



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
SUB-REGIONAL HUB FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

United Nations Development Programme
Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa (UNDP WACA)
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Dakar - Senegal



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Foreword

Charting a Bold Future

As we begin the new year, we find ourselves not at a simple turning of a page, but at the threshold of an important moment in history—one that challenges our resolve and compels us to reimagine a future defined not by division but by hope, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of progress.

Yet, as we take a step forward, we must confront an uncomfortable truth: how can optimism thrive when millions remain displaced, livelihoods and homes are swept away by the waves of conflict, and communities weather the storm of unending war? How does one envision renewal against the backdrop of persistent conflict, poverty, and uncertainty? This is the reality we've inherited at the start of the year—where events are shaped by the decisions of a few and felt by so many.

In a year also marked by what many have called “super elections,” nearly half the world’s population engaged in electoral processes. Across 74 countries, 3.7 billion people registered to vote, with 1.7 billion casting ballots. In Africa, approximately 200 million registered voters yielded a turnout of 60.26%, closely mirroring the global average.

From India to the United States, Rwanda to Uruguay, Indonesia to the United Kingdom, many across the world entrusted their futures to leaders they believed could spark reinvention and usher in an era of change. These electoral milestones, though disparate in context, share a common thread: the hope for a democratic choice and the collective will to forge a better future.

However, as we celebrate these democratic affirmations, we are reminded of the enduring specter of instability. The Russia-Ukraine war, now in its third year, continues to underscore the complexities of modern geopolitics. Meanwhile, tensions in Gaza and the uncertain aftermath of the Assad regime’s collapse in Syria leave us in a state of flux.

Closer to home, the landscape is equally complex. In early 2024, leaders in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger announced their intention to withdraw from ECOWAS. Far from a mere geopolitical maneuver, this decision sparked a year-long mediation process—a call for the region to assert its distinct identity and craft solutions that reflect its unique challenges and aspirations.

These events are not isolated moments but interconnected signals urging us to reexamine our approach to development. As an organization born in an era of newfound independence and decolonization,

UNDP recognizes that the world today is markedly different from what it once was. Rapid shifts in the aid architecture, the gradual erosion of multilateralism, escalating debt crises, and mounting political contestations have reshaped the terrain.

This new era demands that we recognize citizens as drivers of development, foster mutually reinforcing partnerships that value the place of political and socio-economic sovereignty, and commit to long-term investments that prioritize the aspirations of the communities we serve. It calls for a recentering of development—from a top-down to a bottom-up approach that ensures countries and their citizens are at the helm of their own futures.

As we begin developing our renewed corporate vision in the upcoming UNDP Strategic Plan (2026–2029), we do so with a keen awareness of today’s challenges and a steadfast commitment to equip nations to meet their development aspirations, foster inclusive growth, create meaningful employment, nurture entrepreneurship, and build communities that can weather the storms of conflict, climate change, and inequality.

This annual report invites us to consider how the interplay of global shifts, local aspirations, and the remarkable spirit of millions inform our development interventions in the region. As you read on, may this report inspire you to partner with us in reimagining a future where peace and prosperity are not just aspirations but lived realities.

Join us as we chart a bold future together.



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



UNDP WACA IN **2024**



24

Countries provided with dedicated technical expertise and country office support



64 Million

People reached through the #IAMSahel campaign with over 845 media hits



1.4 Million

People benefited from stabilization interventions in the Lake Chad Basin Region



1.3 Million

People reached by UN Volunteers across West and Central Africa



294,000

People benefited from stabilization interventions in the Liptako-Gourma Region



25,000

Youth to benefit from digital skills training following an MoU with Concordia University



9,100

People gained access to business grants and productive assets in 2024



2,700

People gained access to vital knowledge on legal migration



1,700

People gained access to clean water through climate security activities in the region



3,200

People gained access to business training through the Regional Stabilization Facility



720

People benefited from mediation through local peace committees




1,700

Public officials and experts trained in disaster risk reduction


2024 Country Index

West and Central Africa (WACA)


Sources
Population: United Nations Population Fund
HDI: UNDP Human Development Report
Fragility Index: Fund For Peace
Terrorism Index: Institute of Economics and Peace
Global Peace Index: Institute of Economics and Peace
GDP: International Monetary Fund
Innovation Index: World Intellectual Property Organization




Benin
▲ Population: 14.1 Million
■ HDI: 0.504
▼ Fragility Index: 72.5
▼ Terrorism Index: 4.80
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.306
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 23.07
▼ Innovation Index Rank: 119




Burkina Faso
▲ Population: 23.8 Million
■ HDI: 0.438
▲ Fragility Index: 94.2
▲ Terrorism Index: 8.58
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.969
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 23.56
▼ Innovation Index Rank: 129




Cameroon
▲ Population: 29.4 Million
■ HDI: 0.587
▲ Fragility Index: 94.3
▼ Terrorism Index: 6.94
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.773
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 57.75
■ Innovation Index Rank: 123




Cape Verde
■ Population: 0.6 Million
■ HDI: 0.661
▼ Fragility Index: 57.2
■ Terrorism Index: N/A
■ Global Peace Index: N/A
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 2.94
▲ Innovation Index Rank: 90




Central African Republic
▲ Population: 5.9 Million
■ HDI: 0.387
▼ Fragility Index: 103.9
▼ Terrorism Index: 0.96
▼ Global Peace Index: 3.009
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 3.03
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Chad
▲ Population: 18.8 Million
■ HDI: 0.394
▼ Fragility Index: 102.7
▲ Terrorism Index: 5.03
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.704
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 19.65
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Côte d'Ivoire
▲ Population: 29.6 Million
■ HDI: 0.534
▼ Fragility Index: 85.3
▼ Terrorism Index: 1.45
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.255
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 95.46
■ Innovation Index Rank: 112




Democratic Republic of Congo
▲ Population: 105.6 Million
■ HDI: 0.481
▼ Fragility Index: 106.7
▲ Terrorism Index: 6.77
▼ Global Peace Index: 3.264
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 79.24
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Equatorial Guinea
▲ Population: 1.8 Million
■ HDI: 0.650
▼ Fragility Index: 83.7
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.132
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 12.92
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Gabon
▲ Population: 2.5 Million
■ HDI: 0.693
▲ Fragility Index: 70.2
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.372
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 20.97
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




The Gambia
▲ Population: 2.8 Million
■ HDI: 0.495
■ Fragility Index: 76.1
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.079
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 3.01
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Ghana
▲ Population: 34.8 Million
■ HDI: 0.602
▼ Fragility Index: 60.8
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 1.938
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 75.76
▼ Innovation Index Rank: 101




Guinea
▲ Population: 14.5 Million
■ HDI: 0.471
▼ Fragility Index: 96.4
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.423
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 27.3
▼ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Guinea-Bissau
■ Population: 2.2 Million
■ HDI: 0.483
▼ Fragility Index: 88.4
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.085
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 2.36
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Liberia
▲ Population: 5.5 Million
■ HDI: 0.487
▼ Fragility Index: 86.9
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.025
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 5.05
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Mali
▲ Population: 24 Million
■ HDI: 0.410
▼ Fragility Index: 97.3
▼ Terrorism Index: 7.91
▼ Global Peace Index: 3.095
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 23.21
▼ Innovation Index Rank: 131




Mauritania
▲ Population: 5 Million
■ HDI: 0.540
■ Fragility Index: 87.0
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▲ Global Peace Index: 2.136
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 11.08
▲ Innovation Index Rank: 126




Niger
▲ Population: 28.2 Million
■ HDI: 0.394
▲ Fragility Index: 95.2
▲ Terrorism Index: 7.78
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.792
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 21.91
▼ Innovation Index Rank: 132




Nigeria
▲ Population: 229.2 Million
■ HDI: 0.548
▼ Fragility Index: 96.6
▲ Terrorism Index: 7.66
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.907
▼ GDP (Billion \$): 194.96
▼ Innovation Index Rank: 113




Republic of Congo
▲ Population: 6.2 Million
■ HDI: 0.593
▼ Fragility Index: 90.2
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.261
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 15.92
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A




Sao Tome & Principe
■ Population: 0.2 Million
■ HDI: 0.613
▼ Fragility Index: 68.5
■ Terrorism Index: N/A
■ Global Peace Index: N/A
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 0.95
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A



