



RESILIENCE
HUB FOR
AFRICA

**BROCHURE:
UNDP
RESILIENCE HUB
FOR AFRICA,
NAIROBI**



What is the UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa

The UNDP Resilience Hub (RH) based in Nairobi, Kenya was established in 2019, as a thematic hub with a mandate on integrated resilience. In 2023, the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre became integrated with the Hub and the programmatic focus of both became aligned. Given the emerging nature of risks, resilience calls for doing development differently through a whole-system approach, integrating three main aspects: avoiding the siloed approach to risks; bridging the geographical divide in risks and hazard management; and learning to see risks where we have never seen them before. Investing in resilience is about making development climate and shockproof so that it can be sustained over time. It's about applying a foresight and system thinking that allows addressing the root causes of crises and conflict through portfolio approaches while building a strong mid-to-long term economic, social and environmentally smart foundation for peaceful and prosperous future.

What is the Objective of the Hub?

The Hub's objective is to strengthen Africa's resilience by breaking the vicious cycle of crises by multiple, intersecting vulnerabilities, by promoting and facilitating gender sensitive, people-centred resilience building through national and regional governments, the private sector, non-governmental and inter-

governmental partners across Africa through policy, programming and funding support.

What is the Thematic Focus of the Hub's Work?

- Africa Borderlands Centre inspires new approaches to development that prioritize community participation, local leadership, and cross-border collaboration.
- Integrated Risk-Informed Policy and Planning Support to Governments, Regional Institutions and non-governmental entities.
- Predictive Analytics, Early Warning and Response Systems.
- Inclusive Governance for Climate and Environmental Resilience.
- Safe, Equitable and Environmentally Sustainable Cross-Border Mobility.
- Climate-Proof Ecosystem that Sustainably Harnesses Water and Energy.
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, particularly in Urban Settlements.
- Support programming to work across the HDP Nexus to drive more effective resilience-building, including engagement of the private sector.

What are the Hub's Programmatic Outcomes?

There are two outcomes underpinning the Hub's work. First, it seeks to transform the capacity of governments to define, prioritize, implement, and monitor gender-responsive and

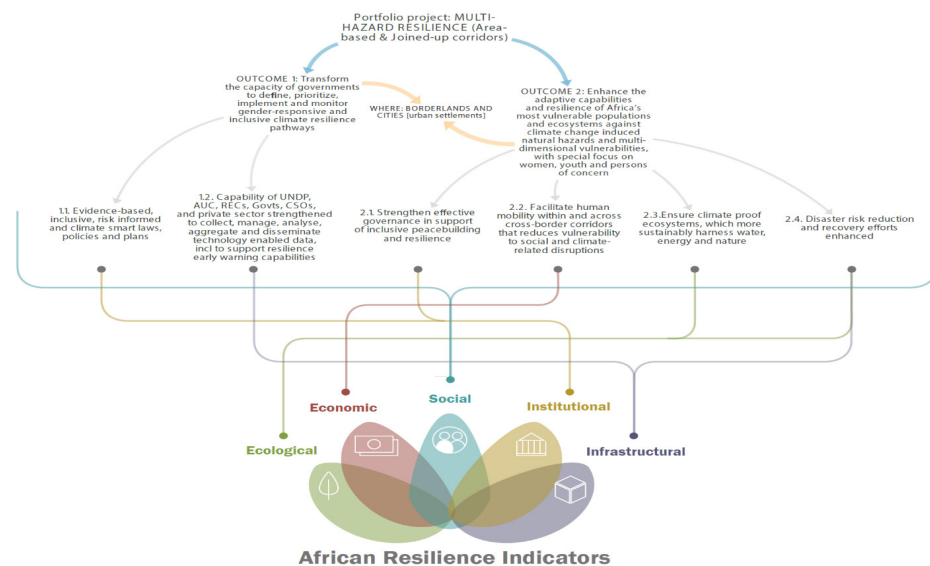
inclusive climate resilience pathways. Second, it aims to enhance the adaptive capabilities and resilience of Africa's most vulnerable populations and ecosystems against climate change induced natural hazards, with special focus on women, youth and persons of concern.

How Does the Hub Deliver on its Mandate?

Through top-notch analytics, policy influencing with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities, advisory and technical services, and hands-on guidance, the Hub has supported African Union member-states institutions to improving concrete deliverables, for the people mainly in fragile and vulnerable contexts, on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The hotspots of the Centres investments are in (a) Borderlands; (b) cross-border trade and transhumance corridors; and (c) urban settlements. These supports are provided directly to clients at the policy and community spaces, in close coordination with UNDP Country Offices spread across Africa. By leveraging the interconnections between our thematic focus, we aim to foster inclusive growth, enhance environmental sustainability, and ensure peace and security. Ultimately, our efforts will contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063.

