

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA
Regional Programme Newsletter

December 2021

Vol. 15

A photograph of two women sitting at a panel discussion. The woman on the right is speaking into a microphone and has a name tag. The woman on the left is listening. In the background, there is a banner with the text 'Africa's Grand Strategy' and 'Ministère de la jeunesse'. The word 'innovate' is overlaid in large white letters at the bottom right.

innovate

“Don’t Do Anything For Us Without Us.”

YOUTH URGE IN DECISIVE MESSAGE AT INAUGURAL YOUTHCONNEKT SAHEL FORUM 2021

More than 1,000 young people from across the Sahel participated in the first edition of the YouthConnekt Sahel Forum in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 November to 2 December 2021 under the theme “Connecting Sahelian Youth for Peace and Prosperity”.

One highlight was the **Sahel Innovate Challenge**, a campaign to select the best innovative solutions created by young Sahelians with the aim of driving positive and sustainable change in their communities. More than 300 innovators from across the Sahel applied for the chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to the Forum and an opportunity to compete for a financial prize to invest in their innovative solution.

30 shortlisted winners were sponsored to attend the Forum and from this group, 10 innovators, each representing one of the 10 Sahel countries, pitched their solutions to a panel of four expert judges. The top five innovators were awarded prizes ranging from US\$20,000 for first place to \$3,000 for fifth place. The other five innovators received \$1,000 each.

First place winner Ferdinand Adimefe, from Lagos, Nigeria, is the Founder and CEO of Magic Carpet Studios, an award-winning innovation storytelling company focused on putting Africa stories on the map of global entertainment.

[Read more: EN](#) ▶ [FR](#) ▶





UNDP launches Sahel Offer, seeking largest joint commitment to regenerate the region

“Such a large-scale investment in governance, renewable energy and in young people in the Sahel will pay incredible ‘dividend’s’, improving the lives and wellbeing of millions of people while helping to protect our planet.” (9 DEC)

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Administrator.

[Read more ►](#)



Supporting inclusive transitions in Africa: UNDP and the African Development Bank launch joint flagship study

10-11 NOV: Recognizing the specific risks to peace and development posed by political transitions, in June 2021, UNDP began developing the Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Africa (SITA) Facility, an initiative spearheaded by UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA). A new flagship research project aims to contribute to the development of the SITA Facility and revitalize UNDP’s engagement on the effective management of countries undergoing transition.



Capacity building of SMEs on AfCFTA rules and market access

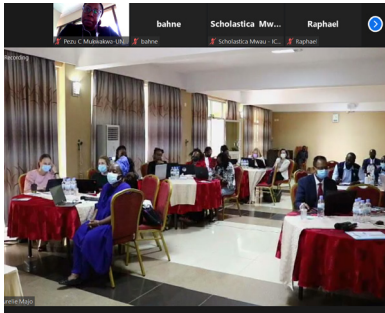
15-21 NOV: UNDP participated in the 2nd edition of the Intra African Trade Fair – **IATF 2021**, organized by Afreximbank in collaboration with the African Union to provide a platform to connect African market players through exhibitions and conferences.



7 days in Maiduguri, Nigeria: A snippet from the Borno State capital

22 NOV: In this blog, Tomas Kral, Regional PVE Project Officer, reports on the resilience of the Maiduguri community in the face of uncertainty and describes the important role of civil society in contributing to stabilization efforts, preventing violent extremism and facilitating inclusive reintegration.

[Read more ►](#)



Annual workshop on peace and security in the Great Lakes Region

22-26 NOV: UNDP and partners participated in the 5-day International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Annual Workshop held in a hybrid format in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop aimed to define orientations for 2022 within the context of the ICGLR strategic framework, take stock of the current situation of the ICGLR and its environment, and identify ways to improve on the synergies between the work of the ICGLR organs and partners. Implementing partners also shared perspectives on lessons learned, challenges and envisaged activities for 2022.



AU Member States Retreat examines challenges and opportunities for collaboration on governance, peace and security

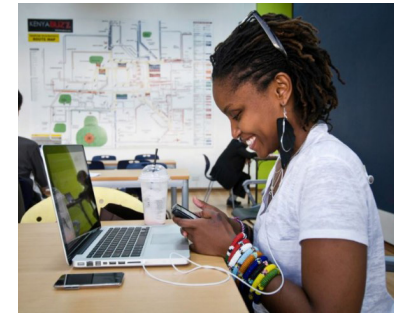
11-12 NOV: Organized in partnership with the Institute for Security Studies, key discussion points included: new geo-political dynamics and their impact on governance, peace and security in Africa; illicit exploitation of natural resources as drivers of conflict; external threats/ influences affecting peace and stability in Africa; and AU-RECs/RMs collaboration in the promotion of governance, peace and security.



