



# Annual Report 2020

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA



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## Acknowledgements

The Annual Report 2020 was produced under the leadership of Jide Okeke, Coordinator of the Regional Programme for Africa. Jelena Raketic, Fatma Ahmed and Michelle Mendi Muita provided valuable technical insights and inputs to the report, with additional support from Moges Abreham, Betelihem Teklu and Aisha Jemila Daniels. All RSCA teams and hub focal points provided significant inputs from their various regional projects and initiatives. Natalia Voronova, Paul VanDeCarr and Amandine Gillet compiled, edited and translated the report respectively.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the remarkable efforts of all involved.

## About UNDP

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. UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa contributes to regional development by addressing challenges facing the continent and amplifying opportunities related to the priorities and aspirations defined by the African Union and other regional entities.

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# 2020 Overview

UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA)  
NEW YORK

DAKAR HUB

Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA)  
ADDIS ABABA

PRETORIA HUB

NAIROBI HUB

**100%**  
Core delivery in 2020

**31**  
Regional projects and initiatives

**1st**  
African Young Women Leaders Fellowship

**2,000+**  
Youth enrolled in training programmes

**20,000**  
SMEs supported during COVID-19

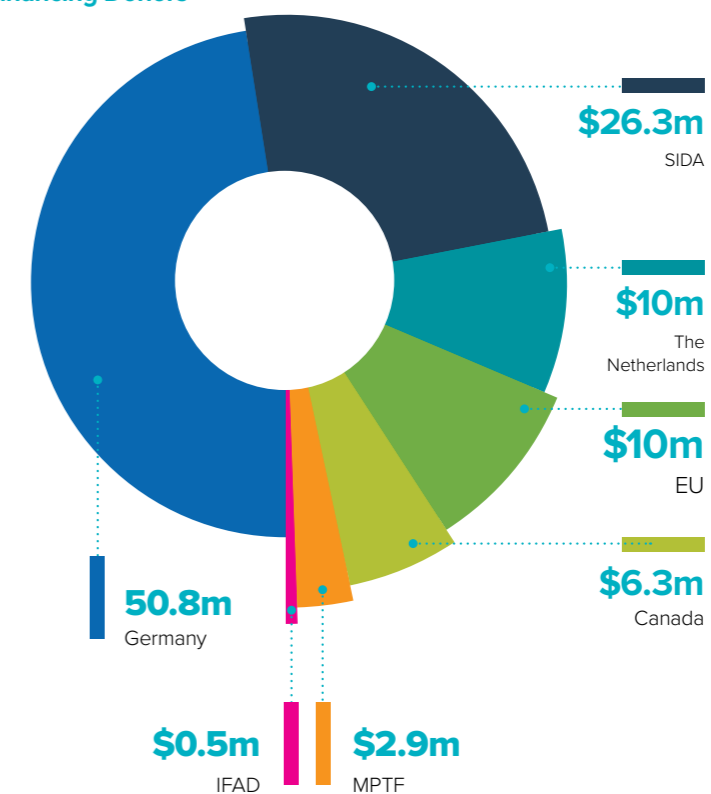
**3,000+**  
Women empowered as critical stakeholders

**20,000+**  
PPEs supplied to regional COVID-19 response

**400%**  
Growth in non-core/donor investments totalling \$92 million

**17**  
Knowledge products published

Top 8 Non-Core Financing Donors



Following the determination of African people and governments, UNDP's own response stood on the side of staying the course.

## Foreword

The year 2020 was one like no other. With the blow of the COVID-19 pandemic, everything we know about how to do development was questioned. Yet, Africa neither relented nor surrendered in defeat. The continent demonstrated its innovation, resilience and grit – bringing its talents to bear in responding to a most gruesome and still unfolding pandemic.

And while, like other institutions, our capacity to respond swiftly to a pandemic unprecedented in both its public health and socio-economic impacts was put to the test, we did not relent. I am pleased to say that our reinforced and new partnerships enabled us to stand with Africa – stalling what could have been a much worse outcome.

This Annual Report speaks to the successes and impact of UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa during a difficult year. It chronicles successes and the impact of UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa, detailing how we pivoted towards support for implementation of the AU's own strategy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, UNDP's work with the African Union Commission's Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) speaks to this. As does UNDP's investment in support for a safe reopening of Africa through home-grown technology solutions.

Our teams deftly adapted to the new logistical constraints. We deepened our engagement with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to deliver against their institutional mandates. We contributed to the advancement of regional economic growth that is transformative and reduces inequalities, with a particular emphasis on regional gender equality. We supported African states to deliver social protection including to the most marginalized; and we significantly expanded our partnerships focused on supporting youth entrepreneurship as well as empowering women in transitional contexts.

We also invested in creating a peaceful and resilient Africa through the launch of the Africa Borderlands Centre, a flagship initiative focused on the unique challenges of the over 270 million Africans living in borderlands. We worked across the UN system to pool capacities in an integrated response in the Sahel; and deepened our work on stabilization, preventing violent extremism and early warning, with a particular focus on the Lake Chad Basin region. The successes recorded in this region informed the establishment of a stabilization facility in the Liptako-Gourma region.

In these programmes, we kept an eye beyond recovery, towards 2030 – keeping a foot on the peddle of transformation, reducing inequalities in gender, promoting social protection including for the most marginalized, and emphasizing youth as a central spine of our programming. UNDP initiated a transformative partnership in support of the OneAfricaMarket in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which promises to revolutionize Africa's industrial prospects and its socio-economic development trajectory.

These are just some of the many impact stories and results that were achieved amid the pandemic. With an initial investment of US\$4.8 million, we received an additional \$91.6 million in non-core investments - enabling us to implement 31 projects and initiatives across 4 sub-regional hubs, engage with over 99 partners, and contribute to global thought leadership through the publication of several flagship knowledge products.

As we approach the mid-point of 2021, we start to look ahead envisaging our new 2022-25 Regional Programme for Africa. We will be shifting from a problem to a promise lens that embraces and nurtures Africa's potential and wealth by delivering, expanding, and deepening structural economic transformation and inclusion, and harnessing digital opportunities, while prioritizing women and youth.

I am proud of our teams and of their contributions. None of this work would be possible without the spectrum of partnerships with governments, businesses, civil society, development banks, community groups, regional institutions, and other UN agencies – for which we are extremely grateful.

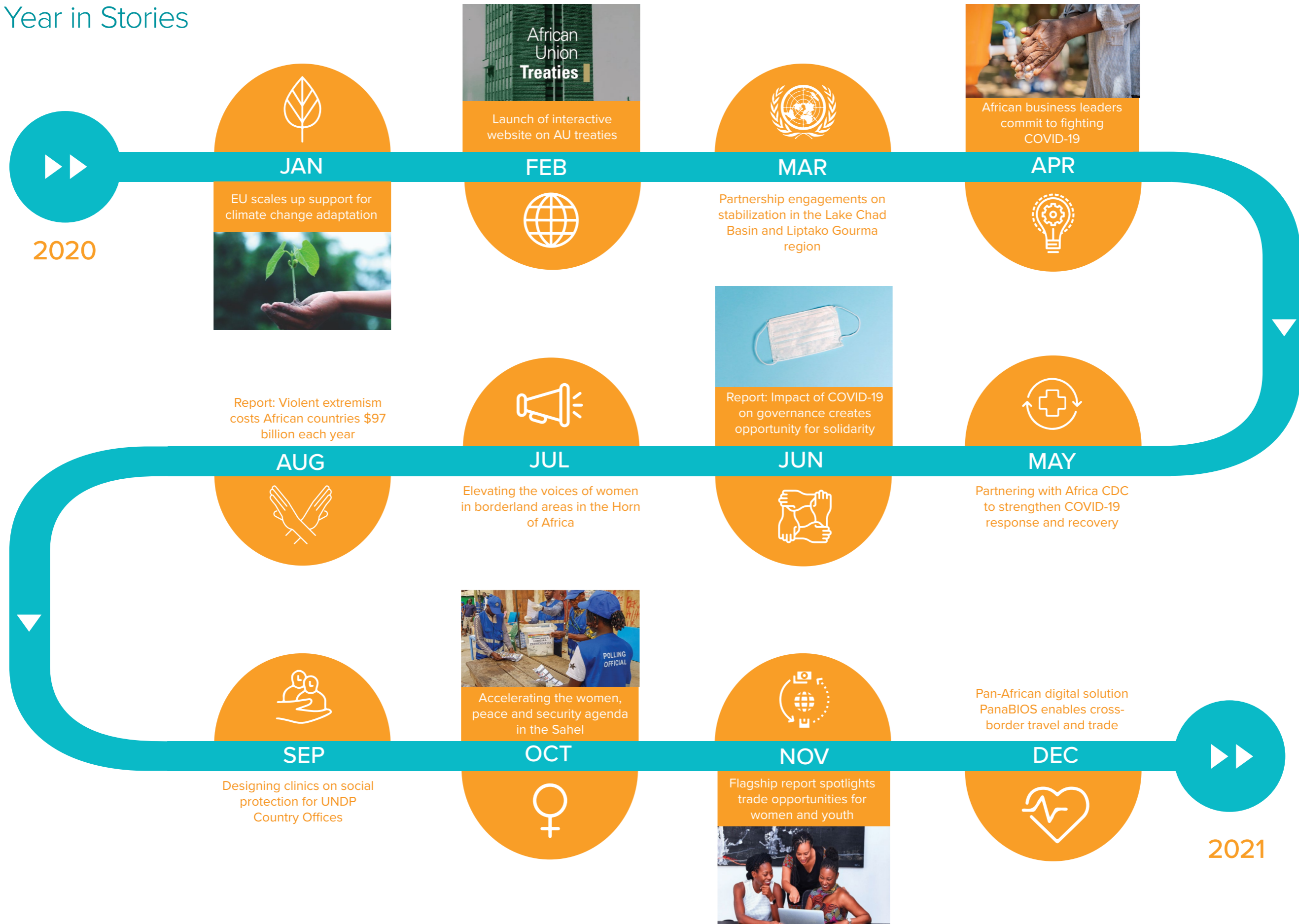
As you, our partners and stakeholders, read through the results highlights of 2020, I continue to count on your engagement, collaboration and support as we take on the mantle to dig even deeper – until we unlock Africa's promise.



**Ahunna Eziakonwa**  
UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Africa



# A Year in Stories



## Executive Summary

UNDP was built to take on the toughest challenges. And in 2020, UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa pivoted quickly to COVID-19, while also continuing work in our three primary priority areas.

2020 was a challenging year for Africa. Across the continent, the COVID-19 pandemic caused illness and death, led to a socioeconomic crisis, and made already marginalized people even more vulnerable to poverty and violence. The pandemic also prompted Africans to come together for the collective good. In all corners, people looked in on their neighbours, wore masks and socially distanced, and generously gave of their time and resources. UNDP mourns the many losses but also celebrates the unity that Africans demonstrated throughout these many hard months. UNDP was built to take on the toughest challenges. And in 2020, UNDP's Regional Programme (RP) for Africa pivoted quickly to COVID-19, while also continuing work in our three primary priority areas. Indeed, these areas of work cannot be separated from one another.

- **On COVID-19, UNDP supported the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the African Union in the fight against the pandemic.** This work included joint coordination and operations support; COVID-19 impact assessments; knowledge-sharing; public communications campaigns; preparedness and response in cross-border areas; and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.
- **On Priority Area 1, the Regional Programme helped the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) deliver on their mandates, especially cross-cutting issues related to resilience-building.** The RP helped build the capacity of the African Union Commission (AUC) and select Member States to ratify and domesticate AU treaties; increase regional and national capacities on reducing disaster risk and preventing violent extremism; improve access to climate information in cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa; and strengthen the institutional framework for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- **On Priority Area 2, the Regional Programme helped advance regional growth that is inclusive,**

**sustainable, with reduced economic inequalities, and characterized by structural transformation.** The RP provided support to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women; build capacities to deliver on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments; bolster social protection systems; enhance youth development; advance implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, increase advocacy around the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); and ensure support for initiatives for structural and inclusive transformation.

- **On Priority Area 3, the Regional Programme helped regional institutions sustain peace and build resilience to crises and shocks.** The RP helped support efforts to prevent violent extremism; develop tools on environmental hazards, environmental degradation and resilience to climate change in the Horn of Africa cross-border areas; raise awareness on existing cross-border MoUs, policies and agreements; stabilize the Lake Chad Basin; and chart future stabilization work in the Liptako-Gourma region and conflict-prevention and peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region.

In all these areas, UNDP partnered with governments, businesses, civil society, development banks, community groups, regional institutions and other UN agencies. Throughout 2020, the Regional Programme drew on all of its strengths, all of its smarts and all of its relationships. On the following pages, you'll learn about the details. Much of it concerns technical issues of policy and economics, but the goal is as human as can be: a peaceful, resilient and inclusive Africa. For all Africans. In 2020, the Regional Programme achieved results in each of its three priority areas:

- African Union and RECs deliver on their mandate, especially cross-cutting issues related to resilience-building.
- Regional growth is inclusive, sustainable, with reduced economic inequalities, and characterized by structural transformation
- Regional institutions sustain peace and build resilience to crises and shocks.

Progress in each of these areas was made more challenging by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Always seeking to be agile, the Regional Programme — and, indeed, all of UNDP — adapted to deal with the pandemic and its secondary effects. Described below is our response to the pandemic and our results in each of the three priority areas.



## Responding to COVID-19

In 2019 and 2020, Africa and the world faced a new reality. The COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns affected people worldwide. Global supply chains were disrupted, air and cargo transportation were halted, and access to medical supplies was limited by a surge in international demand. As a result, Africa searched for homegrown solutions. Putting a stop to the pandemic required the participation of Africans all over the continent. When the first case of COVID-19 in Africa was reported on 14 February 2020 in Egypt, predictions for the continent were dire. However, UNDP remained focused and adapted to the new reality.

### Pivoting projects to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic

The Regional Programme's projects and regional initiatives continued to address ongoing challenges while adapting plans in order to meet the new challenges facing the continent. To understand the challenges created by the pandemic and encourage an evidence-based approach to them, initiatives focused on knowledge creation and management, capacity-building, public awareness, and forming partnerships around a common response to COVID-19.