Senegal
▲ Population: 18.2 Million
■ HDI: 0.517
▲ Fragility Index: 74.2
▲ Terrorism Index: 1.58
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.084
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 37.8
▲ Innovation Index Rank: 92



Sierra Leone
▲ Population: 9 Million
■ HDI: 0.458
■ Fragility Index: 82.6
■ Terrorism Index: 0.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 1.993
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 7.8
■ Innovation Index Rank: N/A



Togo
▲ Population: 9.3 Million
■ HDI: 0.547
▼ Fragility Index: 81.1
▲ Terrorism Index: 5.00
▼ Global Peace Index: 2.381
▲ GDP (Billion \$): 10.46
▼ Innovation Index Rank: 117

What We Do

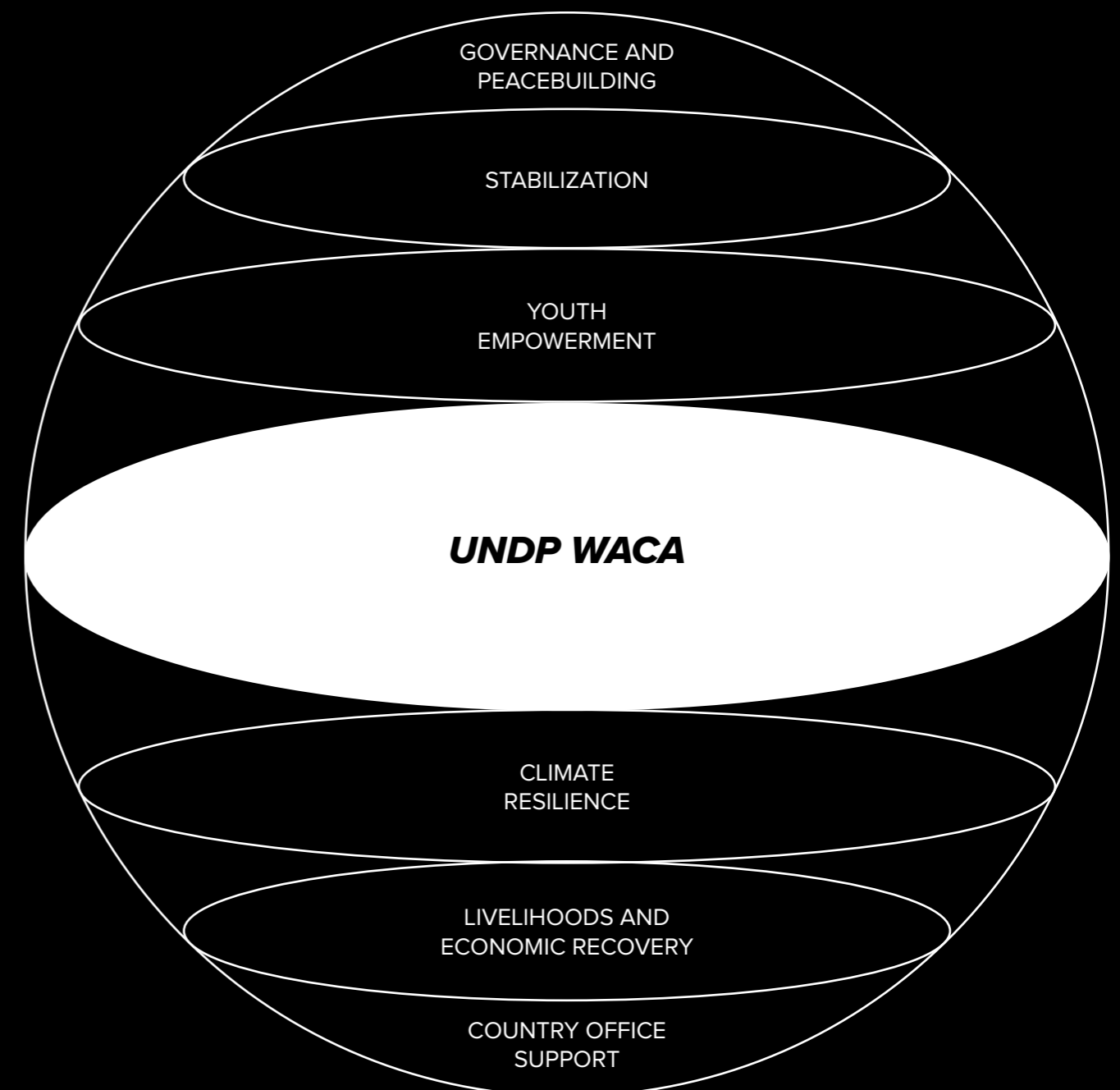
*The UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for
West and Central Africa*

Our Portfolio

Driving Regional Impact

The United Nations Development Programme Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa (UNDP WACA), based in Dakar, serves as a key enabler of UNDP's mission to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals across 24 countries. From fragile and conflict-affected contexts to middle-income economies, UNDP WACA provides targeted policy advice, technical expertise, and programmatic support tailored to national and regional priorities.

By focusing on driving impact across governance, peacebuilding, climate resilience, youth empowerment, and inclusive growth—we work at the intersection of development and crisis response in the region. Through strategic partnerships, innovative solutions, and capacity-strengthening initiatives, UNDP WACA supports countries and regional actors to deliver results that secure peace, empower communities, protect the planet and foster prosperity. Our efforts focus on:



The Sahel HDR Launch

Clean Energy for Economic and Climate Security in the Sahel

The Sahel Human Development Report (HDR), launched on the margins of the African Union Heads of State Summit in 2024, reminds us that while the current energy mix leans heavily on oil and gas, projections indicate a gradual pivot. By the mid-2030s, reduced reliance on fossil fuels could open the door for an uptake of solar and wind, setting the stage for renewables to become a cornerstone of the region's energy portfolio by 2063. This evolution is crucial, especially as the Sahel grapples with a soaring energy demand—driven by both population growth and expanding economic activity.

The Sahel HDR underscores that energy drives every facet of development—from powering schools and hospitals to catalyzing entrepreneurial ventures in rural communities. Over the past decade, energy demand in the region has surged by more than 4% annually. Urban centers have seen improvements in electricity access, but vast rural areas remain shrouded in darkness, stifling opportunities and deepening inequities.

The insights from the Sahel HDR remind us that the energy transition in the region is not an either/or choice between economic development and environmental sustainability. Instead, it is about harnessing the unique synergies between both. By embracing this, the Sahel can leap forward—transforming challenges into opportunities and charting a path toward human development.

As we move forward in the face of escalating environmental pressures and persistent energy poverty, the challenge is clear: sustainable progress in the Sahel hinges on our ability to invest wisely, foster cross-border cooperation, and reimagine the very foundations of energy policy. It is a call to harness the region's significant clean energy potential—not only to meet growing demands but to drive a broader, more inclusive development agenda.

Expanding **Energy Access in the Sahel**



51%

Or about half of the 340 million people living in the Sahel region do not have access to electricity – it is one of the lowest rates of consumption of modern electricity on the planet.

Investment in sustainable energy could regenerate the Sahel by using the region's significant clean energy potential to transform lives, diversify economies, give hope, and protect the planet.

The #IAMSahel Campaign

Inspire. Change. Together

In August 2024, UNDP launched the #IAMSahel campaign to amplify the voices of Sahelians, celebrate their resilient and innovative efforts while catalyzing action across the 10 Sahel countries covered under the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS): Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. Anchored around UNDP’s Sahel Offer for advancing peace and development in the region, the campaign focuses on key areas such as governance, youth, and renewable energy, highlighting how despite challenges in the region, millions of Sahelians are making a difference in their lives and communities.

Since the launch, the campaign gained more than 5,000 mentions on X (formerly Twitter) from more than 1,000 unique users, reaching more than 59 million people. Other platforms saw over 5 million people reached and nearly 4 million engaged, while media coverage extended to over 845 outlets worldwide. This vast exposure contributed to a significant increase in web traffic, which surged by 525% up from a previous average of 4,000 visitors to over 25,000 in just one month and close to 50,000 visits.