2nd cohort of UNDP Stabilization Academy brought to a successful conclusion

“The diversity of backgrounds, experiences and contributions is an advantage because stabilization is a complex multidisciplinary and multifaceted field. The Stabilization Academy is part of the solution to the new demands for stabilization.” (2 DEC)

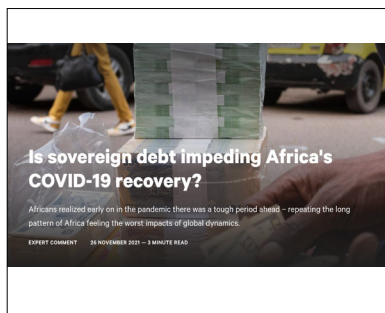
Stan Nkwain, Director, UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA)



The role of extractives in Africa’s inclusive green and resilient recovery

2 NOV: In this blog post, Daisy Mukarakate, UNDP Regional Climate Policy Advisor for Africa, writes that as global demand rises and the rush for minerals by corporates from rich countries heightens, the creation of a level playing field is key so African countries and the local communities that are directly impacted by their extraction also benefit socially and economically from their own resources.

[Read more ►](#)



Is sovereign debt impeding Africa's COVID-19 recovery?

26 NOV: In an article produced as part of the UNDP-Chatham House Policy for Recovery in Africa series, Professor Carlos Lopes writes that although Africa is the least indebted region when judged against GDP or per capita, it is the most affected by sovereign debt pressure and contributes the least greenhouse emissions but is the most affected by climate change.

[Read more ►](#)



African Economic Conference: Development community calls for universal vaccine access to mitigate impact of Omicron, other Covid-19 variants

3 DEC: The 16th edition of the African Economic Conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, development institutions, the private sector, and researchers, to discuss ways to sustainably grow the continent's development funding sources.

[Read more ►](#)



UNDP, Lake Chad Basin Commission provide training on civil-military dialogue in Hadjer-Lamis Province, Chad

22-28 NOV: More than 80 participants adopted acts of engagement, committing themselves to continued respect for human rights, civil-military dialogue, the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the creation of a civil-military committee at the local level to enhance cooperation, collaboration, confidence building, and to promote and restore trust between security forces and communities.



Launch of the Dear World Leaders initiative at COP26: messages from Africa

31 OCT-12 NOV: All too often, voices of world citizens, particularly those most marginalized and vulnerable, are forgotten in the debate around climate change. Ahead of COP26, UNDP launched a new initiative **Dear World Leaders** to help civil society to be heard by world leaders on climate change.

NEW Resources

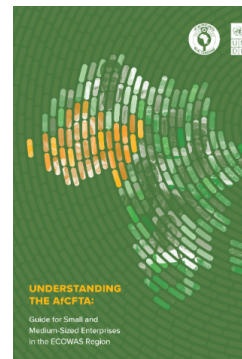
The Regional Programme aims to make research findings **accessible, relevant and accurate** in how they reflect the conditions affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups across the continent.

Guide for Integrated Planning in Africa



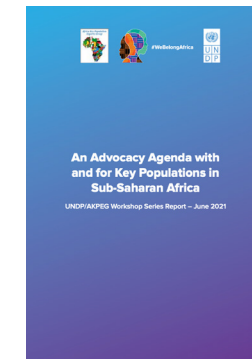
Interactive version ►
PDF version ►

Understanding the AfCFTA: Guide for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the ECOWAS Region



EN ►
French, Portuguese and Arabic versions coming soon

Workshop Report | An Advocacy Agenda with and for Key Populations in Sub-Saharan Africa (2021)



EN ►

Sahel Newsletter



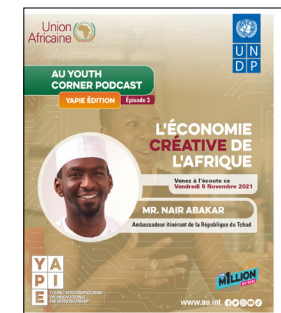
EN ►
FR ►

Report of the 3rd Governors' Forum of the Lake Chad Basin



EN ►
FR ►

UA-PNUD série de podcasts pour les jeunes : Épisode 3



Écouter maintenant ►
Dans cet épisode, nous accueillons un invité de marque, M. Nair Abakar, ambassadeur itinérant de la République du Tchad, pour nous aider à explorer une question importante qui affecte le paysage économique du continent: l'économie créative de l'Afrique.

DECEMBER 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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1 DECEMBER

UNDP-Chatham House Dialogue: Partnerships for Sustainable Development

1-17 DECEMBER

Kick-off of the "Grand Trail de la Jeunesse pour la Paix » (Youth and sports for peace project) to mobilize youth and build social cohesion through a 1,500 km running trail across Mali

2 DECEMBER

Implications of COP26 outcomes for Africa and rolling out Climate Promise Phase 2: From pledge to impact

2-4 DECEMBER

African Economic Conference | Cape Verde

6-8 DECEMBER

A Regional Action Plan for Africa & Facilitators Training Manual on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

9 DECEMBER

"A Regeneration" Implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS): UNDP's Contribution

9 DECEMBER

UNDP-Chatham House Dialogue: Private Sector Investment in Fragile Contexts

14 DECEMBER

9th United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC): Is State Reporting on Anti-Corruption Impactful? Reflections from Africa

15-17 DECEMBER

2nd Annual Regional Research Conference on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism | Nairobi, Kenya

15 DECEMBER

UNDP-Chatham House Dialogue: Regional Development Planning and Coordination **REGISTER**