A notable example is the production of a report on **African South-South and Triangular Cooperation Responses (SSC/TrC) to COVID-19 and Beyond**. The report was originally planned to document SSC/TrC initiatives, similar to the first African SSC report in 2019. However, with the advent of COVID-19, the report was reformulated to capture ongoing SSC/TrC initiatives in response to the pandemic and assess the pandemic's impacts on ongoing SSC/TrC initiatives.

Based on a survey and interviews with UNDP, government counterparts in Africa, development partners and the private sector, the report offers a unique and timely perspective on the ways in which south-south and triangular cooperation exchanges have been utilized by African countries. It also highlights the role of UNDP in SSC/TrC and various national policy responses, solutions and initiatives in response to COVID-19.

The regional project **Transforming the development cooperation landscape in Africa to implement the SDGs through South-South Cooperation** also engaged with key TrC partners, such as the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC), on strengthening the SSC/TrC agenda across Africa, with particular attention to technical support on SSC/TrC in the context of COVID-19.

Discussions were held on the potential of establishing a TrC fund in Africa to promote South-South exchanges and collaboration between Africa and the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. Responding to the new challenges presented by COVID-19, the regional project **Social Protection for Sustainable Development** supported country offices in implementing a pandemic response through a series of advisory materials:

- Compilation of international resources on social protection COVID-19 response in Africa.
- COVID-19 response: Social Protection Integrated Offer to Africa.
- COVID-19 response: Integrated Offer for the Informal Economy.
- Guidance Note on Leave No One Behind (LNOB) in targeting and enrolment for social protection programmes.
- Advisory Note on Enrolment in Emergency Social Protection programmes.
- Guidance note on how to draft an RFF on social protection. (Also available in French.)
- Advisory note on social protection for informal workers during and post-COVID-19.

The **UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre** was launched amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and quickly recognized the need to better understand how borderlands communities are affected by COVID-19. With the aim of building awareness on the trade challenges that COVID-19 presented, the Centre issued a policy brief on specific challenges presented by COVID-19 to borderland areas.<sup>1</sup> The regional project **Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach**, recognized that COVID-19 might exacerbate the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, especially considering the attacks and military responses of early 2020.

In light of this, the project established an emergency partnership with Radio Ndarason Internationale, a community-radio station, to reach out to communities affected by Boko Haram by disseminating news about the pandemic, government restrictions and preventive measures in local languages with the objective to address root causes of violent extremism through dialogue and trust building in the region. This intervention addressed the risk that the pandemic could play into the hands of violent extremism (VE) groups and their propaganda.

The partnership also supported a community perception study on the impact of COVID-19 towards VE-groups in the affected areas of Nigeria, Niger and Chad to prevent further exploitation of the pandemic in VE-propaganda through objective information about the pandemic and preventive measures.

A study on the impact of COVID-19 on community perceptions of VE groups in the Lake Chad Basin was finalized and contributed towards strengthening the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) on regional strategic communications in the Lake Chad Basin. The project also identified opportunities to support broader UN efforts on COVID-19 prevention and response, leveraging its relationships with grassroots and civil society organizations, religious leaders and women and youth associations to reach the most marginalized populations.

Through the regional project **Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad**, UNDP, in collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the African Union, made an in-depth analysis of the intersectional and compounded challenges COVID-19 poses through a series of situation briefs on the LCB.<sup>2</sup> The four briefs assess the implications of COVID-19 and governments' response strategies on governance priorities, community resilience, the impact on youth, women and girls, including a focus on sexual and gender-based violence. UNDP partnered with the African

Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in hosting the **2020 African Economic Conference**, which had the theme, "Africa beyond COVID-19: Acceleration towards inclusive and sustainable development." Following the submission of over 400 papers, 36 selected finalists presented papers on a wide array of topics related to the theme — including governance, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), foreign direct investment and health.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regional project **Strengthening Africa's resilience and capacities for adaptation and disaster risk reduction: fostering risk-informed solutions for sustainable development**, supported the AUC in strengthening institutional mechanisms for a multi-hazard early-warning and early-action system (including pandemic surveillance and conflict warning systems).

### Supporting the AU Continental Strategy on COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic calls for a comprehensive approach to address its many facets. At a continental level, the AU adopted the Continental Strategy on COVID-19 response. UNDP partnered with the Africa CDC as well as other partners in the implementation of the continental strategy against COVID-19 on all fronts, through: supporting the AU in studying the impact of COVID-19 on governance, peace and security<sup>3</sup>; backing country offices and RECs in the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence during the pandemic; supporting the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) for countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); bolstering health systems; and building the capacity of target groups such as health workers, faith-based organizations, civil-society organizations, youth and women's groups, and leading health institutions.

In partnership with Emory University, UNDP and Africa CDC launched a **series of webinars on risk communication to improve the pandemic response**. Nine webinars designed for journalists, faith-based organizations and youth attracted nearly 1,000 participants from 51 African countries. The webinars featured experts recruited by Emory who led conversations on the use of data, evidence-based reporting, countering misinformation, and how young people can prevent the spread of COVID-19. Conversations touched on spiritual counselling, interfaith communication, gender issues in the pandemic response, and re-thinking faith journalism in the era of COVID-19.

In 2020, UNDP prioritized **direct communication with grassroots communities in Mano River countries**. Even before the pandemic, countries in the Mano River Union — Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire — contended with poor governance and an Ebola outbreak. COVID-19 only increased the risk of tensions between communities and dealt a blow to the region's economies. The impact was especially hard on women-headed households. Precautionary measures adopted by national authorities restricted the movement of a large percentage of the population. In response, UNDP country offices and the Mano River Union office in Liberia delivered supplies to border counties, including thermometers, PPEs, hand-washing buckets, hand sanitizers, face shields, face masks, alcohol, gloves, Clorox, educational materials and megaphones, some of which were procured locally. These supplies helped reduce the transmission of the disease across borders and built community engagement and awareness. Volunteers were critical in educating the public about how to prevent COVID-19 in 20 border communities between Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

These grassroots efforts helped ensure the messages reached remote areas along the borders and also captured any early warning signs of tension. Furthermore, UNDP contributed to the development of guidelines on gender-responsive COVID-19 responses by UNDP country offices and Member States, in collaboration with AU Commission's Gender Directorate and the UNDP Global Gender Team. As a result of this fruitful collaboration, the UNDP Regional Gender Team held a webinar with UNDP country offices and also supported them on integrating gender into **COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIAs)**.<sup>4</sup>

Across 39 offices that conducted SEIAs, 10 were found to have met or exceeded the minimum requirements for gender-responsiveness. To fight COVID-19 on all fronts, UNDP and Africa CDC also partnered on other vital work. Together, we identified the need to ensure the continued supply of critical drugs needed to manage other infections such as HIV, TB and malaria. UNDP and Africa CDC identified **six areas of collaboration** to ensure a holistic approach to this complex crisis, reflected in UNDP's Regional Response:

1. Joint coordination and operations support
2. Impact assessments of COVID-19
3. Knowledge-sharing and online platforms
4. Public communications campaigns
5. Preparedness and response in cross-border areas
6. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence

1 <https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/library/issue-briefs/research-and-policy-brief---african-borderlands-in-the-context-o.html>.

2 <https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/library/issue-briefs/undp-regional-stabilization-facility-for-lake-chad---covid-19-si.html>.

3 <https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/library/covid-19-briefs.html>.

4 <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/coronavirus/socio-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html>.

## Young Africans — their resilience, their home-grown solutions and their innovations — further reinforced our work in responding to COVID-19.

Through partnerships with the AU, governments and organizations, UNDP was able to draw on past collaborations in managing infectious diseases such as Ebola. Young Africans — their resilience, their home-grown solutions and their innovations — further reinforced our work in responding to COVID-19. Many of these homegrown solutions and innovations were made by **micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)**.

The economic impact of the pandemic has been especially hard on such enterprises, many of which face potential closure or bankruptcy. As MSMEs account for 90% of all businesses on the continent and 85.8% of all jobs in the informal sector, closures could lead to massive job losses and drops in consumer spending. In response, UNDP

partnered with **AfriLabs, one of the continent's largest incubators for entrepreneurs**. With a network of 225 innovation centres and organizations across 47 countries, AfriLabs has been helping businesses survive and even thrive during the pandemic. An AfriLabs initiative called Rollo Africa is recruiting entrepreneurs to create jobs and develop innovative solutions to African problems. The recruitment campaign attracted thousands to the organization's website and engaged half a million people through email and social media. 1,200 people applied from five countries: Cameroon, Egypt, Senegal, Sudan and Zimbabwe, and demand is high to expand the programme to other countries across Africa.

To date, the initiative has given intensive **boot-camp training to 360 entrepreneurs from 120 small businesses** and provided them with a total of more than 1,500 hours in a high-tech business simulator, boosting their decision-making skills. A unique aspect of the initiative is that it targets MSMEs in the informal sector — which is largely ignored in such efforts — including in the African diaspora. The initiative also collected data on MSMEs and the impact of COVID-19 on their operations and will use the findings to create policy recommendations for the African Union Commission

to maximize the economic benefits of the sector. The programme concluded with presentations from the 5 finalists, with Senegal emerging as the Rollo Master Africa Champion. Learning of the tremendous successes of the initiative, Amazon provided support valued at \$500,000 to the business simulation programme, which exceeded the seed funding provided by UNDP to the initiative. Africa's economic advances over the past decade — not to mention the health and lives of millions of people — are at risk because of the pandemic. UNDP, the AU and Africa CDC remain committed to putting a stop to COVID-19.

### Repurposing resources to address the pandemic

To understand the challenges created by the pandemic and encourage an evidence-based approach to them, initiatives for knowledge creation and management, capacity and awareness events, and collaborative partnerships around a common response to COVID-19 were organized and supported by UNDP. For example, the Regional Gender team worked together with the Global Gender team to produce the **COVID-19 Global Gender response tracker**,<sup>5</sup> a UNDP and UN Women database that monitors policy measures enacted by governments worldwide to tackle the COVID-19 crisis while highlighting responses that have integrated a gender lens. The tracker provides guidance for policymakers and advocates to ensure a gender-sensitive COVID-19 policy response.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 29 of the 46 countries and territories analyzed have adopted gender-sensitive measures. Reinforcing the role of entrepreneurs and innovation across the continent required recognizing that Africa has seen an increase in innovative solutions, including virus-testing robots, contact-tracing apps, non-invasive testing kits, foot-operated hand-washing stations, oxygen machines, drone medicine-delivery service, genome sequencing, AI-powered healthcare chatbots and much more. These are among the 50 life-changing innovations from across the continent — and by inventors as young as age 9 — that were spotlighted by UNDP in its inaugural edition of **Africa Innovates Magazine**.<sup>6</sup>

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, capacities of representatives from academia, youth groups, national governments and regional organizations were built in the systematic assessment of COVID-19 impacts and needs as

well as recovery planning. Two four-day **online trainings on COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment and Recovery Planning (CRNA)**, organized jointly by UNDP, the European Union (EU) and Stellenbosch University in November and December.<sup>7</sup> The trainings were attended by 77 participants, 21 of them women, from seven Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal) and representatives from national governments and regional organizations.

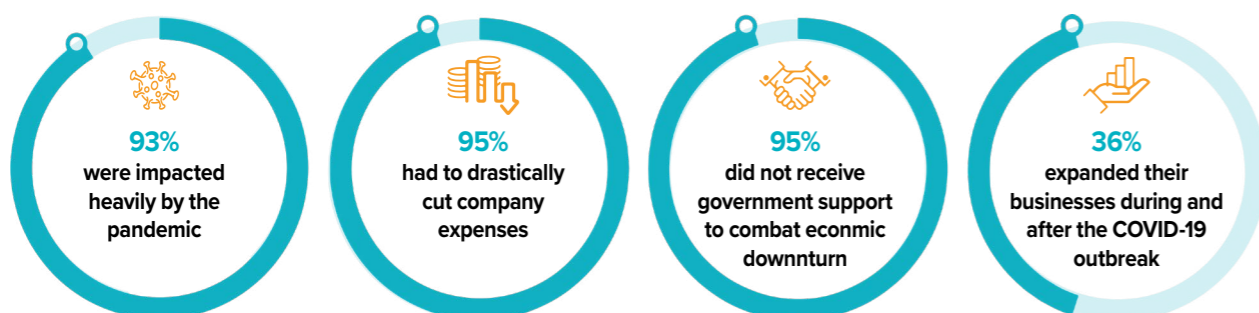
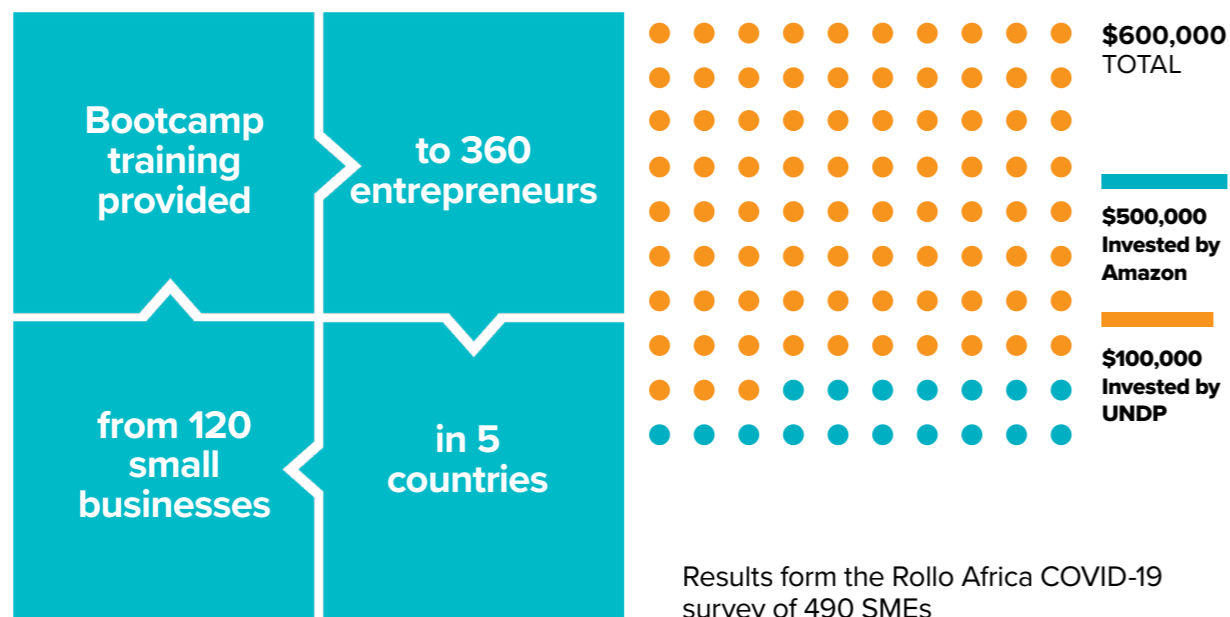
Through the training, the participants acquired skills to provide guidance to their national governments in assessing the impact of COVID-19 and devising appropriate recovery measures so that countries could build back better. Furthermore, the training materials and guidance notes developed by UNDP in collaboration with the EU were made available to national governments to help them conduct CRNAs to inform their recovery processes.