The campaign’s positive reception highlighted the global community’s readiness to support Sahelian development. However, it also revealed critical insights into the perceptions and hesitations of local populations, who initially questioned the initiative’s rationale. This feedback prompted deeper engagement and dialogue with stakeholders, leading to enriched discussions that have furthered understanding and support for the campaign’s objectives. As a result, the #IAMSahel campaign not only fostered awareness and cooperation but also sparked a significant movement towards sustainable change, proving the power of positive communication and community-driven action in the Sahel.



THE CAMPAIGN IN NUMBERS



Since August, the campaign has been mentioned over

5,000

times on X—formerly Twitter—by more than 1,000 unique users.



On X, our messages garnered over

59 million

impressions.



On other platforms, over

5 million

people

were reached and nearly 4 million people were engaged.



We saw our stories featured in over

845

media outlets worldwide.



Our monthly web traffic surged by up from a

525%

previous average of 4,000 visitors to over 25,000 in just one month and leading to close to 50,000 visits in just one month.



Facebook



Instagram



X



LinkedIn



YouTube



Associated Press



Deutsche Welle



Africa News



CNBC Africa

Launch of RSF Phase Two

The New Phase of the Regional Stabilization Facility

In 2024, UNDP, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), along with national and international partners unveiled the next phase of the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF), set to run from September 2024 to August 2028. Building on the foundation laid since 2019, this renewed initiative aims to expand and deepen stabilization efforts across Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.

Over the past years, the facility has played a pivotal role in addressing the multi-dimensional crisis in the region by promoting government-led, community-driven stabilization and enhancing regional cooperation. Its efforts have already helped restore hope for millions—facilitating the return or resettlement of over 500,000 people. Yet, with nearly 3.6 million still affected by conflict, the challenges remain immense.

This new phase is a reinvention of the stabilization approach. It emphasizes locally driven solutions that center on the inclusion of women and youth, and it seeks to forge stronger synergies among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors. By harnessing these collective efforts, the facility aspires to transform persistent challenges into opportunities for sustainable peace and resilient development.

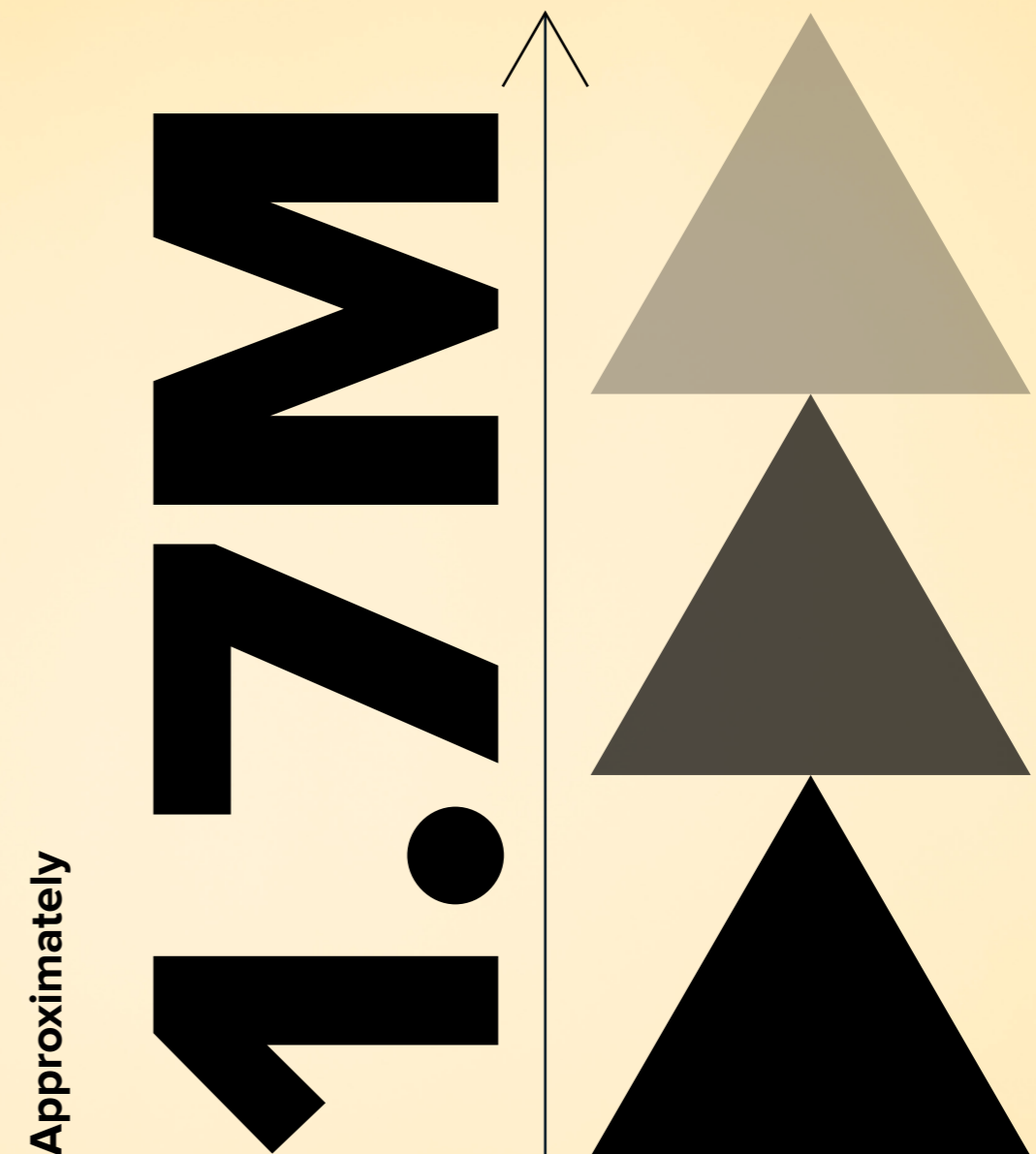
Furthermore, the facility underscores the need for cross-border cooperation and coordinated policy actions, ensuring that regional institutions and national governments can align their strategies to address the root causes of conflict and instability. It calls for targeted investments and the sharing of best practices to consolidate gains, extend support to new locations, and better connect already stabilized areas.

This expanded commitment is a testament to the region's potential and the unyielding determination of communities and leaders who refuse to let adversity define their future.



The Impact **Of Stabilization in the Sahel**

The second phase of the Regional Stabilization Facility builds on the efforts of the first phase where the lives of close to 1.7 million people in the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma regions were positively impacted.



High-Level AFSIT Dialogue

Supporting Inclusive Transitions

In August 2024, UNDP and the African Union Commission convened a landmark high-level dialogue in Dakar to explore new pathways for supporting inclusive political transitions in Africa. Against a backdrop of rising unconstitutional changes of government and democratic backsliding, the event brought together senior representatives from the UN, the AU, regional economic communities, and partners to reflect on how cooperation can be reimagined to meet the complex dimensions of political transitions in the region.

Discussions focused on the dilemmas of sanctions, the importance of people-centred diplomacy, and the urgent need to align efforts behind inclusive, locally owned solutions. The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT) was presented as a catalytic tool to address gaps in current approaches and reinforce democratic governance. Participants underscored the need to shift to long-term, integrated support that enhances national leadership, empowers vulnerable groups, and strengthens institutions.

Participants also highlighted the critical importance of economic reforms and institutional capacity-building as foundational elements for sustainable transitions. Emphasizing lessons from successful democratic consolidations within Africa, discussions called for leveraging indigenous knowledge, community-driven initiatives, and early engagement to prevent crises and promote stability.

The dialogue concluded with key recommendations to refine sanctions, scale preventive diplomacy, operationalize AFSIT, and invest in resilient, people-first transitions rooted in Africa’s unique contexts. The event affirmed that with coordinated action and bold thinking, transitions can be steered toward lasting peace and inclusive governance across the continent.

Looking ahead, participants agreed that continuous dialogue, regular reviews of strategies, and flexible frameworks would be essential to adapt swiftly to emerging challenges. There was strong consensus that future cooperation should prioritize enhanced collaboration among regional actors, comprehensive socio-economic interventions, and robust engagement with civil society to build sustainable resilience and prevent future crises.



Reaffirming the UN's Commitment

The UN DSG's Mission to Senegal



As part of a strategic mission across West Africa to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed visited Senegal in 2024. Her mission aimed to spotlight regional challenges and opportunities in advancing key development transitions, particularly around good governance, food systems, renewable energy, and the digital economy.

