



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa

Annual Report

2014



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Creating momentum for a vibrant Africa	4
Equipping UNDP to deliver	5
Promoting Inclusive economic transformation	7
Transforming governance	8
Fostering resilience	10
Engaging Africa in global debates	12
Boosting the participation of women	14
Looking ahead to 2015	15

Introduction

The 2014 RBA Annual Report provides a snapshot of development progress and improvements in organizational processes. The report takes a look at the strategies and mechanisms established by the bureau as part of UNDP's agenda for change. It also looks at some of the programmes led by RBA HQ, the Regional Service Center in Addis Ababa and Country Offices around the region this past year.

In 2014, Sub-Saharan Africa continued to show average annual growth rates of around 5 percent. With investments in increasingly diverse economic sectors, improved political stability, better governance, greater security and more stable macroeconomic frameworks, the region appeared to be set on a resolute trajectory of growth and development.

On the social and political fronts, countries in the region organized a wide number of peaceful elections, with 11 countries holding national, parliamentary and legislative ballots: Botswana, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, and South Africa.

Steady economic growth, coupled with increased peace and security, also contributed to accelerated progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Eight of the world's top ten MDG performers are now situated in Africa.

Meanwhile, the continent projected unity and confidence at the launch of its new Common African Position on the Post-2015 development agenda. The agenda is more holistic, better integrated and it emphasizes the importance of economic transformation and other key processes and indicators.

But the path to sustainable development in the region remains fraught with risk, uncertainty and reversals. 2014 was the year Ebola came to undo years of economic and development progress in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In 2014, Boko Haram also stepped up its attacks on the people of Northern Nigeria, affecting neighboring Cameroon and Niger, and South Sudan and the Central African Republic descended into war. Elsewhere, countries and communities remained vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events, while hunger and other type of insecurity continued to cast their shadow over the Sahel, the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa.

UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) is gearing itself to tackle these complex challenges and diverse situations. In the wake of the new Strategic Plan and subsequent structural review, the bureau is now more nimble, coherent and efficient in its programming. Units at Headquarters have been re-organized, and the bureau's regional hub in Addis Ababa is equipping itself to provide a better package of integrated support to Country Offices and regional entities.

UNDP's response to the Ebola crisis focuses on: Stronger coordination and service delivery; community mobilization and outreach; socio-economic impact and recovery. (Photo: Lesley Wright/ UNDP)



Creating momentum for a vibrant Africa



Structural economic transformation is at the heart of Africa's post-2015 development agenda.

The new Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 aims to enable UNDP to better respond to programme countries' needs and aspirations, currently and beyond 2015.

RBA's new regional programme for 2014-2017, aligned with the Strategic Plan and consistent with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, was designed to better respond to African challenges and priorities, as articulated by the African Union (AU) and other regional institutions.

UNDP's regional work in Africa is based on five mutually reinforcing regionality principles: promotion of regional public goods and services; management of cross-border externalities and spill-overs; advancement of awareness, dialogue and action on sensitive or emerging development issues; promotion of innovation; and generation and sharing of development knowledge and experience.

RBA is in the process of transforming its regional programme outcomes into five key projects, crystallizing UNDP's contribution to the African Union's Agenda 2063:

Promoting inclusive economic transformation:

Respond and contribute to structural transformation through interventions that address the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of inclusive growth. The project aims to do so by promoting sustainable energy access and better natural resources management, and by enhancing productivity and employment opportunities for the excluded and the poor.

Transforming governance:

Build on the engagement and connectivity of Africa's citizens to encourage dialogue between decision-makers and civil society, increase the role of regional oversight institutions and further reduce the possibility of exclusion and discrimination. The objective of this project is to expand and maximize political space, increase economic governance, and re-define Africa's social contract.

Fostering resilience:

UNDP will strengthen the continent's capacity to prevent conflict, while building an integrated pathway for disaster risk reduction and tackling climate change. These 2 project components constitute key "drivers" for the achievement of Africa's structural transformation agenda.

