

UNDP Africa Regional Initiative

United Nations Development Programme



Fostering Resilience to Shocks and Threats



Photo: Neil Palmer/CIAT

1. Context

Conflicts, climate change and disaster risks represent inter-related challenges that are impairing Africa's ability to advance human development, and realize its structural transformation agenda.

The changing nature of risks requires new approaches to risk reduction and preparedness. The recent Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone points to extreme vulnerability to shocks that reverses hard-won development gains.

While the frequency of armed conflicts has reduced, violent conflict and the risk of relapse still pose a threat to development.

This calls for innovative conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery mechanisms adapted to the

changing nature of conflicts, including cross-border spill-over. Secondly, countries need stronger preparedness systems and cooperation mechanisms to deal with large-scale crises.

2. Approach

UNDP supports the continent's resilience agenda by 1) enhancing conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacity, 2) strengthening preparedness for disaster risk management, and 3) bolstering climate change adaptation and mitigation.

UNDP's approach is anchored in strong partnerships with the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities, parliaments and political parties, civil society organisations, and think tanks, as well as South-South and Triangular cooperation.

3. Areas of work

Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

- Strengthening peace architectures: UNDP is supporting stronger linkages between the African Union and the Regional Economic Commissions for better analysis, stronger coordination, prevention and response to conflicts. This translates to embedding risk management into development planning ranging from mediation to building institutional capacities. In post-conflict contexts, these strengthened systems and infrastructures can entrench a spirit of reconciliation into national structures and processes.
- UNDP is also working to translate regional peace and security frameworks into national level

development planning through institutionalized and more effective early warning and response capacities.

- **Radicalisation:** As a follow up to the UNDP-led global Istanbul consultations in 2014 on the spread of extremism, UNDP is working with partners to develop an integrated approach to address violent extremism and radicalisation in Africa, focused on vulnerable youth and through understanding and responding to the pull and push factors that lure young people to violent extremism.
- **Reconciliation:** In divided, conflict-affected and post-conflict societies, the challenge of sustainable development is to frame a vision of the future that unites victims, perpetrators, everyone. UNDP is, together with the African Union Commission, developing a continental standard on reconciliation processes that are all-inclusive and multi-sectorial, and build on the lessons learned from globally and from Africa.

Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- UNDP advocates with countries for a more integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change risks to ensure that governments assess, plan for and act upon them together.
- UNDP is working to ensure that data and information related to risks are made available at the regional level to support decision-making through effective early warning systems and proper response mechanisms. This includes strengthening regional capacities to ensure conflict, climate, environmental and disaster risk information is efficiently disseminated and applied to early warning, preparedness and mitigation.
- Drawing lessons from the multi-dimensional nature of the Ebola crisis, UNDP is also working to strengthen its internal response capacity to emergencies and disasters. This includes providing adequate and timely analysis, and a coherent and coordinated approach with other UN Agencies and partners.
- UNDP is identifying key sectors that drive economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa and will document the cost of climate change and disasters in terms of livelihoods to help inform investments in those sectors.

For more information, contact:

mohamed.yahya@undp.org

www.africa.undp.org

Project details

Project Period: 2014-2017

Executing Entity: UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa

Partners: African Union Commission, Regional Economic Commissions, Regional Technical Institutions and Civil Society Organisations

Total resources required: USD 22,440,100

Total allocated resources: USD 10,000,000