

Gender gap costs sub-Saharan Africa \$US95 billion a year, says newly-launched UNDP Africa Human Development Report 2016



Gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa on average US\$95 billion a year, peaking at US\$105 billion in 2014 – or six percent of the region's GDP – jeopardizing the continent's efforts for inclusive human development and economic growth, according to the [Africa Human Development Report 2016: Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa](#). The report was launched by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development

(TICAD) VI on 28 August. 14 Heads of State and Government were also in attendance.

Deeply-rooted structural obstacles such as unequal distribution of resources, power and wealth, combined with social institutions and norms that sustain inequality are holding African women, and the rest of the continent, back. The report estimates that a 1 percent increase in gender inequality reduces a country's human development index by 0.75 percent.

The report proposes four strategic pathways to greater gender equality and women's empowerment: adopting legal reforms, building national capacity to accelerate women's involvement in decision-making, adopting multi-sectoral approaches in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and accelerating women's ownership of assets and management of resources. Read more [here](#).

Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi



"Investing in women and youth must be at the heart of the development agenda in Africa," UNDP Administrator Helen Clark said at the opening of the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), held in Nairobi, Kenya during 27-28 August. TICAD is held regularly to promote high-level policy dialogue between Japan, African leaders and development partners. UNDP been a co-organiser of TICAD since its inception in 1993. The high level meeting was hosted by

the Government of Kenya, the first time it has been held in Africa.

The Administrator praised the impact the partnerships promoted by TICAD have made in supporting human development in Africa. “Africa’s large youth population presents an enormous opportunity for development”, said the UN Development Chief at the conference’s opening session. “Harnessing the potential of Africa’s youth by investing in education, skills development, and other social initiatives can reap enormous dividends and spur the continent’s development.” Read more [here](#).

TICAD VI closed with the adoption of the [Nairobi Declaration](#), a three-year plan to promote structural economic transformation, resilient healthcare systems and social stability for shared prosperity.

Helping African countries access Climate Finance

Climate finance is central to global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on climate change and yet remains a key constraint for least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and African countries to meet national obligations to the global agreements. UNDP was the first UN entity to be accredited to the [Green Climate Fund](#) (GCF) a financial mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that aims to assist developing countries in climate change adaptation and mitigation.



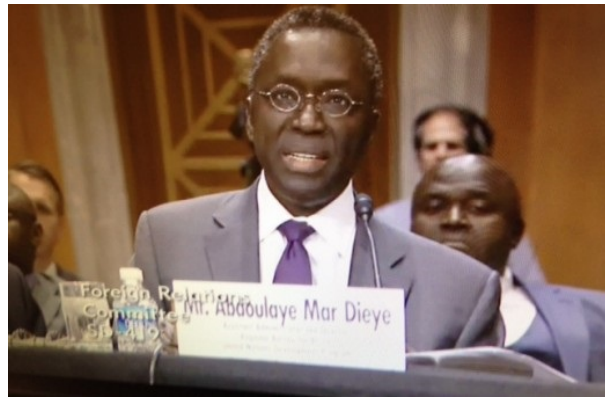
Against this backdrop, during 8-10 June, the Regional Service Centre for Africa convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, more than 100 participants from UNDP offices in Africa and the Arab States for a training workshop on climate finance focused on how UNDP can support African governments to access the GCF and other climate funding opportunities. Participants covered the GCF procedures and learned from experiences of other UNDP offices that had successfully submitted projects to the Fund. Discussions also centred on other public and private sources of climate finance, and potential corresponding institutional arrangements and budgeting tools that could be put in place to harness these options.

In addition to sharing experiences of national climate change work, participants discussed other climate change-related issues in Africa including implementation of national climate plans (Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs) and mitigation action plans (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions - NAMAs) in the African context, and preparations for the next climate conference (COP22) scheduled for 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco.

Before U.S. Senate Committee, UNDP Africa Chief Abdoulaye Mar Dieye stressed need for coordination in response to violent extremism

In response to an invitation by the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, UNDP Africa Regional Director Abdoulaye Mar Dieye on 10 May took part in a briefing event in Washington D.C. on *Instability in Africa*. The two-part panel focused on on-going threats in Africa’s so-called “Arc of Instability”, a region that encompasses the Sahel, the Lake Chad Region and the Horn of Africa.

In his statement, Abdoulaye Mar Dieye referred to the human toll of violent extremism. UNDP estimates that at least 33,000 persons have been killed in Africa since 2011, and six million people are internally displaced as a result of violent extremism. He also noted that violent extremism is amongst the major risks to economies in parts of Africa.



