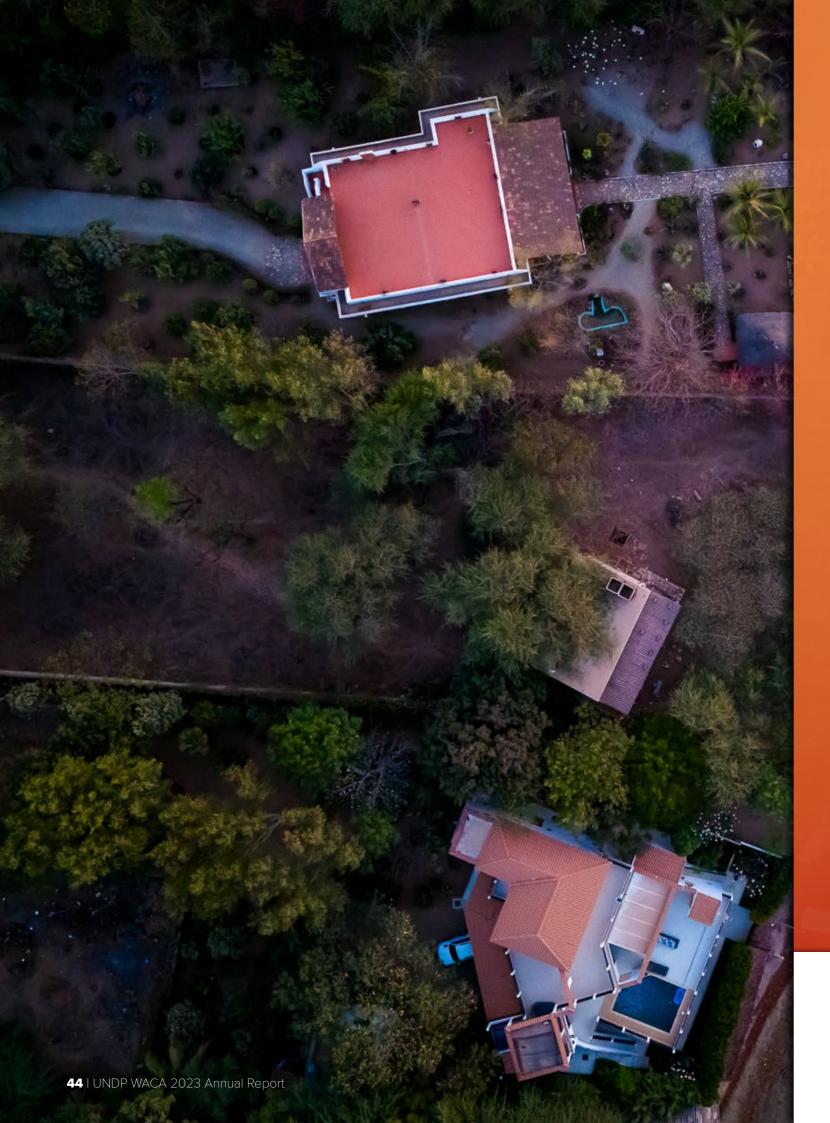
These comprehensive efforts, targeting the enhancement of regional cooperation, strengthening the presence of state authorities, improving access to basic services, supporting local economies, and fostering social cohesion, were driven by the contributions of partners like: the African Development Bank, the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria, along with local actors in both regions.

Looking ahead, the facility is committed to sustaining the gains made and scaling up its efforts, focusing on cross-border cooperation, infrastructure rehabilitation, social cohesion, and economic support for communities.









# STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



1,851 Public Officials Reached through DRR and Climate Adaptation Activities



Sahel Integrated Risk Information Platform Developed



Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System Developed

In 2023, the Sahel Resilience Project, supported by the Government of Sweden, made significant strides in enhancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts, reaching 1,851 public officials and emphasizing resilience-building against various challenges, including crises, conflicts, and socioeconomic shocks. This initiative has been instrumental in empowering regional institutions and national governments towards adopting risk-informed development planning and investments.

A key achievement was the development of an integrated risk information platform for the Sahel, conducted in collaboration with the AGRHYMET Regional Centre. Designed to harmonize data collection tools and aggregate regional data, the platform provides partners with vital information for decisionmaking and establishes the foundation for national disaster databases through comprehensive training programmes focused on disaster data collection and analysis.

