

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA

Regional Programme Newsletter

February 2022

Vol. 16



EDITORIAL

Note

Laying the foundation for a solid AU–EU partnership

February was an eventful month for Africa-Europe relations.

The 35th Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government (**AU Summit**) was convened from 5 to 6 February 2022 in Addis Ababa – the first physical Summit in two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Key decisions were made on the state of peace and security in Africa, the historic approval of the autonomy of the Africa Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) from the AU Commission; and the appointment of President Macky Sall of Senegal as the AU Chairperson for 2022.

Following the **6th AU-EU Summit**, held on 17-18 February in Brussels, EU and AU leaders committed to a Joint Vision for a renewed Partnership to build a common future based on “solidarity, security, peace and sustainable and sustained economic development and prosperity for our citizens and for our future generations, bringing together our people, regions and organizations”.

UNDP’s contribution to strengthening Africa-Europe relations

In September 2021, the European Think Tanks Group (**ETT**), the Institute for Security Studies (**ISS**) and UNDP joined forces to analyze divergences and seek consensus between the AU and the EU on key issues. Drawing on roundtable discussions with more than 70 leading African and European independent experts, knowledge centres and think tanks, a series of policy briefs were produced with recommendations in the following areas:

In the area of **economic development**, Africa’s aspirations for industrialization, job creation, regional integration and inclusive green transformation agendas need to be supported as a global public good.

On **security and governance**, the AU has made progress towards financial autonomy with the creation of the AU Peace Fund. However, it continues to rely on external partners such as the EU including through the newly created European Peace Facility.

AU–EU cooperation can add value in managing fair transitions towards **green economies and clean energy** in line with the Paris Agreement, Africa’s growing population and increasing need for decent jobs and social inclusion.

The recommendations in the policy briefs will contribute to a volume that assesses the results of the EU–AU Summit.

Africa-Europe Week 2022: UNDP side event highlights opportunities in the AfCFTA for borderlands communities

16 FEB: During Africa-Europe Week 2022, and ahead of the 6th EU-AU Summit, UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa participated in three side events, the EU-Africa Business Forum, a high-level event on investing in health, and a side event on borderlands as a frontier for prosperity. The latter was organized in collaboration with UNICEF and UN Women, and brought together key stakeholders for an exchange on how borderlands can be a frontier for prosperity, including through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Speakers from the AfCFTA Secretariat, think tanks, UN agencies, government and the private sector discussed how to support borderland communities, especially women and youth, to better participate in cross-border economic activities; the potential role of innovation and technology in ensuring transformation of borderlands from pathways to centres of production; and what priority measures and policy measures are required to ensure borderlands communities benefit from the AfCFTA.

The poster features a smiling woman with traditional beaded jewelry against a background of a stylized African map. Logos for UN Women, Generation Unlimited, UNICEF, and the Africa Borderlands Centre are at the top right. The event title and date are prominently displayed, along with a list of time slots for Brussels, Addis Ababa, and New York. The hashtag #AfricaEU is at the bottom right.

UN WOMEN **GENERATION UNLIMITED** **unicef** for every child **Africa Borderlands Centre** **UN DP**

Borderlands as a frontier for prosperity, including through the AfCFTA

16 FEB 2022 | **Virtual Event**

Brussels: 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Addis Ababa: 3:00 – 5:00 PM
New York: 7:00 – 9:00 AM

#AfricaEU

Africa-Europe Week
14-18 Feb, 2022

TOGETHER. TOMORROW. TODAY.



Presenting the new Regional Programme for Africa 2022-2025

21 FEB: Over the next 4 years, the new Regional Programme for Africa will focus on 4 priority areas – **People, Prosperity, Planet and Peace** – in full alignment with the RBA Strategic Offer and the UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

Informed by the needs of regional actors and adapted to contextual realities, the new Regional Programme will embrace a people-centred approach through investing in new flagship initiatives, serving as an incubator for new ideas, and amplifying opportunities related to the priorities and aspirations defined by the African Union and other regional entities.