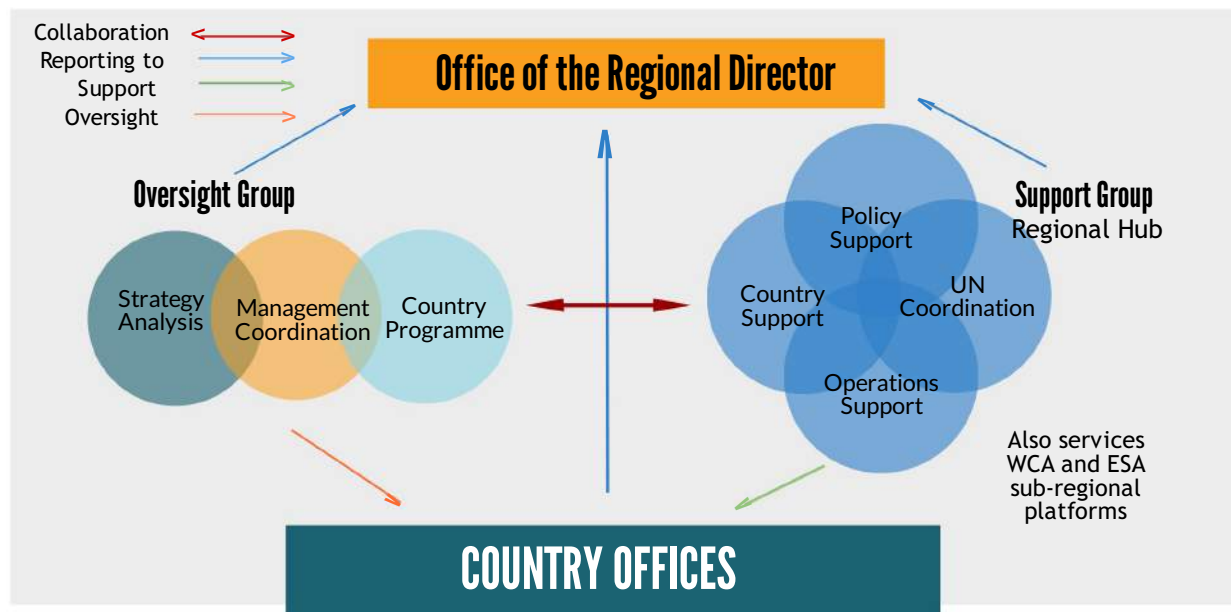
Engaging Africa in global debates:

The project will help to build consensus among a wide diversity of regional development actors, including public institutions, private sector stakeholders and civil society organizations. At the same time, it will bring closer together the African Union, the RECs and other regional bodies, increasing their ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Boosting the participation of women:

Increase the capacity of regional institutions and countries to boost women's participation in the social, political and economic spheres. Empowering women is not only an end in itself but is also instrumental in achieving higher levels of economic growth and human development.

Equipping UNDP to deliver



Structural Review

In 2014, as part of the corporate structural review exercise, significant changes were implemented in New York and Addis Ababa, aimed at improving the way we work.

RBA now makes a clear distinction between Country Office oversight on the one hand, and Country Office support on the other. New York is responsible for conducting oversight, a function that is supply-driven and consists in analyzing and passing judgment regarding the quality of CO policies, programmes and operations. Meanwhile, hosted at the regional hub, the support function, which is demand-driven, helps ensure country-level policies, programmes and operations are sound. Vertical integration (New York – Addis Ababa) will ensure both oversight and support are provided in a coordinated manner to all Country Offices. Horizontal integration will take place within the regional hub, creating a single interface for Country Offices to deliver seamless support from the various advisory functions.

RBA in New York is now composed of the Directorate, plus separate teams for country oversight, strategic analysis, and management support. The bureau at headquarter-level contributes to UNDP's strong positioning in the region, and serves as a point of contact for other New York units and UN institutions.

The regional hub in Addis Ababa has been reconfigured and augmented to include a country support team and a policy team that includes four

clusters: 1. Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Development; 2. Democratic Governance and Conflict Prevention; 3. Climate Change and Resilience; 4. Coherence and Coordination, including an augmented RBM and M&E team. The regional hub supports Country Offices and consists of a Country Support Team working with BPPS, BERA, BoM and CRU. In addition to providing day-to-day programme and operations support for Country Offices, the team will serve as the entry point for Country Office requests.