Through the project, several training sessions and webinars aimed at harmonizing systems for collecting and analyzing disaster impact data were conducted. These initiatives have significantly enhanced the capabilities of national experts and stakeholders, equipping them with advanced skills necessary for utilizing sophisticated data collection and analysis software.

The project also supported the development of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System for Africa (AMHEWAS) and contributed to the upcoming ECOWAS Resilience Strategy, thus strengthening policy and budgetary frameworks for risk-informed development.

With its inclusive, gender-sensitive, and people-centered approach, the project has amplified its impact across sectors, particularly in bolstering women's empowerment and socio-economic integration within the region. Through strategic partnerships with entities such as UN-Habitat, UN Women, the African Union, and various academic partners, the project has offered comprehensive support to key regional bodies, including ECOWAS and AGRHYMET/CILSS. This extends to supporting national governments, local municipalities, and civil society organizations in implementing comprehensive strategies for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development.

Now in its second phase, the Sahel Resilience Project will continue to deepen its contributions towards fostering a resilient Sahel, with plans to enhance disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and socio-economic resilience.

















# LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC **RECOVERY**



**Baseline Data Collection** Study Initiated



**EWASME Project Officially** Launched



1,000 Women Entrepreneurs to be Empowered

In 2023, the launch of the "Empowering Women's Capacity Building in the Rice Value Chain (EWASME)" project served as a milestone in UNDP and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)'s joint efforts toward livelihood and economic recovery in Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Niger. Aiming to empower 1,000 women entrepreneurs by enhancing their roles in the rice value chain, the project aligns with the sub-region's economic backbone which is expected to see substantial growth from USD 299.78 billion in 2023 to USD 334.24 billion by 2028.

To support the project's implementation, a comprehensive baseline data collection study was initiated to tailor project activities closely to the needs of women entrepreneurs and inform supportive policies. Workshops and stakeholder engagements across the four countries facilitated a unified understanding and approach towards realizing the project's ambitions, emphasizing training, technical support, and improved access to financing and infrastructural resources for the women involved.

Livelihood and economic recovery efforts also extended its reach through strategic partnerships with ECCAS, UNNM, UNHCR, and ECOWAS, amplifying its impact across sectors to bolster women's empowerment and economic integration in the region. Key milestones include providing tailored support to crafting project theories of change and developing Country Programme Documents (CPDs) for Chad, Benin, and Burundi. This has seen the formulation of diverse programmatic support, ranging from funding windows to technical assistance and policy briefs, underscoring a holistic approach to livelihood and economic recovery. Furthermore, an Annual Workshop for Focal Points of Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in Africa, took place in Dakar, Senegal. This workshop became a platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building, addressing economic recovery related issues and exploring multi-country projects to mitigate the impacts of global and regional crises.

The Livelihood and Economic Recovery portfolio, through its ancillary activities and the EWASME project, is poised for a significant scale-up of its interventions. UNDP, in partnership with IsDB and other partners, is dedicated to deepening the project's impact within the rice value chain. By creating supportive ecosystems for SME development, facilitating access to finance and markets, and harnessing the potential of digitalization, the project aims to foster sustainable economic growth, resilience and the building of sustainable communities across the region.







