

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA

July 2021

Vol. 10



EDITORIAL Note



This month, we highlight the **2020 Annual Report** of UNDP’s Regional Programme for Africa. The report speaks to the successes and impact of the Regional Programme, detailing how UNDP pivoted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and supported the priorities of regional institutions such as the African Union’s continental strategy for the COVID-19 outbreak.

In her foreword, Ahunna Eziakonwa, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Africa, described how in 2020, UNDP “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.”

In the wake of COVID-19, 31 projects and initiatives formed partnerships around a common response to COVID-19 and implemented activities focused on stabilization and preventing violent extremism – particularly in borderlands areas, cross-border trade, resilience building, climate change, gender equality and youth empowerment among other intervention areas.

The Regional Programme is a tool for the incubation of new ideas, thought leadership and championing innovation across Africa’s development priorities. In 2020 alone, the Regional Programme produced over 100 regional assessments, including analyses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continue to inform programmatic intervention and policy advice at both country and regional levels.

This year, the Regional Programme is continuing to leverage partnerships with regional actors to strengthen development responses, drive transformation and growth, and contribute to the realization of inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities. A new Regional Programme Document for 2022-2025 is currently under development and more than 20 consultations have been organized with various stakeholders to identify priority areas for Africa.

Prominent tech experts appointed to steer vision for African-led 4th industrial revolution

17 JUNE: UNDP announced a Technical Advisory Group comprised of prominent technology experts to steer its “Africa Leading the 4th Industrial Revolution (AL4IR)” initiative. The initiative aims to drive the responsible adoption and use of emerging technologies for Africa’s transformation and growth. The team of experts, drawn from leading global technology firms such as Google and Uber to inventors, lawyers, activists and social influencers, bring to the initiative a wealth of insights, ideas and expertise in technology-enhanced transformation across several key sectors, including healthcare, governance, education, food systems, elections, access to the internet, mobility and open data for sustainable development.

Through UNDP, the Technical Advisory Group will help steer a vision of strengthening an African-led 4th industrial revolution with a solid and resilient foundation anchored on five key pillars: data, technology infrastructure, skilling revolution, agile governance and sustainable energy. The experts will collectively enhance Africa’s role and leadership within the realm of the 4th industrial revolution through the co-creation of ideas and solutions with institutions and countries within the region.

[Read More ▶](#)





RP Annual Report 2020

1 JULY: 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. Our Annual Report 2020 tells a story of Africa's resilience amid a global pandemic and provides a compelling narrative of how UNDP continued to support home-grown solutions and spearhead innovation at a regional level. The report speaks to the successes and impact of the Regional Programme, detailing how we pivoted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and supported the priorities of regional institutions such as the African Union's continental strategy for the COVID-19 outbreak

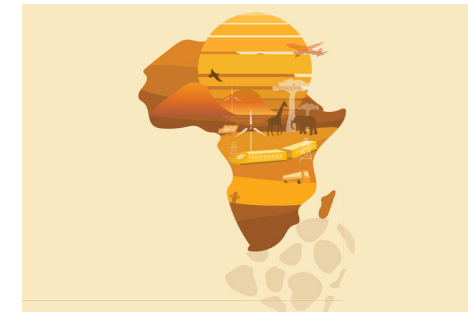
[More information ►](#)



AFRI CONVERSE Dialogue: Homegrown solutions can bolster Africa's COVID-19 response

25 JUNE: As several countries across Africa continue to be impacted by third and fourth waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the latest AFRI CONVERSE 2021 dialogue took a closer look at innovative local initiatives and the ongoing international support to bolster the continent's response to the virus. The AFRI CONVERSE dialogues, held bi-monthly to build momentum for TICAD 8 in 2022, aims to mobilize a diverse range of stakeholders from Africa and Japan to galvanize discussions on the best solutions for the continent.

UNDP's Regional Programme Coordinator for Africa, Jide Okeke, warned while there are innovative local initiatives underway to curb the spread of the virus across the continent, the impact of the pandemic on Africa's overall human development progress was particularly concerning from the lenses of peace, security and governance as well as social, economic and political aspects. He also underscored the importance of greater regional coordination and cooperation, support for capacity-building and SMEs, which account for 90% of all businesses on the continent and 85.8% of all jobs in the informal sector. UNDP's partnership with AfriLabs delivered intensive boot-camp training to 360 entrepreneurs from 120 small businesses, providing them with more than 1,500 hours in a high-tech business simulator and boosting their decision-making skills under various market conditions.