He referenced on-going UNDP work in addressing this development challenge including a seminal “perception study” on “radicalization, violence and insecurity in the Sahel”, covering border communities in eight countries – Mauritania, Senegal, Niger, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Nigeria, as well as “radicalization journey mapping” which interviews extremists, their families and their communities with a view to identifying “the tipping point to violent extremism”. He added that preliminary findings are that violent extremism finds fertile ground among the disenfranchised and in ungoverned spaces. Click [here](#) for the full statement.

East and Horn of Africa countries working on strategy to address violent extremism through a development lens



UNDP is working with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) plus Tanzania to develop and implement a sub-regional strategy to promote cooperation and coordination in preventing and countering violent extremism in the East and Horn of Africa. IGAD Member States include Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

National consultations for the strategy kicked off in July and will be held in select IGAD

countries to ensure the strategy is based on a shared understanding of the issue and builds on existing experience, while providing a forum for knowledge exchange. Work on the strategy is supported through a financial contribution from the Japan government.

UNDP's support to IGAD is part of the recently launched, four-year USD 65.7 million initiative [Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach](#) that aims to address the root causes and enabling factors of violent extremism. The programme is also in line with the [UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism](#) launched in January 2016. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Maendeleo Policy Forums



The **Maendeleo Policy Forum** is a flagship initiative of the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa in Addis Ababa. It provides space for African leaders, international mediators and negotiators, researchers, policy makers, development practitioners and writers on African issues, to dialogue and debate on critical issues of development in Africa. For reports from previous editions of the Forum visit [here](#).

Ghana hosts Maendeleo Policy Forum on African elections

As Ghana prepares for general elections in December 2016, the Maendeleo Policy Forum was held for the first time outside Addis Ababa, on 18 August in Accra, Ghana on the topic *Elections in Sub-Saharan Africa: General Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*. The Forum examined the challenges African countries have faced in organising free, fair and peaceful elections, and discussed potential solutions.

Panellists included UNDP Associate Administrator Tegegnetwork Gettu, African Union Panel of the Wise member and Former Chair of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission Dr. Brigalia Bam, Executive Director of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa Mr. Denis Kadima, and the Chair of Association of African Election Authorities and Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Ghana Mrs. Charlotte Osei. UNDP Africa's Regional Cluster Director for Governance and Peacebuilding Ozonnia Ojielo moderated.

The panel discussed key elections challenges including political intolerance, violation of fundamental human rights, weak capacities of

Exploring the Nexus between Humanitarian and Development Interventions

Following the May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) held in Istanbul, Turkey, the Regional Service Centre for Africa held its fourth Maendeleo Policy Forum on 4 July titled: *Exploring the Nexus between Humanitarian and Development Interventions: trends, challenges and opportunities for Africa*.

Panellists included UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UNDP Ethiopia Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, and the African Union Commission's Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons Mr. Olabisi A. Dare.

Forum discussions focused on how to shrink the gap between humanitarian relief and development, how to build a more predictable response system, Africa's roadmap to implement the WHS outcomes and how the UN, and UNDP in particular, can better support Africa's humanitarian and development effectiveness.

Some of the key takeaways included the need for humanitarian and development actors to jointly assess, plan and deliver; higher

institutions including the electoral management bodies, the role of money in elections and political parties financing, role of local and international overseers, civic education and election-related violence. Read more [here](#).

investment in prevention, disaster risk reduction and preparedness and more flexible and predictable funding. There was also a strong emphasis on the need to address the root causes of protracted crises, which mostly lie in a governance deficit. Strong, legitimate and capacitated government was also seen as a condition for bridging the humanitarian-development divide.

European Union and UNDP discuss challenges and priorities for regional action in Central Africa

UNDP and the European Union (EU) held a dialogue in April together with the principal Central Africa regional organizations - the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) – focused on the sub-region's key security, stabilization and development issues and actions needed to deliver an effective regional-level response.



The dialogue comes against the backdrop of persistent insecurity in the sub-region, which, combined with political and economic obstacles to regional integration, has had profound effects on Central Africa's development. Despite vast mineral and other natural resource wealth, Central Africa scores at, or close to, the bottom of global development indices – recording the highest incidence of poverty among all African blocs, according to 2014 UNDP data. In addition, Central Africa is the sub-region that has advanced the least with regard to the African Union's regional integration agenda.

The discussions and the recommendations will contribute to a sub-regional strategy to be finalised later this year. A similar strategy for the Horn of Africa is also underway. Read more [here](#).