There are two sub-regional platforms, one in Dakar and the other in Nairobi. These form an integral part of UNDP's regional presence and they lead sub-regional initiatives such as the ones in the Sahel and the Great Lakes, representing UNDP in regional UN Development Group meetings.

The bureau has managed the structural review smoothly, organizing job fairs in New York and Addis Ababa and overseeing the classification of 39 positions, with 15 of them filled within the first and second rounds of the job fair. While the RBA structure at HQ has been reduced by more than one third (to 27 positions), the changes under the Structural Review have resulted in a net increase of the capacity of UNDP in the region. Most notably, BPPS Policy support positions in Africa have doubled to over 80 while the RBA Country Office Support Team has 23 positions (including 4 professional M&E and RBM resources – in line with the demand for higher quality, evidence-based programming.) In the region, 16 out of 46 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa underwent a restructuring processes under the Financial Sustainability Exercise (FSE).

Strengthening our support to Country Offices

One of RBA's top objectives in 2014 has been to help better define and service national development priorities. Throughout the year, the bureau supported the preparation of Country Programme Documents (CPD) for Angola, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, and Sierra Leone, organizing in-depth consultations and missions with those Country Offices. In addition, 16 offices were trained to better align their programmes during the course of two workshops, supported by a team comprising members of the Executive Office, BPPS, BOM and others. The year also saw the institutionalization of the project appraisal committee, a quality assurance mechanism for CPDs.

In 2014, UNDP also stepped up its support for MDG acceleration, with six MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) and Action Plans finalized and endorsed, including in the Gambia (improving agricultural productivity and food security), Kenya (improving maternal and neonatal health), Swaziland (maternal health), Zimbabwe (education) and Mauritania (maternal health).

In addition, several strategic support missions took place to help countries respond to their specific set of challenges. For instance, together with the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR, now CRU), RBA conducted a programming mission to South Sudan, helping to define a response to the crisis that erupted in December 2013, and resulting in a comprehensive programme of recovery that includes support for reconciliation, access to justice and livelihoods.

Missions were also sent to UNDP offices in Mauritius and Seychelles to prepare for the implementation of a "differentiated presence", which includes a requirement for significant government cost-sharing. Another important mission was sent to Chad, where the management audit triggered a change process expected to improve programmes and operations.

Business Intelligence

RBA is now making full use of the Business Intelligence Dashboard (BID), enabling users to browse through programme, management, XB, evaluation, and audit reports on a single website and using filtered search options. Since 2011, the dashboard has provided the basis from which COs learn from past, current and projected data to produce trackable results.

In 2014, 11 Country Office audits were conducted. Three were found satisfactory, 7 partially satisfactory, and 1 unsatisfactory. Out of a total of 83 recommendations made, 18 have been implemented, 37 are in progress and 28 are not yet implemented.

Photo: Benoit Almeiras/UNDP



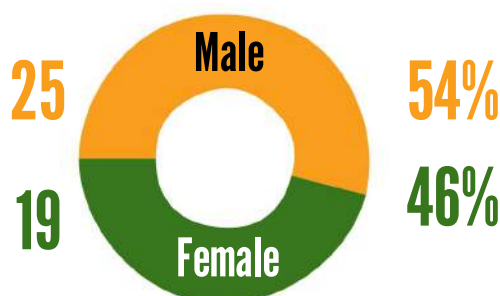
Top 5 offices in RBA's composite rankings (last 12 months)

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. DRC | 4. Guinea-Bissau |
| 2. Zimbabwe | 5. Madagascar |
| 3. Ethiopia | |

	2013	2014
Pgm delivery	1.002 bn	1.019 bn
Delivery	84%	87.5%

Number and % of male vs. female RCs

RBA continues to aim for gender balance at all staff levels and has had, for instance, large numbers of women in Resident Coordinator positions.



Promoting inclusive economic transformation

In line with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which emphasizes eradicating poverty and hunger, UNDP worked throughout 2014 to enhance the capacity of regional and sub-regional institutions to adopt policies, plans and strategies directed towards building economies capable of creating jobs and livelihoods for all, while managing natural resources and ecosystems sustainably.