[Read more](#) ►

[Watch the video](#) ►



UNDP-Chatham House podcast on policy for recovery in Africa

21 FEB: This podcast episode highlights some of the key messages from the policy for recovery in Africa dialogue series that the Chatham House Africa Programme held in partnership with UNDP.

The dialogue series brought key stakeholders together to engage on issues affecting post-COVID-19 recovery in Africa, presenting a diverse range of opinions and insights focused on what policies are needed for accelerating recovery from the pandemic.

[Listen](#) ►



More than 1,500 youth participate in nation-wide Grand Trail de la jeunesse pour la Paix

1-18 DEC: More than 1,500 young women and men participated in the youth and sports for peace project (Grand Trail de la jeunesse pour la Paix) from Bamako to Gao in December 2021. The Grand Trail was a joint initiative organized by UNDP and IOM in Mali, under the patronage of the Minister of Youth and Sports.

The objective of the running event was to promote youth participation in the peace and reconciliation process in Mali. Along the trail, 10 youth dialogues were organized, allowing young participants to express their views and aspirations and to share their recommendations for a peaceful and inclusive transition in Mali.

[Read more \(FR\)](#) ►



Exploring the vulnerabilities and resilience of borderland farmers and pastoralists

14 FEB: The livelihoods of borderland farmers and pastoralists are subject to heightened levels of risk, exacerbated by a lack of access to basic services such as clean water, adequate health facilities, and electricity.

In this article, Lily Murei, Policy Research and Data Specialist at the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre explains how the Centre is partnering with two research organizations – WANEP in West Africa and INFOTRAK in the Eastern Horn – to examine how pastoralists and farmers in both regions cope with, survive and build resilience against the multiple vulnerabilities they face as borderland dwellers.

[Read more ►](#)



AU Youth Podcast Episode 4: Business as Usual After COVID-19?

“Even with the digital revolution coming into force, there are still many people facing the digital divide because they don’t have access or opportunities within the digital economy.” (11 JAN)

Michelle Chivunga, CEO and Founder of Global Policy House

[Listen ►](#)



Lessons for effective cross-border programming

21 FEB: In this blog post by Simone Beccaria, Programme Manager with the Africa Borderlands Centre, looks back at the SECCCI project (Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination of Cross Border initiatives), which was implemented jointly by UNDP, IGAD and UNEP between 2018 and 2021.

The project has proved to be a precious source of lessons to learn which best practices can be distilled and applied to similar cross-border and borderlands interventions in the future, given the extreme complexities of working in remote, often insecure and less known areas. A new guidance tool will support UNDP country offices, UN agencies and development actors in improving the quality and impact of projects and programmes in support of borderland communities in Africa.

[Read more ►](#)



Blog: Did COP26 move the needle on climate action? A young delegate from Zimbabwe reflects

“The choices we make today have a great impact in the future. We can and must do better.” (22 DEC)

Elizabeth Gulugulu, Member of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change in Zimbabwe

[Read more](#) ►



Webinar on the prospects for stabilization, recovery and resilience in the Lake Chad Basin Region

24 JAN: A joint webinar on the Prospects for Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin Region was organized by the Centre for Global Development and Centre for Global Security Challenges of the University of Leeds, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and UNDP.

LCBC Executive Secretary Amb. Mamman Nuhu presented an overview of the Regional Stabilization Strategy and mechanisms, focusing on the fragile and complex dynamics of the region impacted by the effects of climate change and violent conflict. A presentation by the RSS Secretariat around civil-military-humanitarian engagement in the region provided interesting insights and a space for dialogue on possible approaches and interventions that could be carried out by the stakeholders in the region.



Policy, Promise and Challenges: Youth, Peace and Security in 2021

8-10 DEC: UNDP and partners participated in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Multifunctional Youth Forum Peer Learning Workshop in celebration of six years of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security.

The workshop, held in Nairobi, Kenya, was themed “Policy, Promise and Challenges: Youth, Peace, and Security in 2021” and brought together development partners, youth organizations and Government ministries working on youth, peace and security to share best practices on engaging the youth in peace and security.