When COVID-19 began to spread in the Horn of Africa region, the project **Support for Effective Coordination and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives (SECCCI)** decided, in concert with the donor (the EU), to re-orient part of the project's funds towards COVID-19-related activities. In this respect, three awareness-creation trainings on COVID-19 (one in Cluster II and two in Cluster III) were organized by UNDP.

By using a variety of methods (including reading, written exercises, discussions, role play, videos, myth busters and demonstrations), these workshops — directed to hospital officials — provided general information on the virus and its spread, with a special focus on measures to prevent its spread and infection. UNDP also procured and distributed to local authorities PPE materials as well as handwashing/sanitizing supplies to further support them in tackling the spread of the virus.

The socioeconomic crisis occasioned by COVID-19 has hit Africa hard. However, thanks in part to resilience across sectors and Africans' determination to fight COVID-19, the continent has defied expectations and precariously withstood the devastating health effects of the pandemic, as compared to other regions of the world.

### The Impact of COVID-19 on African SMEs



<sup>5</sup> <https://data.undp.org/gendertacker/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/UNDP\\_Africa\\_releases\\_online\\_magazine\\_highlighting\\_50\\_young\\_Africans\\_innovating\\_against\\_COVID19.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/UNDP_Africa_releases_online_magazine_highlighting_50_young_Africans_innovating_against_COVID19.html)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/planning-covid-19-recovery-in-sahel-countries--officials-and-aca.html>



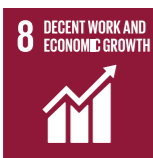
# Strategic Priorities

The Regional Programme is well-positioned to analyze the continent's dynamic environment and propose a new path forward to ensure that no one is left behind. Our 3 priorities are fully aligned with the six impact areas of the Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development towards the achievement of transformational change in Africa.

## 3 Priorities of the Regional Programme for Africa

### Priority Area 1

AU and RECs deliver on their mandate, especially cross-cutting issues related to resilience-building



### Priority Area 2

Regional growth is inclusive, transformational and sustainable with reduced economic inequalities, and characterized by structural transformation



### Priority Area 3

Regional institutions sustain peace and build resilience to crises and shocks



## 6 Impact Areas of the Regional Bureau for Africa



Natural Resource Governance



Youth and Women's Employment and Empowerment



Structural Economic Transformation



Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



Affordable and Sustainable Energy



Peace and Security

## Africa mining governance project

- YouthConnekt Africa
- TEF-UNDP youth entrepreneurship programme
- AU-UNDP African Young Women Leaders' Fellowship
- Women in governance and political participation initiative (including the WANEP-ECOWAS-UNDP initiative)
- Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa
- The Regional Project for Youth Empowerment in the Sahel (RPYES)

- AUDA-NEPAD-UNDP 100k SMEs initiative
- Accelerating the ratification and domestication of AU treaties
- Support to implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Digital transformation – Africa Leading 4IR
- Social protection for sustainable development in Africa
- Public and private financing for the achievement of the SDGs
- Regional COVID-19 response
- Transforming the development cooperation landscape to implement SDGs through south-south cooperation

- Strengthening climate change governance in Africa – Strengthening Africa's resilience and capacities for adaptation and disaster risk reduction – includes the DRR/resilience in the Sahel
- Southern Africa adaptation program for climate resilience and recovery of agricultural foods systems and livelihoods
- Implementation of the Paris Agreement

- Solar for Health multi-country program developed for GCF to enable provision of sustainable low-carbon energy services to public health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Regional energy project for Liptako Gourma Authority
- Public-private investment in renewable energy

- Support to Africa CDC
- Global Haven initiative with PanaBIOS
- Stabilization Facility for the Lake Chad
- Stabilization Facility for the Liptako Gourma Authority
- The Africa Borderlands Centre
- Preventing violent extremism
- Conflict prevention – Support to the African Union
- The Sahel Governance Promise



African Union and RECs deliver on their mandate, especially cross-cutting issues related to resilience-building.

Priority Area 1

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Priority Area 2

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Priority Area 3

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The first priority among the Regional Programme's three priorities is to support the AU and RECs to deliver on their mandate, in particular promoting improved resilience of Member States to the challenges they face. In 2020, the RP helped to: enhance the technical capacities of the AU Commission (AUC) to oversee the ratification and domestication of AU treaties by Member States, and worked with select Member States on the same; strengthen regional and national capacities, especially in relation to the Sendai Framework; improve access to climate information for early-warning and disaster-risk-reduction in the cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa; bolster the institutional framework for South-South and Triangular Cooperation; increase UN visibility and change the narrative on the Sahel; strengthen national capacities related to Early Warning/ Early Response (EWER) and Preventing Violent Extremism; and conceptualize efforts to better support and strengthen the resilience of borderland communities.

## Increasing awareness on AU Treaties and advancing ratification processes by Member States

Throughout 2020, implementation of the project **Accelerating the Ratification and Domestication of African Union Treaties** contributed to enhancing the technical capacities of the AUC Legal Office to oversee the ratification and domestication of AU treaties by Member States. Through the support of the project, an AU Treaties webpage<sup>8</sup> was launched in February 2020 to display the status of signature and ratification/accession of OAU/AU treaties by each Member State.<sup>9</sup> The project also organized a **webinar with development partners on the alignment of AU treaties in Africa**. The study revealed very low alignment between the activities of the UN and development partners on the AU treaties in the six countries sampled. The webinar was attended by 72 participants including development partners, CSOs and government partners.

Furthermore, the project organized the **first AUC coordination meeting, with departments, agencies and other AU institutions working on AU treaties**. Due to the multidisciplinary character of AU treaties, effective coordination among AU structures will enhance the Commission's capacity to motivate Member States to ratify/accede, domesticate and implement the treaties.

Greater coordination will also ensure that scarce resources – human and financial – achieve maximum impact and reduce possible overlapping and duplication of efforts. In order to create awareness on the processes and benefits of AU treaties, **a video animation** in all four African Union languages – Arabic, English, French and Portuguese – was produced and released with the support of the regional project.<sup>10</sup> The project also provided support towards advancing treaty ratification processes in Member States.

In Kenya, this included the **amendment of the Kenya Treaty Ratification Act**, No. 45 of 2012 (Rev.2014) to include provisions to accelerate treaty ratification, guide implementation and establish statutory protected mechanisms to monitor implementation and compliance with obligations to which Kenya is a party to and, to which Kenya is a designated depositary. The amendments are aimed at increased accountability and acceleration of ratification of treaties through the establishment of a statutory office of the registrar of treaties as custodian of all treaties (AU, UN, Multilateral, Bilateral and RECs) and guaranteeing the role of parliament in treaty-making and ratification in a proposed time of 120

days for both the National Assembly and Senate. The project also supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya with the establishment of a **treaties registry in Kenya** to ensure better electronic document management as well as supported efforts to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDED).

In Tunisia, the project supported **ratification and deposition of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption** (on 10 February 2020). The project also supported the celebration of Africa Day (25 May 2020) and the celebration of African Women's Day to promote the implementation of the Maputo Protocol (September 2020) and encourage and facilitate dialogue on the integration of the Maputo Protocol in the Tunisian legal system. The event was attended by senior government officials, members of parliament, CSOs and journalists.

In Burkina Faso, as a result of seven events organized by the project, 106 representatives (85 men, 21 women) including CSOs, journalists, law enforcement officers and members of the National Sectoral Committee (CNS) responsible for monitoring the implementation of OAU/AU treaties, were trained and sensitized **on the ratification and domestication of six AU Treaties** (African Charter on Human and People's Rights, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), African Youth Charter, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption).

## Strengthening regional and national resilience capacities

Through implementation of the regional project **Strengthening Africa's resilience and capacities for adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR): fostering risk-informed solutions for sustainable development**, COMESA was able to better achieve the commitments under the Sendai Framework.<sup>11</sup> In 2019 and 2020, UNDP supported the drafting of the COMESA Regional Resilience Strategy and the organization of consultations and two validation workshops with Member States. The strategy was approved in July 2020 and is expected to guide Member States in strengthening their resilience to disasters and climate change, especially in relation to trade and agriculture. UNDP continues to support the REC in formulating a supporting implementation plan and resource mobilization plan.

The project also supported the **AUC in strengthening the institutional mechanisms for a multi-hazard early warning and early action system** (including pandemic surveillance and conflict warning systems). This critical support will form the basis for a wider AU-level initiative to revamp the Early Warning and Early Action system at the continental, regional and national level, with support from the Government of Italy.

At the national level, UNDP supported **the Governments of Namibia, Senegal, Eritrea, Mozambique, Malawi, South Africa and Comoros in articulating and aligning their national DRR Strategies with the Sendai Framework**, which will enable them to strengthen national resilience and report on progress made on Sendai Framework Target E.<sup>12</sup> In the case of Malawi, UNDP is now supporting the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in developing disaster risk management (DRM) Operational Guidelines. UNDP **provided laptop computers and accessories to disaster-management institutions** in seven countries in the Western Sahel and Lake Chad Basin – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger,<sup>13</sup> Nigeria and Senegal – which are responsible for disaster data collection and analysis. This equipment will support national governments in their systematic data collection and analysis as well as effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

In 2021, additional human-resource support and trainings for national stakeholders will advance national online disaster databases and their application for risk-informed development. In response to disasters that took place in 2020, UNDP supported the Governments of Mozambique, Uganda, Mauritius, Senegal, Benin, Tanzania, Niger and Togo in **responding to cyclones, oil spills and floods**, which included coordination for recovery and advisory support to the governments on post-crisis assessments and recovery. Taking cognisance of the multi-dimensional risks that face African Governments, UNDP has supported the Government of Mozambique in **mobilizing \$6 million from KOICA**, which will pilot a comprehensive and integrated approach to multi-dimensional risk in Cabo Delgado and its neighbouring provinces. The project is expected to start in 2021.

## Improved access to climate information for early-warning and disaster risk reduction in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia

Climate variability is one of the main factors in the socioeconomic situation and livelihoods in southwest Ethiopia, northwest Kenya and Somalia. In addition, conflicts

related to pastoral livelihoods are common due to scarce availability of water and fodder for livestock, which in turn are directly associated with variability and change in seasonal climate. The regional project **Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives in Southwest Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya, Marsabit-Borana and Dawa, and Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia (SECCCI)** supported the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in organizing a workshop to downscale the October-December (OND) 2020 Climate Outlook and develop sector advisories for the project clusters. The workshop resulted in a set of recommendations formulated by the 50 participants to increase the value of climate prediction services for pastoral communities in their areas.

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Through the regional project **Transforming the development cooperation landscape in Africa to implement the SDGs through South-South Cooperation**, UNDP built inter-regional South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC) partnerships between African countries, the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region and key TrC partners to support the African SSC Agenda, including strengthening the institutional framework for SSC and the potential of developing a TrC fund.

To this effect, two webinars on Building Institutional Frameworks for SSC were organized in September 2020 in partnership with UNDP Mexico and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID). The events, attended by 27 people, focused on improving partnerships between AMEXCID and Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia and Rwanda on institutional strengthening, by sharing the institutional framework of AMEXCID, needs and mutual benefits of collaboration between Mexico and African countries, and experiences and good practices on managing SSC/TrC. This was followed with reports and concrete next step actions between Mexico and Botswana, Cabo Verde and Rwanda.

With the aim of assessing existing and new ideas on SSC for possible scale-up in Africa, the Accelerator Lab network supported a **mapping of SSC solutions in African countries** within the Results-Oriented Annual Reporting (ROAR) database. The exercise identified 20 Africa-based innovative development solutions that could potentially be shared and scaled-up elsewhere on the continent. The final profiles of solutions and good practices will be available through the

8 <https://treaties.au.int/> or <https://au.int/en/treaties>.

9 <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200207/launch-revamped-african-union-treaties-webpage>.

10 English – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qw8eKRoblj4&feature=youtu.be>; French – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpanJ25TdmM&feature=youtu.be>; Arabic <https://youtu.be/zRQd60rrMeM>; Portuguese: <https://youtu.be/GYEoJnoAmHE>.

11 <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>.

12 Sendai Framework Target E: substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020

13 Delivery of equipment to the SAP Coordination Unit in Niger on 18 November to strengthen disaster data collection and analysis was disseminated on social media: <https://twitter.com/PnudNiger/status/1329004139578335233> and <https://www.ne.undp.org/content/niger/fr/home/presscenter/articles/2020/CCSAP.html>

South-South knowledge repository — the UNOSSC-led South-South Galaxy. **Two webinars on taxation and remittances** were organized with external partners. The webinars served well as an SSC platform for (1) exchanging ideas on enhancing domestic revenue mobilization and boosting remittances for African countries in the COVID-19 context and beyond, (2) peer-learning from both African and extra-African initiatives on taxation and remittances, and (3) promoting dialogue and potential scale up of such initiatives through horizontal knowledge transfer. 20 tax experts and 21 remittances experts (of whom 14 experts were women) were invited to share insights, good practices and experience across a variety of important topics on tax and remittances.