How Does the Hub Ensure an Integrated Approach to Resilience Building?

Inspired by the ROAR, the hub recognizes that sustainable resilience building should be hinged on ecological, economic, social, institutional, and infrastructural dimensions. It then develops a **portfolio programming approach** responds to the lesson learned that siloed technical and programming approaches have not been effective; rather it is necessary to offer a full suite of responses, that can be tailored to the specific needs of each country or partner. Guided by agile and dynamic governance mechanisms, this Portfolio assumes that multi-dimensional responses to addressing complex challenges are the most effective pathway to attaining sustainable development. This will avoid ad hoc activities that focus on single issues and instead will ensure that all of UNDP's resources are aggregating towards achieving the same results, reinforcing their impact. The pillars of the portfolio are: human mobility, governance and peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction and management, and climate-proofed water and energy management.



Micro-Projects (Aligned to the Portfolio) Being Targeted for Implementation in 2024

Area-based borderlands development in the Karamoja cluster of the Horn of Africa

Its focus countries are Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. The proposed intervention will utilize the Africa Borderlands Centre's four-pillar integrated area-based approach, which is focused on (1) Supporting borderland economic resilience through enhanced livestock and climate-change-adapted crop production and strengthened value chains. (2) Strengthening borderland micro and small enterprises, focusing on Informal Cross Border Traders (ICBTs), through increased access to finance and enhanced entrepreneurship capacity. (3) Strengthening cross-border mobility and trade through climate-resilient socio-economic small-scale infrastructure investments and (4) Strengthening horizontal and vertical social cohesion and peacebuilding.

Partners: Private Sector (Absa Bank, CGIAR), UNDP Country Offices, IGAD, Life and Peace Institute, OSE-Horn, Karamoja CSO network, UN partners and Government.

Resilience Impact Fund for the Horn of Africa – the RIFHA

Its focus countries are Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi. In collaboration with a trusted Asset Manager, UNDP is co-creating an innovative financial vehicle designed to leverage blended finance to scale up private investments to foster resilience in conflict and crisis-affected regions and across the HDP Nexus. The Impact Fund will provide debt and equity to SMEs, referred to as the Missing Middle in Africa due the weak

credit-market. Amongst the financial services offered, introducing Sharia-compliant lending allows new partnerships and financing with Arab countries and foundation, while working even more closely with Muslim communities in the Horn. By investing in frontier markets affected by crises, UNDP aims to impact a paradigm shift in sustainable finance and impact investment. By bridging the gap between available capital and impactful activities, RIFHA aims to create tangible change on the ground and move closer to achieving the SDGs in Africa. As such, the initiative has the objective to inspire UNDP's role and way of working in ensuring a greater access to finance for private companies across the continent. **Partners:** Fund Manager, UNDP Finance Hub in Istanbul and Pretoria, UNDP Country Offices, Donors, African Development Bank, IFC, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Commercial Banks and Foundations.

Community-centered urban resilience in Southern and Eastern Africa

The focus countries are Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. The project will target 5 priority vulnerable cities and supporting local stakeholders in (1) accessing granular risk data for development planning, (2) strengthening participatory risk-informed urban governance mechanisms, (3) delivering inclusive and resilient basic services and infrastructure, and (4) establishing mechanisms for the sustainable management of ecosystems. **Partners:** UNDP Country Offices,

AUC, SADC, UN partners, GIZ.

Harmonizing Resilience: Coordinated Implementation of Africa's Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Inclusive Early Warning Initiatives

The focus countries are Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda. The Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) and the Early Warning for All initiatives are integral components of efforts to enhance resilience and mitigate the impact of natural hazards across the African continent. These initiatives exhibit complementarity to each other. However, the initiatives are led and championed by different institutions and at different levels (at continental and national level) with no coordination and duplication of efforts, creating power distress between institutions. The proposed project will focus on the following interventions (1) Enhancing integrated risk management and response by assuring functionality of the various systems, both horizontally and vertically. (2) Strengthening the alignment and coordination of initiatives from the continental level with the AUC, RECs and the MSs. (3) Support MSs through the COs to develop EWS roadmap and resource mobilization on identified gaps and (4) Strengthening the continental, regional, national, and sub-national/local capacities of Africa's response and preparedness efforts. **Partners:** UNDP Country Offices, IGAD,

ICPAC UN partners and Government.

