

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA

Regional Programme Newsletter

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Youth Speak



2021 YouthConnekt Africa Summit: Young people call for inclusive policies for Africa's prosperity

20-22 OCT: The 2021 YouthConnekt Africa Summit took place in Accra, Ghana, under the theme “Africa Beyond Aid: Positioning the Youth for the Post-COVID Economy and AfCFTA Opportunities”. The 4th summit connected African youth from across the continent and beyond with policymakers and influencers, political and industry leaders in the public, private and development sector by creating a platform for conversations on how to design and accelerate youth-led initiatives at the continental level.

The summit made a resounding call to ensure that the formulation and implementation of policies are more inclusive and representative of Africa's largest population – young people. The youth challenged African leaders to move beyond commitments to implementation, in a deliberate way that nurtures the potential of young people, enabling them to harness their creativity, innovation and unique entrepreneurial spirit for the continent's prosperity.

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Spotlight on UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa Director, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa's Mission to Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad and Ghana

20-22 OCT: The United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Bureau for Africa Director, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, visited Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, and Ghana from 2-23 October to support people and governments in the region towards COVID-19 recovery, stabilization, and women and youth empowerment.

In all countries, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa met with **women** and **youth entrepreneurs** and other key actors in the **private sector**, emphasizing the **urgency in seizing critical opportunities** to **accelerate Africa's sustainable development** – stressing on the importance of leveraging wealth creation through investing in **innovations, women, youth**, the **creative industry** and the **private sector**.

Ending her mission in Ghana, she opened the **YouthConnekt Africa Summit** which mobilised over 15,000 youth from across Africa towards an Africa Beyond Aid. Ms Eziakonwa underlined the role the One African Market can play in transforming the continent and the opportunities it creates for African people. “The Youth Connekt Africa 2021 Summit reminded us that **it is possible to change** the reality and destiny of this vibrant continent – through engaging with each other in a new way.”





Youth from Africa's borderland communities shine at YouthConnekt Africa '21

20-22 OCT: Five youth from Africa's borderlands captivated summit participants in a session dedicated to unpacking the role of youth in community-initiated development efforts. Titled "Elevating youth voices to strengthen resilience in borderland communities", the dynamic panel featured start-up founders and activists in climate responsibility, gender and education with a keynote address delivered by Hon. Daisry Ndesihala Mathias, Presidential Advisor for Youth Matters and Enterprise Development in Namibia.

Nominated through UNDP country offices and the Africa Borderlands Centre to attend the Summit, the borderlands youth shared their experiences and solutions to tackling real challenges in their respective communities. For example, a mobile application to support payments for cross-border traders in Zambia, a logistics company that transports and handles customs and duty to safely deliver trade goods for small-scale traders in Zimbabwe, an activist promoting peace through access to education in Kenya's Turkana County, an environmentalist determined to minimize the effects of climate change and human mobility on security stability along the Angola-Namibia border, and a gender activist with a captivating personal story championing the rights and dignity of women in South Sudan.



Sweden and UNDP sign agreement to promote socio-economic development and peacebuilding in Africa's borderlands

13 OCT: The Government of Sweden, represented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and UNDP signed a SEK 5,000,000 agreement to promote socio-economic development and peacebuilding in Africa's borderland regions in the Liptako-Gourma in West Africa, and the Karamoja Cluster in East Africa. The one-year partnership, which will be implemented by UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Life and Peace Institute (LPI), will embrace the opportunities in Africa's borderlands with a particular focus on engaging and empowering women and youth along 3 areas of focus:

i) improving livelihoods for borderland communities in the Liptako-Gourma region through promoting innovation on informal cross-border trade and access to markets in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso; ii) strengthening the engagement and capacity of borderland civil society organizations in East Africa and the Horn of Africa; and iii) promoting sustainable peace and development in the Karamoja region of Uganda and Kenya, while supporting the Governments of Kenya and Uganda in the development a cross-border programme.

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Landmark US\$500 million agreement launched at COP26 to protect the DR Congo's forest

2 NOV: President Félix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom on behalf of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) endorsed **an ambitious 10-year agreement (2021-31)** to protect the Congo Basin rainforest – the world's second largest. The agreement will unlock on-the-ground multi-donor investments of US\$500 million for the first five years. Exacerbated by extreme poverty, forest loss in the DRC is mainly due to a growing population lacking livelihood opportunities outside the forest and relying mostly on fuelwood for cooking, all that in the absence of land use planning. Any solution proposed to stem forest loss in the DRC must therefore focus on rural development, poverty reduction, and better food security.