The events featured presentations from researchers, representatives of UNDP country office (COs), government ministries and tax authorities, civil society organizations, development partners, international organizations (such as UNECA, IOM, World Bank and AfDB), remittances service providers, diaspora organizations, and other key stakeholders. More than 280 registered participants attended the two events both from UN agencies and African governments, covering over 30 African countries.

In addition to the report on “African South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC) Responses to COVID-19 and Beyond”, other South-South Cooperation **knowledge products** include: a chapter on “The role of South-South and triangular cooperation in contexts beyond ODA”<sup>14</sup> in the book *Transforming International Cooperation: Thoughts and Perspectives on Moving Beyond Aid*, an SSC Strategy Guidance Note “Guidelines For Building National South-South & Triangular Cooperation Strategies”<sup>15</sup> for UNDP country offices to support national governments in SSC, and the “National Report on South-South Cooperation for Ethiopia”.

### Africa Borderlands Centre

Placing a strong emphasis on partnership building and advocacy for African borderlands, engaging in a strategic partnership with the AUC and holding dedicated dialogues with RECs across Africa, UNDP **developed the Africa Borderlands Centre project document** – a five-year programmatic framework to support borderland communities, particularly marginalized groups, women, youth, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and to strengthen the creativity and resilience of border communities.

The project document’s theory of change is the co-creation of innovative solutions to these challenges, in a manner that addresses human rights, gender equality, as well as equitable and inclusive approaches to development based on the values, principles and realities of the border communities.

This process identified demand and priority areas through a survey of UNDP Country Offices and over 20 targeted conversations with representatives of the UNDP Global Policy Network in New York and Africa. Further conversations were held with the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Addis, the sub-regional hub in Dakar, the Nairobi Resilience Hub, the SECCCI project, the Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Project, and the Gender and Youth teams at UNDP Africa.

Consultations with key continental and regional stakeholders and donors — AU, the AU Border Programme (AUBP), GIZ, the East African Community (EAC), ECOWAS, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and IGAD — ensured that the project remained relevant to the challenges and priorities of the continent and also incorporated key strategic documents such as Agenda 2063, principles of the African Border Policy and the Niamey Convention.

### Strengthening UN visibility and changing the narrative on the Sahel

In order to help RECs and Member States implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, UNDP supported the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) that contributed to the **revival of the UNISS website**<sup>16</sup> and the **launch of social media accounts and a social media campaign**.

Furthermore, the ISU contributed to the production of an online photo book to showcase UN activities in the Sahel, strengthen UN visibility and change the narrative on the Sahel region. The target groups are all stakeholders involved in the Sahel, including governments, regional entities, UN agencies, donors, civil society organizations, private sectors, international financial institutions (IFIs), and others.

### Supporting the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision

In 2020, the regional **African Mining Governance** project supported the African Mineral Development Centre’s (AMDC) establishment as an AU Specialized Agency — a Centre of Excellence in Mining, to be hosted by Guinea.

The establishment of the AMDC as a Centre of Excellence in Mining allows the AUC to provide Member States and RECs with policy advice and technical assistance on mining governance. UNDP mobilized funding of EUR 2.5 million from the ACP-EU Mineral Development Programme and initiated discussions with the AUC to sign a two-year letter of agreement to utilize the grant to further strengthen the institutional capacity of the AMDC and finalize its transition to Guinea as a specialized agency.

### Early warning/early response and preventing violent extremism

The regional project **Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach** fostered a close partnership with the AUC, the African Study Centre for Research on Terrorism (ASCRT), IGAD, ECOWAS and the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in order to develop and validate the **Toolkit on Early Warning/Early Response (EWER) and Preventing Violent Extremism**. The toolkit provides practical, process-oriented guidance to integrate the monitoring of violent extremism into existing community-level, national and regional EWER systems, which currently have conflict prevention as their main objective.

The toolkit itself proposes a bottom-up approach, wherein community representatives — instead of regional-level EWER mechanisms — are responsible for identifying drivers of violent extremism. To ensure a participatory approach, the toolkit development and validation process included consultation with a core reference group of 14 representatives representing the AUC, RECs, Government of Kenya (National Steering Commission on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management and National Counter Terrorism Centre) and Government of Burkina Faso (National Early Warning Centre) as well as approximately 25 community service organizations, mobilized by IGAD and WANEP to provide input to the practical guidance on the toolkit.

The Toolkit on Early Warning/Early Response (EWER) and Preventing Violent Extremism targets national early warning centres and related agencies at the national level, regional agencies such as ECOWAS and WANEP, as well as units within the AUC, such as the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (CAERT).

Following the validation carried out in 2020, ECOWAS, WANEP and IGAD will integrate the guidance in the operationalization of their regional-level PVE strategies, cross-border PVE-action and strategic planning. In 2021, at the national level, prioritized roll out is planned in the **National EWER Centre of Burkina Faso** to support the implementation of EWER objectives in Burkina Faso’s National PVE Strategy. At the regional level, UNDP will

continue the dialogue with ACST/CAERT to jointly support the implementation of the Toolkit to Regional Early Warning Centres of SADC and ECCAS. Kenya and Burkina Faso will pilot the toolkit after which Ghana and the Central African Republic (CAR) will be prioritized. Also, within the framework of the **Support for Effective Collaboration and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives (SECCCI)** project, IGAD successfully produced and disseminated a study and training manual on Peace Building, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Sensitivity Programming.

### Structural economic transformation

As part of its ongoing technical support to the AUC, UNDP’s Africa Finance Sector Hub (AFSH) Private Sector Team supported the preparation of country briefs for the **African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC)**. Based on these briefs and in a landmark and unanimous decision that was taken by the 25th AU Heads of State Summit held in Addis Ababa in February 2020, Tunisia has been selected to host the AIMEC. Led by the AUC, AIMEC aims to become the premier Pan-African regional platform for thought leadership and action on inclusive business and inclusive markets.

In 2020, the **UNDP Africa Strategy, Analysis and Research Team (SART) developed and monitored key strategy documents, including UNDP renewed offers to the region and COVID-19 response plans**. The team conducted and promoted thematic and regional analyses that facilitate and promote evidence-based engagements, including socio-economic analyses and targeted thematic webinars; and conducted world-class empirical research, including the LDC Graduation Report, Africa SDG Report, and Horn of Africa HDR Report.

The Economist Programme provided consistent support to RBA’s 45 country offices through targeted research, analytical, advisory and representational engagements. In support of AUC and RECs delivering on their mandates, UNDP provided regional organizations with timely high-quality empirical research to support both policy and decision-making.

The team also developed new partnerships and expanded old ones for greater policy impact around RBA’s research and analytical products including with the Brookings Institution, the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and with History Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.nomos-elibrary.de/10.5771/9783748908388-149/dialogue-7-the-role-of-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-in-contexts-beyond-oda>.

<sup>15</sup> [https://sdgfinance.undp.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Building%20National%20SSC%20and%20TrC%20Strategies\\_0.pdf](https://sdgfinance.undp.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Building%20National%20SSC%20and%20TrC%20Strategies_0.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> <https://unis-sahel.org/>



Regional growth is inclusive, sustainable, with reduced economic inequalities, and characterized by structural transformation.

Priority Area 1

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Priority Area 2

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Priority Area 3

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The second of the RP's three priorities is closely related to the first and entails collaboration with the AUC and RECs, with a focus on promoting inclusion, sustainability and reduction of economic inequalities throughout the continent. By implementing its regional projects and initiatives, the RP contributed to outcome-level change by strengthening regional and national mechanisms for gender equality and empowerment of women, mobilizing additional resources, enhancing national capacities to deliver on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments, creating knowledge on social protection systems and initiating efforts to improve country-level social protection mechanisms, enhancing the implementation of youth development and inclusion on continental and national levels, supporting advanced coordination and implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, supporting advocacy around the AfCFTA, and ensuring support for initiatives for structural and inclusive transformation of the region and its countries.

## Strengthening regional mechanisms for gender equality

The regional project **Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa** boosted support to the AUC Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to develop and launch a 3-year programme on Women in Governance and Political Participation (WGPP) 2020-2022, culminating in the Programme Action Plan being launched at a high-level forum in June 2020.<sup>17</sup> The broader initiative of the DPA addresses institutional and structural challenges to women's leadership, representation and participation in decision-making bodies, and galvanizes efforts to engage more women — especially young women — including in the COVID-19 response.

The Action Plan contributes to the governance pillar of the joint AU-UN African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), on which UNDP is leading. The development of the Action Plan was characterized by extensive consultations to enhance synergy among key stakeholders, including AU Member States, RECs, civil society organizations (CSOs), women's organizations and AWLN national chapters and UN agencies. The three-year Action Plan seeks to increase the participation of women in governance by focusing on the ecosystem for women in governance; ensure gender parity in political parties; increase the number of women in politics, COVID-19 relief and recovery and as election observers.

UNDP is contributing to further implementation of the Action Plan by helping the UNDP Country Office in Niger to establish a **Permanent Platform of Women Leaders of Niger (PFLN)**, which represents the Niger branch of the AWLN and will bring together women leaders from all sectors. This effort is notable because it is the first permanent peace platform led by a cross-section of national actors, as opposed to temporary measures.

Furthermore, UNDP organized an online **regional training on Gender and Elections** for electoral oversight institutions, including electoral management bodies, AWLN national chapter representatives, CSOs and other stakeholders supporting the elections.

In September, a total of 17 women and 8 men from seven countries planning elections in 2020 and 2021 — Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia, The Gambia, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan and Zimbabwe — were trained on promoting an inclusive elections process, and on integrating gender into the election cycle, electoral law and relevant institutions. UNDP strengthened the capacity of the **AUC Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**

by supporting the rollout, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Continental Results Framework by Member States on WPS in line with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and promoting women's participation in politics and decision-making. The technical support resulted in the generation and management of knowledge products to improve the work of the Special Envoy and coordination of activities in relation to the WPS Agenda in Africa. One such result is the development of a Knowledge Hub for the OSE on WPS, which will bring together existing knowledge and improve accessibility for policymakers, practitioners, researchers and interested others.

A **Checklist and Toolkit for Reporting on Women Peace and Security** was also developed as an accompanying document to the Continental Results Framework Toolkit. The Toolkit will help Member States and RECs develop regional reports to demonstrate how their mechanisms, laws and policies integrate the WPS Agenda.

The project also provided technical support to the organization of the First **African Forum on Women, Peace and Security**, held in November 2020. The priority of this initiative was a "Call to Action," which serves as an advocacy document for the AUC and AU Member States on assessing implementation of the WPS Agenda and prioritizing emerging issues in implementation.

To empower young women, UNDP and the AU marshalled a new generation of young African women leaders and experts to serve Africa and the world in designing and implementing development programmes in the context of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 through continued implementation of the **UNDP-AUC African Young Women Leaders' (AYWL) Fellowship Programme**.

The AYWL Fellowship Programme aims to place at least one African Young Woman Fellow from each African country per year in an assignment with UNDP or another UN agency, fund or programme. With the first cohort of 21 fellows introduced in 2019, this initiative has created a network of talented African young women professionals and equipped them with the leadership skills and experience required to contribute effectively to decision-making in public, private and multilateral institutions at home and abroad. In 2020, while continuing to support the 21 fellows that started their assignments in 2019, the initiative also developed a AUC-UNDP AYWL Fellows Programme Document and a leadership training course for the 21 young women fellows.

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### Supporting Member States to deliver social protection to the excluded and marginalized

The project also supported the **training of 10 e-facilitators** (5 men, 5 women) for the TRANSFORM online course for social protection practitioners and financed the seventh run of the online training that targets UNDP staff and African government counterparts who work in the field of social protection. The TRANSFORM course is built to strengthen the critical thinking and capacities of policymakers and practitioners at national and decentralized levels to improve the design, governance and administration of social protection systems, besides bringing sustainable transformation in the governance and administration of social protection floors. The online version of the training encompasses learning materials and methods for adult learning, adopting a facilitated and collaborative approach, using a combination of learning materials and asynchronous collaboration tools. Through this initiative, UNDP intends to support African countries in the extension of social protection to informal workers with the aim of decreasing workers' vulnerabilities to shocks and crises. UNDP has already undertaken a series of webinars in which government officials, civil servants and other stakeholders engaged in the extension of social protection to the informal economy have shared experiences and good practices. In studying the **Extension of Contributory Social Protection to Informal Workers in Africa**, we took a gender-sensitive and LNOB lens and paid particular attention to the gender-specific challenges faced by informal workers in terms of accessing social protection, as well as other challenges faced by marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, the project worked on a regional initiative that aims at strengthening the ability of community-based social

protection mechanisms to deal with shocks at the household and community levels. The initiative is well aligned with the core vision of the RSOA in terms of engaging with existing social protection mechanisms in African countries and, thereby contributing to the shift of the African narrative away from a problem lens, to one that accentuates Africa's promise.

To inform UNDP's engagement, the initiative is currently engaged in building a knowledge base on community-based social protection mechanisms to gain critical insights into the mechanics of community-based social protection, specific needs and opportunities presented with regards to resilience building, productive capacities, climate change response and inclusion of vulnerable people in line with the principle of LNOB.

In this regard, the project completed the **Pilot Community-Based Social Protection Initiative** in Zimbabwe and developed a methodology for a pilot in Ghana due to begin in 2021. In running and designing the pilot initiatives, the project ensured a gender-sensitive and LNOB-aware approach by ensuring collection of gender-disaggregated data and focusing on exploring who is left behind in community-based support systems.

### Enabling national capacities to deliver on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments

The regional project **Strengthening National Climate Finance Governance Systems to Reduce Poverty, Inequality and Vulnerability in Africa** contributed to enhanced transparency and accountability on resource allocation and expenditure towards gender-responsive climate action through supporting the completion and publishing of the Kenya Climate Finance Case Study "Climate Responsive Budgetary and Fiscal Reform for Building Resilience through Mainstreaming of Planning, Budgeting and Reporting at National and County Levels".

The case study is being used in regional and global dialogues as well as in the development of a global guidance document on Climate Budget Tagging for Ministries of Finance being developed by UNDP, IMF and the World Bank. The regional project also **supported 40 African countries to conduct the revision of the national climate action plans – Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.