UN development plan to boost recovery in Africa's Great Lakes region



The UN Security Council in March endorsed a coordinated cross-border development plan for Africa's Great Lakes region to contribute to sustainable peace and to support stability. [The UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework for 2016-2017](#) focuses on addressing the root causes of conflict and unregulated flows of natural resources, while also working on economic integration and long term solutions for displaced persons and refugees, and fugitives from international justice. The new

Framework supports the implementation of the [Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework](#) (PSCF) for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region agreed in 2013.

The UN regional development framework work will be implemented through UN funds, programmes and agencies initiatives along the following six pillars: i) sustainable natural resource management; ii) economic integration, cross-border trade and food and nutrition security; iii) mobility; iv) youth and adolescents; v) gender and sexual and gender-based violence; and vi) justice and conflict prevention. [The UN Development Programme \(UNDP\) is leading work on pillars two and six.](#) Out of an estimated financing need of around US\$ 83 million, the financing gap to be covered currently remains at \$81 million.

Making the SDGs and Agenda 2063 a reality



UNDP, together with the African Union Commission and in partnership with government of Kazakhstan, convened government officials, civil society and UN agency representatives from their respective sub-regions in Johannesburg, South Africa 15-16 June and Dakar, Senegal 21-22 June to discuss and share experiences about integrating the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063 into national development plans, and the different practical tools available to countries to do this.

[Participants emphasised the need for political leadership and an all-hands-on deck approach](#) to ensure successful implementation of the two agendas. Discussions also focused on how to prioritise amongst the goals, while maintaining the indivisible and integrated nature of the SDGs. Options included mapping out SDGs with integration effects – investments that yield greater results across other goals – or those that have huge multiplier effects.

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and UNDP Africa strategic dialogue on joint work

Representatives of the Belgium-based [African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States \(ACP\) Secretariat](#), UNDP Africa and UNDP Brussels Representation Office met at the Regional Service Centre for Africa during 14-15 July for a strategic dialogue on the implementation of the revised Joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations. The ACP Group consists of 79 Member States, including 40 Least Developed Countries and 36 Small Island Developing States.



The revised MOU, signed in March this year by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and ACP Secretariat Secretary General Patrick I. Gomes, provides a framework for collaboration in areas of common interest while contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through strengthening capacities in ACP Member States and enhancing partnership and programme coherence in ACP countries and regions.

Among the conclusions of the meeting was agreement on further work for joint action on selected thematic interventions, the convening of an annual strategic dialogue between UNDP's regional centres in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific and the ACP Secretariat, as well as another forum with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to reinforce partnerships.

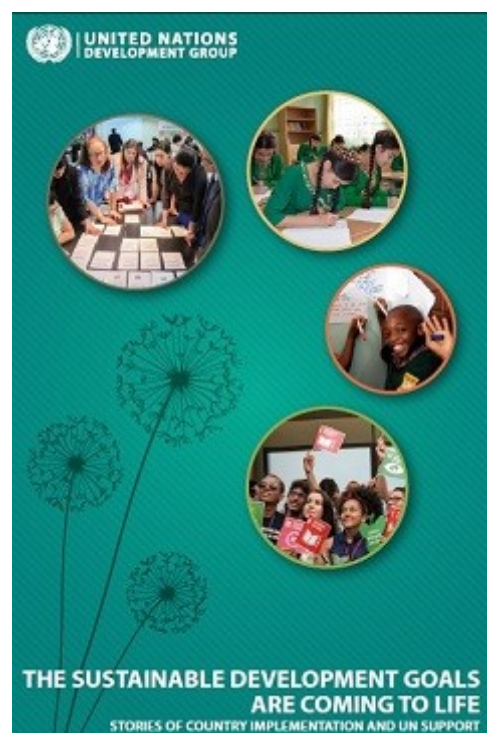
The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launches first-ever SDGs report

The [inaugural Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) report](#) on the new global development agenda adopted last year was launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 19 July, and will serve as a benchmark for the 15-year implementation period of [the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development](#).

“The latest data shows that about one in eight people still lives in extreme poverty and nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger”, [Ban Ki-moon said](#) at the [UN’s High Level Political Forum](#), the UN’s central platform for the follow-up and review of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. “The



The SDGs are coming to life

To share country experiences in rolling out the SDGs, UNDP prepared a publication on behalf of the UN Development Group (UNDG), [“The SDGs are Coming to Life – Stories of Country Implementation and UN support”](#) that provides a snapshot of how countries, including Cabo Verde, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Uganda, are domesticating the Agenda 2030.