Harnessing extractives for development

UNDP has been encouraging countries to use their extractive activities to open opportunities for economic diversification, transformation and the creation of jobs, while promoting environmentally and socially sustainable practices.

In February, on the margins of Africa's largest annual mining conference, "Mining Indaba", UNDP joined multilateral development organizations, urging the private sector to help ensure the revenues from mining are reinvested in economic diversification, structural transformation, as well as communities, social protection and skills.

In 2014, ECA, AUC, AfDB and UNDP launched the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) to help implement the Africa Mining Vision, which aims to ensure Africa's mineral resources can support economic growth and development. The center will translate that vision into practical solutions for reducing poverty and involving people in development.

Sustainable natural resource management

UNDP has been working to ensure economic growth goes hand in hand with the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

In Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, UNDP helped to frame policies for the development of sustainable charcoal, encouraging more efficient production techniques, reduced carbon emissions, regulation of forest management practices and measures to improve livelihoods from its production and sale. Charcoal remains one of the most important sources of fuel in Sub-Saharan Africa and much of it is used for cooking.

UNDP also assisted the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the preparation of a draft regional green economy strategy and action plan for sustainable development. The strategy will help inform plan to achieve low-emission and climate resilient development objectives in the sub-region.

With UNDP's support, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Zimbabwe developed a 5-year plan to assess the social and environmental impact of the Kazungula Bridge, which connects all four countries. The focus will be to ensure issues relating to sustainable environmental management, social impact, HIV, human rights and gender equality are addressed. The programme will consider, in particular, strengthening livelihoods and generating incomes through management of biodiversity.

Youth employment and innovation

UNDP has been exploring new programmes and initiatives for turning the 'youth bulge' into development opportunities, while addressing emerging security and growing urbanization issues on the continent.

In Benin, four UNDP-sponsored business promotion centers located in the suburbs of Cotonou were launched over the past few months. The centers aim to promote entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and job creation among young people and women and have already trained one thousand young people. Their number is expected to increase to ten.

In several countries on the continent, UNDP has been sponsoring centers where youths are able to innovate, network and learn essential professional skills. In Swaziland UNDP is creating a Youth Innovation Hub for inclusive development that will be hosted by the University of Swaziland, while other countries have created similar initiatives. These include an Innovation Hub in Gaborone and Youth Connect in Rwanda.

Social protection and health

In 2014, Mauritius's pioneering social security system won an international award for stepping up its coverage of the island's most vulnerable households. UNDP provided technical support to develop a system targeting the most in need and developing a unified database for all social programmes across the country. This example illustrates that addressing programme country priorities can be made more effective through aligning with the UNDP strategic plan, responding to its thematic priorities (social protection), design priorities (better targeting), and operational priorities (advocacy, based on evaluative evidence).

Transforming governance

Elections: In 2014, UNDP supported several elections across the region. In Guinea-Bissau, for instance, that assistance helped achieve a voter turnout of 88 percent in the first round - the highest in the country's history. In May, UNDP supported elections in Malawi, helping to register 74 million people to vote. In Sao Tome and Principe, UNDP assisted the National Electoral Commission in enrolling thousands of new voters, many of them youth and women, using biometric technology.

In 2014, ten countries carried out electoral Needs Assessment Missions (NAMs) with UNDP's support, with half of them developing electoral assistance projects. At the regional level, election teams at UNDP have built the capacities of the Democracy and Elections Assistance Unit of the African Union (AU), leading to the deployment of long-term AU election observers to a number of countries, including Algeria, Malawi and Tunisia.

Regional institutions

In 2014, UNDP continued to strengthen the capacities of regional organizations to promote Human Rights and the Rule of Law, while encouraging countries in Africa to adopt common standards and principles of governance.

Across the continent, UNDP supported the ratification of the African Charters on Democracy, Elections and Governance; Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration; and Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.

In August 2014, UNDP and the AUC jointly launched a regional project to assess the status of implementation of the AU Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration (SOPSA). Studies on its implementation will be carried out in 27 African countries. The expected outcome of the project is to identify institutional gaps and opportunities for improving the efficient delivery of public services in the region.

