

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA

REGIONAL PROGRAMME

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EDITORIAL

Note

Reversing vaccination inequality through Africa-led solutions

Vaccine inequality persists. At least 50% of the population across developed countries have been offered or have received their vaccination, compared to 1% of the African population. With more than 170,000 recorded deaths, and growing more with each emerging deadly variant, more needs to be done to save lives and livelihoods in Africa. Low fatalities in Africa also mask a deeper problem associated with vaccine nationalism and protectionism. This problem highlights the need for Africans to **unlock global policies that constrain Africa** from producing vaccines. Through the African Union (AU), the continent will continue to work towards establishing vaccine manufacturing capacity to effectively respond to future pandemics. In July, with ongoing support from UNDP and other partners, the AU adopted a guidance on **COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Mechanism for Africa**, an initiative that will provide effective continental leadership and guidance on a comprehensive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 and contribute to future preparedness for pandemics and other disasters. The AU, Africa CDC and other partners including UNDP, worked with PanaBIOS as the technical lead to introduce the **Trusted Travel Initiative** to support AU member states to harmonize and enhance their current health screening systems. The **online digital platform** for the verification and authentication of COVID-19 test results is based on a collaborative effort across a network of participating COVID-19 testing laboratories and Port Health authorities. To date, several countries have adopted the initiative, including Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana.

Finally, the Africa CDC announced that beginning this month, the **African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team** will distribute 400 million doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccines to African countries. In a recent interview, Dr. John Nkengasong called it “remarkable that Africans themselves have been able to mobilize and pay for over 400 million doses of vaccines...Complemented with other donations, it gives us hope that in the coming months we will be able to scale up vaccination in a predictable manner.” In a joint call to action following the launch of the **Global Dashboard for Covid-19 Vaccine Equity** by UNDP, WHO and the University of Oxford, the three organizations stated “now is the moment to ensure vaccine doses are shared quickly, all barriers to increasing vaccine manufacturing are removed and financing support is secured so vaccines are distributed equitably and a truly global economic recovery can take place.” If we fail to act now, the COVID-19 pandemic, more than any other obstacle, threatens to bring Africa to its knees. However, through partnerships with governments, regional institutions, civil society, the private sector and more, the Regional Programme – and UNDP as a whole – is uniquely well positioned to equip countries and communities with a path towards green recovery.

Launch of the Gender Equality Seal to promote accountability for gender equality and women's empowerment within public institutions

27 - 28 JULY: Gender equality is both an essential development goal and a driver of human development. Everyone has a right to participate in public life, but in most parts of the continent, it remains an ongoing challenge to achieve women's equal participation, particularly in decision-making.

UNDP, in partnership with the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and the government of Canada, concluded a virtual awareness training for ECOWAS Commission staff on 'Promoting Accountability for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Through the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions (GES-PI)'. The two-day training was delivered to 42 ECOWAS and UNDP staff members (28 women and 14 men), in coordination with the ECOWAS Commission for Social Affairs and Gender and UNDP's Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) Unit of the Regional Service Centre for Africa.

[Read more](#) ►

“

ECOWAS leaders have consistently demonstrated ample commitment to eliminate gender inequalities and disparities in member states and promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the region. For us to give real meaning to this commitment, we must begin with ourselves.

This is essentially what GES-PI is about.

Dr. Siga Fatma Jagne, ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender, in her opening remarks.

**GENDER
EQUALITY
SEAL**
FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS





New MoU with the International Trade Centre to raise African business opportunities

7 JULY: UNDP and the International Trade Centre (ITC) are teaming up to empower African small businesses, women and young entrepreneurs to leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and expand cross-continental business opportunities.

By signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), both organizations commit to boosting the economic empowerment of women, increasing economic and employment opportunities for youth, broadening access to trade and market intelligence for small businesses, and promoting e-commerce to enhance intra-African trade.

[Read more ►](#)



Making history with Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the US

17 JULY: UNDP and the Organization of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States held an international virtual assembly highlighting their unique partnership and its impact on Africa's future. Five universities have already completed a first series of joint courses shedding light on African descendant economic transformation, human rights and self-determination.

The partnership is shaping tomorrow's leadership in Africa by creating platforms to share development best practices and exchanges between African universities and US-based HBCUs from which a growing number of African leaders have graduated.



Post-COVID-19 green recovery needs clean energy, nature-based solutions and digitalization

19 JULY: At the Africa Day event during the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), UNDP, the Office of Special Adviser on Africa, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union looked at how clean energy, digitalization and nature-based solutions to climate change and environmental degradation should become the cornerstone of an inclusive and resilient post-COVID-19 recovery in Africa.

In Africa's response to the COVID-19 pandemic lies an opportunity to rethink how the continent approaches growth and development; its management of the environment and natural resources; and how to leverage the existing tools and knowledge to build forward, build greener and build better.