In Dakar, the Deputy Secretary-General held a high-level meeting with President Bassirou Diomaye Faye and key ministers, reaffirming the UN's strong partnership with Senegal and its commitment to supporting national priorities aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Discussions emphasized advancing good governance in the region, scaling sustainable food production, driving investments in renewable energy, and unlocking the potential of the digital economy to spur inclusive growth.



During the mission, the DSG also met with the Prime Minister, the UN Country Team, and

representatives of youth and women's organizations. These engagements underscored the central role of local leadership and community voices in driving meaningful change and ensuring that SDG progress is inclusive and people-centred. The visit set the tone for renewed collaboration across the region, anchoring hope in multilateralism and shared responsibility for sustainable development.



Our 2024 Timeline

A Trail of Impact



2024 was marked by key moments that shaped our collective efforts across the region. This timeline captures the highlights of the year—showcasing critical engagements, flagship initiatives, and collaborative achievements that made the year a success.

Jan

UNDP Senegal and
UNDP WACA Joint
Staff Retreat



Feb

UNDP RSCA Open
House and AU
Summit Side-Events



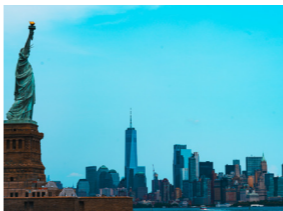
Mar

The Future of
Governance in the
Sahel Chapters
Review Workshop



Apr

High-Level
Partnerships
Forum on Climate,
Peace and Security
in Stabilization
Contexts in the Sahel



May

Masterclass for
Executive Assistants
in West and Central
Africa



Jun

MoU Signing with
Goodluck Jonathan
Foundation



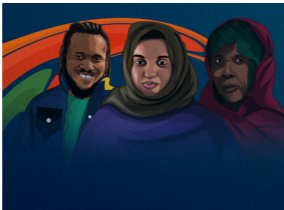
Jul

AFSIT Civil Society
Dialogue



Aug

Launch of the
#IAMSahel
Campaign



Sep

MoU Signing with
Concordia University



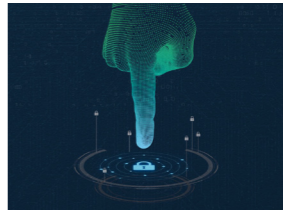
Oct

Inaugural Board
Meeting for the Lake
Chad Basin CSO
Peacebuilding Fund
Project



Nov

Launch of “Building
Cybersecurity in
West and Central
Africa” Knowledge
Product



Dec

Launch of the
Gender Dictionary





Turning the Page **2024 IN DETAIL**

Advancing Good Governance in West and Central Africa

In 2024, persistent governance challenges—ranging from fragile public trust and fragmented institutions to deep-rooted social divisions—underscored the urgent need for transformative action across West and Central Africa. Recognizing that effective governance is the cornerstone of sustainable peace and development, UNDP reimagined its approach through a series of targeted, action-oriented initiatives that directly link prevailing issues with needed solutions.

To rebuild social cohesion and restore trust in public institutions, UNDP commissioned the flagship report, “Future of Governance in the Sahel”. Following an inception workshop in 2023, UNDP brought together editors, chapter authors, and key partners to critically examine the multifaceted nature of power dynamics, community conflicts, and governance deficiencies in the region. This collaborative effort laid the foundation for forward-looking, actionable policy recommendations aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and rebuilding public trust.

Alongside the report, our efforts in promoting peacebuilding initiatives have had a tangible impact in areas where conflict and instability have long eroded community resilience and social cohesion. Working closely with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and local partners in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, UNDP rolled out a CSO-led peacebuilding project designed to implement the LCBC’s Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (RS SRR). Through a competitive call for proposals process, 40 local CSOs were selected and provided with capacity-building support for over 100 CSO members. In Cameroon, targeted community needs assessments led to the formation of peace advisory committees consisting of 66 members and sensitization campaigns that reached 475 people, fostering dialogue between diverse groups. In one community, local peace committees and women mediators played a critical role in resolving disputes among 720 people—from water management issues to agropastoral conflicts—paving the way for the peaceful reintegration of internally displaced persons and long-term stability. Additionally, the project empowered 10 women’s associations with skills in fashion design and providing sewing machines to improve their livelihoods and boost local economies, while training 20 youth associations and 9 community groups in improved agricultural practices helped 150 beneficiaries increase their incomes and expand their production capacity.

Throughout the year, UNDP also convened and participated in a series of capacity-building workshops and policy dialogues that brought together stakeholders from across the region. A continental dialogue on mineral resource governance—organized jointly by the International Institute for Democracy and International IDEA, the Africa Mining Development Centre (AMDC), Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW)—brought together over 100 participants to explore how Africa’s rich natural resources can drive inclusive growth and a greener economy. In addition, a recently signed MoU with the Goodluck Jonathan Foundation enabled UNDP to actively participate in the West African Elders Forum (WAEF) Quarterly Strategy Meeting, committing technical support and \$100,000 in financial support to bolster the forum’s activities in 2025.

TRUST & STABILITY

Recognizing that effective peacebuilding must be accompanied by prevention efforts, UNDP operationalized a \$7.17 million prevention facility in 2024 for the Gulf of Guinea, covering Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo. This facility is designed to support resilience-building measures and reinforce the peace architecture in coastal countries, ultimately deterring terrorist recruitment and fostering lasting stability.

Through these multifaceted interventions, UNDP, in close collaboration with key partners such as LCBC, UNOWAS, UNOCA, ECOWAS, the Goodluck Jonathan Foundation, and the African Union, supported efforts to create an environment where change can take root and good governance becomes not just an aspiration but a lived reality for communities in West and Central Africa.

100

**CSO MEMBERS PROVIDED
WITH CAPACITY BUILDING
SUPPORT**

475

**PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH
SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS**

720

**PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM
MEDIATION THROUGH
LOCAL PEACE COMMITTEES**

150

**PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM
TRAINED ON IMPROVED
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

“

Promoting peace and democracy requires collective effort. Our MoU with UNDP is a testament to our dedication to creating a future where sustainable development thrives, and every voice is heard and respected.

Ann Iyonu

*Executive Director of the
Goodluck Jonathan Foundation*



The Regional Stabilization Facility

Across the Sahel, insecurity and instability in the Lake Chad Basin¹ and Liptako-Gourma regions² have severely impacted millions, resulting in disrupted lives, forced displacement, and erosion of public trust. Recognizing that stability and social cohesion are vital to sustainable peace and development, UNDP's Regional Stabilization Facility significantly intensified efforts throughout 2024 to rebuild the social contract in these affected communities.

In 2024, the Facility, in partnership with a broad network of stakeholders, implemented targeted interventions aimed at improving safety and security, fostering livelihoods, enhancing essential services, rebuilding the social contract, and strengthening gender-responsive governance to directly respond to the complex security, social, and economic challenges facing communities in the region.

Central to our approach was the strengthening of security infrastructure and services. Throughout the year, UNDP facilitated the construction and rehabilitation of 34 critical security facilities, including police stations, gendarmeries, and judicial infrastructure across targeted localities in Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso. This investment significantly improved security conditions on the ground, as exemplified by 86% of households in targeted areas of Nigeria reporting feeling safe and secure—representing a 33 percentage point increase compared to 2020.

Complementing these efforts, the Facility also prioritized capacity-building for security personnel. In 2024 alone, 592 security personnel underwent comprehensive training on human rights, gender-based violence, and criminal justice procedures. This training significantly boosted their capacity to serve communities responsibly, enhancing trust between security forces and local populations.

Recognizing security is also linked to safety perceptions and the functionality of public spaces, the Facility installed 4,762 solar-powered streetlights across stabilization areas in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. These streetlights not only improved nighttime security but also revitalized local economies by enabling businesses to operate later and empowering community members, particularly women, to move safely and confidently after sunset.

Further enhancing community well-being, 27 essential social service infrastructures—schools, health centers, and public facilities—were constructed or rehabilitated, benefiting thousands across targeted communities. Notably, in Niger, the new dispensary in Baroua significantly improved healthcare access, while the upgraded medical center in Logone Birni, Cameroon, dramatically enhanced maternal and child health services.