In 2014, Cape Verde became the first country in Africa to generate a single set of statistics on human rights, transparency, the rule of law, and governance as part of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). The initiative, to be expanded in 2015, aims to generate better indicators which will, among other things, be used to spot early signs of conflict and prevent possible breakouts of violence. SHaSA is led by the African Union (AU), and supported by UNDP, ECA and AfDB.

Economic governance

UNDP trained a diverse range of partners during the second phase of a comprehensive programme

to mobilize tax revenues and improve budget management in Africa. The programme currently supports 17 countries in West and Central Africa and it will expand its portfolio to include a large number of civil society representatives, parliamentarians, universities and government departments involved in service delivery. Part of this effort will be conducted through online training.



UNDP supported several elections in Africa in 2014. 2015 promises to be an election-heavy year (Photo: UN)

Access to justice

In July, UNDP, together with the Government of South Africa, UNODC and the Open Society Justice Initiative, started devising practical strategies to improve access to justice for millions of poor people, consistent with the UN's Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid. The objective is to make better use of limited State resources, promote greater community involvement in the criminal justice system - including facilitating community-based sanctions and non-custodial measures -, reduce the unnecessary use of detention and imprisonment, and rationalize criminal justice policies.

Health services

With funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNDP is supporting the Zimbabwean Ministry of Health in implementing a large scale HIV treatment programme, supplying 52% of the HIV medicines for adults under treatment in Zimbabwe and reaching 700,000 people. The Global Fund Board has just approved an additional US\$126 million for the programme.

Fostering resilience

Some of the most vulnerable regions in Africa, such as the Sahel and the Great Lakes region, are characterized by chronic poverty, hunger and conflict. These are compounded by transnational issues, such as extreme weather, migration and terrorism. In 2014, UNDP deepened its regional approach to tackle fragility more effectively in such regions.

Great Lakes

UNDP has been working to support the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the Great Lakes (PSCF). UN Country Teams in the region, together with the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, met several times throughout the year to operationalize the framework, producing a draft regional programme of support. RBA also led an investment forum in Luanda, bringing together governments and private sector representatives from in and outside of the Great Lakes region, and its country-level economists published an analysis of the root causes of conflict in the sub-region.

Central Africa

RBA has been supporting efforts to address threats to peace, development and stability in the Central Africa region, many of them exacerbated by the conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR). Across the region, Resident Coordinators and UN Humanitarian Country Teams increased their coordination and communication on humanitarian issues. A regional peace and development advisor is now on the ground to analyze the impact on the sub-region of the crisis in CAR and increased violence from Boko Haram in Nigeria. Based on emerging analyses, RBA will design regional programmes to address peace, stability and development. Preparations for a UN-wide regional consultation on peace, security and development in Central Africa are now underway.

Horn of Africa

The RBA Director took part in a visit of the UN Secretary-General and the World Bank President to the Great Lakes. The visit took them to Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya and led to pledges of political support and major new financial assistance for countries in the region. RBA will be building the capacities of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) secretariat to help prevent conflict, and promote resilience and stability.

Sahel

Assuming a strong leadership role in UN decision-making circles, UNDP has been helping countries and regional agencies to implement the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, while scaling up country-level activities in support of that objective.

In 2014, RBA established a facility to support UN Country Teams as they help governments to articulate their resilience strategies, aligned with the objectives of the UN and the European Union's Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR). Several studies are being prepared, including small arms surveys and perception studies on the drivers of insecurity, radicalism and violent extremism.

Country support

In 2014, countries experiencing violence, political instability and other crises received special support and guidance.

Since the creation of the UN Mission for the Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in September, RBA supported the Country Offices in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to reconfigure their programmes toward tackling the epidemic, helping to deploy SURGE specialists and other experts, and to mobilize resources for the response.

In addition, implementing a key element of the new Strategic Plan, RBA co-chaired with BPPS a Development Solutions Team (DST) that is working across units and bureaus to respond to the crisis in an effective and coherent manner. With DST support, funding has been secured from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund on Ebola for the payments work, and from bilateral donors for deployment of medical waste sterilizers known as "autoclaves".