[Read more ►](#)
[Watch the event ►](#)



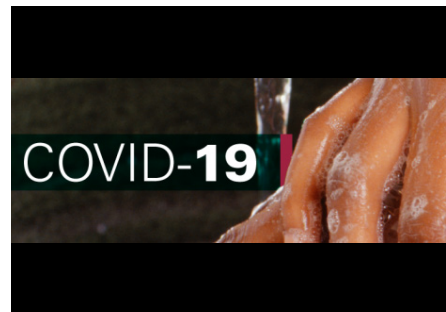
“Gearing up for the AfCFTA”: African youth call for increased Pan-African trading opportunities

21 JULY: In the first of a series of “Fireside Chats” focusing on various opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the AfCFTA, the discussion attracted over 900 registered participants, and reached over one million youth through live broadcast on social media.

The collective message from Africa’s young people is clear: they are actors – not spectators – in turning the magic of the “One African Market” into reality and making the AfCFTA work – a task they have already taken on with full force.

The convenor and host, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa Director Ahunna Eziakonwa, declared “the AfCFTA is an agenda that is as achievable as it is ambitious. We need to move into a space where we believe in the talent and the quality that lies on the African continent,” emphasized Ms. Eziakonwa, as she expressed appreciation for the calibre of Africa’s youth today, who do not seek funding, but equity.

[Read more ►](#)



Engagement with AUC on COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Mechanism for Africa

JULY: The AU Commission adopted the terms of reference for the COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Mechanism for Africa, with ongoing support by UNDP **Sahel Resilience Project**, Recovery Team, Africa DRR and Governance teams), AfDB, FAO, WHO, and a team of expert consultants focusing on disaster risk management, recovery, and human impacts.

The mechanism will cooperate along four levels of coordination and will also include a series of webinars to create awareness and build consensus on the approach to recovery for AUC technical departments and RECs. The webinars will also provide effective continental leadership and guidance on a comprehensive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 and contribute to future preparedness for pandemics and other disasters.

African Regional Judges’ Forum highlights impact of COVID-19 on the rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations

22 JULY: The African Regional Judges’ Forum (ARJF), convened with the support of UNDP and the Southern African Litigation Centre (SALC), met to discuss the critical ways in which COVID-19, associated lockdown laws and law enforcement has impacted on marginalized and vulnerable populations’ health and other socio-economic rights and on access to justice in our countries.

The discussion focused particularly on the intersection of COVID-19 and the rights of LGBTI populations, including the way COVID-related quarantine restrictions have abused legitimate laws and policies to target vulnerable populations.

For seven years, UNDP’s HIV, Health and Development Team has supported a growing network of over 60 prominent judges across Africa who meet annually to share knowledge and discuss developments in jurisprudence relating to HIV, TB, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the law.

[Read more ►](#)

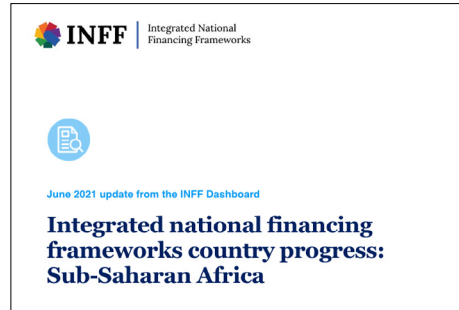




Gender mainstreaming and the role of women and youth in SALW control

14-15 JULY: The Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Project conducted a national workshop on gender mainstreaming and the role of women and youth in SALW control. The workshop demonstrated the links between gender and SALW as well as human security and explored avenues to ensure domestication of gender in security control in Niger.

A total of 25 people participated in the workshop held in Maradi. Participants agreed to organize similar workshops across all the target communities to enhance sensitization on gender mainstreaming in the country.



New dashboard tracks financial recovery from COVID-19 and investment in sustainable development

JULY: 36 countries in sub-Saharan Africa are using Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) to shape financing for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and investment in medium and long-term sustainable development. Based on an INFF survey conducted earlier this year, countries across the region are using INFF processes to explore and progress a wide range of innovations to public and private financing policies, regulations, instruments and institutions.

Despite the disruption of the pandemic, governments have achieved tangible progress in laying the foundation for INFF development and tailoring INFFs within different development contexts. These reforms will mobilize, leverage and align financing with national sustainable development priorities, including climate change and energy transition, gender equality, and social protection.

Check out the [INFF Dashboard](#) to explore the full results of the survey including country specific information ►



LCBC Executive Secretary briefing to the AU Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC)

19 JULY: The Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, briefed the 1010th session of the AU-PSC on the progress and implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin (RSS).