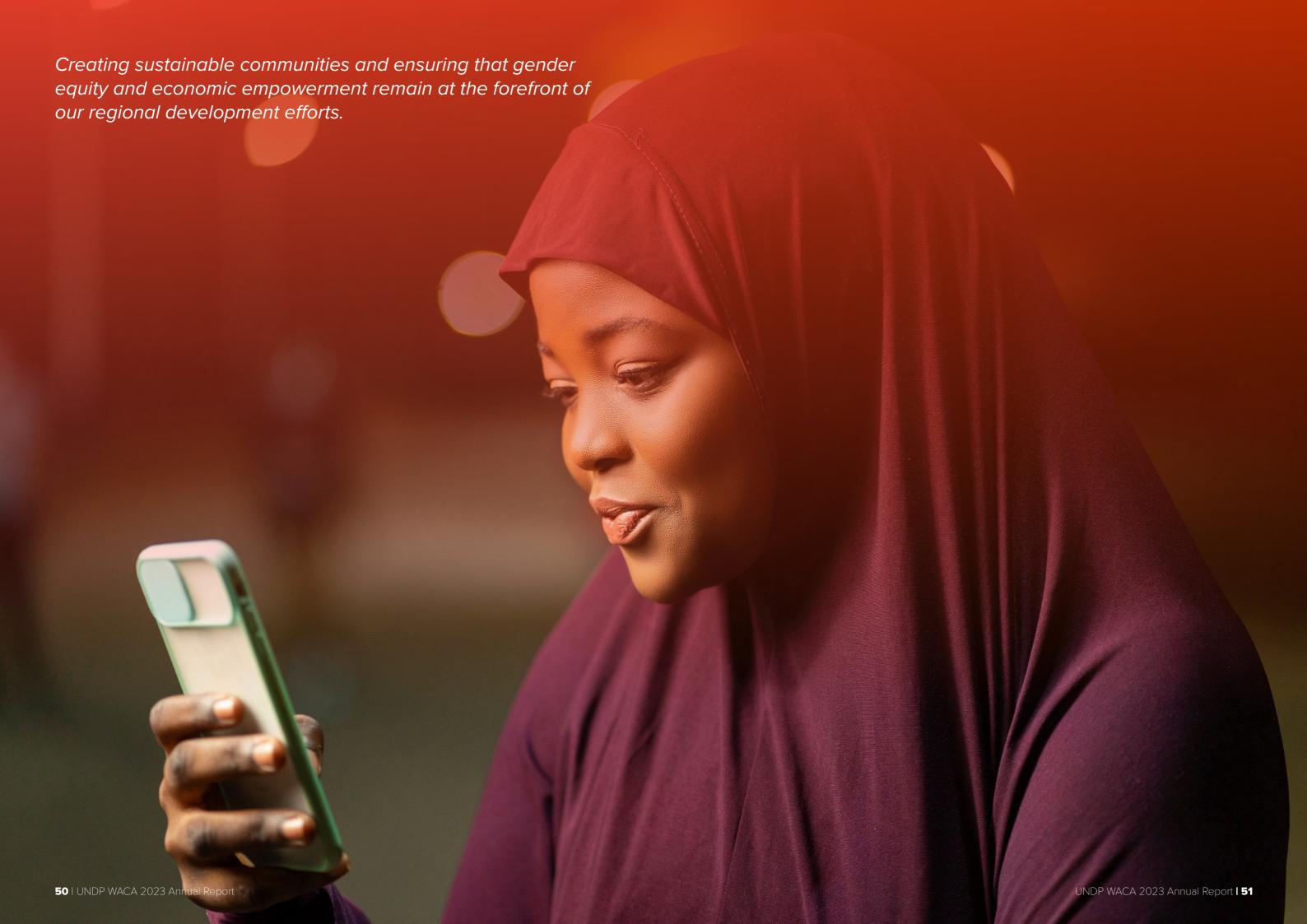














# THE UNV PROGRAMME IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA







715 UN Volunteers Deployed to UNDP Offices in West and Central Africa



3,025 UN Volunteers Deployed Across the Region

In 2023, the UN Volunteers Regional Office for West and Central Africa intensified its efforts to foster social cohesion and resilience in some of the most challenging settings in the region. Through strategic partnerships and focused interventions in the Lake Chad Basin and the Liptako-Gourma, as well as supporting Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) programmes, UN Volunteers played a crucial role in supporting humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts in the region.

The programme underscored its commitment to governance, resilience, and security by mobilizing a substantial number of volunteers – a testament to the widespread recognition of volunteerism as a vector for change. A total of 3,052 UN Volunteers were deployed across 32 UN agencies and 3 UN Peacekeeping Operations, bringing diverse expertise to UN agencies, including a significant contingent that supported UNDP-led initiatives. Notably, 715 UN Volunteers were aligned with UNDP projects, contributing to reaching nearly 685,000 beneficiaries, primarily youth, the elderly, and IDPs/refugees.

In the Sahel, where UNDP and its partners implement the Regional Stabilization Facility, 60 volunteers were deployed to support efforts to rebuild trust, foster resilience and pave the way towards sustainable peace and development. These efforts were instrumental in contributing to the overall impact of the facility as it reached close to 1.7 million people, including nearly 872,000 women. A further 523 online volunteers were mobilized and supported UN development efforts through areas such as graphic design, editing, translations, website management, and awareness raising campaigns against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), all from their homes and communities.

The programme also mobilized 44 UN Volunteers in support of PBF-Funded projects implemented in collaboration with UNDP across 10 countries in the region. Mobilized volunteers played a crucial role in electoral and governance support, crisis and emergency responses, programme development and community engagement efforts.