UNDP took the lead role in the payment of Ebola Health Workers in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia by providing the governments with technical advice on payments and coordinating among agencies and NGOs on the ground to ensure payments of Ebola Response Workers. Over 97 percent of all registered Ebola workers are linked to payment mechanisms and 90 percent of registered Ebola workers have been paid on time. As of the end of December 2015, payment projects have mobilized USD 5.5 million from the Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund as well as USD 1 million from the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Fund.

In the Central African Republic, UNDP took steps to resume the payment of salaries of civil servants. As part of its efforts to safeguard core government services in the capital Bangui, UNDP transferred USD 4.6 million from the United Nations Peace-building Fund to the Bank of Central African States, covering 3417 police and gendarmerie salaries from May to August. UNDP also launched a comprehensive new programme to promote peace-building and recovery across the Central African Republic and will be supporting the presidential elections of 2015.

A close-up portrait of a smiling woman with dark skin, wearing a light orange headwrap and a vibrant, patterned wrap in red, yellow, and black. She is holding a small green seedling with both hands, presenting it towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a hint of a landscape.

Preparing for climate change

In 2014, RBA supported the implementation of the Africa Adaptation Initiative in Burkina, Niger, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania, helping those countries to improve data, manage information, measure climate risk and attract climate finance.

UNDP, through its regional environment project, completed climate finance readiness assessments in Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. The studies found five elements as key to attracting and investing climate finance: coordination, alignment of climate and development priorities with investor requirements, mobilization and outreach to stakeholders, transparency of climate finance expenditure and creation of a sound environment for domestic investments. (Photo: Neil Palmer/CIAT)

Engaging Africa in global debates

Focus on the Post-2015 agenda

In 2014, UNDP helped to further define Africa's emerging position and priorities for development. To that end, the regional bureau played a key role in finalizing the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda. National consultations were also held, supported by a UN task team to which RBA participated. The consultations looked at a wide diversity of topics, including localizing the post-2015 agenda, strengthening capacities and institutions, and mobilizing partners such as the private sector.

A leading role for the African Union

UNDP has been working to structure its relationship with the African Union (AU), supporting the organization as it sets the vision for peace and development in Africa over the next 50 years.

In September, UNDP signed a strategic framework agreement with the African Union Commission (AUC), aimed at strengthening UNDP and the AU's collaboration on conducting policy analysis and programming, and developing a wide range of knowledge products. The strategic framework highlights eight key areas of cooperation between UNDP and the AUC. These include: Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development; democratic governance; the rule of law and accountability; conflict prevention; disaster risk management; developing capacities to build resilience; climate change; and the Post-2015 Agenda.

Under the new regional programme, RBA will endeavor to strengthen its cooperation with Regional Economic Communities (RECs). RBA met with the Executive Secretary of SADC to discuss possible areas of cooperation in the area of economic integration and industrialization.

Promoting regional knowledge

In 2014, RBA continued to produce knowledge products that have served as a reference for policy-makers in and outside of the region.

In June, UNDP jointly produced and launched the 2014 African Economic Outlook in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The report says that by participating more effectively in the global production of goods and services, Africa can transform its economy and achieve a development breakthrough.

In November, UNDP launched the 2014 edition of Assessing Progress in Africa Toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), jointly prepared with

the African Union Commission, ECA and AfDB. While an increasing number of Africans are enjoying higher living standards, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa should redouble efforts to ensure crises such as the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa do not reverse development achievements, says the report.



Mining in Eastern DRC. Managing extractives is seen as key to inclusive growth and development on the continent (Photo: Benoit Almeiras)

UNDP's role on the post-2015 development agenda

Help to incorporate the agenda in national development plans and policies , monitor it and mobilize people.

Introduce action plan similar to the MDG Acceleration Framework, right from the beginning of the SDGs.

Work with regional organizations on "scorecard", regional and sub-regional consultations and project Africa's voice globally.