Most will have undergone government approval processes and/or formal submission to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat by June 2021 (most countries aimed at submitting by December 2020, as stipulated by the Paris Agreement, however experienced delays due to COVID-19). The regional project also organized

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ\\_2XiKwSzl&list=PLeXbF67e2QWZ0tUSiamHnXGgLV4I0Im31](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ_2XiKwSzl&list=PLeXbF67e2QWZ0tUSiamHnXGgLV4I0Im31) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-F60af0voCM&feature=youtu.be>.

**1** PLATFORM FOR WOMEN INFLUENCERS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO POLITICAL TRANSITION AND DIALOGUE PROCESSES



**2** INCREASED WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE REDUCTION OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AND PEACEFUL POLITICAL TRANSITIONS



**3** COORDINATED INFLUENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE MALI POLITICAL DIALOGUE, TRANSITION AND REFORMS



**4** DETAILED RESEARCH REPORT AND POLICY BRIEF ON CURRENT RESPONSE STRATEGIES IN THE SAHEL



UNDP collaborated with ECOWAS to support WANEP on the project **Building an Inclusive Post-Covid-19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel**.

The project is designed to enhance the participation of women in the Sahel on governance and gender-sensitive policy and practice in the face of multiple security, humanitarian and development challenges reinforced by the multiplier effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the target countries of Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. In 2020, support was provided towards implementation of the first phase of the project, which focused on gender-sensitive political transitions, reforms and inclusive dialogue processes leading to consolidation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the targeted countries of the Sahel. Besides technical advisory support, UNDP support contributed to:

- An influence-mapping exercise in each of the four targeted countries to ensure that the appropriate women influencers were identified and engaged to lead the National Women Coalitions (NWCs).

- Selection of a total of 120 women leaders to form the NWCs, collaborative platforms for a broader constituency to influence WPS at the grassroots level, and inauguration of the NWCs in the four countries.
- Development of plans of action and capacity-building opportunities for the NWCs.
- Development of response initiatives that reflect existing political and socio-economic challenges faced by women and young girls within their societies in each of the four countries.
- Implementation of awareness and messaging campaigns at the national and local levels by women's groups in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Burkina Faso.
- Establishment of the Women Election Security Observation Centre to provide a platform for reduction of gender-based violence during the Presidential and Parliamentary elections of Burkina Faso (22 November 2020), Côte d'Ivoire (31 October 2020) and Niger (27 December 2020)
- Production of a Shadow Report on Election Security in Burkina Faso and Niger.

**THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN AS NEGOTIATORS, MEDIATORS, WITNESSES AND SIGNATORIES MAKES AGREEMENTS**



**three webinars (two regional and one national)** aimed at supporting the NDC revisions on the themes of Climate Finance and Gender and Climate Change.

The gender and climate change webinars (English and French) were designed to assist countries to produce gender-sensitive revised/updated NDCs and ensure the quality of gender indicators in their NDC monitoring, reporting and verification systems under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the NDC and strengthen the collaboration between Gender and Climate Focal points from 26 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe).

In June 2020, the project, in collaboration with the UNDP Asia-Pacific hub, IMF and the World Bank, organized a **virtual round-table** on “Mainstreaming climate finance in public financial management — with focused discussion on Climate Budget Tagging”. As a result of the event, 85 participants from Ministries of Finance/Planning, Ministries of Environment/Climate Change and UNDP Country Office Environment Focal Points and Economic Advisors from all regions of Africa shared experiences on Climate Budget Tagging, including on climate finance reforms.

### Research and policy advocacy

Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT) plays a critical role for Uganda and the DRC, as it constitutes an essential source of livelihoods, is a crucial source of foreign exchange, with secondary effects on employment creation and income, and is an important source of food security.

UNDP's Africa Borderlands Centre issued a policy brief on **Resilience and livelihoods in conflict: women cross-border traders in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda borderland**. The brief focused on ICBT and highlights the importance of viewing border markets from a cross-border perspective and measures to address the harm of COVID-19 for ICBT. The brief also looks into targeting informal traders in addressing ICBT issues and gender mainstreaming in ICBT, as women face more severe obstacles in ICBT than men.

The Lake Chad borderland region has been witnessing increased levels of violence linked to extremist organizations and perpetrated primarily by Boko Haram and its sub-factions. These conflicts have been exacerbated by the challenges of climate change, cross-border migration, the COVID-19 pandemic, illicit flows of light weapons,

demographic changes, persistent poverty and poor governance.

The Africa Borderlands Centre issued a policy brief on **Boko Haram, Youth, Conflict Prevention and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in the Chad Basin**. The brief outlined a critical gap in gender-sensitive cross-border strategies that attend to the challenges facing women, children and people with disabilities. The brief also stresses that despite the deployment of programmes on Preventing and Combatting Violent Extremism (PCVE) across Lake Chad border countries, the vulnerability of women and children has not been sufficiently addressed and a gender-sensitive regional response framework should be designed to address the impact of the conflict on women, teenage girls and boys. The brief also highlights the fact that structural issues of poverty, deprivation and climate change should be urgently addressed to reduce the rate of Boko Haram recruitment.

The Karamoja borderland between Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan is one of the IGAD areas hit hardest by the combined impact of climatic shocks, COVID-19, the desert locust invasion and food insecurity, and hosts an increasing number of IDPs and refugees. The Africa Borderlands Centre issued a policy brief on **Mobility and Migration in the Karamoja cluster**, highlighting issues around the importance of including mobility and transhuman pastoralism into national and regional planning and policy frameworks, prioritizing climate change related displacement including cyclical droughts, managing climate threats through transformation of contested natural resources into shared public goods, and the crucial role of cross-border coordination, equitable access to natural resources, and balancing the legitimate concerns of borderland communities, including support to building their resilience.

In 2020, RBA's Strategy, Analysis and Research Team (SART) supported the Regional Programme in its efforts to ensure that regional growth is more inclusive and sustainable with reduced economic inequalities, and characterized by structural transformation through supporting the preparation of over 100 COVID-19 documents: socioeconomic analyses, socioeconomic assessments and response strategies as well as attracting over 500 participants to a series of eight online seminars on economic diversification, maritime economy, Islamic finance, gender, governance, SDGs, external debt, Africa's promise, and regional socioeconomic COVID-19 responses.

### Fostering agricultural innovation and transformation

The regional **Private Sector Team** fostered a successful partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution

in Africa (AGRA). As part of this partnership, to implement a sub-component of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Integrated Approach Programme (IAP) on Food Security, the team produced a **Training Manual on Greening Regional Food Value Chains specifically targeting the arid regions of Africa**.

The manual was created through a consultative process to ensure its relevance to the needs of the end-users. The manual underwent two peer-review sessions in English and French attended by 53 people (16 women, 37 men). These participants came from PCU Hub members, the 12 IAP participating country projects as well as other civic organizations aspiring to join the new field of greening the food value-chain for inclusive, sustainable and resilient development. The manual will be used to train smallholder farmers and equip capacity-building support service providers, within which women and lower-income segments are disproportionately represented, to re-position their production towards greener crops and as a result be better integrated into regional value chains, with a positive impact on their livelihoods.

Within the framework of the **Support for Effective Collaboration and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives (SECCCI)** project, IGAD implemented several capacity-development workshops, including two on Water, Rangeland (control of invasive species), Fisheries and Peacebuilding (Cluster I), and three on Pastoralism and Transboundary Dryland Development (one in Cluster II and two in Cluster III)..

While the first was aimed at enhancing local capacities on flood-based farming, spate irrigation and receding agriculture in Ethiopia ASALS, the latter pointed at strengthening the capacity of technical officers on pastoralism and dryland development (livestock, health, conflict, natural resources management, trade and water). IGAD also successfully produced and disseminated two additional studies and training manuals on a) Animal Production, Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Commodity Value Chain, and b) Rangeland Management and Livelihood Diversification.

### Advocacy for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The AfCFTA was concluded under an agreement by African Union countries and was signed in March 2018. To date, the Agreement has been signed by 54 out of 55 Member States and ratified by 36 of signatory countries. The Regional Programme recognizes the importance of engaging youth in the AfCFTA. As part of an ongoing collaboration with the

AUC, the regional project **YouthConnekt** supported the **Africa Youth Month challenge** that took 10 young leaders — 5 men and 5 women — young leaders through an AfCFTA policy induction training called the AfCFTA ‘masterclass’.

The young leaders also undertook drafting of national and regional AfCFTA strategies assessed by the ECA and ITC.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, in partnership with AU and the AfCFTA Secretariat, a flagship publication, **The Futures Report: Making the AfCFTA Work for Women and Youth**, which spotlights trade opportunities for women and youth in Africa, was released.<sup>19</sup>

The publication is a contribution to clear and actionable practices to drive structural transformation and best practices to increase youth and women's employment and empowerment through the AfCFTA. Start of trade commenced in January 2021, and the AfCFTA is expected to enhance competitiveness, promote industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, and foster sustainable socio-economic development and structural transformation. UNDP will continue to provide the space for this by working with partners on the ground to ensure support for women and youth export-led enterprises.

### Structural and economic transformation

As part of its role within the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework (GLRSF), the Africa Finance Sector Hub (AFSH) Private Sector team continued to collaborate with the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG) and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to **support the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC)** through the preparation of cross-border investment projects that resulted in the production of 12 bankable investment project briefs. With a mandate of providing technical support to RBA Country Offices, the team also contributed to several landmark results. Under the leadership of the UNDP Resident Representative (RR) in South Africa, the team drafted a project document to support recovery and resilience of MSMEs for the UNDP Equatorial Guinea Country Office. The project was funded by BADEA as the first loan implementation in Africa for UNDP to the amount of US \$18,419,000.

The project document has also served as a template for further submissions to BADEA from Cameroon, Benin and Guinea-Bissau Country Offices. Furthermore, under the SDG Impact flagship and the leadership of the RR, the

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/afcfta-africa-youth-month-policy-challenge-2020/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://guardian.ng/apo-press-releases/new-flagship-project-on-the-africa-continental-free-trade-area-afcfta-spotlights-trade-opportunities-for-women-and-youth-in-africa/>



regional team developed and implemented the **South Africa SDG Investor Map**, which is the first such exercise to be completed in Africa. The SDG Investor Map was launched in September 2020<sup>20</sup> and identifies 30 Investment Opportunity Areas in four sectors — Education, Agriculture, Health and Infrastructure — displaying returns compatible with private-sector involvement, together with significant impact on SDGs. The map was developed under the theme of “Creating Access to and Affordable Basic Services for all South Africans,” therefore targeting the people most marginalized in terms of access to education, healthcare and infrastructure, namely low-income and black people especially in the agriculture sector. In addition, support was provided to Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Ghana in linking the ongoing **Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)** work with the SDG Investors Map Rapid Assessment with adaptation to the COVID-19 context. Targeted support was also provided to 10 additional COs (Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Benin, Togo and Guinea) by presenting investor mapping methodology and tools through webinars and drafting the SDG Investor Mapping ToRs aligned with the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) processes.

### Supporting Member States to mainstream global and regional development agendas

Implementation of the regional project **SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)** led to the launch of the Digital Guide for Integrated Planning in Africa.<sup>21</sup> Following UNDP’s standard practice of ensuring a consultative approach, the guide was finalized in consultation workshops with technical experts from UNDP, government planners and other agencies to help review and finalize the guide. The follow-up event, held at the side of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in February, promoted the guide and created room for dialogue and collaboration among African countries, partners, other development partners and CSOs.

In December 2020, the guide and its digital counterpart was launched by UNDP, AfDB, AUDA-NEPAD and ECA. “Good planning tools enable us to streamline our work; and better planning facilitates efficient resource allocation and effective delivery,” said Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank Group, in presenting the guide.

“We are committed to working with Regional Member Countries to mainstream the global development agendas

in the national development plans with the ultimate goal of ending poverty, generating jobs for youth and protecting the planet.” The regional team supported the mobilization of \$23 million from the UN Joint SDG Fund and TRAC-2 resources, which helped secure programmatic support to 37 RBA COs<sup>22</sup> in implementing the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) agenda. The INFF aims to improve national economic governance by linking national development planning with a holistic, SDG-aligned financing strategy that brings together a wide range of financing resources needed including public, private, domestic and international financing.

### Promoting effective, inclusive and resilient governance and systems for health

UNDP promoted effective, inclusive and resilient governance systems for health. Support was provided to 30 countries in Africa to deliver on commitments to reducing inequalities and social exclusion that drive infectious diseases (including HIV) and poor health. UNDP also supported COVID-19 health responses. In **Burkina Faso**, to strengthen the fight against stigma and discrimination in the context of HIV and COVID-19, and to address the humanitarian crisis, UNDP supported a range of interventions involving community actors in the implementation of COVID-19 awareness, communication and resilience interventions.

These interventions built the capacity of 60 customary religious leaders (54 men and 6 women) to advocate against discriminating against internally displaced persons (IDPs), including people living with HIV (PLHIV), displaced as a result of the health and humanitarian crisis that the country has been facing in the Centre-North and North regions. UNDP also supported the National Youth Council in carrying out community-awareness activities as part of the “2020 Battalion Initiative,” which mobilized 3,370 young people including 899 young girls in 270 municipalities nationwide.

A total of 339 women leaders were engaged in sensitization activities, including 53 radio broadcasts on COVID-19 awareness. An additional 600 national volunteers were mobilized to raise awareness and promote barrier measures in Ouagadougou markets. Finally, 48 journalists (including 14 women) were trained on COVID-19 issues to help raise awareness on COVID-19. Through the Regional Response Facility intervention, prevention and protection measures were made available to poor and vulnerable populations: 300,000 masks were distributed among 70,000 women

and 130,000 men; and 850 young people were trained in hydroalcoholic gel manufacturing.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, COVID-19 and related restrictions resulted in increased vulnerability of affected households, key and vulnerable populations, as well as people already affected by HIV, and increased their need for social and nutritional protection. Assessments on the effect of COVID-19 restrictions on people living with HIV (PLHIV) and at risk of HIV showed that risks to them included (a) reduced availability of antiretroviral drugs; (b) persistence of geographic, cultural and financial barriers to care access; (c) high exposure of sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender people to violence, including rape, arrests, stigmatization and discrimination, which threatened their survival; and (5) difficulty in obtaining supplies of condoms and lubricants.