Looking ahead, the UN Volunteers programme will continue to align its offerings with the evolving needs of the UN system. By actively promoting UN Volunteers Talent Solutions, and ensuring that volunteerism is seamlessly integrated into relevant UN frameworks, the programme is set to continue making a significant impact on peace, security, and development in West and Central Africa.

Made Possible By





\*A total of 88 fully funded UN Volunteers were mobilized to support UN entities in West and Central Africa.

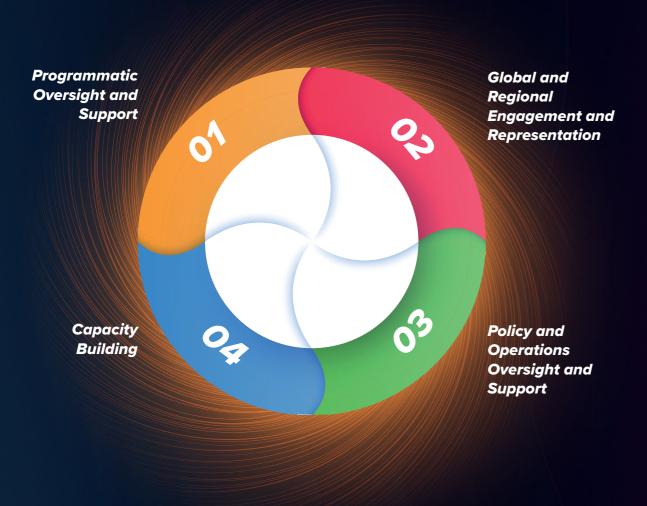
14 of them were deployed to UNDP, representing a financial contribution of \$940,000.



# **Country Office Support Team**

2023 Key Highlights

Throughout 2023, the UNDP WACA Country Office Support Team (COST) provided strategic oversight and advisory services to Country Offices across the region. These include:



### Programmatic Oversight and Support

15 Country Programme Documents (CPDs) were formulated and approved following quality assurance and specialized capacity support from COST, including 7 in WACA, and electoral monitoring support to Senegal and Gabon.

### O Global and Regional Engagement & Representation

Advisory support was provided for High-Level Senior Management engagements such as the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, COP 28, the AU Summit, and the 30th Anniversary of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).

### O Policy and Operations Oversight and Support

9 Country Offices were 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

COST provided programme and policy expertise to Country Offices in the region through the System for Tracking Advisory Requests and Services (STARS) and supported the full rollout of UNDP's new institutional platform. The team also provided capacity building support to Country Offices across the region through Project & Portfolio Management (PPM) training sessions in 2023.

# **Global Shared Services Centre**

2023 Key Highlights

The Bureau for Management Services Global Shared Services Centre (BMS/GSSC) is a hub of excellence that provides customized packages of HR and Finance services to more than 42,500 UN personnel from 80 agencies, funds, and programmes across the UN system. Offering services since 2003, and with a team of multi-lingual experts located in eight cities (Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Copenhagen, Dakar, Istanbul, Kuala Lumpur and New York), BMS/GSSC has established a legacy as a major administration centre within the UN that provides a high level of customer care support and policy and process knowhow to both internal and external clients across the globe.

### **Core Support Areas**



- In 2023, BMS/GSSC completed over 1.1 million finance transactions and service requests for clients within the UN system with UNDP accounting for close to 80% of GSSC service requests with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) making up 25% of that share.
- Over 600,000 payroll related transactions worth \$2 Billion were completed on behalf of internal and external clients – UNDP and 85 other UN agencies (including, WHO, UNOCHA, WFP, UNV, and UN Women).
- In addition to leading the global supplier conversion for all UN Quantum agencies, the Centre processed over 170,000 suppliers during the reporting period.
- In terms of non-staff administration, BMS/GSSC administered over 10,500 Personnel Service Agreements for UNDP, UNCDF and UN Volunteers across 170+ Countries and Territories in English, French and Spanish with additional services provided in Arabic and Portuguese to countries within the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) and Portuguese speaking countries within RBA and in Brazil respectively.
- BMS/GSSC expanded the provision of HR Benefits and Entitlement services to more than 40,000 employees across 170+ Countries and Territories in English, Spanish and French. Over 50% of these volumes are provided to over 40 UN Agencies, with anchor clients being WFP, UNFPA, UN Women, UNOCHA and UNDP.