Livelihood interventions were also central to our stabilization efforts in the region. Over 9,100 people, including over 4,350 women, benefited from access to business grants and productive assets in support of their livelihood activities, while more than 1,000 people participated in cash-for-work activities, receiving direct employment opportunities. Additionally, 24 productive infrastructures, including markets and agricultural storage facilities, were built to generate sustainable income for communities. Furthermore, targeted business training equipped 3,250 people—including over 1,400 women—with entrepreneurial skills that notably improved their business performance and secured sustainable livelihoods.

¹ Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria

² Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

LASTING PEACE

Collectively, these integrated efforts helped reach approximately 1.7 million indirect beneficiaries and nearly 90,000 direct beneficiaries across the two regions. The outcomes are particularly pronounced in enhanced social cohesion, improved economic opportunities for women and youth, and restored confidence in governance institutions, thereby renewing the social contract between communities and their governments.

Despite operational challenges—including security threats and environmental disruptions such as flooding—adaptive strategies like activity relocation and innovative community engagement ensured sustained progress. Looking ahead to 2025, the Facility will build upon these substantial achievements, prioritizing enhanced regional and cross-border cooperation, finalizing projects in the Liptako-Gourma region, and further advancing justice, infrastructure, and livelihood initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin. These efforts will continue to lay the foundation for lasting peace and stability in the region.

1.4M

**PEOPLE HAVE BENEFITED
FROM STABILIZATION
EFFORTS IN THE LAKE CHAD**

294K

**PEOPLE HAVE BENEFITED FROM
STABILIZATION EFFORTS IN THE
LIPTAKO-GOURMA REGION**

9.1K

**PEOPLE GAINED ACCESS
TO GRANTS AND ASSETS IN
2024 ALONE**

3.2K

**PEOPLE (+ OVER 1,400 WOMEN)
GAINED ACCESS TO BUSINESS
TRAINING IN 2024 ALONE**



The Regional Stabilization Facility has been pivotal in helping communities across the Lake Chad Basin region to rebuild their lives. Through a collaborative approach, it has laid the groundwork for recovery, peacebuilding, and development. We will continue to work with the people and our partner governments in the region to advance peace and stability through the facility.

Anka Feldhusen

*Director for Civilian Crisis Prevention
and Stabilization, German Federal
Foreign Office*



Empowering the Next Generation

In West and Central Africa, where nearly two-thirds of the population is under the age of 25, young people are the pulse of progress and innovation. Recognizing that the region's future is being shaped today by its youth, UNDP in 2024 launched a series of initiatives to empower young people with the skills, opportunities, and platforms needed to address pressing challenges in the region.

At the heart of our efforts was the belief that young people must lead the conversation on sustainable development. This conviction was expressed at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, where over 135 young Africans convened to share ideas and craft actionable recommendations on issues that touch every facet of their lives—from poverty and climate change to peacebuilding. The forum provided a vital space for youth to assert their vision for an inclusive and prosperous future, underscoring that their voices are indispensable in shaping development strategies that truly respond to their needs.

In the Sahel, UNDP spearheaded pilot projects focusing on boosting agriculture and informal trade for women and youth—sectors which constitute 60-80% of the region's livelihoods. Through intensive, hands-on training programmes, 65 young entrepreneurs honed essential skills to innovate and build sustainable livelihoods, while 15 emerging leaders became peer trainers, extending their expertise to an additional 185 young people across Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Furthermore, UNDP in partnership with One Billion Trees for Africa, also launched initiatives that fostered youth leadership in agribusiness with 50 youth receiving training in agribusiness, and 15 selected to further mentor ten additional peers each, demonstrating the multiplier effect of youth-led development in agriculture.

At the country level, tailored support was provided to institutions in Cape Verde, Congo, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, and Togo. By strengthening local governance structures and building country office capacity, UNDP ensured that youth-led initiatives are designed to meet the unique challenges of communities. This localized approach has empowered young people to become active participants in decision-making processes, laying the groundwork for sustainable, homegrown solutions.

Digital innovation also played a critical role in our efforts. In 2024, UNDP's strategic partnership with the University of Concordia and Give1 Project—formalized through a memorandum of understanding—set an ambitious target to train 25,000 young people across 24 countries in cybersecurity and digital skills over the coming years, helping to bridge the digital divide and equip the next generation with the digital competencies necessary to lead in an increasingly interconnected world.

Addressing the pressing issues of migration and economic displacement, UNDP in collaboration with LVIA, established networks among youth-led associations in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Through a combination of entrepreneurship training, legal migration guidance, and knowledge exchange activities, over 2,700 young people gained vital skills and experience. Additionally, 300 youth participated in employment-focused workshops, while more than 1,200 engaged in art and music exchanges that reframe migration as a choice rather than a necessity. This initiative also mapped key actors in youth entrepreneurship and significantly raised the profile of local opportunities, encouraging young people to invest in their communities.

THE NEXT GEN.

Peace and climate security also featured in our efforts. In collaboration with UNOWAS and key partners, UNDP organized a three-day Training-of-Trainers workshop on Youth, Peace, Climate, and Security, equipping 29 young leaders with practical skills to champion community-based peace and resilience initiatives. Additionally, in the Liptako-Gourma region, joint efforts to enhance security and safety for the girl child reached 195 children and youth and equally benefited 195 women.

Throughout 2024, our approach—spanning high-level forums, grassroots training, digital capacity building, peacebuilding and innovative migration alternatives—created pathways for socio-economic transformation across the region. As we look to the future, UNDP remains committed to harnessing the dynamism, drive and talent of the region's youth to lead lasting change.

25K

**PEOPLE TO BENEFIT
FROM DIGITAL AND
CYBERSECURITY TRAINING**

2.7K

**PEOPLE GAINED
ACCESS TO VITAL LEGAL
MIGRATION KNOWLEDGE**

1.2K

**PEOPLE ENGAGED IN ART
AND MIGRATION RELATED
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

195

**YOUNG GIRLS BENEFITED
FROM PEACEBUILDING
INITIATIVES**

“

With the surge in cyberattacks, Africa loses billions each year. Yet, there is a lack of skills in this crucial sector. This partnership with the private sector aims to fill this gap and protect our critical infrastructures, while opening opportunities for African youth. Together, we are shaping a secure and prosperous digital future for Africa!

Thione Niang

*Social Entrepreneur and
Founder of the Give1 Project*



Building Resilience in the Sahel

The Sahel, a region characterized by extreme climatic conditions and escalating environmental degradation, faces increasing vulnerability to disasters threatening lives and livelihoods. Recent developments have intensified these challenges, placing millions at heightened risk and necessitating urgent, sustained, and coordinated action. In response, UNDP's Sahel Resilience Project, funded by Sweden, has been supporting seven Western Sahel countries—Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Chad—as they prepare for, adapt to, and recover from multi-dimensional hazards while fostering sustainable and resilient development.

Launched in 2019, the project adopts a comprehensive approach anchored in strategic collaboration with regional organizations such as the African Union Commission, ECOWAS, and UN agencies, including UN-Habitat, UNDRR, and UN Women. The initiative emphasizes resilience through integrated disaster risk management and community preparedness, strengthening national systems to anticipate, withstand, and recover from shocks better.

Five strategic pillars guide the project. First, multi-hazard early warning systems ensure countries can anticipate and mitigate climate-related risks. Second, institutional governance strengthening helps integrate climate risk into national development frameworks. Third, recovery preparedness supports countries in building back better post-disaster. Fourth, the project addresses urban resilience, a growing priority given rapid urbanization and vulnerabilities in cities. Finally, the project promotes regional South-South cooperation, leveraging regional expertise and resources to build collective resilience and the ability to face climate-related disasters.

The project's outcomes in 2024 highlight its significant impact. Over the past year, 1,681 government officials and experts, including 376 women, received training in disaster risk reduction, making crisis response more inclusive. Furthermore, 87 experts enhanced their skills in post-disaster health recovery, while 329 local leaders finalized urban resilience frameworks for seven Sahelian cities. These concrete actions have bolstered local communities' preparedness for imminent risks and improved critical infrastructure management.

A cornerstone of the project is the implementation of multi-hazard early warning systems across Africa. In 2024, a regional risk information platform was launched, linking seven national systems and tracking 21 hazards in real-time. Additionally, 260 tablets were distributed to national agencies to revolutionize data collection. In June 2024, an agreement on the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa was signed, enhancing the continent's capacity to anticipate and respond to crises. Integrating these systems into seasonal forecasts has enabled a more proactive approach to disaster response.