Through this new multi-year partnership, the DRC aims to first cap forest cover loss at its 2014-2018 average and ensure that deforestation continues to decline. The partnership will also promote the regeneration of 8 million hectares of degraded land and forests, and place 30% of national areas under a protection status, including areas where local communities undertake efforts to manage forests sustainably.

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Africa champions the data revolution for the continent's development

13 OCT: UNDP's **Africa Leading the 4th Industrial Revolution Initiative**, led by the UNDP Resilience Hub for Africa, convened the first event in a new dialogue series on the foundations of Africa's leadership in harnessing the 4th Industrial Revolution. The Dialogue Series promotes public engagement with data for greater accountability and explores challenges and opportunities around ethics, inclusivity, responsibility and security to enhance 4IR technologies as public goods.

This first dialogue, on Harnessing the Data Revolution for Africa's Development, focused on Africa's progress in harnessing data in the 4th Industrial Revolution to catalyze actions on policies and practices for inclusive development outcomes and to show how the data revolution is delivering at scale in Africa. The session was attended by over 90 participants from government, private sector, academia, civil society, foundations, research and development practitioners, United Nations and multilateral agencies.

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Op-ed: Lake Chad Basin and stabilization in the post-Shekau era

13 OCT: The passing of Abubakar Shekau in May 2021, the long serving leader of the Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) faction of Boko Haram, sent shockwaves across the sub-region and the international community. Noticing the vacuum created by the death of Shekau, ISWAP seized the opportunity to move in and present itself as the most prominent violent extremist group in the region and has deepened its relationship with the Islamic State (IS), thus making itself a global threat and expanding the network and reach of such groups.

This op-ed explores how intra- and inter-group subtleties within the region have created a window for military success and stabilization interventions as different actors seek to gain an unassailable edge against Boko Haram. The Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience (RSS) of the Boko Haram affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region actioned in 2018 by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union, seeks to respond to evolving trends by building state interaction with communities, especially at the rural level; improving security and livelihood conditions in these communities; and successfully managing the ongoing mass disengagements from Boko Haram.

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UNDP Horn of Africa leadership strengthens ties across borders

26 OCT: The first UNDP Horn of Africa Resident Representatives Forum, which took place virtually, closed with commitments on strengthening development ties across borders through support for joint analysis, planning and action. The Forum is an annual platform that brings together UNDP Resident Representatives from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan, as well as senior leadership from RBAS and RBA regional offices, to discuss cross-border development planning and cooperation in the region.

The forum concluded that the future of the Horn depends, in good measure, on taking steps to help transform development conditions on the ground, whether to combat poverty, address the connected challenges of rapid population growth, climate change and sustainability, or promote peaceful and inclusive societies. UNDP leadership in the sub-region expressed their commitment in supporting a development paradigm shift from vulnerability and crisis to sustainable development and economic prosperity.

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The amount spent directly on fossil fuel subsidies is three times the annual amount needed to eradicate global extreme poverty: time to make the choice

29 OCT: The world spends an astounding US\$423 billion annually to subsidize fossil fuels for consumers – oil, electricity that is generated by the burning of other fossil fuels, gas, and coal. This is four times the amount being called for to help poor countries tackle the climate crisis, one of the sticking points ahead of the COP26 global climate conference next week, according to new UNDP research.

UNDP's analysis highlights that these funds, paid for by taxpayers, end up deepening inequality and impeding action on climate change. The report, published ahead of the upcoming G20 and COP26 meetings, is being launched in the context of a growing recognition of the need for reform of fossil fuel subsidies by economists and policymakers as well as the IMF and World Bank. The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has also made a strong call for reform.

[Read more ►](#)

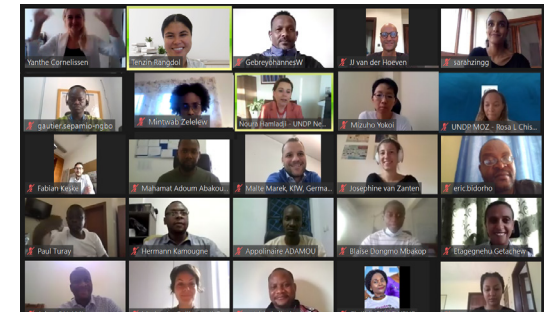


Blog: International cooperation for developing countries is essential to reduce disaster risks and losses

13 OCT: Many developing countries lack the capacity or resources to adequately design disaster risk reduction strategies that, if acted on, can help lay the foundations for success in achieving several of the SDGs, including eradicating poverty, curbing climate change while adapting to its impacts and building sustainable cities and communities. COVID-19 has also made it clear that nobody is safe until we are all safe. International support for disaster risk reduction is, more than a moral obligation, an essential requirement to build the resilience of our international community and planet together.