Launching the report during a side event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on 20 July, [UNDP Administrator Helen Clark said](#): “Around the world, countries are integrating the Agenda 2030 into their visions, strategies, and plans at the national, subnational, and local levels by aligning their

births of nearly a quarter of children under 5 have not been recorded, and 1.1 billion people are living without electricity, and water scarcity affects more than 2 billion. The data also underscore the imperative of targeted action in support of the furthest behind.”

national development plans with the SDGs, assessing the risks to progress, and strengthening their monitoring and accountability mechanisms; building capacities to co-ordinate sustainable development efforts across sectors and to drive coherence across policy areas and between levels of government; and raising public awareness of what needs to be done, and building innovative partnerships for action.”

Our blog series



Global Climate Finance - Will Africa Benefit After Paris?

By Daisy Mukarakate, Regional Climate Change Policy Advisor, UNDP Africa

There is a glimmer of hope that global climate financial flows to Africa could increase after Paris. This is necessary as climate finance has the potential to deliver multiple benefits such as food, water and energy security, health and employment benefits – precisely what Africa needs. Read the full blog [here](#).



El Nino happens every 3-7 years. How can Africa be better prepared?

By Excellent Hachileka Programme Specialist in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Cluster, UNDP Africa

Some 60 million people's lives have been affected by the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon in the Horn and Southern Africa, the strongest since 1950. The phenomenon was predicted and early warning data was made available in most countries, yet little action was taken, exposing both a lack of political will and a resilience deficit. Read the full blog [here](#).



Around 80% of Central African Republic's diamonds are gem quality and artisanal, how to boost its potential?

By George Lwanda, Extractives Policy Advisor, UNDP Africa

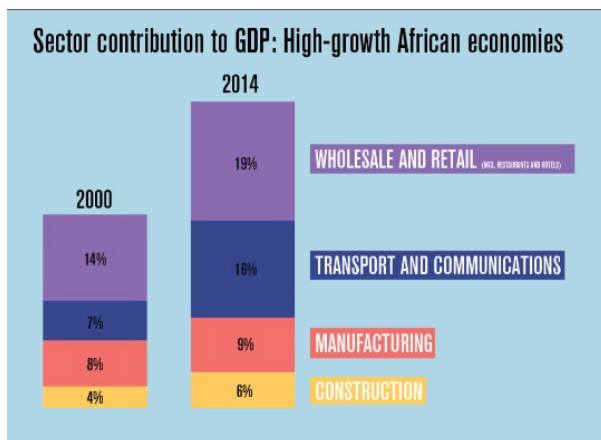


What does it take to meet Africa's trade integration target?

By Degol Hailu, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development and Chinpihoi Kipgen, Research Associate, UNDP Africa

The diamond sector is CAR's principal source of revenue but it is characterised by high informality. For boosting the economy and attaining significant effects on employment, the government needs to implement a range of reforms aimed at promoting mass formalisation. Read the full blog [here](#).

A target of the African Union's [Agenda 2063](#) is to see "intra-Africa trade growing from less than 12% in 2013 to approaching 50% by 2045". To meet this target, intra-regional trade not only needs to grow but also the sophistication of the products traded must be enhanced. Can African economies achieve such remarkable integration? Read the full blog [here](#).



Made out of Africa

By Degol Hailu, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development and Chinpihoi Kipgen, Research Associate, UNDP Africa

During the past decade, GDP growth in several African countries has not been limited only to natural resource extraction and export. The sectors that have experienced the highest growth are wholesale and retail trade, transport and communications, and construction. Read the full blog [here](#).

Upcoming events

4-5 September, 2016: [G20 Leaders Summit, Hangzhou, China](#)

6-9 September, 2016: [Second regular session of UNDP/UNOPS/UNFPA Executive Board, New York, USA](#)

13 September, 2016: [Opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations, New York, USA](#)

19 September, 2016: [Summit for Refugees and Migrants, New York, USA](#)

19-26 September, 2016: [71st session of the General Assembly, New York, USA](#)

21 September, 2016: [UN Paris Climate Agreement Toward Entry into Force, New York, USA](#)

17-20 October, 2016: [Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador](#)

17 October, 2016: [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

20-26 October, 2016: [United Nations Week](#)

9-10 November, 2016: [UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination, New York, USA](#)

7-18 November, 2016: [COP22, Marrakech, Morocco](#)

25 November – 10 December, 2016: [16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence](#)

28 November – 1 December, 2016: [2nd High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership, Nairobi, Kenya](#)

1 December, 2016: [World AIDS Day](#)

9 December, 2016: [International Anti-Corruption Day](#)

10 December, 2016: [Human Rights Day](#)



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