Boosting Africa's transformative power of tourism

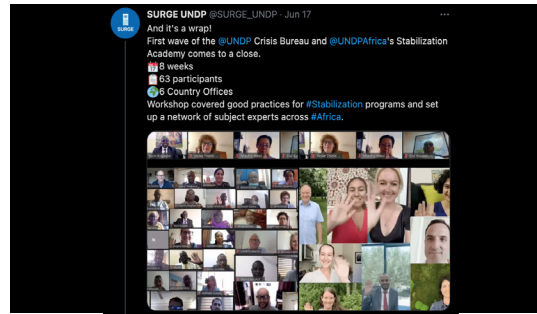
21 JUNE: Turning the disruption in tourism into new opportunities for improved competitiveness is essential for Africa's recovery from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was the key overarching message conveyed by Japan, the United Nations, the African Union and representatives of African states at the "Boosting Africa's Transformative Power of Tourism" high-level meeting. UN member states, UN agencies, regional and international organizations, and representatives of the private sector, were gathered ahead of the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), which will be held in Tunisia next year. Participants also underscored that active tourism policies will be critical to ensure we capture sustainability as a bedrock for recovery.

[Read more ►](#)



Preparing a roadmap for UNDP's stabilization offer for the Liptako-Gourma region

14-16 JUNE: The UNDP Sub-Regional Hub for West and Central Africa welcomed the Executive Secretary of the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) Saïdou Oua and his delegation to Dakar, Senegal for a three-day working session on strengthening stabilization interventions in the Liptako-Gourma region. The visit provided a unique opportunity to discuss and define the role of UNDP, the LGA and its member states in implementing the stabilization programme. The discussions touched on the pilot and scaling-up phase; the modalities for including regional and sub-regional institutions such as ECOWAS, AU, G5 Sahel etc.; the stabilization process and cross-border cooperation; and a roadmap for the development and implementation of UNDP's stabilization offer for the Liptako-Gourma Region.



Stabilization Academy boosts capacities and strengthens ties between UNDP's Africa Bureau and Crisis Bureau

17 JUNE: Business as usual isn't an option. Stabilization experts need to think outside the norms of UNDP operations and programming to uncover new solutions that help create environments where populations feel safe returning after violent crisis. In partnership with the German Foreign Affairs Office and with the support of leading voices in the field, UNDP's Crisis Bureau and Regional Bureau for Africa partnered to launch the Stabilization Academy to boost capacities in UNDP Country Offices and address stabilization needs to enable communities affected to return to normal as quickly as possible.

The Stabilization Academy sought to increase the understanding and delivery of stabilization approaches among 63 UNDP staff from six country offices. Following the eight-week training, the first wave of participants set up a network of subject experts to continue sharing best practices and build a solid foundation for UNDP programming on stabilization.

[Learn more](#) ►

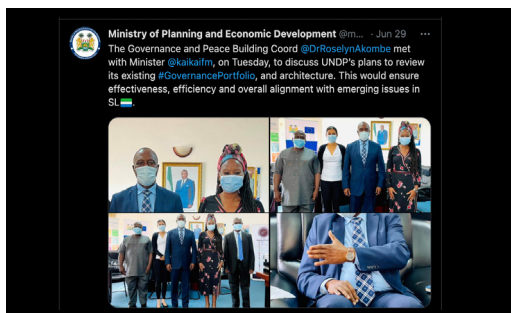


IGAD and UNDP to collaborate on resilience and borderlands development in the Horn of Africa

22-25 JUNE: Following a joint IGAD-UNDP workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya, the two organizations agreed to collaborate closely over the coming years to promote resilience and borderlands development in the Horn of Africa. An IGAD-UNDP technical working group will be established to develop an integrated programme on resilience and borderlands development with a focus on trade and livelihood, climate resilience, governance and peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction and human mobility.

Over 65 participants participated in the workshop, including representatives from UNDP country offices in Africa, UNDP's regional presence in the Arab states, and key partners from the African Union, Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, the World Bank, GIZ, Sweden, the European Union, Japan, UNEP and the Life and Peace Institute were represented. The workshop was cohosted by the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre and the Nairobi Resilience Hub.