Abdoulaye Mar Dieye at a conference on Least Developed Countries in Benin

Building strong bonds with bilateral partners

UNDP has been a strong advocate of African development issues internationally. In June, the international community pledged 1.8 billion dollars to fill Chad's funding gap for 2014 and 2015 in a roundtable supported by UNDP. The Government of Chad is aiming for double-digit growth in 2014 and 2015. That same month, UNDP also helped to organize a roundtable on Benin that mobilized USD 11 billion for the small West African nation. In another successful effort, UNDP supported a roundtable of donors led by Senegalese President Macky Sall, mobilizing 7.5 billion dollars to boost the Senegalese economy and far exceeding the goal the country had set for itself.

UNDP has also been mobilizing partners in the South (including from the continent) in support of Africa's development priorities. In November, for instance, following the Africa-China Poverty Reduction Conference in Addis Ababa, UNDP and the International Poverty Research Centre in China (IPRCC) discussed the possibility of training African government officials on structural transformation and poverty reduction. Researchers, members of the private sector and decision-makers discussed the role of innovation during the African Economic Conference, also held in November. Innovation and technology can serve as a springboard for economic transformation provided they are driven by people, said participants at the event.

Mobilizing the private sector

Because achieving the MDGs requires the mobilization of all stakeholders, UNDP has been strengthening its ties with the private sector.

UNDP produced a study on engaging the private sector to make extractive industries in Africa more inclusive, identifying models, innovations and partnerships that can unleash the potential of the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the African Mining Vision and other extractive industry frameworks, including the AUC's Vision 2063.

In focus: Deepening Japan's engagement with Africa

In 2014, TICAD held a ministerial meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon, bringing together 52 African countries, representatives from outside the region, international organizations, and civil society groups, raising awareness of where Africa stands on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the continent's priorities for after 2015.

Japanese funds being channeled through UNDP in Africa now total USD 56 million. Since TICAD V, held in June 2013, UNDP and the government of Japan have expanded their regional programme on climate change and deepened their collaboration in the Sahel. Projects of support for police and security supported by JICA are on-going in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger. In addition, thanks to a programme initiated in 2013, Japanese companies and local representatives are now working together to boost public-private partnerships in Kenya, Mauritania and South Africa. A possible supplementary contribution of USD 70 million is under consideration.

In 2015, RBA will be supporting the preparation of TICAD VI.

UNDP supported over 10,000 small-holders in the development and marketing of products derived from soybean, sorghum, dairy, onion, mango and groundnuts, in partnership with EAC, ECOWAS and COMESA.

Private sector organizations have stepped up their support to UNDP's Ebola response, donating equipment and delivering services that will both benefit communities immediately and serve them long after the epidemic has ended. The companies include Mediclave, which produces eco-friendly sterilizing machines for Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs); Panasonic which has donated solar lanterns to health workers in Monrovia, allowing them to work at night; and Ecobank, which has worked with UNDP and the World Bank on paying Ebola response workers.

Working closely with UNDG

In view of the increasing number of African countries that are graduating from LDC status, the regional UNDG team worked with UNCTs to draft a strategy for providing targeted policy and programmatic support to UNCTs in middle income countries.

The regional UNDG teams also continued to support 2013 and 2014 UNDAF roll out countries, reviewing and guiding UNDAF preparation, facilitating Strategic Planning Retreats (SPRs), and reviewing draft UNDAF/One Programme documents. UNDG in Eastern and Southern Africa also helped to roll out Standard Operating Procedures on Delivering as One for Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.

In addition, the regional UNDG team commissioned a comprehensive study to assess the socio-economic impact of the Ebola crisis in the west Africa region.

Boosting the participation of women

Building on its new regional programme to empower women politically and economically, UNDP has been stepping up its support for gender issues.

During the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March, UNDP, working with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), helped to develop priority messages for negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. These covered a number of themes -- from violence against women to economic empowerment -- and they were endorsed by large numbers of African leaders, as well as AU and UN representatives.

Working with UNECA, the AU and UN Women, UNDP also assisted 51 African countries in the production of national reports on gender and facilitated their participation in the regional conference on Beijing +20. The reports were consolidated into a single document validated by the Ministers in charge of Gender in Africa.

Boosting women's political leadership

In collaboration with the African Union Commission and a number of judicial organizations, UNDP rolled out an initiative to increase the number of African women judges and magistrates and to improve their standing in national and regional institutions.

