

FAQs

The Africa Facility to Support Inclusive Transitions (AFSIT)



*This document answers the most frequently encountered questions related to AFSIT.

Q1: How is AFSIT governed and how are decisions made on country engagements?

AFSIT is jointly governed by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Oversight rests with the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security and the UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director Bureau for Africa. The AFSIT Steering Committee members include representatives from the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN DPPA), the United Nations Development Coordination Office (UN DCO), the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and AFSIT partners. Strategic direction is set through annual Steering Committee meetings.

Country-level engagements require AU political approval and alignment with UNDP frameworks, ensuring activities are anchored in the AU and supported by UNDP. All activities are conducted in coordination with the relevant regional economic communities (RECs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

Q2: How does AFSIT engage in politically sensitive transitions?

AFSIT tailors its approach to each transition context, guided by AU political leadership, national receptivity and operational feasibility. Engagements are politically sensitive and grounded in the UN principles of inclusivity and impartiality. Rather than direct involvement in political negotiations, AFSIT focuses on knowledge sharing, strengthening governance and empowering civil society, with particular emphasis on the participation of women and youth.

AFSIT does not confer legitimacy on transitional or de facto authorities. Consistent with UNDP's "stay and deliver" approach, engagement with such authorities is undertaken solely to safeguard populations, protect development gains and maintain civic space. Activities are anchored in AU positions, authorized by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), and carefully risk-managed in line with UN guidance on de facto authorities. The focus is on inclusive processes — strengthening civil society, women and youth participation — to prevent transitions from being monopolized by any stakeholder. This principled engagement prioritizes resilience, accountability and broad-based ownership of transition processes.

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Q3: How is the PSC informed of and engaged with AFSIT activities?

The AU PSC recognizes AFSIT as a joint AUC–UNDP Facility that provides technical and programmatic support to Member States in transition, in line with the PSC’s political decisions. While AFSIT operates under the leadership of the AUC, the PSC plays an oversight and strategic role, ensuring that the Facility’s activities complement continental priorities. AFSIT provides periodic updates to the PSC through the AUC. On 4 July 2025, the Council was briefed jointly by the AUC and UNDP on the progress of AFSIT. PSC Members welcomed the Facility’s contributions, endorsed continued support to Guinea and Gabon, and encouraged AFSIT to facilitate dialogue with suspended Member States and promote cross-country exchange of experiences (PSC/PR/COMM.1277).

Q4: What is AFSIT’s current engagement in Guinea?

In line with UN Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) recommendations, and at the request of the AUC, AFSIT deployed a joint AU-UNDP mission from 21 to 26 July 2025. The mission responded to the AU PSC’s call for AFSIT to continue supporting the consolidation of democracy and good

governance in Member States, and to provide dedicated assistance to those undergoing a return to constitutional order (PSC/PR/COMM.1277)). The mission undertook a comprehensive review of Guinea’s transition needs, with a focus on strengthening governance and promoting development resilience. Building on its findings, the mission developed a set of concrete recommendations to guide joint AU-UNDP support for an inclusive, credible and peaceful transition.

Through AFSIT, UNDP will continue to support the implementation of the mandate of the AU PSC in accompanying Guinea’s political transition.

Q5: How does AFSIT coordinate with broader UN and AU mechanisms, especially electoral assistance, without duplication?

AFSIT’s support is fully demand-driven, responding directly to priorities identified by the AU and by national authorities in countries undergoing transitions. Its activities are designed to complement, not duplicate, existing AU and UN initiatives. The AU provides AFSIT with its political mandate and strategic direction, while UNDP contributes its technical expertise and operational capacity to facilitate and

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implement programmes on the ground. AFSIT is a transitions facility, not an elections facility. While electoral processes may form one component of a broader transition, AFSIT's engagement around electoral events is always guided by AU and national requests, aligned with NAM recommendations, and anchored in UNDP's "stay and deliver" Crisis Offer and governance mandate. Its aim is to foster inclusive institutions, civic participation, and state legitimacy in fragile contexts, rather than to provide electoral assistance per se.

AFSIT's work is conducted within established UN coordination mechanisms. All in-country activities are channelled through UNDP Country Offices and coordinated with the Resident Coordinator's (RC's) Office, in line with UN system procedures. AFSIT also recognises that the UN DPPA holds the primary responsibility for electoral assistance, and ensures its engagements are strictly complementary to this mandate.

To reinforce coordination and coherence, AFSIT actively engages with relevant Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) in its countries of operation. For example, on 10 September 2025, AFSIT briefed the IATF on our engagements in Guinea, ensuring that its planned support was fully aligned with both AU and UN

priorities and avoiding any duplication with ongoing initiatives.

Q6: How are sensitivities and coordination handled during missions?

Missions are AU-led, with UNDP providing facilitation and technical support. To minimize sensitivities, standard protocols include:

- Pre-mission consultations with RC offices, UN DPPA and relevant AU departments.
- Clear communication to host governments that AFSIT is a joint AUC-UNDP initiative.
- Stakeholder engagement, including government, opposition and civil society.
- Information sharing with UNCTs during and after missions.
- Transparent dissemination of findings within AU and UN systems.

The AFSIT Steering Committee, jointly chaired by AU and UNDP leadership, provides strategic guidance on sensitive political contexts, ensures high-level coordination among partners, and serves as the governance mechanism for addressing complex operational challenges that require executive decision-making.