[Read more](#) ►



Consultations held with Sierra Leone government for a new fit-for-purpose UNDP governance offer

29 JUNE: The RSCA Governance and Peacebuilding team, led by Roselyn Akombe, met with Sierra Leone's Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr. Francis Kai-Kai, to discuss the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies in support of national development priorities. The team also presented UNDP's ongoing consultations to review its governance portfolio and programme management architecture in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency and overall alignment with emerging issues in the country. Akombe said UNDP will work closely with key government institutions, development partners and civil society organizations to restructure a new fit-for-purpose governance offer that leaves no one behind.



Stakeholders launch Lake Chad Basin Civil Society Network on Inclusive Reintegration

24 JUNE: In collaboration with UNDP, civil society organizations (CSOs) launched a CSO Network on Inclusive Reintegration for Lake Chad Basin to create stronger societal alliances, enhance offline and online cooperation, promote engagements with key actors and facilitate exchanges with similar sub-regional platforms on the continent. The hybrid event, held in Abuja, was attended by national and international development actors, government stakeholders and donor community who discussed the contribution and strengthening of CSOs' participation in facilitating inclusive reintegration and the stabilization efforts of the Lake Chad region.

The two leading organizations of the network, **Eiman Peace Centre** and **Neem Foundation**, highlighted the need for more cooperation between civil societies and key security agencies in implementing peace and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes. "We must leverage on collaborative opportunities between the government and civil society organizations in the pursuit of a more resilient and secure society," said Maryam Uwais, Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria on Social Investments Protection.

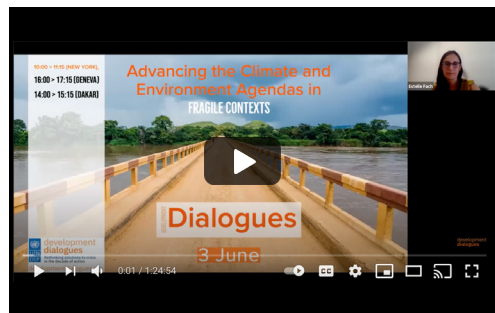
[Read more ►](#)



LCBC Steering Committee meeting on a regional strategy for stabilization, recovery and resilience

29 JUNE: The UNDP Regional Stabilization Facility supported the organization, by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) 2020 Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee meeting was called between representatives of national governments in the Lake Chad Basin region and other key stakeholders as the central decision-making mechanism that provides strategic, political, policy and programme oversight and oversees all aspects of implementation of the Strategy. The RSS Steering Committee, which reports to the LCBC Council of Ministers represents a platform for strategic review, decision-making and direction for the RSS and ensures joint mobilization of international support in a coordinated and synergized manner.

[Read the communique](#)
[English ►](#)
[French ►](#)



UNDP Development Dialogues: Advancing the Climate and Environment Agenda in Fragile Contexts

3 JUNE: On World Environment Day 2021, the Sahel Resilience Project participated in UNDP’s development dialogue on Advancing the Climate and Environment Agenda in Fragile Contexts. Njoya Tikum, Manager of UNDP’s Sub-Regional hub for West and Central Africa, explained how the interaction of climate and environmental risks with the socio-economic and political realities of fragile contexts warrants a systemic and multi-hazard approach that mobilizes all of UNDP’s assets in West and Central Africa to accelerate sustainable development.

[Watch the dialogue ►](#)



Celebrating the 40th anniversary of African Charter of Human and Peoples’ Rights

30 JUNE: The government of Mozambique, CSOs, UNDP Mozambique and RSCA co-organized a roundtable discussion on the theme ‘Realities of forty years of implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the journey towards The Africa We Want’. Participants reflected on the applicability and domestication of the charter with a focus on how to improve and monitor its implementation in the country.



UNDP Uganda and Malawi share lessons on ending violence against women and girls

1-2 JUNE: Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today. UNDP actively participated in the Annual Continental Coordination Platform jointly organized by the African Union and UN Women to promote learning among Spotlight Initiative programme countries. The Spotlight Initiative is an UN-EU multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls. Featuring experiences from UNDP country offices Uganda and Malawi on implementing the initiative, the discussions were informed by statistical information on progress and challenges to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Harmful Practices, and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR).