The assessments resulted in a contingency plan focused at reducing the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the HIV/AIDS programme in the DRC that (a) strengthened virtual communications/awareness-building; (b) enabled local production and distribution of hydroalcoholic solutions so that key and vulnerable populations had access to hygiene measures recommended for preventing COVID-19 transmission; (c) supported local production and distribution of 100,000 fabric face masks by women living with HIV as a measure to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19; (d) built capacity for 141 health care providers and community actors on human rights, gender and sexual rights and health in the context of COVID-19; (e) supported strengthening HIV voluntary counselling and testing in prisons and in sites for sex workers (SW), men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people combined with the distribution of condoms and lubricants; and (f) supported the sensitization training of 542 community activists and peer educators—from PLHIV, SW, MSM and transgender communities — to raise awareness on the fight against stigma and discrimination and the identification of sexual violence cases.

In **Uganda**, UNDP supported an exercise to document and profile cases of PLHIV and key populations (KPs) suffering and socially excluded during the pandemic. The cases documented indicated that the suffering of PLHIV and KPs ranged from lack of access to medicine and antiretrovirals, domestic violence and workplace discrimination. A total of 110 cases were documented, including 66 cases of gender-based violence (GBV), 15 cases on lack of access to medicine and one case of workplace discrimination. This resulted in advocacy for these groups in the National COVID-19 Task Force; and the evidence was used to address the gaps created by the COVID-19 lockdown directives. As a result, (a) a booklet is being developed for

dissemination during the Annual National Dialogue on HIV and Human Rights; (b) two radio programmes were hosted on two national stations: Radio One and KFM, to speak out against all forms of cruel treatment of KPs and PLHIV, and the heightened stigma and discrimination they faced during COVID-19; and (c) support to a national implementing partner to rescue sex workers and PLHIV survivors of violence who were then admitted to a rescue or shelter home; among the 86 survivors rescued were 51 adult women, 5 adolescent girls and 30 children.

### Conceptualizing the Solar for Health Programme

Since 2017, UNDP has spearheaded the **Solar for Health (S4H) programme** as a means of connecting two vital sectors – energy and health — to help countries advance universal health coverage (UHC) while protecting the environment. Through this initiative, UNDP supports countries to install solar photovoltaic systems at health centres and storage facilities located in poor and hard-to-reach areas.

To date, and largely funded through the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), UNDP has supported the solar electrification of over 900 health centres and storage facilities in Zimbabwe, Sudan, Zambia, South Sudan, Namibia, Nepal, Angola, Liberia, Chad, Yemen and Libya. During 2020, the Regional Programme contributed to the preparation of the **Green Climate Fund (GCF) concept note for the “Solar for Health Programme: Enabling the provision of sustainable low-carbon energy services to public health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa,”** which anticipates the participation of Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Programme focuses on five countries in a region with stark energy access gaps and is designed to deliver a new paradigm for funding renewable energy supply for health by financing and maintaining clean power supply for health facilities through an innovative financing scheme.

As part of this effort UNDP engaged in initial discussions with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Secretariat to explore its potential financial participation in the Programme and ensure a consultative approach. During 2021, the Solar for Health Task Team plans to continue working in the development of the Programme, including the development and implementation of a partnership and resource mobilization strategy, the development of an ecosystem assessment for Energy Service Providers in the five countries, the preparation of a detailed financial model and budget, and the preparation of the Funding Proposal Package for the GCF and other potential donors.

20 <https://www.cnbc.com/africa/videos/2020/10/13/undp-launches-sdg-investor-map-for-south-africa/>

21 <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/development-institutions-present-digital-guide-help-african-countries-fast-track-sdgs-pa-is-agreement-and-aus-agenda-2063-implementation-33151>

22 Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, R. Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

## Strengthening national gender equality mechanisms

The regional project **Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa** provided targeted support to UNDP Country Offices (COs) and Member States. In 2020, 13 UNDP Country Offices (COs) advanced integration of gender equality into their development work by enrolling in the voluntary Gender Seal Certification exercise 2018-2020. As a result, two COs (Guinea and CAR) certified Gold; eight certified Silver (Mali, Burundi, Ethiopia, Benin, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Gambia and Malawi); one certified Bronze (South Africa). By the end of 2020, a total of 30 COs from the region had completed the process.

## Knowledge creation on social protection systems

The implementation of the regional project **Social Protection for Sustainable Development** helped create knowledge on social protection systems in Africa by updating the data on the State of Social Assistance in Africa (SSAA) platform, specifically focusing on five categorizations of social assistance (i.e. demand, policies and programmes, legal framework, financing, and institutionalization and governance) used in the first edition of the SSAA report. The variables are expected to assist in analyzing individual country experiences to determine the effectiveness of social assistance institutions and provide information for research, advocacy or policymaking. As part of advocacy, outreach and capacity-strengthening around the SSAA report, a webinar series with a gender-balanced panel was organized and attracted 375 participants, including social protection practitioners from African governments, representatives from the AUC and RECs, research institutions, CSOs and international organizations working in the field of social protection.

## Enhancing strategic communication for preventing violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin

Through the regional project **Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach**, UNDP facilitated a whole-of-society drafting process of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) – Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Plan of Action on the Regional Strategic Communication for Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). This process included local traditional and religious leaders, as well as Buduma, Kanuri and Kanembu women and youth groups from the nine affected areas around Lake Chad. By supporting the development of the action plan, the RP helped **operationalize the Lake Chad Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS)**, specifically its pillar 8 and Strategic Objective 34 on PVE, which establishes alternative means to address Boko Haram ideology through collaborative efforts of military and affected communities to anticipate, prevent, and counter radical narratives.

The action plan was drawn up in consultation with community representatives via community perception studies, an inception workshop, the formation of a drafting team of technical experts representing each of the four countries along Lake Chad, and drafting sessions for community representatives from affected communities, including women and youth associations.<sup>23</sup> These preparatory activities reached 85 people (71 men and 14 women) and gave a voice to people from marginalized ethnic groups from the affected areas, who expressed concern about military action to prevent violent extremism. The inception and drafting meetings were cited as the first opportunities for Kanuri, Boudouma and Kanembu people to discuss civil-military collaboration for PVE in their own languages.

## Supporting the 100,000 MSMEs Initiative

In 2020, the Regional Programme collaborated closely with the AU Development Agency New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) to promote and support implementation of the **100,000 MSMEs Initiative**. The financial support provided by UNDP was primarily channelled towards the roll out of the MSMEs Academy while delivering trainings to MSMEs and launching of the initiative in five countries in Africa — Mali, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Mauritania and Gabon. The MSME Academy was launched in December 2020 in Burkina Faso and Mali, bringing together over 5,000 participants from micro, small and medium enterprises and consisting of an informative webinar with the presence of experts, government officials and private sector speakers. Topics of discussion ranged from an overview of the MSME Academy, UNDP support of MSMEs in the Sahel region, MSME access to financial services and experience sharing of MSMEs including the challenges they face on a day to day basis. The launches were followed by a series of virtual trainings facilitated by trainers and mentoring of MSMEs.

## Mobilizing resources for the United Nations Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)

With the aim of enabling the AUC and RECs to develop inclusive regional economic policies, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the United Nations Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) coordinated and facilitated the finalization of three flagship **programming offers in Governance, Energy and Climate Resilience and Sustainable Agriculture for resource mobilization**, which were endorsed by the Regional Directors and technical experts of the UNISS working groups. UNDP is leading on the finalization of the offers on Energy and Governance, while the offer on Climate Resilience and Sustainable Agriculture is under review to be scaled up.

## A stronger YouthConnekt across the continent

The regional **YouthConnekt** project provided support to the Government of Rwanda towards **establishing the YouthConnekt Africa Hub**<sup>24</sup> that now serves as the lead coordination arm of the programme across the continent.

The project ensured effective recruitment and onboarding of the Executive Director of the Hub as well as formulation of an integrated workplan to ensure a standardized approach to supporting Country Offices and national stakeholders in implementing the YouthConnekt programme. The project provided technical support to Country Offices and national stakeholders in Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Conakry, South Sudan, Botswana and Mali in **establishing national YouthConnekt chapters** – this brings the total number of countries implementing the YouthConnekt programme to 20, and raises the goal in UNDP's Renewed Strategic Offer for Africa to support implementation in 45 RBA country offices.

Furthermore, building on the previously successful 2019-2020 entrepreneurship programme for the Sahel that targeted more than 2,000 entrepreneurs in Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Mauritania, Mali and Burkina Faso, as part of the UNDP concentrated response to the political crisis in Mali, the project collaborated with the Tony Elumelu Foundation and UNDP Mali to formulate a youth entrepreneurship programme targeting over 3,000 entrepreneurs (71.6% male, 28.4% female) as start-ups with business development services and access to finance.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/regional-workshop-to-prevent-violent-extremism-in-the-lake-chad.html> and <https://www.mnjtf-fmm.org/press-release-regional-workshop-to-prevent-violent-extremism-in-the-lake-chad-basin-holds-in-ndjemena/> and <https://twitter.com/UniversiteDiffa>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.youthconnektafrica.org/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.tonyelumelufoundation.org/tef-undp-mali-entrepreneurship-programme>





## Regional institutions sustain peace and build resilience to crises and shocks.

Priority Area 1

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Priority Area 2

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Priority Area 3

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The third of the three Regional Programme outcomes promotes resilience to conflicts and shocks by supporting regional institutions. The RP contributed to change by helping prevent violent extremism; develop tools on environmental hazards, environmental degradation and resilience to climate change in the Horn of Africa cross-border areas; support stabilization efforts in the Lake Chad Basin; and chart future stabilization work in the Liptako-Gourma region and conflict prevention and peacebuilding work in the Great Lakes region.

## 7 Impact Areas of Stabilization in the Lake Chad Basin



Education



Health



Security



Justice



Environment



Communal Support



Livelihood

### Increasing effectiveness of efforts towards immediate and extended stabilization in the Lake Chad region

In 2020, the **Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) for Lake Chad** project helped enhance community safety, essential infrastructure, basic services, and livelihood opportunities in territories cleared of Boko Haram and controlled by other armed groups. The project aimed to make existing stabilization efforts more effective by delivering them as a more cohesive package, in a rapid and flexible manner, where previously such assistance has been piecemeal or absent.

**At the national level**, the RSF has supported governments and affected local authorities to strengthen social contracts, re-establish trust, law and order and opened new channels for cross border trade, and construction of infrastructure such as cross-border roads notably in the border region of Nigeria-Cameroon. The Facility has also improved community safety for affected communities. Through its livelihood activities, the construction of over 1,800 infrastructures (water lines, shops, market stalls, housing, health facilities, schools) opened new market opportunities and improved access to livelihoods to benefit from cross border economic opportunities.

**At regional level**, the RSF has supported the LCBC to establish key regional platforms to coordinate interventions and policies at all levels. The Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) Secretariat is now fully operational, with staff working from its newly constructed office within the premises of the LCBC. Through the Secretariat, the RSF also facilitated the establishment of the RSS Governance Structure, the establishment of a coherent monitoring and evaluation framework for the LCBC RSS, contributed to the harmonization of regional policies, and worked closely with partners and civil society to reinforce partnerships, participation and leadership of the stabilization agenda.

One key achievement in 2020 was the **elaboration of a two-year Regional Action Plan (RAP)** for the years 2020-2021 — now a guiding document for coordination and cooperation of stabilization activities at the regional level. The RAP followed a consultative approach, and it was agreed upon by 55 representatives from the four countries, the AUC, civil society, development partners

and other experts, and is accompanied by a matrix and a glossary of Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) activities and deliverables. Another key achievement was the establishment of the LCBC Civil Military (CIMIC) Cell. As a result of two workshops involving MNJTF J9 and staff officers, the LCBC Military Advisor, the AUC, LCBC, RSS Team and Tchad National Window representatives, the ToR was endorsed and therefore the Cell will become operational in 2021 and is expected to contribute to enhanced capacities of the LCBC to implement the RSS Strategy. The Civil Society Platform was launched in 2020 as a means to improve the localization agenda of the stabilization process in the LCB, as well as the operationalization of the regional Task Force of implementing partners of the LCB.

The platform was established as a result of LCBC Consultative CSO Workshop Series, consisting of four virtual national consultations and one virtual regional consultation in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB)'s CSO Engagement Unit and the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). This platform is expected to go a long way to streamline actions of both national and regional CSOs, INGOs and nexus actors, which is especially useful as the development of the Territorial Action Plans is underway.

The onset of COVID-19 threatened to hinder stability gains in the region and expose vulnerable communities to a heightened level of economic instability. However, what was a threat in many ways proved to show the willingness of partners in the region to respond to threats faced by Lake Chad Basin communities.

The RSF traced and analyzed COVID-19 evolution and response strategies in the LCB territories of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria and provided initial rapid analysis and assessments of its implications for priority themes of the Regional Stabilization Strategy and the mandate of the Regional Stabilization Facility.

Through the Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad, UNDP has been able to work with a regional institution, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, to build partnerships for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience. The partnerships with over 30 UN and non-UN humanitarian, development and peace actors further support and operationalize the nexus approach.

## Laying the ground for a Stabilization Facility in the Liptako-Gourma

The UNDP stabilization initiative started with an 18-month Project Initiation Plan (PIP) Pilot Phase to lay the groundwork for a full-fledged Stabilization Facility in the Liptako-Gourma region. The Stabilization Facility will address the root causes of conflicts and the ongoing insecurity and vulnerability in affected borderlands of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. During the course of 2020, UNDP ensured that the initiative and the project document were relevant to the needs of the region, and in coordination with development partners and donors. To this end, extensive consultations took place with regional institutions (AUC, the West African Economic and Monetary Union/UEMOA, and the Group of Five of the Sahel/G5 Sahel), local authorities in Burkina Faso and Niger (Mayors and Prefects) and communities in the Tillaberi region of Niger, with Alliance Sahel, the World Bank and other donor countries. These consultations involved over 100 people and generated the buy-in and commitment of high-level political decision-makers in all three Liptako-Gourma countries, which enabled the finalization and signing of the project document in the last quarter of 2020.