The Great Lakes Region Civil Society Symposium on Insider Mediation, Reintegration, Reconciliation & Preventing Violent Extremism

6-10 JAN: UNDP's Regional PVE Project, Resilience Hub and the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights supported 20 CSO partners from the Great Lakes (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda) and the Lake Chad Basin (Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon) to launch a symposium of Civil Society Organizations on Insider Mediation, Reintegration, Reconciliation and Preventing of Violent Extremism.

The aim of the workshop was to improve CSO participation and cement their role in the prevention of violent extremism, mediation and reintegration.



1st Sahel Communications Workshop on “The Case for Stabilization” takes place in Niamey, Niger

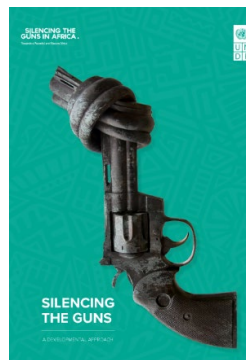
8-10 FEB: The UNDP Country Office in Niamey, Niger, welcomed over 30 programme and communications professionals from UNDP Country Offices in the Sahel, the African Union, the RSS Secretariat, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel and the Regional Communications Team for the inaugural Sahel Communications Workshop focused on “The Case for Stabilization.”

As a first of its kind for the sub-region, it provided an opportunity to collaboratively “think” and “design” a Regional Stabilization Communications Strategy covering the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) and the Liptako-Gourma Stabilization Facility (LGSF) along with a clear implementation strategy.

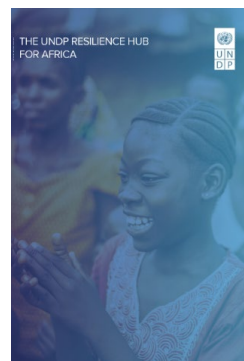
NEW Resources

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.

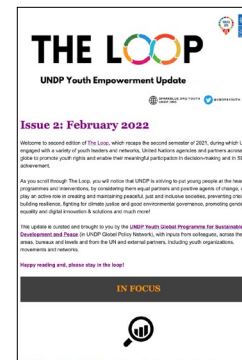
Silencing the Guns: A Developmental Approach



Resilience Hub Brochure



The Loop: UNDP Youth Empowerment Update Issue 2



PVE Newsletter Q4 2021



ETTG-ECDPM-UNDP joint reports

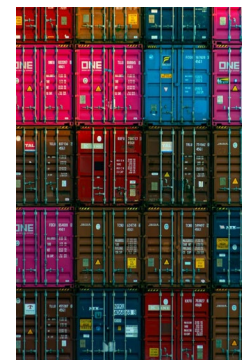
Green transformation in Africa-Europe relations: linking energy and adaptation with economic transformation



Beyond business as usual: Igniting the AU-EU partnership on peace, security and governance



Strengthening the AU-EU partnership on the economic development and trade agenda



WHAT CAN Data Tell Us?

African migration trends analysis: African migration remains highly intra-regional, with most migrants moving within the continent

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to leave its mark, there are various push and pull factors driving migration patterns across the African continent. Despite the fact that migration drivers differ by country, large trends such as conflict, violence, limited resources and climate change continue to intensify migration. The closing of African borders due to the pandemic further led to many migrants being left stranded and losing their livelihoods and homes. In some cases, migrants fell victim to human trafficking.

Intra-continental movement should be facilitated to enable a more integrated Africa that capitalizes on its own resources and strengths.

However, the results of forced displacement have majorly impacted source and destination economies. Over the years, forced displacement rose from 14.5 million in 2015 to 18.2 million in 2018 and it continues to grow at a rapid pace.