RECAP



UNDP Development Dialogues: Old wine in new bottle? Nexus between climate, security and fragility in Africa

Speakers

Ambassador Fred Ngoga

Office of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security
African Union Commission

Clionadh Raleigh

Executive Director
ACLED

Florian Krampe

Director of Climate Change and Risk Programme
SIPRI

Jide Okeke (Moderator)

Regional Programme Coordinator for Africa
UNDP



Oslo III PVE Conference: Climate Change and Violent Extremism in Africa

Speakers

Charles Cater

Independent Expert

Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim

International Crisis Group Sahel

Drissa Doumbia

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mali

Linda Ogallo

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre- ICPAC

Joyce Deloge

United Nations Development Programme, Tanzania

Nirina Kiplagat (Moderator)

UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa

KNOWLEDGE Products

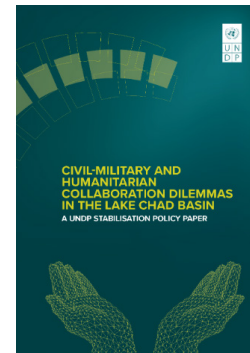
The Regional Programme aims to make research findings **accessible, relevant and accurate** in how they reflect the conditions affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups across the continent.

Regional Programme Annual Report 2020



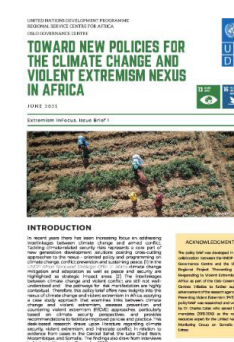
EN ►
FR ►

Lake Chad Policy Paper



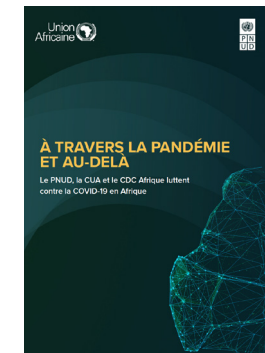
EN ►
FR ►

PVE Policy Brief



►

À travers la pandémie et au-delà



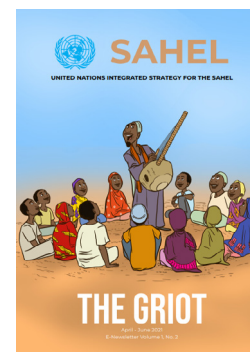
FR ►

UNISS Progress Report



EN ►
FR ►

UNISS Newsletter



EN ►
FR ►

Sahel Resilience Project July 2021 Newsletter



EN ►
FR ►

JULY 2021 Calendar



Subscribe to this monthly newsletter to receive regular updates from the Regional Programme for Africa.

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.

rp.africa@undp.org
Twitter: @UNDPAfrica
www.africa.undp.org

6 JULY

High-Level Political Forum 2021 Side Event: As governance crises worsen COVID-19 impact, is SDG 16 key for recovery?

7 JULY

African Integration Day

8-9 JULY

National Consultation: Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) - Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

15 JULY

Africa Day at the High-Level Political Forum 2021: The Green Recovery – Renewable Energy, Digitalization and Nature-Based Solutions for Inclusion and Resilience in Africa. [Register](#)

21 JULY

Fireside Chat: Youth as stakeholders, not spectators of the AfCFTA implementation

2-13 JULY

14th Consultation of the Regional Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa

14 JULY

Comprehensive assessment of the status of multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS)

31 JULY

Africa Women's Day

JULY (TBC)

Comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the role of disaster risk governance in the Western Sahel and Lake Chad Basin region by Data-Pop Alliance

JULY (TBC)

Informal Briefing to Chad UN Country Team on the Territorial Action Plans

JULY (TBC)

Territorial Action Plans (TAPs) political validation for Nigeria

JULY (TBC)

CSOs Territorial Platform Workshop, N'Djamena, Chad

JULY (TBC)

Launch of Gender Equality Seal in public institutions in IGAD and ECOWAS regions

JULY (TBC)

PVE project virtual exchange on emerging good practices and sharing lessons learned on "Civil-Military Community Dialogues to Enhance Delivery of Public Service"

JULY (TBC)

ICGLR-UNDP Technical Workshop