UNDP also took women parliamentarians from the Great Lakes and the Sahel Regions to Kigali, allowing them to share experiences with local women MPs on how to influence decisions and promote gender equality and women's empowerment among their constituencies.

In May, the people of Malawi voted for the first time for their local governments, members of parliament and president in a single election. The country embarked on a 50:50 campaign, led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, aiming for a 50 percent female representation in decision making positions across the country. UNDP helped train almost 700 women who were participating in the elections as Members of Parliament or local representatives.

Encouraging women's economic empowerment

Over the summer, 150 women were trained on how to strengthen their agribusinesses, develop value chains and reposition themselves as leaders. Working with NEPAD, UNDP also launched an online directory of businesses and organizations run by youth and women.

In Burundi, UNDP announced the scaling up of a recent initiative designed to help Burundian women export naturally dyed baskets, bracelets and jewelry to markets in the United States and elsewhere. The programme is to receive an additional USD 900,000 financing, having started with USD 150,000. Having successfully helped 80 women from communities in the South of Burundi to manufacture and export their handicrafts, UNDP will extend its collaboration with Opportunities Across Africa (OAA), a non-profit organization operating in East Africa, for another period of two years. The products can now be purchased at Costco in the United States.

Empowering women within UNDP

In 2014, 10 Country Offices in Africa participated in the UNDP Gender Equality Seal initiative, which recognizes contribution to women's empowerment and gender equality in areas including management accountability and gender mainstreaming. Significant improvements have been registered in these offices. The remaining ones have been invited to carry out an online self-assessment and will go on to complete the same exercise.

In addition, the HR team has continued implementing RBA's talent management programme for women. To date, 12 of the 23 women who attended the training were placed in higher positions across different parts of the organization, with the addition of three being offered detail assignments and nominated for the Deputy Country Director (DCD)/Deputy Resident Representative (DRR) candidate pool assessment.



In Cibitoke, Burundi, a woman smiles as she takes part in a UNDP waste disposal programme (Photo: Aude Rossignol/UNDP Burundi)

Looking Ahead to 2015



Photo: Aude Rossignol/ UNDP Burundi

Looking ahead, our work in Africa in 2015 will focus on positioning UNDP on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while the bureau will assist 15 countries as they formulate their national development plans and UNDAFs.

UNDP will implement an ambitious programme of recovery in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. RBA's socio-economic impact studies will inform these efforts, and our experience in making payments to Ebola Response Workers will pave the way for an extended package of support for survivors and affected families.

With 15 sub-Saharan countries organizing elections in 2015, RBA will also increase its support to ensure peace and security, transparency, fairness and inclusion are met. Finally, we will strengthen our support to countries in crisis situations, through scenario planning and the deployment of development solution teams (DSTs).

In addition, UNDP will focus on ensuring that the Regional Service Center in Addis Ababa is fully equipped to support Country Offices. Strong emphasis will also be placed on positioning RBA strategically to closely follow up on the implementation of sub-regional initiatives such as the Great Lakes Peace and Security Strategy; implementation of the UN integrated strategy for the Sahel; supporting IGAD in the implementation of the Horn of Africa Peace, Security and Development strategy; and the AUC/UNDP Strategic Framework Agreement, which will entail operationalizing the four plus one UNDP regional projects in Africa.

Further, the second Africa Human Development Report will look at the political economy of gender inequality and women's empowerment in Africa has commenced. Consultations on the concept note were held in July and October, and background papers will be commissioned in January 2015. The latter will be used to promote dialogue in a number of events throughout 2015, designated by the AUC as the "Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063".

UNDP will continue to strengthen and mobilize its networks to accelerate Africa's transformation, promoting South-South exchange, soliciting new partners and empowering African institutions to promote change. In addition, full use will be made of the innovation facility, funded by Denmark to encourage projects that support social innovators, position UNDP strongly in the development arena and increase understanding of the role and value of innovation for development.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

United Nations Development Programme
Regional Bureau for Africa
1 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017 USA
www.africa.undp.org
Tel: +1.212.906.5081