## The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework

The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework aims to address peace and security challenges under six pillars: inadequate natural resources and land management, structural challenges to small and informal cross-border trade, cross-border mobility challenges, youth unemployment, sexual and gender-based violence and unending conflicts. UNDP **supported coordination of implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework** (GLRSF), through a joint Secretariat of the Co-Champions (UNDP and WFP) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL). UNDP's partnership with the Special Envoy resulted in better coordination of the Framework by finalizing an assessment evaluating progress, milestones, challenges, lessons and opportunities in its implementation. Parallel to the assessment, a new UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region was developed and endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General on 22 October 2020. The Strategy identifies 10 priorities structured under three pillars, namely: (i) peace, security and justice; (ii) sustainable development and shared prosperity; and (iii) resilience to long-standing and emerging challenges. As the Secretary-General notes in his letter to the Security Council dated 3 December 2020, these priorities will guide UN engagement in the region, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the joint United Nations-World Bank Pathways for Peace study on

prevention. Accordingly, while the assessment principally focused on an assessment of the GLRSF, recommendations on the way forward are anchored on implementation of the Strategy and its emerging Action Plan.

## Improving human mobility

In 2020, UNDP provided support to enhance national, sub-regional and regional capacities to ensure safe human mobility in the Africa region, including safe and regular migration and durable solutions for forced displacement. At the regional level, UNDP is supporting IGAD as member of the IGAD Core Group on the operationalization of the **Support Platform for the Nairobi Process for durable solutions and reintegration of Somali refugees** (and refugees in the HoA region). As a member of the Executive Group of the UN Network on Migration, UNDP is now actively participating in the Regional UN Network on Migration (ESA and WCA) launched in August 2020, as well as in the regional coordination platform for the Global Compact on Migration, which supports the Member States and AUC in the implementation of the commitments under the GCM and review of the progress made for safe, orderly and regular migration.

UNDP is currently supporting the **response to the Tigray crisis at the sub-regional level**, working closely with the OCHA-led Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) for East and Southern Africa on the crisis, and ensuring UNDP country-level inputs are made to the UNHCR-led Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP). These efforts build the resilience of host communities affected by the influx of refugees and support governments' capacities to respond to internal displacement as part of recovery efforts. This work is done in close collaboration UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) for cross-border issues with Sudan and Djibouti.

In West and Central Africa, UNDP and UNHCR are working on a **Joint Response and Action Plan on Forced Displacement in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin** focusing on enhancing local and national capacities for development solutions, resilience-building and the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus in six countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. At the country level, joint work by UNDP and UNHCR in Burkina Faso was launched for sustainable green livelihoods and to tackle land-related conflicts in the areas affected by internal displacement. In Tanzania, UNDP and UNHCR launched a joint **feasibility assessment for the local integration of Old Settlement areas for Burundian refugees** and related local governance capacity and needs analysis for the development of an integrated local development and investment plan. UNDP and UNHCR have co-led the support

to the Government of Burundi in elaborating a **Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP) 2021** to assist government efforts for the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of Burundian refugees from the neighbouring countries of Tanzania, Rwanda and the DRC, and enhance recovery and development in areas affected by returns.

The JRRRP in Burundi was developed in close complementarity with the refugee and host community response in countries of asylum for Burundian refugees, which include Tanzania, Rwanda and DRC. In Mozambique, UNDP is supporting the creation of durable solutions for the 500,000 internally displaced persons in the region of Cabo Delgado. In these efforts, UNDP is working with WFP, IOM, UNHCR and PBF, under the framework of the HDP nexus and resilience-building.

## Increasing awareness on cross-border agreements for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia cross-border regions

Cross-border Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) are an important tool in developing resilience, peacebuilding and conflict-resolution in cross-border areas. However, while these agreements are usually well known among high-level decision-makers and policymakers, they are often not widely disseminated among local authorities and in cross-border communities.

Recognizing this, in 2020 the SECCCI project organized **six rapid information sharing workshops** led by IGAD. These workshops allowed county representatives, members of youth and women groups, and representatives of different ministries to identify possible gaps in the existing cross-border MOUs, Agreements and Protocols, and formulate recommendations for higher authorities on each side of the border. These forums also enhanced cooperation and dialogue among local stakeholders. Discussions covered such topics as the dissemination of information on climate change and its effects on pastoral livelihoods, support for local authorities in formulating community plans and other local matters that communities and authorities identified.

## Environmental knowledge and planning tools on the Omo-Turkana basin and the Jubba-Shebelle basin

The regional project **Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives (SECCCI) in Southwest Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya, Marsabit-Borana and Dawa, and Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia** helped develop tools related to environmental hazards, environmental

degradation and resilience to climate change. In this respect, the UNEP-led water component of the SECCCI project, supported by the Regional Programme in close collaboration with UNEP, has created environmental knowledge and planning tools on the Omo-Turkana basin and the Jubba-Shebelle basin. These Transboundary Monitoring Observatories (TMO) tools are captured in two data portals ([www.omoturkana-tmo.org](http://www.omoturkana-tmo.org) and [www.jubashabelle-tmo.org](http://www.jubashabelle-tmo.org)) The portals provide more than 150 earth observation data sets for the entire basin areas on both sides of the border. The portal on the Omo-Turkana basin also includes environmental analysis and planning tools. Each tool and app came with an intensive training course for water resources professionals.

## Evidence-based cross-border approaches to PVE interventions

The regional project also kickstarted two major regional research products in 2020, in support of evidence-based cross-border PVE interventions. Both research pieces aim to represent the voices of marginalized groups that are at risk of violent extremism, given that the "Journey to Extremism" study showed that the majority of ex-recruits grew up in marginalized areas, including borderlands. First, the **quantitative assessment of violent extremism in the Southern Libya borderlands**. The objective of this research is to facilitate cross-border early action on PVE in the Southern Libya borderlands following the call of the Berlin Conference.

It is meant to provide for a comprehensive, short-term analysis of the threat of violent extremism in border communities in South Libya, as well as those in North Chad, North Niger and North and Northwest Sudan, while taking into account the potential role of Nigerian VE-groups in sustaining groups active in South Libya with arms and materials or operating as a source country for foreign fighters. Second, as a follow-up to previous research on the Journey to Extremism in Africa (2017),<sup>26</sup> the project began the continental **research project "Journey to Extremism 2.0."** The research project will yield (a) a trend analysis on drivers in political socialization of recruits into VE-groups in order to generate data where the first iteration of the research left thematic, geographic and methodological gaps, (b) an assessment of whether the changing PVE-landscape has had an effect on the pathways to radicalization in Africa, as compared to 2017, and (c) exploration of pathways from extremism.

<sup>26</sup> <https://journey-to-extremism.undp.org/>

## Inter-Project Collaborations

Increased collaboration between initiatives is an important aspect of the Regional Programme, as it yields greater efficiency and effectiveness. Such collaboration involves co-organizing capacity-building events, sharing data and contacts, and partnering within geographic and thematic areas to avoid duplication.

The collaboration between the regional project **Accelerating the Ratification and Domestication of African Union Treaties** and the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment team implementing the regional project **Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa** ensured that the support provided to Member States to ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) is relevant and focused.

The collaboration between the **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment team** and the **Environment and Climate Change team** successfully organized a two-day regional workshop to share ideas and approaches to strengthen the gender dimension in climate efforts. The collaboration strengthened the ties between the two teams and brought together gender and climate focal points from Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia, South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe,

Guinea, Madagascar, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Senegal, Congo Republic, Niger, Togo, Chad, DRC, Benin, Mali, Gabon and Burundi. The collaboration between the **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment team** and the **YouthConnekt project team** resulted in a youth and women's empowerment initiative and a collaboration with the **AfCFTA team** to support the AUC in delivering the Africa Youth Month Innovation Challenge and a subsequent induction training on AfCFTA policy formulation.

Similarly, a successful collaboration between the **Transforming the development cooperation landscape in Africa to implement the SDGs through South-South Cooperation** project and the **UNDP Economist Programme** resulted in South-South Cooperation (SSC) technical exchanges on Development Finance Assessments (DFAs) to develop Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs). INFF Twinning Labs were created and piloted to promote horizontal exchange among 17 RBA countries<sup>27</sup> on INFF topics, such as DFA processes at both national and local levels, SDG investor maps, public finance, remittances, SDG budgeting, digital finance, etc. Typical exchanges occurred between (a) Tanzania, Eswatini and Zambia, (b) Mozambique, Ghana and Malawi, (c) Rwanda and Cabo Verde, (d) Benin and Cameroon, (e) Lesotho and Sierra Leone, (f) Botswana, Namibia and Uganda, and (g) Senegal and Cameroon. The exchange between Senegal and Cameroon, for

example, brought together more than 50 participants from governments on both sides and other stakeholders. Such exchanges have led to the completion of draft DFA reports in Benin, Lesotho, Nigeria, Tanzania and Ghana, as well as DFA inception reports in Malawi, Gabon and Cabo Verde. The **SSC** project team (Africa Finance Sector Hub Team) also collaborated with the **Inclusive Growth Team** on linking INFFs with social protection and to discuss financing options for social protection to informal workers. The **SSC** project team also collaborated with the **Gender Team** on mapping gender-based programmatic interventions in INFF agendas across RBA countries.

Typical gender interventions include developing gender-responsive and sensitive budgeting systems and strategies, gender responsive INFF for SDG financing, gender-sensitive financing strategy, financing policies and instruments for gender equality; enhancing gender-sensitive Public Financial Management systems; promotion of equal participation of men and women in the economy; improving women's participation in SDG planning and budgeting; enhancing public resources allocation for gender equality and women empowerment; and promoting private sector engagement on gender equality.

The **Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross-border Initiatives in Southwest Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya, Marsabit-Borana and Dawa, and Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia (SECCCI)** project developed strong synergies with the new UNDP initiative, the **Africa Borderlands Centre**. The SECCCI team — both in the field at cluster level and

at the Regional Service Centre for Africa in Addis Ababa — supported the Borderlands Centre in sharing contacts with relevant stakeholders and supporting the filling of data gaps assessment in the Mendera triangle. The project **Social Protection for Sustainable Development** project engaged in an effective collaboration with the **Africa Finance Sector Hub Team** on developing the COVID-19 response, "Integrated Offer for the Informal Economy and Social Protection", which articulated how the Inclusive Growth and Finance Sector Hub teams could work together to support countries to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in a manner that goes beyond immediate needs and aims at a long-term transformation of the informal sector in the spirit of "building back better". The **Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the United Nations Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)** worked closely with the **UNDP regional hub in Dakar, Lake Chad Basin Stabilization Facility** and the **Liptako Gourma Authority** teams to improve implementation of regional initiatives in the Sahel.

The **Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad** project collaborated with the regional **Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism (PVE) in Africa: A Development Approach** project. This collaboration showed that preventing violent extremism in the region requires comprehensive investments in public services, infrastructure and livelihoods, as well as more targeted PVE interventions. The PVE project's investment in whole-of-society consultations for the AU-LCBC Regional Stabilization Strategy resulted in the inclusion of a PVE-pillar in the foundational document for the RSS (Regional Stabilization Strategy).

<sup>27</sup> Tanzania-Eswatini-Zambia, Mozambique-Ghana-Malawi, Rwanda-Cabo Verde, Benin-Cameroon, Lesotho-Sierra Leone, Botswana-Namibia-Uganda, Senegal-Cameroon.

In 2020, we collaborated with over 99 partners

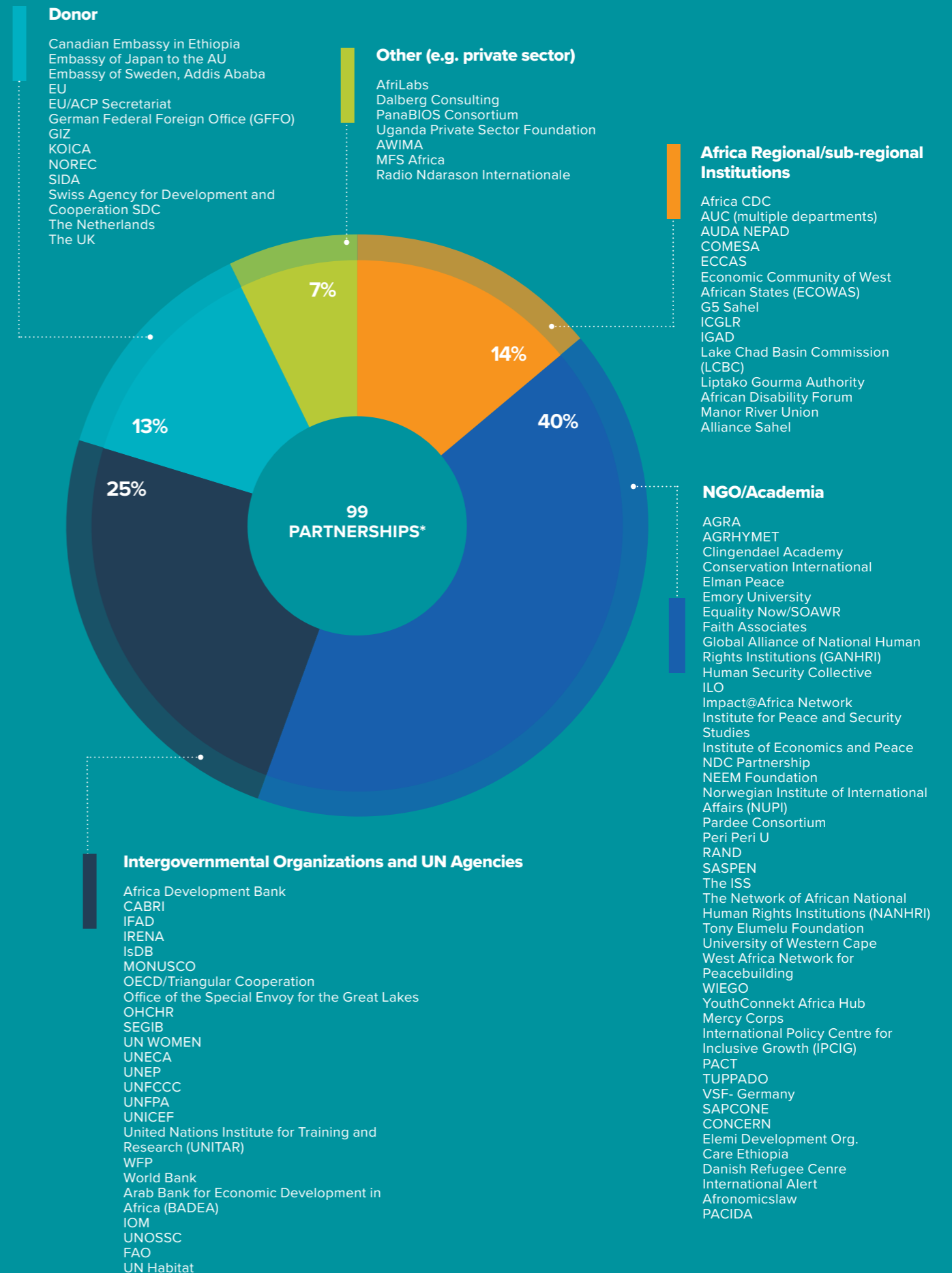
## Partnerships

Increased collaboration between initiatives is an important aspect of the Regional Programme, as it yields greater efficiency and effectiveness. Such collaboration involves co-organizing capacity-building events, sharing data and contacts, and partnering within geographic and thematic areas to avoid duplication.