The project extends beyond immediate interventions, laying the groundwork for a more resilient future through long-term strategies. The Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa (2024–2050) defines a sustainable vision for the region. The biennial reports for 2019–2020 and 2021–2022 on disaster risk reduction, co-led by the African Union with support from UNDP and the EU, revealed a rise in the number of people affected by disasters, from 86.9 million to 137.1 million across Africa, highlighting the need for increased funding and support for disaster risk reduction. The fragility assessment of the Lake Chad Basin is now used to guide interventions in one of the region's most vulnerable areas.

ADAPT & THRIVE

Despite the challenges ahead, the milestones achieved in 2024 demonstrate that turning resilience into a tangible reality is possible. The Sahel Resilience Project is not only a means of reducing disaster risks but also a key initiative for shaping the future. Through collaboration, innovation, and sustained financial support, it is paving the way for a safer, more prosperous future for millions of people in the Sahel. This project embodies the resilience that has long been a hallmark of the region, with each step forward strengthening the Sahel.

1.7K

**GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
AND EXPERTS TRAINED IN
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

329

**LOCAL LEADERS TRAINED TO
FINALIZE URBAN RESILIENCE
FRAMEWORKS**

87

**EXPERTS TRAINED IN
POST-DISASTER HEALTH
RECOVERY**

260

**TABLETS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS
THE REGION TO ENHANCE RISK
DATA COLLECTION**



The challenges facing West Africa—climate change, governance, and security—are deeply interconnected and global in nature. We are proud to have contributed to West Africa’s Regional Resilience Strategy and remain committed as we move toward action and implementation.

Joachim Beijmo

*Head of Regional Development
Cooperation in Africa at the Swedish
Embassy in Addis Ababa*



Building a Climate Secure Future

Across the world, climate change is reshaping lives and communities, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Western Sahel region. Persistent droughts, erratic rainfall, and accelerating desertification undermine traditional livelihoods based on climate-sensitive agriculture and livestock and intensify competition over dwindling natural resources. Amidst this, communities are increasingly growing vulnerable to climate shocks and conflicts, making the need for resilience more urgent than ever.

In response, the Regional Climate Security Programme was launched in 2022 to strengthen community resilience by addressing the cascading impacts of climate stressors and violent conflicts implemented in collaboration with the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA), the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS), the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the CILSS-AGRHYMET Regional Center— with support from Denmark—the programme employs a comprehensive strategy that integrates sustainable resource management, capacity building, and enhanced citizen participation to mitigate risks and foster social cohesion at regional and local levels.

In 2024, AGRHYMET conducted a comprehensive assessment across Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger and identified critical gaps in existing climate forecasting and early warning tools. The findings led to developing a refined framework that seamlessly integrates climate data into conflict risk monitoring, enabling local and national stakeholders to anticipate and respond more effectively to emerging threats. Concurrently, UNDP supported formulating the Regional Resilience Strategy for West Africa (2024 – 2050), a forward-looking plan endorsed by ECOWAS that aligns with ECOWAS' Vision 2050, Agenda 2030, and the AU's Agenda 2063.

At the local level, UNDP carried out extensive surveys in 53 villages across the Mopti and Bandiagara regions in Mali to analyze land, pasture, and water management dynamics. These surveys provided crucial insights into the complex interactions among various resource users and informed the update of seven social, economic, and cultural development plans. By embedding climate security considerations into local planning, the Programme has paved the way for coordinated natural resource management and reduced the potential for conflict.

Direct improvements in water access were also a focus. The rehabilitation and construction of 14 water points have benefited approximately 1,700 households, while the establishment of 14 water and sanitation committees—along with training for local repair technicians—helped foster community ownership and ensure the long-term sustainability of these interventions.

Throughout the year, the programme also prioritized youth and women empowerment as essential components of resilience. A focused training session in Saly, Senegal, brought together 29 young participants, including 16 women, to deepen their understanding of the Climate-Peace-Security Nexus. Armed with practical skills, these emerging leaders are now better equipped to contribute to local conflict prevention and resilience-building efforts. Complementary community radio programmes and intercommunity dialogues have disseminated key messages on climate security, strengthening social cohesion and awareness at the grassroots level.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Looking ahead, the Programme will continue to build on these efforts. Key priorities for 2025 include expanding digital energy monitoring platforms, further strengthening national policy frameworks to stimulate private investment, and scaling up community-level interventions—especially in water access and resource management. An intensified focus on capacity building and communication will support more inclusive governance, ensuring that local actors remain central to efforts to mitigate climate and security risks.

1.7K

**BENEFITED FROM
IMPROVED ACCESS TO
WATER**

53

**VILLAGES SURVEYED TO
ANALYZE LAND, PASTURE AND
WATER DYNAMICS**

29

**YOUTH BENEFITED FROM
TRAINING ON THE CLIMATE
PEACE AND SECURITY NEXUS**

14

**WATER AND SANITATION
COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED
TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY**

“

Our partnership with UNDP will undoubtedly take on a new dimension, and it will be up to each of us to do everything possible to respect the commitments made through the Bamako declaration. I can already affirm that Mali will continue the strategic reflection on the mobilization of adequate and targeted resources for climate-related initiatives with the countries of the region, UNDP, and other partners who share our vision.

His Excellency, Mamadou Samake

*Minister of Environment, Sanitation,
and Sustainable Development of
Mali*



Supporting the Energy Transition

The Liptako-Gourma region, spanning 370,000 km² across Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, has long grappled with challenges. With nearly half of its population under 15, high unemployment, and an economy heavily reliant on climate-vulnerable agriculture and livestock, the need for sustainable energy solutions is urgent. Despite boasting an impressive 13.9 billion GWh/year solar potential, electrification remains critically low—only 51% in the Sahel and 14% in rural areas have access to electricity.

In response, UNDP, in partnership with the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), built on the success of the pilot phase (2021-2023) of the Rural Electrification Support Project by expanding its efforts, and laying a foundation for off-grid renewable energy in the region.

A key pillar of our efforts was enhancing institutional support and reforming policy frameworks to unlock the region's clean energy potential. Together with ECREEE, UNDP established national coordination platforms for off-grid renewable energy in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. These platforms have streamlined the planning process and fostered collaboration among government agencies, the private sector, and local communities. Additionally, the development of ECOWREX—an energy information and monitoring system—has equipped policymakers with critical data, facilitating informed decisions for rural electrification. Strengthening regulatory frameworks has also been paramount, creating an enabling environment that encourages private sector engagement and lays the groundwork for long-term sustainability.

To directly address the need for reliable electricity, six solar-powered mini-grids with battery storage were installed across the region. These installations have begun to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and support the clean energy transition in vulnerable rural areas. By bringing electricity closer to communities, these mini-grids have the potential to transform everyday life—powering schools, clinics, businesses, and other services, and paving the way for economic revitalization in areas that have long been underserved.

Recognizing that a sustainable energy future depends on the active participation of the private sector, UNDP conducted De-risking Renewable Energy Investment (DREI) studies to attract further investment. Capacity-building programmes were organized for mini-grid developers and local investors, strengthening opportunities for public-private partnerships. This approach not only mitigates investment risks but also ensures that rural electrification initiatives can thrive independently in the long run.

Complementing these interventions, UNDP placed a strong emphasis on gender inclusion and community empowerment. In 2024, women and youth received specialized training in the productive use of energy for small businesses and agricultural activities, directly contributing to increased income and improved livelihoods. Partnerships with three local NGOs facilitated training on clean cooking solutions and energy-based enterprises, ensuring that these efforts translate into tangible economic benefits and greater social inclusion.

CLEAN ENERGY

Throughout the year, key efforts—such as the amendment to the UNDP-ECREEE Agreement, the successful 5th Steering Committee Meeting in Bamako, 100% implementation of institutional support and regulatory framework activities and ongoing development of the ECOWREX platform, helped ensure the project was on track to enhance rural electrification in the region.

Looking ahead to 2025, our priorities include expanding digital energy monitoring platforms, strengthening national policy frameworks to stimulate private investment, and scaling up productive energy use projects and clean cooking initiatives. We will also intensify efforts to embed gender inclusion, particularly by promoting women's leadership in clean energy enterprises.