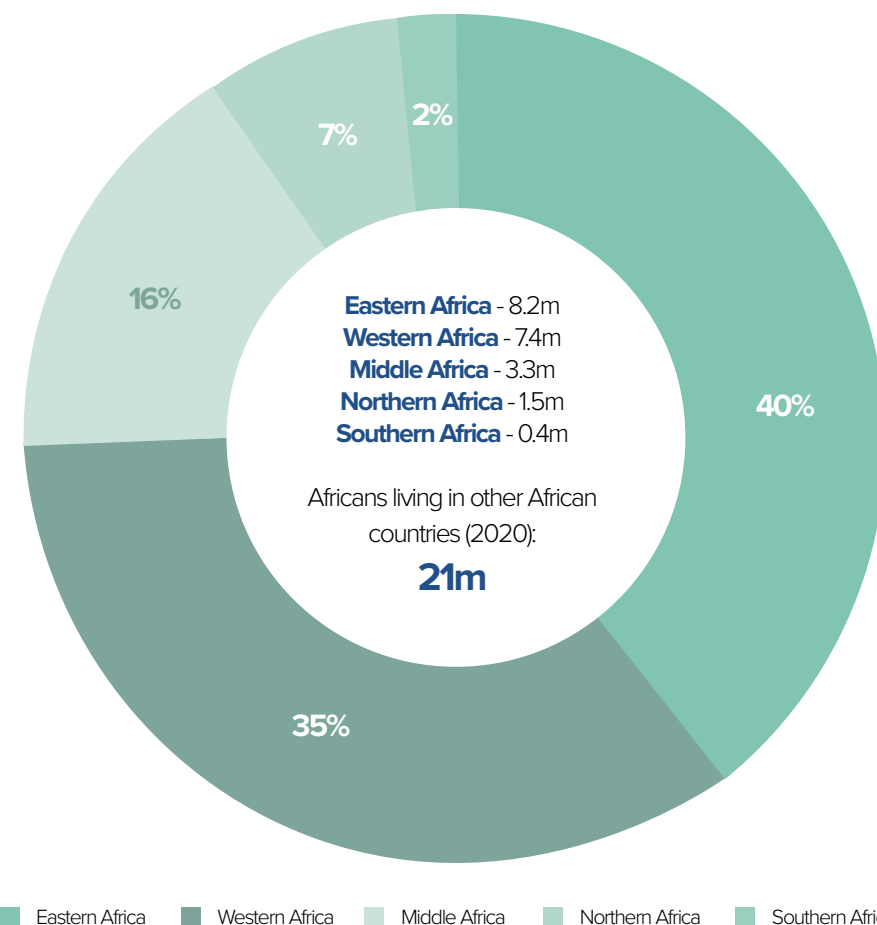
The African Migration Stock in 2020 shows a significant increase in migration, with:

- **21 million** Africans living in another African country, compared to **18.2 million in 2015**.

- **19.5 million** Africans residing on other continents, compared to **17 million in 2015**.
- **Only 2 million** migrated to Africa from other regions – a number which remains virtually unchanged since 2015.
- **Most migrants** come from conflict-affected regions.

Within the African continent:

- Migrants from **East Africa** account for approximately **40% of all African migration**, more than any other region. East Africa had a migration stock of 8.2 million in 2020, twice as high as 2010 – of which 4.2 million were men and 4 million were women.
- 7.4 million people migrated from **West Africa** to another African region, a number that has slowly increased from 6 million in 2010.
- **Southern Africa** is the only region from which migration has decreased to 0.4 million from 0.5 million since 2010, accounting for only 2% of African migration.
- **Nine out of the top 10 countries** with the largest migration numbers have ongoing armed conflicts.



WHAT CAN Data Tell Us?

South Africa remains the most preferred selection for migrants while Egypt, Morocco and South Sudan contribute to nearly half of all migrants in the continent. The women migrant ratios are either equal or lower compared to men in most countries.

African migration remains highly intra-regional and will continue to play a significant role in the development of our societies. UNDP has partnered with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to conduct flagship research on **Supporting Inclusive Transitions** to create an understanding of how the fallout from problematic transitions can give rise to mass migration, economic contraction, and in the worst cases to violent conflict. The research aims to provide updated, targeted analytics that will enable stakeholders across the continent to manage transitions more effectively, as well as providing an Africa-specific evidence base on which to ground new/improved responses.

Data source for all three tables: **UN DESA Migration Stock Data, 2020**

Top 10 Countries that source Migrants