Advancing free movement of persons and economic integration in the East African Community region

The focus countries are Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania. The project, jointly formulated with the East African Community (EAC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), aims to integrate human mobility into trade facilitation systems and measures in ways that can enhance the EAC Member States' socio-economic gains and thereby greater shared prosperity. The project seeks to strengthen policy frameworks, improve inclusive governance and service delivery, increase access to information, and generate data as evidence base for coherent policymaking and programmes across the EAC region. With a gender-responsive lens across the project's design, it includes specific components to support the capacity and skills of women cross-border traders and communities impacted by restricted mobility patterns in the region. It harnesses complementarities with UNDP's borderlands programming and pioneering work on supporting the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. At local level, the project promotes measures that enable cross-border traders, youth and women entrepreneurs, as well as communities of origin transit and destination, to harness the benefits of regional integration.

At national level, it supports the EAC Partner States to strengthen systems and build the capacity of immigration and border officials and local and national authorities to operationalize the trade-mobility nexus while supporting trading communities and communities in trading centers. At the regional level, it links policies and frameworks on regional free trade with those on regional free movement of persons. With long-term developmental gains in mind, the project is designed for a duration of seven years, with a three-year inception phase. **Partners:** EAC Secretariat and Member States, IOM. Close coordination between regional level and Country Offices.



What are some of the Hub's Achievements so far?

ANALYTICS

Its **Roots of African Resilience (ROAR)** is a collaborative effort between the African Union Commission, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the Resilience Hub. It re-defined the concept of resilience within the African context, identified dimensions of resilience relevant to the African context and developed guidance on operationalizing and measuring resilience on the continent. The Hub undertook a **“Ground-Level Research on Community Resilience”**, which reveals the sources of resilience in the Horn of Africa community-level context. The Africa Borderlands flagship research on sources of resilience for borderland agropastoralists, which enjoyed a high level of visibility among AU Member State, RECs and civil society organizations, titled **“Promise, Perils and Resilience: Voice of Borderland Agropastoralists”** emphasized the criticality of access to finance to borderlands businesses and mapped out three pathways, namely: labour diversification, cross-border social cohesion and mobility, as critical to accelerated development.

Working alongside the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and African Union Commission (AUC), the Hub played an instrumental role in the UNDP research project **‘What if we were able to avert the next famine in the Horn of Africa?’**. The project calls for a change in approach to break the recurrent crises and build resilience to drought and food insecurity, championing a shift away from linear thinking and siloed approaches to generating risk knowledge, towards building a collective understanding of the dynamic system, drivers, feedback loops, and leverage points, to enable the development of coherent solutions that account for complexity and how risks might change in the future. Finally, the Hub is representing the African perspective as team member in the HQ-led Integrated Task Teams. **Resilient Food Systems.** In 2023, this led to a strong technical paper on food systems resilience and the growing importance of food systems and their vulnerabilities for countries in and out of fragile / crisis contexts. The Hub developed **Borderlands Encyclopaedia Data Portal** to provide resources material to those interested in investing in, providing development assistance to, or collaborating for development partnerships with borderland communities. It is also a repository of several policy briefs, analyzing granular data on gender, mobility, inclusive growth, peacebuilding, etc, in the borderlands.

POLICY ADVOCACY

Through its co-hosting and participation in several High-Level Platforms, the Hub has been able to support AU and RECs-led efforts on promoting mobility, post-conflict reconstruction, climate resilience, loss and damage assessments, etc. The Hub participated in High-Level forums to advance the thinking, financing, and operationalization of the HDP Nexus, such as the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development. The Hub contributes, as a key member of the global UNDP HDP Nexus Academy, to facilitate and steer the policy discussions amongst multiple global stakeholders on how to design, finance and implement the HDP Nexus Approach.

Together with UNICEF, AfDB and other partners, the Hub proposed water scheme in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. The Hub participated in UNISS meeting and presents Groundwater Access Facility to enhance the leadership in water solutions.

In Kenya, the Hub contributes to capacity building and carbon market regulations, also its NDC. In Liberia, we revises the country's forest policy.

The Hub co-organized a joint workshops with Tanzania to finalize the design of two interventions towards a more resilient city, with a focus on bankable projects, mobility, equity, greening, and anti-flooding water management infrastructure.

In the Great Lakes Region, the Hub supported the completion of Inside Mediators for DDR

and host numerous DDR trainings for UN staff from across the region, as well as member states and international partners.