In Africa, climate change-related disasters in the context of multiple crises such as conflict, famine and epidemics are felt disproportionately and made worse with the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has left an estimated 23 million people in poverty. Regional collaboration in the context of the pandemic culminated on 20 April with the launch of a collaborative endeavour between the AU, UNDP, other UN agencies and the African Development Bank to support the development of a COVID-19 recovery framework for Africa. The framework guides resilient socio-economic recovery efforts at the continental, regional and national levels from a multi-risk perspective, creating preconditions for building resilient societies in Africa.

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UNDP Stabilization Academy welcomes second cohort

13 OCT: Currently in its second wave, the UNDP Stabilization Academy is training 80 experts from across Africa, including staff from UNDP country offices, donor governments, the AU and the African Development Bank. During the 9-week induction training, participants embark on a learning journey through all the stages of stabilization programming, covering the key principles, monitoring and evaluation, operations, partnerships, communications and more.

The learning journey continues in the online Stabilization Campus where participants can access additional learning opportunities, peer-to-peer networking and engagement opportunities. Launched in April 2021 as a joint initiative between UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa and Crisis Bureau, with support from the German Government, the Stabilization Academy has created a pool of over 140 experts on stabilization with wide-ranging technical expertise in providing hands on support to countries in stabilization settings.



CSO consultative workshops held to strengthen stabilization strategy in Lake Chad Basin region

OCT: The Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) project for the Lake Chad Basin region organized two workshops in Niamey, Niger and Yaoundé, Cameroon. The workshops aimed to strengthen CSO engagement in the implementation of the RSS, discuss expectations on peace and stabilization and review the approach in both design and roll out of the Directory and Information Management System (DIMS).

Launched in April 2021 to create the information management space for LCBC Regional CSO Platforms, the DIMS project supports civil society's active engagement in the implementation of the Territorial Action Plans (TAPs), nourishing cross-border collaboration and organizational sustainability. A similar workshop was conducted in September 2021 in Abuja, Nigeria and fourth workshop is expected to be organized in Chad.

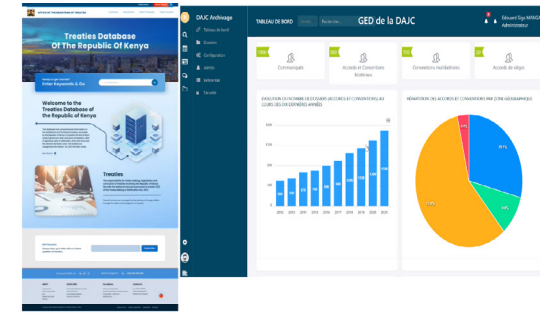


Blog: Aligning the stars: Cabo Verde's INFF boosts digital marketplace to connect local entrepreneurship with SDG investment

20 OCT: This blog post explores how Cabo Verde, a small-island developing state off the coast of West Africa with its own set of unique financing challenges, is an integrated national financing framework (INFF) pioneer country, following a commitment by the Ministry of Finance at the UN General Assembly in 2019 alongside leaders from 15 other countries. For Cabo Verde, the INFF provides an opportunity for the government to systematically rethink its strategy, focusing on harnessing the power and resources of the private sector – especially Cabo Verde's young entrepreneurs.

Through the INFF, the government and UNDP began to examine all the different existing and potential instruments available to encourage greater involvement of the private sector in the financing landscape. The example of Cabo Verde highlights an important lesson: to unlock the SDG financing potential of these everyday citizens, governments need to create inclusive and accessible spaces for private sector engagement, facilitate access to financial resources and tools – and then get the incentives right.

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Experience and knowledge sharing consultative meeting on developing a treaties registry

26 OCT: Within the framework of the AU Treaties project, an experience and knowledge sharing meeting was held between four UNDP country offices (Senegal, Sao Tome, Mozambique and Kenya) on the establishment of treaty registration services. Senegal presented their experience on developing a digitization and electronic archiving system to create a digital treaties registry.