**UN agencies and international organizations:** UNDP aims to support the efforts of the entire UN family, which is why we partner with every UN agency, fund and programme working in Africa, such as a partnership with UNICEF to jointly organize regional and global webinars on SDG financing and INFFs, and co-development of the Africa Financing Flagship – the Human Capital and Green Recovery Solidarity Mechanism – to support investment in human capital development and sustainable socio-economic recovery in SSA; a partnership with UNCDF in implementing the joint offer on digital finance by engaging 9 RBA countries<sup>28</sup> to roll out Digital Finance Ecosystem Assessments; and collaboration with ILO and UNICEF to link their programme Improving Synergies Between Social Protection and Public Finance Management with AFSH's ongoing INFF work, thus supporting enhancement of national social protection systems towards a wider coverage.

- Regional and sub-regional institutions:** Across the continent, the Regional Programme works with entities such as the African Union, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), G5-Sahel, the Sahel Alliance, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Liptako Gourma Authority.
- Host-country governments:** The Regional Programme works closely with national and sub-national governments throughout the continent, helping them achieve their development goals and partner with other countries and entities.
- Donors and the private sector:** UNDP offers a platform for partners to engage in new ways, embedding their support firmly with Africans and African institutions at all levels. Such partners include OECD DAC countries, other governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), development finance institutions (DFIs) and the private sector.
- NGOs, civil society and communities:** Ultimately, our partners are the people of Africa. Whether through formal collaborations, community meetings, or online platforms, we engage with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), grassroots networks and other civil society groups so that our work reflects their spirit.

<sup>28</sup> Burkina Faso, Namibia and Uganda (as pilot countries); Gambia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Equatorial Guinea, Niger and Seychelles (pipeline as indicated in RFF proposals).



\*In addition, UNDP works with national partners in 46 countries across sub-Saharan Africa through its 45 Country Offices

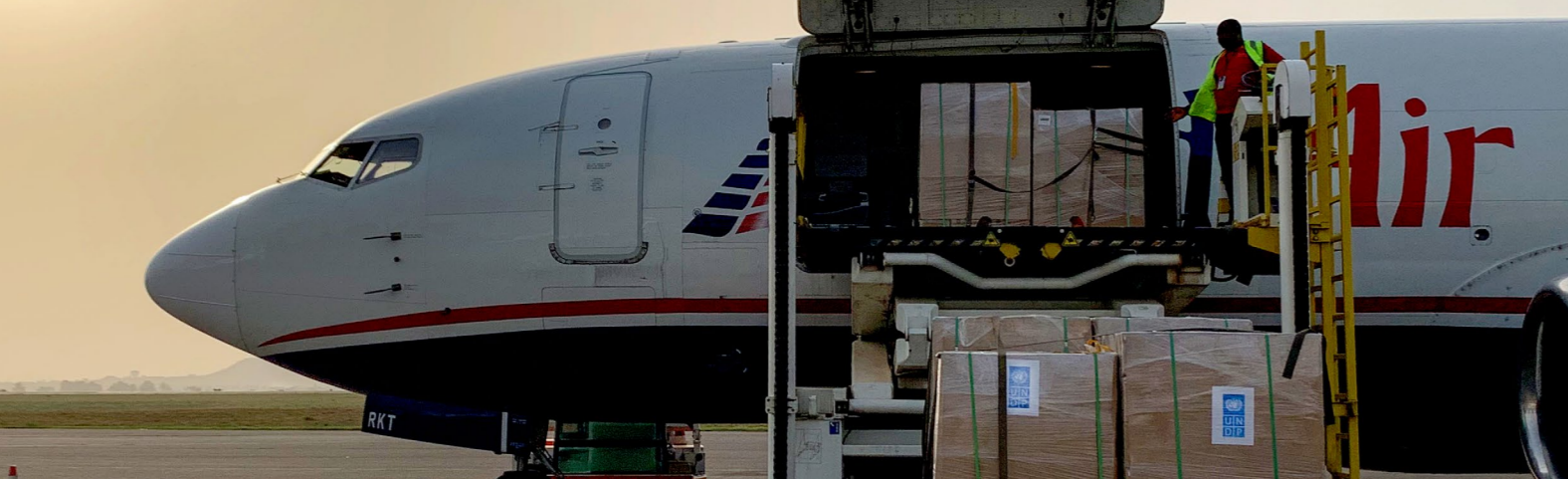




# Risk Mapping and Measures

RISKS	MITIGATION MEASURES
<b>PLANNING/RESOURCES</b>	
Challenges to implementation of pre-planned long-term recovery measures due to uncertainty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of smart initiatives and realistic project profile in 2021.</li> <li>• Ensure continued donor engagement when identifying new strategic programming priorities for 2021.</li> <li>• Review, prioritize and re-programme regional and country projects in consultation with donors and partners.</li> </ul>
Further reduction of activities and financial re-allocations to address new priorities, due to COVID-19 pandemic.	
Change in the availability of financial and human resources in partners, governments, contractors and UNDP, which may jeopardize effective implementation of project activities.	
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
Continued meeting and travel restrictions due to COVID-19; social distancing measures by African governments causing delays in the delivery of activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximization of virtual platforms for meetings in 2021.</li> <li>• Increased application of UNDP rapid response and fast track policies to ensure timely delivery of the activities.</li> <li>• Utilize local capacities and partners for regional and national fieldwork in 2021:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen ties with local partners and communities by seeking to empower them to co-create and co-implement initiatives.</li> <li>- Increase project funds for human resources at the national and local levels to facilitate timely and effective project implementation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Emergence of urgent new priorities to address the COVID-19 crisis at the regional and national level may jeopardize UNDP's reputation and ability to effectively implement long-term donor-funded projects and support partners.	

RISKS	MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>Risk of deterioration of the security situation in vulnerable areas of Africa, especially in the borderland regions, which may limit access to communities and increase risk to project personnel.</p> <p>Increased security risk related to COVID-19, which may increase recruitment by violent extremist groups and security incidents. The term 'corona jihad' popped up from East to West Africa to stress how the virus is brought by outsiders. The analysis shows that pandemic caused the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compounded marginalization: The increased marginalization of women, youth, and people in borderlands areas and other vulnerable groups may, for some, serve as a rationale to join violent extremist groups.</li> <li>• Further erosion of the social contract and trust in authorities: Failure to provide for disease-prevention information and supplies further limits credibility of authorities, an argument that is easily leveraged in violent-extremist propaganda.</li> <li>• Security action and authoritarian governance: Violent means to implement COVID-19 provisions – such as curfews with sticks and teargas – have disregarded human rights and may trigger increased radicalization.</li> <li>• Economic arguments for recruitment into violent extremism increase: Pandemic-related disruptions to commodity markets and supply chains, the collapse of travel and tourism and global economic slowdown, as well as an estimated \$130 billion in public spending in Africa, leads to an increased economic marginalization of communities at risk for violent extremism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased adherence to the UNDP Programme Criticality Framework to anticipate and address risks.</li> <li>• Effective security coordination with formal and informal authorities at the local level.</li> <li>• Extensive and continuing security and conflict analysis for affected regions (LCB and LGA).</li> </ul>



## Financial Report

Reporting dates: 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

### A. Financial Overview – 2020

	Core	Non-Core	Total
Opening Balance	–	20,417,534	20,417,534
Income Received	26,215,051	58,763,644	84,978,695
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>26,215,051</b>	<b>79,181,178</b>	<b>105,396,229</b>
Total Budgets	26,215,051	45,154,424	71,369,475
<b>Utilization/Delivery</b>	<b>26,215,051</b>	<b>33,984,913</b>	<b>60,199,964</b>
Advances Outstanding	–	943,996	943,996
<b>Closing Resource Balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,252,269</b>	<b>44,252,269</b>
<b>Delivery Budgets %</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>86%</b>

### B. Non-Core/ Cost Sharing – Agreements Value for 2020/onwards

Donor	Total Amount	Project	Opening Balance	Received	Future Milestones	Total
Germany	50,823,666	Lake Chad Stabilization Facility	8,058,691	29,553,065	6,082,725	43,694,481
		Lake Chad Basin – Phase 2	318,410	935,334	–	1,253,744
		LGA Stabilization Facility	–	5,875,441	–	5,875,441
SIDA	26,398,612	Regional PVE	1,006,950	2,066,068	1,198,610	4,271,628
		AU Treaties	1,737,798	–	3,835,551	5,573,349
		Lake Chad Stabilization Facility	4,122,012	4,695,387	–	8,817,399
		DDR/Resilience in the Sahel	2,256,922	1,164,320	4,314,995	7,736,236
Netherlands	10,067,870	Lake Chad Stabilization Facility	–	2,369,668	3,649,635	6,019,303
		Regional PVE	1,057,167	1,470,719	1,520,681	4,048,567
EU	10,061,360	SECCCI	1,087,885	3,458,975	–	4,546,860
		Lake Chad Stabilization Facility	–	3,201,143	2,313,357	5,514,500
Canada DFATD	6,302,074	Regional Gender Project	–	2,941,831	3,360,243	6,302,074
MPTF	2,910,776	Regional Gender Project – the Spotlight	–	510,000	1,624,478	2,134,478
		GLR Cross Border Fund	300,013	–	476,285	776,298
IFAD	1,949,960	Global Environment Facility (GEF) Integrated Approach Programme (IAP) on Food Security	471,686	–	1,478,274	1,949,960
CABRI	521,694	Climate Finance Governance Project	–	521,694	–	521,694
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>20,417,534</b>	<b>58,763,644</b>	<b>29,854,834</b>	<b>109,036,012</b>

## C. Delivery per Outcome/Output/Project

RPD Outcome/ Output	Project	Core Utilization	Non-Core Utilization	None-Core Advance Outstanding	Total	
Output 1.1	Accelerating the Ratification and Domestication of <b>African Union Treaties</b>	273,150	1,070,197		1,343,348	
Output 1.3 and 3.2	Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism ( <b>PVE</b> ) in Africa: A Development Approach	829,220	4,762,114	112,434	5,703,768	
Output 1.8	Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of <b>Cross-border</b> Initiatives in Southwest <b>Ethiopia-Northwest Kenya</b> , Marsabit-Borana & Dawa, and Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia	104,493	1,979,896	368,467	2,452,856	
Output 3.3	Lake Chad <b>Regional Stabilization Facility</b>	1,577,103	23,058,327	28,107	24,663,537	
Output 3.3	Lake Chad – <b>Phase 2</b>	–	1,061,265		1,061,265	
Output 1.4/2.2	African <b>Mining</b> Governance Project	128,888			128,888	
Output 1.6 and 2.7	Private Sector – Global Environment Facility (GEF) Integrated Approach Programme (IAP) on Food Security	134,138	350,614	115,506	600,258	
Output	Africa's <b>Emergence</b> : Promoting structural economic transformation and human development	300,535			300,535	
Output 1.5	Transforming the development cooperation landscape in Africa to implement the SDGs through <b>South-South Cooperation</b>	140,181			140,181	
Output 2.4	UNDP Africa Regional Programme for Upscaling the <b>YouthConnekt</b> Initiative (Including Youth Industrial Fund)	1,258,734			1,258,734	
Output 2.1	<b>Social Protection</b> for Sustainable Development in Africa (SP4SD Africa)	191,526			191,526	
Output 1.7	Strengthening Africa's resilience and capacities for adaptation and <b>disaster risk reduction</b>	113,201	1,625,236		1,738,437	
Output 2.3	Strengthening <b>Climate Finance</b> Governance in Africa	136,267			136,267	
Output 2.6	Regional <b>Energy</b> Project	128,128			128,128	
Output 2.5	Advancing <b>Gender</b> Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa	136,715	32,500	308,469	477,684	
Output 2.5	Women in <b>Governance and Political Participation</b>	1,959,025			1,959,025	
All	Emerging initiatives	Conflict/peacebuilding – AU support	230,667		230,667	
		Migration	63,081		63,081	
		Lake Victoria	–		–	
		UNDP partnership with SESG-GL, ICGLR and coordination of GLRSF	86,539	44,764	11,013	142,316
		Africa Governance Platform	156,221			156,221
		Digital Transformation	51,085			51,085
		African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) including investment officers	190,987			190,987
All	Project Initiations	African Influencers for Development	69,859		69,859	
		Africa Borderlands Centre	815,964		815,964	
		African Young Women Leaders Fellowship Programme	854,634		854,634	
All	Liptako Gourma Authority Stabilization Facility	524,685		524,685		
All	Regional Project to <b>Support Oversight</b> of the Regional Programme for Africa	1,678,956			1,678,956	
Output 1.5	Regional <b>SDGs</b> (Sustainable Development Goals) Project; <b>SAT</b> Policy work	702,308			702,308	
All	Support to the <b>Sahel Programme</b>	507,482			507,482	
COVID	Regional RBA COVID-19 Response	6,872,198			6,872,198	
All	RBA (HQ, Addis, Dakar) Salaries and HQ common services	1,275,591			1,275,591	
Output 1.5	Senior Economist Programme	4,723,487			4,723,487	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26,215,051</b>	<b>33,984,913</b>	<b>943,996</b>	<b>61,143,959</b>	



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