The GSSC also supported emergency duty stations across the globe by prioritizing their requests within tightened Service-Level Agreements (SLAs).

# **Partnerships for Development**

### Redefining our Engagements in the Region

In 2023, the landscape of partnerships in West and Central Africa witnessed a shift, recognizing the dynamic complexities of development and the essential roles of diverse stakeholders in fostering sustainable growth. Throughout the year we emphasized the importance of adaptive, responsive partnerships that prioritize the direct inputs and engagement of the communities we serve. This shift towards a more inclusive model ensures that our initiatives are not only receptive to the needs of the local populations but are also robust enough to withstand socio-political fluctuations and environmental challenges.

We expanded our collaborative networks to include a broader spectrum of partners, including local NGOs, civil society organizations, private sector leaders, academic institutions alongside our ongoing engagements with continental bodies, regional organizations, and donors.

Key partnerships this year included enhanced collaborations with entities such as the African Union, ECOWAS, the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) and new partnerships with WAEMU, LVIA, Give1 Project and CCRS that brought fresh perspectives and solutions to longstanding challenges. These relationships have been instrumental in rolling out initiatives that address everything from climate resilience and economic stability to governance and youth engagement.

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





of West African States (ECOWAS)



**Economic Community** of Central African States (ECCAS)



Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)



Gourma Authority (LGA)



Project



Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS)



Development Bank (AfDB)



Development Bank (IsDB)



Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW)



Dialogue Sans



West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)



### **Funding our Work**

Some of the key partners who played a role in supporting our efforts across the region include:



Global Environment Facility





Germany



United Kingdom



Japan

Peacebuilding

Fund





Czech Republic



Sweden



Operations





Fund





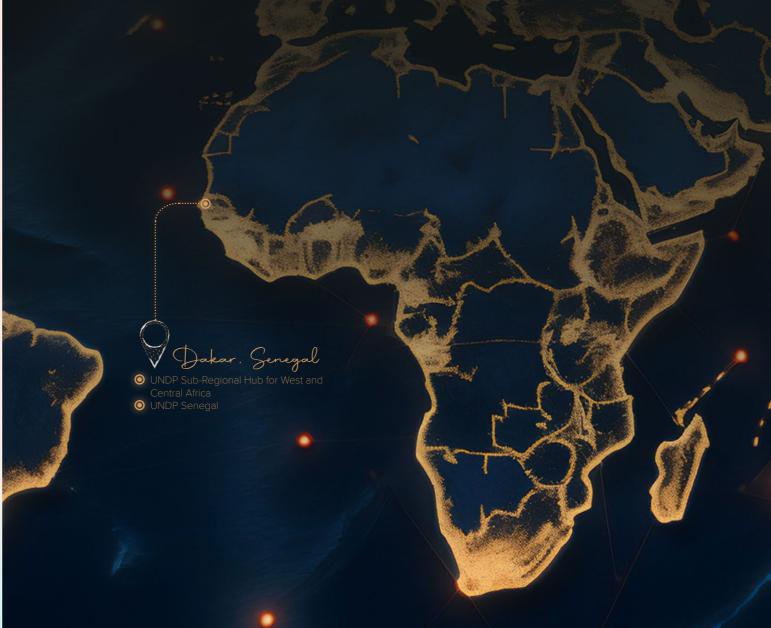
# **UNDP** in Senegal

### A Revamped Footprint

UNDP's presence in Senegal, under the leadership of the Director of the UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa (UNDP WACA) and Resident Representative of UNDP Senegal, encompasses both sub-regional and country-level teams dedicated to fostering development across Senegal and the 24 countries in the sub-region.

At the sub-regional level, UNDP WACA is at the forefront of accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is achieved through a holistic approach that melds strategic policy support with innovative programming, fostering strong partnerships, and rolling out comprehensive capacity-building initiatives.

At the country level, UNDP Senegal works closely with the Government of Senegal, local communities, civil society, the media and international partners to help address the country's unique challenges and support unlocking its full potential. By focusing on critical areas such as inclusive and sustainable economic growth, environmental sustainability, and governance, UNDP Senegal works to strengthen institutions, enhance social cohesion and support resilience building.



# **Meet the Team**



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



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Sevenais Sterling

Your unwavering spirit, deep kindness, and unforgettable smile will forever remain in our hearts.

66 I UNDP WACA 2023 Annual Report UNDP WACA 2023 Annual Report I 67