Together with EAC and IOM, the hub is dedicated to advancing free movement of persons and regional economic integration in the East African Community Region.

The Hub facilitated the mainstreaming of the voices of borderland youths from 9 Africa countries in the 2021 YouthKonnnect event, leading to improved awareness of opportunities for development assistance to the regions.

The Hub also utilized platforms such as the Development Dialogue Series, Africa Climate Mobility Initiatives, and the AU High-Level Tangier Conference on Peace, Security and Development Nexus to ventilate issues of borderland development. For the first time, the borderland challenges were mentioned in the UNSG's Report on Peace and Security, and the ABC was featured at the 2022 Africa Borderlands Network (ABORNE) Annual Conference. The Hub participated in the Working Group on Borderlands established by the UN Research Institute for Social Development(UNRISD), briefed the European Group on Territorial Collaboration(EGTC) during its 2022 Conference in the Czech Republic, positioned the borderlands water potential at the 2023 Steering Committee Meeting of the Sahelian States and the 2023 UN Water Conference, and briefed the UN Special Envoys for the Sahel, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes.

PROGRAMMING

The Hub hosts the REDD Project that supports sustainable outcomes in the land and natural resources sectors. It implements processes and activities that entail interactions with local communities, governments, multilaterals and the private sector through joint engagements with the World Agroforestry Centre, IUCN, and NGOs.

Through the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), which the Centre hosted, it co facilitated collaboration with pan-African and regional organizations, climate adaptation actions, whilst contributing to addressing financial gaps.

Through the Africa Borderlands Centre, it generated proof of concept and delivered acclaimed results that “leaves no one behind” on agropastoralists value chain, access to finance for informal cross border traders, climate-resilience infrastructure and social cohesion in border communities cutting across 30 African countries.

Through its HDP Nexus Advisor, regional and national stakeholders are capacitated to more effectively drive policies and programming to address the HDP Nexus. In the Regional Horn of Africa, working with the World Bank, the hub provided technical assistance (TA) for the Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience programme.

The Hub is implementing Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project in its 3rd year.

PARTNERSHIPS

Together with AUC and Mozambique, the hub launched Covid-19 Africa Recovery Framework. Through regional post-disaster needs assessment(PNDA) trainings, PDNA and recovery planning capacities of 15 ECOWAS member states were strengthened. The hub also has been supporting several COs in mobilizing resources for DRR/Resilience programming.

The Hub is working on strengthening women's leadership on resilience and adaptation to climate mobility in Africa as its long-term priorities. In the meanwhile, development solutions to forced displacement is one of the team's priorities.

With support from the Government of Japan, the Hub launched Trade for Peace in the Liptako Gourma Region, was to provide inclusive economic opportunities, promote cross-border trade and investments, enhance the resilience of communities, and prevent violent conflicts in the bordeland communities of Liptako-Gourma. In close partnership with Government of Sweden, the Hub implements project called Promoting Socio-Economic Development and Peace in Africa's Borderlands, focusing on capacity development, livelihood support and innovation, in collaboration with UNDP Country Offices.

Through the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) the Hub has worked with the World Bank to galvanize action at national level to strengthen mainstreaming of gender-sensitive climate resilience to policymaking. Through the water and energy team's work, the Hub has worked with **World Bank, AfDB, IGAD, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO** and **Ethiopia** Ministry of Water and Energy, **Kenya** Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, and **Somalia** Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. Through the Borderlands' projects, the Hub prioritized partnership with African borderland communities, national and local authorities, **AU** Member States, the **AUC** and **RECs**, and international development partners, including international financial institutions and relevant UN agencies. Through the human mobility programme's work the Hub has worked with **East African Community, IOM, UNWomen, Samuel Hall, UNHCR**. Through our Climate&Forests team's work, the Hub has worked with **UN-REDD**, DEFRA UK, and Ministries of Environment and those in charge of Forests in Sub Saharan Africa. Through the AUC's Africa Urban Resilience Programme and the Sahel Resilience Project, the Hub has worked with AUC, ECOWAS, **UN-Habitat, GIZ, UNDRR**, UNESO, **IsDB, SADC** and **IGAD**. The Global Disaster Recovery team has worked with AUC, World Bank, EU, IsDB, and AfDB to launch Covid-19 Recovery Framework for Africa and conduct Post-Disaster Needs Assessment in Malawi and Mozambique.





 <https://www.undp.org/africa/undp-resilience-hub-africa>

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