100%

**IMPLEMENTATION OF
INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK ACTIVITIES**

55%

**PROGRESS ON ENERGY
MONITORING SYSTEMS
(ECOWREX)**

14%

**TARGETED ELECTRIFICATION
RATE INCREASE THROUGH MINI-
GRIDS IN RURAL AREAS**

6

**SOLAR-POWERED MINI-
GRIDS WITH BATTERY
STORAGE INSTALLED**



The United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel is an excellent example of the kind of heavy lifting the UN and UNDP is doing in Africa. Through our ongoing relationship with UNDP Africa, we will continue to collaborate and mobilize other stakeholders in the region to raise the level of ambition and support for SDG 7 and leave no one behind.

Damilola Ogunbiyi

*CEO and Special Representative of the
UN Secretary-General for Sustainable
Energy for All, and Co-Chair of UN-Energy*



Empowering Women SMEs

In West Africa, where agriculture forms the backbone of livelihoods and economies, women are indispensable in driving rural transformation, especially within the rice value chain. Yet, they often face significant barriers, including limited access to financing, markets, and technical resources. To address these barriers, the West African Women's Small and Medium Enterprises Empowerment Programme (EWASME)—funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and implemented by UNDP—carried out efforts throughout 2024 to build capacity and enable sustainable growth for women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Guinea, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

In Senegal, 23 very small enterprises (VSEs) were selected from an initial pool of 622 applicants, and another 45 women entrepreneurs, predominantly active in post-harvest sectors such as processing, warehousing, and sales, benefited from targeted technical and business training. In Sierra Leone, 69 enterprises have been pre-selected from a pool of 125 applications undergoing final assessment in Sierra Leone.

To better inform policy reforms and foster an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs, International NGOs such as IRRI, Rikolto, and Solidaridad were engaged to conduct comprehensive baseline studies in all four project countries. These studies helped identify 18 legal and regulatory measures to remove constraints faced by women entrepreneurs across the target countries. Once fully adopted by respective governments, these measures will streamline regulatory frameworks, enhancing opportunities for women entrepreneurs and significantly improving the business climate.

Furthermore, collaboration with specialized entities like the Regional Rice Value Chain Project has supported the tailored design of interventions responsive to local realities, such as community engagement activities in all six regions of Senegal.

Recognizing that access to finance remains a barrier for women entrepreneurs, several efforts were dedicated to establishing strategic partnerships with financial institutions. In Sierra Leone, for example, exploratory discussions were conducted with potential financial partners to develop mechanisms for effective grant management, a crucial step toward enhancing financial access for women-led SMEs.

Despite these achievements, several implementation challenges were encountered in 2024, notably the mismatch between stringent selection criteria and local realities, necessitating context-specific adaptations. Additionally, political instability and security concerns in Niger necessitated adjustments in project locations, highlighting the need for adaptive management practices to ensure continuity amidst operational disruptions.

Several important lessons emerged from this year's implementation. Early and proactive engagement with government authorities—such as in Senegal and Sierra Leone—proved essential to accelerating activities and ensuring alignment with national priorities. Given the new nature of the collaboration between UNDP and IsDB, continuous communication and adaptability emerged as critical elements to overcoming procedural differences and enhancing efficiency. Additionally, understanding local contexts through comprehensive baseline studies ensured that interventions were appropriately tailored and relevant, underscoring the importance of robust initial assessments to project success.

WOMEN SMEs

Looking ahead, the project will translate current preparatory work into concrete impacts for beneficiaries, finalizing country-level partnerships to manage business grants effectively and scaling successful interventions. The formulation of a regional programme on food value chains is also envisioned, along with the mobilization of additional resources to amplify the project's reach and impact.

As we enter the next phase, UNDP remains committed to empowering women entrepreneurs across West Africa, convinced that investing in their businesses is essential to building resilient communities, enhancing regional economic stability, and driving inclusive growth for the future.

45

**WOMEN FROM 23 VSES
BENEFITED FROM TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES**

18

**LEGAL MEASURES IDENTIFIED
TO REMOVE CONSTRAINTS
FACED BY WOMEN**

69

**ENTERPRISES PRE-SELECTED
FROM A POOL OF 125
APPLICATIONS**

6

**REGIONS IN SENEGAL
BENEFITED FROM COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

“

With the support of the EWASME programme, West African women’s businesses will be able to improve their productivity, business skills, and their profits, as well as improving business relationships and engagement in larger supply chains, with the aim of increasing their incomes.

Abdelwahab Cherif

Programme Coordinator for the Empowering West African Women Small and Medium Enterprises in Rice Value Chains of the Islamic Development Bank



The UN Volunteers Programme

In 2024, the UN Volunteers Regional Office for West and Central Africa provided strategic human resource solutions across 35 UN agencies and two peacekeeping operations in the region, deploying 2,948 UN Volunteers (52.2% men and 47.8% women). These volunteers made substantial contributions to humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts through their diverse expertise, further demonstrating the power of volunteerism within UN interventions.

A significant cohort of 757 UN Volunteers supported UNDP-led initiatives in critical areas such as elections and governance, social cohesion, crisis response and resilience-building, economic development, energy, and the environment. Their efforts positively impacted approximately 1,335,000 people, primarily women, youth, the elderly, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees.

As part of UNDP's support to implementing the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), 24 volunteers provided essential assistance within the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization Facility, focusing predominantly on community development and emergency response. Additionally, 27 volunteers supported stabilization efforts in the Liptako-Gourma region, covering Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.

The UN Volunteers Programme also mobilized 73 volunteers to support Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)-financed projects across 14 countries in partnership with 10 UN agencies. 36 of these volunteers served within UNDP, working on community development, programme implementation, crisis management, governance, and electoral support. Within the energy and environment sectors, the UN Volunteers Programme mobilized 22 volunteers in Gabon under UNDP's GEF 7 project, supporting the conservation of extensive areas of High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest landscapes. Moreover, in Liberia, a cohort of 16 volunteers provided support to UNDP's LEH-GO-GREEN project, significantly contributing to enhanced forest-based incomes and sustainable livelihoods.

In Niger, the Youth Champions Programme, led by UNDP in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), and UN Women, received support from the UN Volunteers Programme, mobilizing 42 young individuals, including 32 women and two persons living with disabilities. This initiative empowered youth to advocate for peace, social cohesion, and volunteerism in their communities.

As part of its commitment to diversity and inclusion within the UN system, the UN Volunteers Programme prioritized mobilizing volunteers living with disabilities, funding a cohort of 10 volunteers placed within Resident Coordinator Offices in Cameroon, Chad, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. Across the region, a total of 64 volunteers with disabilities contributed to various assignments, including 21 placed within roles specifically designated for persons living with disabilities, according to the Unified Volunteer Platform (UVP).

LEADING CHANGE

Additionally, the UN Volunteers Programme mobilized 3,736 online volunteers, further expanding support for development and humanitarian initiatives throughout the region. UNDP alone engaged 1,601 online volunteers, whose contributions notably included support for the #IAMSAHEL campaign, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, and advocacy for energy efficiency. These volunteers provided valuable expertise in awareness raising, graphic design, editing and reporting, and translation, demonstrating the far-reaching and flexible power of online volunteering.

1.3M

**PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM
INTERVENTIONS LED BY UN
VOLUNTEERS**

2.9K

**UN VOLUNTEERS DEPLOYED
ACROSS WEST AND CENTRAL
AFRICA AND TO 37 UN ENTITIES**

3.7K

**ONLINE UN VOLUNTEERS
MOBILIZED TO SUPPORT UN
EFFORTS IN THE REGION**

10

**PEOPLE LIVING WITH
DISABILITIES ENGAGED AS UN
VOLUNTEERS**

“

We highly acknowledge the work of UNV as a central player in the field of volunteering and civic engagement in the UN and as major contributor to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Germany feels particularly committed to supporting UNV as its HQ is based in Bonn. This is not only reflected in our financial contributions but also in our efforts in deploying German UN Volunteers within the UNV programme regularly.