Amb. Nuhu highlighted the critical role and support of UNDP in the implementation of RSS through the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) and shed light on how the RSF contributed to and helped restore the social contract in the affected communities in the LCB, provided livelihood opportunities and laid the foundation for improved security. He called on the AU-PSC to use its political capital and leverage to support the RSS, including ensuring that additional resources are mobilized to maintain the momentum through the RSF. The presentation closed by calling on development partners and UN agencies to support the development of a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for the overall implementation of the RSS.

[Read the communique](#) ►



Implementing the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) in Cote d'Ivoire

8-9 JULY: The Regional Programme's project on conflict prevention supports the AU Department for Political Affairs, Peace and Security with conflict prevention tools such as the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA). The CSVRA is part of an effort to strengthen the AU's structural conflict prevention capacity and redouble efforts to tackle the structural causes of conflict in Africa.

Key stakeholders, including Madame Josephine-Charlotte Mayuma Kala, Special Representative and Head of the AU Liaison Office in Côte d'Ivoire, participated in a national consultation in Abidjan to identify the structural factors of violent conflicts around issues of socio-economic development, good governance, the rule of law, democracy and human rights, the security sector, the environment and climate change, gender and youth, post-conflict peacebuilding, as well as transitional justice and reconciliation at the national level.



Empowering women personnel at UNDP through People for 2030

JUNE: This blog highlights specific initiatives throughout UNDP that, through the implementation of People for 2030, contribute to the betterment and empowerment of UNDP's women personnel's experience. Among the selected initiatives is the African Young Women Leaders (AfYWL) Fellowship, a first of its kind joint African Union-UNDP programme that seeks to build a new generation of young African women leaders and experts to serve Africa and the world.

"This programme is about developing people from the ground up. There is a lack of access and opportunity for young women, and this programme opens up space to influence and increase diversity throughout UNDP," said Eunice Kamwendo, a programme manager for the AfYWL Fellowship Programme.

The first cohort of 21 fellows was a tremendous success, and 100% of survey respondents agreed that the programme shows UNDP is responding positively towards gender equality in poverty policies and practices throughout the world. The second cohort of the AfYWL Fellowship Programme will begin later this year.

[Read more ►](#)



Climate change could spark floods in world's largest desert lake: new study

19 JULY: Africa stands out disproportionately as the most vulnerable region in the world to climate change. This vulnerability is driven by the prevailing low levels of socioeconomic growth in the continent. While climate change is global, the poor are disproportionately vulnerable to its effects. A new study from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with inputs from UNDP's SECCCI project, predicts a far wetter future for Lake Turkana – and possibly a more perilous one for the 15 million people who live on its shores.

The report found that over the next 20 years, climate change could likely lead to heavier rains over Lake Turkana's river inflows, which would raise water levels in the lake itself and increase the likelihood of severe flooding. The study urged officials in Kenya and Ethiopia, which both border Lake Turkana, to prepare for a future in which once-rare floods, such as those that hit the region in 2019 and 2020, are regular occurrences. "Many people think that climate change is a problem for the future," says Frank Turyatunga, Deputy Head of UNEP's Africa Office. "But as Lake Turkana shows, it's happening now and it's already forcing people to adapt to new conditions."

[Read more ►](#)

KNOWLEDGE Products

The Regional Programme aims to make research findings **accessible, relevant and accurate** in how they reflect the conditions affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups across the continent.

WACA Annual Report 2020



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The UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa 2020 Annual Report illustrates UNDP's commitment to turning the tide in the sub-region and its continued engagement with partners and development actors. With a renewed offer, strategic partnerships, and growing capacities, the hub champions good governance, youth empowerment, resilience building, and renewable energy solutions. As we build on the momentum of the past year, we invite you to connect with us as we build lasting peace and sustainable development in the Sahel and the broader West and Central Africa region.

The Loop: UNDP Youth Empowerment Update



PVE Quarterly Newsletter



AUGUST 2021 Calendar



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

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9 AUGUST
CSO Territorial Platform Workshop, N'Djamena, Chad

9 AUGUST
CSO Workshop on Vigilante Groups (virtual) 12 August: International Youth Day

12 AUGUST
Youth Dialogue on Prevention of Violent Extremism

12 AUGUST (TBC)
Engaging youth in PVE: Exchange and share lessons learned and emerging good practices

12 AUGUST
TAPs Political Validation for Nigeria

23 AUGUST
CSO Workshop, Maiduguri, Nigeria

24-26 AUGUST
Regional UNDESA and UNECA Joint Training on the INFF methodology

24-26 AUGUST
Debt and Development Conference with African Development and Network on Debt on Development (AFRODAD)

30 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER
Women in Trade Conference, Accra, Ghana

31 AUGUST
Kofi Annan Training Needs Assessment Mission, Ndjamena, Chad

AUGUST (TBC)
Capacity building training with PVE practitioners to promote application of Behavioral Science and Behavioral Insights across PVE programming