A demonstration session of the Electronic Document Management (EDM), a software that aims to automate the physical archiving procedures of files and documents in a global information system was held with Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Senegal. The aim of the meeting was to present the tools and techniques for acquiring, filing, storing and managing electronic documents within the regular framework of the Ministry's activities. UNDP's AU Treaties project is designed to address the challenges and bottlenecks associated with the ratification, domestication and implementation of six AU treaties.

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.

PVE Newsletter

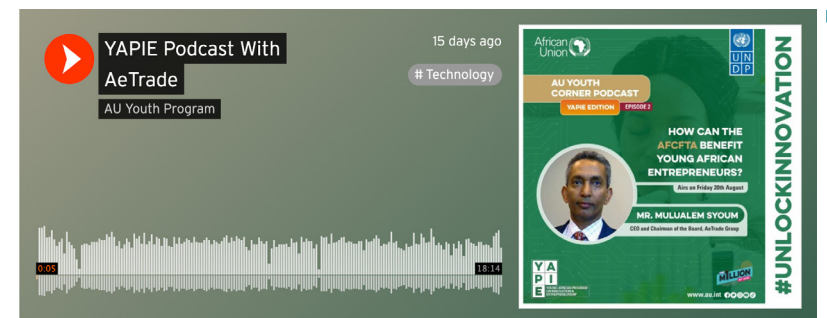


Sahel Resilience Letter



EN ►
FR ►

AU Youth Corner Podcast Episode 2: How the AFCFTA can help young African entrepreneurs?
Guest: Mr. Muluaem Syoum, CEO of AeTrade



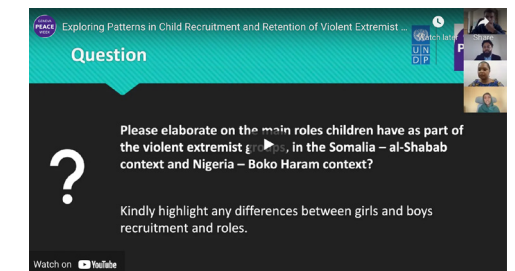
Video: The Africa Borderlands Centre Innovation Challenge - Sudan and South Sudan, Abyei Mission



Video: Towards Stronger Alliances: The CSO Network on Inclusive Reintegration for the Lake Chad Basin



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NOVEMBER 2021 Calendar

31 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2021
Glasgow Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 26)

1 NOVEMBER
(AFRICA YOUTH DAY): launch of Generation Unlimited Sahel | A Leap for Sahel Youth

1-2 NOVEMBER
National Consultation on Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) | Lusaka, Zambia

1-5 NOVEMBER
PVE Africa in Geneva Peace Week 2021 ([REGISTER](#))

1-5 NOVEMBER
Voices of the Sahel Conversations ([JOIN ON SPARKBLUE](#))

2-4 NOVEMBER
IOM, LCBC, Fourth Regional Exchange Workshop on DRR in the Lake Chad Basin Region | Abuja, Nigeria

4 NOVEMBER
PVE Community of Practice webinar on PVE and Inclusion: Coordination Mechanism for PVE Strategies, Development Process, Implementation and Monitoring

9 NOVEMBER
First meeting of the Implementation Support Mechanism (ISM) of the UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region

9 NOVEMBER
UNDP UN-Habitat Regional Urban Resilience Assessment Methodology

9 NOVEMBER
Tax Inspectors Without Borders: Tackling Tax Avoidance and Evasion in the Post-Pandemic Era ([REGISTER](#))

10-11 NOVEMBER
Research Dialogue on Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Africa | Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

10-11 NOVEMBER
CSO Consultative Workshop | N'Djamena, Chad



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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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11-12 NOVEMBER

AU Member States Technical Experts Retreat | Zanzibar, Tanzania

16-19 NOVEMBER

8th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction | Nairobi, Kenya

16 NOVEMBER - 9 DECEMBER

Online Training on Climate and Disaster Risk Financing

18 NOVEMBER

PVE Africa Practitioners Session: Enhancing the Use of Behavioral Science & Insights in Preventing Violent Extremism

22-28 NOVEMBER

AUC, LCBC, GIZ Training on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support MHPSS in the Lake Chad Basin Region | Niamey, Niger

30 NOVEMBER-1 DECEMBER

YouthConnekt Sahel Forum | Dakar, Senegal ([REGISTER](#))