Antje Leendertse

*Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of
Germany to the United Nations and Former State Secretary
of the Federal Foreign Office*



Country Office Support

2024 Key Highlights

The Country Oversight and Support Team (COST) covering West and Central Africa provides strategic, programmatic, and operational support to 24 Country Offices (COs) in RBA, from Dakar and New York. As the key interface between COs and UNDP corporate structures, COST provides responsive support to Country Offices, inputs on strategy setting, monitors policy, programme and operational performance of Country Offices, and represents corporate policies to Country Offices while advocating that Country Office realities inform corporate policies and processes.

In 2024, COST provided strategic oversight, and policy, programmatic and operational advisory services that contributed to strengthening COs’ capacity to deliver quality programming and enhance operational efficiency. In addition, COST contributed effectively to UNDP’s Strategic Plan, the Africa Promise, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and focused on five key areas:

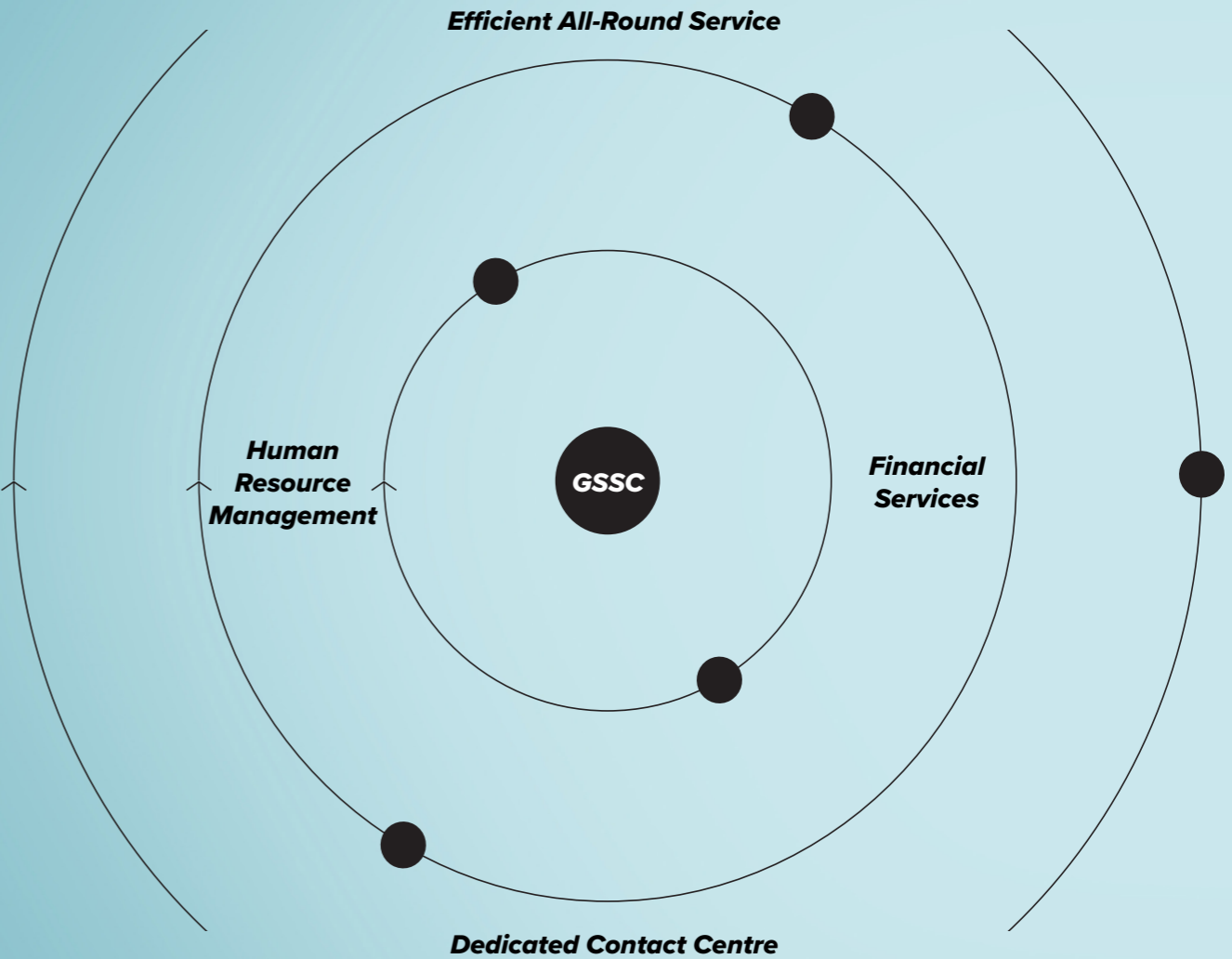


- **Regional Strategic Oversight:** COST provided guidance in policy, programme, and operations, coordinating with HQ and regional units to translate analyses directly into programmatic strategies. This included significant technical support during the development of four new Country Programme Documents (CPDs) and a CPD extension, enhancing oversight across various programming phases.
- **CO Performance and Compliance:** COST actively monitored key performance indicators for Country Offices, anticipating and addressing potential issues to boost performance and compliance. This included conducting 24 comprehensive country office scans and providing robust support during the Integrated Work Plan and Results-Oriented Annual Reporting processes, ensuring high-quality and timely outputs. Furthermore, COST participated in pre-audit missions, remotely conducted oversight and systems reviews and ensured the timely implementation of audit recommendations.
- **Partnerships and Resource Mobilization:** Throughout the year, COST supported strategic partnerships and resource mobilization efforts that secured significant funding and support for regional initiatives. Notably, a Government Cost Sharing Agreement in Gabon brought in \$200M for the PUDC. Additionally, COST played a crucial role in facilitating the approval of \$19.89 million for various regional programmes through the 2024 Japan Supplementary Budget proposals.
- **UNDP Positioning and Representation:** COST was instrumental in enhancing UNDP’s presence and advocacy at global and regional platforms, preparing briefing notes for senior management for key events such as the High-Level Political Forum, the UN General Assembly, the AU Summit and other significant conferences. This ensured that UNDP maintained a proactive and informed stance in critical policy discussions.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** COST also focused on strengthening program and policy management capabilities within RBA. It hosted multiple webinars addressing critical areas such as portfolio management, partnerships, and risk management. These sessions, offered in both French and English, were well-received and significantly enhanced the skill sets of UNDP staff across the region.

GSSC At a Glance

The Global Shared Services Centre

The Bureau for Management Services Global Shared Services Centre (BMS/GSSC) remains a pivotal hub, delivering specialized HR and Finance services to an expansive network of over 42,500 UN personnel spanning 80 agencies, funds, and programmes throughout the UN system. Established in 2003, BMS/GSSC boasts a seasoned team of multi-lingual professionals strategically positioned in key global cities including Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Copenhagen, Dakar, Istanbul, Kuala Lumpur, and New York. As a cornerstone administration center within the UN, BMS/GSSC is renowned for its exceptional customer service and deep expertise in policy and process support, catering to a diverse array of clients worldwide.



Established in 2003, BMS/GSSC boasts a seasoned team of multi-lingual professionals that serve:

42K+	80+	170+
UN Personnel	UN Entities	Countries

Our Network of Partners

Redefining our Engagements in the Region

With multiple protracted crises, political tensions, climate change, youth unemployment, rising inequalities, and declining funding trends, the development space in West and Central Africa stands at a critical crossroads. The scale and complexity of today’s challenges far exceed the technical and financial resources available to address them.

This moment demands greater collaboration, innovation, and bold action. Now more than ever, we must work together—across sectors and at scale—to meet the growing needs of communities across the region.

At UNDP, partnerships are at the heart of our work. We collaborate with a broad network of stakeholders—governments, regional institutions, development agencies, civil society, and the private sector—to amplify impact, harness expertise, and mobilize resources for transformative solutions. Together, we are addressing challenges, fostering resilience, and creating opportunities that drive sustainable growth and lasting change across the region. Because when we work together, we go further.



Our Team



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



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Executive Assistant, UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa and UNDP Senegal



Paul Armand Menye
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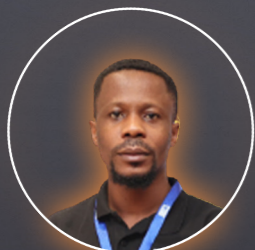
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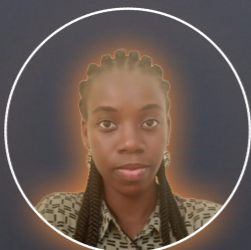
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